





BPWA Walks

Walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to all. Walks are divided into four types:

-  Theme
-  Friendly
-  Power
-  Self Guided

April 10, Sunday - Poetry on the Paths - 2 p.m.

Keith Skinner.

keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876.

Meet: Great Stone Face Park

Transit: AC buses #7, #18, #25e

A companion walk to the Poetry Wall story on page 2, celebrate Poetry Month on the paths. Bring a poem to read and/or post on the Poetry Wall. **No dogs, please.**

April 17, Sunday - Panoramic Rim of Claremont Canyon - 10 a.m.

Claremont Canyon Conservancy Board

Members. Contact Keith Skinner at

keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876.

Meet: Top of Dwight Way at the end of Panoramic Way, near the Water Tower. Transit: AC bus #F

In conjunction with our April 14 Spring Program, leaders of the CCC will introduce us to the beauty and natural resources of Claremont Canyon. Mostly flat with stops and will last less than two hours. Limited parking, carpooling suggested. See map on our website for exact location of parking, or call Keith. **No dogs, please.**

April 22, Friday - Earth Day Power Walk - 10 a.m.

Colleen Neff. Contact Keith Skinner at

keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876

Meet: Berkeley Rose Garden, 1200 Euclid, main entrance by the big sign

Transit: AC buses #65, #67

Burn up the paths of the Park Hills neighborhood while celebrating Earth Day. Highlights include the Lutheran Seminary and one of BPWA's newest path projects. This will be a fast - paced walk for fit and energetic walkers. **Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

May 7, Saturday - Jane's Walk, Berkeley - 10 a.m.

Colleen Neff. Contact Keith Skinner at

keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876

Meet: Maybeck High School, St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. at Garber.

Transit: AC buses #1, #51B

Jane Jacobs was a writer and activist who believed in a community-based approach to urban development. Jane's Walks are organized worldwide on this weekend to honor her efforts and to help citizens get in touch with their environment and each other. **Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

(Walks are continued on page 2)

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 14 No. 1

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2011

BPWA Spring Meeting April 14: Conserving Claremont Canyon — Sandy Friedland

One of the last westward facing open spaces in the East Bay lies squarely at Berkeley's back door: the Claremont Canyon watershed, 520 acres of chaparral, forest, and grassland. This priceless natural resource will be the focus of BPWA's spring event on Thursday, April 14, at St. John's Church (2727 College Avenue). The program begins at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The illustrated presentation will highlight the history and ecology of the canyon as well as the goals and accomplishments of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy. This citizen group formed in 2001 to reduce the risk of fire, protect and restore the canyon's natural environment, improve public access, and educate children and adults about the area. Speakers will be board members of the Conservancy, most of whom live around the Canyon.

In conjunction with this program, Conservancy members will lead a special Claremont Canyon overview walk along the Panoramic Ridge on Sunday, April 17, at 10 a.m. (See the walk listings on this page.)

The Canyon straddles Claremont Avenue, from behind the Claremont Hotel to Grizzly Peak, extending to Panoramic Ridge on the north and to the Berkeley-Oakland ridgeline on the south. Nearly all the canyon lies in Oakland, with a small section behind the Clark Kerr Campus in Berkeley. UC Berkeley, EBMUD, and private property owners have parcels that, together, account for about sixty percent of the land. East Bay Regional Park District owns the 208-acre Cla-

remont Canyon Regional Preserve, which includes land on both sides of Claremont Ave. Oakland owns the 13-acre Garber Park, tucked between Alvarado Rd. and Claremont Ave.



The view from Stonewall-Panoramic Trail.

Photo by Ken Cheetham

The Conservancy, comprising residents of the canyon and other interested individuals, has forged working relationships with the municipalities and public agencies that own the land. The organization sponsors a range of activities in the canyon, including native plant restoration, trail-building, parties, and nature walks led by local experts.

Perhaps the best known trail in the canyon is the extremely steep Stonewall-Panoramic Trail that starts on Stonewall Road and climbs $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the ridge. Hardy hikers are rewarded with stunning Bay views and occasional sightings of owls, red-tail hawks, coyotes, and — rarely — a cougar. A newer, lesser-traveled trail descends through Gwin Canyon, a small side canyon, from Norfolk Dr. almost to Claremont Ave.

Free maps of the canyon and its trails will be available at the Spring Program.

(Walks continued)

☺ May 11, Wednesday - Coffee Constitutional - 10 a.m.

Jacque Ensign. Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876 Meet: Peet's on Solano. Transit: AC bus #18

Join us for a low-impact, leisurely morning stroll. We'll start at Peet's with coffee and a snack and then walk, talk and gawk. **Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

📍 May 21, Saturday - Urban Creeks and Courtyards - 10 a.m.

Sandy Friedland. Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876 Meet: In front of the Berkeley BART steps at Shattuck Ave. and Allston Way.

Transit: Downtown Berkeley BART
See some of the surprising and beautiful courtyards on campus and in town on this spring walk, which will include sections of Strawberry Creek. Some gentle hills and short runs of steps on and around campus. Optional coffee/lunch at PIQ on Berkeley Square. **No dogs, please.**

📍 June 6, Monday - Sunset Walk with Friends of Five Creeks - 7 p.m.

Leader: f5creeks@aol.com, 510 848 9358 Meet: 8th St., 2 blocks north of Gilman at the edge of University Village

Transit: AC buses #25, #51B, #52, #72M
Sunset walk with Friends of Five Creeks, Cordermes Creek to the Bay and back, with refreshments on the beach. Bring a flashlight just in case. **No dogs, please.**

📍 June 12, Sunday - Outdoor Campus Sculpture - 2 p.m.

Alan Kaplan.. Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876 Meet: Oxford and Center, southern path near the creek by the Arnaldo Pomodoro sculpture (big bronze ball)

Transit: BART, Downtown Berkeley Station
Alan will lead us to some of the many public art treasures located throughout the UC campus. **No dogs, please.**

☺ June 28, Tuesday - Pooches on the Paths - 6:30 p.m.

Leaders: Skillet and Bronte. Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com 510 520 3876. Meet: Berkeley Rose Garden, 1200 Euclid, main entrance by the big sign. Transit: AC buses #65, #67

NOTE: This walk is limited to 10 dogs. RSVP with your dog's name. Your dog must be on leash, well-behaved and sociable. Join dogs and their families for evening walkies and conviviality. Plenty of time for sniffing, snacking and playing. **Well-behaved humans permitted, with or without dog**

Thanks Levi's!

BPWA thanks Levi Strauss & Co. for its generous contribution of matching funds equivalent to donated time for a BPWA volunteer. Does your employer match donations?

Special Paths of Berkeley: The Poetry Wall on Upper Yosemite Steps— Glen Lindwall

Many of the Paths of Berkeley offer unique pleasures to local walkers. One of my favorites is the Poetry Wall on Upper Yosemite Steps. I usually pause there to enjoy some of the poems when I pass by.

Margo Hackett, installed the wooden fence that forms the wall as part of a backyard garden makeover more than 15 years. She posted the first poem, "This Is Just To Say," by William Carlos Williams, to cover a graffiti tagging on the new fence. Placing that poem inspired Margo to start putting up others by the likes of Emily Dickinson and Galway Kinnell amid the notices for lost dogs and guitar lessons on telephone poles around town. She now posts only on the wall, though she says she would love to see others tackle the telephone poles.



Margo and Logan inspect poems on the Poetry Wall

Margo herself does not write poetry, but she and her friend Lynn Mueller memorize poems on their early morning walks on the track at King Middle School. For Margo the poems become internal, a transformative experience. "I want everybody to get that" she says.

Typed on ordinary paper, the poems are intentionally ephemeral. Old ones fade to be replaced by new. Margo has a few favorites that she posts re-

peatedly, but she is always finding new poems to put up. Occasionally, other people post poems. This dedication recently appeared on a Longfellow poem:

"A poem in memory of David who lived near here. Before he passed away David proudly showed us this poetry wall as something uniquely Berkeley.

We have asked his sister Linda to post this poem in David's honor."

On another poem, "Starfish" by Eleanor Lerman, a passerby wrote "Life lets you read poems like this while tears trickle down your cheek. Thank you!"

When she works in her garden, Margo often hears people talking about the poems, sometimes laughing at funny ones. The poems give people a chance to catch their breath as they climb the stairs but also appeal to the spirit, says Margo. "It opens it up and says whoopee, there's joy in life!--on that paper and in me." Logan, Margo's Scottie dog, also gets into the act when he's in the garden. His spirited barking is accompanied by his wagging tail.

When I mentioned that we were planning a "poetry on the paths" walk (April 10, see walk listings) Margo suggested that the poems that are read on the walk should then be posted on the wall. "I'll supply the thumb tacks" she offered.

This Is Just To Say

by **William Carlos Williams**

I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox

and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast

Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except April, Oct, and Dec). Meetings have moved to Live Oak Community Center in Live Oak Park. Board meetings are open to all.

Five Ways You Can Help With BPWA Walks — Keith Skinner, walk coordinator

Already 2011 is an exciting year for BPWA walks, but we need your help to keep them fresh and vital. Our guided walks last from two to three hours and usually attract from 20 to 50 people. Most walks are in Berkeley but we occasionally stray to nearby towns. Some walks have themes, such as art, architecture, history, geology, or ecology. Others are just good walks. We have an audience for all types of routes.

Here are five ways you can get involved in this vital aspect of Berkeley Path Wanderers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at keithskinner.public@gmail.com or 510-520-3276.

✓ **Walk support:** For the easiest way to test the waters, team up with one of our dynamic walk leaders on a scheduled walk. You would circulate the signup sheet, carry the loud speaker (when necessary), sell maps and memberships, and help keep the group together.

✓ **Lead a walk yourself:** Write a detailed description of your route, including each turn. Or use Google Maps to trace a route. Walk it several times as you develop your idea; we can offer advice if you need it. Remember that a group walk can take almost twice as long as a solo one, depending on the pace and stops to observe items of interest. Your description should note challenges, in-



cluding tricky footing, seasonal considerations, and hills. If you have a theme, you will share your insights or

the results of your research. For a socializing walk, you'll only need to lead the way. We will publicize your walk in our print and e-newsletters and on our website. The walk coordinator will handle inquiries before the walk, and you will have a seasoned support person assigned to handle administrative tasks. BPWA will pay for handouts or other expenses you might incur. If you need to limit the size of the group, we will manage the

RSVPs and wait list.

✓ **Plan a route for someone else to lead:** If you have a great idea for a walk but don't really want to lead it, we can put someone else at the head of the pack. Follow the guidelines above, and plan to take the assigned leader on a dry run.

✓ **Send us your suggestions:** Do you have topics that haven't been covered in recent years? Do you know of someone who would be an interesting walk leader? Is there a part of Berkeley or a surrounding area that we haven't visited lately? Contact our walk coordinator.

✓ **Join our walk committee:** Help us improve our walk offerings. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to our once- or twice-a-year meetings, which we announce in our print and e-newsletters and on our website. Sign up now to get an e-mail notice.

Some great ideas emerged from our last walk meeting. We discussed giving a pin or other award to people who walk every path. Maybe you could help with the design. Or how about helping us plan or lead one of these: a scavenger hunt, full-moon walk, weekday noontime downtown walk, dog walk, or a walk for children? Perhaps you belong to an organization that could co-sponsor a walk? Suggested walks included ones that focus on Berkeley's benches, outdoor murals, or campus trees. We could feature paths with special stories, new paths, landmarked ones. How about walks with added rewards: an ethnic food route, a fruit foraging walk, a route from Peet's to Peet's or a survey of chocolate stores? What fun!

Meetup with BPWA:

Our New Impromptu Walks

BPWA has started a group on the web service Meetup.com to offer impromptu walks. To join, visit: <http://www.meetup.com/Berkeley-Path-Wanderers/>

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 Form

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$5 for membership new renewal

I am also enclosing a donation of _____

I am interested in volunteering _____

Please make checks payable to our fiscal parent, Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPPF)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Spring 2011*

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.

Four Llamas (Rosemary, Poppy, Francis and Jackie) accompanied BPWA members on the Feb. 12 "Llamas on the Paths" walk. The llamas are often spotted at Peet's on Domingo on Saturdays.

The one-l llama, He's a priest
The two-l llama, He's a beast
And I will bet A silk pajama
There isn't any Three-l llama
-- Ogden Nash



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

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

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JAZ ZAITLIN, internal events coordinator, e-newsletter

All current members have Mem. '11 with their address. If you haven't yet renewed for 2011, 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 BFPF.