

## BPWA Walks

Guided walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. Self-guided walks have no leader, just a starting location and a suggested route. Check [www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org) for these routes and/or any last minute changes for any walk. People without internet access can call 510 520-3876. Walks are divided into four types:

-  Theme
-  Friendly
-  Power
-  Self Guided

### **July 1, Wednesday - Walk with a Founder - 10:00 AM**

**Jacque Ensign - Contact Keith Skinner at [keithskinner.public@gmail.com](mailto:keithskinner.public@gmail.com) - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: In front of Live Oak Park Recreation Center - 1301 Shattuck Ave**  
**Transit: AC #7, #9 #18**

Join BPWA co-founder Jacque for a convivial and relaxed morning walk on the paths around Live Oak Park culminating in an optional lunch in the Gourmet Ghetto.

### **July 6, Monday - Waterfront Sunset/Moonrise Walk - 6:00 PM**

**Susan Schwartz - President, Friends of Five Creeks - [5creeks@aol.com](mailto:5creeks@aol.com) - 510-848-9358**  
**Meet: Sea Breeze Delicatessen, 598 University Ave. @ Frontage Rd**  
**Transit: AC #9**

Enjoy refreshments as we watch the sunset and nearly full moonrise at the solar calendar at the top of Cesar Chavez Park. This is an easy walk but not wheelchair accessible. Sorry, no dogs.

### **July 26, Sunday - Three Summer Path-a-Thon Walks - different times & types**

**Details on page 2 - Contact Keith Skinner at [keithskinner.public@gmail.com](mailto:keithskinner.public@gmail.com) - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: John Muir School - Entrance at 2955 Claremont Ave. near Ashby - Transit: AC #51**  
9:45 - Sandy Friedland / 10:15 - Jen English / 11:00 - Colleen Neff

### **August 5, Wednesday - Thousand Oaks - 10:00 AM**

**Contact Keith Skinner at [keithskinner.public@gmail.com](mailto:keithskinner.public@gmail.com) - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: Indian Rock Park, 950 Indian Rock Ave. - Transit: AC #7 bus**  
Recommended route - Pat Devito's August 2000 walk. Route and other info can be found here: [www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/walk\\_ThousandOaks.htm](http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/walk_ThousandOaks.htm).

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## Self-Guided Walks

This quarter BPWA is adding self guided walks to its schedule. They are on the first Wednesday of the month. Please let us know how you like this idea. We will designate a meeting place and a suggested route via a link on our web site.

# Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 12 No. 2

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Summer 2009

## New BPWA Map Adds Bicycle Boulevards

— Colleen Neff

BPWA is pleased to announce the publication of the fifth edition of our indispensable Berkeley's Pathways map, a passport to the public lanes and stairways that comprise the city's treasured path system. Also useful as a street map, the new edition features the city's seven officially-designated bicycle boulevards, the safest routes for pedaling through Berkeley.

The map also includes the three latest paths that BPWA's volunteer path builders have completed since the fourth-edition map was issued in 2007.

BPWA has sold nearly 22,000 maps since we produced the first one in 2002.

As with previous editions, the new map shows more than 136 numbered and named paths, including 27 unfinished paths on city-owned rights of way that remain impassable. The easy-to-read new map also has a street index, shows the course of existing and historic creeks, and is printed on tough, water-resistant paper. The price of the map remains \$6.95.

The bicycle boulevards were completed in 2003. Also called bicycle priority streets, the boulevards are quiet streets that allow cars but have been engineered to accommodate a bicycle lane. Purple signs mark the boule-

wards, including some that show distances to city attractions. Thirty-foot high painted symbols of a bike rider

appear at regular intervals on the pavement. Named after the streets they cover, either entirely or in large part, the boulevards generally parallel the main traffic arteries. The four that run north-south are 9th Ave, California, Milvia, and Benvenue-Hillegass; the three that run east-west are Virginia, Channing, and Russell.

The three latest paths to be added to the map are all in the North Berkeley hills. Volunteers devoted hundreds of hours to clearing hillsides and installing wooden steps, often on tricky terrain. El Mirador (#50) is the upper of two paths that connect Euclid and Cragmont Aves. Bret

Harte Lane (#72) provides a handy link between Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Miller Lane. Our newest path, the lower section of Covert Path (#53), was the most challenging one that BPWA has built. Heavy overgrowth had to be removed from a steep slope to accommodate the switchback trail. Volunteers also installed redwood disks as steppingstones across a seasonal stream.

The new map is available in local stores, at BPWA events, and on [www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org).



## Walks Continued

### **August 8, Saturday - Campus, Holy Hill and Northside - 10:00 AM**

**David Weinstein - Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: Founders Rock, Galey Rd. at Hearst**  
**Transit: AC #52L, #65**

Learn about Berkeley's famous characters, its deep ties to nature and spirituality, and its fondness for the good life from the author of *It Came from Berkeley*. This walk has some steep hills.

### **August 18, Tuesday - Stretching on the Paths - 6:00 PM**

**Karen Libby - Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: In front of Thousand Oaks School, Colusa at Catalina.**  
**Transit: AC #18**

Enjoy a picturesque walk with stops at scenic spots to learn and practice stretching techniques to relieve muscular tension and avoid injuries.

### **September 2, Wednesday - Thousand Oaks - 10:00 AM**

**Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com - 510-520-3876**  
**Meet: North Berkeley BART station.**  
**Transit: AC #19, #88**

Recommended route - Jen English's 2007 Fall Harvest walk. Route and other info can be found here:  
[www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/FallHarvestWalk.htm](http://www.berkeleypaths.org/walkhandouts/FallHarvestWalk.htm)

### **September 5, Saturday - Paths of Mill Valley - 11:00 AM**

**Glen Lindwall - Contact Keith Skinner at keithskinner.public@gmail.com - 510-520-3876**  
**By Reservation only. RSVP by contacting Keith Skinner as listed above**

Walk the rustic paths of Mill Valley and see both the varied ways they were built and the unusual terrain of this picturesque town beneath Mount Tamalpais. The route includes many stairs, but the pace will be moderate. Please contact Keith Skinner as listed above.

### **September 15, Tuesday - Marin Circle Neighborhood - 10:00 AM**

**Dale Miller - millbush@pacbell.net - 510 524-4758**  
**Meet: Marin Circle at Fountain Walk.**  
**Transit: AC #7, #9, #18**

Dale and his mutt Giorgio, who live in this neighborhood, will combine a couple of their regular walks and share local knowledge and gossip. Well behaved dogs on a leash are welcome.

## Annual Path-a-Thon Sunday, July 26th, To Feature Southside Paths

Come spend a morning exploring the paths and back roads of South Berkeley at Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's sixth summer Path-a-Thon on Sunday, July 26th. The event is free and open to the public. Participants can choose from three distinct walks that will vary in length, difficulty, and pace. The three groups will leave at staggered times from the south side of John Muir School on Claremont Ave. just south of



*John Muir School will be the starting point this year's walks*

Ashby. Three BPWA board members will lead the walks and ensure that they return everyone to John Muir by 12:15 for a bring-your-own picnic. BPWA will provide cake and lemonade.

Leaders with their routes and departure times are as follows:

 Sandy Friedland, BPWA past president and veteran walk leader, will leave at 9:45 for the most difficult route. Her challenging, fast-paced walk will start with the Short Cut behind the Claremont Hotel and head up stair paths and hilly streets toward Grizzly Peak Blvd. Along the way, walkers will climb about 1,400 feet and cover parts of the Claremont, Grandview, and Claremont Heights neighborhoods as well as some of Hiller Highlands. Sandy also will point out the trailheads of Garber Park and Gwin Canyon along the way.

 Jen English, who has walked every street and path in Berkeley, will lead a more moderate walk that will depart at 10:15. Jen will head out with her group toward Oakridge Path and explore the beautiful Claremont-Uplands neighborhood that lies east of Claremont Avenue and south of Tunnel Road. The route includes stairs and some uneven footing, but the pace will be moderate, allowing participants to enjoy the views and the stunning architecture and landscaping of many of the homes along the way.

 Colleen Neff, who has walked every path in town and leads Path Wanderers'

quarterly power walks, will slow down long enough to take her group on the easiest, shortest route. She will leave at 11:00 and head north of Ashby Ave. to visit the paths off Russell, Stuart, and Garber Streets. Colleen will point out a few special houses as well as many neighborhood landmarks. The route has some stairs as well as hilly sections, but the pace will be slow enough for conversation. This walk will be suitable for families but not for strollers.

All walkers should arrive ten minutes ahead of schedule and gather at the Claremont entrance to the John Muir School to ensure a prompt departure. (Peet's is nearby on Domingo St. for those who want a pre-walk coffee.)

BPWA launched the summer Path-a-Thons in 2004 — the first few were called Pick-a-Path Picnics — to lure more walkers onto the paths and to demonstrate how they could be woven into urban hikes.

Send questions about the 2009 event to: [colleenneff@earthlink.net](mailto:colleenneff@earthlink.net).

### **BPWA Board Meetings**

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except Feb, Sept, and Dec) at Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda (at Marin). Observers are welcome. Please enter via the side door at 1842 Marin Ave.

# Six Miles of Paths Await Wanderers in Mill Valley — Glen Lindwall

Nestled at the foot of Mount Tamalpais, Mill Valley has more than six miles of steps, lanes, and trails. This network connects the city's sidewalks to the woodsy hillside neighborhoods and beyond, to mountain trails and Muir Woods. Paths range from 50-foot-long lanes to mile-long trails to rustic stairways with hundreds of steps.

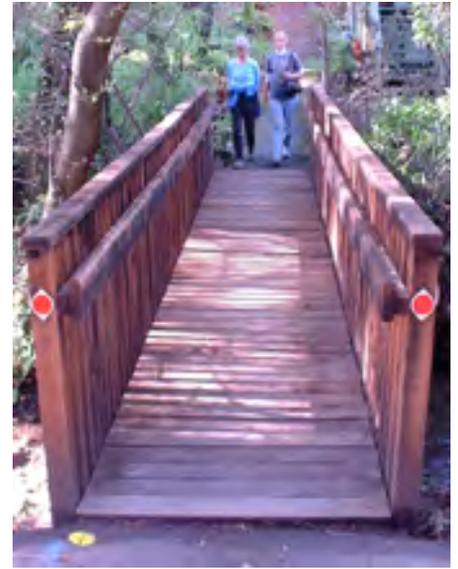
In addition to offering walking routes where conventional sidewalks would be impractical, the city's paths also provide emergency egress and access in an area where fire is always a concern. The local fire department, with particular contributions from Battalion Chief Greg Moore, has worked with residents and groups like the Rotary Club and Boy Scouts to improve accessibility to the paths. At each end of a path, a prominent blue arrow points the way to the safety of the town center, a necessity given Mill Valley's sometimes confusing narrow, winding roads. "Safe evacuation routes complement fire prevention efforts," says Chief Moore.

Wanderers will quickly notice how the paths vary in style and in how much effort went into building them. One of the most charming is the Madrona Steps (#49). Clearly visible in an 1891 photo, the stairs were rebuilt with salvaged bricks about twenty years ago. A brick stamped "Carnegie" near the bottom is a reminder that a nearby house once was the library, built with a grant from Andrew Carnegie. Many other stairways and paths date back to the turn of the 20th Century. They provided convenient

shortcuts compared to the long, circuitous roads and enabled residents to reach downtown and the trains that led to San Francisco ferries in Sausalito. In the last decade, emergency planning and environmental concerns rekindled interest in the paths as residents once again recognized the value of pedestrian routes.

As in Berkeley, civic organizations, city agencies, and neighbors have joined forces to maintain and extend Mill Valley's system. The town has a Steps, Lanes and Paths Volunteers group, which holds regular work parties. Eucalyptus, pressure treated fir, concrete, milled redwood, recycled plastic, railroad ties, and more have gone into new paths. The Rotary club recently installed heavy, prefabricated steps of recycled plastic on a steep path above Marion St. (#35), precisely drilling and assembling them to conform to the slope. The backbreaking labor yielded a solid, attractive, and durable stairway. Equal attention to detail in a very different style characterizes the wooden bridge that scouts built to span Old Mill Creek on Marion Lane (#33). Lumber was carefully precut and milled before it was brought to the site so that the boys could put the bridge together in a single afternoon. Volunteers also installed an impressive course of steps fashioned from heavy duty, pressure-treated fir on Eugene Way (#46), above Throckmorton Avenue. This path also features a welded railing in the steep upper section.

Thanks to the advocacy of Parks Superintendent Rick Misuraca, the city has



**Bridge over Old Mill Creek**

installed concrete steps and walkways in areas that were too challenging for volunteers to tackle, such as path #34, with a graceful, steep stairway at the top. Less daunting paths have been built using railroad ties and volunteer-friendly construction methods. Six paths were completed last year, according to Victoria Talkington, who organizes volunteer efforts. "We hope the town will maintain that pace," she says, adding that one of the many benefits of opening more paths is that they give children safe and easy walking routes to school.

A map of Mill Valley's paths, similar to the BPWA map, costs \$5 at City Hall (6 Corte Madera Ave), the Mill Valley Community Center (180 Camino Alto), and the Mill Valley Library (375 Throckmorton Ave).

*Tax-deductible household memberships in the BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings and emails. You can join or donate online at [www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org) or by sending this form and a check, payable to our fiscal parent BPF (Berkeley Partners for Parks) to:*

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

## BPWA Membership/Donation Form

Please print clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5 for membership  new  renewal

I am also enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

# Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Summer 2009

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

*The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley's path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance.*

*Recognize this giraffe? Tell us where it is, and win a BPWA map and a mention in our next newsletter. Email your answer to ColleenNeff@earthlink.net, or send it to the address below, Attn: Colleen Neff. We will choose at random from the correct answers.*



*Last issue's raised-arm Buddha is located near the top of Oakridge Path in south Berkeley, east of Domingo Ave. Across the path are many chickens and ducks to enjoy as well. There were no correct answers to our location quiz so we will give away a map to two winners who can locate the giraffe.*

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

[www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org)

## Board Members

LORI KOHLSTAEDT, president  
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MARTY CAMPBELL, membership  
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KEITH SKINNER, walk coordinator  
JAZ ZAITLIN, internal events coordinator, e-newsletter

**If you see "Mem 09" after your name, you are currently paid through this year. If you see "Renew Req" after your name, you will not receive the Fall newsletter unless you renew your membership. You can renew online or send in the form on page three with a check made out to our fiscal parent BPPF.**