

BPWA Walks

Guided walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. Self-guided walks have no leader, just a starting location and a suggested route. Check www.berkeleypaths.org for these routes and/or any last minute changes for any walk. People without internet access can call 510 520-3876. Walks are divided into four types:

-  Theme
-  No Theme (Friendly)
-  Power
-  Self Guided

April 1, Thursday, Check in 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Pirate Treasure Hunt

Leader: Barbara Robben. **Contact Keith Skinner** at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** Shorebird Nature Center, 160 University Ave. **Transit:** AC #9 bus Pick up your treasure map at the Nature Center and hunt for pirate treasure while exploring the Berkeley Marina. Great event for families over the school holiday. Dress the part, Matey. Arrgh... Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

April 7, Wednesday, 10 a.m. – Party Improved Paths Walk – [SELF-GUIDED]

No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions: Keith Skinner - keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** The fountain at Park Gate & Shasta Rd. **Transit:** AC #65 bus See how far the path development program has come as you retrace Charlie Bowen's 2004 tour of improved paths. This route takes you past Northgate Path, BPWA's most recent – and most impressive – project. <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/Path-thonWalk.htm>

April 11, Sunday – 4 BPWA walks at the Western Wilderness Conference. See pg. 3.

April 18, Sunday, 3 p.m. Psychogeography Walk

Leader: Keith Skinner. **Contact Keith Skinner** at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** Remillard Park. **Transit:** AC #65 bus

Discover and interact with your surroundings spontaneously and accidentally. We set starting place and duration (2 hrs). We'll introduce randomness to our route to facilitate discovery. Bring your BPWA map and camera, sketch pad, voice recorder, and/or journal to note your discoveries. Highly interactive. Look up psychogeography at <http://www.urbandictionary.com>. No dogs, please.

May 5, Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 2008 Path-a-Thon Power Walk – [SELF-GUIDED]

No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions: Keith Skinner - keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** Live Oak Park (Shattuck near the creek). **Transit:** AC #67 bus

Retrace Jen English's 2008 summer power walk. This steep, long walk started our power walk program. Bring water and lots of energy. <http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/Path-thonWalk.htm>

Berkeley's PATHS

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2010

Students Acquire Building Skills – One Step At a Time

— Colleen Neff

How do high school students from the Bay Area learn some of the skills needed to help build a school in Malawi? Working on the paths in the Berkeley hills, of course. Tom Silverman, program and trek coordinator for California chapter of buildOn, a national community-service organization, has been bringing young volunteers to our path-building parties for the last two years. Tom says that learning to use the simple tools that BPWA employs — such as mattocks, sledge hammers, levels and shovels — stands these teens in good stead when they travel to under-developed countries to assist local villagers in constructing a school.

In February, 18 energetic, motivated high school students from Berkeley and Oakland fanned out over a steep hillside in North Berkeley as Charlie Bowen, BPWA path-building leader, showed them how to lay a wooden step onto a solid bed that rain would not wash out. Steve Glaeser, Charlie's able assistant, demonstrated how to use a big sledgehammer to drive rebar through each step and into the ground. The vital importance of tool safety was continually stressed. The young volunteers were working hard but wore big smiles. Their hundreds of after-school and weekend service hours would soon be put to the test during a two-week stay in Malawi, and they were talking excitedly about the upcoming trip.



Ashley Shult, a three-year buildOn leader, and Tom Silverman travel with two students from each of twenty Northern California public high schools, who then stay with local families. Ashley says that she loves working with teenagers, noting that when they are really engaged in a project, they become inspired to work even harder. Once they have demonstrated their dedication, they can apply for an all-expense-paid buildOn trip. Nicaragua is on the schedule for another group of students this summer.

The nonprofit organization was started in 1992 by Jim Ziolkowski, a global activist who, during a trek in Nepal, happened on a village celebrating the opening of a new school. The event had such an impact on him that he soon quit his corporate job to focus on building more schools. His vision was first to engage American teenagers in service projects in their own communities and then to have them take their newly acquired skills to Third World countries. The organization must be on to something, buildOn volunteers have built 340 schools in places like Brazil, Haiti, Mali and Senegal, and more than 136,000 children have attended them. Another sign of buildOn's success: 97% of the American participants go on to college.



Walks Continued

May 8, Saturday, 10 a.m. **Temescal and Rockridge**

Leader: Sandy Friedland & Susan Montauk
Contact Keith Skinner at
keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876.
Meeting Place: Temescal Firehouse, 463 51st St. (just east of Telegraph). **Transit:** AC #18, AC #1, AC #15, BART to MacArthur Station and walk or board AC #1

Walk through two historic neighborhoods linked by a whimsical new greenway and filled with public art, interesting architecture, and great restaurants. Optional lunch at one of Temescal's ethnic eateries. No dogs please.

May 18, Tuesday, 10 a.m. **Clark Kerr Power Walk**

Leader: Colleen Neff. **Contact Keith Skinner at**
keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876.
Meeting Place: Clark Kerr Campus at the sign by the entrance on Warring St. at Parker. **Transit:** AC #51 bus (get off at College and Parker, walk 3 blocks east)

An energetic, fast-paced spring walk along the trails of Clark Kerr campus, through sorority row, up to the stadium, onto the paths above it, and back. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

June 2, Wednesday, 10 a.m. **Daley's Scenic Park – [SELF-GUIDED]** **No Leader. Print directions below and bring with you. Walk alone or with others. Questions:** **Keith Skinner -** keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876. **Meeting Place:** Hillside School, 1581 LeRoy Ave. **Transit:** AC #67 bus

Wander through the oldest residential neighborhood in the Berkeley Hills, an architectural and historical wonderland with stunning vistas.
http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/walk_daleyscenicpark.pdf

June 7, Monday, 7 p.m. **Upper Codornices Sunset Walk**

Leader: Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks - 510 848 9358, f5creeks@aol.com
Meeting Place: Upper parking lot of Glendale-LaLoma Park on Glendale near Campus (limited parking so allow time to find street parking). **Transit:** AC buses #65

Discover nature, history, and great views in the upper Codornices Creek watershed on this annual sunset walk that ends with refreshments. Co-sponsored by Friends of Five Creeks, this walk has steps and uneven trails so wear appropriate shoes and bring walking sticks, if you use them. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

June 12, Saturday, 10 a.m. **Claremont-Rockridge Estates**

Leader: Ron Sipherd. **Contact Keith Skinner at**
keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510-520-3876.
Meeting Place: Corner of Claremont and The Uplands. **Transit:** AC #7 bus (get off at Woolsey stop and walk NE on Claremont to the Uplands)

Ron will lead you through a neighborhood of former (and present) grand estates, and historic homes of famous and infamous East Bay residents. Details at <http://www.well.com/~ronks/pix/walks/estates/> No dogs please.

New Friends for Oakland Pedestrians: Meet Oakland Urban Paths —Paul Rosenbloom

Oakland has several hundred pedestrian paths and stairways, mostly in the city's hillier neighborhoods. Until recently, no one group has tried to identify them all and promote their use and maintenance. Now a new volunteer organization, Oakland Urban Paths, has taken on these challenges. We asked one of the founders, Paul Rosenbloom, to write about the new group and its goals:

Topography in urban areas creates a need for many types of access. It's no surprise that stairs and pedestrian paths are sprinkled across the city, weaving together Oakland's communities and history. While affording some mystery and adding charm and character to neighborhoods, these paths and stairways are a functional part of Oakland's urban landscape. They provide pedestrian connections between residential and commercial areas and also allow passage in emergencies.

The pathway network has a historical basis. Much of it was developed in tandem with the Key Line trolley system, the brainchild of one of Oakland's early entrepreneurs, "Borax" Smith. The network still connects to many AC Transit routes throughout Oakland, from Adams Point and Rockridge to Montclair, Glenview, and many other districts. The paths are depicted in the *Walk Oakland!* map, available at many book stores, bike shops and sporting good stores.

Oakland Urban Paths (OUP) was formed in 2009 to explore Oakland's unique bounty of pedestrian resources. We look forward to promoting neighborhood-based stewardship through a variety of activities and events, similar to those conducted by the Berkeley Path Wanderers.

Oakland Urban Paths is composed of committed citizens who want to make Oakland a more walkable city. However, our city is vast and our task ambitious. We recognize that the most passionate and committed advocates for the work of OUP will be the neighbors living near the stairs. Many of our interactions with stair neighbors have revealed a strong interest in the stairs and a persistent question: "How can I help maintain these stairs?" Our coming efforts will be designed to answer this question. The Friends of the Cleveland Cascades (clevelandcascades.org) is a successful example of a local group that has secured

funding for improvements to these popular stairs on the shores of Lake Merritt, and we'd like to encourage groups like this to take root across Oakland.



Steps of the Cleveland Cascades

During its brief history, OUP worked with city staff, the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and Walk Oakland Bike Oakland (WOBO) to develop a survey that was used to obtain an accurate inventory of the paths. With WOBO's help, the organization mobilized nearly 100 volunteers to tackle this important task. Although the final numbers from the survey are still being tabulated, it appears the city has more than 250 pathways in varying states of repair and development. The survey found that most are in good shape but could benefit from TLC. The final inventory will be used by the city to prioritize improvements.

Despite this outpouring of energy from the community, Oakland officials have had to make hard budgetary decisions.

(Continued on page 3)

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except Feb, Sept, and Dec) at Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda (at Marin). Observers are welcome. Please enter via the side door at 1842 Marin Ave.

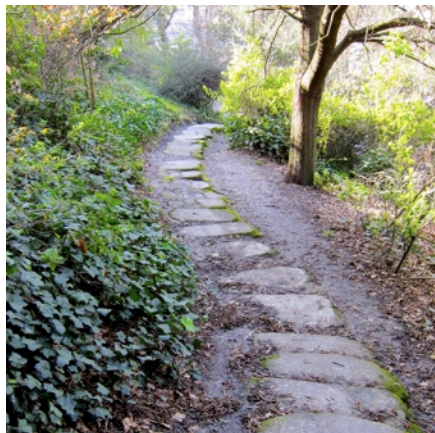
Meet Oakland Urban Paths (continued)

For more than a decade, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) has given Oakland about \$400,000 a year for stairs and pathways, but the city council recently approved the temporary suspension of this use of the ACTIA funding until sales tax revenues return to previous levels. For the near future, improvement of stairs and paths will rely on volunteer efforts such as those by OUP.

Before budgetary difficulties arose, plans were afoot to administer city funds for stair improvements through a flexible on-call system, rather than the former few large projects. A contractor could make many strategic improvements to stairs and pathways, such as spot patching and replacing handrails and signage. This approach could complement efforts of citizen's groups. OUP is dedicated to staying apprised of all developments. We encourage stair and path enthusiasts to speak up in support of these urban treasures. Greater awareness and use of the stairs, increases the chances for restored funding.



A path in need of friends



Path to Oak Grove Park, just steps from the Lakeshore business district

Though funding sources are needed for large projects, there is plenty to do at the grassroots level. If you'd like to participate in any way, or know an Oaklander who may be interested in this effort, Oakland Urban Paths would love to hear from you! Please visit our website to learn about upcoming events and get more information: <http://oaklandurbanpaths.wordpress.com/>

BAHA House Tour Sunday, May 2

Watch for our booth at the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association 2010 house tour. This year's tour will be May 2, 1 to 5 p.m., in the Elmwood and Claremont districts. "Looking at Julia Morgan: Early Residences in Berkeley" will highlight the variety of ways that Morgan interpreted the Arts & Crafts and, later, the Mediterranean style. For tickets and information on the tour and a pre-event lecture on women architects in California, go to <http://berkeleyheritage.com>

BPWA to Lead Four Walks for Western Wilderness Conference

The Western Wilderness Conference, a gathering of local and national wilderness advocates, will be held on the UC Berkeley campus, April 8 - 11. The conference is sponsored by the California Wilderness Coalition and the Sierra Club, along with many other conservation proponents, including the Wilderness Society, Friends of the River, and thirty other supporting sponsors. BPWA is a promotional sponsor and has agreed to lead four walks on April 11.

- Susan Schwartz will explore Albany Hill.
- Charlie Bowen will cover some of the new paths and adjacent trails in Tilden Park.
- Sandy Friedland will tour the hilly Claremont and Grandview Hills neighborhoods (NOTE: This walk is limited to 35 participants. RSVP to keithskinner.public@gmail.com)
- Steve Glaeser will lead an easy walk to Indian Rock to watch the sunset.

The BPWA walks are free and open to the public; others are only for conference attendees. If you wish to participate in any other conference activities, you must register for the conference. For walk details or registration information, visit the conference website: <http://westernwilderness.org> or call Vicki Hoover at 415-977-5527.

Tax-deductible household memberships in the BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings and emails. If you can give more, please consider a donation. You can join or donate online at www.berkeleypaths.org or by sending this form and a check, payable to our fiscal parent BPPF (Berkeley Partners for Parks) to:

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

BPWA Membership/Donation

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$5 for membership ☐ new ☐ renewal

I am also enclosing a donation of _____ (Please make checks to BPPF)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2010

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

The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, 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.

Llamas on the Paths!

In February, Maybeck High School marked its move to its new College Avenue campus with a day-long celebration, including a neighborhood path walk led by BPWA President Colleen Neff. Also out for a stroll were three llamas and their owners, who joined the group. Together they climbed Garber, Pine, Oak Knoll, and Tanglewood Paths, delighting participants, stopping traffic, and leaving lots of smiles in their wake. You never know who you'll run into on the paths!



You can learn about Berkeley geology by visiting the lovely new natural history plaques installed on upper and lower Glendale Path and at Mortar Rock Park.

The wall fountain feeding into a goldfish pond that was pictured in our last issue is located at 72 Panoramic Way on Panoramic Hill. There were no correct answers to the location quiz.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442-A Walnut St. #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

COLLEEN NEFF, president
LINDA BRADFORD, external events coordinator
MARTY CAMPBELL, membership
LAWRENCE "BUZZ" CARDOZA, walk committee
JEN ENGLISH, secretary
SANDY FRIEDLAND, sales committee chair
STEVE GLAESER, path building
ANNE HENNY, treasurer
GLEN LINDWALL, newsletter editor
MARY ROSS LYNCH, webmaster
EMMA MORRIS
KEITH SKINNER, walk coordinator
JAZ ZAITLIN, internal events coordinator, e-newsletter

All current members have Mem. '10 after their name. If you haven't yet renewed for 2010, please do it now. You can renew online or send in the form on page three with a check made out to our fiscal parent BPFP.