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## HONORING OUR FOUNDERS



*Jacque Ensign, center, cut the ribbon on her eponymous path surrounded by family, friends, and path wanderers. Photo by Berkeley Times.*

### **Dedication of Jacque Ensign Way celebrates BPWA founders and history**

*By Sandy Friedland*

The official opening of Jacque Ensign Way on September 19 also was a stroll down memory lane, a time to reminisce about the founding of Berkeley Path Wanderers

Association and to marvel at what the organization has accomplished.

The path, a tribute to BPWA's first president, parallels Los Angeles Avenue below the Marin traffic circle. It is one of four public walkways recently renamed to honor the four women who started Path Wanderers in 1998.

Two of the other paths are not yet completed: Eleanor Hall Gibson Path (#49), off Keith Avenue near Shasta Road; and Patricia DeVito Path (#71), between Sterling and Miller Avenues. Ruth Armstrong Path is open on UC Berkeley land and links Hearst Avenue and Berkeley Way.

"This day was a long time coming," former BPWA president Colleen Neff told the crowd of about 75 people gathered at the top of Jacque Ensign Way, a dirt path formerly known as Green Path that provides easy access from Marin Circle to the top of Solano Avenue.

[Read more](#)

Please [donate to BPWA](#). We are a 100% volunteer organization, and all donations go to path improvements including building new paths and purchasing and installing handrails.

## HILGARD PATH IS OPEN TO WALKERS



*BPWA's intrepid paths-building team is putting the finishing touches on Hilgard Path in the North Berkeley Hills; path builder Bob Gomez tries out one of the path's 87 steps.*

### **Introducing Hilgard Path:**

**The trail-like path connects landmarked, historic homes on a former road right-of-way**

*By Janet Byron*

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's intrepid team of path builders is putting the finishing touches on [Hilgard Path](#), a dirt path winding through oaks and redwoods in the



North Berkeley Hills between two historic, landmarked homes.

The trail-like path, which has 87 railroad-tie steps, connects Hilgard Avenue between La Loma Avenue and La Vereda Road on a 60-foot road right-of-way on the north side of the UC campus.

“It looks like the city had intended to build Hilgard Avenue all the way through,” says Bob Gomez, a longtime member of BPWA’s path-building team. “It was fortunate for us. We had plenty of room to build a path that didn’t have the steepness of some of the others.”

[Read more](#)

## GET YOUR BERKELEY PATHS BANDANAS



*BPWA newsletter editor Janet Byron models the new Berkeley paths map bandana.*

**NEW BPWA SWAG!** Our stylish, new, easy-to-read, 22-inch, 100% cotton bandana features the very best map of Berkeley — from the Santa Fe Right of Way to the UC Berkeley campus fire trails and Panoramic Hill to Kensington, plus everything in-between!

On **SALE** through the end of October at 1 for \$12, 5 for \$55, and 10 for \$100, including tax and shipping. [Order yours now!](#)

## **ANNUAL MEETING: NEW DATE - NOV. 14!**

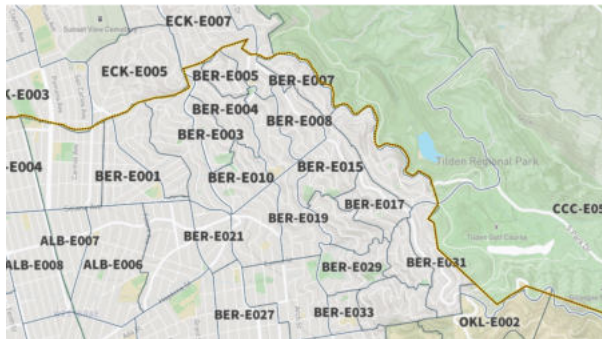
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's annual meeting this year will be Nov. 14 (**not** Oct. 31 as stated in the previous newsletter) at 10 a.m., in Live Oak Park. Come meet our newest board members, hear the latest path news, and get the [latest swag](#).

After the (short) meeting, you'll have the option of joining a walk! We'll offer 2 walks to Berkeley's newest paths: Hilgard Path and Lower Halkin Lane. The meeting rain date is Nov. 21; please check your email and our website if rain is threatening. [Learn more.](#)

## SHORTCUTS TO SAFETY

### Shortcuts to safety: Featuring zone 15 (Cragmont)

*By Chris Cullander*



In an emergency such as a wildfire or earthquake, it's a good idea to know at least two ways to evacuate on foot in case there are accidents, traffic jams, or other road blockages that prevent you from getting out or using your vehicle.

The best practice is to determine at least two escape routes near your home, and

to walk them at least once so that you can find them when you are under stress (and in the dark if the streetlights are out).

[Zonehaven](#) is an online system to help first responders and community members prepare for and navigate emergency situations; the East Bay is divided into dozens of evacuations zones. (Do you know your zone?) The on-foot routes out of each zone include pathways as well as streets. Pathways are usually shortcuts that enable you to get to safety more quickly; they have signs on the street at their starting and ending points. Note that some pathways have stair-steps and many have handrails.

[Learn more, including best routes out of zone 15 \(Cragmont\)](#)

**Note:** The Berkeley Fire Department's fire season community drill is on October 9 and 10.



[Registration is limited](#) to 500, and any Berkeley resident is eligible to participate (not just residents of the Berkeley Hills).

**Also**, BPWA is leading 6 walks in the hills as part of its [Escape from the Hills evacuation exercise](#) on October 17, on the 30th anniversary of the Oakland-Berkeley hills firestorm of 1991.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**JOIN OUR FUN BOARD!** Berkeley Path Wanderers Association seeks new board members to support our efforts to maintain, improve, build, advocate for, and celebrate Berkeley's network of paths. Meetings are once per month (usually the second Thursday evening), and terms are 2 years with the option to renew one time. Desired volunteer positions include newsletter editor, secretary, development/grants writer, and special projects. [Learn more](#) about these positions on our website. Please write to [info@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.org) to express your interest.

## JOIN US FOR A WALK

**Note: Unvaccinated persons must wear masks. We are monitoring mask guidance and will update our website with additional requirements if needed.**



*In the event of an evacuation order, paths can provide a safe and timely alternative to driving.*

## **FEATURED WALKS: Escape from the Hills**

**When:** Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m.

**Where:** 6 locations; choose the one closest to your home; see details

On the 30th anniversary of the disastrous 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire — which killed 25 people and destroyed 3,500 homes — Path Wanderers volunteers are leading 6 walks to familiarize neighbors with walking options for escaping the hills in case of a fire or other emergencies.

All walks start at 10 a.m. and go downhill using local paths, staircases, and streets, for 30 to 45 min. Walk back up with the group or make arrangements to return later on your own. The walks are open for all; you don't have to be a neighbor in these areas to join in.

[Learn more](#)

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## **Tilden Park: From canyon to creek to ridge**

**When:** Sunday, October 30, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Bonnie Forer

**Where:** Codornices Park, [east corner of Euclid Avenue and Eunice Street](#)

Come see all that Tilden Park has to offer — from canyon to creek to ridge. On this 10- to 12-mile, challenging, strenuous hike, we'll travel at about 2.5 miles an hour with 2,100 feet of climbing. Bring water and lunch. [Learn more](#)







### **[Sunrise hike in Tilden Park](#)**

**When:** Saturday, November 6, 6:15 to 9:30 a.m.

**Leader:** Alina Constantinescu

**Where:** [Inspiration Point](#)

Calling all the early risers for a sunrise hike in Tilden Park! We start off in the dark and hike to Wildcat Peak for sunrise and a coffee break. [Learn more](#)

### **[North Berkeley parks](#)**

**When:** November 13, 3:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Petra Biddle-Gottesman

**Where:** [Bay View Place and Euclid Avenue](#)

Beginning at Codornices Park, we will go to La Loma, Terrace View, Grizzly Peak, Remillard, and Cragmont Rock parks, taking as many paths as we can! The 3- to 4-mile walk will go through staircases and some uneven terrain on the roads, as well as in the parks. [Learn more](#)



## **PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES**

### **Path maintenance work parties**

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. To RSVP and receive an email with the time, date, and meeting place, write to Mary Lynch at [path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org).



*Right, the pile of weeds pulled at Stoddard Path in July.*

### **Reporting path problems**



BPWA now has an [online form](#) for reporting problems that you come across on the paths. Please let us know about missing signs, broken steps, overgrown weeds, graffiti, and anything else you come across. We can't solve every problem by ourselves, but we will keep track of problems and concerns, and route them to the right city departments. The form is under the "Get Involved" tab at [berkeleypaths.org](http://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 on the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Guests are welcome! Please contact [info@berkeleypaths.com](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.com) for more information.

To support our path-building efforts, go to [www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help](http://www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help). All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, and purchasing handrails. *Above, Hilgard Path, Berkeley's newest.*



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