




BPWA Walks

Guided walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. Self-guided walks have no leader, just a starting location and a suggested route. Check www.berkeleypaths.org for these routes and/or any last minute changes for any walk. People without internet access can call 510 520-3876. Walks are divided into four types:

-  Theme
-  No Theme (Friendly)
-  Power
-  Self Guided

January 2, Saturday - Aquatic Park Renaissance - 10 a.m. [THEME]

Leader: Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creeks at f5creeks@aol.com. 510 848 9358. Meeting Place: Addison St. at Bolivar Dr. Transit: AC #51 bus
A level loop walk around Aquatic Park. Discover the original Bay shoreline, WPA improvements from the Great Depression, and new community efforts helping to revive Berkeley's largest park. Rough but OK for wheelchairs and strollers. Rain or shine. No dogs please.

January 6, Wednesday - Park Hills Walk - 10 a.m. [SELF-GUIDED]

No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions: Keith Skinner - keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. Meeting Place: Park Gate and Shasta Rd. Transit: AC #65 bus

Read Paul Grundland's history of the Park Hills annexation, and retrace his April 2000 walk. http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/walk_ParkHills.htm

January 22, Friday - SFROW/Ohlone Greenway Stroll - 10 a.m. [NO-THEME]

Leader: Keith Skinner. keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3276 . Meeting Place: University at West St. (between Acton and Chestnut). Transit: AC #51 bus or BART (North Berkeley Station).

See recent changes to the semi-developed Santa Fe Right-of-way, and travel north beyond the Berkeley city limits. Option to BART back. Well-behaved dogs on leash permitted.

February 3, Wednesday - Panoramic Hill Walk - 10 a.m. [SELF-GUIDED]

No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions: Keith Skinner - keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. Meeting Place: Panoramic Way and Orchard Lane. Transit: AC #7, #51 or #52L

Read Ron Sipherd's in-depth history of Panoramic Hill, and retrace his October 2009 walk. <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/091017Panoramic.pdf>

HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

BPWA maps and notecards make great holiday gifts. They can be ordered through our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

Maps are also available in many local book (and other) stores. Mrs. Dalloway's on College Ave. sells the notecards.

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 12 No. 4

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2009/10

Another Great Year for Berkeley Pathwanderers

— Lori Kohlstaedt

Back in 2004, I contacted BPWA hoping to volunteer. The biotech startup I worked for had died, leaving me jobless. I wanted to spend some of my involuntary spare time in a useful way. During the next year, I did some path building and worked at the booth at street fairs. Then, in the fall of 2005, I was asked to join the Board of Directors. I was working again and no longer had ample leisure, but I was hooked by my interest in Berkeley's paths and the people who give time and talent to promote them.

Now as 2009 ends, I am finishing a second term on the Board and a second year as president. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the exceptional people who volunteer for BPWA, a part of the extraordinary community that flourishes in Berkeley. Everything at BPWA is done with volunteer labor, from the dedicated workers of all ages and backgrounds who show up for path building to the able folks on the Board. As former Board member Barbara West says "the people on the Path Wanderers Board are grown-ups," meaning everyone pulls their weight and decisions are reached in an astonishingly amicable spirit of cooperation.

In the last four years, BPWA has opened ten additional paths. The easy paths are finished, those we tackle now present real engineering challenges. If you haven't already done so, I invite you to take a walk to see what I mean. Try Covert Path with its meandering course that crosses a small stream, or the nearly-completed Northgate Path with its steep slopes and retaining walls.

In the current hard times, the paths are more important than ever. There is a renaissance in their use as commuter routes as more of us turn to walking for economic



Outgoing president Lori Kohlstaedt (left) welcomes new president Colleen Neff

and environmental reasons. The paths are also a free alternative to a gym membership. Finally, as we walk our paths we enjoy beautiful scenery, breathtaking vistas and points of human interest. The paths are an inexhaustible source of pleasure.

You, our members, have remained loyal supporters. Although donations are down, as they are to all nonprofits this year, our membership numbers are unchanged. Consider making a year end donation to BPWA. Although our overhead is very low, we need cash to continue our work. Each wood tie step on a path costs more than \$16. A professional survey, required before we can start on a new path, averages \$2000.

I invite you to become a more active member. Take advantage of the many fascinating guided walks Keith Skinner, our walk coordinator, plans for you. Consider volunteering for path building or for one of the several committees that handle tasks like map updates, sales or events. Although term limits prevent me from continuing on the BPWA Board this year, I'll be around. I hope to see you.

Walks Continued

February 11, Thursday - **Winter Power Walk - 10 a.m. [POWER WALK]**

Leader: Colleen Neff. **Contact Keith Skinner at** keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876

Meeting Place: Great Stoneface Park, Thousand Oaks & San Fernando, at picnic table. **Transit:** AC #7 bus

A vigorous walk to Kensington Circle, around some of the Kensington paths and return via Visalia. A fast-paced walk with some steep hills. No dogs please.

February 20, Saturday - **Pooches On The Paths - 10 a.m. [THEME]**

Leader: Lynn Deregowski. **Contact Keith Skinner at** keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876

Meeting Place: Rose Garden by the main sign **Transit:** AC buses #67 & #65

Share a pleasant walk with your best friend. There is a limit of 10 dogs, one dog per person. All dogs must be on a leash, under constant control, well-behaved and sociable. RSVP to Keith Skinner with your dog's name. Some steep inclines but pace will be moderate and there will be a lengthy stop at La Loma Park.

March 3, Wednesday - **Southeast Campus Architecture - 10 a.m. [THEME]**

Leader: Alan Kaplan. **Contact Keith Skinner at** keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876.

Meeting Place: Sather Gate, UC Campus **Transit:** AC buses #51 and #1R

Alan will cover the architectural treasures on the southeast campus, including Barrows Hall, Hearst Gym, Wurster Hall and the UC Music Library. Relatively flat, moderate pace. No dogs please.

March 17, Wednesday - **Grizzly Peak Walk - 10 a.m. [SELF-GUIDED]**

No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions: Keith Skinner - keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** Rose Garden by sign. **Transit:** AC #65 or #67 bus

Retrace cofounder Pat DeVito's walk from the Rose Garden to Grizzly Peak and back. <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/091022Founders.pdf>

March 27, Saturday - **El Cerrito's Hidden Paths, Urban Paths & Mid-Century Marvels - 10 a.m. [THEME] - Co-Sponsored by the El Cerrito Historical Society**

Leader: Dave Weinstein. **Contact Keith Skinner at** keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876

Meeting Place: Moeser Lane & Shevlin Drive, NW corner (parking on Shevlin). **Transit:** BART, AC #7, or BART to El Cerrito Del Norte and AC #7

Dave Weinstein, El Cerrito Historical Society board member and author of *It Came from Berkeley, Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area and Berkeley Rocks*, leads a tour along El Cerrito's unmarked paths, through its wilderness park, and past some of its significant architecture. Portions of the walk are steep. Well-behaved dogs on leash welcomed.

Volunteer Spotlight

Barbara Robben: Artist's Eye, Athlete's Heart

—Keith Skinner

You may have seen her point out some small detail in one of Berkeley's older churches, or perhaps you found yourself trying to follow her lead in coaxing music out of a metal handrail or an old stump. Or you may have looked over her shoulder to catch a glimpse of one of her colorful sketches. Barbara Robben not only brings lively enthusiasm to the walks she leads, she also brings an artist's careful attention to detail - the hidden treasures in plain view that often go unnoticed in our work-a-day world.

A dedicated athlete, Barbara has been competing in triathlons, half marathons, and swim meets for 50 years. "I love competition," she says. "Athletes give everything they can, do the best they can, and then it's over, and we can all be friends."

Now in her 70's, Barbara usually takes the honors for her age group. "It's really the golden age of running now," she explains, adding that she plans to complete 100 races this year.

An avid swimmer, Barbara began as a lifeguard in high school, progressed through the life saving program, and eventually found herself in an aquatic school receiving instruction from Navy Seals. She has swum in such daring events as the Alcatraz Island Loop that require excellent physical conditioning, sound strategy, and sheer grit.

Athletics wasn't the only thing that fired young Barbara's determination. In her student days at UC Berkeley, Barbara was an aspiring clarinetist, although female musicians had few opportunities. Rather than chasing one of the two clarinet seats in the orchestra, she tried to join the marching band. When she learned women weren't allowed, she began living a double life: studying geology at Cal but spending the football season in schools that did permit women in the marching band. All was forgiven when she became the first woman in the UC Concert Band.

After graduation, she stayed in town, becoming an archetypal Berkeleyan. "I liked the freedom of Berkeley. There was no prejudice, no social recriminations."



Barbara Robben (center) and walkers

Her love of nature is also a lifelong passion. She relishes fresh air and moving at her own pace. She once worked for the East Bay Regional Park District at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. She spent five years working with her mentor Norm Kidder, the Park District's renowned expert in the Stone Age and primitive technology. She even learned to build and sail the type of boats the Ohlone Indians built from tule rushes.

Barbara is a great fan of the BPWA. "I like the fact that Path Wanderers doesn't charge for its walks or require reservations." And she loves the Berkeley Pathways map, buying 25 at a time, marking them up for special walks or giving them as gifts.

Luckily for BPWA, this warm and intriguing woman with all her skills keeps coming up with new themes for walks. "I really enjoy the preparation and sharing new ideas with people. Sometimes the walks work, and sometimes they don't. But I don't like to repeat; I like innovation."

Barbara prefers to walk or take the bus whenever possible. "I feel sorry for people in cars," she says. "They miss out on all the adventure."



Image courtesy Brightroom.com

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except Feb, Sept, and Dec) at Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda at Marin. Observers are welcome. Please enter via the side door at 1842 Marin Ave.

Thursday, February 18:

BPWA Winter Meeting To Focus on City's Pedestrian Master Plan

--Steve Glaeser and Sandy Friedland

With nearly 400 miles of sidewalks, 150 public paths, and many scenic vistas, Berkeley ought to be a walkers' delight. But city officials and advocates for pedestrians and the disabled believe that walking in the city needs to be easier for the elderly and disabled as well as safer and more enjoyable for all pedestrians. To that end, they have been working with citizen groups to produce a long-range Pedestrian Master Plan. The plan also suggests ways to reduce the number of private vehicles on the roads.

Eric Anderson, Association Planner - Bicycle and Pedestrian for the city of Berkeley, will discuss the current draft of the plan at BPWA's winter meeting Thursday February 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center. The center is on the northeast corner of Hearst and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, with street parking available. The program is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

Steve Glaeser, BPWA's co-chair of path building, will also report on our recent progress in expanding and improving the path system.

The goal of the Pedestrian Master Plan is to "create a model bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly city where bicycling and walking are safe, attractive, easy, and convenient forms of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

"I think it is really important for those of us who love walking around Berkeley to learn more about the Pedestrian Plan," says Charlie Bowen, who leads BPWA's path building volunteers and has been

monitoring the development of the plan. "It's even more important for the city transportation staff to hear our concerns and interests. This will be a wonderful opportunity to show support for the paths, and I hope we will have a strong turnout of BPWA members."

The long-awaited Master Plan identifies a number of high- priority projects that would enhance pedestrian safety at the city's busiest intersections. Suggested improvements include adding countdown pedestrian signals at intersections with stoplights, making crosswalks more visible, and installing ADA-compliant curb ramps. The plan also recommends curb extensions, or "bulb-outs," where practical. These extensions usually reach about six feet into the street to align with the edge of parked cars.

The plan also recommends that the city continue work with residents who live adjacent to pathways and with

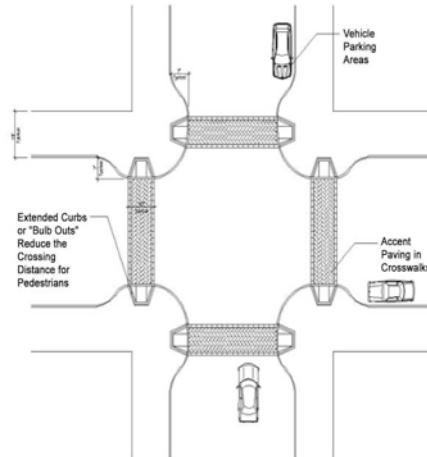


BPWA "to protect, maintain, and expand residential connections, including easements and historically used pedestrian short cuts, that reduce walking distances and encourage walking."

To that end, the plan also recommends the city continue to make repairs and safety improvements on public paths and restore unimproved paths, as well as identify incentives for developers and architects to provide public pathways within new developments.

In 2000, Berkeley adopted a master Bicycle Plan to make cycling safer and more efficient. The seven specially designated Bicycle Boulevards are an outgrowth of that plan.

The full text of the Pedestrian Master Plan and Index is available at: http://www.altaprojects.net/berkeleypedestrianplan/index_files/Documents.htm



Tax-deductible household memberships in the 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 and emails. You can join or donate online at www.berkeleypaths.org or by sending this form and a check, payable to our fiscal parent BPPF (Berkeley Partners for Parks) to:

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

BPWA Membership/Donation

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$5 for membership new renewal

I am also enclosing a donation of _____ (Please make checks to BPPF)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2009/10

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

The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, 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 guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley's path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance.

Do you know where in Berkeley you can find this big-mouthed guardian of the goldfish? Tell us where it is and win a BPWA map and a mention in our newsletter. Email your answer to ColleenNeff@earthlink.net or send it to the Path Wanderers address below, Attn: Colleen Neff. We will choose a winner at random from the correct answers.



The metal sculpture of a saxophonist that was pictured in our last issue is located on Marin Avenue just up the hill from the Marin Circle fountain. Eve Lednicky of Berkeley was selected from those who submitted correct answers to win a free BPWA map.

Photo: Ron Sipherd

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442-A Walnut St. #269
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www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

LORI KOHLSTAEDT, president
COLLEEN NEFF, vice president
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LINDA BRADFORD, external events coordinator
MARTY CAMPBELL, membership
JEN ENGLISH, secretary
SANDY FRIEDLAND, sales committee chair
STEVE GLAESER, path building
ANNE HENNY, treasurer
GLEN LINDWALL, newsletter editor
DALE MILLER, newsletter editor emeritus
KEITH SKINNER, walk coordinator
JAZ ZAITLIN, internal events coordinator, e-newsletter

Lawrence "Buzz" Cardoza, Mary Ross Lynch, Emma Morris and Kuniko Weltin-Wu will join the board in January

Attention '09 Members:

Your '09 Membership expires on 12/31/09. Please renew now if you don't see "Mem 10" after your name. You can renew online or send in the form on page three with a check made out to our fiscal parent BFPF.