

We're on line

Buy maps, join, donate

For your convenience, we have provided a secure payment function on our web site. You can buy maps, join, renew your membership, or donate to BPWA. Pay by credit card or with your PayPal account. Please visit our web site at:

www.berkeleypaths.org

Path Walks

10:00 a.m. (allow 2-3 hours) Walks are free, and all are invited to attend. For additional information on walks please see our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

Saturday Walks

April 8 Southside Paths and Gardens
Sandy Friedland ssf@comcast.net

Join us for a springtime tour of the steps and paths in the Uplands/Claremont neighborhood.

- Meet at the historic plaque at the northeast corner of Claremont Ave. and the Uplands. This is a hilly walk with some steep stairways.

May 27 North Berkeley Architecture
Alan Kaplan 510-526-7609

Maybeck and others. Moderate pace, some steepness.

- Meet at Berkeley Rose Garden, west side of Euclid Ave., between Bayview Place and Eunice Street.

June 10 "Willard Plus" Neighborhood Landmarks

Ron Sipherd <http://www.well.com/ronks/pix/willardplus>

Moderate pace, mostly flat walk.

- Meet on Russell St. by the streetcar bend near Regent St. Ron suggests you bring your BPWA map.

Wednesday Walks

April 5 Churches of North Berkeley
Barbara Robben 510-524-2383

Longtime local resident will take us around and, where possible, into churches of North Berkeley.

- Meet at the large tree on the Shattuck Ave. side of Live Oak Park, where Berryman St. intersects Shattuck.

May 3 Terrace Walk Area

Dale Miller 510-514-4758
volunteer@berkeleypaths.org

Get the insider's view of the neighborhood featured in Dale's article in this newsletter. Moderate pace.

- Meet across the street from where Hopkins St. dead ends into Sutter St.

June 7 Indian Rock

Pat DeVito 510-527-2693

- Meet at #65 bus stop on west side of Euclid Ave. at Bayview Place, across street from Codornices park.

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Spring 2006 Vol. 9 No. 1

We Need Your Help: Volunteer

by Charlie Bowen

All the wonders that BPWA has achieved are due to the efforts of our volunteers, who are imbued with a cooperative spirit and an openness to new ideas. Everyone involved loves these aspects of Path Wanderers, and we encourage you to join us. Here are some ways to lend a hand:

Clean a Path

One Berkeley resident invites friends to brunch every year for her birthday. In lieu of gifts, guests bring tools, and they go to a path that the hostess has chosen. They sweep, rake, trim, and weed. Because the whole group works together, the path is neat and tidy in no time. The group then returns to the hostess' house invigorated and ready to eat.

Of course, you can combine a path cleanup with any kind of party. Or you can join one of our path-maintenance work parties. E-mail our maintenance coordinator, Robert Armstrong, robertorbit@earthlink.net or phone him at 548-8289.

Work Behind the Scenes

BPWA periodically needs people to attend meetings of the City Council or a commission, e-mail public officials, and help with publicity. We need artists, writers, and people with computer skills.

We have documents to scan, photos to sort, maps to sell, and programs to plan. Or maybe you enjoy strategic planning or grant writing. And we always need workers at our booth during events like the Solano

Stroll. If you would like to help with any of these tasks, then send an e-mail with your preferences to:

volunteer@berkeleypaths.org

Or call Dale Miller, our volunteer coordinator, at 524-4758.

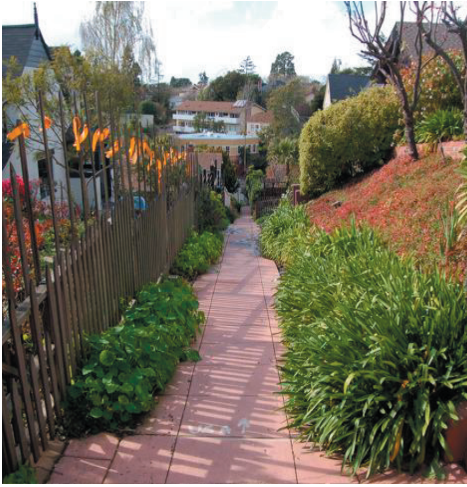
Lead A Walk

Do you have a favorite walk up, down, and along Berkeley's paths? Are you a local history or architecture buff? Lead one of our free walks, offered on one Wednesday and one Saturday each month. Contact Marilyn Siegel, walk coordinator, at 549-2908 or e-mail her at: mnsiegel@cal.berkeley.edu

Build a Path

Our main, ongoing volunteer effort is path building. We organize one or two weekend path-building work parties a month for volunteers from our membership. We also host community-service work parties from high school and college environmental and service clubs. Work parties typically last 2½ hours, with refreshments the last 15 minutes. If you want to join a work party or if you belong to an organization that could do a service project with us, please send an e-mail to: charliepaths@comcast.net or call Charlie Bowen at 540-7223.

Being a volunteer allows you to pick an activity that you feel comfortable doing. No matter what you choose to do, you contribute to your community. Your service benefits others while enriching your life.



Terrace Walk

BPWA to be at BAHA House Tour

Visit our booth at the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association Spring House Tour on Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. The tour will feature houses in the Claremont neighborhood that were designed by famed Berkeley architect Walter H. Ratcliff Jr. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ratcliff firm. Our maps and note cards will be available for purchase. Watch our web site for more information about where we will be located. For tour tickets and information, see http://www.berkeleyheritage.com/house_tours.

BPWA Meetings

The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Spring 2006 are April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's path network, and the restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured. Our activities are listed on our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org.

Concerns about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org.

BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Meet the Paths: Terrace Walk

by Dale Miller

As you stand at the lower end of Terrace Walk in a peaceful circle of pittosporum shrubs and raised ivy beds, you are at a point of geographic and aesthetic transition. Behind you to the West is one of North Berkeley's busier intersections, where Hopkins ends at Sutter. In front of you, a few steps lead onto a peaceful, well-maintained path that is one of the best gateways to the serene North Berkeley Hills.

As you begin your walk, note there are no wires cluttering the view overhead. All nearby wires were placed under ground about six years ago. You'll see six terraced lots on this steep lower section, with a traditional brown shingle house on the left and a beautiful cottage rose garden on the right. The path levels off to cross Mariposa, one of North Berkeley's most unique streets. The avenue has an East Coast feel with two lines of large sycamores creating a canopy

over the street, and the houses are set back from the sidewalk.

The second section of the path begins above Mariposa with redwood fences on either side. A gorgeous brugmansia tree in the backyard of No. 1047 shades the walk with its fragrant yellow trumpets. Two houses face the path, a Mediterranean and a red shingled farm house on a double lot. Rising from a spring flower show of daffodils, camellias, quince, and roses are two majestic redwoods as well as some cedars, an oak, and a small holly bush. A chain link fence has been mellowed by a clematis vine and ivy.

At the top of the path, Walnut ends at Shattuck – a spot that seems odd to residents of the Gourmet Ghetto, where these streets run parallel. At this point you may go left to Indian Rock, right to Live Oak Park, or you may take Walnut to the Short Cut.

Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?

by Susan Schwartz

Space in cities is often recycled in unexpected ways. The Santa Fe Right-of-Way, a 40-foot-wide strip of land between the BART tracks at the Berkeley-Albany border and Sacramento near Oregon Street, may be seeing such a change.

In the 1880s, the California & Nevada Railway headed from the Bay near the Oakland-Emeryville border toward mountain mining districts. This narrow-gauge railroad crossed the Berkeley hills along San Pablo Creek but never got past Orinda, a popular destination for weekend outings. These trains stopped running in the 1890s.

In the new century, Francis "Borax" Smith sought the failed railroad's Bay access to add a ferry pier to his streetcar network, which became the Key System. The Atcheson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (the Santa Fe) bought the East Bay right-of-way for a spur from its Pt. Richmond Bay terminus into

Oakland. Starting in 1904, the Santa Fe's Oakland Local hauled freight and passengers through Berkeley, stopping at the mission-style station at 1310 University.

Berkeley industry was concentrated near the Bay, where the Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) tracks ran, but a few factories clustered around the Santa Fe rail yard south of University. The industrial buildings at Addison and Bonar housed such companies as American Photoplayer, which made musical instruments for silent movie theaters. Starting in 1914, shops were consolidated in this area, where a spur track brought supplies by the railcar load. Designed by City Architect Walter H. Ratcliff Jr., the Tudor-style Corporation Yard, is still in use.

Train noise and smoke assured that homes near the tracks would be for the working class. Queen of these new subdivisions was San Pablo Park. Lots sold for \$100 down and \$10 per

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Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?

(continued from page 2)

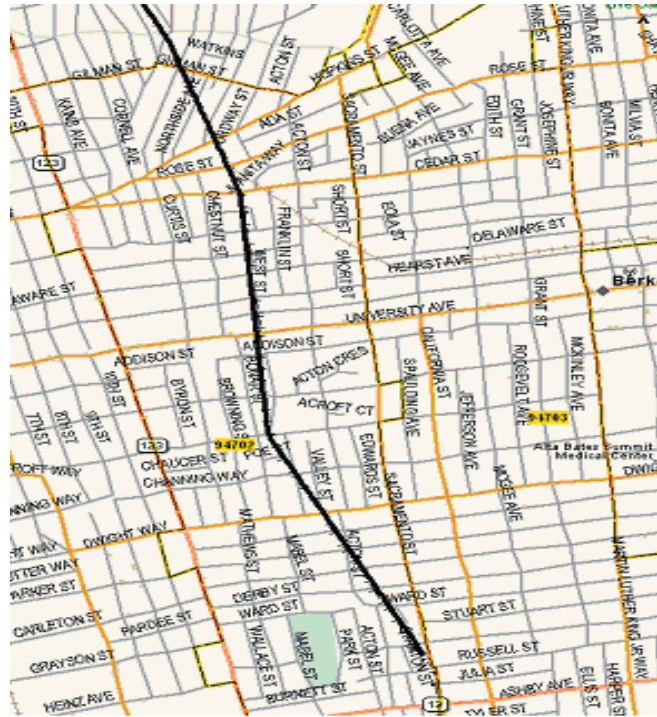
month on streets with curved corners surrounding 15-acre San Pablo Park, Berkeley's first public park, established in 1906.

By the 1960s, the Santa Fe was on its way out. Berkeley tried three times to pass a bond issue to buy the right-of-way. Finally, in 1979, the railroad essentially donated nearly all its 20 acres to Berkeley.

In Albany and El Cerrito, BART took over the former rail line. These cities developed a recreation trail, the Ohlone Greenway, under the BART tracks where the Santa Fe tracks had run. In Berkeley, however, residents taxed themselves to put BART underground, and the trains turned east at Hearst. The city rejected the trail idea and called instead for a mix of parks, community gardens, and housing and for the sale of odd bits to neighbors.

A general bond issue for parks, passed in 1977, eventually funded Strawberry Creek Park, Cedar-Rose Park, and the ball courts near them on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley's pioneer creek-daylighting project unearthed Strawberry Creek from the former rail yard, now Strawberry Creek Park. The "rocks" lining the bank are pieces of the old culvert.

North of the North Berkeley



Santa Fe Right-of-Way

BART Station, community gardens developed in the early 1980s. Gardeners added ecologically-oriented buildings, imaginative public art and interpretive signage, and coastal prairie plants. Other garden projects followed. In 1994, Berkeley Youth Alternatives created a multi-use garden south of Strawberry Creek Park. In 2004, Spiral Gardens opened a nursery and urban farm with classes, at Sacramento at Oregon. Last year, the Berkeley Community Orchard broke ground near Derby.

In 2002, encouraged by Berkeley Path Wanderers and others, Berkeley

revised its General Plan to call for a bicycle-pedestrian trail on the old railroad grade. Thanks to groundwork by Berkeley Partners for Parks, this trail, from University to Delaware, is under construction. Berkeley Montessori School, which bought the old Santa Fe station, plans to open the trail from University south to Strawberry Creek Park.

Berkeley Partners for Parks, the Berkeley Community Gardening Collective, and students from UC-Berkeley landscape architecture are working on plans for the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley Path Wanderers hopes to open the fence that blocks the route at Lincoln.

A gate there would open the trail all the way to Richmond, which has just received grants to extend a trail along the former rail line through much of that city.

Thus, the Santa Fe Right-of-Way may finally metamorphose into a 12-mile trail, from South Berkeley into Richmond, with community parks and gardens strung along it like beads on a necklace. BPWA wants to help make this happen.

-- Thanks to the Berkeley Historical Society and Phil Gale for historical information used in this article.

Household memberships in BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

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

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

- I am enclosing \$ _____ for membership new renewal
- I would like to donate \$ _____ for path building

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Spring 2006*

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

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Orchard Lane – Panoramic Hill Area

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
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www.berkeleypaths.org

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