

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XLI No. 1

June/July/August, 2022

\$3.00



Point Richmond Neighborhood Hillside
Looking North From
Western Drive and Cliffside Court

New photos to our collection all from James Cheshareck



#1274-Opening of new firehouse, 1961



#1277-Fourth of July, 1961



#1284-Empty lots around Washington School, 1961



#1282-Site of future Miller/Knox Regional Park



#1279-Richmond/San Rafael Bridge mid 1950's



#1280-Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Superstructure

From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

Our annual meeting has come and gone. It was sparsely attended which is understandable given the current pandemic circumstances. But we consider it a success nonetheless. After all, we were actually able to hold an in-person meeting this year. Because so few of you were able to come we have decided to print the minutes in this issue for your benefit.

I can't say thank you enough to the Board of the Masquers Playhouse for allowing us to meet in their theater. It was an unusual and fun venue. And I'm sure the attendees appreciated that there was a colorful set on stage on which they could focus their attention rather than having to stare at the PRHA Board members sitting up front. Another huge thank you goes to Carl Smith, the Masquers Theater Production Manager, for entertaining us with such flair with his accounting of the "drama" of why and how the Theater came to be renovated. It was tantalizing to hear his description of the upcoming production of *Sordid Lives* and delightfully informative to see how the set we were looking at is changed when the scene of the play changes. So ingenious!

Lastly, I urge you all to hold indelibly in your minds and hearts the victims of the senseless murders in Uvalde, Buffalo and Laguna Woods and their families and friends. Once again we are shown that these horrific events can happen anywhere at anytime. If we are unchanged by them there will never be change.

Wishing you a safe summer. See you all again in the Fall.

Mask up! Victor Morales arriving at Masquers Playhouse to attend our meeting. Left is PRHA President Bonnie Jo Cullison. You can see half of Caitlin Hibma behind Victor.



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Thank you members for your renewal:

Mark Healy
Winefred San Fillippo
Gloria Crim
Floria Jones
Rick Dustin
Offie Walker
Omera Johnson
Louis Stockdale
Lori Kauth
Hap Turner
Marion Kent
Mary Lee and David Cole Family
Heli and Graham Perrett Family
Karen Shaw Family
Lydia Jahromi Family
Bernie McIntosh**
Tom Piazza & Mary Crosby**
Joanne Pike**
Gary Shows Family
David McCuan**
John Thiella & Rosa Casazza**
Patricia Dornan**
Roberta Dornan & Richard
Palfini**
Dee Rosier**
Jim & Olivia Jacobs**
Jim Fisher**
Burl Willes**
Margaret Doherty
Norm & Jean Reynolds**

Welcome to new members:

Kathy Sundbeck**
Dave & Esther Goodstal

*Gift Membership
**Special Supporter, *Thank You!*

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

For distributing

“THIS POINT.....in time”

*Because of the Covid-19
Pandemic, now more than ever,
it is important to support our
local retailers and restaurants.*

*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.

Linda Andrew-Marshall
Heinz Lankford
Gary Shows
Lori Kauth
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Karen Buchanan

The Cover:

***Point Richmond hillside looking
North viewed from Western Drive***

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

And here is your summer, 2022 issue of TPIT. As usual I want to thank our great staff, especially Dee Rosier, Jean Reynolds, Caitlin Hibma, and James Cheshareck (James especially outdid himself with interesting content). And while I am being grateful, I don't thank our members enough, your support keeps the PRHA alive we are all grateful to have such a loyal and generous membership base, thank you all.

Enjoy your summer and let's hope that something is done before the next issue about the problem our country is facing with the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons of war.

Last The deadline for the next issue of **"THIS POINT.....in time"** will be Friday **August 26, 2022** and will cover September and October.

So that we do the proper "social distancing" we paid the printer to fold and staple the last issue, work usually done by our group. Thanks for addressing and mailing go to:

Gary Shows

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Bonnie Jo Cullison

We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

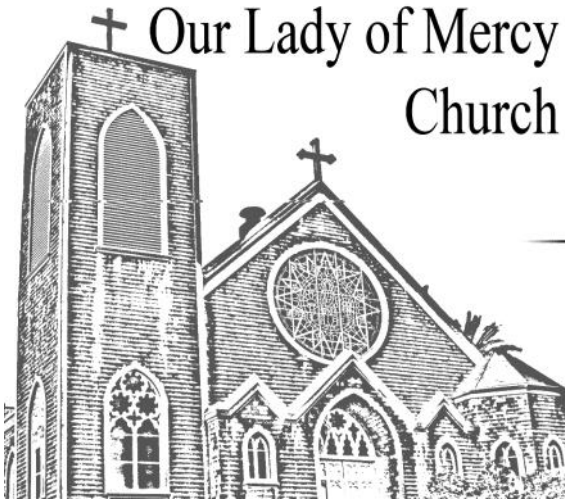
Donna Wilson
Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
Thomas & Shirley Butt
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Roberta & Richard Palfini
Patricia Dornan
Les Crim
Norm and Jean Reynolds
David & Ruth Janes
The Bartram-Owens Family
Burl Willes
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Bob Armstrong
Steven Birnbaum
Ron Vandergrift
Lynn Maack
Barry Goode
Ellen Pechman
Mark J. Kornmann
Jim & Olivia Jacobs
Marcelina Smith
Rick Beal
Jim Fisher
Dee Rosier

History Preservers

Kevin, René & Griffin Knee
Linda Newton
The David Dolberg Family
Bernie McIntosh

Don & Ingrid Lindemann
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza
Norma Wallace
Victor J. Westman
Gloria & Mark Maltagliati
Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth
James J. Cheshareck
Tony Lizarraga
Bobbie Swerdfeger-Lizarraga
Linda Hudock
Joanne Pike
Jeanne Pritchard
Joe Pritchard
Jim & Olivia Jacobs
Caitlin & Michael Hibma
David N. McCuan
Kathy Dornan Barnes
Tim & Roberta Montgomery
Richard Lompa
Don & Carole Woodrow
Karen Buchanan
Sandra & Bruce Beyaert
Marge Sullivan
James McCarty (San Pablo Historical Soc.)
Virginia Rigney
Paul Ciabattari
Ken & Nancy Reed
Stephen, Patti, and Stephanie Kowalski
Steve Lizarraga
Guadalupe Torres (New Leaf Salon)
Sharon Halpern & Victor Morales
Kathy Sundbeck

Church News



By Dee Rosier

510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Welcome Spring/Daylight Savings Time. March 2022 is off to a better start than 2021 – let's continue to progress. Be sure to take in Tunnel Street whose flowering trees are dressed for the season.

After months of non-use, the church hall was filled with chatter as we welcomed back the first Sunday of the month ritual by enjoying coffee/donuts. It was the debut for the Church Hall which was thoroughly cleaned with many kitchen essentials replaced. The improvements were made possible by the generous gift from parishioners Tom and Sonja Louderback. The hall is now a means to welcome us all into a bright and friendly place where food can be served. The usual collection jar which is generally stuffed with dollar bills instead was full of \$20's. A total of \$600 was donated for assistance to the Ukraine.

The weekly donation envelopes finally arrived and can be found at the entry to the church. During the Season of Lent, donations can

be made for assistance to the Ukraine by designating and depositing in the church collection basket. If you are interested in participating in the donation envelope system, please sign up on the church registration form also located in the entryway. We thank you for your support.

The March issue of the, "Catholic Voice" featured an in-depth article on Lourdes. As members of the Order of Malta, several of our parishioners attend annual sojourns to Lourdes.

Several Saints celebrated March birthdays – the favorite being St. Patrick. Lift your glass and give a cheer.

On a Wednesday afternoon in March, a group of musicians, many from the San Francisco opera chorus, performed the Ukrainian National Anthem in our church. The music was arranged by the recently retired director of the Chorus. The acoustics of the church were the draw for their video tape. It was open to the public and drew a crowd, even though we had been to church earlier the day, being Ash Wednesday.

We welcomed Rev. Michael Fones, O.P. for a Sunday visit. His homily was well received and after Mass we were able to spend time in his presence.

Sue and Jeff Mulvihill have announced their retirement from active parish duties, which included serving on the Parish Council, Finance Committee and Lay Ministers. We thank them for their dedication and wish them the best as they now pursue time for family and travel. Stay well and enjoy. Replacements will be hard to come by.

John Madden was a member of our Diocese, worshipping at parishes in Pleasanton, Dublin and Danville. He died in December. His funeral service was held at Christ the Light Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Michael Barber. He is also buried in the mausoleum underneath. The Bishop shares the homily given to John Madden at his funeral Mass on January 18, 2022 in the March Issue of The Voice.

There is talk of a mural of the old Point on Standard Avenue. My favorite was the Coca Cola painted on the side of The Spot.

In watching ABC News I recalled that American Journalist, Cecilia Vega, currently serving as Chief White House Correspondent was a graduate of our local Salesian High School. As well, my classmate's son, Mark Santi is an Orthopedist for Kaiser Hospital in Hawaii. His son is presently studying to become a Cardiologist. Always looking for subsequent success stories to share.

Wendy Hallett recently joined the ranks of retirees. She worked many years for Kaiser Hospital and now joins her husband John. They started off with a trip to Hawaii to stay with friends – don't we all wish we had friends living in Hawaii. They are presently on a tour of Italy. We wish them many healthy years of retirement.

Nothing makes one feel better than a big smile early in the day. Maxine, the school crossing guard owns the corner of Garrard/East Richmond and is there Monday-Friday to provide waves and put a smile on your face. She recently put her crossing uniform aside and on a Saturday afternoon was dressed in her best Sunday best to celebrate her 80th birthday. She continued to wave and conduct smiling exercises. She was surrounded by bouquets and gifts in establishing early morning smiles on sleepy faces. She is one happy person and shares it with others, including animals. May she celebrate many more.

Diane Marie welcomed an addition to her family – a Yorkshire Terrier, who is in the process of training her. Marilyn and Carol Darling send their best from their new home in Phoenix, Arizona. Anne Carroll spent a week in Mexico playing golf.

February was a prolific month starting with a new moon in Aquarius and following the experience of the last 222 days of the century which occurred on February 2, 2022. In numerology, the 222 sequence of numbers is often referred to as Angel Numbers. The number 2 in numerology references the energy of duality, partnership, relationship and balance. Many couples chose to wed on this day. The next will occur on 2/2/222.

Please remember those who are in need of our continued prayers for health and healing and for all those who care for them:

Jim Arkin
Carol Bowen
Dayna Bradford
Linda Chesharek
Rosemary Giacomelli
Laura Holmes-Murphy
Michael Lambert
Raphael Lopez
Margaret Morkowski
Sue Mulvihill
Edwina Murray
Fr. O'Rourke
Marie Peckham
Emorn Roongruangphol
Fred Siegmund
Marcellina Smith
Jim Smyk

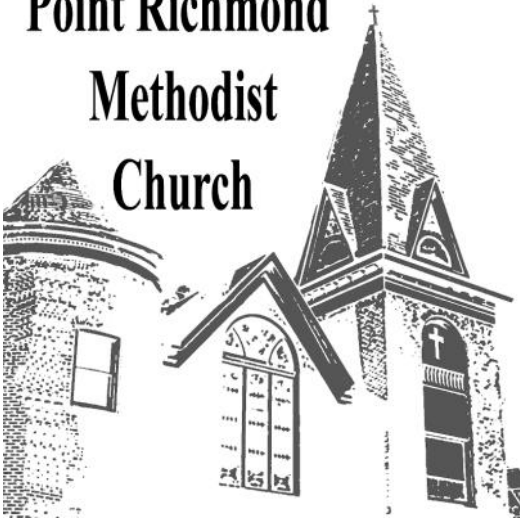
TWO LITTLE BOYS WERE AT A
WEDDING WHEN ONE LEANED OVER
TO THE OTHER AND ASKED, "HOW
MANY WIVES CAN A MAN HAVE?"
HIS FRIEND ANSWERED, "SIXTEEN –
FOUR FOR BETTER, FOUR FOR
WORSE, FOUR FOR RICHER AND FOUR
FOR POORER.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH



Dee Rosier

Point Richmond Methodist Church



Jean Reynolds
510-734-3942
sweetheart05@mac.com

People:

We welcomed new members Mark Ellis and May Cotton on Easter, April 17. May transferred her membership from a church in Spokane, WA. She moved from Pt. Richmond in 2007, and has re-connected with us since we have been meeting for worship over Zoom. May shares the worship PowerPoint slides on her computer for everyone on the Zoom platform, helps edit the bulletin, and is a regular at adult Sunday school and Wednesday book study. Mark Ellis attends worship, the Wednesday morning Bible/book study group, serves on several committees, and washes towels for SOS! Shower Power, Richmond. We are grateful for their friendship and for all the ways they serve and care for others.

On April 23, we finally got to celebrate Pastor Dan Damon with a luncheon at Lara's Fine Dining. Dan served us for twenty-five years, and the occasion called for all the best stories. Gill Stanfield prepared a slide show with various photos of Dan through the years. Rev. Dr. Dale Weatherspoon of Easter Hill UMC was the gifted emcee for the program: he somehow always provided a supportive transition between speakers. Speakers included Fran Smith, Organizer

Extraordinaire; Doreen Leighton, Ad Board Chair; Russ Johnson, former Staff-Parish Chair; Jean Reynolds, Lay Leader; Robert Love, former Masquer; Tom Butt, Richmond Mayor; Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones, current pastor. Laila Millar, Music Coordinator, spoke and sang her favorite Dan Damon hymn by heart: "I Have Called You by Your Name." Fran presented Dan with a certificate of excellence. The choir sang an unrehearsed rendition of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Maybe it was due to the two-year delay, but Dan received all the accolades with grace and thankfulness. It is quite an accomplishment to relax when everyone heaps on praise. Lara's Fine Dining provided us with a delicious meal and all the tech equipment we needed. The party met in an open-walled tented area in front of the building. Heather and Brett Damon-Wagner brought two-year-old Grace who enchanted all with her buoyant personality.

Worship:

During Holy Week, we met over Zoom with members from our circuit for Maundy Thursday on April 14. We had breakout small groups to share personal stories. Good Friday service, April 15, was also over Zoom. Five of the witnesses of Jesus' crucifixion shared a possible perspective.

We had in-person worship on Easter, with a Zoom option at 11:00. An intrepid few met with Rev. Jacey at 8:00 am in the labyrinth garden for "sunrise service." Before Easter, Bill Thompson and Jonathan Swett finished the final kitchen improvements. Doreen Leighton and Barbara Haley cleaned and organized the cupboards and drawers. On Easter Sunday, Norm and Jean Reynolds used the newly remodeled kitchen to cook breakfast: Cheesy Amish Breakfast Casserole, grits, sausages, yogurt, Costco muffins, juice and coffee. Bethany and Nick Hayter covered the tables with bright yellow plastic; Mark Ellis helped in the kitchen and with set-up; Linda Andrew-Marshall brought muffins, croissants, and orange juice. Rev. Jacey set up chairs and tables outside under the palm tree. People plated their food in Friendship Hall, then ate alfresco. We sang the Superman grace -- the tune is from the eponymous theme song -- "Thank you, God, for giving us life! Thank you, God, for giving us food! Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer of

All! Amen.” We used real plates and washed them effortlessly in the new dishwasher. Doreen unloaded them later.

At the 11:00 worship service, Gill Stanfield, Alice Thompson, Laila Millar, Norm Reynolds, and Jean Reynolds sang “Easter Anthem” by William Billings as arranged in the Sacred Harp shape-note tradition. Barbara Haley, Rev. Jacey and others made sure there were plenty of candy-filled Easter eggs to hide after the service. Cecilia Butt hid all the eggs and organized the hunt. Cecilia’s cousins, Jojo and Gigi Butt, Harlan Butt, and Zelda Clarke had tons of fun finding eggs and nibbling on muffins.

For worship May 15, Jennifer Metz Foster and Matthew Foster provided the prelude (gathering music), anthem, and offertory music from home while they were in isolation from the world and each other due to possible Covid exposure. Laurence Tietz set up the sound system, and Jean Reynolds used her laptop at the pulpit to speak on “Peripheral Vision.” May Cotton couldn’t hear or be heard on her system, so connected through her phone to lead children’s time. Jennifer shared the PowerPoint. We have learned to pivot to ‘Plan B’ during tech glitches.

On May 22, Anne Brown preached on “Forgiveness.” Anne was a member here when she lived at Brickyard Landing. She moved to Walnut Creek in 2004. She shared about her experiences in South Africa during the time of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, and how the process affected her friends and workshop clients there, then and now. Anne shared a story of her own lived forgiveness experience. Forgiveness for ourselves and others is life-changing.

Other special music during April and May included vocals by Laila Millar, Doreen Leighton, Norm Reynolds and Gill Stanfield, Jonathan Swett, and Alice Thompson. Matthew Foster played piano; we played a video recording of Esther Tonea singing a piece written and accompanied by George Peter Tingley. Alice and Jennifer Metz Foster often duet on piano and ‘cello.

Junktique:

After a two-year hiatus, we invited the community to participate in our largest fundraiser, Junktique, on May 7. Shoppers named their own

prices on many items. In Friendship Hall and the Sunday school room, Fran Smith and Doreen Leighton sold jewelry -- some beaded items newly custom-made by Diane Frary -- art, and yarn. In the basement, Gill Stanfield sold electronics. Alice Thompson helped book-buyers as they browsed the shelves she organized so well. Bill Thompson, Rob Bader, Julio Osegueda, and Heinz Lankford helped sell furniture and more. It was a treat to work with Annie Ao, Steve Chen, and Claudia Russell. Rose Ayers sold toys, games, seat cushions, and baskets near the palm tree, and gave Matthew Foster a break from cashiering. Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones was always available to give a hand. She made sure outdoor workers had sunscreen protection, but forgot to put any on herself. Russ Johnson and Matthew Foster cashiered.

To fortify shoppers and sellers, Jennifer Metz Foster and Barbara Haley cooked hotdogs and non-meat Italian sausages on our pastor’s grill, and sold sodas. Sodas and hotdogs sold for \$1.50 each/\$3.00 for two. See the math?

Doris and David Swope rode with their son Mark all the way from Stockton in hopes of a slice of Jennifer’s coconut pie. Alas, we eliminated pie sales for our soft restart of Junktique. Jennifer promised to make Doris a pie next time she came to town.

Chris Logston and Danny Matheson helped move unsold items at closing. Because of the great cleanup crew, we were ready to leave an hour after the end of the sale. Ron Wheatley gets extra kudos for his year-round curation of all the sale items, and his boundless energy during the sale. It was a lovely day with satisfied shoppers and we netted more than five-thousand dollars for the general fund.

Annual Conference:

Our elected lay member to Annual Conference could not attend, so we elected a new member at the May Ad Board meeting. The Annual Conference was not notified in time for a new representative to be included, so for the second year we will have no laity who may vote at Annual Conference, held in Sacramento June 10-13.

(Continued on page 9)

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Karen Buchanan

The Women's Westside Improvement Club is wrapping up a successful year of fellowship and community service in Point Richmond. The April meeting got off to a good start with a fascinating speaker, Alice Towey, Manager of Water Conservation at the East Bay Municipal Water District (which, by the way, is celebrating their 100th Anniversary next year in 2023). Alice's presentation focused on water for outdoor use and gardening, and included such useful conservation tips as: water trees and shrubs once a week, water turf no more than three times a week, avoid runoff and overspray, and water at dusk and early morning to avoid over-evaporation. The East Bay MUD's website, www.ebmud.com, has many tools, tips and resources that focus on efficiently using water, as climate change make droughts a way of life in California.

The April meeting continued as Secretary Jules Klotz's March minutes were approved with one modest edit regarding the Map Garden. Treasurer Doreen Leighton provided a report on the WWIC's finances, which are in good shape. President Diane Diani provided a report from the Nominating Committee, which is tasked with finding new club officers as the incumbents' terms come to an end in June. The officers whose terms are ending are: President Diane Diani, Second Vice President Leslie Hicks, and TPIT Correspondent Mary Lee Cole. First Vice President Ruth Frassetto gave an update on the Welcome Project, noting that the WWIC Centennial reusable shopping bags were pulled out of storage to use as Welcome bags for potential new members. Ruth mentioned that during the Point Richmond Art Stroll on April 3, 2022, 11 individuals signed up to be Friends of the WWIC (see below for more information about joining this new membership association).

Ann Langille provided an update on the Sunshine Club, which sends greeting cards to club members on special occasions and get well cards to members who are ill. There was a

discussion about creating professional-looking note cards with a WWIC logo to make the club's correspondence look more professional. Some suggestions included a photo of the Indian Statue or of the WWIC's plaque under the statue in the nearby garden. Speaking of gardens, Linda Newton noted that the WWIC's gardens looked wonderful after the maintenance was done in advance of the Art Stroll. She asked club members to be on the lookout for invasive weeds in the Map Garden and the Indian Statue garden and pull any weeds before they take over. Ann also gave a report as the hostess of the Book Club, which always meets on the first Thursday of the month following the WWIC's monthly meeting. The current book being read is *Life of the Party*, by Christopher Ogden, a juicy biography of Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman who was a courtesan to many powerful European and American men in the 1940s. The April meeting ended with a reminder of the Spring Fundraiser BUNCO game at the May meeting.

The May meeting was very special, as it was the first in-person meeting since the pandemic began in March 2020. The meeting started with a fresco brown-bag lunch dining in the garden area behind First United Methodist Church. The tables were beautifully decorated by Leslie Hicks and Jeanette Giannetta, with a beautiful arrangement of flowers from the Brickyard community garden.

After lunch, the members gathered in the FUMC Fellowship Hall to begin playing BUNCO. President Diane Diani introduced her two guests, dear friends from the Galileo Club Auxillary: Beth Rietdorf and Carole Delucchi-Padlo. After introductions, the BUNCO game began in earnest, with the joyous sounds of women gleefully tossing dice in friendly competition. After two games of BUNCO were played, the winners were announced: Most Wins: Saru Cownan; Most BUNCOS: Ruth Frassetto; Most Losses: Leslie Hicks; Baby

BUNCO: Doreen Leighton. The winners were presented with delightful prizes, including a beautiful orchid plant, stationery cards, a lovely pink plant, ten Lotto scratchers and a silly trophy as a joke. The monies raised by the BUNCO Fundraiser will go to this year's selected local charities: St. Vincent De Paul Society, Richmond Emergency Food Pantry, and the Multicultural Music Fellowship. The WWIC's final meeting of the year, the annual Hat Day, will be held on June 7, 2022, starting at 11:30 a.m., with a salad potluck luncheon. Hat Day is a beloved WWIC tradition in which members are encouraged to wear a hat with a Story. The Story can either be true or totally made up, the more fanciful the better.



←
WWIC members enjoying lunch in the First United Methodist Church garden on May 3, 2022

(Continued from page 7) Point Methodist Church News

Missions:

SOS! Shower Power needs more towels. Gently-used or new, it doesn't matter. SOS! provides showers for people who are unhoused in Richmond. We continue to wash towels for them; Contact Barbara Haley bahcats@comcast.net to donate towels or to be added to the volunteer list to wash them. We especially need help when regular washers are on vacation. We deliver the food for dinner once a month at the GRIP family shelter. When Covid abates, we will again help prepare and serve it.

On the Calendar:

Rev. Jacey holds "Coffice Hours" on Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Kaleidoscope Coffee. Contact her via email pastorjacey@pointrichmondmethodist.org

Bible study/book group meets Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 am, via zoom We

are reading Personal Nonviolence, A Practical Spirituality for Peacemakers by Gerard A. Vanderhaar.

Saturday, June 18, 2:30 pm, Dennis Johnson will perform a classical piano recital in the sanctuary. 100% of all donations benefit Spirit in Action <https://www.spiritinaction.org> To offer a safer space for all, attendees will be asked to show proof of vaccination and to wear a mask.

Save the date: July 25-29 Vacation Bible School for kids age three through grade six will meet daily from 9:00 am to 11:45 am with lunch on Friday for all. Join us for a week of stories, games, art, music, snacks, and friends. Contact Jean at sweetheart05@mac.com with questions or to sign up.

For updates, to find links to zoom gatherings, or to access the latest worship recording, see the church website: <https://www.pointrichmondmethodist.org>

Preservation at Point Molate

by Caitlin Hibma

Point Molate has been a point of contention for many years in Richmond, but recent news about changing plans and prospects for the area have had the local community in a lather. In mid-May, the Richmond City Council voted against the sale of the Point Molate property to a developer for the construction of housing and other improvements. Instead, it appears that the land will be sold to the Native American Guideville Rancheria to use for their own purposes; be it resale, a casino, or something else. While some Richmond citizens welcomed the revitalizing potential of development, others were adamant that preservation of Point Molate's current "natural" state and the land's repatriation to a native tribe was best. Present, but seemingly overlooked in all this, is the fact that the Point Molate property includes the Winehaven National Register Historic District, a complex of historic buildings that will be affected by whatever decisions are made and actions taken.

Winehaven was established in 1907 by the California Wine Association and once claimed status as the world's largest winery. It employed up to 400 workers and shipped over 500,000 gallons of wine a month to San Francisco, the East Coast, and around the world. Prohibition was the death-knell of Winehaven, but during World War II, the U.S. Navy gave it a second life as a fuel depot, rehabbing and adaptively reusing the existing buildings, which were otherwise kept largely intact. In fact, the district includes 35 buildings of high-integrity built between 1907 and 1919, including the striking Winehaven Building – a turreted brick castle – and a series of early 20th century houses and worker cottages.

The Winehaven National Register Historic District came into being in 1977 when Point Richmond resident Lucretia Edwards and the Winehaven Historical Study Committee nominated the site via a National Park Service application that described the district's history, physical character, and justification for its inclusion in the Register. Lucretia's nomination of Winehaven concluded with the following:

It has been due to a happy combination of circumstances that Winehaven remains essentially unchanged – its size (which meant that it could not be easily torn down or converted to other uses), its isolation, and its protective ownerships. Those who cherish this peaceful and beautiful spot are appreciative of these happy accidents. But they fear that if the excellent stewardship of the Navy should be terminated Winehaven would be at the mercy of rapacious and exploitive developers and land grabbers."

The Navy, those excellent stewards, relinquished Winehaven in 1995 and here, 27 years later, the rapacious and exploitive developers and land grabbers – epithets that could apply to various parties involved – are at work. Even without entering the argument over developer vs. native tribe, it must be acknowledged that an important



historical site sits quietly in the middle of the whirlwind. Its National Register designation is mostly honorary and provides little actual protection. What protection exists lies at the local level, with the City of Richmond and the few tools it has at its disposal. These could include implementing design guidelines and requiring proposed project analysis according to the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,” as dictated by the California Environmental Quality Act (studies that were already in progress under the now-scuttled development plans.) Even these defenses are not impervious, however. When a project sponsor has enough time and money to work through the environmental process and furnish the necessary compensation, like mitigation measures (documentation, interpretation, salvage, for instance), the wrecking ball may still swing. Perhaps worse yet, the iconic buildings could sit and decay.

Without active preservation or rehabilitation and reuse, they are perhaps even more at risk; caught in a case of demolition-by-neglect that is difficult for local agencies to identify and regulate.

Although the City has some regulatory leverage in the preservation realm, it will be important for citizens of the surrounding community to be vigilant and participate in the stewardship of Winehaven moving forward. Consideration should be given to our history and what we feel is important and worthy of saving, opinions should be voiced that express our desire for a vital well-planned city that integrates historic buildings, and votes should be cast for those with agendas that value the sensitive and sensible treatment of historic resources. National Register designations can be revoked and buildings – even castles – can crumble, but a community that is adamant about the preservation of its historic resources can advocate and achieve much.



*Historic Photos of San Pablo Peninsula
and Winehaven are from Bobby Winston’s
Port of Richmond Archives circa 1933*

*PRHA photo archives clockwise # 1203,
#1202 and #1211*

This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in 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 interesting historical items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, early 1900's *The Record, The Leader and The Independent*

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12-10-1920 | The Murphy Gang members were lynched at Santa Rosa. |
| 01-13-1921 | New bill makes an auto a deadly weapon. |
| 01-18-1921 | Seagulls eating putty from skylights on new wharf. |
| 01-27-1921 | 5 stills and 3000 gallons of mash found in a raid on H. Davisranch at San Pablo today on banks of Wild Cat Creek. |
| 02-04-1921 | Burglars rob St. Francis Hotel on Cottage Avenue of 50 sheets, 25 blankets, 25 bed spreads and 50 pillow cases.
Fare to San Francisco on the relocated ferry is 34¢. |
| 03-11-1921 | Ben Brignone has taken over the National Hotel on Standard Avenue and after renovating it will conduct the place.
Women blamed for the 300 billion increase in cigarette consumption. |
| 03-12-1921 | Capell and Swartout, local painters have received a contract for painting the First Baptist Church at the Point. |
| 04-04-1921 | Gust Allyn, 21 is married to Margaret Diffin of Selby. |
| 05-04-1921 | John Nicholl sues wife Lilly Nicholl for divorce in San Francisco. They have 3 children and have not lived together for 20 years. |
| 08-19-1924 | 38 new fire hydrants ordered by council.
Pullman plant is now 14 years old and employs 700 men. |
| 09-06-1924 | Bill Waldorf gets 400 days for liquor found in his room. |
| 09-16-1924 | Considerable confusion in El Cerrito regarding speed limits. On the east side of San Pablo Avenue it is 20 MPH and on the west side or Annex it is in the county and speed is 35 MPH. |
| 09-26-1924 | Mary Casey entertains at her home on Golden Gate Avenue. |
| 10-15-1924 | J.O. Foster petitioned council to erect a garage at the corner of Tunnel and Richmond Avenues. |

The Golden Gate Bridge was barely 10 weeks old the first time that someone used it as a launch pad for suicide. Harold Wobbler, a World War I veteran took the 220 foot leap to his death on August 7, 1937 by crashing into the frigid water at about 75 miles per hour.

Royce Y. Ong

Now Available !

NEW Point Richmond History Association T-Shirt

A gray t-shirt that features a colorful drawing of our little museum on the town triangle drawn by the late Donna Roselius. They are now in stock at the museum or available online.



Mail Check or MO To:

PRHA T-Shirt
144 Castro Street
Point Richmond, CA 94801

Prefer to pay online by credit card?

Go to URL

<https://go.dojiggy.io/prha/>

Mail your shirt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please include \$20 for each shirt, this is tax included. If you want us to send it to you add 1 X \$5.95 for USPS shipping

***Choose
a size***

Small	Medium	Large	X- Large	2X- Large	3X- Large

In 1918, you could buy a home from a Sears catalog for under \$1300



AL'S FOUNTAIN & LUNCH

AL FROSINI AND STANDARD AVENUE EMINENT DOMAIN

by James Cheshareck

A Point Richmond native with larger-than-life persona was Al Frosini. His family roots date back to the early 1900's and many longtime Point residents over age 30 remember "Uncle Al". He was a skilled fighter both in a boxing ring and on the street but had no use for bullies. Countless youth from the Point and beyond were given free boxing lessons in the garage he converted into a gym of punching bags and weightlifting equipment. Although tough as nails, passer byers of Al's open garage on the corner of Santa Fe and Cottage Avenues were greeted by one of the nicest men one could hope to meet. I have volumes of Al Frosini stories and selected a few as told by my family, Al, and his family. The Frosini's and my family share a Tuscany-Point Richmond bond and have been close going back generations.

Al Frosini's charisma reached afar, having friends seemingly everywhere. Unlike the

previous writings of hotels and restaurants lost in the 100-200 block of Standard Avenue, western Standard Avenue near the Standard Oil administration buildings is focused upon. Al owned a restaurant in this neighborhood of Standard Avenue and lost his building to eminent domain for the future I-580 freeway. He not only managed to remain on Standard Avenue, but his successful restaurant also remained a staple in Point Richmond (of course with his wife Helene in charge!).

Water skiing was Al's other passion. He parked his pickup truck and ski boat in an enclosure next to the garage adorned by a "Frosini's Ski-Lodge" sign. Like boxing, he excelled in water skiing, and trained and mentored many youths in the sport. He was a founding member of the Richmond Water Ski Club which later became the Berkeley Water Ski Club. He was a fixture at Aquatic Park and considered to be the "grandfather of water skiing" for the Bay Area and Northern California by many. His ski buddies included Richmond native Arthur "Art" Smrekar (1931-2021), a three-time national slalom champion, and the Point's own George Neel (1924-2017) of Western Drive.

I was a passenger in Al's pickup truck around age 10 when he and George Neel began racing on Garrard Blvd. intentionally swerving across the double-yellow line and passing each other. I loved it, but Helene would have killed him had she found out. My father, during a ride with my great-grandfather in the mid 1950's, observed a flustered Al on Keller's boat dock banging on his boat's motor with a hammer. My great-grandfather remarked "what in the hell is Frosini doing?" Whether a daredevil ski attempt to the Farallon Islands, or skiing down 10th Street (now Harbour Way) in front of Nystrom School after a flood, Al was dedicated to the sport. He was inducted into the Water Ski Hall of Fame in 2002.



Al was a champion skier

Albert Charles Frosini was born 9/11/1917 to Italian immigrants Quintillio “Pisa” Frosini (1882-1957) and Rosa “Rose” Maria Orsini Frosini (1881-1967). His father was from Calcinaia, Pisa, Toscana and his mother from Firenze, Toscana. The couple settled in Point Richmond and had three children. Al had an older brother, Sergio “Caesar” (1915-1999) and a younger sister, Frieda Frosini Alonzo (1919-1997). The family home at 411-433 Contra Costa Street had a sweeping view of San Francisco Bay before the bayside of the Point was appreciated. Several working-class Italian families settled on the bayside of the hill decades before professors and executives were captivated by it in the 1940’s.

Can one fathom the waterfront of Western Drive and Ocean Avenue where Al played as a child having little appeal? Ponder how few of the Point’s early historic homes are there. Sporadic stench from then unfettered water pollution (including raw sewage) and wind gusts were unattractive qualities to many a century ago. Al recalled a body washing ashore on the beach where he played during childhood. Even in the 1970’s an affordable home or lot with a bay view could be found from time to time by those of average means. Al told many childhood stories of growing up first generation Italian American in Point Richmond. Before Italians, Germans and Irish settled in the Point and Al and his siblings were subjected to taunting for being Italian. Al recalled being called “Italy-un” among insults. More than one who uttered the term “wop” ended up being socked either by Al or Caesar.

Pisa was employed at Standard Oil and was also a winemaker. The Frosini children were required to don galoshes and stomp grapes. Al recalled the smell as nauseating, explaining why he solely drank white wine in adulthood. The Frosini siblings were relieved from duty after Pisa and a few fellow Point bootleggers’ collaboration to obtain a wine press. The press alternated between households to decrease odds of arrest. However, Al recalled more than one Richmond Police officer stopping by the Frosini house for jugs of wine. My father often witnessed Pisa scraping his truck along the W. Richmond Avenue guard rail while driving home in the 1950’s. Al described his own half-hearted booze-making attempt in a bathtub that failed miserably.

When his parents divorced around 1926, Al and Caesar remained with Pisa, but both spent about six



Al Frosini looking at an old photo with Bill Koller

traumatizing months at St. Vincent’s School for Boys in San Rafael. Frieda moved in with Rose at her dry goods and seamstress business at 154 Washington Ave. The small building burned down around 1928 when Frieda accidentally overstuffed the stove with paper that fell on the floor. The land is now a paved delivery area for Point Richmond Market. Rose briefly remarried in February 1929 and relocated along with Frieda to Lincoln, Placer County. They returned to Richmond after Frieda graduated high school in 1937 and Rose opened a tailoring business at 429 10th Street. The building was razed decades later, a segment of Kaiser Hospital now occupies the land.

Point native Helene Raffanelli, born 10/19/1920, was Al’s future bride. She was the daughter of Croatian immigrants Josef “Joe” Raffanelli (1894-1942), and Marija “Mary” Solich Raffanelli (1899-1929). Once in Pt. Richmond her father settled in the Hotel D’Italia working at California Wine Association in Winehaven, marrying her mother shortly thereafter. Along with younger brother Albert (1923-2000) the Raffanelli family lived on Delfino Avenue. Ballroom dancing

(Continued on page 16)

was another of Al's talents, and it got the attention of many girls at Richmond High. Helene was a freshman when Al asked her to dance, she won out her competition, and the duo became an item. Al graduated in 1935 and Helene in 1938. Al found work at California Spray chemical company in North Richmond after graduation. They married in 1942 and Al enlisted in the Army later the same year. With his poor eyesight being grounds for disqualification, he memorized the eye letter chart to pass the test. The Army considered his fluency in Italian beneficial for translating, but Al primarily served in the South Pacific and his time in Italy was in the South where he did not understand differing dialects. During a two-year military stint, he refined his street brawling skills to compete in the boxing ring.

After returning from war Helene and Al settled in an apartment at 215 Standard Avenue, one of many buildings owned by Leo Candelo. Their party line telephone number was 5846-R. Despite working as a boilermaker for a time, his eyesight hindered permanent employment at Standard Oil. One day Al

chatted with a restaurant owner on the southeast corner of Standard Avenue and Clarence Street about his need for gainful employment. She flashed a wad of cash suggestive of potential profits to beguile him into buying her restaurant. On the very day their daughter Valerie was born in 1947, Al bought the restaurant despite knowing zilch about the restaurant business or even how to cook. Al was ghost white when he entered the room to inform Helene, who was understandably less than jovial. The wad of cash that enticed Al was symbolic of gross earnings before expenses. The idea to name it "Helene's Kitchen" was nixed when Al discovered that a neon sign bearing the sum of letters would cost \$3,000, so it became "Al's". With Helene's pragmatism and Al's on-the-job culinary training, the restaurant at 571 Standard Avenue grew vastly popular with Standard Oil workers. Breakfast and lunch were served and closing time was 2PM so Al had time to ski or box. Al's provided a concession cart of coffee and donuts at Standard Oil for several years. Standard Oil brass nixed the cart, contending workers lolled around it, but Standard Oil employees remained loyal customers at Al's. In 1950 Helene and Al moved into an apartment at 38 Santa Fe Avenue.

Proud of his Italian heritage, he was a member of the Richmond Galileo Club, a social club for Italian American men established in 1932. Helene was a member of the Galileo Auxiliary, and they were frequently on the dance floor on Saturday nights. Less than 5 years later the State of California came for the Frosini's building and the others in the area. Compensation settlements to property owners were paltry. In 1952 the Frosini's purchased a lot from Louis Vlasek, son in law of notorious Standard Avenue bootlegger "Crazy Pete" Boljat. They constructed a one-story, two-unit building on the southside of Standard Avenue which was unaffected by eminent domain. The new building on the corner of Santa Fe Avenue was numbered 143-145 and conveniently a block away from their home. The Silver Club tavern previously at

Al leading several attendees singing their high school's fight song.



567 Standard next to Al's old building, moved into 143. Essentially, the Frosini's saved it from certain demise.



The new restaurant's soda fountain was behind the counter on the right. Booths and tables were on the left, and a pass-through was directly in front of and above the grill. The restaurant remained popular with loyal customers from Standard Oil, Santa Fe railroad, Richmond Police, and many from the Point and beyond. Al's was known for delicious, specially seasoned burgers. Regular customers often greeted Al at the pass through, but Helene promptly put Al back cooking if he chatted too long. When there were customers to serve, Helene was all business, especially when the 11AM rush began. A couple years later they purchased a large plot of land on the corner of Santa Fe Avenue and Cottage Avenue, across the street from their apartment, believed to have been purchased from Leo Candelo. Instead of a large house, a four-plex was constructed as it would "pay for itself".

Al had many entertaining stories from the restaurant. Aggressive Silver Club patrons occasionally wandered in and caused a disturbance. Al served them a knuckle sandwich and dragged them out onto the sidewalk, and instantly resumed cooking. He sometimes got frustrated in the kitchen and once hurled a couple of eggs and bacon strips to the ceiling with a spatula. He also once accidentally

combined ammonia and bleach in the sink while cleaning the kitchen after closing time. He held his nose, pulled the drain plug, and ran out the back door! Actor Robert Redford's father, Charles, was an accountant for Standard Oil in Southern California, and when at the Richmond refinery on business, often stopped by Al's for lunch. One day just as Redford walked through the door Al, having a bad day, flung spaghetti against the kitchen wall. When a mortified Helene took Redford's order, he chose spaghetti "but not the plate on the wall". Helene always restored order and put Al back on track. Al kept a punching bag out back to properly vent his frustrations.

The Frosini's supported smaller suppliers "the little guys" when purchasing bread and other delivered goods although it cost them more. Helene and Al also employed numerous Point Richmond youth over the years. I rode in Helene's prized 1965 Mustang as a child. As a teenager in the 80's when most modern cars were gutless, I asked Al to take me for a ride since her Mustang had the high-performance 271 horsepower option, 61 more than a standard V8 Mustang. After a rubber burning, fishtailing ride, Al said "Whatever you do, don't tell Helene!" Even after they bought a Cadillac in 1985 it sat in the garage as she preferred the Mustang. Al sometimes used colorful language with the boys during boxing lessons and if Helen unexpectedly entered the garage she interjected "Albert, watch your language!"

Helene and Al retired in 1979 after 32 years in business and retained ownership of the building. Al continued water skiing and boxing, and Helene remained an avid golfer at Franklin Canyon Golf Course as they were staunch advocates of health and fitness. Shortly afterward Edith "Edie" Dunham (1923-1989), a Texas native, opened Edie's Coffee Shop in the building. She had the restaurant at the Big Wheel truck stop at Hoffman Blvd. and Erlandson Street. It was frequented by truck drivers largely from the Safeway Stores warehouse on the opposite side of Hoffman Blvd. She too was displaced by eminent domain during its 1977-1986 round and opted to leave several years prior to the

(Continued on page 18)

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Big Wheel's razing in 1987.

The cook, Clemestene "Clemmie" Fox, of North Richmond, came along with her. The soda fountain was removed, and breakfast and lunch were served. Al frequented Edie's for breakfast along with many of his old customers and hers alike, and the restaurant took hold. Edie had a collection of ball caps on the walls accumulated over the years from mainly truck drivers. When the Frosini's sold the building in 1985 it was stipulated that Edie's not be displaced. When Dunham died in 1989 Clemmie took ownership of the business, in turn making it the sole African American owned business in Point Richmond at the time. She proudly posted a sign "from the small pot to the big kettle" on the wall. When closing for a week's vacation Clemmie hung a sign reading "Closed next week. The cook is sick...sick of cooking" She shuttered the restaurant in the late 1990's to accept a food preparation job with the State of California. She recently died on 1/5/22 at age 77.

One evening as Helene and Al walked to their front door, a large man in his 20's came from behind and knocked them to ground during a robbery attempt. Al, then in his 70's, stupefied the thief with several punches to the face and leaping up from the ground with the stamina of a teenager. Al chased the thief who ended up battered with a broken nose and thrown in jail. Even after two hip replacements in his 80's, Al remained athletic. In later years he suffered from

Dementia and Helene cared for him diligently. I would visit him in and despite his compromised his short-term memory, he recalled events back to the 1920's and still spoke fluent Italian. He continued lifting weights and hitting the punching bag until age 94 when Helene died unexpectedly on 1/16/2012 at age 91. He moved into assisted living where he was popular with the residents and staff alike. I attended his 95th birthday celebration at the Galileo Club, which was packed with people of all ages, including many from the Berkeley Ski Club. He died 12/7/2013 at age 96, and his funeral was crowded with friends of all ages.

The Frosini's refused to surrender their livelihood for the Richmond-San Rafael bridge effort in the early 50's, and like Nick Brailo, they constructed a new building on Standard Avenue. While others in the 100-200 block assumed Tewksbury Avenue addresses by the mid-fifties, the Frosini's and Edie Dunham used their Standard Avenue address until at least 1983. In the late 1970's Caltrans planned for bulldozing the 1954 era alignment of Standard Avenue to construct the Railroad Avenue overpasses, which threatened the restaurant's parking. One regular Point customer was State Assemblyman John Knox (1924-2017), who the I-580 freeway is named after. He dealt with lobbyists, but none as fierce as Helene! She convinced him to force Caltrans to move the alignment northward to save the parking. As children of immigrants, the Frosini's symbolized the American dream. Al mentored youth and they gave back to the community in many ways. My steadfast opinion is that restoring the Standard Avenue name in front of their old restaurant and apartment is only just. Al's granddaughter Keri, and his niece Diane Frosini Diani reside in Point Richmond, and the fourplex remains in the family. Al's childhood home on Contra Costa Street bears a bronze plaque honoring the Frosini Family. "Uncle Al" and "Honna" will forever hold a place in the heart of Point Richmond.

Special thanks to Valerie Frosini Gutierrez and Diane Frosini Diani for making this article possible.
James



"We're Back"

was the theme of our Annual Meeting which was hosted by Masquers. We have skipped meetings of the last two years because of Covid. Not a lot of attendees (as we expected) but those who came enjoyed seeing the wonderful little theater's beautiful remodel. Our non-profit business done, we enjoyed an entertaining presentation and preview of their next play "Sordid Lives" by its Director, Masquers Carl Smith. Thank you Carl!



Top left counter clockwise: (1)Fran Smith, (2)Kathe Kiehn, (3)Dee Rosier & Rita Dorsey, (4)Carl Smith, (5)the "crowd"

Point Richmond History Association

Minutes for the Annual Meeting

May 15, 2022

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) was held at Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond on May 15, 2022 after a 2-year hiatus caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by PRHA President, Bonnie Jo Cullison. The current officers and appointees present, in addition to Bonnie Jo, were Heinz Lankford, Kathe Kiehn, Gary Shows, and Caitlin Hibma. Pam Wilson was absent. A total of 11 people were in attendance. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

1) **Welcome and Introductions**

Fran Smith, Chair of the Masquers Board of Directors, welcomed PRHA to the theater. Bonnie Jo thanked Masquers for hosting the meeting and introduced the PRHA Board and described their roles.

2) **Minutes of the 2019 meeting**

Secretary, Caitlin Hibma, read the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. They were unanimously approved as read.

3) **Treasurer's Report**

Kathe Kiehn, treasurer, presented the financial report (on file). She noted a healthy balance in both the checking and money market accounts at Mechanic's Bank and also noted that all IRS forms for PRHA's non-profit status have been filed for the fiscal year.

4) **Museum Operations**

Bonnie Jo noted that the museum has been open sporadically over the past three years, as the pandemic has allowed. It is now open on a regular schedule of 11am – 2pm on Thursdays and Sundays. Six volunteer docents make this possible: Heinz Lankford, Karen Buchanan, Lori Kauth, Linda Andrew-Marshall, Gary Shows and Bonnie Jo Cullison. A fairy house was installed at the museum in early 2022.

5) **PRHA Activities During Pandemic**

-Despite the pandemic, PRHA had remained active. During the early shelter-in-place phase, "Guerrilla History" posters showing historic photos relating to locations throughout the Point were placed around the neighborhood.

-A TV was purchased and hung in the front window of the museum to allow passers-by to view PRHA's slideshow of historic photographs. It continues to play 7 days a week, 8am to midnight.

-A new bulletin board was also placed in the museum window to convey notices and historic info to the community.

6) **History Kiosk**

Five new history panels were installed in the kiosk in February 2021, which was the third set to be installed. New panels will likely be installed every other year, with the next batch to come in 2023.

7) **PRHA Newsletter & Facebook Page** have proven to be PRHA's best connection to membership during the pandemic and are thriving.

8) Historic Building Plaques

PRHA is currently working to create and install new bronze plaques for three more buildings in the Point: Abbott Hospital, the former Episcopal Church, and Masquers Playhouse. These should be installed by the time of the next annual meeting.

9) Election of Officers

The officers of the Association typically serve for one year, but have remained in place through the pandemic. PRHA members Tom Piazza and Mary Crosby acted as the nominating committee for 2022 and solicited current officers for their continued willingness to serve.

Based on responses, the slate nominated for 2022-2023 was as follows:

President	Bonnie Jo Cullison
Vice-President	Heinz Lankford
Secretary	Caitlin Hibma
Treasurer	Kathe Kiehn
Membership	Pam Wilson

Nominations from the floor were solicited; none were made. The slate was approved unanimously as presented.

10) From the Audience

- Victor Morales asked about the PRHA T-shirts that some of the officers were wearing. Bonnie Jo provided information about the shirts' availability (at the meeting, or at the museum or online) and their price (\$20 each).
- Lori Kauth (museum docent) asked if Square had been set up to take credit card payments at the museum. Gary said he would look into this, as the ability to take card payments would be very helpful.
- Lori also noted that she is looking into getting new/additional holiday ornaments, like the current cut-metal ornament of the museum, that depict other historic buildings in Point Richmond.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m., and the meeting proceeded with a presentation by guest speaker, Carl Smith, production manager for Masquers Playhouse. The talk was about the recent renovation and rehabilitation of the historic theater building and the revitalization of the Masquers organization. The upcoming play "Sordid Lives" was promoted and a preview of the set was given.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin Hibma, Secretary



Newly re-elected officers of the PRHA

Bonnie Jo Cullison, President
Caitlin Hibma, Secretary
Kathe Kiehn, Treasurer
Heinz Lankford, Vice-President



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. Crichton's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history.

-Linda Newton, Past President

Pt. Richmond May 28, 1912

Women's West Side Improvement Club met in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. Crammer.

Roll Call of officers result in all being present except V.P. and Treasurer.

Reading of the minutes of our last meeting was accepted.

Communications – none

Bills – none

New Business – A destitute family reported to the club, residing on Nichol Ave. Mrs. Gerlach & Mrs. Adams were appointed to see what could be done for them.

Unfinished Business – Committees appointed for the minstrel program comm. Mrs. J. Gerlach, Mrs. Alice Runyon, Mrs. Millie Eaton & Mrs. Lucetta Dunlap. The door Com. & Box Office to be appointed. A letter was asked to be sent to the Richmond Board of Trade by Mr. T.D. Johnson recommending five ladies of the Directors of the Richmond Board of Trade, the following ladies were appointed, Madames Whitcomb, Eaton Adams Marston & McCurry.

It was moved and carried that we adjourn for one week.

Nellie Adams
Sec'y

Pt. Richmond June 4, 1912

The Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. Cramer.

Roll call of officers result in all being present except V.P.

Reading of minutes of previous meeting

accepted as read.

Bills – Mrs. Whitcomb be allowed 5.00 to Deporison the costumes. Carried.

Communications – A letter from the Board of trade notifying the club that Mrs. Whitcomb was appointed on the Board of Directors.

New Business – The minstrels was discussed and Mrs. John Roth and Mrs. Josie Reposa were appointed to look after robes on the night of minstrels. Mr. Paasch asked the club members to sell tickets for their dance.

Fin Sec Report - Mrs. J. F. Brooks \$1.50

There being no further business to come before the club moved and carried we adjourn for one week carried.

Nellie Adams
Sec.

Pt. Richmond June 11, 1912

The Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by Vice President Mrs. Eaton.

Roll Call - Of officers result in all being present except Pres & Tres.

Reading of minutes of previous meeting was accepted as read.

Bills for Ice Cream from the Cozy which was ordered paid 1.50

Communications - The B.P.Q. Elks invited the club to attend Flag day services in Richmond Theater on Friday 14th the invitation was accepted. Also a letter from the Fire Co. asking that the ones taking part in the minstrels would please not touch the Fire truck or the things in the building.

New Business - The minstrels was discussed.

Fin. Sec report - Mrs. Marston 50¢

There being no further business club adjourned

for one week.

Nellie Adams, Sec.

Pt. Richmond June 18th 1912

Woman's West Side Improvement Club met in Fire Hall and was called to order by Mrs. Eaton.

Roll call of officers result in all being present except Pres Mrs. Crammer.

Bills - Mrs. Whitcomb music and express, the bill was allowed \$13.00

Good of the Club -- The minstrel was discussed to a finish.

Bills referred to the next meeting -- Mrs. Paul Robinson Music 7.50
Elsie & Elsie copies for Mustral .50
Mine Glassel for costumes 21.50
Closing until June 25

Nellie Adams
Sec.

Pt. Richmond June 25th 1912

Woman's West Side Improvement Club met in Fire Hall and was called to order by Mrs. Masalon Pass President

Roll call of officers result in the following being absent Pres. Mrs. Cramer V.P. Mrs. Coleman Fin Sec Mrs. Eaton Tres Mrs. Reposa Press Com Mrs. McHenry.

Minutes of previous meeting was read and approved

Bills - Mrs S Davis Time for Munistral \$4.20
J.O. Ford Opra house Munistral 15.00
Record Herald Tickets for Munistral 3.00
Richmond Terminal Programs for Munistral 70.00

Adele Downing Street Typing for Munistral 5.20

J. Snell Strap for Munistral .95

Logan Orchestra 32.50

The bill for help in Opra house was layed over until the next meeting.

For good of the club - Mrs. Detrich parasol was split and was to be fixed. The Red path was

talked of. Mrs. Adams & Mrs. Hopkins a committee to secure Mrs. Whitcomb a present from the club for her good work for the club treasurer.

A motion was made we adjourne until July 9, carried.

Mellie Adams -- Sec..

Pt. Richmond July 9th 1912

Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in special session in Fire Hall and the following members were present.

President Mrs. Cramer, Fin. Sec. Mrs. Eaton, Sec. Mrs. Nellie Adams, Treasurer Mrs. Josie Reposa, Mrs. M. Ellis, Mrs. T. Marston, Mrs. R. Stout.

The following bills were presented and were ordered payed.

Tilden and Eakle	2.20
Elmer Cox \$5.00 paid in June	5.00
Geo Allen	3.00
Mrs. Zebel	1.75
Mrs. Cramer Sent for Ice Cream	2.00
Mrs. Zebel work in Richmond Theater	6.00

The following money was returned to the Tres.

For tickets from Munistral

282.65

" " " July 1st

9.75

For program ads 247.50

Mrs. J. Steifoater Dues 1.00

Mrs. R. Stout .50

Mrs. H. Grover (July 16, 1912) 1.50

July 16th 1912, the members meet and had the final report from Munistral and presented Mrs. Witcomb with a necklace by Mrs. Cramer.

The following bills were ordered payed

Richmond Daily Independent \$9.50

Leona Troutvetter 1.75

P.F. Johnson and Son Hauling 2.75

Mrs. Whitcomb Present 12.50

Nellie Adams Sec

In July, 1911 the Riordan Hotel was being erected, and promised to "Rank among the best in the country". The hotel owned by Kate Riordan, looked much the same as it does today, when it is known as the Hotel Mac.

Richmond Museum of History & Culture

from Desiree Heveroh, Executive Director

They say that history doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes. About 10 years ago, I walked the halls of this Museum as a new Board Member. About the same time, I sat in the Chief Stewards Cabin aboard the Red Oak Victory meeting the "New Ship keeper" at the time, Oscill Maloney, thinking how lucky she was to be on this adventure. I now walk the halls of the Museum as the new Interim Executive Director. I also hold the position of Ship Keeper on the Red Oak and I'm in that same cabin having my own adventures while Oscill Maloney is now a Board Member! You can't tell me this intricately woven plan isn't graced with the threads of fate. The halls were still empty in January when I took over so it was a precious time for me to really connect with the Museum and my Collections/Gallery Manager Victoria as we threw ourselves into the deep cleaning and organizing that was very much needed. I found articles about how Richmond citizens burned their mandated masks at 6th and Macdonald during the Spanish Influenza just as mask mandates were being lifted in the present time. I found pictures of Library staff (This Carnegie building was a Library 1st) posing in front of the building with their masks on while Victoria and I stood in front of the Museum with our masks on. A very interesting time indeed.



Most notably was the Arnautoff Mural. Remember the story of how it was lost in the basement of the Nevin Post Office for 4 decades until the Richmond Museum found it, had

it restored and brought it back to its glory with plans of a wonderful unveiling...and then Covid hit? I walked into the blank white walled section of the Museum that holds this vibrant painting depicting 1941 Richmond as seen by its creator Victor Arnautoff (a protege of Diego Rivera) and sat on the viewing bench pondering how was I going to make this interesting. I kept coming back to a lunch box. I'd seen one like it here and then the Muse hit me over the head with that Lunchbox and I knew what to do! Victoria and I brought that mural to life with relevant artifacts to tell the story of the Mural. It now provides an interactive "Easter Egg Hunt" for our guests.

My all-time favorite "Artifact" of the Museum is and always will be the great SS Red Oak Victory Ship! If you've never been.... you are sleeping on a very rare and unique time capsule. Make your plans to visit the ship on Sundays even better, make plans to come to an event on the Ship such as Pancake Breakfast, 3rd of July BBQ, WWII Movie Nights, Volunteer Day... come to them all! We are so lucky to have an actual Victory Ship berthed right here in the Kaiser Shipyards as a resource to the public. Be sure to stop by the Museum and the Red Oak. Tell your friends all about it! If you are tech literate, you know what to do by liking/following us on Social Media. As non-profits, we took some mighty blows having to shut down for Covid and we have a lot of catching up to do. This Building has now survived 2 pandemics. The Red Oak came home as the lone survivor of time and circumstance. We're still here, we're still strong. We're still so very rooted in our beloved Richmond.



Richmond Museum of History
400 Nevin Avenue
www.richmondmuseum.org



SS Red Oak Victory
337 Canal Boulevard
www.redoakvictory.us



Mountain Lion Spotted in Point Richmond

Richmond police reported this afternoon that they have received reports of a mountain lion sighting in the Point Richmond neighborhood.

"We have notified and are working with our partners at the Department of Fish and Wildlife to respond to this situation," police said. "Please be aware of your surroundings and consider bringing any pets indoors. If you see the mountain lion, please retreat to a safe location immediately and, in the event of an emergency, call 911."

Reprint from The Richmond Standard

Point Richmond Gallery

145 W Richmond, CA

Margi Sullivan Art

1-415-286-6298

Featuring

The work of Jane Felter-Artist

Who worked to age 100

Sunday June 12th at

**Join us in the backyard for music
and relaxation.**

Children and dogs invited.

Bring a picnic and BYOB

Look at the address label on your newsletter. If it is in all caps it means that you are a very senior member. Reason, this is the same mailing list that we have used for years. Back when dot matrix printers made terrible lower case letters because "tails" as with g's and y's could not print below the baseline. Because of this we entered everything in all caps as it is today. Anyway, if your label is in all caps..... CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE AN OLD TIMER!

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 101

Mary Bianchini Highfill - 98

Victor Morales - 93

Billie Bonham Shaw - 99

June Beesley Sosabal - 98

Marcelina Smith - 97

Hector Lizarraga - 98

Donna Wilson - 92

Florence Wilson - 92

Alphonso Diaz - 95

Christopher Wilson - 99

*For additions or corrections to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club
Contact Gary Shows, editor@pointrichmondhistory.org, or 510-325-4197*

Birthdays

June

Alissa Bagley	Stacey Spinola	Aaron Marshall	Luke Karl
Phyllis Downey	Gill Stanfield	Cynthia Wilson	Graciella Feese
William Shea	Alice Baxter	Workman	June Solosabal
Emeric H. Baxter	Wilson Gandola	Michael Marshall	Doreen Minkwitz
Andrew Butt	Rosemary Giacomelli	Marcelina Smith	Mary Lee Cole
Kristine Lazaro	Daniel Buhler	Gerry Higuera	Virginia Martinez
Joanne Lansing	Dianne Primavera	Judy Travis	Omera Johnson
Cathe Brazil	Suzanne Unser	Lee Christian	
Brian Rotting	Bill Smith	Lillian Karl	

July

Francis Smith	Richard Smith	Loretta 'Mertle' Lease	Martha Bielawski
Amy Rotting	Allen Anderson	Madeline Bellando	Madison Bradshaw
Nicole Sebastian	Roger Elle	Albright	Dixie L. Mello
Mrs. Chas Baldwin	Trace Smith	Jean Reynolds	Lea Smith
Dan Damon	Alice McMahon	Regan Bradshaw	Terry Lizarraga
Julius Matteucci	Hilary Lord	Jon Healy	Joan Glover-Carter
Bea Read	Clifford (Lou)	Golda Pettycord	Hector Lizarraga
Mary L. Knox	MacMillan	Howard	

August

Donna Wilson	Karla Peterson	R. Clayton Barnes	Kendall Craig
Kevin Pryne	Alia Smyk	Michael Shaw	Gloria Crim
Molly Kate Barnes	Terrence Doherty	Megan Lizarraga	Floria (Crim) Jones
Joe Darling	Lisa Smith	Roy Henry Glover	Victor H. Morales
Marlene Smith	Kelly von York	Bernie McIntosh	Patti Kowalski
Barbara Ward	Rose Barra	Beatrice Beesley Casey	Suzanne Bartram
Connee Fisher	Bonnie Ritzenthaler	Jim Healy	Owens
Alice Thompson	Wilson	John Lizarraga	
Linda DeLaTorre	Bob Armstrong	Karen Gagnier	
Mary Knox	Kim Morales	Steve Rice	

You share your birthday with about 9 million other people in the world!

Please help me keep our lists correct, send additions, subtractions, corrections or updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club" or "Birthdays" to Gary Shows, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801 or email to editor@pointrichmondhistory.org

Comment made in the year 1957:

I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.

Memorials.....

I learned from Sandra & Bruce Beyaert that they recently attended a small memorial gathering for their former neighbor **Robert (Bob) Strauss**, age 93, in Cloverdale. Bob & Ellie left the Point in 2004 to make their home in Cloverdale. Sandra & Bruce understand that Bob had heart & lung issues & his health failed during the past year. Ellie is doing well & their daughters Joannie & Maria attended the gathering. Joannie has 2 teenage children & lives in Southern California. No obituary was published.

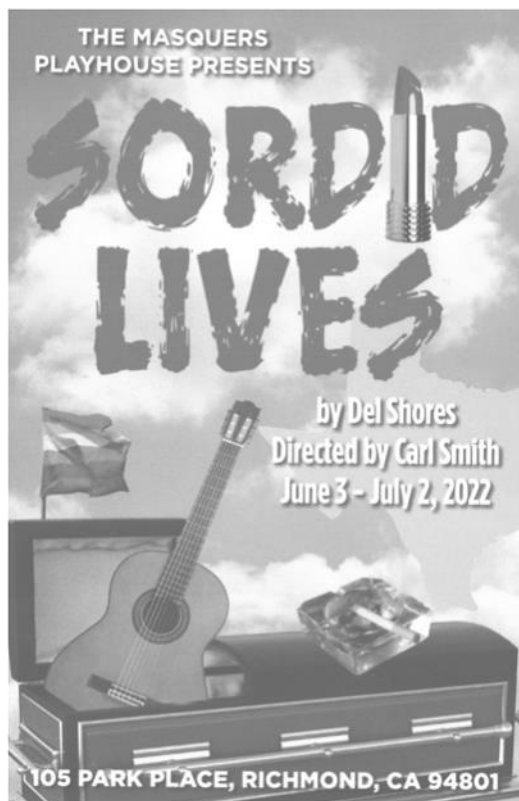
If you'd like to send Ellie a card or email, here is the info:

118 Wisteria Circle, Cloverdale, CA 95425

bestrauss@comcast.net

Hugs,

Linda Andrew-Marshall



CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

*Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Contact: Pat Tostenson, jptostenson@gmail.com
More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com>*

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. 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.gsmrm.org

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

105 Park Place. Newly renovated and open for the 2022 Season. 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 Bonnie Jo Cullison at 510-412-2202.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

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 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 - 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.
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: Diane Diani, President. Email: italiandiane@gmail.com

RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (RTA)

Adult/Youth Lessons and USTA League Play, Hurlbut Tennis and Garden Park (Plunge)
Contact: Garry and Maryn Hurlbut, WWW.RTA-CA.ORG, 510-547-8111

Additions/Corrections to this Directory/Calendar? Email Gary Shows, editor@pointrichmondhistory.org

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"/>	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

☐ CHECK HERE if you would like to receive your newsletters electronically instead of by US Mail

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 "Editor's Notes" on page 3

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:
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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor/Uncredited Photos
Bonnie Jo Cullison	Various Articles and Information
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Mid Dornan	Articles & Stuff
Jerry Cerkowicz	Information
Mark Kornmann	Proof Read
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Donna Roselius	Line Drawings
James Cheshareck	Article/Photos
Caitlin Hibma	Article
Carl Smith	Informaion
Desiree Heveroh	Article
Karen Buchanan	Article

Contacts

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bjocullison@sonic.net

Visit our website

PointRichmondHistory.org
Join our Lively 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
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Point Richmond, CA 94801



ENOUGH!

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