

# Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 16 No. 1

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2013

## Spring meeting: BPWA celebrates 15 years

— Keith Skinner

The first paragraph of the very first Path Wanderers newsletter, dated September 1998, listed an ambitious set of activities designed to accomplish on formidable goal: “the restoration and ongoing maintenance of all the paths and steps throughout Berkeley.”

It had been more than seven years since the devastating Oakland-Berkeley fire had swept up residents and homes. It had been five years since the City of Berkeley had commissioned a study of public paths as egress routes, only to reject the resulting implementation plan due to cost. Many city paths were overgrown or blocked. Stairs were in serious disrepair and often dangerous. In the absence of a comprehensive inventory, many residents were unaware of the existence or extent of the path system.

The four founding members of BPWA – Ruth Moskowitz, Jacque Ensign, Pat DeVito and Eleanor Gibson – held the fledgling organization’s first public meeting on May 20, 1998, hoping to enlist volunteers to inventory and map the paths, lead guided walks, and raise public awareness about the importance of Berkeley’s historic paths.

In the 15 years since, BPWA has sold more than 27,000 copies of the Berkeley’s Pathways map, restored 30 previously undeveloped or impassable paths, helped to maintain previously existing paths, and continued to offer an interesting program of free guided walks each month.

Did we mention that the annual membership fee has remained at its 1998 cost of \$5?

Owing to the dedication and generosity of many people, BPWA has successfully accomplished many of the ambitions outlined in 1998, while remaining faithful to that seemingly quixotic mission statement that graced our first newsletter. It’s an excellent time to stop and appreciate our accomplishments but also

a fitting time to consider the future: What does that look like?

Certainly, there are still undeveloped paths to be restored, existing paths to be maintained, maps to be corrected and improved, and walks to be shared. But the world has evolved in those intervening 15 years. Walking is more popular than ever. Planners and engineers have new ideas about how people should be served by public spaces. What does this mean for BPWA?

With that question in mind, we’ve designed the 2013 Spring Meeting to be similar to our first meeting in 1998. We’ve invited leaders from like-minded organizations to participate in a panel discussion touching on all these topics: walking, public spaces, community involvement. Joining us will be Paul Rosenbloom of Oakland Urban Paths, Elizabeth Stampe, executive director of Walk San Francisco; Bruce Beyaert, chair of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC); and Dave Weinstein, president of El Cerrito Trail Trekkers.

It is our intention for this to be a lively and interactive evening of sharing information, ideas and aspirations. We’d like you to be part of the discussion, to ask questions and offer comments and suggestions.

So please make plans to join us for the Spring Meeting. It’s scheduled for Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room of St. John’s Presbyterian Church at 2727 College Ave. (near Garber) in the Elmwood District. Along with lively discussion, light refreshments will be served, and you can pick up a copy of our recently updated map, along with books, posters, t-shirts, caps and notecards. ■

### Contacting BPWA

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

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

### BPWA Walks

Walks last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to all. Note the revised walk descriptions which indicate the difficulty of terrain and the pace of the walk:

#### DIFFICULTY

EASY: Smooth trail or pavement.

MEDIUM EASY: Some uneven surface, moderate hills.

MEDIUM: Some difficult terrain such as hills or stairs.

MEDIUM DIFFICULT: Rough surface and/or steep inclines.

DIFFICULT: Rough trail, steep hills, strenuous stretches. Only for those in good physical condition.

#### PACE

FAST: a vigorous pace of at least 3 mph

MODERATELY FAST: 2-3 mph

MODERATE: 1-2 mph

LEISURELY: 1 mph or less

Questions about the walks? Contact [walks@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org).

### Apr 20, Saturday – Earth Day Walk – 10 a.m.

**Leader: Colleen Neff. Meeting Place: Live Oak Park, Shattuck Ave. entrance). Transit: AC buses #7 and #18.**

Add some extra purpose to your weekend walk! Bring along a bag and we will celebrate Earth Day by integrating a little light trash pick-up as we head out from Live Oak Park and onto some of our favorite N. Berkeley paths. RAIN CANCELS. **No dogs, please.**

**Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE**

### Apr 28, Sunday – Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My! Outdoor Sculpture on the UC Berkeley Campus – 10 a.m.

**Leader: Alan Kaplan. Meeting Place: UC North Gate, Hearst at Euclid Ave. Transit: AC buses #65, #52, or F.**

Discover a wonderful collection of art in our own backyard. Don’t miss this opportunity to spend a few hours strolling the beautiful campus and learning about the history of the public art that makes the grounds so distinctive. RAIN CANCELS. **No dogs, please.**

**Level: EASY • Pace: LEISURELY**

### May 12, Sunday – Family Hash Run – 10 a.m.

**Leader: Rebecca Husband. Meeting place: John Hinkel Park (Southampton Ave. above The Arlington)**

**Transit: AC bus #7.**

A cross between hike and treasure hunt, hash runs are hikes/runs originally designed from British paper chases. This one is designed for kids and will feature 13 paths and two routes — 2-2.5 miles and 1.5 miles. All children must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP by May 8 with number of children, to [pikahusband@gmail.com](mailto:pikahusband@gmail.com) RAIN CANCELS **No dogs, please.**

**Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE**

*(Walks are continued on page 2)*



CLIP AND SAVE

(Walks continued)

**May 21, Tuesday – Seasons: A Year on the Berkeley Paths: Spring – 6 p.m.**

**Leader: Keith Skinner. Meeting place: Spruce St. at Acacia Walk (unmarked, bet. 619 and 625 Spruce). Transit: AC buses #65 and #67**

In the 2nd installment of our 2013 seasonal walk series we celebrate spring. Bring your favorite method of recording (camera, art pens & small pad, journal, etc.). We'll finish at Dorothy Bolte Park on Spruce for a post-walk soiree and to compare notes. **HEAVY RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes welcome.**  
**Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE**

**Jun 3, Monday – Finding Fragments of the Wild**

**Leader: Susan Schwartz. Meeting place: Glendale La Loma Park (upper parking lot, off Glendale Ave.)**

Join Friends of Five Creeks President Susan Schwartz on a sunset walk up, down, and across North Berkeley hilltops, searching for fragments of creeks. We'll end with sunset views and great refreshments. Pace will be moderate, but the walk includes steep staircases and narrow, rough trails -- wear good hiking shoes; bring a flashlight (just in case), water, and walking sticks if you use them. **RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.**

**Level: MEDIUM DIFFICULT • Pace: MODERATE**

**June 8, Saturday – Claremont-Elmwood Landmarks – 10:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Ron Sipherd. Meeting place: Ashby and Elmwood Ave. (SW corner, a block east of College Ave). Transit: AC bus #51B & #604**

Accompany us on a walking tour of the historic Claremont-Elmwood area. We'll explore the many architectural gems of this beautiful neighborhood, including the remains of the Taylor mansion at the top of The Uplands. The pace will be moderate as we will need to walk a little faster to move from one cluster of landmarks to another. More info at:

<http://sonic.net/~ronks/pix/walks/cenawalk>

**RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.**

**Level: MEDIUM • Pace: MODERATE**

## Partner in Paths: El Cerrito Trail Trekkers

— Michael Gray

Dave Weinstein, president of the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, is a writer and author as well as a trail aficionado, so ask him to describe his favorite trail and he paints a colorful picture:



**Dave Weinstein**

—Photo, John Wehrle

“One of my favorite hikes winds through the Hillside Nature Area, from just above the recycling center to Douglas Drive to the north of town.

Shaded by delightfully ungainly live oak trees, it traverses the edge of the hill, offering occasional views of the bay and El Cerrito neighborhoods. It dips to cross creeks, retains much native vegetation, and makes you think you're out in the woods when really you're moments from town.”

Dave's enthusiasm for hiking his town led him to help organize the Trail Trekkers three years ago. In the short time since, his organization has achieved a lot, including making the issue of public trails an on-going concern in El Cerrito; leading dozens of hikes (some in tandem with BPWA); completing one new trail and starting work on another; surveying, mapping and working with the National Park Service to develop a map and signage for El Cerrito's trails.

As the young organization moves forward, Weinstein's group has plenty more ambitions. It's advocating for the city to acquire open space to fill crucial gaps in the Hillside Nature Area, a 79-acre wilderness park between Moeser Lane and a hillside north of Potrero Avenue. It also hopes to work with BPWA and other East Bay groups to plan a system linking the area's trails, perhaps through joint mapping.

“In the long term,” he says, “we hope to restore all of the trails in the city. Many are well maintained, but many have long been ignored, overgrown or occasionally blocked. ... It will take years, we know. But we hope to restore them all and connect them to create usable, enjoyable, walkable routes.”

With these many goals in mind, Weinstein says, what keeps him going is “the thought of what could happen if these trails are ignored.” He has seen open space disappear over his 30 years in the city, and is intent on keeping public space public.

“I want Trekkers to remain in existence in perpetuity, like the Sierra Club or Path Wanderers,” Weinstein says.

After just three years, the organization appears well on its way there.



**Trail Work: Walter Schweikert helps clear the path near the top of Motorcycle Hill Trail during a Trail Trekkers work party.**

— Photo courtesy of EC Trail Trekkers

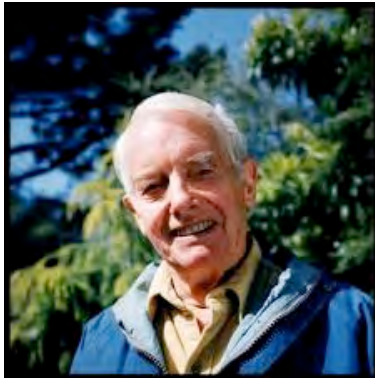
Contact the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers online at: [www.ectrailtrekkers.org](http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org)

Email Dave at: [davidsweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsweinstein@yahoo.com). ■

### 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.

**Berkeley Hiking History:  
David Brower — Michael Gray**



David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club and perhaps the most important environmentalist of the 20th century, was born 101 years ago.

A Berkeley native and an avid hiker of the city's hills, it's said he learned some of his pioneering rock-climbing techniques tackling Indian Rock, the ancient granite outcropping for which Indian Rock Path is named.

Just eight years after Brower was born, in 1920, his mother lost her sight. He began acting as her guide, walking her around their neighborhood near the university and eventually hiking with her into the hills. Here is a passage from one of his recollections of those walks:

“(T)ogether we walked from our house, about 200 feet above sea level, to Grizzly Peak -- at 1,759 feet, it was the second-highest point in our Berkeley Hills ... At the top, I described the vista for her: the hills; the galaxy of wild flowers; the few new houses; a red-tailed hawk floating on the wind, looking for field mice; the fog coming over San Francisco Bay; the glimpse of the open sea through the Golden Gate.”

Nearly a century later, vistas like this are still visible – and accessible with the help of Berkeley's paths system. Perhaps you've found a stunning view, or a quiet glen, or come across wildlife as you've traveled them. We'd like to hear about your favorite path, most memorable hike, or any tale from your history as a path wanderer.

Keep it brief: No more than 150 words – about twice what we have quoted here from Brower. E-mail it to [bpwanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bpwanewsletter@gmail.com), and make sure to include your name. We'll publish selected samples in future newsletters and on our website. ■

**Rose Walk Centennial: A June 1 Celebration — Emma Morris**

Of all the pathways in Berkeley's extensive system, none is as well known and visibly recognizable as Rose Walk. Its curved double stairway provides an elegant and dramatic entrance to the streets and neighborhoods uphill from Euclid Avenue. At the time of its completion in 1913, it was an everyday route for local residents accessing Euclid Avenue's rail line.

It was under the leadership of Dr. William W. Underhill that the La Loma Improvement Club raised money from

members and neighboring property owners to pay for the project. Dr. Underhill owned land nearby, as did architect Bernard Maybeck, who donated his services for the project.

The path as we know it today is surrounded by a series of buildings designed by yet another famed local architect, H.H. Gutterson. Built during the 1920s and 1930s, these homes were specifically planned around the design of the walk and add to the beauty and grace of this beloved Berkeley landmark.

In celebration of Rose Walk's Centennial, the Berkeley Historical Society will be guiding a walking tour of the area on June 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. It will be led by John Underhill, the grandson of Dr. Underhill. To register for the walk, contact the Berkeley Historical Society at [berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://berkeleyhistoricalsociety.org) or call 510-848-0181. The cost is \$8 for BHS members, \$10 for non-members. Funds help support BHS programs.



**Rose Walk, Euclid Entrance**  
— Photo, Michael Gray

Following the walk at noon, celebrate Rose Walk's 100th with a lemonade and cookie reception on the path with Berkeley City Councilmember Susan Wengraf, the Berkeley Historical Society and the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. The celebration will

kick off an effort to raise funds for much-needed restoration work on Rose Walk. Please join us! ■

*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 \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in volunteering

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

# Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Spring 2013*

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.*

## *Photos From Recent Walks*



*The King Tide walk group examines the shoreline area in Eastshore State Park. About 70 people circled the Berkeley shoreline in February, beginning at Sea Breeze Market, over to the marina, to Shoreline Park, and back to Sea Breeze. A much smaller group then headed south to explore the Brickyard SW of the Pedestrian Bridge. Thanks, Susan Schwartz. As usual, she provided an incredible amount of information about tides, birds, and global warming.*

— Photo, Malcolm Lubliner



*Some of the four dozen walkers who turned out for January's walking tour of St. Mary's College High Campus and neighborhood in North Berkeley pose for a group portrait with their guides in the center of the campus. Thanks to walk leader Barbara Robben*

— Photo, Michael Gray



*Albina Street homeowner Scott Stanfield (pointing) showing off his collection of palm trees after the St. Mary's High tour. Stanfield owns the large 1889 Victorian Lueders-Roe House.*

— Photo, Michael Gray

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

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

## **Board Members**

KEITH SKINNER, president  
LYNN DEREGOWSKI, walks  
ANGUS DUNSTAN, online sales  
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, treasurer/archivist  
JANE LEVY, internal events  
MARY ROSS LYNCH, webmaster  
EMMA MORRIS, walks/volunteer coordinator  
BETSY MUELLER, membership/correspondence  
ELSA TRANTER, external events

MICHAEL GRAY, newsletter editor (non-board)