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New BPWA Board Member Gary Forbes stops to enjoy the view from Upper Glendale Path on one of his frequent path walks in the Berkeley Hills.

Veteran Path Walker Gary Forbes Elected to BPWA's Board

Long-time Berkeley resident Gary Forbes brings decades of retail and management experience to our board and will be helpful with marketing our map and other merchandise. In

Buy Our Map



The best map of Berkeley's paths and streets just got even better! Order your copy of the fresh-off-the-presses 8th edition of *Berkeley and Its Pathways*. [Get your copy.](#)

Join or Renew



Did you forget to pay your \$5 dues for 2018? We do not

fact, he often is a walking advertisement for us, sporting his BPWA shirt and cap.

Originally from Pasadena, Gary came to UC-Berkeley in the 1960s and never left, except for a few years of living in San Francisco. Now retired, Gary and his wife Emma live just steps away from Columbia Walk, high in the Berkeley Hills, and he walks to and from Peet's on Vine and at least three mornings a week. An inveterate outdoorsman, Gary varies his route to include as many paths as possible, usually six down and ten back for "an exhilarating uphill climb!" His favorite path is Vine Lane, which he says "transports" him with its overarching trees.

"My wife and I discovered the Berkeley paths when we wanted a quick and easy way to get down — and sometimes back up! — without walking just on streets. Thanks to the Path Wanderers, we not only get exercise in the outdoors but also solitude as we get off the street grid and meander through the beauty of our scenic city.



We first met new BPWA Board Member Caroline Swinehart when her Little Free Library, which she designed and built, was featured on one of our walks that focused on these mini- lending libraries.

Urban Designer Caroline Swinehart Tapped for BPWA Board

Caroline Swinehart moved to Berkeley in 2016, straight from graduate school at Notre Dame. She now is a senior designer at Opticos Design, an urban design and architecture firm in Berkeley that specializes in creating sustainable, walkable communities. A native of Fresno,

want to lose you. [Please renew today.](#)

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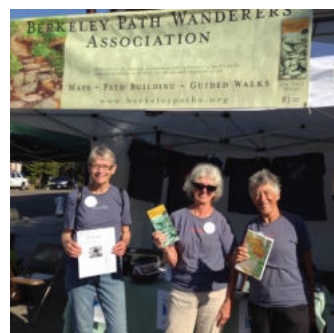
Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue to offer our path-oriented events. [Donate now.](#)

Shop Online



We sell Path Wanderer shirts, hats, and tote bags as well as guidebooks, posters, and note cards. [Visit our store.](#)

Get to Know Us



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots organization of people who treasure the public

she was happy to move back to the West Coast.

She loves the outdoors and exploring towns and cities on foot, so Caroline was delighted to discover the paths while wandering the hills above her North Berkeley neighborhood.

“The paths are a fascinating example of designing for walkability on hillside topography,” she says, adding that they are not just beautiful but also are important for emergency preparedness.

In what turned out to be a lucky encounter, BPWA President Colleen Neff met Caroline when Colleen was preparing to lead a walk featuring f the Little Free Libraries in North Berkeley. As it happened, Caroline had designed and built one in her front yard. Caroline then attended a talk Colleen gave at the North Branch Library about BPWA and the paths. “I was intrigued by that event and wanted to get involved.”

One of Caroline’s first undertakings for BPWA will be working with Councilwoman Susan Wengraf on a pilot project to design lighting for two paths.

pathways that crisscross our city. [Read more.](#)

Meet Our Friends

You’ll find links to many other organizations that promote walking, pedestrian safety, protecting the environment, and more on our [website.](#)

A Special Thank You To Bob Gomez!



Bob Gomez, one of our most dedicated volunteer path builders, has made an extremely generous donation to BPWA to pay for a survey of Columbia Path. The survey is needed so we can start installing steps on that path. Bob

is pictured here working on the Derby Creek Canyon Trail, high on Panoramic Hill.

Walk With Us

Join us on our terrific guided walks, which are free and open to all. Unless otherwise noted, they last 2-3 hours and proceed at a moderate, conversational pace. We're sorry, but we can't accommodate your dogs except on walks specified as dog friendly. Please check our [home page](#) for last-minute weather cancellations. Questions about a walk? Write walks@berkeleypaths.org



This torch-bearing lady peers out from a house near the bottom of Terrace Walk, one of the paths on the next Coffee Constitutional.

Coffee Constitutional: Stepping Back in Time Friday, November 9 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Jacque Ensign

Start: [Peet's on Walnut and Vine](#)

Follow Jacque, a BPWA cofounder, on this leisurely 1.75 mile walk down her personal memory lane. Along the way, she will share reminiscences about the neighborhood of her childhood in the late 1930s. She'll point out the old Northbrae Station, where she used to catch the train to San Francisco; the site of an old spring and well; and where her favorite mud holes used to be. She'll also share some local history. Her route includes four paths, some mild hills, and a few stairs.



This sculpture near San Pablo Park, honors civil-rights leader William Byron Rumford, the first African American State Assemblyman from Northern California and author of the California Fair Housing Act of 1963. Photo: Bob Johnson

Sites and Stories of San Pablo Park

Sunday, November 18 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Janet Byron and Bob Johnson

Start: [SW corner of Sacramento St. & Dwight Way](#)

Explore the neighborhood around San Pablo Park, Berkeley's first public park, with the co-authors of *Berkeley Walks*. The story of this area in Southwest Berkeley is a rich chapter in the history of Berkeley's African American community. You'll see quirky architecture, the former Santa Fe Railroad right of way, and tree-lined streets. If we are lucky, those trees will still have their brilliant autumn leaves. This two-mile walk, featured in the second edition of Bob's and Janet's book, is flat and accessible.



By the time we see him, perhaps this interplanetary angler will have landed a star fish. Photo: Ian Wood

Berkeley's Wacky, Wonderful Garage Murals

Date and Time: Sunday, December 9 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Ian Wood

Start: Jefferson Elementary School Flag Pole ([1457 Acton St.](#))

See how some West Berkeley residents have transformed their garage doors – and sometimes their driveways and front steps as well – into eye-popping works of art. Ian, who documents this oh-so-Berkeley form of expression on his [website](#), will lead us on a flat, 5.2-mile walk on neighborhood sidewalks. We'll stop to admire a variety of land and aquatic creatures, planetary landscapes, and more and learn how Ian began photographing garages in Berkeley and beyond. Several homeowners will be available to explain how they transformed their garage doors into colorful giant canvases.



On our evening holiday walk, we'll get to marvel at these fountain bears, dressed and lit for the season.

Festive Evening Hike on the Paths

Sunday, December 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Start: North Branch Library ([1170 the Alameda](#))

Bring a flashlight and your holiday spirit to explore North Berkeley on this 2+-mile, two-hour fun walk. Along the way, we'll pass some houses that go all out decorating for the season. Expect some hilly streets and staircases, but we'll go at a relaxed pace to enjoy the sights. We will walk in fog or drizzle; only heavy rain cancels.

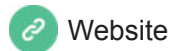
Join Our Work Parties



Our volunteers attacked the ivy and weeds that were invading Betty Olds Path and obscuring the wood-tie steps.

Help us Keep our Paths Clear for Emergencies Sunday November 11 at 11:00

Help us transform a weed-obscured path into a safe and lovely walkway. Please email [Mary Lynch](mailto:Mary.Lynch) if you can come to the work party, and she will send you the location. We'll supply refreshments and gloves and tools, but feel free to bring your own.



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