

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

- NEWSLETTER -

Vol. 2 No.1

2371 Eunice St., Berkeley, CA 94708

January, 1999

Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks; identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network; and eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured. We hope the final outcome of the community effort will be the preservation and on-going maintenance of all the paths, lanes and steps throughout Berkeley.

As we enter the second year of our fledgling organization, we want to recap BPWA activities in 1998--all of which were accomplished by numerous volunteer "Path Wanderers".

** Over 150 paths were surveyed, using the BPWA-developed Survey forms; a database summarizing the surveys is in the process of being developed for use in future rehabilitation and/or restoration projects.

** BPWA, to date, has over 250 paid members; and new memberships are received daily.

** Four public meetings were held: May 20, June 17, September 24, and October 22.

** Two volunteer-led photo workshops were held, in May and June.

** A \$5000 grant was made available from the City of Berkeley for sign replacement identifying paths.

** BPWA had a table with Partners for Parks at the Solano Stroll and "How Berkeley Can You Be?"

** Seven monthly volunteer-led path walks were held in June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.

** An "Adopt-a-Path" project was introduced to help maintain paths; work parties were held for Acacia Path (9-26-98) and Tamalpais Steps (11-21-98). Guidelines to be formulated in 1999.

The first General Meeting of 1999 will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 7 to 9 PM, Live Oak Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. (See Agenda below)

BPWA General Meeting, January 20, 1998

Agenda

- Announcements
 - Schedule of Path Walks
 - BPWA meetings: March and May Signup for Committees
- Establishment of BPWA Board
 - Call for volunteer Board members
 - Set first meeting of new Board
- Speaker: Susan Schwartz
 - "Creeks and Paths"
- Refreshments and informal socializing
- Report on Adopt-a-Path project

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday, March 18, 7 - 9 PM, Live Oak Recreation Center.
- May or June, Potluck Picnic (TBA)

Path Walks Schedule:

- January 23 Saturday 10AM
Helen Wynne, Leader (843-5738)
Meet at Ashby & Domingo, SE Corner
Southside Paths (re-scheduled)
- February 27 Saturday 10AM
Sue Fernstrom, Leader
Meet at Oxford & Cedar, SW Corner
Strawberry Creek
- March 13 Saturday 10AM
Maggie & Donald Hodges, Leaders
Meet at Gayley Road & Bancroft Way
Panoramic Way & Orchard Lane
- April: Volunteers) needed. TBA
- May 22 Saturday 10AM
Pat DeVito, Leader
Meet at Spruce & Santa Barbara
(NW Corner at Bus Stop)
N. Berkeley Paths and Rock Parks



THE casual observer might find very little of promise in the Berkeley hills to lure him on to their exploration. Their brown slopes, wrinkled and thread-bare as the sleeve of a hunter's jacket, seem to reveal to the very first glance all that they hold in store. No surprise, surely, can be waiting for one on those bare, open hillsides. The imagination pictures no secret nooks, no wooded ravines, no crag or waterfall behind the straggling screen of fern and scrub that fringes its waterways. Yet, after all, the charm of surprise is a veritable feature of the walks about Berkeley—surprise not keen and startling, to be sure, but genuine and of the quality that does not pall by frequent repetition. Thus it is that the number and Variety of these rambles is a source of unending pleasure to those who have come to know them

*Walks
About
Berkeley*

by Cornelius Beach Bradley

from A Berkeley Year. A Sheaf of Nature Essays.
edited by Eva V. Carlin, Women's Auxiliary of the
First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, California. 1898.

Call for Board Members:

To assure the continuation of BPWA's efforts to preserve Berkeley's unique pathways, we want to establish a Board of Directors at the January 20 meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board, either call Pat (527-2693) or volunteer at the meeting. BPWA founding members, Jacque Ensign, Eleanor Gibson, Ruth Moskovitz (convener), and Pat DeVito have agreed to continue as Board members,

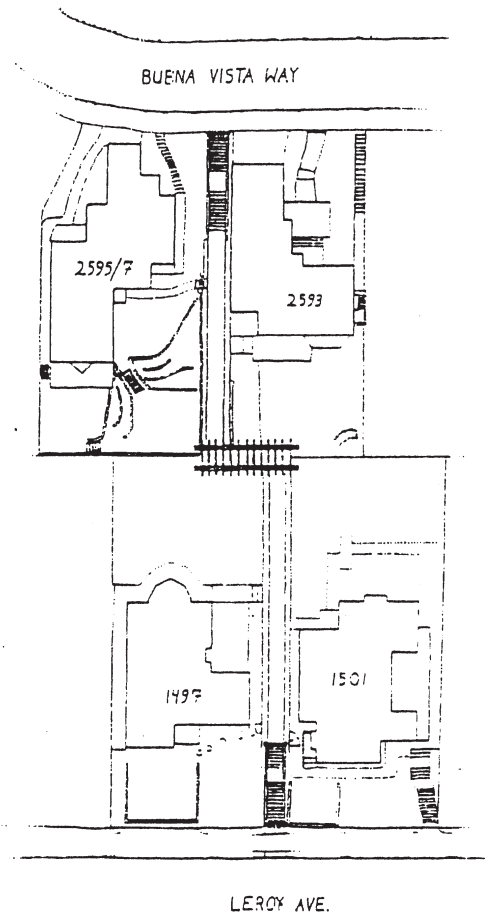
Adopt-a-Path

Would you be interested in adopting a path in your neighborhood?

This program entails forming work parties to perform supplementary tasks that include sweeping, raking and minor pruning to keep paths cleared.

The Adopt-a-Path Committee, so far, consists of Tom Edwards, Sue Fernstrom, and Jacque Ensign. If you are interested, contact Jacque (524-4715) or sign up at the January 20 meeting.

La Loma Steps



LA LOMA STEPS
OCT. 21 1995
JONATHAN KATZ

At the last BPWA meeting in October Mary Lee Noonan, Board member of Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assn., presented an informative and entertaining account of the research in which she was involved in 1995, leading to La Loma's landmark status, granted by the City of Berkeley's Landmark Commission, La Loma Steps joined Orchard Lane and Rose Walk as historically recognized and protected pathways.

Not a woody path, La Loma was elegantly designed (original artist unknown) in 1910 or 1911 when the trolley was extended up Euclid to Rose. The path was restored in 1992 (with FEMA funds), with the loss of some significant older architectural details. Still, the steps with pergola and benches at the jog in the middle are much admired and enjoyed.