

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXXVI No. 4

February/March, 2018

\$3.00



19 Stairley Street
Point Richmond

GRANT

5-26-14

SPECIFICATIONS

Motor—4 cylinder, 4 cycle, 2 3/4 x 4 in. Cylinders and crank case cast en bloc. Inlet and exhaust passages cast integral. Valves enclosed, 3 point suspension.

Horse-Power—21.

Ignition—Magneto, high tension (Swiss)

Lubrication—Constant level, splash system. Automatic drop feed.

Carburetor—Float feed automatic.

Cooling—Thermosiphon.

Rear Axle—3/4 floating tubular type mounted on Roller bearings. Load carried on housing. Drive shaft, special alloy steel, heat treated.

Transmission—Sliding gear. Two forward speeds and reverse integral with rear axle. All gears and shafts of special alloy steel, hardened and ground, roller and ball bearings.

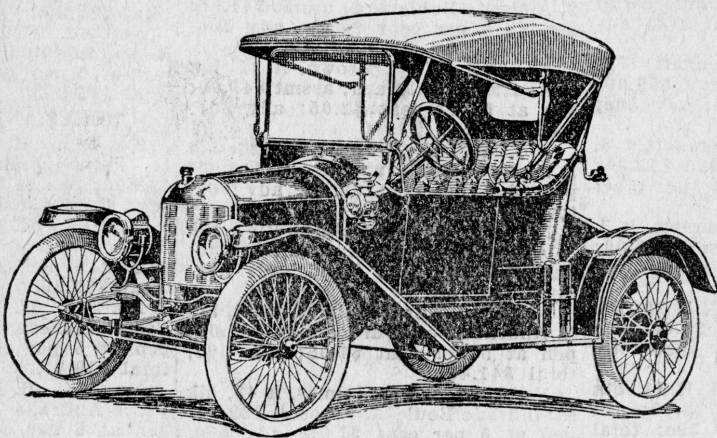
Brakes—Foot brake, external contracting. Emergency brake, internal expanding both brakes on rear wheels. Extra large braking surfaces with asbestos linings.

Front Axle—Drop forged I-beam section, heat treated. Steering knuckle

The Standard High Grade
Automobile Selling For

\$650

F. O. B.
San Francisco



The Grant is not a Cyclecar, but in every particular a
Standard Automobile; Standard Tread; Standard Road
Clearance and Standard in every detail of Build and Finish.

Let Us Demonstrate the Merits of this
Sturdy Grant Car

S. G. Chapman

DISTRIBUTER

1400 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

SPECIFICATIONS

pins hardened and ground. Wheels

mounted on double duty ball bearings.

Clutch—Cone, Leather face, fully adjustable.

Wheels—28 x 3 wire, English type.

Springs—2 full elliptic front springs, 1 semi-elliptic cross spring on rear, special alloy steel.

Wheel Base—90 inches.

Road Clearance—10 inches.

Body—Fore door, Streamline, cowled dash, black leather upholstery.

Color—Body Black Chassis, rich red.

Gear Ratio—4 1/2 to 1 on high.

Weight—Complete 1075 pounds.

Gasoline Mileage—30 miles per gallon.

Gasoline Capacity—5 gallons, tank in cowl.

Standard Equipment

—Top, Top Envelope, Horn, Oil side and tail lights. Acetylene headlights with generator. Non-rattling, folding, one piece windshield, jack, tool kit and tire repair kit. Equipment finished in black enamel and nickel.

Electric Lighting and Starting Equipment together with electric horn at an additional cost.

From the President

by Mid Dornan

When on a duck hunt in 1895, Augustin MacDonald finds a “delightful spot”, that became Point Richmond. In 1895, the area was recognized for its deep water access and to have a rail line extend to Point Richmond rather than Oakland where cargo could be more efficiently ferried to San Francisco. Today, the Point is recognized for the waterfront views and sailing but noticeably the lack of housing and pricing of those homes here. A \$7000 home in 1952 is now worth over \$550,000 with many sliding into the early millions. Times have changed. Come visit to see the changes. Visit our Kiosk.

Below PRHA Photo Archive #1086, early 1900's Standard Oil Refinery



Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
Westside Womens Improvement Club	10
PRHA Kiosk Started	11
Early WWIC Minutes	12
PRHA Beginnings	14
For Better or Wurster	17
Edwin A. Hoffman	20
Little Sign	22
Masquers Playhouse	23
Birthdays	25
Memorials	26
90's Club	27
Calendar/Directory	28

Thank you members for your renewal:

Margaret Jordan & Mike Parker

Family

Patricia Houck

Fran Smith*

Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow*

Jim & Nilda Reed*

Linda Andrew-Marshall

Steve Birnbaum**

Gary Darling

Kevin, Renée & Griffin Knee**

Bonnie Jo Cullison

Diane Marie

Betty Menzie

Floria & Bob Jones*

Kathy Dornan Barnes Family

Ann Kissling

John A. Thiella &

Rosa T. Casazza**

Linda Hudock**

Gary Shows

Marion Kent

David B. Janes**

Connie Tritt

Richard Beesley

James J. Cheshareck**

Paul Ciabattari

Marilyn Darlene Darling

Welcome to new members:

Pat Kierce

Steve Early**

Mike Pippin*

Joanne Pike**

*Gift Membership

**Special Supporter, *Thank You!*



Thank You! To

Santa Fe Market

For distributing

“THIS POINT.....in time”

Support our local retailers

Visit our little museum and view our

1000 picture slide show of historic

Point Richmond photos.

Open Thursdays and Saturdays

And the first and second Tuesday

of each month

11:30 am-2:00 pm

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our museum two days each week

Mid Dornan

Pat Pearson

Heinz Lankford

Gary Shows

Lori Kauth

Virginia Mooney

Bonnie Jo Cullison

The Cover:

19 Stairley Street, Victorian built in 1902 by Waverly Stairley, the first cashier of the Bank of Richmond and Richmond's first City Treasurer.

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

garyshows@gmail.com

Here are my usual thank you's to those who contributed to this issue. You guys are the ones who make this little publication worth assembling, printing, mailing and reading. So long as it has something to do with Point Richmond or nearby neighborhoods, I encourage others to submit your memories, announcements, photos, studies, interests, stories, reviews, etc.

Here's to looking forward to a beautiful Springtime!

The deadline for items to be published in the next, April/May springtime issue of TPIT is Friday, March 23, 2018.

Thanks to those who helped fold, staple and address the last issue:

Mid Dornan
Gary Shows
Jerry Cerkowicz
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Heinz Lankford
Pam Wilson
Marcellina Smith
Tom Piazza
Caitlin Hibma



Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Donna Wilson
Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Roberta & Richard Palfini
Patricia Dornan
Les Crim
Norm and Jean Reynolds
Fernando & Becky Garcia
David B. Jones
The Bartram-Owens Family
Burl Willes
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Jeanne Pritchard
Joe Pritchard
Bob Armstrong
Alicia Kae Miller
Abigail Bok & David Gottlieb
Diane Hirano
Steve Birnbaum

History Preservers

Royce Ong
Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Margaret Morkowski
Maurice & Margaret Doherty
Zoe Egger
Linda Newton
Tom & Shirley Butt
The Dolberg Family
Bernie McIntosh
Don & Ingrid Lindemann
Roberta & Tim Montgomery
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza
Karen Buchanan
Norma Wallace
Don & Carole Woodrow
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Gloria & Mark Maltagliati
Anne Brussok-Roth
Ken Blonski & Louise Fender
Erica & Barry Goode
James J. Cheshareck
Tony Lizarraga
Bobbie Swerdfeger Lizzarraga
Linda Hudock
Joanne Pike

A-Mid Trivia

TPIT
Exclusive
since 1984

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334) (middornan@gmail.com)

QUESTION:

What is "OCEANSIDE"?

Answer at end of Trivia

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ABRAHAM LINCOLN and GEORGE WASHINGTON, both birthdays celebrated on George's on Monday February 19th, to provide everyone with a three-day-holiday. Enjoy your freedom.

1.5 million people call in sick the Monday after the Super Bowl.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

The revolving doors were invented by Theophilus because he hated opening doors for women.

Sincere Sympathy to Dee Rosier who's brother and four other family members died recently. Dee, you and their families are in our prayers.

Did your Mother ever tell you, "Wear clean underwear in case you have an accident?"

Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law: the Forgotten History of How the US Government Segregated America*, published in May 2017, is a finalist for the National Book Award in Nonfiction. He lived in Atchison Village.

Cauliflower "rice" has become the new staple in supermarket freezers - a low-cal, low-carb go-to for lunch bowls.

Youthquake is the Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year 2017. Confused? It is defined as

meaning "a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions of influence of young people." The awaking of millennials striving for change during a turbulent 12 months across the world.

Henry Marchitello, do you have stories that can now be told when you were custodian at Washington School?

It is never too late to thank David Vincent for the Christmas Poinsettia in our Museum.

People are prisoners of their cell phones. That is why it's called, a Cell Phone.

Per Aviation Consultancy To70, year 2017 was the safest on record for airline passengers. Chances of a fatal accident in a commercial plane are now 1 in 16 million.

Sue Grafton, author of the alphabetically titled series of detective novels, Sue Grafton, died in November, 2017. Beginning with *A Is for Alibi*, in the 1980s. *Y is for Yesterday*, was published last year and her daughter said, "the alphabet now ends at "Y".

Three 85 and 90 year olds, born in the Point:, Russell Paasch, Florence Wilson, and Pat Pierson shared lunch with guests Fran Smith and me. Their hilarious stories, never told, and still not revealed, created the fun mood of the luncheon. Russ's grandmother Paasch, at one time, cleaned the rooms over the now Up and Under, keeping a special wine opener. The wine opener is so special, it is called a family heirloom. What makes it an heirloom? You need not guess who has possession.

C. Wranger was an Australian weather forecaster who first gave a name to to Hurricanes

in early 1900s.

In March 1975, 42 years ago, it was reported to cost \$12.00 to run a color TV for 3 1/2 hours a day for a year.

Bott's Dots, payment markers warning motorists when they veer out of their lane, are being replaced with new reflective thermoplastic striping.

An after school class in Antioch is teaching students rules. Being respectful to adults, brush your teeth, comb your hair, before leaving home.

Jessie West and Madelyn Law received awards for Volunteers of the Year at a Crime Prevention Banquet.

When people get tattoos, they are often careful to choose a parlor that uses sterile needles. No one checks the chemical ink composition of the colors. French researchers found that those with tattoos had elevated levels of various metals—including titanium, aluminum, chromium, iron, nickel and copper in their skin and lymph nodes suggesting harmful pigments go deeper than the skin.

FIVE HEALTHFUL TERMS

Please

Thank You

I love you

I'm Sorry

I'm Praying for you.

Since 1900, the Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas Bird Count. First year count was done by 27 volunteers across America, spotting nearly 18,500 birds. In 2015, nearly 60,000 volunteers in the U.S. alone counted 646 species and more than 54.5 million individual birds.

Did you know when you blush, the lining of your stomach also turns red. Who finds this kind of information? And why?

Fingernails grow about 4 times faster than toe nails.

Fingers prune underwater because of an evolutionary trait caused by the brain to enhance the grip of your fingers underwater.

Linda Andrew-Marshall is celebrating her retirement with friends going on a Caribbean Blues Cruise in February.

In the 50s and 60s, the name Darling was known by most people in the Point, not because the family of 5 children and their parents fit their name Darling, but because they gave back to the community in many ways. Time came, they moved, never forgetting their roots coming back supporting the Masquers, local church events or treating an Uncle or an old friend to lunch or dinner. Recently Carol Darling, her mother Marilyn, Pleasant Hill, her brother, Dan, Martinez came back to treat an old friend, me, to a pleasant afternoon lunch.

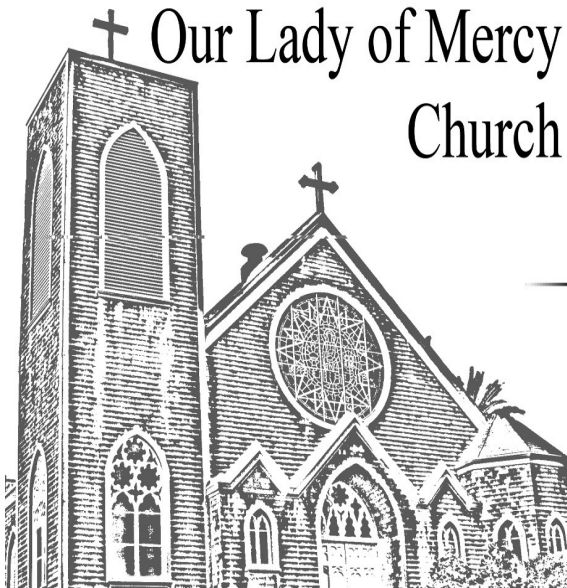
Mary had asked her husband, Roger, numerous times to wash their car saying, "I'm embarrassed to be seen in such a dirty car." Prior activities interrupted and the car wash never seemed to get done. One Saturday, Roger came home to notice she had washed only 'her' side of the car.

ANSWER: OCEANSIDE is Sherwin-Williams official color of 2018 and is described as a "collision of rich blue with jewel-toned green" to color your world. (Pantone, known for custom-color, named their own custom-color matching system as ultra violet.)

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n than puttin' it back in.

Will Rogers

Church News



By Dee Rosier

510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Welcome to 2018 and Daylight Savings Time; when winter walked in. Hopefully 2018 will travel at a slower pace and not present us with such tragic events as 2017. It is time to hope for the best and enjoy some happy moments.

Our Christian community did experience some exciting times last year, and one was a cello/piano concert by Janet Brueshaber Kaminsky (piano) and Pawel roman Walerowski (cello). At one time Pawel led our music. The music selections ran from Bach up through the 19th century to our own time. The concert, "A Journey Through Time," was well attended on a Sunday afternoon.

We celebrated Thanksgiving together with our families and those we cherish the most.

Eucharistic Ministers are volunteer parishioners who assist during the Mass. A simple rite of commissioning took place during Mass.

The commissioning of Lay Ministers included Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and Offertory Gift Bearers. The Offertory Gift Bearers are the children of the Parish. Previously the gift bearers were parishioners, but it became more meaningful when performed by the children. The Ushers are always willing to perform and at times many will volunteer if not given the opportunity. The Lay Ministers are scheduled monthly.

We welcomed Father Robert Christian, Chaplain for the Order of Malta and assigned to St. Alberts parish in Oakland. He gave an outstanding homily on Advent and compared it to a time of waiting. The spirituality he furnished was so well received, it went home in our hearts. We also welcomed pianist, Jonathan Khuner. During the holiday season, our regular musicians are in greater demand.

During the months November/December four baptisms were performed and that is cause for celebration.

Years ago, previous parishioners, Nancy and Stanley Toledo introduced us to the "Giving Tree" and we continue the tradition. Located in the back of the church is a branch with stars decorations. On each star is written an item which is added to the tree. After Epiphany the needed items are delivered to Children's Hospital in Oakland. They then make their way to the Family House where parents of hospitalized children reside.

Since Christmas fell on a Monday, we spent a lot of time attending Masses. The fourth Sunday of Advent was December 24 and ten hours later Midnight Mass was held and twelve hours later Christmas morning Mass. It also caused a quick change from purple decorations for Advent to red for Christmas.

During Christmas week our church distributed forty-some warm coats to the children attending Washington School. Those involved spoke to teachers who advised who was in need, got the number, purchased and thereafter presented them to those who were in need. Pajamas were also distributed.

One of the last maintenance projects is the painting of the louvers on the top of the church tower so all of it will be that nice white and visible from a distance. It is at the top of our wish list. Some touchup painting will also take place inside the church.

Father expressed his thanks for the generosity of the parishioners during the year. Each year we manage to get bills paid and assessments to the diocese paid. As in most households, we sometimes barely make it, but it gets done. Which brings to mind the 2018 donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. If you are a previous donor – look for your name/number on the box. If you are new, sign the sheet of participation.

A surprise electrical outage occurred when the emergency lights in the church all went out. It was fortunate that we were able to hire a handyman who quickly did the repairs and will return to some other needed electrical repairs.

It will remain a mystery! Strewn on the church steps and by Mary's statue were mounds of flowers. No one knows from where they came, but they did. On that Sunday the parishioners all went home with bouquets of lovely flowers.

Bible Study classes continue to be held every other Wednesday in the church hall from 6:30-7:30. All are welcome. Contact Anne Brussok 510-517-9905.

St. Vincent de Paul meets on Tuesdays at 7:00PM in the church hall.

Lord, Teach Me to Pary – Ignatian Prayer Series for Women Only meets on Monday in the church hall from 6:30-8:30. Contact: Wendy Hallett – 925-817-7741.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 10, 11:00AM for World Day of the Sick Mass at The Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland.

SAVE THE DATE: Parish pancake breakfast benefitting St. Vincent de Paul, Sunday, February 25, 9AM-11AM.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Jim and Linda Chezareck, Veronica Arkin, Betty and Michael Lambert, Fred Siegmund, Annette Jemo, Dixie Mello, and Tom Louderback.

Condolences to the family of Vince Kafka (11/19/17- 12/2017) Vince was a gentle giant, giving of his time and warmth to Our Lady of Mercy in many ways. He served as acolyte, usher, and leader of bible studies for years. A Mass of

Christian burial was held on 12/6/17 at St. Monicas. Vince was instrumental in instituting Bible study classes in our parish. We would meet in the homes of the participants. Vince was extremely knowledgeable in Bible study and we all learned many unknowns due to his brilliance. He was an exceptional person and all who were fortunate to know him were indeed blessed.

Tom and Kathy Brady celebrated their 80th birthdays jointly by providing pastries for all to enjoy in the church hall.

A memorial service for Jim Wilson was held at the home of Michael and Cynthia Workman. As an honor to Jim, it was a Pt. Richmond day in the Workman's El Cerrito home.

Condolences to the John Sepulveda family. John was my brother. Where once we were a trey, now a solo.

To end on a happy note and indeed it was when we left church a few weeks ago to spot Elizabeth Hertzburg (maiden name) and her Italian husband in church. There was a waiting line to give her a hug and welcome her back to the U.S. She was living in Italy and now resides in New York. She had returned to her family's home in San Rafael to warm up due to the cold in the East.

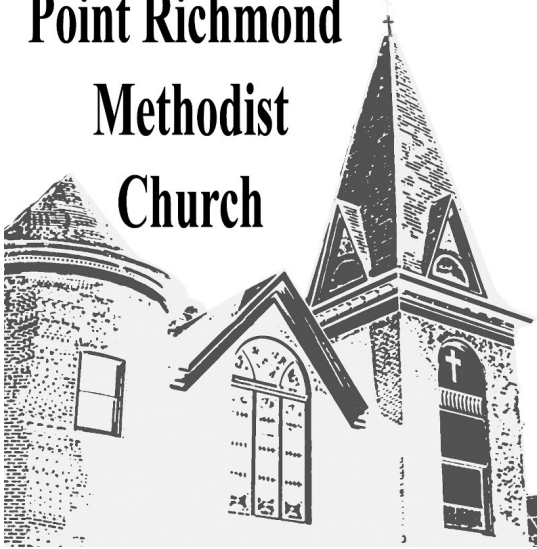
LET'S MAKE IT BETTER IN 2018 –
SPREAD THE LAUGHTER,
SHARE IN THE CHEER –
LET'S ALL BE HAPPY WHILE
WE ARE HERE.

See you in church.



Dee Rosier

Point Richmond Methodist Church



Jean Reynolds

510-734-3942

sweetheart05@mac.com

In November, we collected warm sox for people served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission. In December, we collected diapers for the families served by the Early Childhood Mental Health Center in Richmond.

The Rev. Cornel Barnett preached on November 12 about the Reformation and the historical significance of Martin Luther's critical protests to the evolution of the Christian church as it is today. As we mark 500 years since Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, we can examine the ways he thought the Church teachings and practice missed the mark and see the arc of change through time.

Tanya Cothran of the non-profit Spirit in Action preached on November 26. Spirit in Action gives business grants to families, communities, and individuals mainly in Malawi, Kenya, and Uganda. Earlier in 2017, she published a book with Jennifer Lentfer about her work and philosophy: *Smart Risks*. Tanya said her partners in Africa have misconceptions about Americans, and when she visits there she is struck by the ways we are all alike. Through her work, she is an

ambassador on behalf of Americans; Spirit in Action invests in people so they can make improvements in their lives and communities. George Peter Tingley played three autumn pieces: *Clouds*, *Rustling Leaves*, *November Song* and admitted "When I compose, I never think of clouds, leaves, or November. I think mathematically."

On Thanksgiving Day the community came together to prepare, serve and taste a fabulous feast for all. Earlier in November, Yvonne Nair and Chysandra Nair of Saffron Strand agreed to supervise food preparation and kitchen duty. Not only did they provide leadership and direction, they served lunch to the volunteers on the two workdays prior to the feast. Sincere thanks to our local businesses who contributed food and funds: Santa Fe Market, Starbucks Coffee, Little Louie's, Spot Liquor, Pt. Realty, Kaleidoscope, Awe, Hotel Mac, Feagley Realty, and Beauty by Nature. The week of the feast, Peter Coleridge recruited Nancy Peace and Francisco Lopez to the team assigned to butcher the turkeys. Besides butchering expertly, Francisco took time to sharpen the church knives; we still marvel to use them. Other community members who made the feast a success include Matt Foster, Jennifer Metz Foster, Mim Drake, Diane Marie, Bill Gutierrez, Heinz Lankford, Kristi and Russ Johnson, Julio Osegueda, Deborah Doctor, Doreen and Thea Leighton, Terry Cullinane, Karen Bianchini, Lara Choe, Melodie Smith, Lenora Brown, Shirley Gilbert, Jessie West, Bryan Hastings, Nat Turner, Yulia Solovieva, Silvie Sather, Rosemary Fonseca, Barbara Haley, Fred and Landon Arm, Kate Spaulding, Rachel Herrin, Byron Baptiste, Michael Lee, Kathy O'Brien, Lorraine Lombardo, Linda Andrew Marshall, Helen Hunt, Peggy Geary, Diane Frary, Lorilyn Parmer, Alan and Quinn Folks, and Awe of flower fame. Kit Eakle, Tom Belton, Eileen Johnson and Pastor Dan Damon played ensemble jazz in the sanctuary to entertain the diners. A slew of bakers and procurers donated pies. The weather was mild like only the Bay Area can deliver, and several tables were set outside. After an Interfaith Service of Thanks, we proceeded to serve 150 thankful revelers on site and packed 50 dinners for people to enjoy at home. Fran Smith coordinated the volunteer list, the wait-staff, and tied loose ends.

About sixty people gathered to celebrate the publication of Pastor Dan's latest hymn collection, *My Child Is a Flower*, at a "Singing and Signing Party" on December 3, hosted by El Sobrante United Methodist Church. Dan highlighted some pieces from the collection by reading the poetic lyrics, others he invited everyone to sing. The Joyful Noise Choir and El Sobrante's Praise Band participated. Afterward, people could buy signed copies of the new collection. We contributed to a special offering to assist survivors of the recent Northern California wildfires.

Mia Sassi lit the Advent candle and sang, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in her clear, sweet soprano voice on December 17. Mia occasionally plays the violin while Jennifer Metz Foster plays cello in worship, and helped with Vacation Bible School last summer.

The church supplied a pop-up Holiday Bake Sale on December 16 at Interactive Resources in downtown Point Richmond. Balloons, sandwich-board signs, e-news, and Next Door website helped people find us at the Park Place locale, and we were rewarded by the enthusiasm of our customers. Cornel Barnett was the ideal patron: he donated one pie and bought another one. Pat Dornan wrapped cookie plates and other items in colorful cellophane and ribbon. Some potential buyers arrived too late to participate, as the delicious treats sold out earlier than the 3:00 posted end time.

Clare Anastas, an artist, shopkeeper, and Palestinian Christian, gave the morning sermon on December 17. She used to sell handmade crafts in Bethlehem, but the Israeli government surrounded her home and shop with a wall on three sides as part of its occupation tactics. During a particularly rough period about a decade ago, soldiers used Clare's home as a turret to shoot at people below. Because of the wall, tourists to Rachel's Tomb cannot walk to Clare's gift shop; her family and the artisans lost their livelihood. Now Clare travels to the USA and other countries to tell the story of her life as a person of faith living under occupation. Clare and her local host, Toulia Siacotos, brought sculptures made of carved wood, jewelry, ceramics, and fabric items with intricate sewn designs made by Clare's artisan community. All sales support the

Palestinian craftspeople she works with in Bethlehem. We lamented the injustice she, her family, and her neighbors experience under Israeli occupation.

Sunday morning, December 24, we heard Linda Andrew-Marshall and Gill Stanfield sing "*O Holy Night*" and George Peter Tingley's arrangement of "*Ave Maria*". Despite it being a holiday, Saffron Strand prepared a delicious luncheon complete with cloth napkins and tablecloths for us to enjoy after worship. It was an unbelievable gift!

The Christmas Eve Jazz Service packed the sanctuary and Friendship Hall with neighbors and friends. The band was Dan Damon, piano; Kurt Ribak, bass; Rob Hart, drums; Lincoln Adler, sax. Soloists included Dave Tattershall, Sheilani Alix, Paula Helene, Bethany Reynolds, Gill Stanfield, and Heather Damon. Sadie Crosby read the Christmas story from Luke, and Jean Reynolds read "Christmas with Grandfather." Harlan Butt sang a solo on the first verse of "Silent Night" to lead us in the last carol. The magic of the music, the lights and sparkling surroundings brought us together in an evening of love.

We joyfully received four new members on January 7: Bill Hodges, Ann Kroeber, Michael Lee, and Angie Watson. They are already a valuable part of our community and we appreciate their commitment to join and strengthen our outreach.

Pastor Dan was ill on January 14; thankfully, Charlene Kafer, a certified lay speaker from El Sobrante UMC, was available on short notice to share her faith. Charlene recalled that our congregation was the first place she preached after her certification seventeen years ago. We always enjoy hearing her preach, and appreciate her willingness to serve us.

On the Calendar:

February 14, Ash Wednesday Service, Open Door UMC, 6226 Arlington Blvd, Richmond, 7:30 p.m.

Sweetheart Dinner: This year we honor Yvonne Nair and Chysandra Nair for their years of innovative work with people who are homeless through Saffron Strand. In March: Stay tuned for details!

The Masquers plan three performances at

(Continued on page 13)

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Norma Wallace

WWIC's November meeting took place in Fellowship Hall, First United Methodist Church. With highly organized leadership, the room was set up and ready to welcome members for the 11:30 Brown Bag luncheon. Thank you's to head hostess Mary Lee Cole and co-hostesses Diane Hedler and Diane Marie, responsible for table setup and festive fall-inspired decorations, preparing coffee, tea and homemade desserts, and for supervising clean-up.

Responding to input from members, an "icebreaker" exercise took place during lunch. Prepared and coordinated by Kathleen Wimer, cards on each table asked us to share "two truths and a lie." Then, tablemates attempt to guess the lie. This generated animated discussion and laughter, and "what we say at WWIC stays at WWIC."

Kathleen Wimer reminded members to pay any outstanding dues and review the draft 2017-2018 roster, to be finalized and distributed at the December Holiday Luncheon. President Linda Newton announced birthdays to be celebrated: Margaret Jordan (18th), Diane Hedler (19th), Toulia Siacotos (22nd), skilled rosarian Leslie Hicks (23rd) and longtime supporter Janice Cook (28th). Linda then welcomed new member Jessie West with the Presentation of the WWIC Cup and Saucer. New member Nancy Copeland will be similarly welcomed at her next meeting.

On member news, members sighed with relief to hear that former member and longtime Point resident Grethe Tedrick, while having been evacuated for safety, missed any damage from The Santa Rosa Fires. Alyce Williamson, while absent from this meeting, plans to return once her health has mended, and invites visits.

Of general announcements, a critical tip came from Carla Bowman. Having heard how several fire zone deaths were caused, Carla urges learning how to set your garage door to manual, how to open it manually, and practicing!

Our very special guest speaker, neighbor, fitness powerhouse and business owner Nancy Burns of Body Wisdom spoke on Dynamic Aging, from which everyone present benefitted. One key takeaway. "Your physician tells you, 'it's aging.' It's

not. It's how you live in your body." Nancy then connected our lack of movement with the high rate of C-sections, and hip and knee replacements. So, squat, climb, build muscle, walk, walk, walk! (Practice lifting a garage door manually, and you'll be squatting, lifting, and building muscle!)

The always festive and well attended December Holiday Luncheon turned into one of the local events of the season, occurring at the Hotel Mac Restaurant, owned by WWIC member Lara Choe. Members first assembled around the piano in the lobby. Pastor Dan played welcoming music, then accompanied our traditional carol singing including singing Silent Night in remembrance of former member and past president Anna Schwartz, a refugee who along her future husband fled Europe in front of the Nazi advances to the safety of the U.S.

Beyond being able to enjoy the usual swank atmosphere of The Mac, the beautiful, densely decorated restaurant provided a suitable backdrop to the virtual fashion parade of WWIC members in holiday attire filling first the lobby, then climbing stairs to the dining room to lunch together. Four guests per table encouraged intimate discussion, and members agreed they got to know each other better.

On behalf of members, President Linda Newton expressed gratitude to Margaret Jordan, Cathy O'Brien and Marion Kent for the many volunteer hours the invested in making the Holiday Luncheon such a success. Thanks went to Kathleen Wimer for preparing the 2017-2018 Member Roster.

If you are new to town, newly retired, wanting to meet neighbors or just wondering how to get involved, WWIC welcomes you to our meetings. We request RSVPs so hostesses may prepare ample dessert portions, and we'll make sure to introduce you to somebody who lives near you, or find you a "buddy" for the day if you like. All members have responsibilities: pay dues, attend meetings as possible, hostess once per year (Sept-June, a "bye" in January), make friends. Please see our web presence, graciously created and updated by local artist and webmaster David Moore, Sincere Design. <http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/>

See you around town!



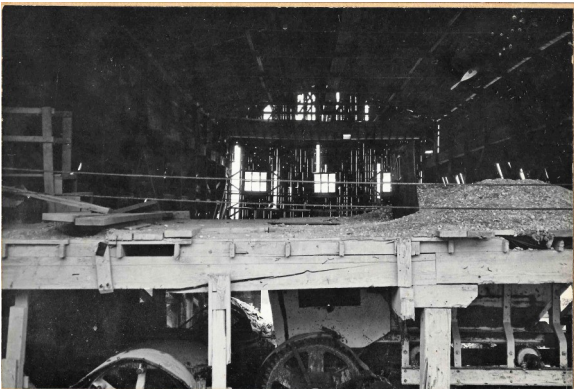
PRHA photo archive #1076 from Mark Healy

This photo is stamped on the back: "United Materials & Richmond Brick Co. Ltd. P.O.Box 7 Pt. Richmond Calif.". I don't know what year it was taken.



PRHA photo archive #1081 from Jon Healy

This is the old barn at the brickyard in the Point. Pic was taken in 1974.



PRHA photo archive #1082 from Jon Healy

This is a pic of the back of same barn. Windows are on top of pic. Taken in 1974. Nikon F-2.



Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

It's amazing what's in the WWIC minutes! They date back to July 1908 when the Club started. The ladies met weekly. In the first six months they set projects in motion that we enjoy to this day: a statue a Washington and Park Place, a large drinking fountain, a park next to the Baptist Church, and the establishment of a reading room where the city hall had been in Mr. Crichtett's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history.

-Linda Newton, President

Pt. Richmond, Nov. 17, 1908

The Woman's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met at Curry's Hall.

The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Adams.

The roll call of officers resulted in all being present except Finance Committee Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Land & Mrs. Jones & Executive Com. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Neidecker & Mrs. Windrew.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Windrew drafted a set of Resolutions concerning the attempted assassination of Francis J. Heney and presented them to the club. After a general discussion the Resolutions were adopted and signed by the President and Secretary and one copy sent to Francis J. Heney, one to District Attorney Laudon and one to the press and one was kept on file by the club.

Bills from the Leader for tags, \$10.00, printing \$1.60 score cards .50 Mrs. Curry hall cleaning \$2.00 Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Trautvetter and Mrs. Topping expense account \$2.46 Total \$16.56.

The Finance Committee reported favorably on the bills and a motion was made and carried that a warrant be drawn on the Treasury for the amount of the bills.

Moved and carried that the fair be held on Friday & Saturday of the first week of Dec.

The chairmen of the different booths were instructed to appoint their assistants and have the names ready to hand in at the next meeting.

Mrs. Grover turned the \$32.75 she had collected on Library Fund.

Moved and carried that Mrs. Coleman select the prize doll and dress it to suit her own taste.

Mrs. Adams reported that Mr. Murray would donate a set of books when the Reading Room was opened.

\$14.75 was turned in for tags and \$32.75 Library Fund.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Woodland for information about a fountain.

Total	Receipts	\$47.50
Disbursements \$16.56		

There being no further business to come before the club the meeting adjourned to meet Nov. 24, 1908.

Mrs Geo. W. Topping, Sec

Pt. Richmond, Nov. 24, 1908

The Women's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met at Curry's Hall

The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of the officers resulted in all being present except Vice President Mrs. Curry, Financial Sec. Mrs. Trautvetter, Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Lang, Executive Com. Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Neidecker, Mrs. Winduer & Mrs. Arnold.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Sec. reported that a letter had been received from District Attorney Langdon and gave substance of the letter.

The following bills were read, Mrs. Lucas and Adams expense account at \$3.70, Mrs. Topping post cards \$1.00, Mrs. Adams material for fair \$12.70. Total \$17.40.

The Finance Committee reported favorably on the bills and it was moved and carried that a warrant

(Continued from page 12)

be drawn on the treasury for the amount of the bills.

Mrs. Runyon & Mrs. Whitecourt assisted by Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. McCabe & Mrs. Fitzpatrick were appointed to take charge of the enchilada booth for the fair.

A general discussion about the Fair was indulged in.

Mrs. Topping reported that Mr. Critchett will have the building ready for the Reading Room as soon as possible.

There being no further business to come before the club, the meeting adjourned to meet Dec. 1, 1908.

Receipts	\$12.00
Disbursements	\$17.40

Pt. Richmond, Dec 1, 1908

The West Side Women's Improvement Club of Richmond met at Curry's Hall.

The meeting was called to order by President Mrs. Adams.

The roll call of officers resulted in all being present except Treasurer Mrs. Lucas, Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Lang, Executive Mrs. Windrew, Mrs. Arnold & Mrs. Niedecker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

Communications from District Attorney

Langdon and the National Alliance were read and ordered placed on file.

Bills were read as follows: Expense acct Mrs. Curry & Mrs. Trautvetter \$1.35 hall cleaning Mrs. Curry \$2.00 & expense \$1.55 union transfer & expense \$1.25, Mrs. Topping ribbon & ticking \$1.05, Mrs. Adams ribbon .87, Mrs. Eaton goods and expense \$9.95, Mrs. Drinick goods \$7.50 & expense \$2.00, Mrs. Addams, Wells Fargo expenses .25. Total \$27.77.

The Finance Com. Reported favorably and it was moved & carried that a warrant be drawn on the treasury for the amount.

Mrs. Riggs was appointed as chairman of the Tea booth in place of Mrs. Jauke.

Mrs. Curry was appointed to see Mr. Moore and have him get berries & evergreens for our fair.

Mrs. Topping reported that Mr. Homes would like to give a lecture for the Scranton Correspondent School under the name of the club, the subject was laid over till after the holidays.

Moved and carried that the parcels donated to our fair by Kahn & Abramson of Oakland be returned at their expense.

There being no further business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned to meet Dec. 7, 1908.

Receipts	3.00
Disbursements	27.77
Mrs. Geo. W. Topping, Sec.	

Methodist Church News

(Continued from page 9)

the church on March 16-18.

Point Richmond Acoustic Concerts: February 9, Laurie Lewis and Nina Gerber; March 9, John Reischman and the Jaybirds. Door opens at 7:00, Show at 7:30. Get discount tickets in advance www.pointacoustic.org or purchase at the door.

Point Richmond Jazz: February 23, Christian Howes, Violin; March 23, Andy Stein, Violin. Door opens 7:00, Show at 7:30 p.m. Buy discounted tickets in advance at prjazz.org or at the door.

For updates, see the church website: pointrichmondmethodist.org

The Donation

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?'

'It is!'

'This is the IRS. Can you help us?'

'I can!'

'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?'

'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?'

'He is!'

'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?'

'He will.'

The Point's past focus of group

RICHMOND — The newly formed Point Richmond History Association will hold its first annual meeting Sunday, May 2, 1 to 3 p.m., at the Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Ave.

A graphic depiction of the history of the west Contra Costa shoreline will be presented by Bill Moxley, Contra Costa College instructor of California and regional history. Moxley's research includes slides of the new marina, Brickyard Cove, Point Richmond, Point Molate and the whaling station, and Point San Pablo.

A group of some of the most distinguished members of the Point Richmond community will give their first-hand accounts of the "good old days" at the Point. Speakers will be Mary Casey, Caroline Davidson, Trannie Dornan, Marion Downey, Eleanor Hurley, and Clarice Stribley. Douglas Corbin will be moderator.

Refreshments will be served, and a brief business meeting for members will follow the program which will be videotaped by William Linhart.

The Point Richmond History Association was formed with the publication of the book "This Point in Time" in October, 1980. A group of interested residents researched and compiled the information about the Point's history and with the publication of the book came the recognition of the need for an ongoing and more thorough collection of facts, stories, artifacts, and memorabilia connected with the Point's colorful past, said Donna Roselius, Association president.

The Association was incorporated just last month as a non-profit organization for the purpose of preserving information relevant to present and future understanding of the people and events contributing to the Point's development and making this information accessible to the general public.



Mary B. Casey, left, Eleanor Hurley, Caroline Davidson, and Trannie Dornan will discuss 'the good old days' at the Point at the annual meeting of Point Richmond History Association. They

Membership in the History Association includes year's subscription to the newsletter, also titled "This Point in Time" (eight issues) plus an invitation to a event sponsored by the Association.

The newsletter will feature articles on Point Richmond history, current history-making events, interviews with notable residents, scenic Point sketches, and local communications of general interest to people in the Point Richmond area.

Cost for memberships are \$10, single; \$5 senior citizens 65 and over; \$20, family; \$25, organization; \$50, history-preserved; and \$100, history-maker. Send check, name, address, and telephone number to the Point Richmond History Association, c/o Michelle Brown, 25 Idaho St., Point Richmond, CA 94801. New memberships will be accepted at the annual meeting.



—Staff photo by James Pease

photographed at the Richmond Supply Company, one of the Point's landmarks, which was opened for business in 1905 by the late Robert Dornan Sr. and is run by his widow Trannie Dornan.

Serving on the Association board with president, Mrs. Roselius, are Rosemary Corbin, vice president and membership chairman; Judy Spediacci, secretary; Mildred Dornan, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Brown, treasurer; Teresa Albro, archives chairman; Lucretia Edwards, community resource chairman; Roz Bury, publicity chairman. Trannie Dornan is an honorary member of the board.

38 Years!

1980 newspaper clipping donated by Monica Ellis

From Point Counterpoint to This Point in Time: A Look Back

Donna Roselius

At several points in time before April 9, 1966, Donna Roselius and Sylvia Hutchison lamented the purposeful inattention paid to Point Richmond by the city government and the local newspaper. The two women, whose common interest had previously been music, believed that a publication focused on Point Richmond was necessary, but unlikely to appear.

Thus, with little forethought, no capital, and only a typewriter for equipment, the two young women typed a two-page newsletter, and named it "*Point Counterpoint, a Journal for Civic Communication*". For the first publication, Sylvia received sub-rosa assistance from her aunt, an instructor at Contra Costa College; and on April 9, 1966, out came the first newsletter, hot off the faculty ditto machine.

Local businesses obligingly provide counter space for the newsletter, which sold for five cents.

The newsletter was to be a weekly publication. Donna immediately purchased a small used mimeograph machine, and a supply of paper. Typing and drawing on a mimeograph master was primitive, but a definite improvement on the anemic ditto copy.

Imminent plans by the City to accept Santa Fe's proposal to establish an industrial park directly across from Washington Elementary School was one of *Point Counterpoint's* immediate concerns. Another was the controversy about land use on what is now the Regional Park area. Environmentally unfriendly industries were

(Continued from page 15)

being allowed there at the time.

After only a few months of publication, Point Residents responded strongly to issues aired in the newsletter. And, even though Mrs. Huchison dropped out after three months because of her busy schedule, volunteer articles by other residents kept the paper growing in size and coverage. Home delivery (for seven cents) began after the first month, and provided spending money for several grade-schoolers.

Civic groups, church groups, poets, historians and librarians contributed to the weekly news. Soon the size of the newsletter required an extended deadline on Thursdays. Donna found herself working into the wee hours on Friday, and soon a volunteer crew would gather over coffee on Friday mornings to collate and staple the newsletter.

By 1968, a larger mimeograph machine was spewing out 15-page newsletters. Regular contributors included the late Don Church, Curtis Beresford, Bob Friend and Dorothy King. Mid Dornan had a weekly article (*A-Mid Trivia*) that continues to this day in *This Point in Time*. Barbara Quien, George Coles, representatives of the local library, PTA, Civic Group, the Masquers, and the Point Richmond Business Association also provided regular articles.

Finally, by 1969, Donna was able to purchase a small offset machine. She found illustrating the newsletter, especially with sketches of historic homes, suddenly became much more enjoyable. The twenty-page newsletters had become a true community journal. Her job, which new kept her up all night on Thursdays, was illustrating, editing, typing and printing. Friday morning a group of faithful assemblers met over coffee and a light lunch, after which copies were distributed to local businesses. The after-school team, now number about ten, covered the Point's subscribers (40 cents per month). Individual newsletters sold for ten cents.

The *Point Counterpoint* continued until mid-September, 1970. Its circulation and size demanded a more professional and financially logical organization. It had existed on funds that covered expenses only. No one was paid, except

for the paper carriers, who benefited more from their exercise than the monetary collections. Donna had no desire to start an actual "business", so she stopped publishing, in the hope that someone else would take on the project.

Eventually, others did publish successors to *Point Counterpoint*, as commercial ventures. Unfortunately, the publications were short lived.

When, in the late 1970's, a group of Point citizens became active in establishing parts of Point Richmond as a National Historic Area, several also decided to make use of the historic data included in the original *Point Counterpoint*. Illustrations and articles plus information provided by homeowners were compiled for the book *This Point In Time, an Historic View of Point Richmond, California*. The book was edited by Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown and Rosemary Corbin. Researchers included the editors, Clare and Maurice Doherty, Mildred Dornan and Lucretia Edwards. The book was published in 1980, at which time the Point Richmond History Association was incorporated.

The Point Richmond History Association decided to publish a monthly newsletter, *This Point in Time*, beginning in Mar, 1982. Much of the community news originally covered by the *Point Counterpoint* was included in the monthly booklet; with emphasis on historic events, and including interviews with long-time residents. Donna Roselius, who served as president of the Association, once again published the booklet. The original staff included Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Roz Bury, Rosemary Corbin, Mid Dornan, Lucretia Edwards and Donna Roselius. Illustrations were provided mostly by Donna Roselius; but after a few years, it became possible to reproduce photographs as well.

The monthly newsletter continued to be published by Donna Roselius until late 1987, when her husband retired, and they decided to move to Oregon. Frankie Greenlaw took over as managing editor in late 1987. In March of 1988 when Frankie moved from the Point, Gary Shows began to edit and publish the booklet as a bi-monthly magazine, and has done so until this point in time (2018). The present *This Point in Time* has over 250 subscribers and is also sold at local markets.

For Better or Wurster

by Caitlin Hibma

The modern movement is a big deal in the historic preservation field these days. Many people think of Victorians and Craftsman bungalows when the words “historic house” are uttered. However, when environmental and planning regulations deem buildings “age eligible” at 45 and 50 years, the 1960s and 70s come into play. Suddenly, a gamut of new architectural philosophies, forms, materials, and designers enter the scene, throwing tradition and status quo into disarray in a truly avant and stylish way.

Thanks to a bohemian and progressive character cultivated over the years, Point

Richmond is a trove of Modernist architectural gems. One is currently for sale and I couldn't help but drop into a recent open house to ogle the architecture. Even if I don't have the million-and-a-half to buy it for myself, the house's construction date and designer are enough to get an architectural historian, like me, excited. Located at 229 Bishop Avenue, the house is a 1939 design by William W. Wurster. It appears at least 20 years ahead of its time, which is why Wurster appropriately is known as California's first great modernist architect.

Wurster was born in Stockton in 1895. He worked for architect E.B. Brown while in high



229 Bishop Avenue

school and later attended U.C. Berkeley, earning a degree in architecture. In San Francisco Wurster found the lack of creativity in the architecture industry frustrating and (somewhat counter-intuitively) went to work for the Sacramento Filtration District designing a filtration plant. While doing so, he took on independent projects designing houses and found his true calling. During the 1920s, filtration plant design served as the financial foundation upon which he built his own practice in Berkeley.

In the 1930s, Wurster's office grew to employ teams of designers, though his own signature aesthetics always were in evidence. In 1944, he took Theodore Bernardi as a partner. The firm became Wurster & Bernardi, and Wurster took advantage of the shared leadership to attend Harvard Graduate School of Design and serve as MIT's Dean of Architecture for a time. In 1951, he returned to the Bay Area to be Dean of Architecture at U.C. Berkeley and is credited with founding the University's College of Environmental Design. Also in 1951, Wurster & Bernardi took on a third partner, Donn Emmons, and became Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, or WBE. The firm won the American Institute of Architects architectural firm award in 1965, and Wurster was honored with the AIA Gold Medal in 1969. While working on his own, Wurster designed over 200 houses in the Bay Area (at least three in Point Richmond), with many more projects throughout California undertaken under the Wurster & Bernardi and WBE partnerships.

Wurster is credited with originating the Second Bay Tradition style. The Bay Tradition was an ongoing regional architectural trend classified into three different periods spanning from 1910 through the 1960s. The designs of each period perpetuated the common characteristics of modest, straightforward, distinctive design that responded to the Bay Area's climate, geography, and informal cultural attitudes. The First Bay Tradition was a derivation of the Shingle style and was influenced by the Craftsman style, while the Second Bay Tradition was inspired by the International and Ranch styles. The Third Bay Tradition was a synthesis of the earlier two that combined rustic materials with strikingly modern forms (Sea Ranch is a textbook example).

Wurster's Second Bay Tradition was prevalent

between 1930 and 1960, and is described as “a unique combination of the 'less is more' dictum of the International style and the woodsy local rural Bay Region vernacular architecture of ranches, barns, and low-cost homes.” This resulted in low, single-story houses featuring cubistic forms, large expanses of glass, and open plans, which were rendered in redwood siding, exposed interior roof structures, interior wood paneling, and low pitched roofs.

Although Wurster objected to the “Second Bay Tradition” label being applied to his work, and considered his designs an organic response to regional needs and client wishes, he used a visual language of rural vernacular in uniquely modern forms that can only be appropriately defined as Second Bay Tradition, following on the philosophies and aesthetics of the First Bay Tradition. He believed strongly in context and therefore allowed four elements – site, climate, local lifestyle, and regional architectural traditions – to influence his designs. His work was so well integrated into its surroundings that it often went unnoticed by the passer-by. Views were incredibly important, dictating a house's orientation. Wurster is quoted as having said “small matter in what you live; of great importance is what you look at.” If no view was available, Wurster would create garden landscaping for the house to relate to. He used large expanses of glazing and made sure no structural members ever interrupted sight lines to the outdoors. He also created indoor/outdoor spaces that were sheltered but open to the air. His designs always responded to light, shade, and prevailing winds.

Even as early as the 1930s, the California lifestyle was notably more informal and unpretentious than that of the East Coast. Temperate climate allowed people to embrace the outdoors and a lack of traditional sentimentality meant they did not want to live in or maintain monumental houses. The time period in which Wurster designed, during the Depression and World War II, also demanded economic frugality. For these reasons, his designs were simple and used inexpensive materials. They drew on the existing influences of ranch houses and Spanish Colonial architecture; which also harmonized with the environment and used local materials, as was Wurster's ideal. Wurster coined a concept that embodied all of these aspects - the

“large-small house” - achieving the quality and livability of a larger house by using siting to create privacy, capturing views that visually increased the size of rooms, designing rooms for multiple purposes, and eliminating visual distraction to allow the eye to travel away from confining walls and toward open outdoor views.

Wurster's designs were incredibly appropriate, both to their location and the people who lived in them. He took great pains to accommodate his client's needs both in terms of lifestyle and finances, allowing the homeowner to lead the design process rather than enforce his own aesthetic preferences or signature stylistic conventions. Because of this, few of Wurster's designs are similar. In an age of urban growth and societal pressure, he sought to create peaceful retreats for his clients through designs that achieved privacy, separation from the public realm, and focus toward serene landscapes. While some criticized Wurster's simple and efficient work as “cheap,” it resulted in truly Modernist architecture.

Unfortunately, the newness of Modernism within the historic preservation discussion means that it is still often overlooked. People tend to regard Modernist buildings as too “young” to be historic or too familiar to be important. Subsequently, they go

un-evaluated, unprotected, and too often lost. It's time to start recognizing our Modernist buildings and their place in architectural history. Their walls might be more glass than clapboard and their roofs might slope a different way, but they are just as important to the character, history, and culture of our town as the cottages of Smokey Row. So, with that, I put out a call: I've heard some murmured suggestions of a Modernism survey of the Point. We certainly have a rich and somewhat fathomless inventory to catalog and it would be a great project for the Point Richmond History Association and interested community members to take on. Drop me a line at caitlin@leftcoastarchitecturalhistory.com if you are interested in brainstorming, strategizing, or leaving tips.

Sources:

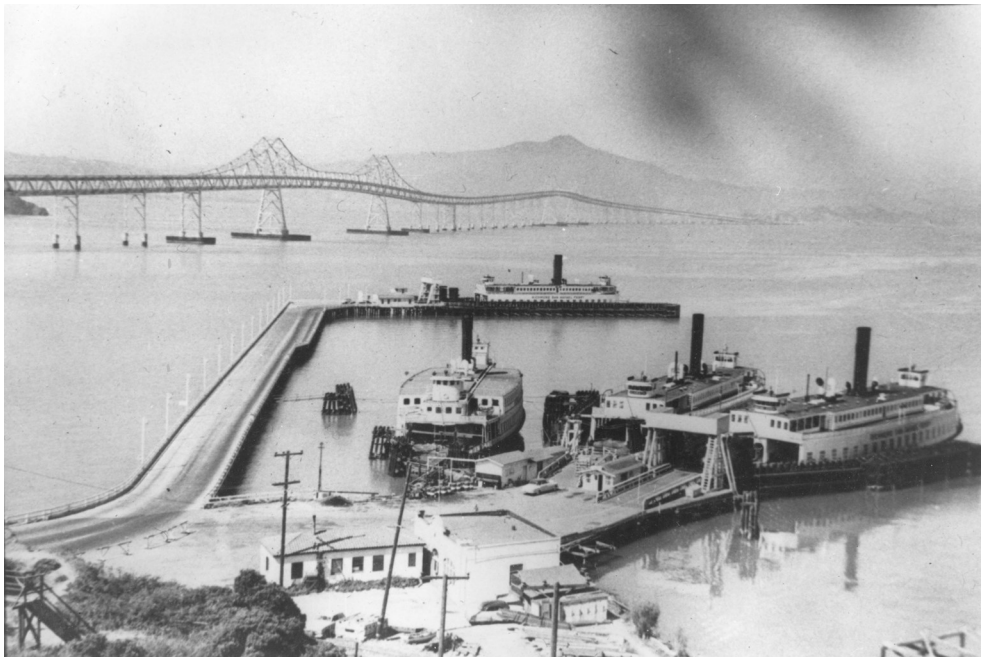
Lester Walker. *American Shelter*. New York: The Overlook Press, 1996.

Sally Woodbridge. *Bay Area Houses*. Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 1988.

R. Thomas Hille. *Inside the Large Small House: The Residential Design Legacy of William W. Wurster*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1994.

*Ferry
Terminal
after the
bridge was
built, 1955.*

*PHRA
Photo
Archive
#195*



Edward A. Hoffman, City Engineer and Superintendent of Streets

By James J. Cheshareck

Beginning before Richmond's incorporation in 1905, some pioneers, City administrators, executives, and prominent citizens have been honored with a street bearing their surname. Several of them once resided in Point Richmond before moving to Richmond Heights and Mira Vista which was considered fashionable and upscale in the 1920's & 1930's. Such is the case of Edward A. Hoffman, Richmond's sixth City Engineer and fourth Superintendent of Streets. When compiling data for the Standard Avenue article, I also researched the history of Hoffman Boulevard. While I knew of him and that Hoffman Blvd. was named for him, I elected to research Ed Hoffman when I uncovered his wife's Point Richmond roots and his contributions to the City.

Although Hoffman Blvd. may be remembered for its reputation as a dangerous highway, the man it was named for should be remembered as one who rose from humble beginnings to become a tireless public servant regarded as one of the State's finest engineers. Edward Adolph Hoffman was born Nov. 18, 1893, the second child of German immigrant parents Edward Carl Hoffman, and Emilie B. Hoffman. He was raised in Stege, the 600 acre ranch of

Richard Stege. He had an older sister, Alma, and a younger brother, Walter. The family home was on Bay Avenue which was industrial at the bay end. There stood Metropolitan Match Company, and Wheeler, Reynolds, and Stauffer Company (later Stauffer Chemical), which employed his father. In the years after Richmond annexed this portion of Stege in 1912, Bay Avenue was renamed S. 47th Street. Mr. Hoffman's brother-in-law, Archibal H. Campbell, also resided in Stege and was Superintendent of California Cap Company on Laurel Avenue (later renamed S. 45th Street) which manufactured explosives.

The Hoffman brothers both attended U.C. Berkeley with Ed Hoffman graduating in 1915. His brother Walter became a lawyer, residing in San Mateo and practicing law in San Francisco. By 1916 Ed Hoffman had begun working in the City Engineers office for his predecessor Harry Day Chapman (1868-1948). Mr. Chapman, a native of St. Louis, MO., and his wife Edith resided on Crest Avenue. Ed Hoffman worked up from draftsman and by 1922 was Deputy Superintendent of Streets. When Chapman retired after 14 years, Richmond's first City Manager, James A. McVittie (1885-1945) appointed Hoffman to the job on Aug. 16, 1924.

Leonie Trautvetter had been a clerk in the City Engineers office a few years before Ed Hoffman's arrival. Her employment began when City Hall was at 210 Washington Avenue. Three months older, Leonie Trautvetter (like Mr. Hoffman) was of Teutonic descent, as both of her grandfathers were born in Germany. She was the daughter of Andrew C. and Louise Trautvetter. Her father worked at Standard Oil, and her mother was a member of the Women's Westside Improvement Club. The family home at 401 Santa Fe Avenue made for an easy walk to work before City Hall relocated to central Richmond in 1915. City Hall would move again two years later to 25th St. and Nevin Avenue. By 1922 they had married and made their home at 412 Washington Avenue, the upper flat in a duplex. Their daughter Enid was born in July, 1925.

By 1932 The Hoffmans had departed Point Richmond and moved to 587 Dimm Street, nestled above San Pablo Avenue near Barrett Avenue within Richmond's City limits. Other officials



and executives also settled in the area during this period, and those who weren't employed by the City were free to move higher up the hill to El Cerrito. Hoffman's assistant and Deputy Superintendent of Streets was George Henry Miller Sr. (1890-1944) father of Assemblyman and State Senator George Miller Jr. (1914-1969), and grandfather of retired U.S. Congressman George Miller III. Budgeting, planning, and designing for parks and infrastructure, Hoffman also secured funding from various Federal and State relief programs in the 1930's for Richmond. He also appeared before Army Corps of Engineers hearings.

During his tenure as head of Public Works, Mr. Hoffman coped with the vast change and growth Richmond endured during WW2. With the population more than quadrupling within a few years, rapid improvement of infrastructure would be a formidable challenge. Largely due to his perseverance, the State Division of Highways constructed a thoroughfare between Eastshore Blvd. (Hwy. 40) in Albany and Cutting Blvd. in Richmond in 1942. Known as Hermann Avenue, Shipyard Highway, and "Access Highway" it provided an arterial route to the Kaiser Shipyards and the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry. It was incorporated into the State Highway system along with Standard Avenue and portions of Potrero Ave., 7th Street, Cutting Blvd., and Western Drive in 1947. Ironically, this seedling of future Interstate 580 cut through Mr. Hoffman's childhood neighborhood where he once hunted ducks in Richard Stege's manmade ponds.

In 1949 the Richmond City Council twice passed resolutions to rename a street in honor of an outstanding City official. Pullman Avenue and Panhandle Blvd. was renamed Carlson Boulevard for Thomas Mervyn Carlson (1893-1961) who served as City Attorney from 1926 to 1958. Carlson was a nationally known attorney and former State Assemblyman who declined Federal judgeship and U.S. Attorney appointments to continue serving Richmond. He made over 100 trips to Washington D.C. on public business earning him the title "Mr. Richmond". Like Hoffman, Tom Carlson, was a 1915 U.C. Berkeley graduate and resided in the same neighborhood a few blocks away.

At a crowded City Council meeting "Access Highway" was renamed Hoffman Boulevard in honor of the man credited for its creation, but more importantly, for 30-plus years of dedicated service from an employee who grew up in "Richmond" before it was Richmond. Mayor Dr. Amos Burton Hinkley (1894-1982) handed Ed Hoffman a "Hoffman Blvd." street sign at the end of the ceremony. George Miller Jr. and State Senator Truman H. DeLap (1885-1974) were present as were Oakland's city engineer, the president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, City Attorney Tom Carlson, and George Mattis from the California Division of Highways.

For the next five years he worked alongside the California Division of Highways improving transportation for Richmond. Under construction at the time were the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, its approach, and the Eastshore Freeway (Hwy 40), which would become part of Interstate 80. His efforts helped make these projects possible, but unfortunately he didn't live to see them completed. Ed Hoffman died suddenly at his home on Aug. 25, 1954 at age 60, intending to keep an appointment later in the day with the Chamber Of Commerce on freeway plans. Tributes poured in from Civic Leaders and citizens as Richmond mourned his death. Fred Parr Cox credited him for making development of the inner harbor possible. Among the compliments: "the most important man on the Planning Commission" and "he knew the location of every underground pipe in Richmond". Ed Hoffman had served Richmond close to 40 years and was well liked and respected by his colleagues. In contrast, his brother lived to 89, his sister to 98, and his mother to 100.

Shortly after his death, Leonie Hoffman moved away from Richmond. She died in 1980 in Monterey County at the age of 86. There are only portions of Hoffman Blvd. remaining today. The only original alignments are between S. 8th St. and S. 10th St. (Harbour Way), and the freeway section between S. 47th St. and Albany, although widened and a lane added in each direction. The old Hoffman home on Washington Ave. is no longer a duplex, but is well preserved. The current owner has lived in it for over 40 years, and it's a stellar example of the Point's historic architecture.

FREE Field Trips for Richmond schools at the Richmond Museum of History

Do you know of a teacher in Richmond who would like to bring their class to the Richmond Museum of History at 400 Nevin Ave? If so, please pass along the message that we are offering scholarships for museum admission and transportation to and from the Museum in spring 2018. Field trips include a tour through the permanent exhibit with an museum educator, a scavenger hunt, and facilitated educational activities. The program is made possible by a grant from the Economic & Community Investment Program, the City of Richmond, and Chevron Richmond. Interested parties should contact Melinda at melinda@richmondmuseum.org or call (510) 235-7387.

Our Little Musuem's Little Sign

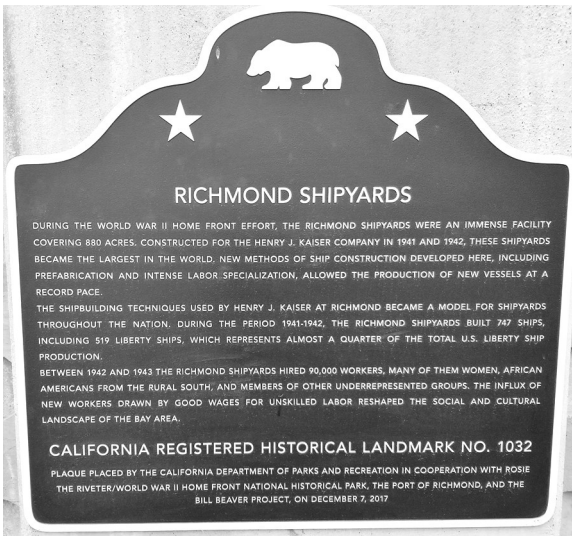
by Heinz Lankford

The Point Richmond Museum has endured the passing of time and whatever the elements of nature could thrust against our petite building. Efforts were made to spruce up the exterior of the building a number of times since the early 1990's but one small feature had been neglected far too long, the small sign at the rear of the building.

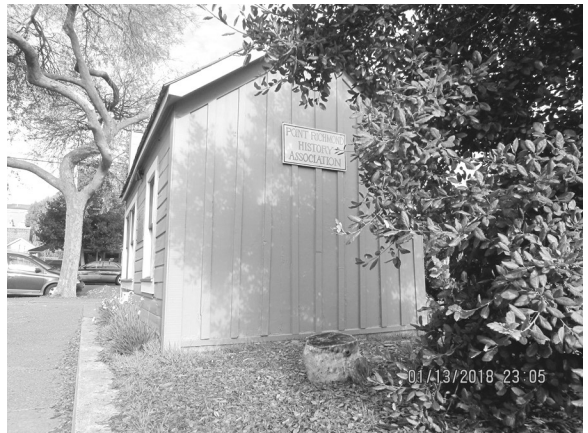
The small sign was in need of some professional help, far beyond my personal skills. The lettering on the sign looked tired, worn down by years of exposure to sun and rain. I approached a local cartoon artist, David Moore, about the possibility of him bringing back life to that old sign. David did not hesitate, he accepted the challenge and since it was for the Point Richmond History Association refused any payment for his work.

A few weeks later the face lift of the sign was completed. David and I hung the sign back in its former location. A couple of David's friends observed the procedure and with the "thumbs up" motion approved of the new look.

Thank you, David.



New Plaque at Shipyards Entrance on Canal Street



*Never Squat with your spurs on.
Will Rogers*

Masquers Playhouse, Past, Present and Future

by Frances Smith

For over 60 years, Masquers entertained audiences from Richmond and throughout Contra Costa County and the greater Bay Area with exciting musicals, mysteries, comedies and dramas in their Playhouse at 105 Park Place. It all started in 1955 when a church choir needed funds to buy choir robes. An enterprising group of budding thespians mounted a production of *Stardust*. The first production was so successful that an all-volunteer membership group formed the Masquers and continued to provide live theater for the next five years in other venues. In 1960 the Masquers moved to Point Richmond into a building that was once a grocery store. Since then they have won many awards for their highly creative productions in the very competitive and lively San Francisco Bay Area theater environment.

The old brick and mortar building was not ADA compliant, there were no breakout spaces for youth educational programs, the number of seats was not adequate to meet the demand for all productions, the backstage facilities were severely cramped and one patron commented that the bathrooms made airplane bathrooms look spacious. In 2016, just days before the opening of an exciting new production, the facilities manager discovered a significant weakness in one of the theater's load-bearing beams. Concerned for the safety of audiences and actors the show was cancelled and the playhouse was closed until structural, seismic and ADA improvements could be made.

Several engineers, architects and one retired Fire Chief have inspected the building. Architectural plans have been developed for the theater's renovation. Bids were submitted from a number of construction firms. The cost of repairing, modifying, completing a substantial seismic reinforcement of the building and improving the theater will require a major and lengthy capital campaign.

In March of 2017, a Masquers Moving Forward Committee was formed, comprised of the

Masquers Board of Directors, Theater Administrative Staff, Masquers members and community supporters who all champion the goal to reopen the Playhouse. A capital campaign fundraising consultant has completed a feasibility study and helped define our major fundraising goals and to guide our efforts in the months to come more clearly. A long time Masquers member has just volunteered to serve as the theater managing director and is organizing a schedule of performances and stage readings in alternative venues to keep live theater alive in this community and also generate operating funds to cover the monthly costs for heat, power, insurance and other necessities.

Our next performance will be tasty – literally. We invite you to a festive evening on February 24 at Riggers Loft Wine Company for our first ever crab feed, featuring great food, music, and probably a surprise or two. We are theater people, after all. The arts can't survive in a vacuum, and we're heartened to know that community support for Masquers Playhouse is deep. Thank you for the generous donations that continue to arrive in the mail box, and for supporting artistic expression in all forms.



**MASQUERS
CRAB
FEED**

SAT., FEB. 24

Doors Open 5:00 PM
Happy Hour 5:00-6:30 PM
Dinner 6:30-8:00 PM

Live Entertainment by Masquers and Friends throughout evening

Cash Wine Bar, 50/50 Game, Raffle and Silent Auction
prize winners announced 8:30 PM
bring your nutcracker



Tickets \$55
masquers.eventbrite.com
or 510-232-4031
Option: scan with a
QR code reader to buy tickets

Riggers Loft Wine Co.
1325 Canal Blvd.

This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond. It was compiled by Don Church from the "Richmond Independent", "Point Richmond News", "The Leader" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of many historical items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, early 1900's

The Record and The Leader

Point Richmond was called Eastyard or West Side

- 01-25-1911 Black Diamond wants a new name
- 02-01-1911 S.F. awarded 1915 Expo by Congress Tuesday 1-28
- 02-04-1911 John Nicholl to build resort on Pt. Potrero (Pipe Dream)
- 02-07-1911 Key Route to extend to Richmond
- 02-11-1911 Beautiful lawns around new library at 4th and Nevin
- 10-26-1911 Aeroplane Co. is Incorporated
- 11-05-1911 Hundreds flock to see Frobergs aeroplane
- 11-09-1911 Black Diamond is now Pittsburg
- 11-14-1911 City purchases fire truck for \$6495 for Company No. 1 in the Point
- 11-15-1911 Nicholl to start drilling oil well tomorrow
- 11-19-1911 Mrs. Curtin (Peard) to build 9 flat bldg. Cost \$9000 at Nicholl and Washington
- 11-24-1911 Pullman Plant is a wonder
JC Weirick builds garage at Tunnel and Richmond
- 11-25-1911 Nicholl discovers artesian water in oil well
- 12-17-1911 House warming at new Colonial Hotel (*ed: Hotel Mac*) by Kate Reardon
- 10-16-1913 William Berry buys Oliver Wylie's Bar, The Meca on Washington Ave.
- 10-17-1913 The population of Richmond is 18,201 according to the new directory.
- 10-29-1913 John Nicholl makes donation of \$1000 to Womens Improvement Club and the Richmond Womens Club.
- 11-07-1913 Chief Arnold tells the Red Lights they will have to close on Dec. 1st. (State Law)
- 11-25-1913 Insanity charges against Miss Achsie Downer on Castro St.
Geo. Lee has City Engr. Chapman and City Att'y Hall arrested for tearing down fence across his lot on Crest Ave.
- 12-06-1913 All wagons must have lights at night from now on. Too many being struck by autos.
- 12-21-1913 Lee Windrem and Gary Follett nearly at fist cuffs at council meeting over perks.

Birthdays

February

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mark Gebhart
Sarah Wilson
Steven Mertle
Billy Bob Karl
Chris Rotting
Walter MacMillan
Connie Healy

Marcos Rotting
Jim Allgaier
Thomas R Williams
Lanow Howe
Rowene MacMillan
Ethel MacMillan
Art Gagnier
Hilda Gozzi-Reed
Kim Ward

Anne Brussok-Roth
Jared Bigard
Lupe Padilla Lopez
Allegra Fenton
Kay Mayfield Madison
Artrese Morrison
Anne Roth
Kiley Brougham
Brenda McKinley

Frank Smith
Leonard Smith
Mark Mallagiatse
Anne Brussok-Roth
Gretchen Van Tassel
Shaw

March

GIRL SCOUTS CAMP FIRE GIRLS

Rachel Palfini
Damon Kiehn
Kathe Kiehn
Sophia Frame Rice
Isabella Frame Rice
Karolyn Macdiarmid
Carol Paasch

JoAnn Bray
Carol Darling
Claire E. Crowson
Ben Bray
Ken Madison
Jean Knox
Lavinia Karl
Darlene A. Wright
Brian Richardson

Susan Berman
Mary Valenzano
Isobel Folson
Myron Pestana
Delphina Franco
Tawney
Mike Smith
Michael Lambton
Lucile Cottingham

Meyer
Henry Marchitiello
Evan Jahromi
Kenneth Madison
Kara Piantidosi
Michael Smith
Tom Butt
Harlan Butt
Ryland Thomas Butt



*PRHA
photo
archive
#1083, old
Standard
Avenue
with refin-
ery in the
back-
ground.*

Memorials.....

Sandi Genser-Maack

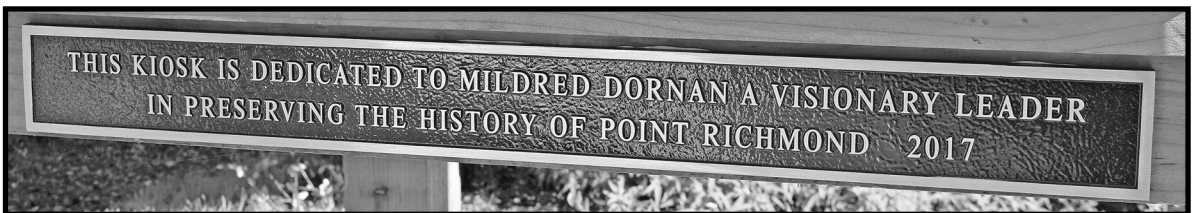
December 2, 1945 - November 26, 2017

The most important thing to Sandi Genser-Maack was her family, and her community was her family, and Richmond was her community. She and her husband and partner in everything, Lynn Maack, devoted themselves to making Richmond a better place for everyone. Sandi was President of the North and East Neighborhood Council for more than 20 years, a member of the Board of the Richmond Museum Association, Chair of Richmond's Historic Preservation Commission, Chair of the Board of the Richmond Public Library Foundation, President of the Richmond Kiwanis Club and Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha District, Division 2. She also served as a docent at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park Visitors Center and volunteer at pancake breakfasts and other events on the Red Oak Victory Ship.

Sandi was born in 1945 to Joseph and Clara-Rae Genser, who were then both in the Army, stationed at Hammer Field in Fresno. The family moved to Richmond after they were discharged because there was affordable housing to be had in what had been built for the WWII Kaiser Richmond Shipyard workers. Sandi attended Woodrow Wilson and Mira Vista Elementary Schools, Portola Junior High and El Cerrito High School and graduated in 1963. Sandi graduated from San Francisco State with a degree in Sociology.

Sandi met Lynn at Portola, and in 10th grade stole his lunch so that he would have to pay attention to her. They began dating in their senior year and were married in 1968. They were married for 49 years. Sandi held a number of jobs in her lifetime, but especially valued her careers as a recreation director at Canyon Trail Park in El Cerrito, as a leader with Weight Watchers, Volunteer Coordinator for the Richmond Museum of History and as Director of Events with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Sandi is survived by her husband, Lynn, her mother, Clara-Rae Genser, her brother, Joshua Genser, and her sisters-in-law, Elaina Genser and Carol Armour.

A memorial service will be held soon at a date, time and place to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sandi's memory to the Richmond Museum Association, P.O. Box 1267, Richmond, CA 94802.



Our new informational kiosk now has a new heart felt dedication!

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 95
Muriel Clausen - 93
Mary Bianchini Highfill - 94
Tom Kenny - 93
Loretta Stevens Johromi - 92
Billie Bonham Shaw - 95
June Beesley Sosabal - 94
Helen Wysham - 93

Alice Williamson - 93
Mid Dornan - 96
Morris Simpson - 95
Brenda McKinley - 91

**Please send corrections and additions
To Middornan@gmail.com or call
510.234-5334 and leave a message.**

Age is merely the number of years the World has been able to enjoy time with you.

CENTURY CLUB

Madeline Bellando Albright - 101
Delphina Franco Tawney - 100



Downtown Point Richmond, circa 1905

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Meets at 139 Washington Avenue. Contact: Irene Hightower, irene1328@comcast.net More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com/index.html>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

114 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900-A Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Adults \$5, children under 11 and seniors \$3, family \$10. Trains run on Sunday and Wednesday 11-3, Saturday 12-5 viewing only. 510-234-4884 for details or www.gsrmr.org

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

The Masquers remains closed for building repairs. For more information see the website, <http://www.masquers.org>

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving families with children 5 or under. Playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734.

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Joanna Mina, Contact, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Andrew Butt, 510-236-7445

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 510-620-6905

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00. See the *Editors Notes* on page 3 for next TPIT deadline. For information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday of each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M.

Contact: Margaret Jordon at 510-412-3673

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY SHIP

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 3 pm. \$10 Donation/Boarding fee.

Pancake Breakfasts one Sunday a month, April - June, August - October, \$9/adults, \$5/kids under 8 years,.

For more information call the ship at 510-237-2933 or the Richmond Museum of History at 510-235-7387 or visit

www.richmondmuseum.org

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information call 510-235-7387

RICHMOND SWIMS

The Children and teens "Sail Fish" and Masters swim teams at the Richmond Plunge. Contact: Coach John Schonder, 510-504-0330 - September 25, 2011 open water bay swim raises money for coaching, equipment, pool fees and swimming scholarships for inner-city youth throughout Richmond. More info at <http://www.richmondswims.org/> or call 415-892-0771

ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway.

For more information call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori.

See page 22 for programs. GREAT movies all day

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers traditional and Spanish dual immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade. Contact principal Lisa Levi at 231-1417 for more information.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Linda Newton, President. (510) 235-0081

Additions/Corrections? Email Gary Shows, garyshows@gmail.com

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Maker	100.00

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (five issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801

If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and months.

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows

229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or

email: garyshows@gmail.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

139 ½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

Board of Directors:

Mid Dornan, President

Pat Pearson, 1st Vice President

Heinz Lankford, 2nd Vice President

Caitlin Harvey, Secretary

Kathe Kiehn, Treasurer

Pam Wilson, Membership

Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Jo Cullison, Museum Manager/Staff Coordinator

Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor/Uncredited
Mid Dornan	Photos
Don Church/Allan Smith	Various Articles and Information
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Historic Photos
Mark Kornmann	Information
Pam Wilson	Proof Read
Jean Reynolds	Membership Info
Dee Rosier	Article
Donna Roselius	Article
Melinda McCrary	Line Drawings/article
Caitlin Hibma	Information
Heinz Lankford	Article
Norma Wallace	Article
Frances Smith	Article
James Cheshareck	Article

Contacts

Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
middornan@gmail.com

Visit our website

PointRichmondHistory.org

Join our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387
Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387
Rosie the Riveter Park 510-232-5050

The Point Richmond History Association is registered with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions to the PRHA are deductible under section 170 of the code.

Point Richmond History Association
139½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHMOND, CA
PERMIT NO. 301
