

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association  
1442-A Walnut St. #269  
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

### Board Members

LORI KOHLSTAEDT, president  
MARTY CAMPBELL, secretary, e-news  
ANGUS DUNSTON, on-line sales  
KAY ENGLUND, walks  
SANDY FRIEDLAND, map sales, newsletter editor  
JIM HENDRY, treasurer  
JOHN KENNY, archivist, webmaster, path building  
GLEN LINDWALL, events  
BETSY MUELLER, membership/correspondence  
COLLEEN NEFF, walks

*If "Mem 14" appears next to your name, please renew your membership either online or with the form on page 3. "Mem 15" indicates that your membership is up to date.*

## Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Spring 2015

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 also 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.*

### We Appreciate Our Generous Donors!

**BPWA has kept its annual dues at \$5 since its founding in 1997. The good news is we have averaged more than 500 member households a year. However, dues cover only a fraction of our expenses. We depend on the generosity of our members, map sales, and occasional grants to fulfill our mission. We sincerely thank the following people who donated at least \$25 in addition to paying their annual dues.**

#### New Lifetime Members (\$500+)

Pat De Vito  
Jacque Ensign  
Barbara Robben  
Carla Soracco

#### \$200-\$499

Louise Burns  
Jonas Duke & Sophia Lehmann  
Rebecca Gebhart  
Kok Loong Lye  
Gary McDole  
Colleen Neff  
Susan Schwartz

#### \$100 - \$199

Tim Aaronson  
Steven Barr & Heather Schooler  
Charlie Bowen  
Zelda Bronstein  
Carlene Chang  
Carol & Angus Dunstan  
Wilson B. Flick  
Robert & Rachel Glaeser

Michael Grey & Eileen Murphy

Jane Hambleton  
Amy Kapczynski  
John Kenny  
Neil Mishalov  
Edward Roberts  
Jon Roller  
Sheafe Satterthwaite  
Keith Skinner  
Lansing Sloan  
Jean Thomas  
Sandra Tillin  
Jan & Tom Vargo

#### \$50 - \$99

Eugene J. Campbell III  
Rebekah Dawson  
Lisa Eshrick  
Sandy & Tom Friedland  
Bruce Harris  
Patricia Kates  
Carl & Lee Kempf  
Cynthia McAfee  
Jay & Sarah Miyazaki

Betty Olds

Susan Rogers  
John Shepherd  
Desmond & Marian Simpson  
Diane Tokugawa  
Elsa & Revan Tranter

#### \$25 - \$49

Marcia S. Anderson & Rodney Blacklock  
Pat Angell  
Alan Bern  
Diana Bersohn  
Shelagh Brodersen  
Eugenie Bruck  
Ceinwen Carney  
Ruby Chang  
Julie Denison  
Whoop! Distro  
David Eifler  
Kay Englund  
Margery Eriksson  
Jerome & Nancy Falk  
Harriett Fernstrom

John Ford

Kenneth Herrick  
Hilary Hoynes  
Lori Kohlstaedt & Glen Lindwall  
Mary & John Imandoust  
Alan Kaplan  
Meredith Kaplan  
William Kimberer & Melissa Weaver  
Louise Lidicker  
Michal Longfelder  
Steve & Roxanne McConnell  
Pat McPeak  
Anne Pardee  
Alan Pricco  
Diane Resek  
Linda Shacht  
Patricia Shanks  
J. M. Sharp  
Ron & Joan Sipherd  
Elizabeth Sklut  
Florie Wezelman  
Carol Williams  
Herbert Wong

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OAKLAND, CA  
PERMIT NO.459

# Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 18, No. 1

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2015

## Take the Scenic Route, BART to BART, on BPWA's Fifth Annual Long Walk

By Sandy Friedland

If you're hankering for an all-day hike with good company, then save Saturday, May 30, for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual BPWA Long Walk. This 14-miler will start at the

knew that Neil would come up with a great adventure, given his passion for hiking, love of history, and photographer's eye for scenery."

Neil's itinerary includes lovely neighborhoods, sites of historic significance, and trails that offer panoramic views, weather permitting. Count on about 2,000 feet of cumulative elevation gain. He's also included restroom stops and several "bail out" possibilities for those who want a shorter walk.

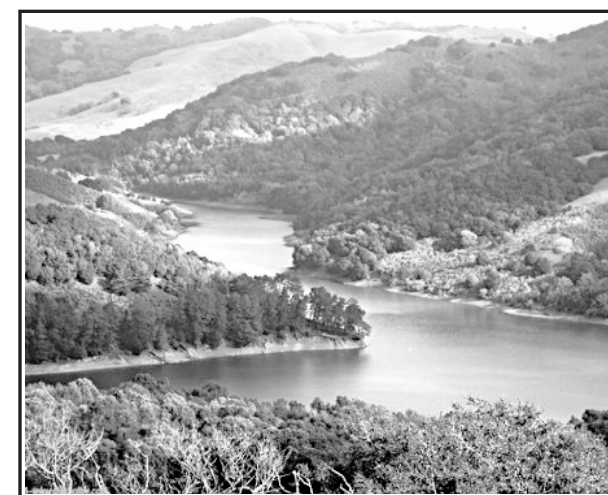
We will start by walking to Solano Ave., where we'll begin climbing pathways and stairs into the Berkeley Hills.

At Spruce and Grizzly Peak, we will descend into Tilden Park on the Memory and Packrat Trails to Jewel Lake.

Another uphill leg on Laurel Canyon Road will put us on Nimitz

Way, where Neil will share its military history. We'll stop for a BYO-picnic lunch at the end of the Nimitz before we continue north along San Pablo Ridge Trail.

We'll walk down the Belgium Trail to Wildcat Creek Trail, which ends at historic Alvarado Park, with its WPA-era stone walls, light standards, and arched bridge. We will provide snacks there and then take city streets downhill for our final 1.8 miles to the del Norte BART Station.



by Neil Mishalov

### The Long Walk will pass San Pablo Reservoir

North Berkeley BART station at 9 a.m. and finish at El Cerrito del Norte BART station about 4 p.m.

Leading the hike will be intrepid Berkeley hiker and unofficial BPWA photographer Neil Mishalov, who has run and walked 1000s of miles in the Bay Area. He now adds 25 miles a week, documenting each walk with his camera and GPS device. (See our profile of Neil in our Summer 2014 newsletter.)

"When it came time to plan this year's hike," recalls BPWA walk co-chair Kay Englund, "we



### BPWA Walks

↓ Walks proceed at 1.5 to 2 mph and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted., and are free and open to all. Questions about a walk? Well in advance of the date, write: walks@berkeleypaths.org  
↓ Weather cancellations will be posted the morning of the walk on berkeleypaths.org **No dogs, please, unless otherwise noted.**

#### Where the Wild Things Grow Saturday, April 4 @ 10 a.m.

↓ **Leaders:** Philip Stark, Tom Carlson, and Kristen Rasmussen  
↓ **Start:** Codornices Park (on Euclid Ave)  
↓ **Transit:** AC bus #65 or #67  
↓ Join expert foragers on this three-mile walk to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and back. We expect to spot at least 15 types of tasty greens along the way. Note that this will be an information-only tour; no picking or munching our finds. However, you can sample wild greens at local restaurants that will feature them on their menus April 4-9, including Chez Panisse and Cesar in Berkeley and Mission Chinese Food in San Francisco. Check our website for exact times.

#### Local Waterfalls and Creeks Sunday, April 26 @ 11:30 a.m.

↓ **Leaders:** Zeke Gerwein & Jacob Lehmann Duke  
↓ **Start:** Euclid Ave. & Eunice St.  
↓ **Transit:** AC Transit bus #65 or #67  
↓ Our teen leaders return — a little older but no slower! — to take us to see waterfalls and creeks on this vigorous six-mile trek. Count on 3½ hours, including a BYO picnic lunch. The first mile is a steep climb to Grizzly Peak, almost entirely on stairs. We'll then descend into Tilden and round Lake Anza to the Wildcat Gorge Trail. We'll pick up Loop Road and climb to the Memory Trail, returning via Vistamont, Creston, and Keeler Paths.

#### Northwest Berkeley Quirk Saturday, May 9 @ 10 a.m.

↓ **Leader:** Tom Dalzell (aka Mr. Quirky Berkeley)  
↓ **Start:** North Berkeley BART, east side  
↓ **Transit:** AC bus #52 or #51B  
↓ Follow Mr. Quirky Berkeley on a paved, mostly flat 4.3-mile exploration of Northwest Berkeley's quirky culture. Among our macro finds will be Andree Singer Thompson's unruly raven-centric front yard sculpture, Michael Parayno's rustic birdhouses, Mark Olivier's beach trash sculptures, Connie Bleul-Gohlke's fool-the-eye painting and duck mailbox, unspeakable 1960s chaos on Virginia Gardens, a passel of pigs on McGee, and spectacular zebra garage doors on Ada. Micro quirk will include some small-world tableaux and lawn art. Snacks will be served just past the midpoint.

**BPWA Walks (cont'd)**

**5th Annual Long Walk  
Saturday, May 30 @ 9 a.m.**

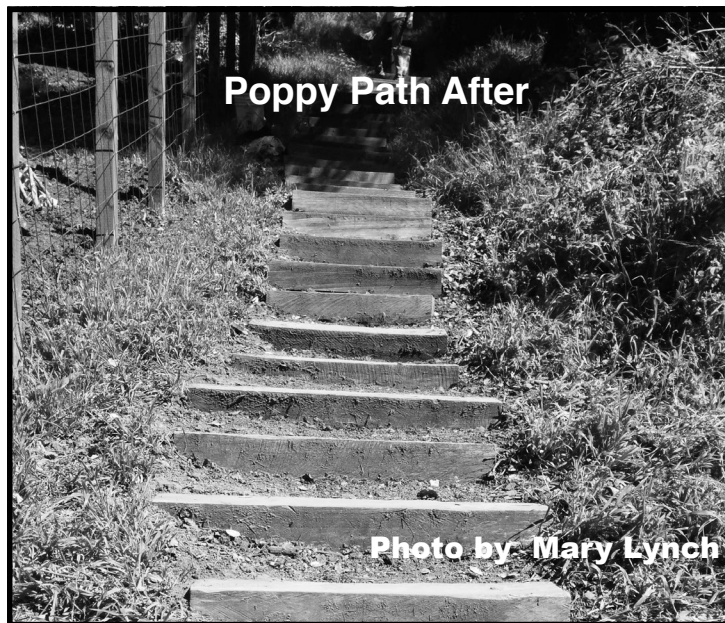
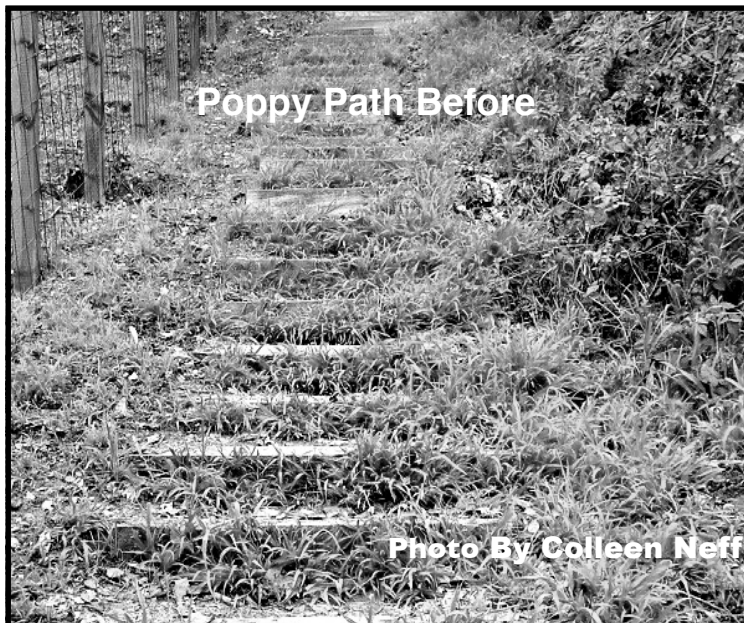
**Leader:** Neil Mishalov  
**Start:** North Berkeley BART  
**Transit:** AC bus # 52 or #51B  
[See story on p. 1] This all-day, challenging 14-miler has some big climbs and steep descents. The route will take us from the North Berkeley BART Station up to Grizzly Peak Blvd., via many stair paths. Then we'll head down into Tilden Park and up to Nimitz Way, where will have a BYO picnic lunch. We'll continue on the San Pablo Ridge Trail and descend on the Belghum Trail down to Wildcat Trail, which ends in Alvarado Park. We'll supply snacks there before we walk the two miles on streets to end at El Cerrito del Norte BART.

**Great Estates of Claremont-Rockridge**

**Saturday, June 6 @ 10 a.m.**  
**Leader:** Ron Sipherd  
**Start:** Claremont Avenue at The Uplands (opposite Star Market)  
**Transit:** AC Transit bus #49  
Circa 1900, this scenic neighborhood boasted several imposing mansions with extensive grounds that belonged to some of the Bay Area's wealthiest tycoons. Many other "very nice" homes belonged to the merely affluent. We will find what remains of these grand houses and try to imagine the splendor of those bygone days. The walk includes some concrete stairs and some moderate uphill climbs. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are permitted. Preview Ron's route at: <http://sonic.net/~ronks/pix/walks/estates/>

**Pirate Treasure Hunt  
Friday, June 26th, anytime between 2 and 6 p.m.**

**Head Sea Dog:** Barbara Robben  
**Start:** Playground @ Shorebird Nature Center, 160 University Avenue  
**Transit:** AC Transit bus #9  
Ahoy, Mateys!! Head down to the Bay to play pirates for an afternoon. Meet at the Jolly Roger across the grass from the Shorebird Nature Center, between 2 and 6, to fetch yer secret treasure map. Use it to find clues, on a one-mile stretch of the shore, that lead to the pirate booty! Bring yer mates or dogs on leash. Wear a costume. Tote some grub. Whatever suits Ye. This adventure is for all ages, but a big buccaneer must accompany each young'n. Most of the route is paved, but some short stretches are rocky. Wheelchair users can enjoy the fun with a mate to scramble for the clues. Yo-ho-ho!



# BPWA Adds Path Maintenance Crew

BPWA volunteers have added an impressive 33 new stair paths to the city's public walkways since our organization began in 1997. Because these newer paths are not paved and have wood-tie steps, they require more attention than the older paths that were installed in the early 1900's as Berkeley's neighborhoods were developed.

Over the years, we have held occasional work parties to tidy up the newer paths, but we now have added regular path-maintenance work parties to our schedule.

Under the guidance of two experienced former BPWA board members, Mary Lynch and Elsa Tranter, volunteers gather once a month to weed, sweep debris, and trim overhanging branches and intrusive foliage.

They also will pound in any rebar that has worked its way above a step surface to become a trip hazard. However, replacing rotted ties, improving drainage, and adding gravel between the steps remain jobs for our path-building volunteers.

"This is a great opportunity for people who want to work on the paths but may not be able to do some of the more physical tasks involved in building paths, like carrying heavy wood ties up steep slopes," says Mary. "Even kids can help us pull ivy."

Mary and Elsa also are eager for neighborhood groups, Cal students, and organizations to get involved.

"Cleaning the paths makes a great one-day community-service project," notes Elsa.

Jaz Zaitlin, another former board member, maintains a spreadsheet that details the condition of the paths, which

helps Mary and Elsa decide where to direct their efforts.

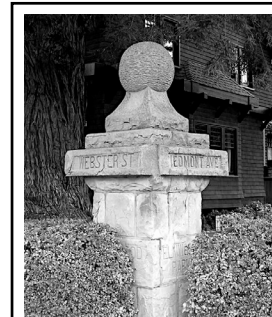
Once they have selected a path, they send an email announcement a week in advance to people who have expressed an interest in helping clean the paths. Most work parties are held on weekends, from 10:00-12:30, followed by refreshments.

"It's quite gratifying to see the results after just a few hours of communal weeding," Mary says.

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain the paths or to report one in need of attention, please write to: [path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org)

*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 BFPF (Berkeley Partners for Parks) to:*

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



**Watch for our booth at the BAHA House Tour on Sunday, May 3, 1-5 p.m.**

The tour features nine houses, built between 1878 and 1920, in elegant Elmwood Park, between Ashby and Webster and College and Claremont. For more information and tickets go to: [http://berkeleyheritage.com/housetours/2015\\_spring\\_house\\_tour.html](http://berkeleyheritage.com/housetours/2015_spring_house_tour.html)

**Volunteer Spotlight: Melissa Weaver**

## A Path Builder for All Seasons

By Colleen Neff

As snow and ice pummeled her native Tennessee, Melissa Weaver was enjoying our sunny winter days installing steps on recently completed Tilden Path, "I love hard physical work," she declares. "Give me a task, and I'll do it."

This dedicated BPWA volunteer has more than fulfilled that vow since she moved to Berkeley in 2013.

After years of creating trails in Tennessee state parks, Melissa wanted to use that experience here. She learned

about BPWA from City Council member Susan Wengraf and quickly became one of the path-building regulars, aka the Weekday Hotshots.

In addition to Tilden Path, Melissa has helped build Upper Halkin Path and to improve Shasta, Stoddard, Sterling, El Mirador, and Cedar Paths and Fountain Walk and Latham Lane.

"Melissa has some serious skills," says Steve Glaeser, who co-leads our path-building efforts. "She has built some of our finest flights, keeping the rise and run of the steps consistent in difficult situations. She has a great eye for placing them so they look natural and inviting."

She also has a scientist's knowledge of lakes, ponds and other bodies of fresh water, having completed a Ph.D. and two post docs in limnology. That background may explain how, as Steve notes, "she anticipates drainage and erosion as she puts in steps."

In fact, one of Melissa's goals is to approach paths holistically. "We should consider the durability and sustainability of each trail we build, not just the ease and safety of hiking," she says. "Trails should be built to last."

Melissa still does some consulting work and loves to hike, go backpacking, and garden. She seems quite happily transplanted in the Bay Area.



**Melissa takes a break from setting steps on Tilden Path.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5 for membership  new  renewal

I am enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering for \_\_\_\_\_