

The Wanderer

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter, 2016-17 Vol, 19, No. 4

After 19 Years, We're Going (almost) Paperless

Don't throw away this copy of *The Wanderer*. The newsletter in your hands may one day be a collector's item.

This is the final issue of BPWA's print newsletter. But don't worry! You won't miss out on any of our news, features, walk promos, or volunteer profiles. That information now will come every month, directly into your e-mail in-box.

In early January, you'll receive our first, redesigned, expanded, full-color e-newsletter. It will be easy to read and to navigate, with lots of live links to our website. It will be a snap to sign up to volunteer to build paths or lead walks, buy maps and merchandise, and keep up with our projects and events.

"We heard what our members were telling us," says BPWA President Colleen Neff. "More and more people said they no longer wanted a paper newsletter. This move will save money — and trees."

Colleen added that the small number of members who do not use e-mail should "mail us a note, and we will print out and mail them copies."

We do plan to produce a printed annual report in December, however. It will have the self-mailer like the one inside this newsletter for renewing your membership and, we hope, donating to BPWA.

Our current monthly e-newsletter has gone out for years, skillfully edited most recently by Martha Campbell. The content mainly promoted our upcoming events, maps, and merchandise, and the template had no embellishments.

An early advocate for revamping the e-newsletter has been new board member Abby Rutchick, who moved to Ber-

keley from Minneapolis last year. She immediately joined Path Wanderers, bringing her more than 25 years of experience running small businesses and expertise in marketing and project management. To our delight, she volunteered to produce a more cutting-edge, expanded version of our digital newsletter.

"Abby's enthusiasm for upgrading our monthly e-newsletter and phasing out the print edition was contagious," recalls BPWA Vice President Kay Englund, another Minneapolis transplant who has known Abby for years.

We also turned to former board member Lynn Deregowski for help. She produces digital newsletters for Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services

and the East Bay chapter of Canine Companions for Independence, so she had the technical savvy to steer us through our transition from paper to pixel.

Soon Abby's husband Orin joined the production team, offering his graphic-design and photography skills, honed during his long career as a professional photographer, photo editor, creative director, and visual artist. He came up with a gorgeous and flexible template that should attract more attention and usher us into the digital age.

Sandy Friedland, who has edited the printed newsletter, will supervise the copy for the electronic version.

We are confident this change will improve our ability to communicate with you, give us more flexibility in both our content and deadlines, and integrate more seamlessly with our website and Facebook page.

We hope you'll agree!



BPWA Walks

Our walks 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.

Step Into the New Year Sunday, January 1 @ 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Glen Lindwall

Start: Southwest corner of The Arlington and Coventry Road, Kensington (AC Transit #7 bus stop)

Celebrate the start of 2017 on this cheerful, three-to-four mile jaunt on ups and downs and — if it's not too muddy — the ridge line along the Berkeley-Kensington border. Our traditional New Year's Day walk provides the perfect antidote for too much revelry the night before. Once again, we will pause at Dorothy Bolte Park so those who are bold enough can try the slide. But everyone will enjoy wide vistas and good fellowship. Our pace will be moderate, but be prepared for many stairs, some steep, and possibly some muddy areas.

Inspiring Awe in Strawberry Canyon Saturday, January 21 @ 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Jesse Antin

Start: Parking lot, UC Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory, Gauss Way off Centennial Dr. Space is limited, so ride-sharing or public transportation is encouraged (AC Transit #65)

Savor some awe-inspiring parts of magnificent Strawberry Canyon and learn what researchers have discovered about the experience of awe. Our leader on this seven-mile adventure is the Director of Development at the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley, which is devoted to studying compassion, happiness, and altruism. This moderately-paced hike will take at least three hours. Grades are generally easy, and the quality of the trails is good, though they may be muddy. This route has no restrooms.

Jesse highly recommends that, before this walk, you explore the resources found here: www.berkeleypaths.org/?p=3259

Puppy Love on the Paths Saturday, February 11 @ 10:00 a.m.

Leaders: Wally & Figgy

Start: NE corner of Solano Ave & The Alameda

Jump start your Valentine's Day surrounded by what you love: paths, parks and pooches. This two-mile installment of our All-the-Parks-in-Berkeley series will cover the Thousand Oaks neighborhood and include five parks, many paths, some only-in-Berkeley yard art, and a poetry wall. Whether you have a four-footed heartthrob or not, you'll be welcome. We'll stroll for about two hours at a pace conducive to chatting and discovering. However, this route does include several older paths with rugged, uneven footing or steep steps.

(Walks Continued)

Meet Our New Paths

Saturday, February 25 @ 1:30 p.m.

Leader: Charlie Bowen

Start: The bottom of John Muir Path (701 Grizzly Peak Blvd.)

Join us as we officially open and rename our most recently completed path: John Muir Path (nee: Keeler Walk). Following a brief ceremony, Charlie will lead us on a winding three-mile route that will include ten paths that we have built in the past 12 years. The pace will be moderate, but be prepared for significant ups and downs on both streets and wood-tie steps. She has led our path-building efforts since 2003, and will share stories about the challenges and rewards of turning overgrown, impassable public-rights-of-way into safe paths.

Field Walk in Claremont Canyon

Sunday, March 12 @ 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

This walk is part of our commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 1991 Firestorm. Two long-time members of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy (CCC) will lead us on a 3.5-mile tour of both sides of the canyon, including Summit House Trail and the Willow Trail Loop, two paths built by CCC volunteers. You'll learn about efforts to prevent future wildfires and note the difference between a eucalyptus grove and restored native woodland. This route includes the Stonewall-Panoramic Ridge Trail, an *extremely steep* 1/2-mile climb with breathtaking views at the top. Walking sticks are advised, and some areas could be muddy. (To avoid the hill, meet the group at Signpost 29 at 10:30 for the last third of the walk.) For all the details of the route, go to berkeleypaths.org and click on this walk under Upcoming Events.

Pathway Sketch-about

Saturday, March 25 @ 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Cathy McAuliffe

Start: Marin Circle, top of Fountain Walk

Grab your sketchbook and gather your pencils, pens, and other favorite portable art supplies for this one-mile, three-hour stroll and drawing excursion along the pathways in the Berkeley Hills. Our leader, a member of the Urban Sketchers, will provide instruction and encouragement as we visit a number of sketch-worthy vantage points. The walk will begin with some warm-up drawings and end with a voluntary sharing of our work. Everyone should go home with an artistic record of the outing and, we hope, a new way to enjoy future walks. No experience is required, and Cathy will provide some art materials to those without their own. This is a paved route with a few steep streets and some stairs.

President's Message: What A Fabulous Year This Has Been! — Colleen Neff

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

BPWA's stated mission may be brief, but behind each word is *work* — difficult, meticulous, often-backbreaking work — by some of the most dedicated people around. It's our volunteers who bring the mission statement to life, and we hope you will continue to support their efforts. Please consider volunteering, renewing your membership, or making a donation. Or all three!

I'm proud to share all that we've achieved in 2016:

Path Building

Our newest path, Keeler Walk (soon to be renamed John Muir Path) required clearing dense underbrush before we could install 95 wood-tie steps. Our regular team of path builders, ably led by Charlie Bowen and Steve Glaeser, also rebuilt the lower section of Glendale Path to make its steps easier to climb. With a new neighborhood group called Take To the Hills, we added new steps to the *steep* Clark Kerr Trail on Panoramic Hill, which starts at the top of Dwight Way. We also improved

a trail in Glendale-LaLoma Park and removed a large log that blocked it.

Walks

Heather Schooler and Sophia Lehmann, organizers of our ever-more-popular walks, brought terrific new ideas to their 27 walks this year. We explored our inner yogis, gazed at Berkeley's Quirk, marveled over the mosaic stairways of San Francisco, traced the path of the 1991 Oakland Firestorm, and trekked through five regional parks on our all-day Long Walk. Our canine leaders, Wally and Figgy — assisted by their humans, Lynn Deregowski and Betsy Mueller — led four Pooches on the Paths romps. Our wheelchair accessible walk along the Bay Trail in Richmond attracted 56 people. We proudly estimate that our walk attendance surpassed 750 this year.

Fundraising

Our very first fundraising event, The Parks and Paths Challenge last month, netted more than \$1,100 for the restoration of walkways in the Berkeley Rose Garden and a new handrail for one of our steep new paths. A combination scavenger hunt, workout, and mapping exercise, this event attracted sixty people, aged from two to 84! Thanks to the efforts of Jacob Lehmann Duke and Sophia

Lehmann, the Challenge was a resounding success, and we plan to hold a similar event next July.

Path Maintenance

Once a month, crew chiefs Mary Lynch, Elsa Tranter, and Janis Pearson choose the "neediest case" from our 136 paths. Within hours, volunteers transform an overgrown, dirt-encrusted path into a lovely, safe one. In 2016, they cleaned Orchard Lane, Miller Path East, Vine Lane, Atlas Path, and Hawthorne Steps. With many more on our to-do list, we could use more hands for this fun and incredibly satisfying work!

Community Events

The Solano Stroll gives us the chance to visit both members and folks new to Berkeley's paths. Glen Lindwall coordinated our public events, including our Annual Meeting. This year, it fell on the 25th anniversary of the 1991 Berkeley-Oakland Firestorm, which we marked with a presentation by fire-prevention activist Ken Benson. Our keynoter was Tom Dalzell, aka Mr. Quirky Berkeley, who spotlighted his new book on Berkeley's kooky, wonderful yard art. We also elected new board members Abby Rutchick and Jacob Lehmann Duke, at 15 our youngest board member ever.

Emergency Preparedness

We began working with the city to highlight the importance of paths as emergency escape routes. Board member Daphne White leads this effort. At her suggestion, BPWA had a booth this year at the Emergency Preparedness Fair.

And More!

Sandy Friedland edits this newsletter, John Kenny manages membership and our website, and Marty Campbell takes minutes and edits our e-news. Angus Dunston handles PayPal, and Mary Bianchi keeps our books. Kay Englund, vice president, adds creativity and willing hands to all our endeavors.

We could not accomplish what we do without each of our amazing board members. I am honored to lead them for another year as we direct our energies toward making Berkeley a more walkable, more beautiful, and safer city for everyone.



Francesca Verdier devotes two days a week to building new paths in the Berkeley Hills. She learned to install wood-tie steps, a new skill that she found challenging, while working on Keeler Walk. Our most recently completed path, it will be renamed John Muir Path on February 25th.

Photo by Colleen Neff

Volunteer Spotlight:

Francesca Verdier Blazes Trails and Builds Paths

When Francesca Verdier clicked *volunteer* on our website a year ago, it was a lucky day for Berkeley's walkers. She brought to BPWA her passion for building trails and her love of being outdoors.

But more important, she came with six years of varied experience volunteering on weekends in parks all over Northern California, from Napa County to Mt. Diablo to the Ventana Wilderness near Big Sur.

Francesca also is a veteran of Mt. Diablo's Volunteers in Parks, East Bay Trail Dogs, Volunteers for Outdoor California, and Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

She even spent a vacation with her daughter on a weeklong project on the Pacific Crest Trail.

But it wasn't until last year, when she retired from her super-computing job at the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, that she could devote weekdays to building paths in her hometown of twenty years.

"We had used the Berkeley paths for exercise ever since we moved here," she recalls, "and I always knew I'd work on them someday." Although Francesca had lots of

practice clearing and creating dirt trails, she never had installed wood-tie steps, a task that she says, "involves much more precision than trail work. That was quite a challenge for a mechanically inept person like me."

She has enjoyed learning this new skill and working with Steve Glaeser, our path-building co-leader, and other BPWA volunteers during their twice-a-week work parties. She helped build the brand new Keeler Walk — soon to be renamed John Muir Path — that links Grizzly Peak Blvd. to Creston Road. She also is installing much-needed steps on the steep Clark Kerr Trail that goes up Panoramic Hill, a project that BPWA volunteers are doing with a new path-building group called Take To the Hills.

Francesca notes that both her trail work in parks and path building in town provide a good workout, camaraderie, and a satisfying sense of accomplishment. "The results are tangible, my co-workers are great, and people who use the trails and paths really appreciate what we do. I hope that more people will be inspired to join us."

To volunteer for path for building or maintenance, go to: berkeleypaths.org/volunteer/



Photo by Heather Schooler

We took a mindful walk and did yoga on the paths in May with Bella Lindell.

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

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Berkeley Path Wanderers Association *Winter, 2016-17*

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 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:**

**Berkeley Ace Hardware (new location:
2020 Milvia)**
Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc.
Berkeley City Club
Berkeley Historical Society
Berkeley Horticultural Nursery
Books, Inc. (new location: 1491 Shattuck)
Builders Booksource
The Campus Store
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Transports, Rockridge & Solano
Turtle Island Books
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University Press Books
Visit Berkeley Information Center
Wellington & French

Don't Miss Our Spats Fundraiser Friday, January 27, 6-9 p.m.

Can a path wanderer tend bar? Most certainly when it's for a good cause! Please support our special fundraiser at Spats Restaurant & Saloon (1974 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley) Friday, January 27, 6-9 p.m. BPWA board members will be serving the drinks. Your generous tips will go toward building more paths in town. Plus, we'll be raffling off prizes every half hour and selling our fabulous maps, tee shirts, and hats. So come on down to Spats, order your favorite drink, and support BPWA's efforts to maintain and extend our priceless network of public paths!



DISCLAIMER: *Those under 21 are more than welcome to come and support BPWA, but they will not be served alcohol. In addition, according to Spats policy, no one under 21 can be in the restaurant after 9 p.m.*