

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 16 No. 3

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Fall 2013

Inn-to-Inn Adventure at 15th Annual Meeting

—Keith Skinner

7 P.M., SEPTEMBER 11
HILLSIDE CLUB, 2286 CEDAR ST.

It seems only fitting to gather again at the venerable Hillside Club with new friends and old to mark this important milestone in BPWA's history. Please join us as we showcase our progress on new paths, recognize some of the volunteers that keep us going, and top it off with an entertaining and informative feature presentation.

We'll have our beautiful new tote bags available for purchase along with maps, pathwear, books and posters. You'll have ample time to socialize and enjoy light refreshments.

INN-TO-INN WALKABOUTS



Tom Courtney

Imagine the joys of inn-to-inn hiking: leaving your car behind, exploring the California wilderness, and ending each day with a great meal, a hot shower, and a comfortable bed. Tom Courtney will introduce us to some of

the remarkable multi-day hiking adventures he features in his guidebook, *Walkabout Northern California: Hiking Inn to Inn* and walkaboutcalifornia.com. He'll share photos and stories about hiking the spectacular Bay Area coastline from the Marin Headlands to Point Reyes National Seashore, traversing the Sierra on a section of the historic Emigrant Trail, and exploring the rugged Mendocino Coast. He'll have pointers for planning an inn-to-inn adventure of your own, including tips on gear and great places to stay.

An Oakland resident, Tom is a devotee of both walking and the outdoors. His most recent adventure covered the Spanish pilgrimage route, el Camino de Santi-

ago. We recently asked Tom about his own walkabout experiences:

What was your most surprising moment on an inn-to-inn adventure?

We hiked from inn-to-inn on the Malibu Coast, north of L.A. It was a hike filled with expansive swimming beaches, fun seaside towns, and delightful inns. I was surprised to also find sections of rugged, untamed coastline and amazing wildlife—sea lions, harbor seals, dolphins, and migrating whales. That hike inspired a 200-mile adventure and my upcoming book, *Walkabout—Malibu to Mexico: Hiking Inn to Inn on the Southern California Coast*.

People reading about these trips may think, "I could never do that." Are walkabouts limited to a particular fitness level or is there something for everyone?

The walkabouts vary from easy to difficult. The 2-day, 14-mile hike on the Mendocino Coast is great for any weekend hiker. The Sierra hikes have longer days with some serious elevation gains.

Do you have a favorite quote or thought that often comes to mind on your walkabouts?

As time passes on a multi-day hike, I find myself slowing down from my usual over-scheduled urban rush to the pace and rhythm of nature. I love this John Muir quote: "I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." ■



Courtesy Tom Courtney

On the Pacific Crest Trail

BPWA Walks

Walks last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted and are free and open to all. Please note the difficulty and pace for each walk to ensure it matches your temperament and fitness level.

DIFFICULTY

EASY: Smooth trail or pavement.

MEDIUM EASY: Some uneven surface, moderate hills.

MEDIUM: Some difficult terrain such as hills or stairs.

MEDIUM DIFFICULT: Rough surface and/or steep inclines.

DIFFICULT: Rough trail, steep hills, strenuous stretches. Only for those in good physical condition.

PACE

FAST: a vigorous pace of at least 3 mph

MODERATELY FAST: 2-3 mph

MODERATE: 1-2 mph

LEISURELY: 1 mph or less

Questions: walks@berkeleypaths.org

Oct. 5, Saturday – Panoramic Hill Walk – 10 a.m.

Leader: Ron Sipherd. Meeting Place: Foot of Panoramic Way, just south of Memorial Stadium. Transit: AC buses #51B, #52, F. Ron Sipherd describes the history and architecture of the Panoramic Hill area. Walk includes stairs and slopes, but plenty of places to rest. Allow 10 minutes to find parking. RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leash permitted.

Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE

Oct. 11, Friday – Waterfalls Walk – 2 p.m.

Leader: Anne March. Meeting place: Rose Garden, 1200 Euclid Ave. Transit: AC bus #65 Explore unique natural beauties of the North Berkeley hills. Sights include WPA rock walls, lovely private gardens and a hidden redwood canyon with waterfalls. This hike will climb to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and include steep hills and stairs. RAIN CANCELS. No dogs please.

Level: MODERATELY DIFFICULT • Pace: MODERATE

Nov. 3, Sunday – People's Park Era Revisited – 1 p.m.

Leaders: Jacque Ensign, Allan Stross. Meeting place: Peet's Coffee, 2501 Telegraph Ave. (at Dwight). Transit: AC buses #1, #18, #51B

Relive history with some who were there in an area that made Berkeley famous. See the café where the Free Speech Movement began and People's Park. We'll also visit Maybeck's First Church of Christ, Scientist and Morgan's American Baptist Seminary. RAIN CANCELS. No dogs please.

Level: EASY • Pace: LEISURELY

(Continued on Page 2)



CLIP AND SAVE

(Walks continued)

Nov. 12, Tuesday – Seasons: A Year on the Berkeley Paths (Fall) – 4:30 p.m.

Leader: Kristie Lavelle. Meeting place: Spruce St. at Acacia Walk (unmarked) between 619 & 625 Spruce. Transit: AC buses #65, #67

The fourth installment of our 2013 seasonal walk series celebrates Fall. Bring your favorite method of recording (camera, art pens & small pad, journal, etc.). We'll finish at Dorothy Bolte Park for a post-walk soiree and to compare notes. **RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leash permitted.**

Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE

Dec. 7, Saturday – Missing Link Hike – 10 a.m.

Leader: Dave Weinstein. Meeting place: Trailhead for Hillside Natural Area, across from 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, near the Recycling Center. Transit: AC bus #72 (15-min. walk to site)

Join with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers to walk through grasslands and oak forests in the city's southern Hillside Natural Area to the "missing link," a privately owned parcel being acquired to link the open space's northern and southern sections. Learn about the campaign to support this important acquisition. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leash permitted.**

Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE

Jan. 1, Wednesday – Stepping into the New Year – 1 p.m.

Leader: Glen Lindwall. Meeting place: SW corner of The Arlington & Coventry Rd., Kensington. Transit: AC bus #7

Welcome the New Year on this annual BPWA walk through the neighborhoods of the Berkeley/Kensington border. Depending on conditions, we may walk the ridgeline or cruise the paths below The Arlington. This walk will include many stairs. **RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes welcome.**

Level: MEDIUM DIFFICULT • Pace: MODERATE

Visit us at the Solano Stroll Sunday, Sept. 8 from 10-6.

We'll be at the corner of Ensenada near Pharmaca and By Hand.

New Tote Bags!



Featuring original artwork by Albion artist, Nicholas Collins, the bag is made of 10 oz. cotton twill with sturdy handles, an exterior pocket and 1,116 cu. in. capacity. Price: \$20.

Contacting BPWA

Walks: walks@berkeleypaths.org

General: info@berkeleypaths.org

Recalling BPWA's First Steps

—Jacque Ensign

BPWA had its origins in an idea Ruth Moskowitz had for a wanderers group from her walking experiences in Europe. As a Berkeley native, I had roamed its paths growing up. I left Berkeley, but when I returned a week after the 1991 hills fire, I wanted to walk the paths again, but couldn't find a current map.



Photo: Colleen Neff

Jacque Ensign and former city councilmember Betty Olds at the La Loma Path dedication in 2012.

After the fire, the city had commissioned a study of paths that could be helpful in a disaster, but the study suggested a very costly way to update the paths.

With my friends Pat Devito, who had worked on Berkeley's General Plan, and Eleanor Gibson, we held weekly meetings with Ruth for six months. Then we held our first general meeting in May of 1998. Our first objective: to make a new survey of the 136 city paths.

Soon we began scheduling walks on the paths. Then we started a newsletter and a website and drew up a new map of the paths. The map wouldn't have been possible without the help of graphic artist Karen Kemp. Paul Grunland contributed the history, and many other people helped.

Within a year, we published the first edition of the BPWA map, with a printing of 2,000 copies. Now we are on our 6th edition, and ordering 5,000 almost every other year. With each new edition, we improve on it, most importantly by showing previously unimproved paths as walkable.

Initially, path building and improvements were carried out by Eagle Scout candidates. But today, with the help of Charlie Bowen, Steve Glaeser and many hardy volunteers, there are almost weekly work parties to open and improve paths. Much of the funding for this work comes from map sales, donations and grants. Working closely with the city and path neighbors, most of these improvements have gone smoothly.

The hard-working BPWA board has had new members join with fresh ideas. Yet the annual membership fee of \$5 per family has remained the same since 1998.

As I have grown older, I have come to appreciate handrails on the paths. On her 50th birthday, my daughter gave me a gift of money to add more handrails to Berkeley's paths.

As BPWA enters its 16th year, I hope for two things: That more new people will consider joining the board and contributing new ideas. And that all Path Wanderers will consider helping fund more new handrails!

BPWA co-founder Jacque Ensign, 81, often leads walks. See the listings for her Nov. 3 walk. ■



Photo: Colleen Neff

Wolf sculpture on Vassar near Kentucky from Colleen Neff's special yard art walk for the Berkeley Art Center on July 27.

Billie Jean Walk —Karen Kemp

Editor's note: This is a partial reprint of an article that appeared in the BPWA 1999 Summer newsletter. Karen Kemp will be honored at this year's Annual Meeting for her numerous contributions to BPWA.

Hot and tired from the bike ride up Euclid, I passed right by Billie Jean Walk and the huge sycamore lofting up to the sun which marks the entrance to her stairs. At the curb under the sycamore sits a black Chrysler DeLuxe, with its front split windshield, gearshift on the wheel, bench seats (the weave frayed considerably with cotton peering out to the world) from 1952. And next to Billie Jean Walk, in a garage, sleeps a gray-coral 1962 Chrysler New Yorker polished like a race horse and covered with yellow and mint green blankets.

Billie Jean is the grand entrance to three homes, and inside one dwells the owner of these two cars (it's also a public path). Of the '52, he said: "It's a reliable car, use it for all my local errands." The '62 New Yorker is a bit of Berkeley history and is part of the reason he bought it. The original owner, Mrs. Kristine Grosfemay, lived near The Circle on Marin, and for years taught typing at Berkeley High School.

Then he went on to tell me about other historical notes: In his house, built around 1935, he discovered a beautiful scripted signature under the original wallpaper hanging in the kitchen; the tramway at the top of the path was built in 1969. And of Billie Jean Walk he said: "The path is kind: It helps hold the land in place and allows the water to pour down the steps, keeping it away from the houses." He showed me a 7-inch gap



Artwork: Karen Kemp

where the lower stairs are pulling away from themselves, evidence of how the bottom of the hillside wants to slide down to the shore, while the high side just wants to stay put. He truly loves living on the path.

The path was built sometime before 1931. That year a beautiful article appeared in the San Francisco Examiner dedicating the path to a baby girl, Billie Jean Harris. "A little girl who has a street of her own. A street of steps reaching up from Euclid to Hilldale." Her father, Joe Harris, who owned the House of Harris Haberdashery, was a successful merchant and very active in Berkeley politics. He said Billie Jean was adopted and "brought sunshine into the lives of myself and my wife, that we'd like to spread a little of our happiness by having this path named as a tribute to babyhood."

Read the remainder of the story online at: <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/news/newsletter.htm> (Vol. 2, No. 3) ■

Path Development Update

—Steve Glaeser

Our crew of "weekday hotshots" has now completed the new section of Atlas Path high in the Berkeley hills near Tilden Park. Previously, one had to walk up a neighbor's driveway to reach Atlas's upper portion, but now hikers can walk on city property all the way up.

This job involved moving a lot of dirt. Fortunately, one of our volunteers found a home for it in her backyard.

Atlas Path starts along the 70-foot-wide Grizzly Peak Boulevard right of way, near where Grizzly Peak meets Hill Road, and continues up to Summit Road along the edge of the park. Our crews had to line the entire stretch up the hill with pressure treated boards due to its steep elevation.

Our path-building team also has finished installing switchbacks at the bottom of Upper Halkin Walk, which begins on Euclid Avenue between Poplar and Aca-cia and climbs up to Hilldale Avenue, just below Grizzly Peak Boulevard. We have also begun installing steps on the rest of the walk, which is still very steep.

The switchbacks on Halkin also generated a lot of dirt that needed to be relocated. Fortunately, our contacts with Berkeley Partners for Parks found a couple of nearby city parks that were in need of dirt.

While the weekday hotshots continue to work at a furious pace, we hope to soon have a community work party (which might include a Cal student group) to help us with these projects. And there is still plenty of ivy at the top, on Hilldale, that needs to be dug up and removed.

We will keep plugging away at it, as we all enjoy this hard but fulfilling work.

Steve Glaeser is one of BPWA's path-building leaders. If you'd like to volunteer for a work party, please send e-mail to: charlie_paths@comcast.net. ■

Memberships Expire Dec. 31!
Renew online, by mail, on walks, or at one of our special events.
\$5 per household

Tax-deductible household memberships in the BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings and emails. If you can give more, please consider a donation. 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

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

- I am enclosing \$5 for membership new renewal
- I am also enclosing a donation of _____
- I am interested in volunteering

Please make checks payable to our fiscal parent, Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPPF)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Fall 2013*

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.



Photo: Steve Glaeser

A biker turned hiker tries out the new switchbacks on upper Halkin Path.



Photo: Nancy Rubin

Path Wanderers join walk leader Paul Grunland at the highest point in Berkeley.

MICHAEL GRAY, newsletter editor (non-board)

ELSA TRANTER, external events

BETSY MUELLER, membership/correspondence

EMMA MORRIS, walks/volunteer coordinator

MARY ROSS LYNCH, webmaster

JANE LEVY, internal events

LORI KOHLSTADT, treasurer/archivist

ANGUS DUNSTAN, online sales

LYNN DEREGOWSKI, walks

KEITH SKINNER, president

Board Members

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