

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Winter 2003 Vol. 6 No. 4

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 Live Oak Park Rec. Center
7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Ave (unless noted)

Nov 20 General Meeting
Personal Stories on the Paths
Dec 18 Board Retreat
Jan 15 Board Meeting
Feb 19 General Meeting

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

Nov 15 Paths of Oakland's Trestle Glen Area
Jason Patton 637-0191
or jpatton@oaklandnet.com
We will begin by talking about Oakland's streetcar history before riding the bus to the residential neighborhood.
Meet at the corner of 9th & Washington in Old Oakland. (Take BART to 12th St. Station)

Dec 20 The Albany Bowl
Susan Schwartz 848-9358
Meet at the end of Buchanan St. in Albany

Jan 10 Panoramic Steps
Helen Wynne 843-5738
Meet at the corner of Ashby Ave. & Domingo

Feb 14 Town & Gown Interstices Revisited
Jim Sharp 841-7271
Location TBD

Sharing Stories of the Paths November 20th

Come and share stories about the paths this November 20th—invite your neighbors. In a casual setting we'll record the event and scan any photos brought along, and create a web-archive of such stories (see examples below.)

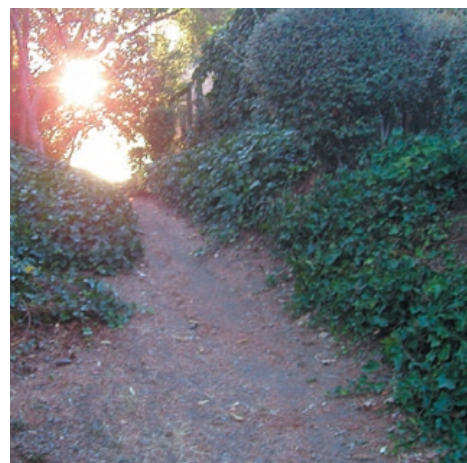
Terrace Walk was nicknamed the daisy path for the Shasta Daisies that grew along its borders. Growing up during the 30's and 40's within a half block of the path, I have memories of running down the two blocks to catch the Red Train (Southern Pacific) which took me to the Oakland Mole and then San Francisco by Ferry.

I remember going alone in the third grade to an art class, when my parents hadn't given me enough money, but the conductor let me go without paying.

Early on there was a gazebo at the base of the path, but it was torn down after it had been vandalized.

—Jacque Ensign

Acacia Walk My husband and I moved to Berkeley in 1998 and in 1999 I found myself with kidney failure. I was on dialysis and could no longer bike or trail run. I found myself wandering the streets of Berkeley with my dog when I noticed a path that cut up



Near the top portion of Acacia Walk.

between two houses on a street near ours. As I continued walking, I saw more and more paths. I thought it might be fun to map all the different paths I found.

Then, one day, I came to Acacia Path, saw a box of flyers and learned about BPWA. That night, I sent in my membership check. Within months, I joined the BPWA Map Committee.

Walk Oakland's Paths November 15th

Following a streetcar right-of-way, we will ride the bus to the Glenview neighborhood then walk through Trestle Glen—a neighborhood of gracious homes and many paths.

Ending at Grand Lake, people may stop for lunch and then bus or walk back along Lake Merritt.

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

Board Members

JACQUE ENSIGN, chair
PAT DE VITO, co-chair
ELEANOR GIBSON, recording secretary
SUE FERNSTROM, treasurer
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JAY CROSS, webmaster
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ALAN KAPLAN
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SUSAN SCHWARTZ
HELEN WYNNE

Dues paid after November 1 will apply to 2004 membership. We encourage early renewals so that we can continue our work.

Sharing Stories *continued*

Then, months later, I was lucky enough to receive my husband's donated kidney. Though I'm now able to ride my bike again, I still love walking the paths. It thrills me to see how fast people buy the BPWA map at Pegasus on Solano. It seems like I'm always running up there to replenish their map supply. I hope the people buying the maps enjoy the paths as much as I do! —Lisa Frieden



Ardmore Path near Oakland's Trestle Glen neighborhood.



Mortar Rock Park near Indian Rock Park in the Berkeley Heights neighborhood.

Berryman Path is named for Henry Berryman, the entrepreneur who built Berryman Reservoir by Codornices Park to provide a major



*In spite of concrete:
freshly-turned earth, new-mown
grass, nature's fragrances.*

—Virginia K. Anderson

part of the city's then-private water system. He also brought steam trains to Shattuck and Rose at Berryman Station.

Berryman path is an early example of Berkeley citizen activism. About 1905, when Oxford Street was extended north to Eunice Street through Berryman's property, the city proposed making Berryman a street up to

Spruce. Neighbors petitioned, successfully, that they didn't need the road and would rather have quiet along the creek. So a path it stayed.

Live Oak Park, through which the path continues, came later—Berkeley bought it as the city's first "nature park" just before World War I. The beautiful fireplace and stone walls along the creek date from that period.

—Susan Schwartz

Path Wanderers Have Improved More Paths

Wonderfully varied volunteers have opened up a record number of paths. And more are on the way!

Upper Stevenson Path

An enjoyable path to explore is Upper Stevenson Path from Sterling to Miller. Volunteers cleared brush, and the city has installed signs at top and bottom, as well as one on the gate in the deer-fence midway clarifying that this is a public right-of-way.

Sterling Path

In September, Eagle Scout candidate Adrian Delmer and 18 fellow members of Berkeley Scout Troop 19 made striking further improvements on Sterling Path. Adrian's friends, parents, and Scoutmaster Paul Maheu pitched in to install water bars, steps, a french drain, and a retaining wall.

Adrian's was the second Troop 19 project on beautiful Sterling Path, which alternates concrete steps with

what had been slippery dirt stretches. A third Eagle project is expected to complete the improvements.

Wilson Walk

UC Berkeley students participating in the fall CalCorps service day cleared steep Wilson Walk #96. The path has a beautiful view, but remains very steep and without steps—it's best explored going up, rather than down.

Acacia Steps

Neighbors helped BPWA clear a walkable route along Acacia Steps between Cragmont and Spruce. It is now passable, but steps are needed to correct the problem of a low retaining wall at the bottom of the path.

BPWA is excited to be working with the city to solve just such problems on paths that need only a few concrete steps to make them passable. We hope that the first such city project will be completed soon! Thanks,

Two New Board Members Elected

Welcome to two new board members, Sandy Friedland and Paul Maheu. They will take office in January 2004.

Notecards are Available by Mail

The set of 4 blank notecards can be purchased at our general meetings, monthly walks or by mail. When ordering by mail, please add the cost of postage and make checks payable to:

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

\$6.50 per set (including tax).

Postage Costs

| | | | |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1 set | \$.60 | 3 sets | \$ 1.52 |
| 2 sets | \$ 1.06 | 4 sets | \$ 1.98 |

Berkeley, for putting up signs, picking up brush we clear, preventing encroachments on paths, and now for this exciting partnership to open up more paths!

Interested in helping open up a path or in making one safer? Contact us!

If you have any concerns 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. 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 a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

BPWA Membership Form **Please print**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

City _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____