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SAD NEWS



BPWA co-founder Ruth Armstrong dies

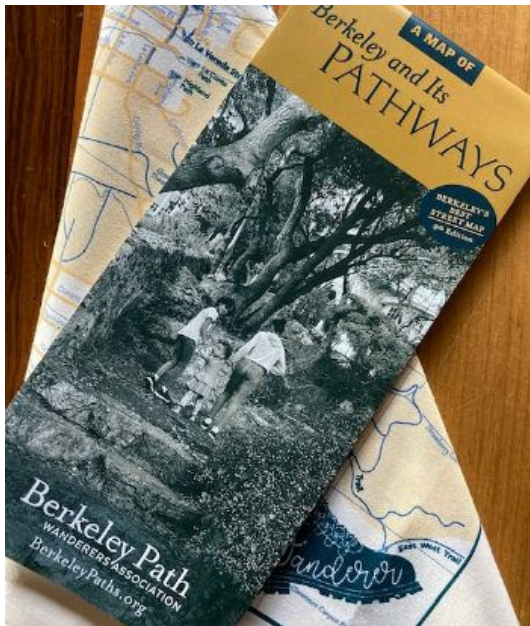
BPWA is very sad to report that [one of our co-founders](#), Ruth Armstrong (3rd from right above, at a meeting of the first BPWA board), recently passed away at the age of 71. Ruth was the first to come up

with the idea of a citizens group to champion the public pathways. In late 1997, she posted a flyer at the North Berkeley library calling for a meeting of similarly

minded neighbors, and came up with "Path Wanderers" as a moniker. We send condolences to her family and many friends. A new path between Berkeley Way and Hearst Street in downtown Berkeley was recently renamed in Ruth Armstrong's honor. A more complete article on her life and contributions to the walkers of our city will appear in the March newsletter.

(Above, from left: Charlie Bowen, Susan Schwartz, Tom Edwards, Maggie Hodges, Eleanor Hall Gibson, Armstrong, Patricia DeVito, and Jay Cross.)

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE



LOVE the Path Wanderers? Share the LOVE with your LOVED one!

This Valentine's Day, get your sweetie the best map of Berkeley and our new, 100% cotton paths-map bandana for the lovable sale price of \$22, including shipping and handling. Our two most popular items are a great add-on to flowers or a box of chocolates! Order no later than February 10 for local delivery (Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito and North Oakland) by February 14.

[Order now](#)

MEET ANDREW DICKSON, PATH BUILDER



Above, Andrew Dickson

Volunteer Spotlight: Andrew Dickson

By Colleen Neff

“He’s a gem!” enthused Francesca Verdier when I asked how she liked working with BPWA path-building volunteer Andrew Dickson, 23. “He’s a hard worker, listens well, and learns fast. And he’s always willing to haul building materials up many flights of steps!” High praise indeed from a leader of the incredibly hardworking team that builds new paths (and repairs old ones) around town.

I recently interviewed Andrew on the Derby Canyon Trail to find out how and why he started volunteering his time on the paths. Is he a regular hiker? Not really (unless climbing up to the Big C counts!). Had he built trails before? Never. Had he heard of the Path Wanderers? Nope. In fact, Andrew is a grad student at Cal, studying to get his PhD in Bioinformatics. Logging lots of hours at a computer during the pandemic left Andrew longing to spend more time outdoors. A couple of online inquiries led him to Francesca Verdier, Steve Glaeser, Bob Gomez, and the rest of the BPWA building team. Andrew loves the chance to do some hard physical work and ditch the screens for a while.

[Read more about Andrew](#)

UPDATE ON JACQUE



Jacque Ensign is home at last!

Dear Path Wanderers:

Thank you all so very much!

Because of you we were able to install a rental stair lift, and when Jacque came home from the hospital we were able to get her back into her own home.

As of today, we are beginning working with a vendor to get a permanent lift installed that is more involved and more expensive, but it will go all the way from the street to the front porch without stopping! This will help Jacque to stay in her own home for a long time to come.

The current lift we have goes up each individual staircase but requires a transfer to a wheelchair in between these two different stair lifts. We were fortunate to have the current stairlift installed; the other stairlift had supply-chain issues and won't be available for installation for a few months. Your continued support of the [GoFundMe](#) campaign will help pay for this improved stairlift.

Jacque is also interested in having a kind and caring individual live in her home in exchange for helping her with minimal self-care activities, light meal prep, and light housekeeping as she recovers from this accident. [Read more](#) Please contact Jane Johnston (Jacque's daughter) at janeyjohnston123@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.

We are all so very grateful to you for your financial support and all of your kind wishes.

Jane Johnston and Jacque Ensign

PS: A [Meal Train](#) has also been set up for Jacque and her family caregivers; please feel free to sign up to bring a meal in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING WALKS

NOTE: Walk leaders request that all participants be vaccinated and boosted, or masked. Heavy rain cancels.

[From the Rose Garden to Lake Anza and Back](#)

When: Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Tamara Gurin

Where: [1200 Euclid Ave.](#) (in front of the Rose Garden sign)

We will take several stairways (Tamalpais, Covert, Whitaker, Stevenson, Stoddard) to Grizzly Peak Blvd and then catch Selby Trail at the junction with the Shasta Road. If weather permits, we will enjoy breathtaking views of the Bay and Tilden Park. [Learn more](#)



[The Entrancing Stairs of Belvedere Island](#)

When: Sunday, February 6, 10 a.m.

Leader: Colleen Neff

Where: [Belvedere Park](#) (between Community Rd. and San Rafael Ave.)

Marin County's Belvedere Island has over a dozen stairways that crisscross its scenic hill community. Join us for this approximately 2-hour, 3-mile stair-climber of a field trip to explore a magical place. We'll meet at Belvedere Park (restroom available) for this moderately strenuous walk. Please bring water, a sun hat, sturdy shoes, and your sense of adventure! [Learn more](#)

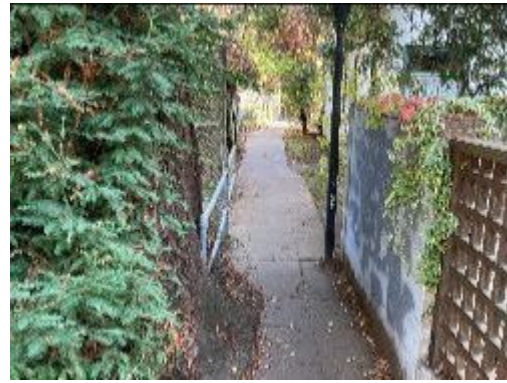
Campus and Claremont

When: Sunday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Leader: John Ford

Where: Pomodoro sculpture on UC campus, near [Oxford and Center streets](#)

On this ~ 3-hour, 6-7 mile hike, we will walk from the UC campus south toward the Claremont and Elmwood neighborhoods, and on to The Uplands then loop back, for a total of 14 paths, including Encina Walk (shown). [Learn more](#)



Berkeley Woods

When: Sunday, February 20, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Leader: Bob Johnson

Where: Driveway of [580 Grizzly Peak Blvd.](#)

Berkeley Woods straddles the ridge at the top of the north Berkeley hills so we will have occasional views both east and west. Our 3.1-mile walk features attractive architecture, varied street trees, and nice gardens as well as fascinating bits of history and two little-known paths. [Learn more](#)

Pooches on the Paths: Thousand Oaks Parks

When: Saturday, March 19, 10:00 am

Leader: Lynn Deregowski

Where: [NE corner of Solano Avenue and The Alameda](#)

As we continue to explore the 55+ parks Berkeley has to offer, this installment of Pooches on the Paths will cover the Thousand Oaks neighborhood. The route includes five parks, numerous paths, and some only-in-Berkeley yard and wall art. Join us, whether you have a four-footed friend or not! [Learn more](#)





[Strawberry Canyon and Panoramic Hill Sunset Hike](#)

When: Friday, March 25

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Where: [Class of 1914 Fountain](#) on UC Campus (just north of Bancroft Way and College Ave.)

Grab your flashlight and let's kick off the weekend with a sunset hike! We'll start with a walk through campus and climb past Memorial Stadium to hike the Strawberry Canyon fire trail. Our route includes a shortcut through a most gorgeous and peaceful redwood grove.

[Learn more](#)

[Slow Walk around Strawberry Creek Park](#)

When: Sunday, March 27, 10 a.m–11:30 am

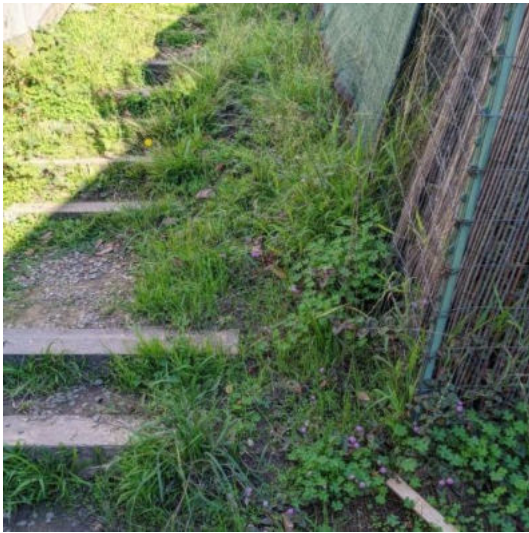
Leader: Janet Byron

Where: Hidden Café in Strawberry Creek Park, [1250 Addison Street](#)

On this flat, ~ 1-mile walk with no stairs, we will stroll around Strawberry Creek Park and the surrounding West Berkeley neighborhood at a leisurely pace. Attractions along the way include the park and its daylighted creek, community gardens, Berkeley's lawn bowling court, and more. [Learn more](#)



PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES



Join a path maintenance work party!

Friday, February 11, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Sunday, February 27, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Path maintenance work parties are back! The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments. Please RSVP to receive an email with the meeting places by writing to path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org.

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 generally meets monthly. Guests are welcome! Please contact info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.



To support our path-building efforts, you can [donate online](#). All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, purchasing handrails, and advocating for paths.



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