

# 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, 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 Avenue**

**Feb. 22 Board Meeting**

**Mar. 15 General Meeting**  
**Berkeley's Early Byways**  
**by Richard Schwartz**

**Apr. 19 Board**

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

**Feb. 24** Ridge to Bay Trail, Part I  
**Janet Byron 848-4008**  
**Meet at Tilden Nature Center. Bring \$1.35 (exact change) for return trip on bus.**

**Mar. 17** N.E. Pathways  
**Paul Grunland 526-8001**  
**Meet at Euclid and Grizzly Peak**

**April 21** Creeks and Flatland Paths,  
Yesterday and Tomorrow  
**Susan Schwartz 848-9358**  
**Meet at Boggie Woogie Bagel Boy Garden,**  
**Gilman between Curtis and Santa Fe**

**May 19** Unimproved Paths  
**Charlie Bowen 540-7223**  
**Meet at Glendale-La Loma Park**  
**Potluck at Glendale-La Loma Park follows walk**

**Jun. 9** Revelatory Landscapes  
(A tour of SFMOMA-sponsored art work)  
**Mark Liolios 549-0818**  
**Meet at AMTRAK station under University Ave.**

**July 7** Kensington Pathways  
**Paul Grunland 526-8001**  
**Meet at Reservoir Grizzly Peak and Spruce**

**August 25th** U.C. Campus Pathways  
**Allen Stross 841-2359**  
**Meet at Center and Oxford**

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Winter 2001 Vol. 4 No. 1

## Important Figures in the History of the Pathways

In searching for documents showing the origin of Berkeley's paths, the best sources are often original development maps of Berkeley, Paul Grunland explained to January's general meeting. In the early 20th Century, Berkeley's hills were controlled by the Realty Syndicate, the brain child of Frank Havens and Frances Marion (Borax) Smith. The area was ripe for a boom: The trans-Bay transportation network was complete; rail lines and streetcars were being extended into the hills; and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 spurred a diaspora to the East Bay.

Berkeley was then a small town with a large number of utopian visionary thinkers such as Charles Keeler, principal spokesper-

son of the Hillside Club; environmentalist John Muir, painter William Keith; and architect Bernard Maybeck. San Francisco had provided a bad example of applying the rigid grid design of streets to hilly terrain. By this period, there seemed to be consensus that hillside streets should be aligned with the natural contours of the land. Thus the

*continued on back*

## Berkeley's Early Byways by Richard Schwartz

Don't miss Richard Schwartz's presentation March 15 at Live Oak Recreation Center, when he'll elaborate on his book, tying in stories relevant to Berkeley's paths.

*continued on back*



The view is spectacular from Scott Newhall Path, Berkeley's newest and highest-elevation pathway, which was dedicated December 2, 2000. The nearly level, north-south path joins two segments of Hill Road. Jack and Trudy Washburn donated the land to the city in honor of their friend and long-time neighbor Scott Newhall, who was editor of the San Francisco Chronicle for many years.

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

### Board Members

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TOM EDWARDS  
PAUL GRUNLAND  
SUSAN SCHWARTZ  
JIM SHARP  
HELEN WYNNNE

Special thanks to RUTH ARMSTRONG,  
founder of BPWA, for her service on  
the board.

## Important Figures *continued*

new areas of Claremont, Northbrae, Cragmont, North Cragmont, and Thousand Oaks were developed with this in mind.

Few people then owned horses or automobiles. The very long blocks created by contoured streets naturally led to plans for pathways that would provide pedestrian shortcuts to trains or streetcars. The original development maps show Berkeley's paths as part of the original infrastructure, with names.

Prime among the companies that carried out this subdivision was the Berkeley Traction Company, which became the Berkeley Development Company and finally Oakland Traction Company. The companies borrowed money from the Realty Syndicate, bought the land, laid out the streets, and sold the lots.

Duncan McDuffie, a key partner in Berkeley Traction, probably deserves much of the credit for establishing Berkeley's path network. McDuffie, who graduated from UC Berkeley in 1899, not only developed many of Berkeley's most beautiful neighborhoods, but also was a leader in the

Sierra Club and the Save-the-Redwoods League and played a large role in the creation of California's state park system.

To build the contoured streets and pathways, however, required a skilled engineer. Here the key figure seems to have been Charles L. Huggins, who graduated from UC Berkeley in 1884 and later became Berkeley's town engineer. Huggins had helped the Hillside Club correct street problems in the Daley Scenic Park neighborhood, north of the UC Berkeley campus. Paul recently interviewed the 102-year-old daughter of Charles Huggins, who used to stroll in the hills with him, and feels his contribution to developing the pattern of hill transportation was immeasurable.

Others, such as John Spring in Thousand Oaks, later followed the pattern McDuffie and Huggins had set out.

As we enjoy the pathways today, we should remember the forethought of a century ago and be grateful for our legacy.

*Story by Paul Grunland.*



**Berkeley Boy Scouts Troop 19 at work on Twin Path.**

## New Mini-Grant Will Continue Path Improvements

BPWA has received a new \$3,300 Berkeley Parks mini-grant to continue improving paths in the coming year. Working with Berkeley Boy Scouts, we hope to continue re-grading, improving drainage, and adding wooden steps.

Our first mini-grant made five muddy, slippery tracks easy to stroll. In the latest projects, Boy Scout Troop 19 Eagle Scout candidates Sven Chilton, Ian Saulsberg, and Matt Seuferer improved Latham and Twin Paths, both close to Grizzly Peak. This year's candidates for improvement include Acacia, Sterling, and Stevenson Paths.

The new grant also includes funds for benches. If you know of a good spot, please let us know.

In partnership with Friends of Five Creeks, BPWA is also working on a grant proposal to link the Bay Area Ridge Trail in Tilden Park with the Bay Trail in the new Eastshore State Park, via Berkeley paths and Codornices Creek. In addition to building one or two of the unbuilt hill paths, and helping create a half-mile pedestrian path along lower Codornices Creek, the project would demarcate one or more routes, perhaps with interpretive signs telling about human and natural history.

## Berkeley's Early Byways *continued*

Schwartz's book *Berkeley 1900, Daily Life at the Turn of the Century*, offers a wild ride through Berkeley with a unique presentation of faithfully reproduced newspaper articles and vintage photographs. Schwartz reveals a town of large gypsy camps, larger-than-life criminals and policemen, resourceful immigrants, and bustling mom-and-pop shops. He has uncovered fascinating human-interest stories and anecdotes about Berkeley's children, wild animals in downtown streets, environmental issues, race relations, and more, from articles first published a century ago.

The book's thirty chapters provide the reader with a textual introduction followed by over 650 newspaper articles exactly as

they appeared in the Berkeley Gazette, interwoven with quotes from turn-of-the-century Berkeleyans. Included are over 170 photos of long-ago daily life.

Schwartz, who came to Berkeley in 1973, is the author of *The Circle of Stones*, a nonfiction archeological mystery. He also has written articles for the Alameda County, Berkeley, and Truckee Historical Societies.

In 1996, Schwartz was at the Berkeley Historical Society as a stack of Berkeley newspapers circa 1900 was about to be discarded due to possible mold. He couldn't imagine such an intriguing resource getting thrown away, so he rescued the papers and took them home. The book was the result.

### Problems with paths call

Encroachments: Diana Aikenhead, 883 6555  
Maintenance: Jay Kelekian, 644 6943  
Dept. of Parks & Waterfront



[www.internetttime.com/path](http://www.internetttime.com/path)

**Yearly \$5.00 membership dues were due in January for the 2001 year. If you haven't yet, please send checks to:**

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



*If you have any concerns about path issues please call Jacque at 524-4715.*

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## BPWA Membership Form **Please print**

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## Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center**

**7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue**

### Sept. 19 **General Meeting**

Special **Wednesday** meeting at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. **Paths of the East Bay Hills' Natural History. Panelists include Malcolm Margolin, Richard Schwartz, and Steve Edwards**

### Oct. 18 **Board Meeting**

### Nov. 15 **General Meeting**

**Finding Yourself in the Hills: the Berkeley Paths** by Karen Kemp

## Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

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

**August 25th** U.C. Campus Pathways  
**Allen Stross 841-2359**  
**Meet at Center and Oxford**

**September 22nd** Park Hills  
**Mardi Sicular Mertens 849-1142**  
**and Marilyn Siegel 549-2908**  
**Meet at the fountain at Park Hills & Shasta**

**October 27th** Panoramic Hill and Upper Strawberry Creek  
**Ann Moghaddas 548-3366**  
**Meet at the International House at the top of Bancroft.**

**November 10th** Ridge to Bay Trail Part II  
**Janet Byron 848-4008**  
**and Charlie Bowen 540-7223**  
**Take the #65, 10:00 sharp at Berkeley Bart, or the 10:05 on Euclid at the Rose Gardens. Reconvene at Shasta & Grizzly Peak at 10:30.**

**December 1st** Eastshore State Park  
**Susan Schwartz 848-9258**  
**Meet at Sea Breeze Market University & Frontage Road**

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Summer 2001 Vol. 4 No. 2

## Berkeley's Byways—on Path Names

This story is from boardmember, Paul Grunland's files—a newspaper clipping, unfortunately with date and name missing—by the looks of it, from The Berkeley Daily Gazette. The date of authorship is sometime after the 50s for certain as that was when the Marin Circle Fountain lost its fountain. Any clues to the authorship? Please let us know.

**Rose Walk**, off Euclid Ave., was commissioned by Mrs. Florence Dickens

Gray and the late B. G. Gray and designed in 1913 by the master architect, Bernard Maybeck. The winding path and its lovely terraces are classic in their simplicity.

**Orchard Lane**, with its multi-tiered steps wending through a hillside woods, was built in 1908. The lane connects two levels of Panoramic Way.

The stories behind the naming of many of the byways could easily become legendary.

In 1930, Mrs. Nettie S. Gaines, who lived off

an unnamed set of steps near Hawthorne Terrace, complained that the post office wouldn't deliver her mail. The reason given was that she resided on an unofficial street. The city council came to the rescue with an ordinance legalizing **Hawthorne Terrace Steps**, and Mrs. Gaines got her mail.

Four years later, Mrs. Belle M. Holmes, who described her family as the

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**The developers Mason McDuffie listed this path, The Cut-off, on their 1909 Claremont Map #2. It hadn't yet been integrated on their earlier 1905 map.**

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## Berkeley Byways *continued*

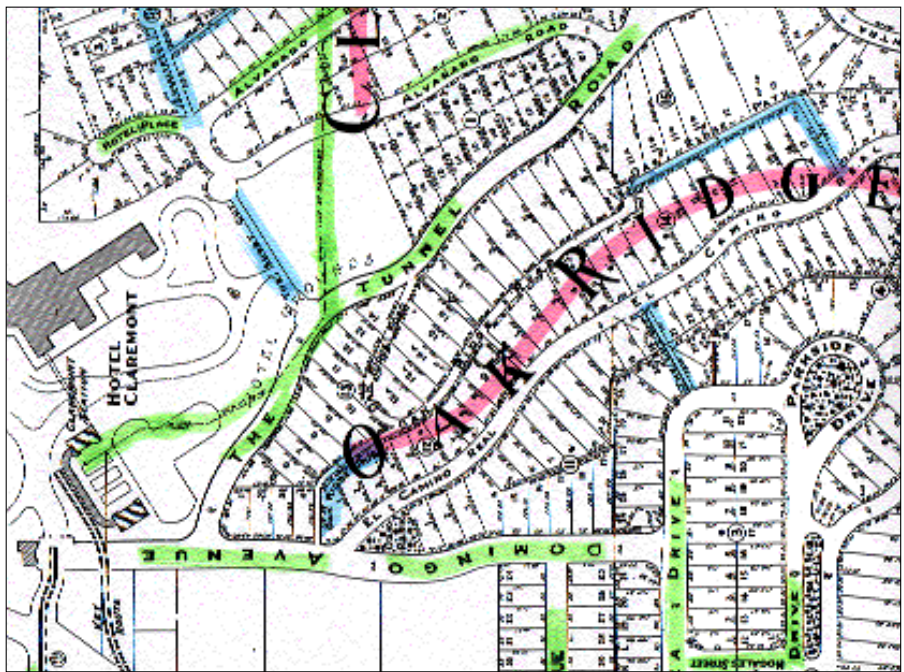
pioneer residents of Kentucky Ave., asked that the path adjacent to her home be christened. "It's an official bus stop, but passengers don't know how to tell the driver where to let them off," Mrs. Holmes lamented. "If you can't think of a better name we would be honored to have it designated **Holmes Path.**" And so it was.

**Fountain Walk**, named in 1916 and connecting Del Norte Ave., to The Circle, gained its appellation from the fountain which graced the center of The Circle. At the base of the fountain were three bears, holding hands, of all things. The bears and the fountain are long gone, done in several years ago by a wayward truck.

Across Del Norte Ave., is **Terrace Walk**, the upper level of which is still referred to unofficially as The Daisy Path. It was named more than 50 years ago by children in the area because of its profusion of daisies, or so the story goes.

**Billy Jean Walk**, connecting Euclid and Hillside Aves., was named for his daughter at the request of City Councilman "Call Me Joe" Harris back in 1931.

Although there is a colorful history to the naming of most paths, at least 29 lack any such distinction. Back in 1941, City Engineer Harry Goodridge complained that many byways had no names and were a nuisance to describe on official documents. So, in one fell swoop he bestowed names on 29, including Poppy, Bret Harte and Parnassus paths, Twain



**Berkeley's earliest planned neighborhood by Mason McDuffie—Claremont—included paths, concrete paved sidewalks, and street names on Arts and Craft design stone pillars. Unlike later neighborhood developments, the paths received names from the start: The Short Cut appears on this 1909 map. Park Path, linking El Camino Real with Oak Ridge Road, is the only unnamed path, and from Oak Ridge Road to Tunnel Road, the path was never improved.**

Way and El Mirador Steps.

Many of the byways take their names from streets, from early residents and from trees and flowers. But in many respects the best cognomen of all has been reserved for a path off Grizzly Peak Blvd., and a sister walkway up from Alvarado Rd. They are called simply **The Shortcut!** [The other path titled The Shortcut is located near the Marin Circle, up hill from Terrace Walk, and between Walnut and Oxford streets.]

## Troop Work Update

Atlas Path (designated unimproved), leading up from Grizzly Peak to Hill Road, should be getting some attention. Eagle Scout candidate William Berkeley, from Troop 6 turns 18 on September 30, so he must organize the renovating of this path before then to fulfill his public service requirement.

William will build steps at the top of Atlas Path on Saturday, August 25 along with a work party. Check out the newly enhanced path. Thanks Scouts.

## Berkeley Public Works

Thanks go to Ken Emezium, Civil Engineer for the Department of Public Works engineering division, for his commitment to the improvements of the paths. Paths to be improved in the near future are Tamalpais, The Crossways and North Crossways, Martinez, Easter Way and Alta Vista. Handrails will be installed at Billy Jean Walk, and Terrace Walk (by the stairs).

## Mark Your Calendar

BPWA will have a booth again at the Solano Stroll—this year it's September 9th. And on September 30th it's How Berkeley Can You Be? The parade is always silly fun. Get involved with BPWA's group this year—call Helen Wynne at 843-5738.

### Requesting Research Help from a Title Company

**Berkeley Path Wanderers needs help with title research. If you can help, or if you know someone who can, please call Jacque at 524-4715.**

## Professional Path Map in the Works

With a kind donation of \$1,500. from councilmember Betty Olds toward the production of a 2-color, professionally printed map, BPWA is working with Hedberg Maps, Inc. of Minneapolis, Maine. An affordable and very readable map of the City of Berkeley, it will highlight all the improved and unimproved paths, and include an index of all the path names, along with their code number which the city established as a

simple reference device to use during path studies, such as the 1983 Luk Milani report. The map should be available for purchase by the end of the year, with a discounted price for BPWA members.



[www.internetttime.com/path](http://www.internetttime.com/path)

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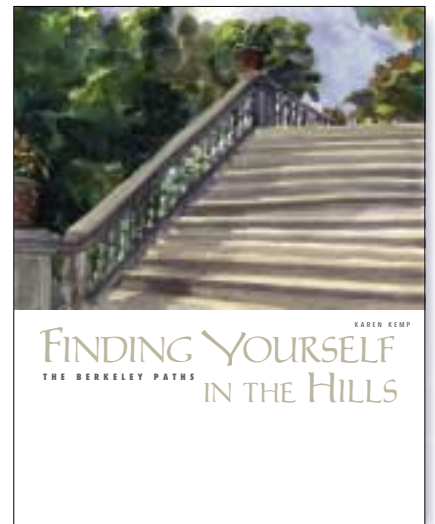
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A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Fall 2001 Vol. 4 No. 3

## *Nov. 15th Karen Kemp Presents Her Watercolors & Discusses Visionaries Who Affected the Pathways*

Hear Karen's presentation at Live Oak Center, when she'll discuss influences from Bernard Maybeck, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Garden City planners of England—from her book in progress, *Finding Yourself in the Hills: the Berkeley Paths*. You can email her at studio49@earthlink.net.



### *Meetings* Live Oak Park Rec. Center

**7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue**

**Nov. 15 General Meeting**

**Finding Yourself in the Hills: the Berkeley Paths by Karen Kemp plus Board Members Elections**

**Jan. 17 Board Meeting**

**Feb. 21 General Meeting**

**Program to be announced**

## *Tamalpais Steps & Other Paths Improved*

Broken pavement on the Tamalpais Steps has been repaired by the City of Berkeley, using funds paid to compensate for the large redwoods that a neighbor cut without city permission. Although the trees will be missed, their absence opens up beautiful Bay views at the top of the 183 steps leading up from Codornices Park. The view of Mt. Tam makes the steps fit their name!

### **Public Works**

Contractors working for the city also are beginning repairs on dangerously cracked Martinez Path, heavily used Easter Way, and other paths including Alta Vista and South Crossways. Billie Jean Walk is slated to get handrails. Thanks to Ken Emeziem of the Department of Public Works for working with us to choose which paths to improve and get the work underway.

### **Volunteers**

Other path improvements have come from volunteers. On Sunday, September

30, BPWA Board Member Tom Edwards led volunteers from Congregation Beth El in installing four wood steps at the east end of Acacia Walk. The project was one of the synagogue's Mitzvah Day

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### *Path Walks* RAIN OR SHINE

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

**November 10th** Ridge to Bay Trail Part II  
**Janet Byron 848-4008**  
**and Charlie Bowen 540-7223**

**Take the #65, 10:00 sharp at Berkeley Bart, or the 10:05 on Euclid at the Rose Gardens. Reconvene at Shasta & Grizzly Peak at 10:30.**

**December 1st** Eastshore State Park  
**Susan Schwartz 848-9258**

**Meet at Sea Breeze Market University & Frontage Road**

**January 26th** Town & Gown Interstices (Northside)

**Jim Sharp 841-7271**

**Meet at Virginia and La Loma**

**February 16th** Claremont Triangle  
**Helen Wynne 843-5738**

**Meet at Ashby and Domingo**

**March 16th** Nut Hill

**Mardi Sicular Mertens 849-1142**

**and Marilyn Siegel 549-2908**

**Meet at the west end of Rose Walk**

## *Annual Hillside Club Meeting Well Attended*

Sedge Thomson of West Coast Live moderated panelists Malcolm Margolin of Heyday Books, Steve Edwards of Tilden Botanic Gardens, and Richard Schwartz, Berkeley historian. It was a provocative discussion on geology, history, indian lore and botany in the East Bay.

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## Improved Paths *continued*

projects. Acacia Walk, from Cragmont down to Spruce, has beautiful views along a tree-shaded, nearly level path leading to concrete steps in good condition.

### Scouts & UC Students

Improvement continued on Atlas Path, which runs from Grizzly Peak Boulevard nearly up to Tilden Park, and is a keystone in our long-term plans for a Ridge-to-Bay urban trail. Berkeley Boy Scout Troop 6 put in a first group of

wooden stairs at the top. On October 20, UC Berkeley students volunteering as part of the Cal Corps public-service day added another six steps. Three Eagle Scout candidates from Berkeley Troop 19 plan to complete the long, moderately steep path. When finished, Atlas will have more than 70 steps and, we hope, a seat at the top so walkers can rest and enjoy the sweeping Bay view.

If all goes well, path wanderers should be able to explore new "flatland" trails along creeks and the Bay in coming years.

## Progress of Pathways Near the Shore

Most of us have been watching progress on the pedestrian/bicycle bridge joining Aquatic Park with the new Eastshore State Park and Berkeley Marina. Berkeley also is beginning to build its long-delayed portion of the Bay Trail along the narrow beach from University to Ashby, where it meets an already completed trail that continues south to the Emeryville Marina. This will make a wonderful shoreline walkway. Berkeley also has a grant to plan a bicycle/pedestrian link from the Bay Trail to the Berkeley Marina.

Berkeley Montessori School's interest in moving to the historic Santa Fe Railroad Station on University Avenue has breathed new vigor into the effort to open the Santa Fe Right of Way as a pedestrian trail from Strawberry Creek Park to the Ohlone Greenway. Berkeley Partners for Parks is asking citizens to ask their city council member to fund this new greenway out of a discretionary pedestrian improvement-related "HIP" grant. See BFP's website at [www.bfp.org](http://www.bfp.org)

Environmental reports are expected soon on the planned 1/2-mile creekside greenway along Codornices Creek, while complex trade-offs involve Albany sports fields, University Village student-family housing, and the University Village community gardens. Meanwhile, Friends of Five Creeks has opened a temporary trail — you can walk from 10th to 8th Street along the creek south of Harrison

Street, on the Berkeley/Albany border.

Farther north, on the Albany/El Cerrito/Richmond border, Friends of Five Creeks is working on what eventually is to be another creekside greenway, along Cerrito Creek from the Ohlone Greenway to Pierce Street. For more information on these projects see their website at [www.fivecreeks.org](http://www.fivecreeks.org).



**Look:  
New website address.**

[www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org)

### Setting the Record Straight

CORRECTIONS TO BERKELEY'S BYWAYS STORY LAST ISSUE.

**Rose Walk** Dr. and Mrs. Gray were not involved in the building of the Walk. It was built in 1913 by a group of Hillside Clubbers including Bernard Maybeck and Dr. W. W. Underhill. The Grays came into the picture eleven years later in 1924 when they bought land north of the Walk from the water company and built their Gutterson Duplexes. —John Underhill.

**Fountain Walk** Of course, we all know the Fountain at the Marin Circle is standing pretty. See Spring '99, Vol. 2 No.2 for story about its restoration.



**University of California, Berkeley students install steps on Atlas Path as part of Cal Corps, October 20th public-service day.**

### Nov. 15th — Election for Eight Board of Directors

Standing for re-election for 2-year terms are: Jacque Ensign, Pat DeVito, Sue Fernstrom, Paul Grunland, Eleanor Gibson and Helen Wynne. New nominees are: Lisa Frieden and Janet Byron.

LISA FRIEDEN is an avid outdoors person and a professionally published writer. She is a path lover who also pursues biking, hiking, walking, running and displays a general fondness for nature. Lisa joined the BPWA map committee in September, and along with her husband Curt, a map enthusiast, have offered their expertise toward the assembly of necessary map information and selection of its qualities. Lisa can be contacted at [Lizi@home.com](mailto:Lizi@home.com), or 525 7945.

JANET BYRON, founder of Friends of Strawberry Creek, leader for Greenbelt Alliance outings for 10 years and BPWA for four years, has come to deeply appreciate the wisdom that activists and planners showed in creating such an extensive path system, and wants to see it preserved and improved.

Janet believes that developing more livable cities is the key to preventing sprawl out into the Bay Area's open spaces. She says, "Components such as paths, creeks, parks and such are among the amenities that make cities places where people want to be, not flee."

As a board member of BPWA, she would work on creating a ridge-to-bay trail system that features paths and creeks. Also, she is interested in exploring positive ways to work with people who live alongside paths. Janet can be contacted at [bjanet@earthlink.net](mailto:bjanet@earthlink.net), or 848-4008.

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