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REMEMBERING RUTH ARMSTRONG



Friends and family remembered BPWA co-founder Ruth Armstrong at a service on the beach in Cambria, California.

Remembering Ruth Armstrong, a BPWA Co-founder

By Colleen Neff



Ruth Armstrong – artist, community activist, and Berkeley Path Wanderers co-founder – died on January 24 at age 71 in Cambria, California. Fellow co-founder Jacque Ensign credits Ruth with coming up with the idea for a group of like-minded citizens dedicated to the stewardship of the public paths and stairways in Berkeley.

“In 1997, Ruth posted a flyer for a meeting at the North Berkeley Library and a nice-sized group showed up,” remembers Ensign; attendees included sitting councilperson Betty Olds, who was a strong early supporter of the effort.

By 1998 the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association was established by four women: Ruth, Jacque Ensign, Pat DeVito, and Eleanor Hall Gibson. Jacque also credits Ruth for coming up with the group’s name, as Ruth had hiked for years in Germany during her childhood, and latched onto the German word for hiking: Wandern.

[Read more](#)

THANKS TO 2021 DONORS



BIG Thank You to our 2021 Donors

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association received more than \$41,000 in donations in 2021. Our deepest appreciation goes to our hundreds of donors, with tax-deductible contributions ranging from \$5 to \$5,000.

Your generous donations made it possible for us to [install handrails](#) last year on 2 of the 37 wooden-step paths that we’ve built since 1998: all 260 feet of Lower Halkin Walk between Cragmont and Euclid avenues and 335 feet of Poppy Path between Keeler and Miller avenues. We were also able to complete construction of 87 steps on our newest path,

[Hilgard Path](#), between La Vereda Road and La Loma Avenue. Our 100% all-volunteer organization could not do all of this without your support. Thank you!

[Visit our website](#) to see a list of BPWA's 2021 supporters. Donations are always welcome!

DONATE

UPCOMING WALKS

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

[Pooches on the Paths: Thousand Oaks Parks](#)

When: Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.

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! [Read more](#)



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

When: Friday, March 25, 6–8 p.m.

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. [Read more](#)

[Slow Walk around Strawberry Creek Park](#)

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

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. [Read more](#)



[Las Trampas](#)

When: Sunday, April 10, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Bob Johnson

Where: Meet at the paved parking area in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness [at the end of Bollinger Canyon Road.](#)

Thanks to four distinct natural habitats, Las Trampas offers a wonderful range of wildflowers and other native plants as well as fine views from the ridges in this unspoiled and relatively uncrowded East Bay park. [Read more](#)

[UC Berkeley Bear Tour](#)

When: Sunday, April 24, 1 to 3:30 p.m

Leader: Lois Switzer

Where: Pomodoro's sphere sculpture, near the [corner of Oxford and Center streets](#) on the UC Berkeley campus

This moderately paced, 4-mile walk will start going uphill on the UC Berkeley campus with brief stops to admire about 14 bear sculptures and a few non-bear features. There will be lots of stairs to climb on campus and [Read more](#)



PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES



Join a path maintenance work party!

Lower Yosemite Steps
Sunday, March 20, 10 a.m. to 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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