

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, the identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network, and the eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association September 2004 Vol. 7 No. 3

Historian Chuck Wollenberg Will Speak at Our Annual Meeting, Sept. 22, at the Hillside Club

Chuck Wollenberg, the widely respected expert on California and local history, will be the featured speaker at the BPWA annual meeting, September 22, at the Hillside Club. Known for his broad knowledge and refreshing style, Chuck will discuss Berkeley in the early decades of the 20th Century. He'll explain the context for the path building of that era, when businessmen and intellectuals aspired to create a "Utopia of the Pacific." Topics will include local movements, such as the Hillside Club's Arts & Crafts ideals; and national movements, like the City Beautiful campaign. The author of several books, Chuck always reveals the complexities of a diverse social fabric, telling of the powerful as well as the marginalized.

A third generation Berkeley resident, he will probably surprise you with little-known facts, like how Bernard Maybeck's son named himself after Chuck's great-grandfather.

Chuck teaches history at Vista College, where he is the Chair of the Social Science department. He also teaches a Berkeley history class at the Berkeley Public Library, for which he has written Berkeley: A City in History. Full text is available on-line at <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/system/historytext.html>. Chuck is also a member of the Regional Oral History Project at UC Berkeley and serves as a historical consultant to the Oakland Museum.

Meetings Live Oak Park Rec. Center

7-9 pm 1301 Shattuck Ave (unless noted)

Sept 22 Annual Meeting
Featuring Chuck Wollenberg
on Berkeley History
HILLSIDE CLUB

Oct 21 Board Meeting

Nov 18 General Meeting
Elections

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Sept 11 Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline
Sandra and Bruce Beyaert 235-2835
Meet at the first parking lot off Dornan Drive in Miller/Knox, Point Richmond.

The walk will explore Point Richmond's past and present. Expect some hills, a moderate pace, scenic vistas, and birdwatching. Bring binoculars, water, and snacks.

Oct 2 A Walk in the Elmwood
Ron Sipherd 654-5448
Meet at Elmwood Avenue at Ashby.

Preview the itinerary, map, and photos at www.well.com/~ronks/pix/cenawalk.

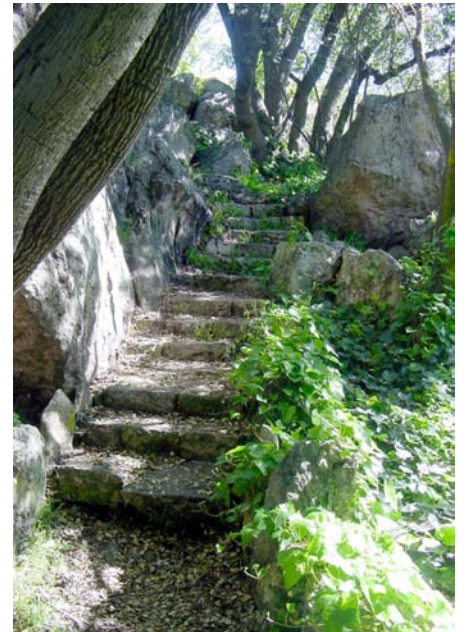
Nov 6 Early North Berkeley
Marilyn Siegel 549-2908 & Mardi Mertens
520-4468. Meet at the Marin Circle.

Dec 11 Paths, Creeks and History
Susan Schwartz 848-9358 Meet at the main entrance to Live Oak Park Community Center, at Shattuck & Berryman.

First Wednesday Walks

10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Oct 6 The Ohlone Greenway: Public Art, Community Gardens & Nature Restoration. Meet, north side of North Berkeley BART. led by Susan Schwartz 848-9358



Mortar Rock Park exemplifies the artistic pairing of urban and rural typical in hilly streetcar neighborhoods of 100 years ago.

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

Board Members

JACQUE ENSIGN, chair
PAT DE VITO, archivist
ELEANOR GIBSON, recording secretary
SUE FERNSTROM, treasurer
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Webmaster NIRANJAN VISSA

Grant Received for Path Improvements

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the City of Berkeley a \$413,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to reduce fire hazards in the Berkeley hills and to improve community and fire fighter safety. The city will provide an additional \$177,000. A FEMA official presented the money to the city August 23.

About one-third of the grant will go toward creating and implementing a program to manage flammable vegetation on pathways in the Berkeley hills, an acknowledgement of the importance of the system for public safety. Bill Greulich, emergency services manager for the Berkeley Fire Department, asked BPWA to assist

the city in analyzing the hill paths and devising an effective plan for fuel reduction. Once improved, the paths would serve as firebreaks and important evacuation routes.

“We are delighted that the fire department wants us as partners in this vital project and intends to use the grant to open as many of the impassable paths as possible,” said Charlie Bowen, chair of the BPWA Unimproved Path Committee. “We hope the city will improve the most difficult sections and our volunteers will complete the rest.”

At the award ceremony, city officials praised BPWA for its hard work and results-oriented approach. “Our volunteer crews, along with the Boy Scouts and CalCorps teams, are the ones who truly deserve to be honored,” said Bowen.

September 12th — Solano Stroll

Visit our booth at the Solano Stroll. We'll have maps, notecards, and newsletters, plus displays of newspaper articles and pictures.

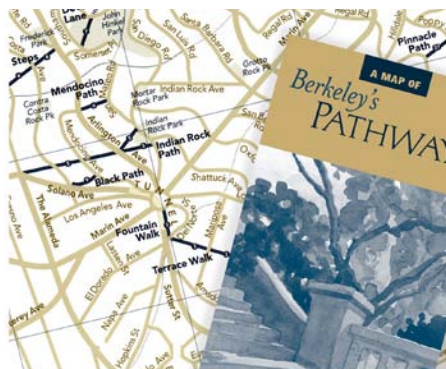
Come staff our booth! Volunteer for only 2-3 hours at BPWA's Solano Stroll booth. Call Emma Morris at 525-4894 for more information.

Board Elections November 18th

We have a number of board members who have fulfilled their maximum two terms. Seven positions will be open. Please come to our general meeting November 18th at the Live Oak Recreation Center to vote for new board members. Nominees are: Prescott Cole, Mary Lynch, Emma Morris, Will Schieber, Marilyn Siegel, Niranjana Vissa and Barbara West.

Introduction of Board Nominees

Prescott, Mary, Will, and Marilyn are all staunch unimproved-path workers who love walking the paths. Marilyn has also led a number of walks. Emma is running for a second term and has organized the Solano Stroll and other events. Barbara is a treasurer for the Berkeley Opera, and has a fundamental interest in urban natural experiences. Niranjana redesigned our website and is the webmaster.



Stay in the E-mail Loop Please e-mail Lisa Frieden, lisafr@comcast.net, to receive e-mail alerts about upcoming walks, meetings, and other BPWA activities.

Request an E-Newsletter Save us mailing expenses by getting your BPWA newsletter electronically. Send an e-mail to info@berkeleypaths.org telling us we can send you an e-newsletter rather than a hard copy. In the subject line, enter “e-newsletter only.”

September 19th —

How Berkeley Can You Be Parade

Join the Berkeley Path Wanderers and the fun at this year's parade while publicizing the paths. Please contact Niranjana Vissa at info@berkeleypaths.org

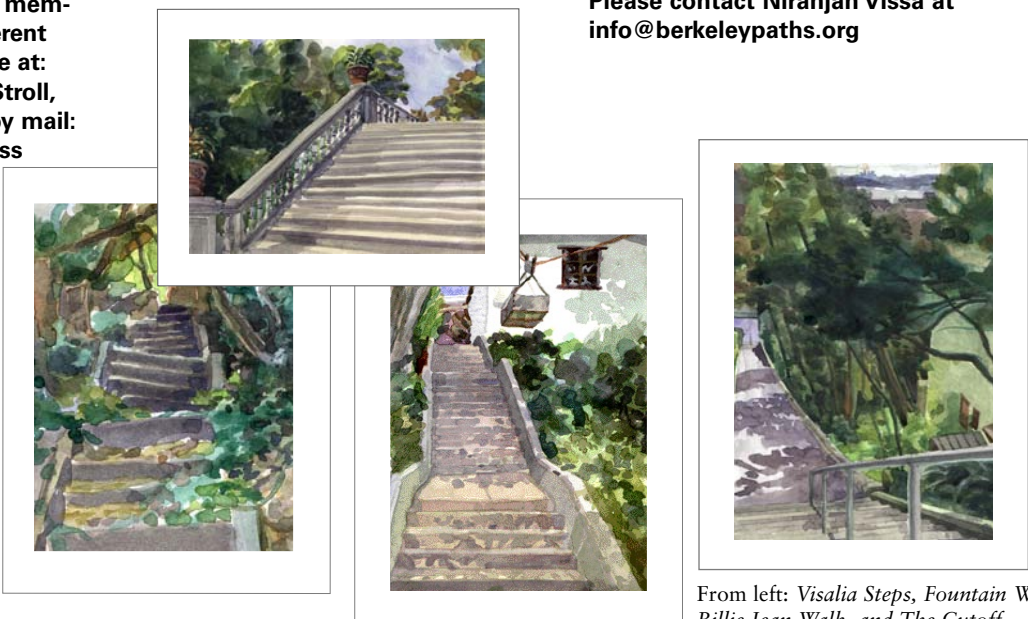
Order Notecards or a Map

BPWA maps—\$5.36 (\$3.95 for members)—and packs of four different note cards (\$6.50) are available at: BPWA meetings, the Solano Stroll, or BPWA walks. To purchase by mail: Send a self-addressed, business envelope, stamped with \$.60, for each map or set of cards. Make checks payable to:

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www.berkeleypaths.org



From left: Visalia Steps, Fountain Walk, Billie Jean Walk, and The Cutoff.

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 a 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 clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

I would like my newsletter sent via e-mail and have included my e-mail address.