

The Wanderer

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

BPWA's Annual Meeting Will Feature Mr. Quirky Berkeley and Mark the 25th Anniversary of the Firestorm in the Hills

Tom Dalzell, aka Mr. Quirky Berkeley, will share slides and stories of his favorite Berkeley oddities as the keynote speaker at BPWA's Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St.).

Because this event falls on the 25th anniversary of the start of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills Fire, we also will have a short, illustrated talk on that tragedy and its aftermath by Ken Benson, a fire prevention activist.

In many ways, Berkeley's paths link these two seemingly disparate topics.

During the fire, we learned how vital paths are in disasters, offering hill residents safe evacuation routes and giving first responders access to the emergency. In no small part, our path-building efforts are inspired by the need to add more of these crucial alternatives to streets.

Our mission also is to make Berkeley more walkable. When we complete unfinished paths on city-owned rights-of-way, more people can enjoy the quirks and other delights to be found when wandering Berkeley on foot.

In light of these goals, Steve Glaeser, co-leader of BPWA's Path Builders, will briefly summarize how our volunteers have improved and extended the path system in the past year.

In his talk, Tom will describe his

passion for the "oddball, whimsical, and eccentric," and show highlights from his new book, *Quirky Berkeley*, and preview his next one.

A labor lawyer who has lived in Berkeley more than thirty years, Tom began walking every block in the city in 2012, photographing and researching its quirky yard art along the way.



Buldan Seka's giant ceramic figures on Spruce St. are typical of Berkeley's quirky culture.

photo by John Storey

He started his Quirky Berkeley blog in 2013 and began leading popular walks for BPWA. *Berkeley-side* posts Tom's profiles of local artists, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*

have spotlighted Tom himself.

In his presentation, Ken Benson will discuss the causes and toll of the 1991 conflagration and underscore efforts to prevent another. He co-founded Oakland's Firesafe Council and was the first chair of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, an area in the Oakland hills at high risk for wildfires.

Before and after the meeting, we will be selling Tom's *Quirky Berkeley* and *The Homeowner's Guide to Wildfire Prevention* by Bob Sieben. Our maps, shirts, notecards and other merchandise also will be on sale. Representatives from Claremont Canyon Conservancy will be on hand to answer questions and distribute fire-prevention literature.

The meeting is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

BPWA Walks

Walks proceed at 1.5 to 2 m.p.h., last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted, and are free and open to all. Questions about a walk? Well before the date, please write us at: walks@berkeleypaths.org

Weather cancellations will be posted on the morning of the walk at 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.

Firestorm Anniversary Walks

BPWA and Claremont Canyon Conservancy will co-sponsor two walks to commemorate the 1991 fire in the Berkeley-Oakland Hills. See the complete descriptions on page 3.

#1: Field Walk in Claremont Canyon

Sunday, October 16 @ 9 a.m.

Leaders: Bob Strayer and Martin Holden
Start: Signpost 29 on south side of Claremont Ave, 1.5 miles uphill from the Claremont Hotel

#2: Claremont Hotel to Hiller Highlands

Saturday, October 22 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Sandy Friedland and Bill McClung
Start: Bottom of the Short Cut path, in the back of the Claremont Hotel parking lot closest to the Tunnel Road entrance.

Mosaic Stairways of San Francisco

Sunday, October 30 @ 1 p.m.

Leaders: Sophia Lehmann and Jacob Lehmann Duke
Start: Bottom of Lincoln Park Steps @ 32nd Ave. and California St.

Transit: BART to Muni lines 1 or 38R

This vigorous six-mile walk, led by two BPWA board members, begins at the beautiful Lincoln Park Steps. Their creator, Aileen Barr, will meet us to describe her work and the building of this elaborate new mosaic. We'll then wend through the Richmond and Sunset Districts, traversing Golden Gate Park in between, to reach the Hidden Garden Steps and the 16th Avenue Tiled Steps Project. Finally, we'll explore the elegant homes, parks, and fountains of St. Francis Wood, ending at the West Portal Station, at West Portal Ave. and Ulloa St. This walk has many steps, some steep.

Lefty Berkeley

Saturday, November 5 @ 2 p.m.

Leader: Colleen Neff

Start: NW corner of Shattuck and Addison

Back by popular demand, the weekend before Election Day, BPWA's own president will lead us on this homage to Berkeley's colorful political past. We will make only left turns on this moderately paced, 3.5-mile walk. We'll visit sites that made the Free Speech Movement so influential, the anti-war mural on Dwight and Telegraph, the Addison St. pavers inscribed with historical events, and more. We'll be on sidewalks plus a few unpaved paths, but we will never, ever veer to the right. Love beads, peace signs, and tie-dyed shirts are entirely optional.

(More walks on page two)

(Walks Continued)

Pooches on the Paths:

Marina Mutt Strut
Friday, November 11 @ 1 p.m.

Leaders: Figgy & Wally
Start: Shorebird Park Nature Center
(160 University, west of Adventure Playground)

This installment of our All-the-Parks-in-Berkeley series is nautical in nature. We'll be heading out to sea to visit the Berkeley Marina and explore five waterfront parks. As we stroll along by pleasure crafts and houseboats, you'll be surprised by how much bold and colorful public art you'll see. We'll walk at a leisurely pace along this flat route, enjoying the spectacular Bay views. Dog or no dog, all are welcome.

Marina Bay Segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail (wheelchair accessible)

Sunday, December 4 @ 11 a.m.

Leaders: Lori Gray and Heather Schouler
Start: Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center (1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond)
Join us as we partner with Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP) for a gentle, 2.5-mile accessible stroll along the Marina Bay segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail. Heather, BPWA's walks co-chair, will team up with Lori, BORP Adventures and Outings Coordinator, to lead us through this fascinating area, home of Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Park. A ranger will introduce us to the park as we walk to Lucretia Edwards Park. We'll then continue on the paved, level Bay Trail, dotted with history kiosks. We'll see the Rosie the Riveter Memorial and then double back. Sitting areas and accessible restrooms are available, and service and guide dogs are welcome. For transportation assistance, contact Lori, by Nov. 1, at (510) 849-4663, ext. 1373.

Remembering Sylvia McLaughlin
Thursday, December 15 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Robert Cheasty, Susan Schwartz, and Doris Sloan

Start: Sea Breeze Market and Deli
(598 University Ave, Berkeley)

We will remember Save the Bay Co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin as we explore McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. Guiding us will be three local experts: Robert, executive director and co-founder of Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP); Susan, president of Friends of Five Creeks; and Doris, a geologist and CESP board member. Our walk coincides with a King Tide, most fitting as we consider the natural history of the area, how rising sea levels can affect us, and how Sylvia's inspiring legacy can guide us in protecting the Bay. The 2.5-mile route is mostly flat, though we could encounter uneven footing or muddy stretches. Consider bringing a camera to photograph the King Tide and binoculars to enjoy the wintering waterfowl. Wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared for sun, rain, fog, wind — or all of them!

Parks and Paths Challenge: A Fun-Filled Fundraiser for All

Help us raise money to improve the paths in the Rose Garden and to add more handrails to steep stairways — and have a great time in the process.

Sign up for the Parks and Paths Challenge on Sunday, November 13, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (The rain date is Sunday, November 20.)

A creative combination of a scavenger hunt, mapping session, and workout, this event will begin and end in Codornices Park.



Half the proceeds from BPWA's Parks and Path Challenge on Nov. 13 will go toward improving the paths throughout the Berkeley Rose Garden.

Photo by Peter Herbert

The challenge involves taking one of three walks, which will vary in length and difficulty, so people of any age or fitness level can participate.

Unlike most of our walks, however, these will not be guided. Instead participants will be on their own. They'll get a map marked with numbered checkpoints and a corresponding list of questions to answer, one for each of the checkpoints.

"Your challenge is to plan a route that reaches all the points as quickly and efficiently as possible and then come back with the answers," says Jacob Lehmann Duke, the veteran BPWA walk leader, who is organizing the fundraiser. "You can go alone, go as a family, or organize a team."

A typical question, he adds, might be: "How many dogs is it legal to bring into Tilden?"

Tickets for adults are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. Children 6 to 12 are \$5, and

those under 6 are free.

To register in advance, go to: <https://parksandpathschallenge.eventbrite.com>

Even if you can't make this event, you still can contribute to the fundraiser on the Eventbrite site.

How the Walks Will Work

Choose one of these three walks and start times. The precise distance and time may vary depending on the exact route you devise.

- **Most difficult, 10 a.m.:** Eight miles, twenty checkpoints, some hilly streets and some steep stairs.
- **Intermediate, 11a.m.:** Five miles, 12 checkpoints, and some difficult terrain.
- **Easiest, noon:** Two miles, any eight of the ten possible checkpoints, easy terrain.

Because of the staggered start times, everyone should make it back to Codornices Park by 1 p.m. to receive a souvenir button and enjoy free refreshments and conversation. We'll also award prizes for a variety of categories, including the fastest time and largest family.

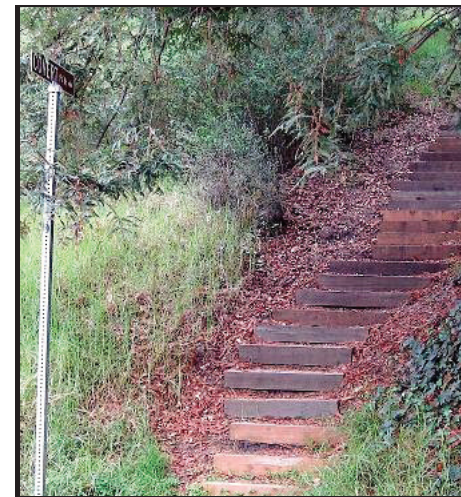
Please arrive 15-30 minutes early to sign in, get a map, hear the rules, and plan your walk. "The earlier you come," Jacob stresses, "the more time you will have to plot your ideal route."

Proceeds To Improve Access

In addition to being a great way to exercise and discover new paths, this event will support two

worthy projects. Half the proceeds will go toward making the Berkeley Rose Garden more accessible by improving its ramps and paths; the other half will go to our handrail fund.

"One day, we hope to have a designated handrail corridor," says BPWA president Colleen Neff. "It would consist of a series of consecutive paths that all would have handrails. It would give anyone



The other half of the proceeds will help put handrails on paths like Upper Covert.

Photo by Colleen Neff

who needs to hold on to a safer route up or down the hills."

So, please, help us spread the word, and bring your family and friends to the Parks and Paths Challenge. Let's make this exciting new event a resounding success.

Questions? Email Jacob at ParksAndPaths@gmail.com



Our Oct. 22 walk will go behind the Claremont Hotel into some of the neighborhoods that burned in 1991. The hotel survived these flames that killed 25 people, destroyed 3,469 homes and apartments, and took 72 hours to control.

Two Walks Will Mark Firestorm Anniversary

BPWA will partner with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy (CCC) to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills fire with two walks. The first, on Oct. 16, will be on trails in Claremont Canyon. The second, on Oct. 22, will be in the neighborhoods that burned behind the Claremont Hotel.

Formed in 2001, CCC promotes fire safety in Claremont Canyon and the efforts of homeowners to protect their property from wildfires. The group also advocates for the natural resources of the Canyon and works to improve public access to its 500 acres by building and maintaining trails there.

#1: Field Walk in Claremont Canyon Sunday, Oct. 16 @ 9 a.m.

Bob Strayer, CCC board member and Garber Park Steward; and Martin Holden, a past president of CCC and fire safety expert, will lead this 3.5-mile walk. It starts at Signpost 29, which is on the south side of Claremont Ave., 1.5 miles uphill from the Claremont Hotel.

The route highlights fire-prevention efforts in the canyon and new paths CCC has built. We'll also view the parts of the

canyon that burned in 1991.

We will carpool from Signpost 29 to park at the Claremont Ave. entrance to Garber Park. We'll cross Claremont Ave. to reach the Stonewall-Panoramic Ridge Trail, an extremely steep half-mile hill with difficult footing. Walking sticks will be helpful! (To avoid this trail, meet the group at Signpost 29 at 10:30 a.m. for the last third of the walk.)

We'll descend on a UC fire road, through the eucalyptus grove at Signpost 28, to return to Signpost 29. Then we'll do the Summit House Trail and Willow Trail loop, noting the difference between the eucalyptus grove and the restored native woodland. We'll carpool back to Garber Park to the cars parked there. A hike through that park will be optional.

#2: Claremont Hotel to Hiller Highlands Saturday, Oct. 22 @ 10 a.m.

Bill McClung, CCC board member and a steward of the Vicente Canyon Hillside Foundation Open Space; and Sandy Friedland, former BPWA president, will lead this 3.5 mile route. It begins at the foot of Short Cut path, in back of the Claremont Hotel parking lot closest to the Tunnel Road entrance.

The walk will focus on the efforts of homeowners, neighborhood groups, and public agencies to reduce the chance of another conflagration. Among the points of interest will be the hydrant that enabled fire fighters to save nearby houses, the new Sentinel Fire Station, a hidden firebreak, and the Firestorm Memorial Garden.

Along the way, we'll pass examples of "fireproof chic" architecture, meet some homeowners and fire-prevention activists, and see exactly how paths provide lifesaving egress and access in emergencies. This walk will include steep stairways, some with uneven footing and no handrails, dirt paths on a hillside, and hilly, narrow streets.

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 (BPPP)

Membership/Donation Form

THE Wanderer

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

tel (optional) _____

I am endorsing \$5 for new membership I am interested in volunteering

I am endorsing \$5 for renewal membership I am also endorsing a donation of: _____

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
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berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

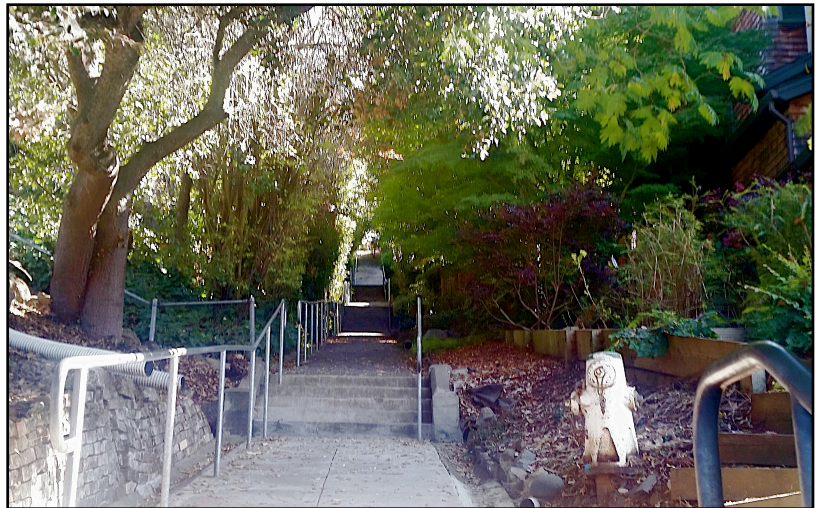
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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Fall, 2016*

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 new 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:**

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Eucalyptus Path, which links two sections of Alvarado Road, played a crucial role in the 1991 fire, enabling fire fighters and citizen volunteers to save neighboring homes. They pulled hoses, both down from the top and up from the bottom, to reach this hydrant. It took more than an hour to lay 2,500 feet of hose along the 45-percent grade of this path.

Photo by Sandy Friedland