

# Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 15 No. 2 Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Summer 2012

## La Loma Path Grand Opening to be featured event at Annual Path-A-Thon, August 5

— Emma Morris

Join us for our ninth annual summer Path-a-Thon and help us celebrate the newest jewel in Berkeley's pathway system, the recently completed La Loma Path. We invite you to explore the many paths of the North Berkeley Hills on one of our three guided walks, varying from leisurely to vigorous. Afterward, we'll have a ribbon cutting ceremony for La Loma Path and a picnic at the lower section of Glendale La Loma Park. Bring your own lunch: we'll provide cake for everyone.

Even if you can't make one of the walks, join us for the ribbon cutting at the bottom of La Loma Path at 12:15 p. m. and for cake afterwards. All walks start from the upper parking lot off Glendale Avenue in Glendale La Loma Park. RAIN CANCELS.

•Meet Colleen at 10:15 a.m. for the most challenging of the day's walks. The group will head up La Loma Path and connect to the three Glendale Paths and Atlas Path. We will then venture into Tilden Park via the Selby Trail to explore some of the paths of the Park Hills neighborhood before heading back to our start. This will be a hilly walk with many stairs. The pace will be fast, although we will stop for water breaks and to enjoy the beautiful views and scenery! No dogs, please. **Level: MEDIUM DIFFICULT • Pace: FAST**

•Meet Elsa at 10:30 a.m. for a moderately paced, but somewhat challenging walk up and down paths, old, new, and maybe unfinished. The group will take some country lanes, which feature some spectacular views of

the bay. We'll be gone about 1 1/2 hours. No dogs, please. **Level: MEDIUM**

• **Pace: MODERATE**

•Meet Lynn and her path-loving pooch Bronte at 11:00 a.m. for the shortest and most leisurely walk. The pace will be slow enough for two-legged conversation and four-legged exploration. We will head up Whitaker and Ann Brower Paths, but we will take a break at Grizzly Peak Park. Most of the non-path walking will be level. This walk is suitable for families, but is not appropriate for strollers. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted. **Level: MEDIUM EASY • Pace: LEISURELY**



*Newly completed La Loma Path will be dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of this year's Path-a-Thon*

### BPWA Walks

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

Note the revised walk descriptions which indicate the difficulty of terrain and the pace of the walk:

#### 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 about the walks? Write to [walks@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org). Please plan ahead since last-minute questions may be missed.

### July 18, Wednesday – On the Paths to Off the Grid – 5:45 p.m.

**Leader: Colleen Neff. Meeting Place: Live Oak Park, Shattuck Avenue Side**

**Transit: AC buses #7 and #18**

Work up an appetite with an early evening walk around neighborhood paths ending up at about 7 p.m. at the North Berkeley food trucks for dinner.

**Level: MEDIUM DIFFICULT • Pace: MODERATELY FAST**

### July 28, Saturday – Hike and Hoop – 10 a.m.

**Leader: Kaye Anderson, Hoop Power Founder**  
**Meeting Place: Live Oak Park, Shattuck Avenue Side**

**Transit: AC buses #7 and #18**

Whether you are an experienced hula hooper, or just a beginner, join us as we hike and hoop our way through North Berkeley. We'll start at Live Oak Park with a lesson, and then make our way up to Codornices. All ages are welcome and if you do not have a hula hoop, we will have a limited amount to share. RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

**Level: MEDIUM EASY • Pace: LEISURELY**

*(Walks are continued on page 2)*

CLIP AND SAVE

(Walks continued)

**August 5, Sunday – Summer Path-a-Thon and La Loma Path Grand Opening**

Three walks – different types and times.  
10:15 - Vigorous walk with Colleen Neff /  
10:30 – Moderate walk with Elsa Tranter /  
11:00 – Leisurely walk with Lynn Derogowski  
For details, see the article on page 1  
Meeting Place: Glendale La Loma Park.  
Walks start at upper parking lot off Glendale Avenue. The 12:15 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony will be at the bottom of La Loma Path.  
Transit: AC bus #65

**August 18, Saturday – Do You Spy What I Spy?– 10 a.m.**

Leader: Sandy Friedland. Meeting Place: Star Grocery; 3068 Claremont Ave, Berkeley  
Transit: AC buses #49 and #51B

Find a dragon, a trapeze artist, a foreign flag, a basket in a tree, and more on this scavenger hunt walk for curious kids, five to eight years old. We will walk 1 to 1 1/2 miles on moderately hilly sidewalks with some steps, and paved ramps. Each child must have an adult along. A camera or phone/camera, will add to the fun. Cookie and juice stop, midway. You must RSVP for this walk to walks@berkeleypaths.org. Kindly include your child's name and age. RAIN CANCELS. No dogs or strollers, please.  
Level: MEDIUM EASY • Pace: LEISURELY

**September 1, Saturday – West Side Whimsy Walk (San Francisco) – 10 a.m.**

Leader: Jacquie Proctor, Author and SF City Guide. Meeting Place: Portico at SE corner of Junipero Serra and Sloat, San Francisco

Transit: BART to SF then Muni K or M train to the St. Francis Circle stop at Sloat Blvd.

Join us as the author of Bay Area Beauty: The Artistry of Harold G. Stoner, Architect leads us to this Englishman's unique creations in Balboa Terrace, St. Francis Wood, and Lakeside. From Art Deco landmarks to storybook cottages and Spanish castles, see how Stoner waved his magic wand throughout West of Twin Peaks and beyond. www.jacquieproctor.com/haroldstoner  
RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.

Level: EASY • Pace: MODERATE

**September 22, Saturday – Berkeley Rose Garden and Environs– 10 a.m.**

Leaders: John Underhill & Emma Morris  
Meeting Place: Rose Garden Entrance, Euclid Avenue between Eunice Street and Bay View Place. Transit: AC bus #65

Join us in a hike through one of Berkeley's treasures on the occasion of the Berkeley Rose Garden's 75th Anniversary. We will trace the garden walkways, learn of its origins as a WPA project and explore the paths in the neighboring areas. RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE

# Latest BPWA Challenge: Handrails

—Sandy Friedland

Part of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's mission is to ensure that the "public paths, steps, and walkways in Berkeley" are available "for the use and enjoyment of all." This goal becomes more challenging as we try to serve Berkeley residents who need handrails to use the steeper paths.

Although many of the historic concrete paths have handrails, few of the thirty wood-tie stairways that Path Wanderers volunteers have built in the last 15 years have anything for walkers to grip. "We have these wonderful new paths, but many of them are steep!" says Jacque Ensign, who co-founded BPWA and served as its first president. Born here more than eighty years ago, Jacque still walks the Berkeley paths almost every day. But she admits: "As you get older, your balance isn't great, and your knees don't flex like they used to. We need handrails."

To begin to make the newer paths more accessible, the BPWA Board established a special handrail fund last year. The first donation was in Jacque's



BPWA installed this handrail on Middle Glendale Path

honor. The UC Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund awarded BPWA a \$3,720 grant for handrails, and \$550 came from a local group called the Fairy Godmother Society. The grant from UC was used to build handrails on the steepest section of Northgate Path. BPWA set up a committee to recommend additional paths for handrails. Starting from a list of seventeen candidates compiled by path-building co-leader Steve Glaeser, the group chose the bottom sections of both Shasta and Middle Glendale paths to be the first to receive handrails.

Last month, BPWA paid to have handrails installed along the entire 161-step length of La Loma Path, the latest path our volunteers have completed. La Loma was an unusual situation: the city required the handrails before the path could be opened. The project cost more than \$9,000, exhausting the handrail fund and taking a deep bite from the BPWA treasury.

"We are especially grateful to our members who quickly contributed more than \$1,500 in emergency donations in May to help us open La Loma Path," says Keith Skinner, BPWA president. "To continue to add handrails, we will look for other sources of financing in addition to individual donations, such as grants from foundations and support from local businesses."



New handrail at the bottom of Shasta Path

## Contacting BPWA

Walks: walks@berkeleypaths.org  
General: info@berkeleypaths.org

## BPWA Board Meetings

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

# The Hillside Safety Council and UC Landscape Architects: A 1950s attempt to improve Berkeley's paths

—Glen Lindwall

The City of Berkeley and BPWA have worked closely together for the past 15 years as BPWA has developed its simple but classic system of wood-tie steps. Thirty paths are now completed, giving Berkeleyans better walking access to the neighborhoods as well as improved safety and passage in case of an emergency.

Long-time Berkeley resident Trudy Washburn recently told me of an earlier attempt to improve the paths. The immediate concern at that time was to ensure that the local children had safe access to walk to school. The kids used the unimproved paths, of course, but would sometimes seek easier routes. Trudy told me, for instance, how her kids avoided the precariously steep La Loma Path (now newly completed by BPWA with steps and handrail) and would instead pass down a long driveway and across a then-vacant lot.

Hoping to improve the children's route and safety, Trudy joined with Barbara Woodworth to raise petitions urging the city to develop better walkways. The City Council responded favorably.



Curious about the current food truck phenomenon? Join our July 18 *On the Paths to Off the Grid* and taste for yourself. See walks on page 1.

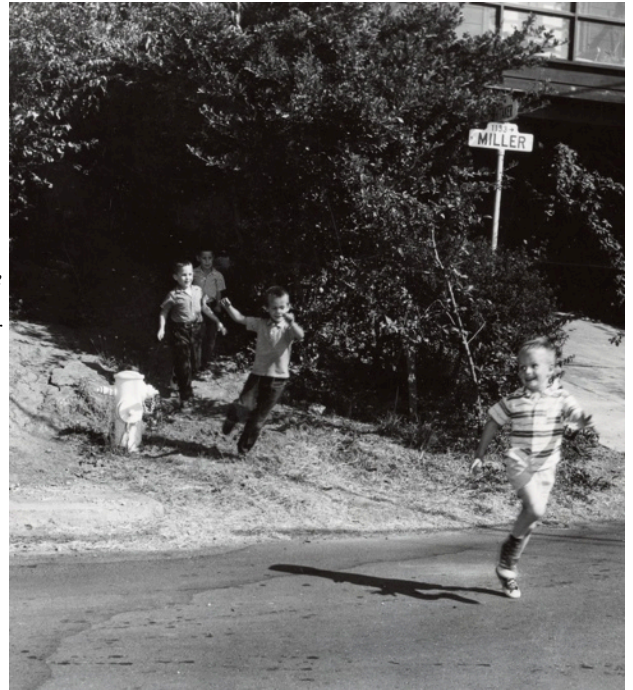
According to the Berkeley City Council Minutes from January 27, 1959

*City Manager Phillips reported verbally on: ... recommendations for pedestrian protection problems in the hill area... these are not a permanent solution to the problems... these problems will only be solved by the installation of a system of adequate, safe curbs, gutters and pedestrian walkways....*

The council unanimously passed a motion approving the City Manager's recommendations.

Following this blessing from the City Council, a group of three Berkeley professors in City Planning and/or Landscape Architecture devised a plan to improve the paths. All three, Fran Violich, Jack Kent and Robert Tetlow, lived in Berkeley themselves. Their design used wooden railroad ties and gravel in a system designed to blend in with the natural surroundings, an approach similar to what BPWA uses today.

Unfortunately, little came of their efforts. Berkeley's city engineer at the time insisted that everything be done with concrete, but the neighbors wanted a more natural look. This conflict, combined with the high cost of installing concrete stairs, stalled the project and not much was ever done.



1959: Exuberant kids emerge from their pell-mell scramble down an unimproved path. Now known as Anne Brower Path, this path was completed by BPWA several years ago

The 1991 Hills Fire dramatized how valuable the paths are in an emergency. The Luk Milani report, commissioned by the city after the fire, recommended the completion of a number of paths in the hills for emergency safety. That report also proposed concrete, at considerable cost. When the Path Wanderers came on the scene a few years later, introducing their practical system of wood-tie stairs, the city was receptive. Berkeley continues to be very supportive of BPWA. Everyone, not just school kids, is made safer by the paths.

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](http://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 Summer 2012

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.*



*Installing the handrails on La Loma Path*

*Photos by Colleen Neff.*

**Berkeley Path Wanderers Association**  
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[www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org)

## **Board Members**

KEITH SKINNER, president  
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**Last Chance! Renew your membership now if you don't see "Mem 12" or "Mem 13" with your address.**