

The Wanderer

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Fall, 2015 Vol. 18, No. 3

BPWA's Annual Meeting September 24th Will Highlight Berkeley's WPA Treasures

By Glen Lindwall

Berkeley is a joy to walk through, not only because of its incredible network of public pathways but also because of the rich variety of public buildings, parks and works of art created during Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Project Administration (WPA).

Join us as we celebrate these fascinating gems at our Annual Meeting, Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m., at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. (between Spruce & Arch). Admission is free.



Photo by Harvey Smith

This metal plaque at the Rose Garden is one of the only ones that vandals and thieves have left untouched.

Our keynote speaker is noted WPA expert and author Harvey Smith, president of the National New Deal Preservation Association and project advisor to the Living New Deal. He will present an overview of the New Deal, using Berkeley as a prime example of its achievements.

In the 1930s and early 1940s, our city benefitted from many WPA projects, among them the Rose Garden, the main post office, the Civic Center, and some buildings on the UC-Berkeley campus.

These projects, says Harvey, "left a lasting legacy of utilitarian and beautiful infrastructure, helping to shape the city and the lives of its residents." The "hidden histories" of these buildings and works of art



Photo by Harvey Smith

The man in the center of this bas relief at the Berkeley main post office holds a package addressed to "All Mankind, Truth Abode on Freedom Road."

have been ignored or forgotten, according to Harvey, but their significant impact still is relevant to current social, political, and economic challenges.

As a follow up to his talk, Harvey will lead a tour Saturday, September 26, of some of Berkeley's most important WPA sites. For more details, see berkeleypaths.org

A brief business meeting before the program will include the election of BPWA Board members. Steve Glaeser will review the latest accomplishments of our volunteer path-building and path-maintenance crews, and we will recognize those who led walks in the last year.

Harvey's book, *Berkeley and the New Deal* (Arcadia Press, 2014), will be on sale as will the latest edition of our *Berkeley and Its Pathways* map and other BPWA merchandise. Light refreshments will be served.

Notice our new masthead?
See page 2.

BPWA Walks

Walks proceed at 1.5 to 2 mph, last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted, and are free and open to all. Questions about a walk? Well in advance of the date, please write us at: walks@berkeleypaths.org Weather cancellations will be posted the morning of the walk on berkeleypaths.org Please note: Our walks have become so popular that we no longer can accommodate your dogs except on our Pooches on the Paths walks.

Bear Hunt Bingo

Saturday, Oct. 17 @ 2 p.m.

Leader: Sandy Friedland

Start: Sproul Hall Steps

Attention "hunters" ages four to eight: Come track down bears — plus a few other critters — in the wilds of the UC campus. This latest version of our bingo walks for kids will cover two miles and last about 90 minutes with snacks. An adult must accompany every sharp-eyed stalker. The paved route has some gentle hills, and we'll cross a few streets. This walk is limited to 20 children. To reserve a spot, please write to berkeleywalker@gmail.com

Pleasures of Piedmont

Saturday, Oct. 24 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Ronna Benjamin and Marjorie Blackwell

Start: Large blue vase in Exedra Plaza, 711 Highland Ave.

In just a square mile, Piedmont packs in plenty for us to enjoy, including an historic Japanese Tea Garden. On this moderately paced 3.5-mile walk, we'll explore lush Piedmont Park via its steep creek-side paths, climb lots of stairways, and wander hilly and winding streets that are bordered by some of the most beautiful mansions in the East Bay. Expect scenic views and some Halloween eye candy.

Hills of El Cerrito Power Walk

Sunday, Nov. 1 @ 11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

Start: Lower entrance to Huber Park (Terrace Dr. just east of Seaview Dr.)

Join our teen friends Zeke and Jacob on another of their amazing, fast-paced hikes. On this strenuous six-miler, they will lead us up and down the stair paths of El Cerrito and through the surprisingly large Hillside Nature Area with its network of dirt trails, some with uneven footing. Be prepared for steep runs of stairs as well as hilly streets and paths on this three-hour adventure. Bring a picnic lunch for a twenty-minute break around 1:00.

(Walks Continued)

Lefty Berkeley

Saturday, Nov. 7 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Colleen Neff

Start: Plaza by Downtown Berkeley BART

We will only make left turns as we pay homage to Berkeley's colorful political history on this moderately paced, 3.5-mile walk. Among the places we'll visit are sites that made the Free Speech Movement so influential and enduring, the anti-war mural on Dwight and Telegraph, and the Addison St. pavers inscribed with Berkeley historical events. We'll be on city sidewalks and a few unpaved campus paths, but we will never, ever veer to the right. Love beads, peace symbols, and tie-dyed shirts are entirely optional.

Pooches on the Paths

Sunday, Dec. 6 @ 10:30 am

Leaders: Figgy & Wally

Start: Glendale-La Loma Park, upper parking lot on Glendale Ave

Would you believe that Berkeley has more than fifty parks? Our four-footed walk leaders "bow-vowed" to frolic in every one them, whether big or small, wildly popular or nearly secret. In this continuation of our dog-friendly walk series, we'll explore five more green spaces, high in the North Berkeley hills. The route is almost three miles with some steep stairways. We will take a break for biscuits and cookies halfway through.

Holiday Open Studios and Some Local Treasures

Saturday, Dec. 12 @ 1 p.m.

Leader: Kay Englund

Start: Corner of Derby and Mabel Streets

Get some of your holiday shopping done on this reprise of last year's successful open studios walk. This time around, we'll spend about an hour seeing some Southwest Berkeley treasures that aren't for sale, including the so-called fish house and a thriving urban farm. We'll also visit some home studios in the neighborhood. We'll then spend 1½-2 hours going to open studios in the historic Sawtooth Building at 9th and Dwight Ave. You'll meet local artisans who sell their hand-crafted jewelry, textiles, wood and glass items, and more. Most will accept cash or credit cards, and some even take checks (remember those?). This leisurely walk will cover 2-3 flat miles on sidewalks.

After 18 Years, A New Name For

By Sandy Friedland

This issue, Vol. 18, No. 3, marks a turning point in the history of our newsletter. It finally has a real name!

Impetus for this change came from Brian Shea, a novelist and graphic designer who recently moved to Oakland and volunteered to evaluate the design of our newsletter. When we met with him, he pointed out that

Of course, our newsletter has not been static. Vol. 1, No. 1 appeared in September, 1998, three months after 55 people jammed into a room at Live Oak Park Community Center for the first BPWA general meeting.

That debut edition was titled, simply: *Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Newsletter*. Created with basic word-processing, it was one page

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
— NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 1 2371 Eunice St., Berkeley, CA 94708 September, 1998


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

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. We hope to accomplish this goal through a series of activities open to all who wish to participate; these include: scheduled, peer-led path walks; identification and accurate mapping of the complete path network developed or undeveloped, as well as rights-of-way that have been blocked or obscured. We hope the final outcome of the community effort will be the restoration and on-going maintenance of all the paths and steps throughout Berkeley.

BPWA founding members — Ruth Moskowitz, Jacque Ensign, Eleanor Gibson, and Pat DeVito — developed a path survey form and volunteer questionnaire in order to recruit volunteers to re-inventory and update path repair needs, signage, and accessibility to walkers. To date, approximately four-fifths of the 150-plus known paths have been surveyed by the community, over 111 path signs have been identified as missing. BPWA has held two general meetings at Live Oak Recreation Center — in May and in June, 1998 — to present this project to the public; over 100 people attended these meetings to show their support for path preservation. The Berkeley City Council has allocated \$5000 in the 1998-99 budget to begin the process of replacing path signs.

The next general meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 24, 7 to 9 PM, Live Oak Recreation Center, 1301 Shtatuck Avenue, Berkeley.** See agenda below.

THE MEADOW LARK by Benjamin Parke Avery
... The meadow slopes to meet the bay.
The gulls in flocks uprise;
And far above the waters gray
Soars purple Tamaulipas.
Berkeley, February 23, 1874



Copyright, by Benjamin Parke Avery. Reprinted by permission of the Trustees of the Berkeley Press, 1978. View of the meadow from the Berkeley Press, 1874. A sketch by Ruth Shea. From "The Wanderer" and copyright by Brian Shea.

Vol. 1, No. 1; Fall, 1998

Berkeley's PATHS


A Newsletter of The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Spring 1999. Vol. 2, No. 2

**Remembering the Marin Circle Fountain
& Fountain Walk Restoration**

Guil Killeen, Linda Perry and Emily Sauer gave an inspirational history on their efforts to restore Fountain Walk and the Marin Circle Fountain at our last BPWA meeting. Beginning with some post-meeting, they expanded their efforts by organizing workgroups to uncover the beautiful balustrades along Fountain Walk, which had been buried under masses of bamboo, ivy, ivories, peaches and cedar.

I loved newspapers and genetic lines. They made daily calls to our offices and joined forces with a composing committee, eventually forging a coalition. They also bravely launched a fundraising campaign in the neighborhood, an effort which lasted four years and involved 1200 donors.

"Neighbors design their public spaces & then public spaces design the people."
Jerry Tierney, Berkeley architect



Join Us at the First Annual Potluck!
May 8, 6:00pm - 1:00pm, please arrive at 5:30pm at the park, near the live oak center. Bring a delicious dish or drink as well as any stories and dreams you have about the paths, and pictures which you would like to share. And come relax in the park with those interested in the paths of Berkeley.

Upcoming Meetings
General Meetings
7-9 pm, Live Oak Park Recreation Center
September 1998
Photometric May Walk, by Ron Shea.
Sandra Strick and Steve Berkeley Can You Be November 1998

Vol. 2, No. 2; Spring, 1999

Berkeley's Paths did not seem like an appropriate name for a publication.

Apparently, our editors had simply copied the masthead from issue to issue, but no one had questioned the generic name. When Brian raised the issue, however, we decided to break with tradition. The Board quickly agreed on the name *The Wanderer*, but that meant we also needed a new masthead.

Brian patiently proposed one design after another, some with a steps and a curving line of type suggesting movement. But the board missed the simplicity of the original masthead.

Finally, Eva Cohen, a Berkeley resident who teaches both graphic design and typography at Diablo Valley College, coaxed Brian's curving title into just the right shape and blended in the other elements of a masthead. We also added the new masthead to Brian's redesign of our membership coupon on page three.

printed on both sides. It had short announcements of BPWA events, two nature poems, and a photo of an 1878 engraving of the Golden Gate Bridge seen from the Berkeley hills.

The newly drafted BPWA mission statement sat right under the masthead, followed by a longer description of the organization.

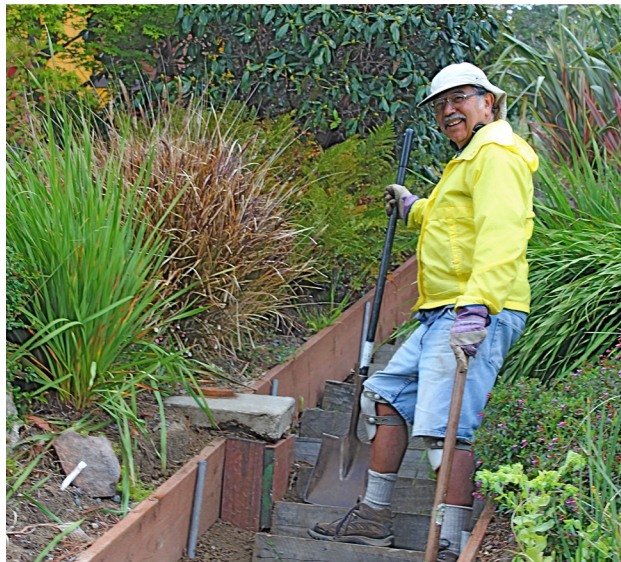
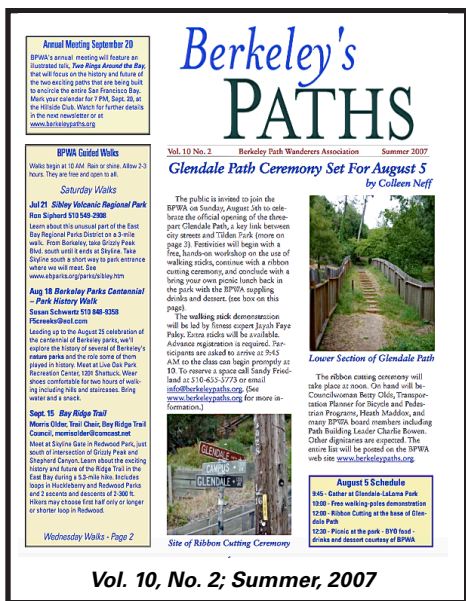
Soon Karen Kemp, a local graphic artist and an original BPWA board member, became the editor. She created more complex layouts and a beautiful, two-line masthead for the Spring, 1999, newsletter, which read: *Berkeley's Paths*. That graphic, with its italic and Roman typefaces, gave BPWA a lasting logo. A version of that design eventually graced the first edition our *Berkeley Pathways* map, published in June, 2002.

Our mission statement would come and go from page one whenever editors needed more space for special notices. By the Spring, 2006 issue, the

This Newsletter

newsletter had grown to four pages, under Will Schieber's editorship. He moved the mission statement permanently to the back page. He also edited our website, where he posted scans of past newsletters.

In 2007, the late Dale Miller took over both the website and newsletter. He added more colors to its online version. The gray and black masthead became emerald green and royal blue



Bob Gomez puts the finishing touches on the retaining boards at the bottom of Stoddard Path. He says that building paths is far less frustrating than some of the projects he worked on during his long career as a Cal Trans engineer.

He is the latest winner of the Jacque Award, which is named for Jacque Ensign, a BPWA co-founder and its first president.

Bob Gomez Named 2015 Jacque Award Winner

After nearly forty years as a Cal Trans engineer, Bob Gomez knew how to make it easier for people to get from one place to another, but he had never built a path.

By all accounts, he was a quick study. For the last four years, he has helped complete some of the toughest paths in the Berkeley Hills as a member of the Weekly Hot Shots. That team devotes two mornings a week to building and improving paths.

Bob's dedication and willingness to take on just about any job that needs doing have earned him the 2015 Jacque Award for outstanding contributions as a BPWA volunteer.

"He fit right in very quickly," notes Steve Glaeser, co-leader of BPWA's

path-building projects. "He really enjoys building things and solving problems on the fly, and he also works well with others."

Bob particularly enjoys that collaborative process. "We each contribute our ideas and come up with a solution. Plus, I get to use my engineering skills: thinking, laying things out, and making them aesthetically pleasing."

Off the paths, Bob devotes himself to mentoring high school and college students, particularly those of Mexican descent. As someone who taught himself the skills necessary to earn his civil engineering license, Bob is a terrific role model for those he takes under his wing and steers toward college. Sometimes he even pays their college tuition.

"He helps high school students build good study habits and navigate the college application process," says Jaz Zeitlin, another Hot Shot. "He's very proud of their accomplishments."

Bob also gets great satisfaction from pulling tree stumps, placing steps, and setting posts for a railing. "I love contributing to the design and construction of something people can actually use."

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 to:

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

Please make checks payable to our fiscal parent: Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPFP)

THE Wanderer
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Name: _____
Address: _____
email: _____
tel (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$5 for new membership I am interested in volunteering
 I am enclosing \$5 for renewal membership I am also enclosing a donation of: _____

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

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Fall 2015

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, is dedicated to the creation, preservation, and restoration of public paths and stairways for the use and enjoyment of all. We are community volunteers who work to increase awareness of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include offering guided walks, mapping Berkeley's path network, and building and maintaining the paths with wood-tie steps on previously inaccessible city-owned rights-of-way.

Pick up a copy of the 7th edition of *Berkeley and Its Pathways* at these vendors:

Berkeley Ace Hardware
Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc.
Berkeley City Club
Berkeley Historical Society
Berkeley Hort
Black Oak Books
Books, Inc. (new location on Shattuck)
Builders Booksource
The Campus Store
East Bay Nursery
EBRPD Nature Center
Ecology Center
Lawrence Hall of Science
Moe's Books
Monterey Market
Mrs. Dalloway's
Oakland Museum gift shop
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Photo by Colleen Neff

When the neighbors of Atlas Path did some landscaping last fall, they added this lovely, easy-to-read wooden signpost.