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## 4 PATHS RENAMED FOR BPWA FOUNDERS



*Above, An early BPWA board meeting at Live Oak Park in May 2000. Left to right, Charlie Bowen, Susan Schwartz, Tom Edwards, Maggie Hodges, Eleanor Hall Gibson (founder), Ruth Armstrong (founder), Patricia DeVito (founder), and Jay Cross. Below, Jacque Ensign at age 90.*

### **Four paths renamed for founders of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association**

*By Janet Byron*

On January 19, the Berkeley City Council unanimously approved the renaming of four pedestrian paths in honor of the founders of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA): Ruth Armstrong (Moskovitz), Patricia DeVito, Jacque Ensign and Eleanor Hall



Gibson.

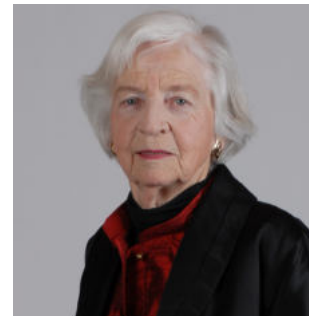
“The contributions of women like Ruth, Pat, Jacque and Eleanor are often overlooked, despite their great importance,” said Berkeley Councilmember Sophie Hahn (District 5), who championed the effort to rename the paths. “I was thrilled to be able to achieve this honor for such a deserving group of women and thank them for all their care and generosity over many years.”

Ensign, who recently turned 90, resides in her family’s home on the 1000 block of Shattuck Avenue. She recalled walking down from the Marin Circle along the unmarked path parallel to Los Angeles Avenue to see 25-cent movies at the Oaks Theater on Solano Avenue.

“As a native of Berkeley I am delighted to have a path I frequently used as a kid named for me,” she said. “I am pleased that BPWA, with a strong rotating board, has been able to provide a needed resource in Berkeley.”

Austene Hall said that her mother, Eleanor Hall Gibson, moved to Berkeley from New York in 1989 at age 70 and jumped right into community affairs. “She loved to walk, and she soon became good friends with Jacque Ensign and Ruth Armstrong. They asked her if she’d be interested in working with them on this, and she jumped at the chance.”

Gibson (*right*) died in 2016 at age 96. “She would have been honored and touched by having a path named for her,” Hall said. “She, along with the three other women founders, were always upbeat about the paths even when problems of access, restoration and even finding long-forgotten ones, seemed overwhelming.”



The renamed paths are:

- Eleanor Hall Gibson Path, off Keith Avenue near Shasta Road;
- Ruth Armstrong Path, a new walkway connecting Hearst Street and Berkeley Way at Walnut Street through the UC complex;
- Jacque Ensign Way, a previously unnamed path running alongside Los Angeles Avenue from Solano Avenue to the Marin Circle; and
- Patricia DeVito Path, a pedestrian connector between Sterling and Miller avenues.

The Eleanor Hall Gibson and Patricia DeVito paths are part of a group of 22 currently impassable public paths. “BPWA volunteers are working diligently to daylight and develop these paths over the next few years,” said BPWA President Alina Constantinescu. [Read more](#)

**SALE! PATH LOVERS PACKAGE**



## Happy Valentine's Day, Dear Path Wanderers!

For the path lover that you love, a signed copy of [Berkeley Walks](#) by Robert Johnson and Janet Byron, a stylish Path Wanderers cap, and our cute BPWA KIDS T-shirt (size S or M) for your kid, grandkid, niece/nephew, or young friend. Order by Feb. 11th for delivery by Feb. 14th. Free delivery in the nearby East Bay (Richmond, El Cerrito, Kensington, Albany and Berkeley). [Order now!](#)

To have your Path Lovers Package shipped outside of the East Bay, [click here](#) to pay \$40 with shipping. (Delivery by Feb. 14 can not be guaranteed.)

**SELF-GUIDED WALKS**



## Online resources for self-guided Berkeley walks

Many folks are walking closer to home these days, and our [self-guided walks](#) page is getting lots of traffic. We are happy to provide these resources, and hope you are enjoying your solo and/or socially distanced explorations.

*Left, Tamalpais Path, accessed from Codornices Park.*

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## Your support helps us build paths

With the completion of both [Lower Columbia Path](#) (shown, under construction), and [Lower Halkin Walk](#) during 2020, BPWA is proud to have finished two challenging new paths during an unusually challenging year! None of our work would be possible without your support.



If you enjoy walking the paths, please consider supporting our work so we can keep building paths like these. Each eucalyptus step is \$25 and a path with a 50-foot rise needs 100 of them. A new path also needs to be surveyed, a \$1,500 to \$3,500 expense. Handrails are the most expensive item on our wish list: \$15,000 to \$25,000 per path.

Please consider making the paths part of your annual contributions. We are a nonprofit organization that is 100% volunteer-run, so every dollar of your tax-deductible gift goes toward our cherished paths. Thank you for supporting the paths!

**DONATE**

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## Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a community organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Learn more](#)

The BPWA board meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m., virtually until further notice. Guests are welcome! Please contact [info@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.org) for more information.

Your generosity enables us to build more paths and to hold fun events on the paths. [Donate now](#)



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