

Berkeley's PATHS

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Fall 2011

BPWA Annual Meeting Oct. 20 To Feature Greenbelt Alliance — Sandy Friedland

Can the Bay Area continue to gain population without sacrificing precious farmland, losing open space and harming the environment? The members of Greenbelt Alliance are doing everything they can to answer those questions with a resounding "Yes." Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is proud to feature Greenbelt Alliance at our Annual Meeting Thursday, October 20, at the Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St.) The event begins promptly at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

We will begin with a brief business meeting, a report on BPWA's latest path building efforts, and the election of officers and board members. Then Matt Vander Sluis, Greenbelt's senior field representative for Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties will present "Grow Smart Bay Area: A path to a sustainable region."

Greenbelt Alliance is a fifty-year old organization whose mission is to "preserve open spaces and promote vibrant cities that are not choked by traffic and pollution and that have affordable housing." The research arm of the organization identifies at-risk areas and works to promote balanced land-use policies.

In an illustrated presentation, Matt will explain one of the main initiatives of the Greenbelt: Grow Smart Bay Area. He also will describe Greenbelt's extensive program of outings, which features guided and self-guided hikes along beaches, through forests and farms, and in the Bay Area hills. Greenbelt also sponsors urban outings, which highlight model developments in East Bay communities.

Matt grew up in Napa and says he always has been fascinated with "the shape of cities and how that impacts the

way people live." A graduate of Stanford University, Matt worked for an environmental group in Sacramento before he joined Greenbelt. His responsibilities include meeting with city council members



Master pathbuilder Charlie Bowen unveils her ceremonial shovel on La Loma Path. The annual meeting will include a report on path building progress.

about protecting open spaces, leading outings, and performing technical analyses of proposed development, such as building a transit village near a BART Stop.

"My favorite part of this job" Matt said, "is helping concerned residents to understand their ability to influence the decisions that determine how their communities will grow."

As a follow-up to the Annual Meeting program, Greenbelt Alliance Board Member Bob Johnson, will lead a special walk for BPWA on Saturday, Nov. 5 that will feature small parks of North Berkeley that are centered around large rock formations. (See walk listings on this page.)

BPWA Walks

Walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to all. Walks are divided into four types:

Theme Friendly

Power Self Guided

Questions about the walks? Contact Keith Skinner: keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876.

October 9, Sunday - 2nd Annual Long Walk - 9 a.m.

Leaders: Keith Skinner, Colleen Neff, Sandy Friedland

Meeting Place: El Cerrito BART station, main entrance near Central Transit: BART - Richmond line

All day walk that includes portions of Albany Hill, Pt. Isabel, Bay Trail, Albany Bulb, East Shore Park, Aquatic Park, Sistrina District, and Santa Fe Right-of-Way, ending at North Berkeley BART. See further details in the article on page 2. Be sure to bring a water bottle and bag lunch. **No dogs, please.**

October 22, Saturday - Bay Trail Exploration on New Landfill Loop - 9:30 a.m.

Leaders: Sandra & Bruce Beyaert.

Meeting Place: Bay Trail staging area. Take Richmond Parkway from I-80 or I-580 and turn west on Parr Blvd. toward San Pablo Bay. Bear left to cross San Pablo Creek and then left into trailhead paved parking area just beyond solar panels.

Transit: Sorry, no viable public transportation

Enjoy a new three mile loop of SF Bay Trail around a former landfill on Richmond's northern shoreline. See tidal marshes where Wildcat and San Pablo creeks enter San Pablo Bay. Pass an array of resource recovery and recycling operations before reaching tidal wetlands teeming with wildlife and spectacular vistas. **Rain cancels. No dogs, please.**

November 5, Saturday - Rock Parks Walk With Greenbelt Alliance - 10 a.m.

Leaders: Bob Johnson, Greenbelt Alliance Meeting Place: NE corner of Solano and The Alameda adjacent to Indian Rock Path.

Transit: AC #7, #18 bus

This walk, co-sponsored by the Greenbelt Alliance, is a companion walk to the presentation at the Annual Meeting. We will visit seven small parks centered on large rock formations and some fine vistas, quintessential Berkeley neighborhoods with varied gardens (and more rocks) as well as pedestrian paths and stairways. Bring a bag lunch for our mid-walk break. **Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

(Walks are continued on page 2)

(Walks continued)

**November 15, Tuesday -
LeRoy Steps Centennial - 10 a.m.**

Leader: Keith Skinner.

Meeting Place: In front of Dominican School of Theology, 2301 Vine St. near Arch St.

Transit: AC bus #18, #65 buses

Celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the LeRoy Steps. To add context to the event, we will visit several other historic paths and staircases in the area.

Rain cancels. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

**December 7, Wednesday - Coffee
Constitutional - 10 a.m.**

Leader: Jacque Ensign.

Meeting Place: Peet's on Domingo across from the Claremont Hotel.

Transit: AC buses #49 and #51B

Meet at Peet's over a coffee, and then explore the Claremont area on a low impact, leisurely walk. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

**December 18, Sunday - Ukuleles
for Peace - 3 p.m.**

Leader: Keith Skinner

Meeting Place: Top of Fountain Walk on Marin Circle

Transit: AC buses #7, #18, #25

Join us for a non-secular, non-political show of peace and goodwill as the Berkeley Ukulele Club strums up a storm and we send out positive vibes to our neighbors and the world at large. The pace will be moderate with frequent stops but some hills. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

**Featured Self-Guided Walk:
Outdoor Campus Sculpture**

Explore many of the outdoor sculpture treasures on the UC campus with Alan Kaplan as your docent. Be sure to download the map and notes from our website: <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/110612outdoorcampussculpture.htm> Some photos are also provided.

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except April, Oct, and Dec). Meetings are at 7 PM at Live Oak Community Center in Live Oak Park. Board meetings are open to all.

Join BPWA's Second Annual Long Walk Sunday, October 9, 9 AM to 4 PM —Keith Skinner

This year's Long Walk will include three cities and lovely parts of the Bay Trail. It will begin at 9 a.m. sharp Sunday, Oct. 9, at El Cerrito BART. Our first stop will be Cerrito Creek to observe the restoration. Then we'll climb Albany Hill using one of Albany's few hidden stairways.

From there we will head northwest to Pt. Isabel, where we will pick up the Bay Trail. We will focus on some of the less-traveled parts of Pt. Isabel that are outside the dog park area, including Hoff-

man Marsh, Baxter Creek, Meeker Slough and Stege Marsh. We will then retrace our steps just a bit so we can continue along the Bay Trail to the south beach of the Albany Bulb for lunch.

Fortified and rested, we'll start the second half of the walk by skirting Golden Gate fields (Fleming Point) to pick up the Bay Trail in the East Shore State Park. After stopping briefly at Sea Breeze Market, we will cross the Pedestrian Bridge that leads to Aquatic Park and view the murals around the Amtrak Station. We then will go east to the historic Sistrina District, that features some treasured Victorian houses. Finally, we'll make our way along the Santa Fe Right of Way (West St) to the North Berkeley BART Station.

We expect to reach North Berkeley BART no later than 4 p.m. Participants should wear comfortable, sturdy shoes and bring a refillable water bottle, as well as lunch and snacks. We've carefully planned the route to include restroom and water breaks.

The first BPWA Long Walk a year ago, "Trail of Four Cities," was a complicated daylong trek with four different leaders. It began at the Rockridge BART station, skirted the East Bay hills for 13 miles, and ended at the El Cerrito BART station. We coordinated with an organization in each city who

provided a local walk leader. It was a great adventure that was well attended and very hot.

This year, we're simplifying the walk — BPWA will lead the entire walk — and we should catch some cool breezes along the Bay.



Remote areas of Point Isabel will be featured in this year's long walk

Secret Stairs East Bay

Charles Fleming, the Southern California author whose 2010 walking guide *Secret Stairs* turned the hidden public staircases of Los Angeles into popular hiking trails, has come north. He was introduced to the paths of Berkeley through his daughter, an undergrad at Cal. His new East Bay book maps out 38 one to two hour self-guided hiking loops between El Cerrito and Oakland.

BPWA will be selling the book at street fairs and our Annual Meeting.



BPWA in the News

Check out *The New York Times* article on Berkeley's pedestrian pathways in the July 2 edition. Find the article by typing Berkeley Path Wanderers in the Times' search window.

BPWA president Colleen Neff appeared on KQED's *Forum* in a program titled Urban Stairs of the Bay Area. Listen to Colleen and authors Adah Bakalinsky and Charles Fleming chat with Dave Iverson. Simply type Colleen Neff in the search window of the KQED website.

Paul Grunland: One of BPWA's True Originals — Glen Lindwall

Many years ago Paul Grunland was leading back-pack trips. As training, he would hike straight up Marin Avenue. It was on his meandering walks downhill that he first encountered many of Berkeley's paths.

Paul has been active in the Path Wanderers since the group began. He was at the first general meeting and served on the first board. He continues to be active on the map committee and as a leader of walks.

Paul is a World War II veteran who worked in retail merchandising for Capwell's department stores and later owned a family clothing store in El Sobrante for 18 years. Paul expressed regret that the clothing manufacturers and distributors discontinued many of the clothing lines he had carried. His was the last store of its type in the region; he chose to retire rather than to remake the store.

Paul, of course, never really retired. He has been active in a number of local organizations, especially when he can combine his love of local history with his love of hiking and walking the paths. He leads walks not just for the Path Wanderers but also for the Berkeley Historical Society and for the Oakland Museum. His walks are often nearby, like his tour of the rocks of the Thousand Oaks neighborhood, but he also goes farther afield, like the popular walk he led over the Carquinez Bridge. Paul has also worked with UC Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium, helping to develop trip ideas, though he has not himself led any of their walks. He says "I try to do outreach with the enviros, trying to create synergies."

The paths of Kensington are a special favorite. Paul has written a pamphlet

containing a map of the Kensington paths and a walking route that covers many of them. The BPWA walk Paul led last fall revisited this tour of Kensington. Paul, together with Bryce Nesbitt of the Kensington Improvement Club, brought fellow wanderers up to date on current efforts to improve Kensington's paths.



Paul Grunland savors the view from the bench mid-way up Atlas Path

Paul lights up when he talks about the origins of Berkeley's paths. He'll speak of Duncan McDuffie, one of Berkeley's original developers, who was also an active environmentalist, and of Charles Huggins who worked for McDuffie laying out many of the paths. Paul speaks of the 1993 Luk-Milani report and its conclusions about the value of the paths for safety, illustrated by the 1991 Oakland hills fire. This was a major part of the modern re-birth of interest in the paths and Paul has been there helping to make it happen.

Bay Trail Q&A With TRAC's Bruce Beyaert

We recently chatted with Bruce Beyaert, Chair of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), the organization dedicated to completing and promoting the Richmond portion of the Bay Trail. Working with the City of Richmond, the East Bay Regional Park District, and private partners, 30 miles of Bay Trail have been completed. Bruce and his wife Sandra will be leading the Oct. 22 BPWA walk that will showcase the newest addition to the trail system. **BPWA:** Where is the Landfill Loop Trail?

BB: It's uniquely located on San Pablo Bay between the rich tidal marshes at the mouths of Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks on Richmond's northern shoreline.

BPWA: Why is TRAC so excited about the new trail?

BB: We're always excited by closing a major gap in the Bay Trail. What's very special here is that this trail opens up the only public access to the shoreline between Miller/Knox and Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Parks. This creates an impetus for opening more of the terra incognita that constitutes Richmond's northern shoreline on San Pablo Bay.

BPWA: What special features does it offer?

BB: This Bay Trail Loop offers an unusual combination of natural vistas, flourishing tidal marsh ecosystems with an abundance of waterbirds in the winter and an array of recycling and resource recovery operations. Where else could you take a three mile hike viewing osprey, white pelicans, avocets, Mt. Tamalpais, green waste composting, power generation from landfill methane and 89 giant solar panels tracking the sun?!

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 Form

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

I am interested in volunteering

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Fall 2011*

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.

Berkeley artist David Lance Goines has produced a new poster celebrating the Paths of Berkeley. BPWA is delighted and honored to be recognized along with The Hillside Club.

Goines is famous for his posters, a number of which celebrate local Berkeley institutions, most notably his many posters for Chez Panisse. Goines is also a writer and book illustrator and won the the 1983 American Book Award for his book, *A Constructed Roman Alphabet*.

The Hillside Club commissioned the poster and generously donated a group of unsigned copies to the Path Wanderers. We will be selling them at street fairs, at our meetings, and through our web site.

Thank you Hillside Club and David Goines.



Avoid the year-end crunch and renew your membership now for 2011! You can renew online or send in the form on page three with a check made out to our fiscal parent BPPF.

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