

# Berkeley's PATHS

*Berkeley Path Wanderers Association 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.*

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Winter 2001 Vol. 4 No. 1

## Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center**

**7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue**

**Feb. 22 Board Meeting**

**Mar. 15 General Meeting**  
**Berkeley's Early Byways**  
**by Richard Schwartz**

**Apr. 19 Board**

## Path Walks **RAIN OR SHINE** **Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)**

**Feb. 24** Ridge to Bay Trail, Part I  
**Janet Byron 848-4008**  
**Meet at Tilden Nature Center. Bring \$1.35 (exact change) for return trip on bus.**

**Mar. 17** N.E. Pathways  
**Paul Grunland 526-8001**  
**Meet at Euclid and Grizzly Peak**

**April 21** Creeks and Flatland Paths,  
Yesterday and Tomorrow  
**Susan Schwartz 848-9358**  
**Meet at Boggie Woogie Bagel Boy Garden,**  
**Gilman between Curtis and Santa Fe**

**May 19** Unimproved Paths  
**Charlie Bowen 540-7223**  
**Meet at Glendale-La Loma Park**  
**Potluck at Glendale-La Loma Park follows walk**

**Jun. 9** Revelatory Landscapes  
(A tour of SFMOMA-sponsored art work)  
**Mark Liolios 549-0818**  
**Meet at AMTRAK station under University Ave.**

**July 7** Kensington Pathways  
**Paul Grunland 526-8001**  
**Meet at Reservoir Grizzly Peak and Spruce**

**August 25th** U.C. Campus Pathways  
**Allen Stross 841-2359**  
**Meet at Center and Oxford**

## Important Figures in the History of the Pathways

In searching for documents showing the origin of Berkeley's paths, the best sources are often original development maps of Berkeley, Paul Grunland explained to January's general meeting. In the early 20th Century, Berkeley's hills were controlled by the Realty Syndicate, the brain child of Frank Havens and Frances Marion (Borax) Smith. The area was ripe for a boom: The trans-Bay transportation network was complete; rail lines and streetcars were being extended into the hills; and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 spurred a diaspora to the East Bay.

Berkeley was then a small town with a large number of utopian visionary thinkers such as Charles Keeler, principal spokesper-

son of the Hillside Club; environmentalist John Muir, painter William Keith; and architect Bernard Maybeck. San Francisco had provided a bad example of applying the rigid grid design of streets to hilly terrain. By this period, there seemed to be consensus that hillside streets should be aligned with the natural contours of the land. Thus the

*continued on back*

## Berkeley's Early Byways by Richard Schwartz

Don't miss Richard Schwartz's presentation March 15 at Live Oak Recreation Center, when he'll elaborate on his book, tying in stories relevant to Berkeley's paths.

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The view is spectacular from Scott Newhall Path, Berkeley's newest and highest-elevation pathway, which was dedicated December 2, 2000. The nearly level, north-south path joins two segments of Hill Road. Jack and Trudy Washburn donated the land to the city in honor of their friend and long-time neighbor Scott Newhall, who was editor of the San Francisco Chronicle for many years.

**BPWA**  
**1442A Walnut Street, #269**  
**Berkeley, CA 94709**

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Special thanks to RUTH ARMSTRONG,  
founder of BPWA, for her service on  
the board.

## Important Figures *continued*

new areas of Claremont, Northbrae, Cragmont, North Cragmont, and Thousand Oaks were developed with this in mind.

Few people then owned horses or automobiles. The very long blocks created by contoured streets naturally led to plans for pathways that would provide pedestrian shortcuts to trains or streetcars. The original development maps show Berkeley's paths as part of the original infrastructure, with names.

Prime among the companies that carried out this subdivision was the Berkeley Traction Company, which became the Berkeley Development Company and finally Oakland Traction Company. The companies borrowed money from the Realty Syndicate, bought the land, laid out the streets, and sold the lots.

Duncan McDuffie, a key partner in Berkeley Traction, probably deserves much of the credit for establishing Berkeley's path network. McDuffie, who graduated from UC Berkeley in 1899, not only developed many of Berkeley's most beautiful neighborhoods, but also was a leader in the

Sierra Club and the Save-the-Redwoods League and played a large role in the creation of California's state park system.

To build the contoured streets and pathways, however, required a skilled engineer. Here the key figure seems to have been Charles L. Huggins, who graduated from UC Berkeley in 1884 and later became Berkeley's town engineer. Huggins had helped the Hillside Club correct street problems in the Daley Scenic Park neighborhood, north of the UC Berkeley campus. Paul recently interviewed the 102-year-old daughter of Charles Huggins, who used to stroll in the hills with him, and feels his contribution to developing the pattern of hill transportation was immeasurable.

Others, such as John Spring in Thousand Oaks, later followed the pattern McDuffie and Huggins had set out.

As we enjoy the pathways today, we should remember the forethought of a century ago and be grateful for our legacy.

*Story by Paul Grunland.*



**Berkeley Boy Scouts Troop 19 at work on Twin Path.**

## New Mini-Grant Will Continue Path Improvements

BPWA has received a new \$3,300 Berkeley Parks mini-grant to continue improving paths in the coming year. Working with Berkeley Boy Scouts, we hope to continue re-grading, improving drainage, and adding wooden steps.

Our first mini-grant made five muddy, slippery tracks easy to stroll. In the latest projects, Boy Scout Troop 19 Eagle Scout candidates Sven Chilton, Ian Saulsberg, and Matt Seuferer improved Latham and Twin Paths, both close to Grizzly Peak. This year's candidates for improvement include Acacia, Sterling, and Stevenson Paths.

The new grant also includes funds for benches. If you know of a good spot, please let us know.

In partnership with Friends of Five Creeks, BPWA is also working on a grant proposal to link the Bay Area Ridge Trail in Tilden Park with the Bay Trail in the new Eastshore State Park, via Berkeley paths and Codornices Creek. In addition to building one or two of the unbuilt hill paths, and helping create a half-mile pedestrian path along lower Codornices Creek, the project would demarcate one or more routes, perhaps with interpretive signs telling about human and natural history.

## Berkeley's Early Byways *continued*

Schwartz's book *Berkeley 1900, Daily Life at the Turn of the Century*, offers a wild ride through Berkeley with a unique presentation of faithfully reproduced newspaper articles and vintage photographs. Schwartz reveals a town of large gypsy camps, larger-than-life criminals and policemen, resourceful immigrants, and bustling mom-and-pop shops. He has uncovered fascinating human-interest stories and anecdotes about Berkeley's children, wild animals in downtown streets, environmental issues, race relations, and more, from articles first published a century ago.

The book's thirty chapters provide the reader with a textual introduction followed by over 650 newspaper articles exactly as

they appeared in the Berkeley Gazette, interwoven with quotes from turn-of-the-century Berkeleyans. Included are over 170 photos of long-ago daily life.

Schwartz, who came to Berkeley in 1973, is the author of *The Circle of Stones*, a nonfiction archeological mystery. He also has written articles for the Alameda County, Berkeley, and Truckee Historical Societies.

In 1996, Schwartz was at the Berkeley Historical Society as a stack of Berkeley newspapers circa 1900 was about to be discarded due to possible mold. He couldn't imagine such an intriguing resource getting thrown away, so he rescued the papers and took them home. The book was the result.

### Problems with paths call

Encroachments: Diana Aikenhead, 883 6555  
Maintenance: Jay Kelekian, 644 6943  
Dept. of Parks & Waterfront



[www.internetttime.com/path](http://www.internetttime.com/path)

**Yearly \$5.00 membership dues were due in January for the 2001 year. If you haven't yet, please send checks to:**

**Berkeley Path Wanderers Association,  
1442 A Walnut Street, #269,  
Berkeley, CA 94709.**



*If you have any concerns about path issues please call Jacque at 524-4715.*

**Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 due January 1st of each year. Benefits include Path Inventory Index, maps of pathways, quarterly newsletter, and BPWA mailings. Mail form with check or money order, payable to:**

**BPWA, Berkeley Partners for Parks  
1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley, CA 94709**

(BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

## BPWA Membership Form **Please print**

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