

# Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 14 No. 4 Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Winter 2011/2012

## President's message

### Another Great Year for BPWA— Colleen Neff

When BPWA co-founder Jacque Ensign called me to help get a mailing out, I never imagined how I would grow to love the paths and this organization. I came onto the board five years ago and served as president the last two. It has been my pleasure to work with so many talented people. But now it is time to hand the reins to our new president, Keith Skinner. I cannot imagine this group in more capable, thoughtful, and dedicated hands. Keith has been our Walks Coordinator for five years, bringing energy and imagination to these twice-monthly events.

BPWA had a busy, productive 2011:

**Path building:** Last summer we celebrated the opening of Wildcat Path (formerly Path 80) in Park Hills, thanks to the cooperation and support of the Park Hills Neighborhood Association. This rustic path follows the natural contours of the hillside, offering beautiful views as it descends to Wildcat Canyon Road. Miller Path East, connecting Creston Road to Grizzly Peak Boulevard, also was completed this year after much bamboo wrangling. Cal students, Boy Scouts, high school volunteers and community members all pitched in. We now are installing about 160 steps on La Loma Path to join La Loma Avenue to Campus Drive.

**Path Maintenance:** With over 130 paths, we always have weeds to clear, brush to cut, and steps to sweep. Many paths got cleaned thanks to hard-working Cal students, the service organization buildOn, generous path neighbors, and countless other volunteers. In addition, Steve Glaeser spearheaded an ambitious project to install gravel between all the wood-tie steps to keep the weeds and mud at bay. Bucket by bucket, Steve has hauled tons of crushed stone onto dozens of our newer paths. We certainly thank him!

**Handrails:** BPWA is adding handrails to steeper paths. Last year middle Glendale and Shasta Paths got much-needed handrails, and we look forward to installing more each year.



LaLoma Path, BPWA's current project

**Guided Walks:** We led 30 free, guided walks. Among the favorites were a foraging walk in Tilden Park, Pooches on the Paths, the Poetry Walk, a hike in Claremont Canyon with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, and our second annual Long Walk. Please walk with us in 2012!

**Programs:** Our two, free public meetings featured presentations from Claremont Canyon Conservancy in February and the Greenbelt Alliance in October.

**Social Media:** "Friend" us on Facebook to get photos and news of our upcoming events. Join our MeetUp.com group to learn about spontaneous walking adventures.

But if we are to maintain all these projects and activities, we need your help. Building new paths is expensive: each wooden step costs \$16, and professional surveys run \$1500-\$2200. Please consider making a year-end donation to BPWA. With your generous support, we can continue to expand and improve Berkeley's cherished path network.

Thanks for a rewarding, exciting five years!

## 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

Questions about the walks? Write to [walks@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org). Please plan ahead since last-minute questions may be missed.

### Jan 1, Sunday - Stepping Into the New Year - 2 p.m.

**Leader: Glen Lindwall. Meeting Place: SW corner of The Arlington & Coventry Rd., Kensington (at bus stop). Transit: AC #7 bus** Get off on the right foot in the new year, or walk off lingering remnants of the old one as we cover the high ground along the Berkeley/Kensington border on the first afternoon of 2012. The pace will be moderate but there will be many stairs. **RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

### Jan 21, Saturday - Hike & Hoop

**Walk - 11 a.m. Reservations required**

**Leader: Kaye Anderson, Hoop Power Founder.** Learn more about the invigorating and calming charm of hula hooping on this family-friendly adventure suitable for both newcomers and experienced enthusiasts. Leisurely pace with stops along the way to hoop. Limited to 25 participants. Please RSVP to [walks@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org) with name, number of people & hoop size (adult/child). **RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

### February 7, Tuesday - Power Walk - 10 a.m.

**Leader: Colleen Neff. Meeting Place: Rose Garden main entrance on Euclid by the big sign. Transit: AC #65 or #67 buses** Follow up on those New Year's resolutions to get in shape with this ambitious tour of steep staircases. This will be a strenuous and fast-paced walk with a lot of uphill. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

### February 18, Saturday -

**Berkeley Yard Art - 10 a.m.**

**Leader: Sandy Friedland. Meeting Place: Peet's on Domingo Ave. Transit: AC bus #7** Come gawk and gaze at sublime and silly, whimsical and wondrous yard – not to mention window and wall – art in South-east Berkeley. This tour of true outsider "galleries" will have frequent stops. Curious children who can walk a few miles are welcome. The route includes some steep stairs and hilly streets. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.**

(Walks are continued on page 2)

(Walks continued)

**☺ March 7, Wednesday - Panoramic Hill Ramble - 10 a.m.**

**Leader: Keith Skinner. Meeting Place: NE corner of Prospect & Channing. Transit: AC 49 & 51B buses**

Enjoy an early spring walk in the southern hills of the historic Panoramic Hill district. The pace will be relatively moderate with a lot of uphill and steep stairs. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.**

**🌟 March 24, Saturday - West Side Whimsy Walk (San Francisco) - 10 a.m.**

**Leader: Jacquie Proctor, Author and SF City Guide. Meeting Place: Steps next to 141 Junipero Serra Blvd., San Francisco. Transit: BART to SF then Muni M train to the corner of West Portal & St. Francis Circle**

Join us as the author of *Bay Area Beauty: The Artistry of Harold G. Stoner, Architect* leads us to this Englishman's unique creations in Balboa Terrace, St. Francis Wood, and Lakeside. From Art Deco landmarks to storybook cottages and Spanish castles, see how Stoner waved his magic wand throughout West of Twin Peaks and beyond.

[www.jacquieproctor.com/haroldstoner](http://www.jacquieproctor.com/haroldstoner)  
**RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.**

**🔍 Featured Self-Guided Walk: 2nd Annual Long Walk**

Retrace the route of BPWA's October long walk along the Richmond, Albany and Berkeley shore. There is one steep uphill as you climb over Albany Hill, but the rest is relatively flat and easy walking. Beautiful views! Be sure to download the map and notes from our website:

<http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/111009longwalk.htm>

**Path Maintenance**

BPWA has been adding crushed stone to improve wood-tie stairways. Please let us know where more gravel is needed, or other areas where maintenance and improvement are needed on BPWA-built Paths.

**Contacting BPWA**

Walks: [walks@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org)  
General: [info@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.org)

**BPWA Board Meetings**

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month, except April, Oct, and Dec. Meetings are at 7 p.m. at Live Oak Community Center in Live Oak Park. Board meetings are open to all.

## BPWA's Volunteers Are the Ones Who Make It All Happen



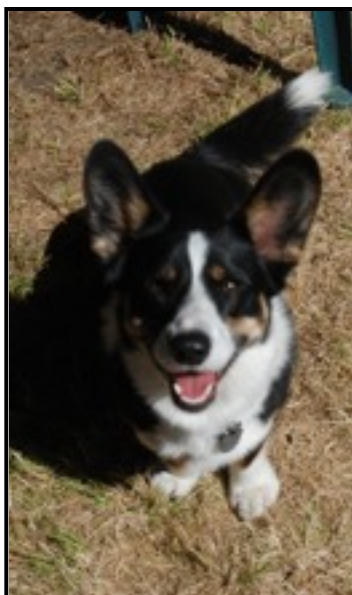
*Helen Vandeman*

When I first heard that BPWA had created a MeetUp for more spontaneous hikes, I signed up immediately. Then realizing that there were many hikes I didn't explore because they would have been more fun with company, I asked the BPWA coordinators if I could host one. So many people signed up, I was motivated to continue. I have met many interesting people and made several friends in the process. The other outcome is that in my research, I've discovered trails and parks unknown to me before. As John Lennon sang, "Life is what happens while you're making other plans."



*John Kenny*

John first got interested in the paths after purchasing one of the BPWA's maps about ten years ago and exploring the path network. When he was looking for volunteer opportunities in town a couple of years ago, he thought of the paths and contacted Charlie Bowen. John put in his first steps as we were completing Northgate Path and has since assisted on Miller Path East, Wildcat Path and our current project, La Loma Path. Playing in the dirt, getting some good exercise, and having some steps to be proud of are reasons John cites for enjoying his work.



*Skillet*

Jim Haynes attributes his path wandering to the newest addition to his family, a delightful Cardigan Welsh Corgi named Skillet. Together they have almost reached their goal of traversing every path in the system. All this exploring has made Jim an invaluable resource to the Walks Committee. With his extensive knowledge and generous nature, he often helps develop and assist with our walk routes.

***The Handrails Project***

BPWA is committed to installing handrails on some completed paths each year. Added in 2011 are railings on Middle Glendale Path and the lower part of Shasta Path. But these improvements cost money – an average of \$55 per foot for materials and installation. Please consider a donation this year, in addition to your dues, to help fund more handrails in 2012. We and your fellow path walkers will thank you!

## Six New Lamps Mark the Centennial of the Le Roy Steps—Glen Lindwall

When Berkeley's Le Roy Avenue was being built 100 years ago, the last half block leading up to Hilgard was too steep for a road. The developers ended Le Roy Avenue in the middle of the block and installed a graceful stairway with brick ramps between each course of steps.



One of the new lamps on the Le Roy Steps

Pairs of gas lamps stood on pillars at each end, lighting the way for pedestrians on their way to and from trolley stops, shops, and the nearby UC campus.

By 2004, however, the gas lamps were long gone, and the grounds on either side of the steps were strewn with trash and overgrown with weeds and brambles. What began that year as an effort to remove graffiti from the stairs by a couple of Hilgard Ave. neighbors, slowly evolved into the Le Roy Steps Stewardship Project. The group joined Berkeley Partners for Parks, a nonprofit umbrella organization, which makes it a sister organization of BPWA.

Project members have spent countless hours removing the weeds and trash and planting flowers that would provide year-round blossoms and be unpalatable to deer. Perhaps most spectacular are the 1,000 daffodils that bloom in all their glory in February and March.

Last year, the Stewardship Project received a University of California Chancellor's Grant and a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which enabled the Project to have electric lamps installed on the cement pillars lining the steps. The lamps are now in place, making the steps safer and more inviting for pedestrians after dark.

The Stewardship Committee would like to continue their efforts with the restoration of a small, hand-made brick retaining wall. The wall survived the devastating 1923 fire but today leans precariously

in the midst of the daffodils. Volunteers continue to experiment with new plantings, all the while working to improve the soil and clear remaining rubble and weeds.

You might visit the new lamps as part of an evening stroll, or perhaps some sunny day in the early spring you'll want to visit this path, only four blocks from campus, just for the daffodils.



Looking down the steps toward campus



The exuberant daffodil bloom last spring

*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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to our fiscal parent, Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPPF)

I am interested in volunteering

# Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Winter 2011/2012*

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.*



*Pictured above is the intrepid group that finished the entire 13 miles of the 2nd annual Long Walk on Sunday, October 9th. Many others joined for part of the route. This all-day walk started at El Cerrito BART and went over Albany Hill and through Pt. Isabel, the Bay Trail, Albany Bulb, East Shore Park, Aquatic Park, Siterma District. The Santa Fe Right of Way led us to the end at North Berkeley BART. On the right are more photos from the event.*



Clockwise from above: Point Isabel. The swing on Albany Hill. Sculpture at Albany Bulb. Climbing Albany Hill.



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

[www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org)

## Board Members

COLLEEN NEFF, president  
MARTY CAMPBELL, membership  
LAWRENCE "BUZZ" CARDOZA, walk committee  
JEN ENGLISH, secretary  
SANDY FRIEDLAND, sales committee chair  
STEVE GLAESER, path building  
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, treasurer  
GLEN LINDWALL, newsletter editor  
JANE LEVY, external events  
MARY ROSS LYNCH, webmaster  
EMMA MORRIS, volunteer coordinator  
ELSA TRANTER, external events  
JAZ ZAITLIN, internal events coordinator, e-newsletter

Lynn Deregowski, Betsy Mueller, Keith Skinner and Chris Sterba will join the board in January

**Membership expires on December 31. Please renew for 2012 if you don't see "Mem 12" with your address. You can renew online or return the slip inside this edition in the enclosed envelope.**