

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Summer 2002 Vol. 5 No. 3

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.

Meetings

Aug 29 Board Meeting

Note location: Berkeley Public Library community room, 7-9 pm

September 19 Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Learn about the history of the East Bay waterfront and exciting restoration plans. Hillside Club, 7-9 pm

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10 am (allow 2-3 hours)

July 27 Santa Fe Right of Way: New Path Opportunity

Steve Swanson 649-9874

Meet at Cedar/Rose Park, Ohlone Greenway and Cedar Street

August 24 Rose Walk Step by Step

John Underhill 236-4807

Meet at Euclid end of Rose Walk

September 21 More Unimproved Paths

Charlie Bowen 540-7223

Meet at La Loma Park; some parts steep, bring walking sticks

October 19 Naturalist's History Walk

Alan Kaplan 525-2233

Meet at Tilden Nature Area Visitor's Center

November 16 My Favorite Paths

Pat Devito 527-2693

Meet at Indian Rock Park

December 7 The Albany Bulb

Susan Schwartz 848-9358

Meet at end of Buchanan Street

The Rose Walk Story: Step by Step

Located between Euclid Street and Le Roy Avenue, Rose Walk is perhaps the most beautiful and storied path in Berkeley. John R. Underhill will lead a Rose Walk path walk on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 am. He compiled the following history.



1905-10: The Oakland Traction Company extends its streetcar line up Euclid Avenue to the end of the line at Regal Road. The San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 accelerates Berkeley popula-

tion growth. Thus there is a need for more than a dirt footpath from Berryman-Rose streetcar stop on Euclid to Le Roy, and the homes in the Hopkins Terrace #4 and La

(continued on back)

Watercolor by
Karen Kemp

BPWA path map a big hit!

The first 2,000 copies of BPWA's *Berkeley Paths* map are nearly sold out, and plans are under way to quickly revise and print a second edition. The user-friendly map charts more than 136 city-designated recreational and evacuation routes on waterproof and tear-resistant paper. Six members of BPWA collaborated for more than a year to research, verify, and create the map, with the goal of creating a readable

and affordable map for anyone interested in exploring the Berkeley paths. Maps are available at local bookstores and on walks. To purchase a map, members can send \$3 and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to 1442A Walnut St., Box 269, Berkeley, CA 94709. (One map per person, please.) Send corrections ASAP to BPWA or Karen Kemp at studio49@earthlink.net.

BPWA

1442 Walnut St., #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

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Volunteers are needed for our table at the Solano Stroll on Sept. 8. Call Jacque at 524-4715.

Visit our Web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

(continued from front)

Loma Park tracts above.

c 1910: City engineer J.J. Jessup submits at least six different plans for a path on the Rose Street right of way bordering Peoples Water Company's Berryman Reservoir property, between Euclid and Le Roy. His plans are not acceptable to the Hillside Club and neighbors.

1911: A committee including Dr. William W. Underhill forms to oversee building the path, and architect Bernard Maybeck donates design services. His working titles include Rose Path and Rose Pass. His plans show that a large portion of the walk is on water company land. From the Jan. 9, 1911, minutes of the Hillside Club: "Dr. Underhill was called upon to tell of the winding walk which is to be constructed from Euclid Ave. to Le Roy along the Reservoir fence, to be constructed of concrete, bordered with hedges of roses and decorative trees." In 1908 Peoples Water Company leases the land surrounding the reservoir to the City and Hillside Club for 15 years at \$1.00 per year.

The committee raises money to build the path by subscription from the neighbors. Dr. Underhill must have been a contributor to the fund, giving rise to erroneous family lore that he "gave the land for the path to the city."

c 1912-13: Construction of the path commences. Cost of three "Boulevard Lamp Posts" is quoted at \$29.50 each. Nine urns will cost \$12.00 each plus \$1.00 installation. The bill for the "cement work done on Rose Path" is \$180.98, with the cement foreman paid 75 cents an hour. Electrical work to hook up the three lamps is \$160.27.

Jan. 4, 1913: Dr. Will Underhill dies of a heart attack while at a Hillside Club dance. Dr. Underhill played an important role in the building of the walk. The quotes and invoices for supplies were

addressed to him on Tamalpais Road. The walk is a testimonial to his work as well as a Maybeck landmark. After his death, cousin Reuben L. Underhill, also on Tamalpais Road, acts in his behalf.

July 3, 1913: Certificates of payment are issued by Maybeck & White to J.J. Jessup, to be forwarded to the Oakland Paving Company. The path is finished! There must have been a dedication ceremony to mark the completion, but no newspaper reports or photographs of it have been found.

Sept. 17, 1923: Berkeley fire destroys over 600 homes, many in Rose Path area.

c 1924: Eleven years after completion of the path, Dr. Frank Gray and his wife Florence buy land between the path and the reservoir from EBMUD. The Grays build Codornices Road edging the reservoir and the beautiful Gutterson duplexes fronting on Rose Walk. The walk's layout is modified somewhat to accommodate their project. Houses by Winfield Scott Wellington and others are later built on the road. The Grays complete their project in the 1930s by building houses on the walk's south side.

1947-48: The Le Roy Avenue

entrance is demolished by the Berkeley Public Works Department. The city builds a massive traffic safety barrier in its place to stop runaway autos coming down Rose Street from leaving the roadway and crashing into houses.

1959: Rose Walk is declared a "Treasure of Civic Art" and a protected landmark by the newly formed Civic Art Commission.

1960: The commission raises money and carries out a restoration, including of the Renaissance Revival stairway facing Euclid Avenue.

1975: Berkeley passes its Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. Rose Walk is among the first 10 structures so designated.

2002: The walk's present condition is not good. Forty-two years after restoration and 89 years after it was built the walk is showing signs of aging. The retaining wall holding up the long, sloping walk leading to Le Roy is seriously cracked in two places and is tilting noticeably. The pavement and steps are developing small cracks and the tinted surface is wearing away. It's time for another restoration project!

2013: Berkeley residents celebrate a beautifully restored Rose Walk's Centennial.

Boy Scouts fix paths

Sterling Path, right, was repaired by Owen McDougall and members of Berkeley Boy Scout Troop 19. They installed about 18 new steps on the path's lowest and steepest portion. Major improvements to Sterling Path, located between Cragmont and Sterling avenues, are aimed at improving walkability and safety, and will involve several Eagle Scout projects. In addition, steps on Atlas Path were repaired by Troop 19 Eagle Scout candidates Mason Delmer, Leo Maheu, and Theo Ziembra, with the help of UC Berkeley Cal Corps public service volunteers. A bench was also installed on Atlas Path, between Grizzly Peak and Hill Road. Many thanks to all who are contributing their time, energy, and enthusiasm to improving Berkeley's paths!



If you have any questions about path issues, please call Jacque at 524-4715.

Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 per household due January 1st of each year. Additional donations are always welcome. Benefits include 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 member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

BPWA Membership Form Please print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

Enclosed is an additional contribution to help carry on your work: \$ _____