

We're on line

Buy maps, join, donate

For your convenience, we have provided a secure payment function on our web site. You can buy maps, join, renew your membership, or donate to BPWA. Pay by credit card or with your PayPal account. Please visit our web site at:

www.berkeleypaths.org

Path Walks

10:00 a.m. (allow 2-3 hours) Walks are free, and all are invited to attend. For additional information on walks please see our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

Saturday Walks

April 8 Southside Paths and Gardens
Sandy Friedland ssf@comcast.net

Join us for a springtime tour of the steps and paths in the Uplands/Claremont neighborhood.

- Meet at the historic plaque at the northeast corner of Claremont Ave. and the Uplands. This is a hilly walk with some steep stairways.

May 27 North Berkeley Architecture
Alan Kaplan 510-526-7609

Maybeck and others. Moderate pace, some steepness.

- Meet at Berkeley Rose Garden, west side of Euclid Ave., between Bayview Place and Eunice Street.

June 10 "Willard Plus" Neighborhood Landmarks

Ron Sipherd <http://www.well.com/ronks/pix/willardplus>

Moderate pace, mostly flat walk.

- Meet on Russell St. by the streetcar bend near Regent St. Ron suggests you bring your BPWA map.

Wednesday Walks

April 5 Churches of North Berkeley
Barbara Robben 510-524-2383

Longtime local resident will take us around and, where possible, into churches of North Berkeley.

- Meet at the large tree on the Shattuck Ave. side of Live Oak Park, where Berryman St. intersects Shattuck.

May 3 Terrace Walk Area

Dale Miller 510-514-4758
volunteer@berkeleypaths.org

Get the insider's view of the neighborhood featured in Dale's article in this newsletter. Moderate pace.

- Meet across the street from where Hopkins St. dead ends into Sutter St.

June 7 Indian Rock

Pat DeVito 510-527-2693

- Meet at #65 bus stop on west side of Euclid Ave. at Bayview Place, across street from Codornices park.

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Spring 2006 Vol. 9 No. 1

We Need Your Help: Volunteer

by Charlie Bowen

All the wonders that BPWA has achieved are due to the efforts of our volunteers, who are imbued with a cooperative spirit and an openness to new ideas. Everyone involved loves these aspects of Path Wanderers, and we encourage you to join us. Here are some ways to lend a hand:

Clean a Path

One Berkeley resident invites friends to brunch every year for her birthday. In lieu of gifts, guests bring tools, and they go to a path that the hostess has chosen. They sweep, rake, trim, and weed. Because the whole group works together, the path is neat and tidy in no time. The group then returns to the hostess' house invigorated and ready to eat.

Of course, you can combine a path cleanup with any kind of party. Or you can join one of our path-maintenance work parties. E-mail our maintenance coordinator, Robert Armstrong, robertorbit@earthlink.net or phone him at 548-8289.

Work Behind the Scenes

BPWA periodically needs people to attend meetings of the City Council or a commission, e-mail public officials, and help with publicity. We need artists, writers, and people with computer skills.

We have documents to scan, photos to sort, maps to sell, and programs to plan. Or maybe you enjoy strategic planning or grant writing. And we always need workers at our booth during events like the Solano

Stroll. If you would like to help with any of these tasks, then send an e-mail with your preferences to:

volunteer@berkeleypaths.org

Or call Dale Miller, our volunteer coordinator, at 524-4758.

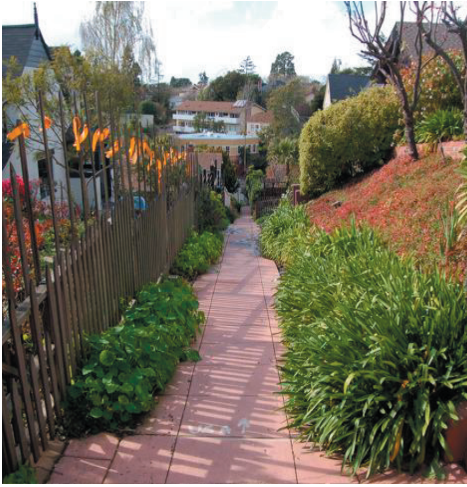
Lead A Walk

Do you have a favorite walk up, down, and along Berkeley's paths? Are you a local history or architecture buff? Lead one of our free walks, offered on one Wednesday and one Saturday each month. Contact Marilyn Siegel, walk coordinator, at 549-2908 or e-mail her at: mnsiegel@cal.berkeley.edu

Build a Path

Our main, ongoing volunteer effort is path building. We organize one or two weekend path-building work parties a month for volunteers from our membership. We also host community-service work parties from high school and college environmental and service clubs. Work parties typically last 2½ hours, with refreshments the last 15 minutes. If you want to join a work party or if you belong to an organization that could do a service project with us, please send an e-mail to: charliepaths@comcast.net or call Charlie Bowen at 540-7223.

Being a volunteer allows you to pick an activity that you feel comfortable doing. No matter what you choose to do, you contribute to your community. Your service benefits others while enriching your life.



Terrace Walk

BPWA to be at BAHA House Tour

Visit our booth at the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association Spring House Tour on Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. The tour will feature houses in the Claremont neighborhood that were designed by famed Berkeley architect Walter H. Ratcliff Jr. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ratcliff firm. Our maps and note cards will be available for purchase. Watch our web site for more information about where we will be located. For tour tickets and information, see http://www.berkeleyheritage.com/house_tours.

BPWA Meetings

The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Spring 2006 are April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's path network, and the restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured. Our activities are listed on our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org.

Concerns about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org.

BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Meet the Paths: Terrace Walk

by Dale Miller

As you stand at the lower end of Terrace Walk in a peaceful circle of pittosporum shrubs and raised ivy beds, you are at a point of geographic and aesthetic transition. Behind you to the West is one of North Berkeley's busier intersections, where Hopkins ends at Sutter. In front of you, a few steps lead onto a peaceful, well-maintained path that is one of the best gateways to the serene North Berkeley Hills.

As you begin your walk, note there are no wires cluttering the view overhead. All nearby wires were placed under ground about six years ago. You'll see six terraced lots on this steep lower section, with a traditional brown shingle house on the left and a beautiful cottage rose garden on the right. The path levels off to cross Mariposa, one of North Berkeley's most unique streets. The avenue has an East Coast feel with two lines of large sycamores creating a canopy

over the street, and the houses are set back from the sidewalk.

The second section of the path begins above Mariposa with redwood fences on either side. A gorgeous brugmansia tree in the backyard of No. 1047 shades the walk with its fragrant yellow trumpets. Two houses face the path, a Mediterranean and a red shingled farm house on a double lot. Rising from a spring flower show of daffodils, camellias, quince, and roses are two majestic redwoods as well as some cedars, an oak, and a small holly bush. A chain link fence has been mellowed by a clematis vine and ivy.

At the top of the path, Walnut ends at Shattuck – a spot that seems odd to residents of the Gourmet Ghetto, where these streets run parallel. At this point you may go left to Indian Rock, right to Live Oak Park, or you may take Walnut to the Short Cut.

Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?

by Susan Schwartz

Space in cities is often recycled in unexpected ways. The Santa Fe Right-of-Way, a 40-foot-wide strip of land between the BART tracks at the Berkeley-Albany border and Sacramento near Oregon Street, may be seeing such a change.

In the 1880s, the California & Nevada Railway headed from the Bay near the Oakland-Emeryville border toward mountain mining districts. This narrow-gauge railroad crossed the Berkeley hills along San Pablo Creek but never got past Orinda, a popular destination for weekend outings. These trains stopped running in the 1890s.

In the new century, Francis "Borax" Smith sought the failed railroad's Bay access to add a ferry pier to his streetcar network, which became the Key System. The Atcheson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (the Santa Fe) bought the East Bay right-of-way for a spur from its Pt. Richmond Bay terminus into

Oakland. Starting in 1904, the Santa Fe's Oakland Local hauled freight and passengers through Berkeley, stopping at the mission-style station at 1310 University.

Berkeley industry was concentrated near the Bay, where the Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) tracks ran, but a few factories clustered around the Santa Fe rail yard south of University. The industrial buildings at Addison and Bonar housed such companies as American Photoplayer, which made musical instruments for silent movie theaters. Starting in 1914, shops were consolidated in this area, where a spur track brought supplies by the railcar load. Designed by City Architect Walter H. Ratcliff Jr., the Tudor-style Corporation Yard, is still in use.

Train noise and smoke assured that homes near the tracks would be for the working class. Queen of these new subdivisions was San Pablo Park. Lots sold for \$100 down and \$10 per

continued, next page

Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?

(continued from page 2)

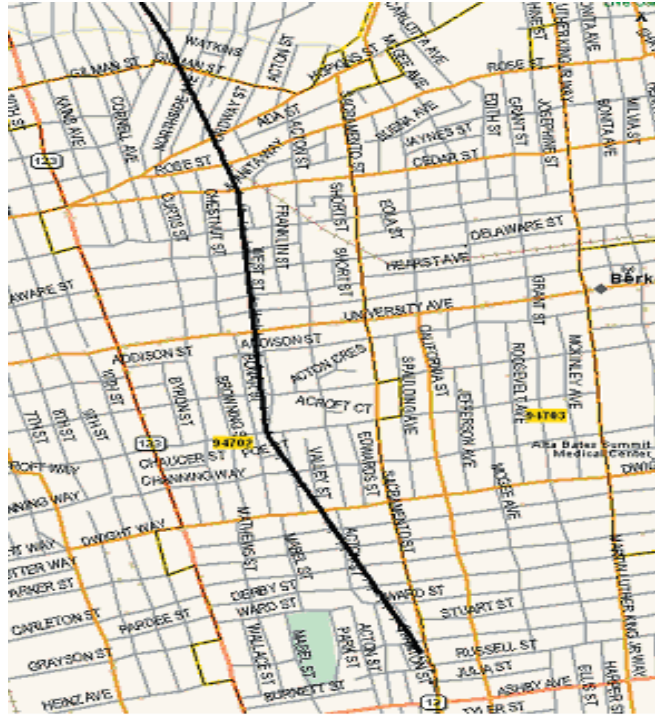
month on streets with curved corners surrounding 15-acre San Pablo Park, Berkeley's first public park, established in 1906.

By the 1960s, the Santa Fe was on its way out. Berkeley tried three times to pass a bond issue to buy the right-of-way. Finally, in 1979, the railroad essentially donated nearly all its 20 acres to Berkeley.

In Albany and El Cerrito, BART took over the former rail line. These cities developed a recreation trail, the Ohlone Greenway, under the BART tracks where the Santa Fe tracks had run. In Berkeley, however, residents taxed themselves to put BART underground, and the trains turned east at Hearst. The city rejected the trail idea and called instead for a mix of parks, community gardens, and housing and for the sale of odd bits to neighbors.

A general bond issue for parks, passed in 1977, eventually funded Strawberry Creek Park, Cedar-Rose Park, and the ball courts near them on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley's pioneer creek-daylighting project unearthed Strawberry Creek from the former rail yard, now Strawberry Creek Park. The "rocks" lining the bank are pieces of the old culvert.

North of the North Berkeley



Santa Fe Right-of-Way

BART Station, community gardens developed in the early 1980s. Gardeners added ecologically-oriented buildings, imaginative public art and interpretive signage, and coastal prairie plants. Other garden projects followed. In 1994, Berkeley Youth Alternatives created a multi-use garden south of Strawberry Creek Park. In 2004, Spiral Gardens opened a nursery and urban farm with classes, at Sacramento at Oregon. Last year, the Berkeley Community Orchard broke ground near Derby.

In 2002, encouraged by Berkeley Path Wanderers and others, Berkeley

revised its General Plan to call for a bicycle-pedestrian trail on the old railroad grade. Thanks to groundwork by Berkeley Partners for Parks, this trail, from University to Delaware, is under construction. Berkeley Montessori School, which bought the old Santa Fe station, plans to open the trail from University south to Strawberry Creek Park.

Berkeley Partners for Parks, the Berkeley Community Gardening Collective, and students from UC-Berkeley landscape architecture are working on plans for the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley Path Wanderers hopes to open the fence that blocks the route at Lincoln.

A gate there would open the trail all the way to Richmond, which has just received grants to extend a trail along the former rail line through much of that city.

Thus, the Santa Fe Right-of-Way may finally metamorphose into a 12-mile trail, from South Berkeley into Richmond, with community parks and gardens strung along it like beads on a necklace. BPWA wants to help make this happen.

-- Thanks to the Berkeley Historical Society and Phil Gale for historical information used in this article.

Household memberships in BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

- I am enclosing \$ _____ for membership new renewal
- I would like to donate \$ _____ for path building

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Spring 2006*

Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

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Orchard Lane – Panoramic Hill Area

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

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WILL SCHIEBER, vice-president
BARBARA WEST, treasurer
MARILYN SIEGEL, secretary
ROBERT ARMSTRONG, path maintenance
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
PRESCOTT COLE, BPWA events
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison

Have a Picnic!

Come to the BPWA summer fete.

This year we are going to have our picnic at Glendale-La Loma Park on Sunday, July 16. There will be a choice of three walks, starting at 11:00 a.m., followed by a BYO picnic at 1:00 p.m. For more details on this event, visit our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

Guided Walks

10:00 a.m. (allow 2-3 hours) Walks are free, and all are invited to attend. For additional information on walks, please see our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

Saturday Walks

July 8 Southwest Berkeley

Charlie Bowen & Susan Schwartz - 848-9358
charlie_paths@comcast.net

Meet at the corner of Channing and 10th (one block west of San Pablo) to explore Southwest Berkeley's industrial history, galleries and other features. Level but fairly long walk.

August 26 Rock Parks of Berkeley

Robert Johnson - 510-528-3355
rejberk@covad.net

Meet at top of Solano Avenue at The Alameda (Northeast Corner by Indian Rock Path). **Note: this walk will last until approximately 2:30 p.m.** Bring lunch. Walk includes rock parks, paths, gardens, creeks, and historic homes. Not too strenuous, but some steep uphill walking (distance is 4 to 5 miles).

September 23 Strawberry Creek Walk

Sue Fernstrom - 510 524-4715
sfernstrom@chori.org

Meet by the oak tree in the middle of Leroy Avenue between Ridge Road and Le Conte Avenue. Easy pace, walking thru UC campus, by City Hall, and to Strawberry Creek Park near Bonar Street and Bancroft way. Bring change for bus fare back to the starting point.

Wednesday Walks

July 5 Creeks and Gardens

Susan Schwartz - 848-9358 F5creeks@aol.com

Meet on the north side of the North Berkeley BART station for an easy walk to creeks and gardens. Length of walk will depend on weather and mood of participants.

August 2 When Berkeley Wanted to be the State Capitol

Barbara Robben - 510 524-2383

Meet at Northbrae Church at Los Angeles and The Alameda. Walk will be on streets named after California counties. Moderate pace, easy walk.

September 6 Paths of Northbrae and Thousand Oaks

Jacque Ensign - 510 524-4715
jacqueensign@earthlink.net

Meet at the Marin Circle. History, rocks, houses. Some uphill.

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 9 No. 2

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Summer 2006

Path-Building Update

Walkways Completed & In the Works by Charlie Bowen

The past year has seen an increase in the number of paths the City of Berkeley has authorized BPWA to build and that can now be considered open for public use. Last summer, we had nine consecutive work parties on Upper Covert Path during which time 165 steps were installed by our volunteers. We cleared massive amounts of bamboo, broom, thornless blackberry, ivy, and a variety of other brush and weeds along the way. This important path allows east-west pedestrian access in a long winding block that, until now, had no passable path.

During the fall we had an Eagle Scout project as well as UC Berkeley volunteers from CalCorps and the Circle K Service Club helping us finish Lower Stevenson Path. The tricky bottom end, a charming stairway switching back over the steep lower end, was designed and built by the new owner of the adjacent house (see Lower Stevenson story, page 3). We also made a significant improvement to the nearby Stoddard Path, adding sixteen steps and trimming back encroaching brush.

However, the most impressive autumn addition to the list of walkable paths has been Upper Glendale Path, with its concrete stairway over the rock drop-off at the bottom end. The City used funds from FEMA to help build this, and a contractor worked through much of the fall to complete it before the rains started. This path is one of three seg-

ments that make up Glendale Path, a long, strategically important path that intersects four streets in its ascent up



Glendale Path

the hill. It provides part of a direct pedestrian link between the Rose Garden area and Tilden Park.

During the winter and spring, on rare days when it wasn't raining, we worked on the upper end of Bret Harte Path, with help from the El Cerrito High School Green Justice Club. This path is quite steep and was covered with ivy, berry bushes, and even some poison oak. But now it is nearly finished, with all the brush cleared and just seven steps remaining to be done. We also will be cooperating with one of the neighbors to plant a vine along the fence. This is a quiet and rustic path; last week I was walking up the path and spotted a big buck that was curled up on one of the

BPWA Annual General Meeting

BPWA will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2006. at 7:00 p.m. at the historic Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street in Berkeley. All members and friends of the paths are invited to attend this event. As in past years, we will have a speaker who will present a talk that is certain to hold your interest.

Please see our web site for additional details as they become available.

www.berkeleypaths.org

Inspect-the-Paths Day A Success

Armed with clip boards, digital cameras, and their BPWA maps, nearly 40 volunteers fanned out around Berkeley on Inspect-the-Paths Day June 3 to assess the condition of the city's pedestrian pathways. This was the first time the entire system had been inspected since 1998, soon after BPWA began.

Organized by Charlie Bowen, path-building leader, and Robert Armstrong, path maintenance chair, the effort yielded valuable information on more than 125 completed paths. Using standardized reporting forms, volunteers documented problems ranging from cracked or heaved steps to missing signs, obstructions, and overgrown weeds. Inspectors also noted any special features on paths, such as benches, artwork, gardens, and Bay views.

The inspectors' observations will enable BPWA to list the paths most in need of maintenance and communicate this information to the City. Volunteers and path neighbors may be able to deal with less serious problems.

"It was wonderful how many people came out and how flexible and cooperative everyone was," said Bowen, referring to the process of assigning paths to the inspectors. She added that a full report on the paths would be completed over the summer.

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Summer 2006 are July 19th and August 17th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Paths

An Exploration of Yosemite Steps

by Lori Kohlstaedt

You might begin your exploration of Yosemite Steps at the corner of Solano and The Alameda, where it changes abruptly from a busy thoroughfare to a quiet residential street. As you walk north along the east side of The Alameda, traffic noise abates and shortly you will notice a white-washed cement railing on your right. This marks the presence of Blackberry Creek, which you can see running in a narrow bed between the houses at numbers 815 and 817.

Look for the beginning of Yosemite steps as The Alameda begins to rise again. Just as you turn onto the path, notice a giant clump of calla lilies on the right. This first section of the path is a little wild with encroach-



Yosemite Steps

ing vegetation and looming fences from the neighbors on each side.

As you approach Contra Costa Avenue, you may hear music. The sounds of a violin are likely to come from the house on your left whose front walk joins the path. This is the home of a distinguished luthier (violin maker), Peter van Arsdale.

Contra Costa Avenue is a narrow, quiet street, like many in the Berkeley hills. The majority of the houses here were built between 1912 and 1920 when the streets were added in this area of rolling meadows and large boulders.

You may want to turn right on Contra Costa and cross the creek to Contra Costa Rock Park. The steps carved into the rock surface lead to the top, where there is a panoramic view of the Bay. Return to Yosemite Steps by the same route.

Continue on the upper segment of Yosemite Steps, which is slightly north of the lower segment. Here the path immediately begins a steep rise. As you climb, a view of a charming garden opens on the left. Stop to smell the roses on the fence and to peek into this garden.

On the left, as you continue up two more sets of steps, you will find a literary treat. Local poetry lovers maintain a tradition of posting poems on the wooden fence here. The collection is ever-changing. On a recent visit, offerings included poems by ee cummings and Pablo Neruda

Yosemite Steps ends at Yosemite Road. Directly in front of you is another of Berkeley's many mini-parks, Frederick Park. To your left, Yosemite Road angles back downhill. This short street boasts several houses of architectural interest. At 1962 Yosemite is an English country cottage designed by Julia Morgan. Further down the street, at number 1941, is an "English village" designed by John Hudson Thomas. If you continue past the corner of Yosemite Road and Contra Costa Avenue, there is another park, Great Stoneface Park, and the boulder that gives it its name.

Return to the top of Yosemite Steps. Arlington Avenue is to your right. To return to where you began, walk along Arlington to Indian Rock Path. Follow the three segments of this path back down to the corner of Solano and The Alameda.

Architectural and historical information courtesy of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.

*Path-building update
(continued from page 1)*

landings.

Because of weather and path conditions, we must be able to work on several projects simultaneously. Before Bret Harte Path was completed, we also started additional work on Shasta Path, putting steps on almost the entire top half of the path. Another Eagle Scout cleared brush and installed steps on the bottom end of the path in May, and the path is now quite easily passable, though not yet fully complete.

We are very pleased to report on our partnership with Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) to build Poppy Path. Several work parties were made up of REI employees who cleared the path of brush, fallen trees, and thickets of blackberries. At REI's invitation, we were invited to apply for one of their community grants to complete a survey and purchase materials for additional work on Poppy Path. If all goes as hoped, this path will be done entirely as a result of funding and helping hands from REI. This is an excellent example of community spirit. REI employees enjoyed the work and we are delighted to have their energetic labor along with the prospect of funds for materials.

We invite you to walk these new paths. Most of the them now have signs. We recommend that you use BPWA Berkeley's Pathways map; the map and a sharp eye will help you to find the new paths.

Focus on Volunteers:

Improving a Beloved Childhood Path by Sandy Friedland

David Hirschberg recalls how he played on Lower Stevenson Path, sliding down its steep bottom next to his late uncle's house at 1175 Keeler. As a child, Hirschberg often visited the house, which he now owns but does not occupy.

When he noticed that Charlie Bowen, the head of BPWA's path-building effort, and her volunteers were working on Lower Stevenson, he worried about how it would look. The path dropped off so sharply that it might have needed city-built concrete steps with metal railings. He had



Lower Stevenson Path

a more rustic vision.

"I really support the paths, and wanted to do something to help," said Hirschberg, a neurobiologist from Menlo Park who describes himself an avid runner, biker, and walker. "But I really loved the way the old paths looked, covered with ivy. I wanted

the path to be more in that style."

He volunteered to design and build the bottom twenty feet or so. BPWA supplied wood ties and rebar. Hirschberg, with help from his brother-in-law, the tenant in his house, and his son, built steps and landings that wend up the hill, providing safe and easy passage.

One day Hirschberg hopes to move his family into the Keeler house. In the meantime, he is planning to build a small bridge over another section of the path.

If you know someone who has made a special contribution to the path system, please let us know the details in an e-mail to

info@berkeleypaths.org

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1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Summer 2006*

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Orchard Lane on Panoramic Hill

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For additional information on walks, please
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Saturday Walks

October 7 Point Richmond

Susan Schwartz – 848-9358
F5creeks@aol.com

Explore history, architecture, new walkways and viewpoints. Dress for all weather; this walk goes from beach to hilltop. Meet at the statue in downtown Point Richmond, in the triangle bordered by E. Richmond, Park Place, and Washington Avenue. More detailed directions on the BPWA web site.

November 25 Aquatic Park

Mark Liolios – 549-0818 – Markl@lmi.net

Learn about the state grant which brings new life to this area, from a member of EGRET. Winter birds will have already arrived. Meet at north end of park by taking Addison until it ends on Bolivar Drive, or park at Seabreeze Market and walk over the pedestrian bridge. Limited parking. Easy pace, flat terrain.

December 9 Trails Tramp

Charlie Bowen – charlie_paths@comcast.net

Meet by toddlers' play area in Glendale-LaLoma Park. This walk features several recently-improved paths and some partially-improved dirt paths and trails. Overall it is a moderate walk. Wear shoes that are OK on dirt paths, and people who use walking sticks should definitely bring them.

Wednesday Walks

October 4 Fall Leaf Walk

Barbara Robben – 524-2383

Let's look at trees and their falling leaves. Meet at Live Oak Park at picnic area by the creek (between Shattuck and Walnut Sts.) and return to park to make some leaf prints. Easy walk.

November 1 Stairmaster Walk

Marilyn Siegel – 549-2908 – mnsiegel@cal.berkeley.edu

This walk will take in 11 paths and three parks in north Berkeley, with lots of steps going up and down. Wear non-slip shoes for both steps and dirt trails. Meet at Glendale-La Loma Park at toddlers' play area. Strenuous walk.

December 6 Cerrito Creek

Susan Schwartz – 848-9358 – F5creeks@aol.com

Meet at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station for an easy walk to discover new creekside walkways, creek restoration, colorful history, and surprisingly wild, secluded Albany Hill, ending at a local coffee shop/deli/restaurant. This walk is almost entirely level but not suitable for wheelchairs. If the creek is low we will ford via stepping stones and a short steep slope, so wear shoes with good traction. Dress in layers; be prepared for all weather.

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 9 No. 3

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Fall 2006

The Eagles of Troop 19

Boy Scout Troop Improves the Paths

by Paul Maheu

Over the years, many service groups and organizations have contributed to improving the paths we wanderers all enjoy. One such group is North Berkeley's Boy Scout Troop 19. Eighty-six years old and still going strong, the troop is chartered by St. Mary Magdalen parish and meets at the Scout hut in John Hinkel Park.

Since 1998 when a portion of Keeler Path was completed, the members of Troop 19 have improved 11 different paths over the course of 16 Eagle projects. In addition to earning the required minimum of 21 merit badges and holding a leadership position in the troop, the Eagle candidate's toughest requirement is



Some Scouts from Troop 19

the development and completion of a service project which has "significant and lasting benefit to the community." Finding a suitable project was always an extremely difficult task for a teenager.

Enter the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. The Scout has a need to complete a project; BPWA has a

need for path building. It's a perfect fit. The entire design and building process normally requires six months



Scouts at Work

and over 150 hours of work, although the actual physical work is accomplished in one or two weekends.

Working closely with BPWA's path improvement committee and a representative from the city, the Eagle candidate gets a firsthand lesson in project management. Utilizing Berkeley's Tool Lending Library and materials provided by BPWA, all of the hard work is done by Scouts eleven to eighteen years old under the watchful eyes of their adult leaders. The Eagle candidate places his team in groups based on skill level and tasks are performed accordingly. Although each path project is unique, many include the same ingredients: initial clearing, debris removal, regrading if necessary, installing steps, digging ditches, and managing water runoff.

Usually an Eagle candidate will opt for the addition of something special to his path that will improve its overall appearance. These enhance-

Our Next Appearance....

Come and see us at booth 337 at the Spice of Life street festival.

It takes place on Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Shattuck Avenue between Virginia and Rose Streets. Nearby booths will have good food and interesting exhibits.

Please see our web site for additional information on this event.

www.berkeleypaths.org

The Cranes

The western wind has blown
but a few days;
Yet the first leaf
already flies from the bough.
On the drying paths
I walk in my thin shoes;
In the first cold
I have donned my quilted coat.
Through shallow ditches
the floods are clearing away;
Through sparse bamboos
trickles a slanting light.
In the early dusk,
down an alley of green moss,
The garden-boy
is leading the cranes home.

*Po Chü-I (c. 830 A.D.)
Translated by Arthur Waley*

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Fall 2006 are October 19th and November 16th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Paths

Dinner and a Walk On Indian Rock Path by Dale Miller

Probably no other path in Berkeley connects two more popular destinations than Indian Rock Path. It provides a direct pedestrian link between Indian Rock and the shops, restaurants, and the movie theater of Upper Solano Avenue.

Any time is great for walking this path. In fact, neighborhood residents can be seen with their shopping bags, kids and dogs going up and down at all hours. But, if you really want to



Indian Rock Path

make this walk a special occasion, try this: Enjoy a leisurely dinner and a nice wine at one of the excellent eateries on Solano. Time your meal to end about one half hour before sunset. In Berkeley's gorgeous late afternoon light, walk up Solano to The Alameda.

At the northeast corner of Solano and The Alameda you will find the starting point of Indian Rock Path. Take the four steps up that start your gentle climb of the four sections that lead to Indian Rock. Although the path runs straight, with wooden fences on either side for most of the way, there is still an open feeling to the walk. The fences, which are nicely set back from the path, vary in height, and some are covered with vines.

You will be crossing Contra Costa and Mendocino Avenues, quiet residential streets with a neighborhood feel. It's hard to believe that bustling Solano Avenue is just behind you. The third cross street, Arlington Avenue, is totally different. It is a major artery that extends from Berkeley's Marin Circle through

Kensington and El Cerrito. Private cars and the AC Transit number 7 line all zip along this divided road at a pretty good clip. Even the best intentioned drivers might not notice the well painted cross walk and waiting path wanderers. So, take care when crossing this thoroughfare.

After this brief bit of excitement you're on the last short bit of the path. You'll soon see Indian Rock rising in front of you. The path branches with the right fork leading to Indian Rock Avenue past easily negotiated steps cut into the rock face, while the left fork heads up some more conventional cement steps to end at San Mateo Road. You can go straight to the rock steps or make a quick tour around the rock where you might see rock climbers practicing their craft.

Whichever route you choose, finish your walk by climbing the steps to the top of Indian Rock and settle in for the gorgeous 180 degree vista of San Francisco and Marin. Good timing should get you at the top in time for a fabulous sunset. If it's late January



The Steps to Indian Rock

or early February you'll catch the sun setting right in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge.

There are many easy variations for your return trip. I'd recommend going north on San Mateo Road to Mendocino Path. Take Mendocino Path down, re-cross Arlington, and continue onto Mendocino Avenue which reconnects with Indian Rock Path which returns you to Solano.

In the winter, when the sun sets early, you may reward your efforts with dinner after your sunset walk.

Scouts projects
(continued from page 1)

ments might include landscaping with rocks that are found nearby, retaining walls, hand-crafted benches and bulletin boards, or a hand rail.

The major highlight—and what keeps the boys coming!—is the free pizza lunch at every project. Of course, other healthy foods such as donuts, coffee, and carbonated beverages are served as well.

In the upcoming months between Eagle projects, Troop 19 plans to revisit old sites and do maintenance where needed. This will serve to train younger boys for future paths and their own Eagle projects.

So the next time you're out wandering and see a group of adolescent boys sweating over a step, stop and say hello. Heck, why not stop and give them a hand?

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley's path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance. Our activities and events are listed on our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org.

Concerned about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org. BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Focus on Volunteers

The Trusty Truck of Ted Roberts

by Charlie Bowen

Behind the scenes of all our path-building work there is the ongoing chore of getting the materials to the paths before our work parties. First we have to figure out what we need on each path. Then wood-tie steps and rebar have to be ordered, picked up, and delivered to the paths. This is heavy work; for a couple of years now we have relied on Ted Roberts and his faithful Toyota truck to make it all happen.

Ted is a volunteer extraordinaire who loves the Berkeley paths and does a huge amount of work to maintain the ones we have already built



Ted and His Truck

as well as to help building new ones. After he picks up the eucalyptus wood steps (which are HEAVY!) from New Life Millworks in Richmond, he takes them home, unloads them, cuts them to the lengths we need, drills 2 holes in them for the rebar, reloads them in the truck, delivers them to the path

and carries them to the area where they will be used. Every single wood-tie step you see on our new paths has Ted's energy invested in it.

We also have a source of free wood chips in El Cerrito, and Ted and his truck periodically make a visit there and pick up a load of chips to spread on our wood-tie paths. Before he puts down the chips he typically spends some time weeding and trimming, and the paths look 1000% better afterwards.

Ted is always looking for a person or two he could call upon to give him a hand for a couple of hours. So, if you're sometimes free during the week and would like to help, let us know. Contact Charlie Bowen, 540-7223, or send an e-mail to charlie_paths@comcast.net.

Trails

Trails not only connect us with each other, they connect us with ourselves. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted knew this, and designed his pathways for reverie: gentle, winding, and somehow private. Communities with no place to daydream are communities without imagination.

David Burwell

President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2001

Household memberships in BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

I am enclosing \$_____ for membership new renewal

I would like to donate \$_____ for path building

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Fall 2006

Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

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Indian Rock Path

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

SANDY FRIEDLAND, president
WILL SCHIEBER, vice-president/editor/website
BARBARA WEST, treasurer
MARILYN SIEGEL, secretary/walks coordinator
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison

BPWA Guided Walks

Walks begin at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine (allow 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted). They are free, and all are invited to attend.

Saturday Walks

January 20 *Wildcat Canyon/ Alvarado History Walk*

Dave Zuckermann --

dzuckermann@ebparks.org

Step back in time to explore the historic Alvarado Park section of Wildcat Canyon, once known as Grand Canyon Park. We'll stroll along the creek and see the 1930's stonework that landed Alvarado in the National Registry of Historic Places and climb the hills to the ruins of the Belgium Sanitarium. This walk will cover 2.5 miles at a moderate pace, with a few steep hills. No dogs please. Bring snacks and drinks, and expect mud! Meet at the staging area off of Park Ave. in Richmond.

– Directions: From Berkeley, follow Arlington Blvd. to its end. Turn left on McBryde Ave., right on Park Ave. and go 0.1 mile to the parking area on left. From Hwy 80 West, exit at McBryde Ave., turn left onto McBryde, and continue straight onto Park Ave., and proceed as above. From Hwy 80 East, exit at Amador/Solano Ave., turn left on Amador Ave., right on McBryde, and proceed as above.

February 10 *Wildcat Creek Wildlife and Native American Life*

Jim Hale -- 925 939-4304

Be prepared for a fascinating tour of the area, led by the ethnologist and wildlife biologist who will be our speaker on Feb. 15. (See sidebar, page 3). We will visit several rock sites. Meet at the staging area in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in Richmond, following the directions for the Jan 20 walk. This walk will cover 4-5 miles at a moderate pace, ending at approximately 2 p.m. followed by an optional drive to nearby Canyon Trails Park to see petroglyphs. Bring lunch and drinks. No dogs, please.

March 3 *Downtown Oakland, History and Architecture*

Susan Schwartz -- 848-9358 -- F5creeks@aol.com

Explore the history and fascinating architecture of Oakland's three downtowns: Victorian, Beaux Arts, and Art Deco, plus current revitalization. Meet at the below-street-level fountain just outside the 12th St. BART station. Walk ends at the 19th Street BART. This is a moderately paced, level walk. Wear comfortable shoes, bring drinks and snacks and dress in layers.

Wednesday Walks

Walks continued on page 2

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 9 No. 4

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2006

A Message from the BPWA President by Sandy Friedland

Armed with shovels, mattocks, levels, and mallets, our hard-working volunteers completed three new paths in 2006. That brings to 20 the number of paths that BPWA has completed since it began in 1998. The latest additions are Bret Harte, Middle Glendale Path, and Cedar Path. Weather permitting, Poppy Path and Shasta Path will soon be finished as well.

Although our labor is donated, a typical stairway of 100 steps requires



Middle Glendale Path

\$1000 in wood and steel rebar. A survey to ensure that a new path is correctly sited on city property can cost \$1,000 or more.

If we are to build more paths — about 30 remain unfinished — and continue our efforts to preserve, protect, and publicize these Berkeley treasures, we need your help.

What can you do? Most important, be sure to renew your membership for 2007, and encourage your friends and neighbors to join or renew theirs as well. We have deliberately kept our dues at only \$5 to encourage people to join, and nearly 600 of you have done so. However, we have sold nearly 17,000 of our wonderful

Berkeley pathways maps, so clearly all path walkers have not joined.

The more members we have, the louder our message to the city: Berkeley residents value and use the paths, and the city should support them. Membership numbers are also important when we submit grant proposals.

We hope you also will consider including Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in your annual giving. The truth is, your \$5 membership fee does not cover the cost of printing and mailing of our newsletter, maintenance of our web site and supplies for our programs and guided walks. By making a donation to BPWA you will enable us to continue and to expand these activities.

Lastly, consider giving BPWA maps and note cards for gifts during the holidays or for special occasions during the year. The map (only \$5.00) makes a perfect present for people who love to walk and explore Berkeley's twists and turns as well as for out-of-town guests.

Our lovely note cards come in packs of four and cost \$6.50. Each card in a set reproduces a watercolor painting of a different path by Berkeley artist Karen Kemp. They are pretty enough to frame!

For your convenience, you can order maps and notecards, join BPWA, renew your membership, or donate to BPWA on our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org. You will be supporting our efforts to maintain and improve the paths and stairways we all cherish.

BPWA Guided Walks

(continued from page 1)

Wednesday Walks

January 3 *Old and Improved*

Pathways Jacque Ensign — 510 524-4715
— jacqueensign@earthlink.net

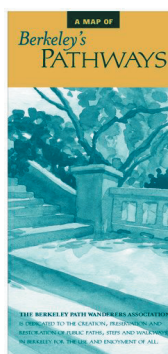
Meet at the Rose Garden on west side of Euclid Ave. between Bay View Place and Eunice St. This will be an uphill walk, slow pace. We will revisit old paths and see newly improved paths.

February 7 *Oakland's Middle Harbor Shoreline* Susan Schwartz — 510 848-9358 — F5creeks@aol.com

Explore new parks and history at the Middle Harbor Shoreline in the heart of the Bay's busiest port. Meet at restrooms adjacent to parking lot at 7th St. and Middle Harbor Rd. For driving directions go to www.ebparks.org and see map of Middle Harbor Shoreline Park. Transit, take the 13 bus from West Oakland, 12th St., or Lake Merritt BART.

March 7 *Architectural Tour of the U.C. Campus* Alan Kaplan — 510 526-7609

Learn about the Campanile, Agricultural Quad, Life Sciences Bldg, and much more. Meet at the entrance gate at Euclid and Hearst. Moderate pace with a few hills.



The BPWA Map

This makes an ideal holiday gift. It features all 130-plus paths of Berkeley and is only \$5.00. It's available for two-day delivery by post from our web site. Your family and friends will delight in this wonderful gift.

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for meetings in 2007 will be posted on our web site. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Some musings on exercise:

Who Needs A StairMaster???

by Dale Miller

I had surreal experience the other day — or, more accurately — an everyday experience that I viewed in a surrealistic way. I was driving down Addison St. when someone parking brought me to a stop in front of 24-Hour Fitness. Through the window of the gym I made eye contact with a woman huffing away on a stair stepper. How weird it was. Someone inside was “climbing” to nowhere while I was “running” errands in my car. I might just as well have been on a ten-mile drive to some fitness center, where I'd take the elevator to the 30th floor, “walk” ten miles on the treadmill, “climb” 30 stories on the stair stepper and finish with ten miles on the stationery bike. Similarly absurd examples came to mind:

- One of my relatives back east regularly drives 20 miles to walk laps in a shopping mall.

- My wife once stayed at a cliff-side hotel in Los Angeles overlooking a beach where folks were enjoying the sun and surf. When she asked how to walk to the beach, the concierge looked at her as if she wanted to take a rocket ship to Mars. The only way to get there was by car, of course.

- We've all spent a night in some motel on a freeway interchange with a restaurant about fifty feet away that can only be reached by car — unless you want to try a mad dash across a freeway off ramp or a quarter mile hike through a drainage ditch to some crossing spot.

- Quite a few of my neighbors drive from our hilly streets with their gorgeous Bay views to the Marina or Point Isabel to walk their dogs. (And yes, I confess I also do it once a week or so.)

In the meantime, the most popular pieces of exercise equipment mimic what we humans used to do routinely: hunting, gathering, tilling, harvesting, hauling water, building shelter, carrying babies, chopping wood, and other activities that kept our hearts and lungs in good shape.

So why not try being less reliant on labor-saving devices and exercise machines? Instead, use our paths and sidewalks to perform some of your daily chores. Schlepping home a bag of groceries from the store, your books from the library, or the bounty from your shopping spree can save you a trip to the health club and save you all some gas. Or you can take an urban hike instead of sweating indoors on a piece of equipment or two.

*Which looks like more fun?
this...*



or this...



There are approximately 130 paths in Berkeley that await you. Some — like Tamalpais Path, Easter Way, or Arden Steps — will get your heart rate up in no time. You'll usually find me with my little black dog on Terrace Walk, The Short Cut, Mendocino Path, Indian Rock Path, Berryman Path or the streets that connect them. I guarantee if you start at the base of the Berkeley Hills and climb to the top and back, you won't need to visit the gym.

Introducing Our Sponsor:

Berkeley Partners for Parks

by Charlie Bowen

Unless you have read the tiny print in our newsletter or on our letterhead, you might not know that Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is one of 30 local groups that comprise Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPPF). This 501(c)(3) charitable organization enables its members to operate as nonprofits and to enjoy technical and administrative benefits that few could afford on their own.

In its own way, each group is improving outdoor life in Berkeley, whether its focus is parks, creeks, paths, playgrounds, community gardens, public pools, murals, or labyrinths. Affiliates range from Pillars of our Community, a small group trying to restore the masonry pillars at Ashby and College, to large organizations like Path Wanderers and United Pool Council, which is dedicated to maintaining Berkeley's public swimming pools. Thanks to BPPF, the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts.

Organized in 1993, Berkeley Partners for Parks has been influential in promoting and sustaining new projects as well as lobbying for improvements in existing resources. BPPF also lends expertise and encouragement to citizens and City staff. This support makes it much easier for a new group of people with creative ideas, dedication, and energy — like the founders of BPWA eight years ago — to launch their organization and manage their finances. BPPF also helps its members apply for and

administer grants, provides liability insurance for the affiliated groups, and files the tax returns and other paperwork the government requires for 501(c)(3) groups. In exchange, members pay a small percentage of their income to BPPF.

In 2006, with the backing of BPPF, member organizations counted many accomplishments, including these:

- Provided pedestrian and bike paths on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way.
- Kept several outdoor City pools from closing
- Restored the marsh in Aquatic Park through the "Egret Project"
- Helped the East Bay Labyrinth Project to secure City approval for a lovely waterfront site for a permanent labyrinth

BPPF supports various community groups including the Friends of Five Creeks and the Young Artists' Workspace. To learn more about BPPF, go to www.bppf.org. The link to the November newsletter has updates and photos from affiliates that were active this past year.

You can lend your support to BPPF with a donation and by becoming an individual member so you will continue to hear about all its projects. To contact BPPF by mail, write to PO Box 13673, Berkeley, CA 94712

The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is pleased to be affiliated with Berkeley Partners for Parks, and we are grateful for all the services they offer us each year.

East Bay Naturalist To Speak at Next BPWA Program

February 15, 2007

Wildlife biologist and ethnologist Jim Hale, Ph. D., will speak at our mid-winter General Meeting on Thursday, February 15. An expert on local wildlife and rare and endangered species, Jim has contributed to more than 500 Environmental Impact Reports. He has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the Department of the Interior and taught biology at San Jose State and U.C. Santa Cruz.

Jim has helped restore many creeks in Northern California. When beavers appeared in the creek that flows through downtown Walnut Creek and began felling trees, Jim helped relocate the animals. His latest project is a study of mountain lions in the Bay Area. Jim is also an authority on the Native Americans of Northern California.

The program will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Redwood Gardens, 2951 Derby St., on the north side of the Clark Kerr Campus. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

In conjunction with his lecture, Jim will lead our February 10th walk in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. He will highlight wildlife along Wildcat Creek and the Native American history associated with the area. For details, see the Walks Schedule on page 1.

Household memberships in BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

I am enclosing \$_____ for membership new renewal

I would like to donate \$_____ for path building

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2006

Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

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Vine Lane

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

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LORI KOHLSTAEDT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison

ANNE HENNY*
COLEEN NEFF*
KEITH SKINNER*

* New Board Member, 2007