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Follow Our News



No matter how far from home Colleen Neff roams — she's on Mt. Rainier here — she's an ambassador for Berkeley's paths.

Thank You, Colleen Neff, for Your Awesome Leadership and Dedication to the Paths

How can we ever express our gratitude to Colleen Neff for her superb leadership, organizational skills, and dedication to all things Berkeley Paths? During her three-year presidency, Colleen steered BPWA through the most productive years of its two-decade history.

Buy Our Map



The best map of Berkeley's paths and streets just got even better! Order your copy of the fresh-off-the-presses 8th edition of *Berkeley and Its Pathways*. [Get your copy.](#)

Join or Renew



Did you forget to pay your \$5 dues for 2018? We do not

We added more paths, opened a handrail corridor, published a new edition of our map, revamped our website, moved to a monthly digital newsletter from a paper quarterly, surveyed the condition of all the paths, added a path maintenance program, ran some innovative fund raisers ... the list could go on!

We know you will remain in the wings as an advisor, cheerleader, and tireless volunteer. But as you make way for Alina Constantinescu to assume BPWA's presidency, we just want to say, from the bottom of our hearts: THANKS!



Alina Constantinescu pauses on Redwood Path with a team of volunteer inspectors behind her during the city-wide path inventory she organized in July.

Meet BPWA's Incoming President: The Amazing Alina Constantinescu

When Alina Constantinescu joined BPWA's board last January, it was quickly apparent that she would be president one day. What we couldn't predict, however, was how soon that would happen.

As she prepares to take the reins from outgoing President Colleen Neff, we have no doubt that our organization will be in good hands.

"We could not be more fortunate than to have Alina leading Path Wanderers," says Colleen. "She is super smart, incredibly organized, fun to work with, and loves the paths of Berkeley!"

Even before she became an official board member,

want to lose you. [Please renew today.](#)

Support BPWA



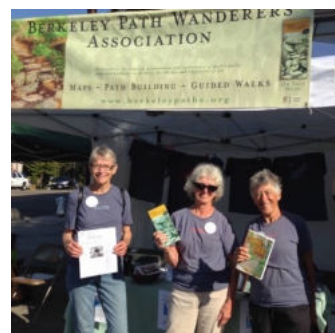
Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue to offer our path-oriented events. [Donate now.](#)

Shop Online



We sell Path Wanderer shirts, hats, and tote bags as well as guidebooks, posters, and note cards. [Visit our store.](#)

Get to Know Us



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots organization of people who treasure the public

Alina pitched in to help with our events, including our 2017 Parks and Path Challenge and our Annual Meeting on disaster preparedness. [Read more.](#)

pathways that crisscross our city. [Read more.](#)

Meet Our Friends

You'll find links to many other organizations that promote walking, pedestrian safety, protecting the environment, and more on our [website](#).



Sharon Taylor was the only person to accompany Zeke Gerwein (l) and Jacob Lehmann Duke on their annual every-path-in-Berkeley-in-one-day trek in August.

Sharon Taylor Joins the BPWA Board: “A Perfect Fit” for Her and Us!

A lifelong hiker, runner, and lover of paths and trails, Sharon Taylor has a hard time being idle. Our new board member has walked every path in Berkeley in one day — a 33.4-mile route! — and has completed all 38 walks in the guidebook *Secret Stairs of the East Bay*.

She belongs to the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders running club, is a member of the Oakland Trails Park Patrol, and recently joined the Oakland Women’s Rowing Club at Lake Merritt after years on the waiting list.

Sharon previously worked as a computer systems administrator at UC-Berkeley, then stayed at home while her two children were young. After that, she went to graduate school in Library and Information Science and then worked as a children’s librarian at Black Pine Circle School in Berkeley and the Oakland Public Library.

Add to those professional credentials her family background: Her father was a UC-Berkeley professor of forestry, and her son Nicholas is earning a graduate degree in Environmental Policy and Management at UC-

Davis while working summers as a National Park ranger. You can see why we are thrilled to have her on our team. [Read more.](#)

Great Holiday Gifts



Our tee shirts, books, notecards, hats, and our terrific path map all will make great gifts for your friends and relatives. Place your orders soon, via our [online store](#), to make sure your merchandise arrives in time.

Or how about buying a [gift membership](#) for someone who loves Berkeley's paths? You also can make a [donation](#) to BPWA to honor or memorialize someone special this holiday season.

Walk With Us

Join us on our terrific guided walks, which are free and open to all. Unless otherwise noted, they last 2-3 hours and proceed at a moderate, conversational pace. We're sorry, but we can't accommodate your dogs except on walks specified as dog friendly. Please check our [home page](#) for last-minute weather cancellations. Questions about a walk? Write walks@berkeleypaths.org



On this walk, we'll learn about the Spiral Gardens Community Food Security Project, which lies on a former railroad right of way, not far from San Pablo Park.

Photo: Bob Johnson

Sites and Stories of San Pablo Park

Sunday, December 2 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Janet Byron and Bob Johnson

Start: [SW corner of Sacramento St. & Dwight Way](#)

Explore the neighborhood around San Pablo Park, Berkeley's first public park, with the co-authors of *Berkeley Walks*. The story of this area in Southwest Berkeley is a rich chapter in the history of Berkeley's African American community. You'll see quirky architecture, the former Santa Fe Railroad right of way, and tree-lined streets. If we are lucky, those trees will still have their brilliant autumn leaves. This two-mile walk, featured in the second edition of Bob's and Janet's book, is flat and accessible.



We won't find a "home where the buffalo roam," on this walk, but we will spot a herd on the side of this garage. Photo: Ian Wood

Berkeley's Wacky, Wonderful Garage Murals Sunday, December 9 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Ian Wood

Start: Jefferson Elementary School Flag Pole ([1457 Acton St.](#))

See how some West Berkeley residents have transformed their garage doors – and sometimes their driveways and front steps as well – into eye-popping works of art. Ian, who documents this oh-so-Berkeley form of expression on his [website](#), will lead us on a flat, 5.2-mile walk on neighborhood sidewalks. We'll stop to admire a variety of land and aquatic creatures, planetary landscapes, and more and learn how Ian began photographing garages in Berkeley and beyond. Several homeowners will be available to explain how they transformed their garage doors into colorful giant canvases.



We hope the owners of this house on The Arlington once again will dazzle us with their holiday lighting extravaganza.

Festive Evening Hike on The Paths

Sunday, December 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Start: North Branch Library ([1170 the Alameda](#))

Bring a flashlight and your holiday spirit to explore North Berkeley on this 2+-mile, two-hour fun walk. Along the way, we'll pass some houses that go all out decorating for the season. Expect some hilly streets and staircases, but we'll go at a relaxed pace to enjoy the sights. We will walk in fog or drizzle; only heavy rain cancels.



Our first walk of 2019 will cover some of Kensington's paths, including this one, prosaically named Public Path #6.

Stepping Into the New Year

Tuesday, January 1 @ 1 p. m.

Leaders: Glen Lindwall and Jacob Lehmann Duke

Start: Parking lot below [285 Arlington Ave](#)

Get off on the right foot in 2019, or walk off any lingering remnants of the old one. On this four-mile route, we will take the high ground on the Kensington/Berkeley border, including — if it's not too muddy — Ye Olde School Trail that borders Tilden Park. We'll also stop in Dorothy Bolte Park so those who want to can enjoy the slide. This walk has many stairs, but our pace will be conversational.

However, if you want a more vigorous workout, you can go ahead and try to keep up with Jacob's faster rate. We'll walk in a light drizzle, but heavy rain will cancel this walk.



In addition to these domesticated grazers, we may spot a coyote or two on this walk.

Hills, Trails, and Vistas in Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Parks

Sunday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (aprox.)

Leaders: Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

Start: The Little Farm in Tilden ([600 Canon Dr.](#))

This ten-mile loop hike with 1,100 feet of elevation gain will feature spectacular views; quiet, single-track trails past meadows full of cows; and, of course, lots of hills! From the Little Farm, we'll begin with a steep ascent to the top of Wildcat Peak, where we'll pause to catch our breath and enjoy the panoramas. Although that point is only 1.3 miles into our route, our climbing will be half over. We'll then walk down to the paved Nimitz Way and descend gradually on a little-used side trail with more great views of the canyon, possibly including a coyote. At the end of Nimitz Way, we'll take some of the famously steep hills on the San Pablo Ridge Trail, stopping for a BYO picnic lunch. The route then heads down the Belgum trail at the northern end of Wildcat Canyon. Our last four miles will cover the rolling hills of the shaded Wildcat Creek Trail, taking us past Jewel Lake and back to our start. Expect a moderate-to-fast pace and some uneven, potentially muddy terrain. Heavy rain will cancel this walk.

Join Our Work Parties



This path-cleaning volunteer soon will fill his bucket and large paper bag with the weeds and debris he clears from these timber steps.

Help us Keep our Paths Clear for Emergencies Sunday, December 16 @ 11 a.m.

Help us transform a weed-obscured path into a safe and lovely walkway. Please email [Mary Lynch](mailto:Mary.Lynch) if you can come to the work party, and she will send you the location. We supply refreshments and gloves and tools, but feel free to bring your own.

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