

# The Wanderer

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Vol. 19, No. 2

Summer 2016

## BPWA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Path-a-thon is Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating Southside Paths With Three Walks, One Picnic

Mark your calendars for our lucky 13th Annual Path-a-thon on Sunday, July 10. We will offer three guided walks that leave at staggered times and vary in distance



All walks start and end on the sidewalk in front of 100-year-old John Muir School. Photo by Frances Dinkelspiel

and difficulty.

Each walk starts in front of John Muir School (2955 Claremont Avenue) and will return there by 11:45.

Unfortunately, the grounds of the school are closed during a major construction project, so our traditional BYO picnic will be at nearby Monkey Island Park, located at Garber St. and Claremont Blvd., a short walk or drive from the school.

We will provide lemonade and our always-delicious carrot cake.

Throughout the morning, our pop-up store will be open for business in front of John Muir, featuring BPWA tee shirts, caps, tote bags, walking guidebooks, notecards, posters, and — of course — our best-selling map, *Berkeley and Its Pathways*.

**Sandy Friedland** will lead the

most challenging walk, starting at 9:45. This 5-mile route passes behind the Clark Kerr campus and by the new steps, installed by BPWA path builders, at the top of Dwight Way. Walkers will continue to Orchard Lane to start climbing Panoramic Hill. Be prepared for steep stairs and streets, architectural gems, and wide-angle views. You'll return via the lower Jordan Fire Trail and a hidden path with some uneven footing through a redwood forest.

The moderate walk will leave at 10:15 led by **Elsa Tranter**. Her route winds through the hilly streets and paths below the Claremont Hotel. You'll see noteworthy homes, colorful gardens, and Bay views. To finish with some heart-pumping aerobics, Elsa will head up some of the Stonewall-Panoramic Trail in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve.

Those who prefer an easy, family-friendly stroll, should meet **Kay Englund** at 10:45. She'll lead you along some lovely streets, let you smell the roses at St. Clements Church, and show you some yard art and interesting gates. Grand mansions abound, including one with stone lions that houses a renowned Feng Shui master. The route includes Oak Knoll Path, which is steep but has no stairs.

So pick your walk, pack your lunch, and bring your family and friends to this fun event.

### 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](mailto:walks@berkeleypaths.org)

Weather cancellations will be posted on the morning of the walk on [berkeleypaths.org](http://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.**

### 13th Annual Path-a-thon Sunday, July 10

**Three walks: 9:45, 10:15, or 10:45**  
**Start: Sidewalk in front of John Muir School, 2955 Claremont Ave.**  
**BYO picnic at Monkey Island Park (See the story at left for details.)**

### Campus Highlights

**Saturday, July 23 @ 10 a.m.**

**Leader:** Ron Sipherd  
**Start:** Water sculpture (officially the "Class of 1914 Fountain"), north side of Bancroft Way at end of College Avenue

This two-mile walk includes some of the more fascinating sites on the Cal Campus. The route winds from Boalt Hall to University House and back, mostly on level pavement except for a few stairs. An expert in history and architecture, Ron will point out interesting buildings and some campus eccentricities, among them statues, ranging from the scandalous to the eminently respectable; a real mine shaft; and an outdoor museum of rocks. The walk will proceed at a moderate pace with frequent stops for commentary, anecdotes, and questions. Bring a flashlight to peer into the mine shaft. See more details at <http://sonic.net/~ronks/pix/walks/campus/>

### North Berkeley Hills Walk

**Sunday, August 14 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Wayne Huber  
**Start:** 1185 Sterling Avenue

Looking for a quick bit of exercise and some camaraderie on a Sunday morning? This easy, 1.5-mile paved walk may fit the bill. Wayne, an 18-year resident of this area, will point out the site of the original #10 Firehouse on Shasta Road, designed by James W. Plachek in 1948 but now converted into a residence, and the one that replaced it more than fifty years later. Construction of the new firehouse at the edge of Tilden Park culminated years of effort by the neighborhood to improve its fire protection. The route includes climbing two stair paths.



(Walks Continued)

★ First of its kind for BPWA! ★  
Help us spread the word.

**Teens and Tweens Take to the Trails  
Sunday, August 21@ 1:00 p.m.**

**Leaders:** Celia Lehmann Duke and Devon Luce  
**Start:** SE corner of Vine and Shattuck

If you are ten- to sixteen-years old, this is the perfect walk for you! Celia's and Devon's 3.5-mile loop will cover several of our favorite paths in the North Berkeley hills, including some with steep steps and uneven terrain. We will visit Remillard Park and explore other hidden treasures in the area. We will finish the walk at Lush Gelato, just a few steps from our start, for a celebratory post-hike treat. Bring a friend and money for a cup or cone.

**Pooches on the Paths:  
Celebrating Our Seniors  
Saturday, September 17 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Leaders:** Figgy & Wally  
**Start:** Northwest corner of Russell Street and Claremont Avenue

Is your canine companion a card-carrying member of AA-ARF-P? If so, this will be your lucky day! The Pooches on the Paths crew is dedicating this installment of their All-the-Parks-in-Berkeley series to the sensational seniors among us. Dogs and humans of any age are welcome, of course, but this route through the lovely Claremont-Uplands neighborhood will be fairly flat and covered at a leisurely stop-and-smell-the-roses pace. You'll have a chance to pick up a coffee and pastries on Domingo Avenue before our doggy-biscuit break at Monkey Island Park.

**Coffee Constitutional in Northbrae  
Sunday, September 25 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Jacque Ensign  
**Start:** Peet's at 1825 Solano Avenue

Join one of BPWA's co-founders on this easy ramble. You'll visit Berkeley's first columbarium at the Northbrae Community Church as well as the Sacred Hoop Meditation Garden that honors Native American spirituality. You also will see the site that was proposed for the State Capitol in 1908. Jacque's route will include some rock parks and a few of the paths that she has enjoyed since she was a child, including Fountain Walk and Mendocino Path. The walk will cover about two miles with some mild hills. Jacque also will offer a shorter, flatter option.

# Pooches-On-The-Paths Walks Delight Dogs and Their People

Pooches on the Paths began in 2009 when then-walk coordinator Keith Skinner wanted to try offering some walks geared to dogs and dog lovers. He asked Lynn Deregowski and her dog Bronte to help lead them. Keith assured her he would help with logistics.

"You didn't have to twist the paw of my Lab mix to say yes!" recalls Lynn, who soon joined the BPWA board.

The first few walks attracted a great mix of friendly people and dogs, so BPWA continued to schedule them. When Bronte began to slow down, Lynn's younger dog Figgy took over.

In 2015, former BPWA board member Betsy Mueller and her dog Wally, regulars on the pooches walks, began helping Lynn plan and lead

greenways, and it's great fun showing people places in Berkeley they never knew existed.

**Betsy:** To our surprise, we found 55 official parks on the BPWA map and several unofficial ones, so we had our work cut out for us! So far in our series, we've visited 14 parks, including two of those unofficial ones.

**Do Wally and Figgy enjoy the walks?**

**Lynn:** Figgy loves welcoming the two- and four-footed walkers by rolling on her back, indicating "my belly may be rubbed now." She is also a world champion sniffer, and getting to visit all these new parks is heavenly.

**Betsy:** Wally's favorite part is meeting all the new pooches. She's very social, really a universal "Type-O" dog: She seems to get along with everyone.



Lynn Deregowski and Figgy (left) and Betsy Mueller and Wally take a break in Glendale-LaLoma Park.



Sophie and Diane Schwartz take to the air in Crescent Park.



(clockwise from left) Ruby, Chester, and Figgy frolic in Park Gate Fountain in Park Hills.

walker and bio writer for Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS), our municipal shelter. I'm on the board of Friends of BACS and have raised service dogs for people with disabilities. Figgy is one of those dogs but didn't make the cut. She's known as a change-of-career dog.

**Betsy:** Wally comes from ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation) in Walnut Creek. It was love at first sight. I was supposed to "interview" five dogs at ARF, and Wally was the first. She was so loving and adorable, I just said, "I'll take this one!"

**Our next Pooches-on-the -Paths walk is on Saturday, September 17. See the details in the walk column on this page.**



## Remembering Eleanor Gibson, BPWA Co-Founder

By Sandy Friedland

Eleanor Gibson, one of the four co-founders of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, died on May 18. She was 96.

In late 1997, Eleanor, a retired special education teacher, along with Jacque Ensign, a retired social worker; Pat DeVito, a lawyer who had worked for the Berkeley Parks Department; and Ruth Armstrong (nee Moskovitz), an artist and long-time advocate for Berkeley parks, began talking about how to ensure the survival of Berkeley's paths.

"Our backgrounds were different," recalled Pat, "but we were all avid path walkers."

One of the first tasks they tackled was surveying the condition of the paths and updating an inventory that the city had done in 1977.

"Eleanor broadened the scope of our evaluation to include the aesthetics, like the views, which were important to her," said Pat.

Among many other findings, they discovered that 111 paths were missing signs.

Eleanor also made an important change to the BPWA mission statement that Pat had drafted. The original read: "Dedicated to the creation, preservation, and restoration of public paths, steps, and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all citizens."

"She wanted it to be more inclusive," said Pat, "so she cut the word *citizens*."

The women held their first open meeting May 20, 1998. To their delight, more than 100 people turned out, and BPWA was born.

"Eleanor was very smart, pleasant to work with, and assumed the thankless job of taking minutes at all our meetings," Jacque said.

Born in Duluth, MN, Eleanor raised her family in South Nyack, NY, but she moved to Berkeley in 1989 to be closer to her children and grandchildren. She lived in a tiny, beautifully appointed cottage behind the house of her daughter Austene Hall.

She immersed herself in Berkeley civic life, serving on the Shade Tree Commission and the Commission on Aging, working for the Democratic Party, and joining the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.

Austene describes her mother as an independent thinker and lifelong learner who loved history, geography, and English grammar and read five books a week. She also was a master gardener.

"She was a woman of varied talents," Austene said, "who made her mark on the world in so many ways. We were never bored around her."

the walks. Their successful every-park-in-Berkeley series, always cleverly described with lots of pet puns, launched last September.

We asked Lynn and Betsy about those walks, their dogs, and their other dog-related activities.

**Why every park in Berkeley?**

**Lynn:** The idea of visiting parks was always a part of planning the Pooches-on-the-Paths routes. One of the things I love most about having a dog is going on walks and discovering hidden gems and secret spots. We always tried to incorporate Berkeley's little-known parks and

Both our dogs enjoy the mid-walk biscuit break best of all!

**Have there been any dog fights?**

**Betsy:** No. All the dogs on our walks are friendly, well-behaved, and lovely together. Most of the time, the dogs are on leash, and they do very well on the stair paths. We do try to have at least one off-leash stop so the dogs can run free.

**Are you involved with other organizations dedicated to dogs?**

**Lynn:** Rescue dogs are close to both Betsy's and my heart. I spend a lot of time with rescue animals as a dog

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 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 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](http://berkeleypaths.org)

## Board Members

COLLEEN NEFF president  
KAY ENGLUND vice president  
MARY BIANCHI treasurer  
MARTY CAMPBELL secretary,  
e-newsletter  
ANGUS DUNSTON online sales  
SANDY FRIEDLAND map sales,  
newsletter editor  
JOHN KENNY webmaster,  
path-building liaison, membership  
SOPHIA LEHMANN walks  
GLEN LINDWALL events  
HEATHER SCHOOLER walks  
ELSA TRANTER inventory  
DAPHNE WHITE historian/archivist

## Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Summer 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 a community of volunteers who work to increase awareness of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include guided walks, mapping Berkeley's path network, and building and maintaining paths on previously inaccessible city-owned rights-of way.*

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

**Berkeley Ace Hardware**  
**Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc.**  
**Berkeley City Club**  
**Berkeley Historical Society**  
**Berkeley Hort**  
**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**  
**Mrs. Dalloway's**  
**Oakland Museum gift shop**  
**Payn's Stationery**  
**Pegasus Books, Solano & Shattuck**  
**Pendragon Books,**  
**Transports, Rockridge & Solano**  
**Turtle Island Book Shop**  
**UC Berkeley Botanical Garden**



*Having walked 16 + miles through five parks on June 5, these tired but happy hikers await the #18 bus for a welcome ride back to Berkeley. Leading our Sixth Annual Long Walk were the terrific teens, Zeke Gerwein and Jacob Lehmann Duke (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from the left in back row). Thanks boys, and congratulations to all the finishers!*

Photo by Colleen Neff