Berkeley’s PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, February 2004 Vol. 7 No. 1

Feb. 19th Talk: Paths and Keeping Fit, Plus, Introducing Letter Boxing

Justine Kaplan, coordinator of Berkeley’s Active Choices and Everybody Walks programs will discuss the programs’ goals of helping us lead long and healthy lives. The programs are a part of Berkeley’s Division of Public Health. It is the city’s effort at decreasing chronic diseases like diabetes, bone and joint ailments, and heart failure.

BPWA chair Jacque Ensign’s First Wednesday walks have become a staple of Everybody Walks, a program encouraging us all to, literally, take a few extra steps for health.

Active Choices offers six months of “coaching” to relatively inactive people over 50 who live, work, or play in Berkeley. This new three-year program funded with a major grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The aim is to overcome barriers that keep people from becoming and staying active, Kaplan explains. The “coach” will explore the individuals’ interests, abilities, needs, and schedules, and help put together a program that works. The key may be finding transportation or companions, or figuring out what kinds of exercise work given physical limitations and needs, Kaplan said. Active Choices also aims at letting people know about new findings on exercise and health, she said.

The talk will be at 7 pm at the Live Oak Park Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck, Berkeley. Everyone is welcome.

What’s Letter Boxing?

Letter boxing started among walkers in England who stride along miles of paths and who like a little entertainment along the way.

On Saturday, February 14 at 10 am, please join Northside resident Jim Sharp for a special Valentine’s Day tribute to the pathways and attractions of Daley’s Scenic Park and UC Berkeley’s rapidly evolving Northeast Quadrant. Berkeley Landmarks website creator Daniella Thompson and other experts on the local heritage will join us.

We will meet three blocks north of the UC campus at the top of the steps which connect La Loma Avenue with Virginia Street. Plan for about a two hour exploration of stairs, hills, and off-pavement surfaces.

Meetings

Live Oak Park Rec. Center
7-9 pm  1301 Shattuck Ave (unless noted)

Feb 19  General Meeting
Everybody Walks by Justine Kaplan; Letterboxing by Barbara Roberts

Mar 18  Board Meeting

Apr 15  General Meeting
Urban Birds by Alan Kaplan

Path Walks  RAIN OR SHINE
Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Feb 14  Town & Gown Interstices Revisited
Jim Sharp  510-7271
Meet at La Loma Avenue and Virginia Street

Mar 6  Urban-Wildland Interfaces: Links between the city and adjacent parks
Paul Grunland  510-526-8001
Meet at Park Gate and Shasta Road at the fountain, just east of Grizzly Peak Blvd.

Apr 17  Ghost Campus: UC that once was
Bruce Goodell  510-843-5356
Meet at Sather Gate. It’s Cal Day, too!

May 5  meet at the reservoir at Spruce and Grizzly Peak
led by Paul Grunland  510-526-8001

First Wednesday Walks
Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Mar 3 & Apr 7  meet at the Mann Circle
led by Jacque

May 5  meet at the reservoir at Spruce and Grizzly Peak
led by Paul Grunland  510-526-8001

Please renew your membership so that we can continue our work. Donations are welcome.
Saluting Seating
BPWA wants to salute the generous Berkeley homeowners who put out seating for tired path wanderers and other walkers. An outstanding example is this memorial bench at 1328 Walnut St. We are putting together a photo collection of these imaginative and beautiful resting places — and just plain functional ones. Can you send addresses of examples you have seen? Send a note to BPWA at 1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley 94709; or email board member Susan Schwartz at susanschw@aol.com.

Letter Boxing continued
Barbara Robben, longtime BPWA member, surprised the past Everybody Walks in Berkeley group with her own Letter Boxing game. The entertainment involves notebooks, some ink stamps and pads, and secretly-placed plastic cannisters, hidden along various Berkeley pathways. Walkers have to open the cannisters and stamp their notebook-like passports with the stair’s representative stamp. Then, replace the kit and rehide the cannister. The goal: to see how many of the 136 paths in Berkeley walkers have trod. Just review your path passport to verify. Come hear Barbara talk more about Letter Boxing at our February 19th General meeting.

Bird Life in the City: Our April 15th Talk
What birds are we likely to see as we wander paths? When and where is it easiest to see birds in the city? Why do some birds flourish in cities, while others vanish? How can we encourage bird life in cities, and do some efforts risk more harm than good?

Many know Kaplan from his more than 30-year career with East Bay Regional Parks. With a masters degree in entomology and hobbies that range from aikido to Scottish folk dancing, he is interested in everything and loves to pass on his knowledge. At Tilden Regional Park, besides frequent bird walks, he offers programs ranging from tiny soil organisms to the stars, and ancient nature myths to the most recent findings of science.

Stay in the Email Loop
Please email Lisa Frieden, lisafr@comcast.net, to receive email alerts about upcoming walks, meetings, and other BPWA-related activities.

Order Notecards or a Map
Purchase a map or some notecards at our General Meetings or at one of our walks. Or, purchase by mail. Maps cost $5.36 ($3.95 for members). A set of 4 notecards cost $6.50. Send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope with 60 cent postage for either a map or a set of notecards. Make checks payable to:
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269

BPWA Membership Form
Please print

If you have any concerns about path issues please call Jacque at 524-4713.

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Berkeley’s PATHS
A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, June 2004 Vol. 7 No. 2

Building Paths—See the Recent Progress

Since the beginning of the year, good things have been happening on several unimproved paths, due to the righteous physical labor of the Boy Scouts from Troop 19 and a group of great volunteers from BPWA. We invite everyone to look at the results on these paths:

Lower Glendale Path (#84): The big news is that the City of Berkeley has built a concrete stairway at the bottom of this path—the first new staircase in many years, and we hope the beginning of a fruitful new collaboration with the city: their contractors can build fairly short concrete staircases on the steep path segments, and our volunteers can clear, improve drainage, and install wooden steps on the gentler segments.

Neighbors have removed fences that were blocking the path and BPWA volunteers have cleared the entire pathway and

The entrance of lower Glendale Path (above) with newly poured concrete steps was built by the City in May. The path (circled at left) is in the Berkeley View Terrace neighborhood which was platted in 1926 by L’Hommedieu and Wilson Inc. The plat included 16.5 pathways, none of which were built. Ina Way is called Queens Road today.
Building Paths continued

installed wood-tie steps in the middle section. We hope to have the path done and signs installed before the end of this year.

Middle Glendale Path (#83): We hope to begin clearing and installing steps on this path after a planned survey by the City of Berkeley.

Upper Glendale Path (#82): A January work party did the huge task of clearing berry bushes from this path. Despite rudimentary temporary steps, the VERY steep, rocky section at the bottom of the path remains a barrier. We are looking for someone with landscape design ideas to help figure out a plan for that portion!! The three Glendale Paths are a key element in our planned Ridge-to-Bay “Urban Trail,” which continues up to Tilden Park via Atlas Path, a major project started by Eagle Scout candidates from Berkeley Boy Scout Troop 19.

Sterling Path (#56): Three recent Eagle Scout projects from Troop 19 have made it much easier and safer to walk the dirt portions of beautiful Sterling Path, from Cragmont Street up to Keeler Path and the “back entrance” to Remillard Park. Scouts Owen McDougall, Adrian Delmer, and Luc Maheu installed steps, drainage diverters, and a small retaining wall, and cleverly incorporated a raised manhole. The last project, by Luc Maheu, also added a lovely community bulletin board.

Upper Stevenson Path (#62): Major clearing has been done and steps have been installed on the steepest sections. Additional steps are needed, but the path is now very walkable. It’s possible to continue down on lower Stevenson Path, but our goal is to get city help on a few steps at the bottom, after which we’ll install wooden steps on the steep upper end.

Wilson Walk (#96): Thanks to UC students last fall, major clearing was done. BPWA volunteers recently put in steps on the lower part of the path, and we are progressing towards the top. With your help at the next work parties, we hope to make this steep but beautiful path near Lawrence Hall of Science usable this year.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE UNIMPROVED PATHS?
Charlie Bowen is always looking for more people to build these paths. Feel the rewards by what a group can accomplish under 2 hours; the before and after are incredible. We always have refreshments, end promptly, and it feels wonderful to use your muscles doing a bit of community service. Contact Charlie to participate or get more information—540-7223 or charlie_paths@comcast.net.

May is Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Month

At the May 25th City Council meeting Betty Olds, on behalf of the council, proclaimed May to be Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Month in honor of all the success achieved by all who have contributed to preserving, restoring and creating pathways in Berkeley for all. Go to our website to see the proclamation in full www.berkeleypaths.org

BPWA Membership Form

Please print

Name

Address

City Zip

Email Telephone
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley’s pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks, the identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley’s complete path network, and the eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

Meetings
- Live Oak Park Rec. Center
- 7-9 pm
- 1301 Shattuck Ave (unless noted)

- Sept 22: Annual Meeting featuring Chuck Wollenberg on Berkeley History
- Oct 21: Board Meeting
- Nov 18: General Meeting

Path Walks
- RAIN OR SHINE Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

- Sep 11: Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline
  - Sandra and Bruce Beyaert 235-2835
  - Meet at the first parking lot off Dornan Drive in Miller/Knox, Point Richmond.
  - The walk will explore Point Richmond’s past and present. Expect some hills, a moderate pace, scenic vistas, and birdwatching. Bring binoculars, water, and snacks.

- Oct 2: A Walk in the Elmwood
  - Ron Sipherd 654-5448
  - Meet at Elmwood Avenue at Ashby.
  - Preview the itinerary, map, and photos at www.wel.com/~ronks/pix/cenawalk.

- Nov 6: Early North Berkeley
  - Marilyn Siegel 549-2906 & Mardi Mertens 520-4468. Meet at the Marin Circle.

- Dec 11: Paths, Creeks and History
  - Susan Schwartz 848-9558. Meet at the main entrance to Live Oak Park Community Center, at Shattuck & Berryman.

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

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

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Webmaster NIRANJAN VISSA

Historian Chuck Wollenberg Will Speak at Our Annual Meeting, Sept. 22, at the Hillside Club

Chuck Wollenberg, the widely respected expert on California and local history, will be the featured speaker at the BPWA annual meeting, September 22, at the Hillside Club. Known for his broad knowledge and refreshing style, Chuck will discuss Berkeley in the early decades of the 20th Century. He’ll explain the context for the path building of that era, when businessmen and intellectuals aspired to create a “Utopia of the Pacific.” Topics will include local movements, such as the Hillside Club’s Arts & Crafts ideals; and national movements, like the City Beautiful campaign. The author of several books, Chuck always reveals the complexities of a diverse social fabric, telling of the powerful as well as the marginalized.

A third generation Berkeley resident, he will probably surprise you with little-known facts, like how Bernard Maybeck’s son named himself after Chuck’s great-grandfather.

First Wednesday Walks
- 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)


Mortar Rock Park exemplifies the artistic pairing of urban and rural typical in hilly streetcar neighborhoods of 100 years ago.
Grant Received for Path Improvements

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the City of Berkeley a $413,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to reduce fire hazards in the Berkeley hills and to improve community and fire fighter safety. The city will provide an additional $177,000. A FEMA official presented the money to the city August 23.

About one-third of the grant will go toward creating and implementing a program to manage flammable vegetation on pathways in the Berkeley hills, an acknowledgement of the importance of the system for public safety. Bill Greulich, emergency services manager for the Berkeley Fire Department, asked BPWA to assist the city in analyzing the hill paths and devising an effective plan for fuel reduction. Once improved, the paths would serve as firebreaks and important evacuation routes.

“We are delighted that the fire department wants us as partners in this vital project and intends to use the grant to open as many of the impassable paths as possible,” said Charlie Bowen, chair of the BPWA Unimproved Path Committee. “We hope the city will improve the most difficult sections and our volunteers will complete the rest.”

At the award ceremony, city officials praised BPWA for its hard work and results-oriented approach. “Our volunteer crews, along with the Boy Scouts and CalCorps teams, are the ones who truly deserve to be honored,” said Bowen.

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www.berkeleypaths.org

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Berkeley’s PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association  December 2004  Vol. 7 No. 4

Path-Building is Accelerating

We last reported to you on the progress of our work on the unimproved paths in our June 2004 newsletter. Since then there are many exciting new developments. The SF Chronicle wrote a great article about us in July; we finished 2 more paths; we’ve gotten ten new volunteers—old, young, and in-between—and we have several more paths that we anticipate completing in 2005.

First, we have finished building Wilson Walk and Upper Stevenson Path. And Lower Stevenson Path is on its way to completion.

Wilson Walk does not yet have signs, but one can find the top of the path between 1504 and 1506 Summit Road and the bottom between 9 and 14 Wilson Circle. When we started Wilson Walk in late April it was almost nearly impassible, very steep, with lots of brush and ground vegetation. By mid-October we were installing the last steps by an enthusiastic group of UC Berkeley students working with the CalCorps service organization. Most of them had never used picks, mattocks or sledge hammers, but they were quick learners and they had a great time.

Now the path has 100 steps, so walking up it will give one a good workout and walking down some lovely views.

Upper and Lower Stevenson Paths have seen rapid progress through out November and December, with a total of 80 steps installed between the two paths. Ground-clearing has been completed on both, and steps have been installed along the entire length of Upper Stevenson. Lower Stevenson Path, with 39 steps installed, is more than half way done.

Help from the kids
The second exciting thing in our path-building efforts is the new people who are getting involved—many of them young. This fall Lower Glendale Path had the middle segment improved by Gavin Taylor from Scout Troop 19 as an Eagle project, and it will benefit from another Eagle
A Brief History of Berkeley View Terrace

Berkeley View Terrace, also referred to as Terrace View, is the comparatively little known neighborhood adjacent to the University of California on the north, just below Grizzly Peak Boulevard. It was promoted by Mason-McDuffie Company in the 1930s as being a quiet, secluded, and restful location. There was no arterial traffic. Centennial Road—which connects Grizzly to the Lawrence Hall of Science, and streets below—was not completed until decades later. One Berkeley resident recalls walking up Strawberry Canyon in the 1930s when the road ended at the UC Botanical Garden.

By the time the Terrace View area of Berkeley was developed, most people travelled by car. It wasn’t essential to have easy access to streetcars although Terrace View was said to be within .7 mile of the Euclid Avenue streetcar line. Travel times were given as 4 minutes to Oakland, and 40 minutes to San Francisco (to be reduced on completion of Bay Bridge).

The public paths going up and down the steep hills of Terrace View had been planned. However the paths were not a selling point, and were not developed. The City of Berkeley eventually acquired land for Terrace View Park. This park, pleasant with a creek running through it, is bordered by Queens Road, Fairlawn, and Avenida.

On Saturday, April 23 there will be a walk scheduled for this area led by Charlie Bowen, BPWA’s path-building leader. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to visit Terrace View on your own to appreciate this scenic and somewhat remote part of town.

By Marilyn Siegel

www.berkeleypaths.org