

Berkeley's PATHS

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Spring 2014

April 5th Long Walk:

All-Day Adventure Will Start at the SF Ferry Building and End in Sausalito

If you enjoy spending a whole day on an interesting and scenic route, join us for BPWA's Long Walk on Saturday, April 5. We will leave from the front of the San Francisco Ferry Building at 9 a.m.

Our route will cover about 13 miles, along the Embarcadero, across Golden Gate Bridge, up the Marin Headlands, and finally down to Sausalito. We will return on a 5:35 Golden Gate ferry.

Mary Lynch, dedicated past BPWA board member and veteran of many walks with double-digit mileage, has planned the day's adventure. On the first 2.5 miles, we will spot the black and white striped vertical "history stations" and bronze inlays that tell the colorful history of San Francisco's waterfront in stories, photographs, and poetry.

Following some of the more urban portions of the SF Bay Trail, we will reach Fisherman's Wharf and Ghirardelli Square. From there we will head toward Fort Mason's historic red-roofed buildings, where we will walk through a community garden. We will cross Marina Green to Crissy Field and some close encounters with Mark di Suvero's huge metal sculptures. We will stop there for a restroom and lunch break. Concessions will be busy, so bring your own food and beverages.

After lunch we will walk the 1.7 miles of the Golden Gate Bridge, cross under it, and start up the Coastal Trail. It snakes to the crest of the ridge, where

it joins the .8 mile SCA Trail (built by the Student Conservation Association). A short downhill on the .5 mile Morn-



Photo by Colleen Neff

Mark di Suvero's huge metal sculptures adorn Crissy Field, harmonizing with the bridge.

ing Sun Trail will take us to Highway 101, where we will cross under the freeway to reach a series of Sausalito stairways leading down to the ferry landing. Tickets for the 30-minute ride back to the Ferry Building are \$10.25 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Clipper cards are accepted.

The total time, including stops for snacks and lunch, will be about seven hours. Most of the route is flat, except for the uphill on Coastal Trail, which is nicely graded with switchbacks, and the stairways in Sausalito.

Descriptions of BPWA's three previous long walks are available by clicking "Self-Guided Walks" on www.berkeleypaths.org

BPWA Walks

Walks last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted and are free and open to all. Bring snacks and water. All transit information assumes starting at Downtown Berkeley BART. Weather cancellations will be posted on berkeleypaths.org. Questions about walks? Write: walks@berkeleypaths.org.

We use these terms to help you predict the difficulty of a walk:

Terrain

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.

Only recommended for those in good physical condition.

Pace

LEISURELY: 1 mph or less

MODERATE: 1-2 mph

MODERATELY FAST: 2-3 mph

FAST: Vigorous; at least 3 mph

April 5, Sat., 9 a.m.

The Long Walk: SF Ferry Building to Sausalito

Leader: Mary Lynch

Start: In front of the Ferry Building

Transit: BART to Embarcadero

This all-day walk covers about 13 miles, from the SF Ferry Building to Sausalito. Bring lunch and drinks. We will return on a 5:35 ferry. [See more details in the story to left.] Rain cancels.

No dogs, please.

Terrain: MEDIUM DIFFICULT

Pace: MODERATE

April 12, Sat., 2 p.m.

Whole Berkeley Walk, Part 4

Leaders: Zeke Gerwein & Jacob Lehmann Duke

Start: Solano and The Alameda

Transit: AC Bus #18

Our intrepid young guides will take us on the fourth leg of our six-part series, covering every path in Berkeley. Be ready for lots of stairs and uneven footing. The 6.8-mile route will take 3½ to 4 hours.

Rain Cancels. **No dogs, please.**

Terrain: MEDIUM DIFFICULT

Pace: MODERATELY FAST

(Walks are continued on page 2)

(Walks continued)

**May 3, Saturday, 2 p.m.
Whole Berkeley Walk, Part 5**

Leaders: Zeke Gerwein & Jacob Lehmann Duke

Start: Acton and Virginia Streets

Transit: BART to North Berkeley

At 7.1 miles, this is the longest walk in our six-part series, but it has the least elevation gain and the fewest paths. Be prepared to follow our young leaders for 3½ to 4 hours. **RAIN CANCELS. No dogs.**

Terrain: MEDIUM DIFFICULT

Pace: MODERATELY FAST

**May 11, Sunday, 10 a.m.
Mother's Day Stroll: Willard Plus**

Leader: Ron Sipherd

Start: Regent and Russell Streets

Transit: AC bus #1, #51B

Bring your mom on this Southside tour of Willard neighborhood and beyond. A local history expert, Ron will share the lore and landmarks that make this such an interesting area. From Walter Ratcliff's first design to the site of an old dairy, you are in for surprises. Preview the route under "Upcoming Events" at berkeleypaths.org

RAIN CANCELS. Well-behaved dogs on leashes permitted.

Terrain: EASY • **Pace:** LEISURELY

**June 1, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.
Whole Berkeley Walk, Part 6**

Leaders: Zeke Gerwein & Jacob Lehmann Duke

Start: Domingo Ave. and Tunnel Rd.

Transit: AC bus #49, #51B

With this five-mile Southside route, we will have done every path in Berkeley. Our final installment includes stairs and will take about 2½ hours. Join us for a small celebration at the "finish line" to thank our boy-wonder guides and to recognize those who completed the whole series.

Rain cancels. **No dogs please.**

Terrain: MEDIUM DIFFICULT • **Pace:** MODERATELY FAST

**June 15, Sunday, 10 a.m. –
Kids' Bingo: Murals and More!**

Leader: Sandy Friedland

Start: Mi Terra Foods, 2082 San Pablo Ave.

Transit: AC bus #51

Dads (and moms), bring your four-to seven-year olds on this Father's Day walk in West Berkeley. We'll inspect colorful murals and other interesting sights, with a stop for snacks and the bathroom. Optional pizza lunch afterward. Every child must be accompanied by an adult and able to walk 1½ miles with frequent stops. Limit: 20 children.

RSVP: berkeleywalker@gmail.com

RAIN CANCELS. No dogs, please.

Terrain: FLAT • **Pace:** Leisurely

Meet the Paths:

Newest Path Honors Betty Olds — Colleen Neff

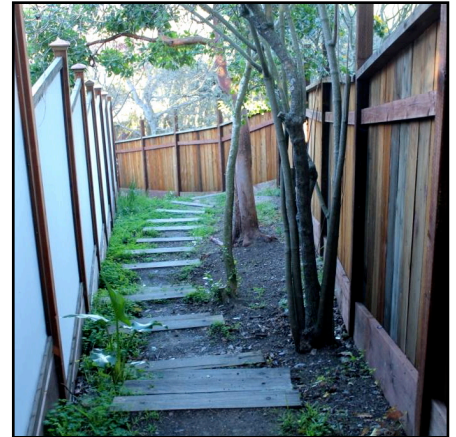
A rustic stairway, named for long-serving former City Councilwoman Betty Olds, is Berkeley's newest path. Olds was an early and avid supporter of BPWA — and still is — and donated much of the money for first edition of the *Berkeley's Pathways* map in 2002.

Located in the North Berkeley hills, Betty Olds Path links Whitaker Avenue to Twain Avenue, which becomes Sterling Avenue just north of the path. It originally was called Twain Path (#68 on the map).

Olds, now 93, describes her efforts to help reclaim, restore, and raise awareness of the 136 city-owned paths as "one of the most rewarding things I did as a City Councilwoman."

A year ago, when BPWA began clearing brush from the undeveloped Twain Path, three fences were blocking it. "The neighbors on both sides were pleasant and helpful," recalls Steve Glaeser, BPWA's path-building supervisor. "They allowed our volunteers to remove all the fences, and one neighbor even reset a landscaping drainage pipe."

Eventually, BPWA volunteers installed 112 wood-tie steps. But they facing one new challenge during construction: buried utilities. "It was the first time that we had worked on a path where all the wires were underground," Glaeser explained. "After checking with PG&E, we dug pilot holes to confirm the location of the conduit."



— photo by Steve Glaeser

Betty Olds Path offers a shady respite.

Volunteers also hauled in extra dirt to build up the ground, creating a further buffer from the utilities. As an extra precaution, the crew used slightly shorter pieces of rebar to secure the steps on the conduit side of the path.

"I called it 'three-laws safe,'" said Glaeser.

January 11, a smiling Olds cut a bright pink ribbon, officially opening the path. On hand were Mayor Tom Bates, State Senator Loni Hancock, City Council Member Susan Wengraf; many of Betty's friends and relatives; and several dozen path enthusiasts.

Olds says she is particularly pleased that her namesake path is near Anne Brower Path, which connects Miller and Stevenson Avenues. The late Anne Brower was the wife of environmentalist David Brower and an environmentalist in her own right. She also was a neighbor and close friend of Olds, who, in 2002, spearheaded the effort to renaming Twin Path (#70) to memorialize Brower.

Path wanderers already are enjoying this lovely pathway, with only dogwood, plum, madrone, and white oak branches above it and — at least for a while — the scent of jasmine in the the air.



— Photo by Colleen Neff

Betty Olds opens her namesake path on January 11.

BPWA Board Meetings

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

Path Builders Tackle New Projects, Revisit an Old One

BPWA's tireless path builders have been hard at work, gaining new skills and making it safer and ever more pleasant to walk in the Berkeley hills.

Last June, they began working on Upper Halkin Walk, between Euclid and Hilldale Avenues.

The construction quickly became a community effort as neighbors began pitching in to set the steps. In October, Charlie Bowen, BPWA's long-time path building lead, welcomed a crew of 15 UC students. They installed steps and pulled some of the persistent ivy at the top of the path.

By January, the path was complete with more than 150 new steps. However, because of the steep switchbacks in the bottom section, the path will remain roped off and unsigned until handrails are in place. BPWA will pay for their fabrication and installation, which is scheduled for April.

Five faithful volunteers known as the "Weekday Hotshots," recently completed a shortcut at the top of the Glendale-La Loma Park Trail. Dubbed "Charlie's Secret Path" because it is not an official city path, it follows historic deer trails. They start at an old retaining wall near the bottom of Shasta Road and lead up to the ball field in the lower part of Glendale-La Loma Park.

BPWA path builders have been widening and adding steps to the old trails. The newest section bypasses a

sunny area at the top and, instead, goes through a shady stand of oak trees to reach the steps at the end of Quarry Lane. Walkers who want to pass through the park no longer will

Glaeser says.

BPWA's current project is Stoddard Path. Volunteers are resetting 50 steps and adding enough new ones to make the rise and run more uniform.

Completed in 2003, Stoddard Path was the first BPWA volunteers built under Bowen's guidance. Eagle Scouts had worked on some paths before that, and their leaders helped BPWA get started. "We enjoyed the experience tremendously," recalls Bowen. That excitement propelled us to tackle more and more paths. Over the years, we have greatly improved our techniques, so the new Stoddard Path will be much more comfortable to use."



— Photo by Steve Glaeser

Steep terrain on Glendale-LaLoma Trail challenges John Kenny (l) and Bob Gomez.

have to cross the often-soggy ball field. "Because the shortcut was so narrow and traversed a very steep slope, it was quite difficult to pass each other and share tools," says Steve Glaeser, path building supervisor. "The Hotshots reached new levels of cooperation."

Those efforts paid off. The new shortcut winds up and around a small hill at the top of Codornices creek canyon. "It's one of the most beautiful paths we have ever built,"

Watch for Our Booth at BAHA's Annual House Tour May 4th

The Annual BAHA House Tour will be Sunday, May 4, from 1 to 5 p.m. It will feature houses around what arguably is Berkeley's most famous path: Bernard Maybeck's pink Rose Walk. BPWA volunteers will be selling maps, tee shirts, tote bags, and note cards.

For more information about the tour, visit www.berkeleyheritage.com

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 BPFPP (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 _____
- I am interested in volunteering

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

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
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Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

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If you see "Mem 13" by your name, please renew your membership as soon as possible. "Mem 14" indicates that you have already paid for this year's membership.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Spring 2014

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 also 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.



— Photo by Colleen Neff

This whimsical gate on Spruce St. was just one of the highlights of our March 3rd walk, led by Mr. Quirky Berkeley, aka Tom Dalzell. Eighty people braved the rain to see everything from a topiary giraffe to a skeletal trumpeter.

Special Thanks to Our Generous Supporters

Since its founding, BPWA has kept dues at \$5. The good news is that we have averaged nearly 500 member households a year. However, their dues cover only a fraction of our expenses. We depend on the generosity of our members — and occasional grants — to fulfill our mission. We sincerely thank the following people who donated at least \$25 in addition to paying dues.

\$500+

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