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CELEBRATING EVERY PATH IN BERKELEY



Left to right, (anonymous), John Ford, Alina Constantinescu, Karen Ebadi, Jane Andersen, Dhara Desai, Tamara Gurin, Gene Meyers, Janet Byron, Nayiri Bouboussis, and Milly Alvarez.

Walkers awarded “I Walked Every Path in Berkeley in 2023” pins at 25th anniversary celebration

By Janet Byron

Thousand Oaks neighbors Milly Alvarez and Nayiri Bouboussis were among 22 proud walkers who completed our [Every Path in Berkeley walk series](#) and earned their “I Walked

Every Path in Berkeley in 2023” pins. The 6-walk series covered 130 paths and 36 miles! The pins were awarded on August 6 at Live Oak Park, the finish line of the final walk, when the community met to celebrate Berkeley Path Wanderers Association’s 25th anniversary.

Joining the celebration were Councilmember Sophie Hahn and Laurie McWhorter, staff person for Councilmember Susan Wengraf. They presented a [city proclamation](#) honoring the organization’s quarter-century of service through its work on Berkeley’s unique paths network.

Doing the six walks “increased my appreciation for living in a place that has this incredible gift of all these paths,” says Alvarez, a retired psychiatric social worker.

“At first I didn’t care about the medal, but after the second walk I knew I had to do it,” says Bouboussis, a former librarian. “It was enjoyable to see the whole city, including parts that we didn’t know.”



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association celebrated 25 years of paths-love with a celebration at Live Oak Park on Aug. 6.

“The routes were not that easy!” says John Ford, Berkeley Path Wanderers Association walks coordinator. “Most involved climbing up one or more sets of stairs, then going down other stairs, and back up yet another set. It took determination and strong legs to complete all six walks. Congratulations to all the finishers!”

The 22 Every Path in Berkeley finishers were: Milly Alvarez, Jane Andersen, Doris Balabanian, Joan Bartlett, Diana Bersohn, Stephanie Bodoff, Nayiri Bouboussis, Signe Burns, Janet Byron, Tiffany Cheng, Alina Constantinescu, Dhara Desai, Karen Ebadi, Josep Ferrandiz, John Ford, Tamara Gurin, Margaret Kilby, Gene Meyers, Steve Meyers, Nick Pilch, Kathy Turner, and anonymous.

Several walkers completed the six walks later on and received their pins after the final walk on Aug. 6. If you don't see your name on this list and you finished all six walks, or you are still planning to finish the series, please write to info@berkeleypaths.org. Cue sheets for the [six walks](#) are here. [READ MORE](#)

EL MIRADOR PATH IMPROVEMENTS



David Gyorke (left) and David Kittams repaired the steps on El Mirador Path. Photo by Bob Gomez.

Two Davids repair aging El Mirador Path

By Janet Byron

David Kittams and David Gyorke, volunteers with Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, have completed critical repairs to the top section of El Mirador Path, under the guidance of Bob Gomez, path-building coordinator on the board.

“The two Davids did a beautiful job,” says Gomez, a retired Caltrans engineer. “As we worked our way up, we put our heads together and said what do we do now? It was a great example of three people working together to get the right product in the end.”

El Mirador is in two segments located between Cragmont and Euclid avenues, south of Cragmont Park. The path's steps had been built with unanchored redwood, which was deteriorating and unsafe. “We were receiving complaints about these very aged redwood steps. They needed replacing with new, well-anchored eucalyptus steps,” Gomez says.

[READ MORE](#)

If you're interested in learning more about BPWA's path-building team, write to:

info@berkeleypaths.org.

VISIT US AT THE SOLANO STROLL: SEPT. 10



The Solano Stroll RETURNS!

Visit the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association booth at the Solano Avenue Stroll on Sunday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our booth is 1741 Solano, in front of Beadazzled on the north side of Solano Avenue at Ensenada Avenue (two blocks west of Colusa Avenue).

We'll have lots of fun swag for sale, including the [10th-edition map](#), [25th anniversary T-shirt](#) (small and medium sizes now available), and (hopefully), the new 10th-edition map bandana!

From 1 to 2 p.m., Bob Johnson and Janet Byron will be on hand to sign the new Heyday Books edition of their local bestseller, [Berkeley Walks](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SOLANO STROLL BOOTH! Can you help for 2 hours at one of our most important events of the year? Here is what we do at the booth: 1) Sell maps, T-shirts, and other swag, 2) answer questions about the paths and path building, 3) recruit new members, path builders, and walk participants. Reach out to Emma for details and times: emmamorris@gmail.com

Come on down and share some paths-love with us!

FEATURED EVENT: ANNUAL MEETING NOV.2

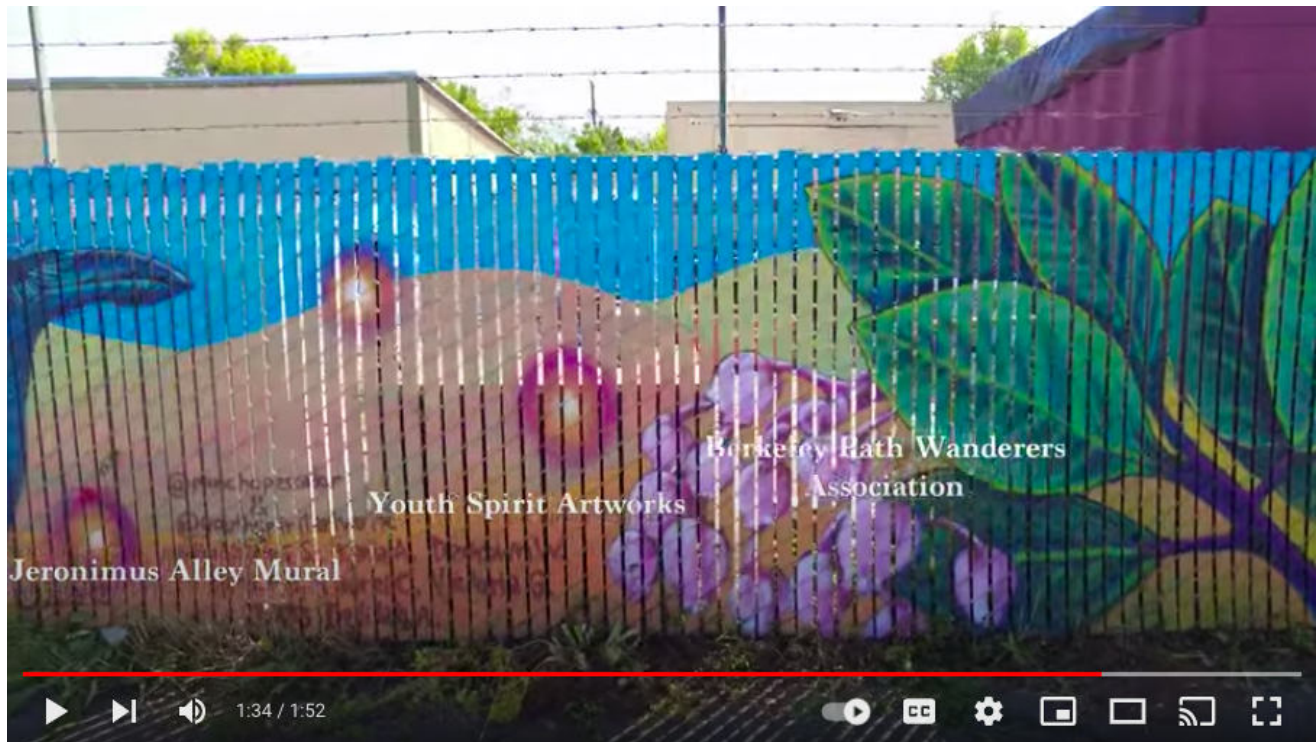
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Annual Meeting and Movie Night

When: Thursday, Nov. 2, 7–8:30 p.m.

Where: [Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St.](#)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association will host its annual meeting and a special movie night on November 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hillside Club. The short annual meeting will include the election of new officers and a brief “state of the paths” update from president Janet Byron.

In honor of the organization’s 25 years of community service, Berkeley Community Media will present original videos on three topics: the [Jeronimus Alley mural](#); the 25th anniversary celebration; and our history, featuring Jacque Ensign and several founding members. UC Santa Cruz student Kyle Keller will also show his journalism studies video on running the Berkeley paths. The meeting and videos will be followed by socializing and light refreshments from 8 to 8:30 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SEEKING BOARD MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT: Berkeley Path Wanderers Association has identified [\\$5 million](#) in needs to bring the Berkeley paths up to code with repairs and the installation of handrails, construction of new paths, clearance of encroachments, and lighting and wayfinding additions. We are looking for a board member to take the lead on elevating our fundraising efforts to help the city and paths community to achieve this long-term goal. Board members serve 2-year terms with the option to renew once. Our fun board meets about once monthly. Write to info@berkeleypaths.org to volunteer for Berkeley paths!

EVACUATION SURVEY: The City of Berkeley invites residents to participate in its [Community Evacuation Survey](#), to help gather crucial data on evacuation times, household emergency plans, and traffic patterns. Your feedback will help the city to fine-tune its evacuation strategies and provide better instructions on how to stay safe in emergencies. Please respond by Sept. 30. For more information, contact the Berkeley Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services: oes@berkeleyca.gov

UPCOMING WALKS

NOTE: Heavy rain cancels; watch email for cancellation notices.

1923 Berkeley Fire Walk

When: Sunday, September 17, 9 a.m. –11 a.m.

Leader: John Ford

Distance: 3 miles

Start: [Berryman Reservoir](#), across the street from 1360 Euclid Avenue, near Codornices Road

End: [Live Oak Park](#)

Accessibility: Stairs and steep streets. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome.



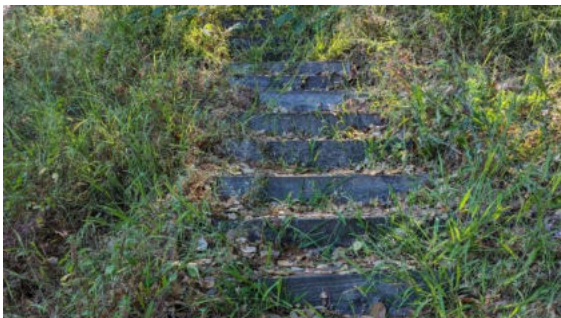
This walk, cosponsored by Berkeley Historical Society, covers parts of the Berkeley Hills neighborhoods devastated by a [large fire](#) that destroyed nearly 600 homes in North Berkeley on this day 100 years ago. We will see some of the notable buildings that replaced those destroyed in the fire and check out others that were saved by Cal students wielding hoses on the edge of campus. We will end at Live Oak Park, where the City of Berkeley is holding a commemorative event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. [READ MORE](#)

PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES

Join us for a path maintenance work party!

Saturday, Sept 9, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

Friday, September 22, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.



The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments. Please RSVP to receive an email with the time, date, and meeting place by writing to Mary Lynch at path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a community organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Learn more](#)

The BPWA board generally meets monthly. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Guests are welcome! Please contact info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.

To support Berkeley's paths, you can [donate online](#). All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, purchasing handrails, and advocating for paths and walkers.

Above, More than 60 people completed the final Every Path in Berkeley walk on Aug. 6



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