THIS POINT....in time

The Point Richmond History Association

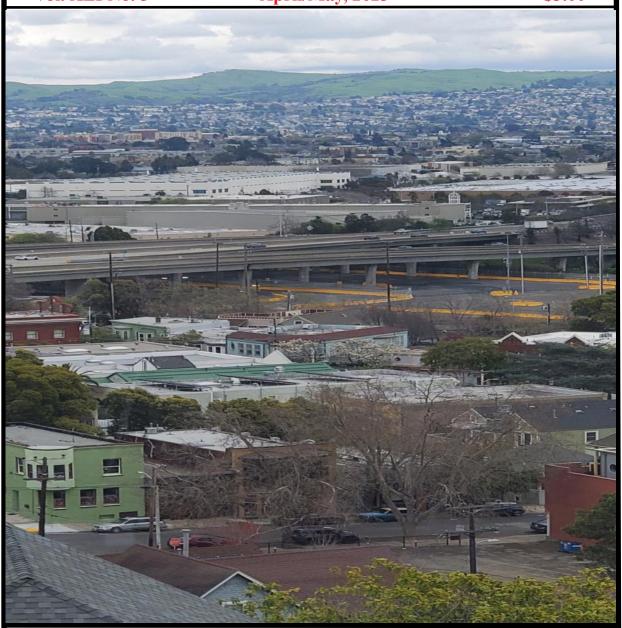
Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XLI No. 5

April/May, 2023

\$3.00



You are invited to The Point Richmond History Association's Annual Meeting

PRHA ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, May 21 2:00 p.m.

at Friendship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 201 Martina Street

We are most fortunate to have as a guest speaker this year, the inimitable Desiree Heveroh.

Most recently Desiree was the dynamic Interim Director of the Richmond Museum of History and Culture. She has worked closely with the Red Oak Victory ship volunteers and during the Pandemic she was Light Station Keeper of the East Brother Light Station. This should be a lively, informative program!

We 'll start with a brief business meeting before Desiree's presentation.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

I am pleased to say that we have added 2 new positions to the Point Richmond History Association Board.

Jim Davis has agreed to be our Projects Manager. Jim's family came to Point Richmond in 1906 following the San Francisco Earthquake. Jim grew up here, attended Washington School and Richmond high schools. He graduated from St. Mary's College and spent some years as an Air Force historian. He retired in 2016 from St. Jacinto Community College in Riverside, California where he taught an impressive range of history and film courses. He returned to Point Richmond in the summer of 2022 and dived right into community activities. In addition to volunteering for PRHA Jim is a docent at the Rosie the Riveter Museum, he assists at the Masquers Theatre and the Magic Lantern, and he is on the Board of the Richmond Museum of History and Culture. Jim is the son of longtime PRHA member Pat Pearson.

The second new Board member is James Cheshareck. James will be our Historian. I'm sure you will recognize his name as the author of numerous articles in the Newsletter on a wide variety of people and places. The Chesharecks came to Point Richmond in 1912 and James has lived here his entire life. James has a real knack for finding details hiding in obscure places. He is currently researching the history of Kozy Kove and Keller Beach which he will share with us. When I asked him how he got interested in historical research he said, without hesitation, "Trannie Dornan". As a young boy he would listen to her tell stories about life in Point Richmond.*

We are delighted to welcome James and Jim to our PRHA Board.

*Trannie Dornan lived in Pt. Richmond from 1903 until her death in 1989. Read more about her life in TPIT Newsletter v. VIII, no.2; Summer 1989 which is available on the PRHA website.

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On behalf of myself and the PRHA Board members I would like to express our warmest, most heartfelt sympathy to Gary Shows on the loss of his partner and soulmate of 58 years, Jerry Cerkanowicz.

BJC



Thank you members for your renewal:

James Cheshareck** Marc Bisio Randolph D. Blim Ellen Schaefer Carol L. Corbett Roy Javellana Pamela Wilson Paula Israeli **Patrice Verhines** Penelope Canario Michael & Debra Jackson Melinda & Ralph Mendelson Family **Kim & Lynn Stoddard Family** Frank & Christine Lazaro Family Victor J. Westman** Kevin, Reneé & Griffin Knee** Shirley & Tom Butt** Paul Ciabattari** **Bartram Owens Family**** Rosemary M. Corbin** Valerie Frosini-Gutierrez** **Guadalupe Torres/New Leaf** Salon**

Welcome to new members:

George O. Petty**
Desiree Heveroh
Steve James
Lynn Clifford Family

*Gift Membership

CHOP SUEY And all Chinese Dishes Served Right CHARLIE LEE 130 Railroad Avenue

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

For distributing

"THIS POINT....in time"

Now more than ever, it is important to support all of 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 Jim Davis

The Cover:
Look at how green those hills are!
Happy Springtime!

^{**}Special Supporter, Thank You!

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

For those of you following our reprint of the early WWIC minutes, it will resume to two pages with the next issue.

I appreciate your help with this issue during this difficult time for me, loosing my dear Jerry. Our contributors were timely and respectful, thank you all!

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT....in time" will be Friday May 26, 2023 and will cover Summer (June/July/August).

Thanks for addressing and mailing the last issue go to:

> Gary Shows Bonnie Jo Cullison

We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Donna Wilson Rosemary Corbin Kathe Kiehn

John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza

Roberta & Richard Palfini

Patricia Dornan

Norm and Jean Reynolds

The Bartram-Owen's Family

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Bob Armstrong

Steven Birnbaum

Ron Vandergrift Lynn Maack

Barry Goode

Mark J. Kornmann

Jim & Olivia Jacobs

Marcelina Smith

Rick Beal Iim Fisher

Dee Rosier

Ken & Nancy (Comer) Reed

Virginia Rigney

Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow

George O. Petty

Guadalupe Torres (New Leaf Salon) Tames J. Cheshareck

History Preservers

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Margi Sullivan Paul Ciabattari

Stephen, Patti, and Stephanie Kowalski

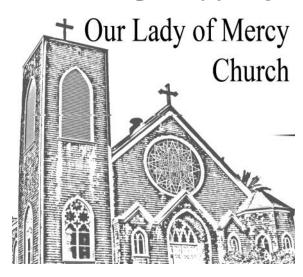
Steve Lizarraga

Sharon Halpern & Victor Morales

Kathy Sundbeck Jack Mormon

, Sarah Stierch

Church News



By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387 drosier@sbcglobal.net

We welcome Spring with Daylight Saving Time and a deluge of rain. Which has added a new word to my vocabulary – PLUVIAL: of or relating to rain, especially much rain. The word seems to fit what has been transpiring. Pat myself on the back for replacing an OLD sump pump, not knowing how much I would rely on the new one.

As of today, our new digital fire alarm monitoring system is fully installed and operational. The Richmond Fire Department must now (and probably has) signed off. We waited a long time for installation, but with considerable patience, the job was finalized.

Due to a power failure in the rectory, there was no Parish Council meeting, which means everything else electrical also went down. Everything has been reconnected and is up and running. On top of everything else that could fail, the rectory heating system did and a new motor replaced.

Thanks to Ann Brussok and Lisa Hire

who assist Father in keeping the place in proper running order.

The best news is that the stove in the church hall will soon be leaving. As soon as proper arrangements are made - it will move to another location in the Point.

Fr. Wilson Ngema has enticed the parishioners with his in depth Sunday homilies. We all require the words of faith to enrichen our souls. At one time we had a Priest who gave homilies that were so superb one could hardly wait to return the following week for another hearing. We referred to him as "The King of Homilies." You could hear a pin drop as he stood and spoke to us. Fr. Ngema seems to be having the same response. He is presently leading a Lenten journey via Zoom and has several followers, as well as others from St. Theresa, Oakland and The Order of Malta.

Getting ready for Easter Liturgies – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil will be held at 6PM.

The church will remain open on Good Friday from 12-3 PM, with Stations of the Cross at 1PM, followed by the Rosary.

Our food barrels fill rapidly. We could use some assistance in sorting the contents as well as delivering same to local food sites. If available, please contact: svdpatoim@gmail.

The Mass held at the Cathedral for World of the Sick drew a standing room only crowd, as well as overflow seating downstairs.

The 2022 second collections were paid out in full at year end and most 2022 payables were processed with the exception of the donation envelope system printing costs and Armanino and Associates. The Armanino invoice payment for the October 2022 parish audit/review will be paid by month end.

The 2022 Pt. Richmond Gateway Foundation grant was received and will be used towards completing the project to update of the church signage at the corner of West Richmond and Santa Fe Avenues, along with installing an

enhanced LED lighting system for the sign and corner structural drainage and dry rot repair. This project will not be undertaken until earth is ready after being drenched with rain.

Condolences to the Rosier family in the death of Delia Rosier. Delia/I were married to brothers and shared a lot in common. Services were held in Kelseyville. She was wife of Edward Rosier, daughter, Leslie and grandson, Levi.

She and Marie Peckham were long time friends, having worked together in San Francisco. As a result I was the recipient of a wonderful phone call from Marie, where we shared and enjoyed many memories.

Marie continues to keep in touch with several Point people and sends her regards. She may no longer live here, but she is lovingly remembered.

The Point has always had outstanding citizens who everyone knew and recognized. If you walked the Triangle, you no doubt were greeted by a smiling gentleman, David Moore. David died on February 24. He was an artist, print maker, cartoonist and creator of Point Richmond online website. A memorial service for David is planned for April 8th, Hidden City, 1:30-4:30. We have lost a Point symbol.

TIME PASSES - MEMORIES REMAIN

Happy Birthday Carol Darling who shares her memorable birthday with St. Patrick.

Mark your calendars for the second annual Art Stroll – April 8 and the Parish dinner – March 25.

The family of Amelia Drake continues to live on. Recently baptized was third generation, Xevian Drake Rodriguez, son of Martin and Naliah Drake.

While sitting in the waiting room of Herrick Hospital, no one is very recognizable due to masks. My daughter got up to speak to a gentleman. When she returned she asked if I knew who it was and she shared that it was the infamous Vida Blue. She related that she recognized him during my last visit, but this time decided to speak. Appears he/I are on the same schedule. As a result of her father, she is a sports buff. I knew the

name, but not the face. He waved as he left.

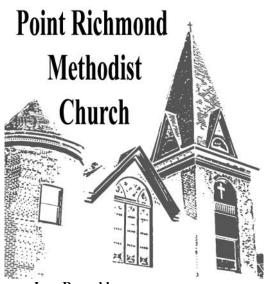
22 Idaho Street recently sold. As a senior resident of Idaho Street, when I moved in, Gust Allyn owned near a complete block from 22 Idaho Street down to the corner of East Richmond. With the sale of the home goes, but remain vivid, happy memories. Gust was at one time Mayor of Richmond, as well as Postmaster, and owner of local men's store. His wife Margaret's mother, Mrs. Diffin, lived at 45 Idaho Street and daily took the train to Tormey where she taught school to my Mother and her siblings. It is indeed a small world. Good neighbors are essential in providing lasting memories.

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

JIM ARKIN
DAYNA BRADFORD
THOMAS BRADY
LINDA CHESHARECK
ROSEMARY GIACOMELLI
RICHARD HERTZBERG
LAURA HOLMES MURPHY



Dee Rosier



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

Visioning Day Rev. Maggie McNaught led a visioning day on Sunday, March 19 after worship. Matt Foster, Jennifer Metz Foster, Alice Thompson, Bill Thompson, Doreen Leighton, Barbara Haley, Laila Millar, Karen Buchanan, Mark Ellis, Cornel Barnett, Suellen Barnett, Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones, and Jean Reynolds attended in person. May Cotton, Rose Ayers, and Russ Johnson attended all or part of the time on Zoom. Rev. Maggie compiled a list of our values she discerned after she listened to stories people shared to describe why they came to the church and why they continue to attend. The result was very much like our Mission Statement: We, the people of First United Methodist Church in Point Richmond, seek to embody God's love for all people through our worship and the many ways we nurture and serve our community and world. We welcome everyone and celebrate the ways we differ in age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity, and sexual orientation. We preserve and embrace the beautiful diversity of nature. cooperate with other congregations and organizations to participate in Jesus' mission of peace, justice, and unconditional love.

Maggie noted several people started to

attend after the death of a close family member, or because they needed connection and support for other reasons. Many of us find satisfaction through the ways we serve others. We all need connection, support, and meaningful ways to serve, and we find that in the relationships and work we do via our community here. Maggi challenged us to share our stories and build more connections to others. We plan to use some of the tools she suggested to continue to explore new ways to gain visibility and relevance in the neighborhood and beyond.

Junktique, our annual yard/basement/garage sale is May 6, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We will sell hotdogs (meat or vegan), sodas, coffee, and slices of pie to sustain shoppers, browsers, and volunteers. We will receive donated items on April 8, 15, and 22, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the door to the church basement on West Richmond Ave.

We appreciate your donations of books, furniture (end tables/bookcases/lampstands/casual chairs), tools, gardening tools and planters, sporting goods, art, jewelry, fishing and camping equipment, TV's that work, audio equipment, housewares (pots & Donath of the work), and planters, food processors, silverware, 11" dinner plates.) Make sure electrical items work.

<u>Please do not bring</u>: particle board furniture, wooden dining table/chair sets, sofas, desks, drinking glasses, lamps, car tire chains, clothing, pillows, or small electric radios. Call or text Bill Thompson if you have a question or want to help: (510) 730-5274

Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones has been appointed to serve the California-Nevada Conference as the Associate Director of Intergenerational Ministries, starting July 1, 2023. We wish Rev. Jacey blessings on this new phase of her ministry in the work area to which she feels most called and best equipped. I know the youth and young people in our conference will benefit from her leadership, as have we. We will learn who our next pastor will be sometime before Annual Conference, June 15-18.

We Remember: Rob Bader March 25, we grieved and remembered with joy the life of Robert Bader, who passed on March 19. It was

too soon to say goodbye. Friends and family packed the sanctuary and Friendship Hall. Among the many hats he wore, Rob was an attorney; mentor; golfer; history buff; sports fan; baseball coach for both his sons; father to Jackson, Nate, and Charlotte; and husband to Susie Ashworth. He loved deeply, was deeply loved, and will be sorely missed.

Church Trustees are always active: Bill Thompson and Jonathan Swett strung the internet cable from the study to the pulpit under the floor, so it is no longer a tripping hazard. The outdoor lighting project funded by our latest Gateway Grant is almost completely installed, including solar-powered lights that shine on the sidewalk to make it safer to walk there after dark. The palm tree has been trimmed. Jonathan and Bill removed soot from the gas lines in the kitchen range just in time to use it for lunch prep on our visioning day and for the reception after Rob Bader's memorial.

Book Group: We are reading "The Faith Club," written by three women of different faith traditions who asked each other challenging questions as they all explored their own biases in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in New York. We meet on Zoom; we always appreciate the insights of our Jewish member, Sharon Solkowitz, but she is especially valuable when we discuss this book.

United Women in Faith: Women from Easter Hill UMC, Open Door UMC, and Richmond First UMC met on February 23 for the Call to Prayer celebration that marks the beginning of Lent. Its theme was anti-racism. The women from Open Door UMC led the program, and all who participated got to share stories over Zoom.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) Annual Meeting was the afternoon of February 19. It was a chance to welcome new board members, honor out-going members, and celebrate volunteers, service, and hear from clients who are in permanent housing after they received assistance at the GRIP family shelter. The Dewayne Oakley Blues Ensemble entertained. They provide music for lunches at the Souper Center three times a month through a

grant from Whippoorwill Arts, a non-profit organization that supports musical artists (and meets at our church now.) Check out their work here https://whippoorwillarts.org

On the Calendar:

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. Pinole UMC

Easter Sunday, April 9 Enjoy as much or as little as you choose!

- 8:00 a.m. Worship in the garden;
- 9:00 a.m. Delicious Breakfast for all;
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in-person or on Zoom.
- 12:00 noon Easter Egg hunt for children.

Classical Piano Recital: Dennis Johnson, Saturday, May 13, 2:30 – 4:40 p.m. 100% of all donations benefit Spirit in Action https://www.spiritinaction.org To offer a safer space for all, attendees are asked to wear a mask.

Point Richmond History Association Annual Meeting, May 21, 2:00 p.m. 201 Martina St. in Friendship Hall.



Jean Reynolds

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Juelann (Juels) Klotz

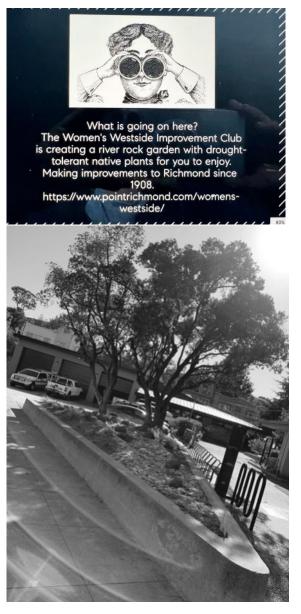
The members of the Womens Westside Improvement Club celebrated their February meeting with a Valentine's Day theme. They had their inaugural Secret Cupid Card Exchange, where each member purchased or created a valentine's card for another member, not knowing who was receiving whose card. The cards were opened and read aloud by each recipient; many were scribed with an artistic or poetic flare. It was a nostalgic way for the members to connect with one another while also realizing their collective creativity.



Leslie Hicks, Jeannette Giannetta, Mary Lee Cole, Diane Diani, Diana Stork

Their guest speaker and dancer extraordinaire was Suzie Hardt from the Hidden City Ballroom on Washington Avenue. Suzie gave the club members easy dance techniques on how to lead and how to follow in a lighthearted and entertaining fashion. Suzie's expertise and confidence in instructing dance made all members feel comfortable on the dance floor. She subscribes to the adage that movement is healthy for everyone, especially movement in the form of dance.

The Women's Westside Improvement Club



(Continued from page 8)

recently completed the work on the Library Garden project on Park Avenue. Thanks to the supporting grant from the Gateway Foundation, the new garden area is all that they expected. The beautifully and naturally landscaped area is graced with large river rocks and California native plantings.

Their March meeting had the group

coordinating the upcoming group garden cleanup on April 2nd in preparation for the annual Point Richmond Spring Fling and Art Stroll on April 8th. They invite anyone interested to put their gardening gloves on and stop by to lend a hand. The club members also look forward to participating in the Art Walk event with a membership drive and a rummage sale in the garden at 145 Washington Avenue.



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

-Linda Newton, Past President

Point Richmond, Calif, April 22, 1913

The Womens W.S. Improvement Club met in Fireman's Hall with the President Mrs. Eaton presiding. Roll call found officers and members present to be thirteen.

A communication from Mrs. Luce was read in which she resigned from the office of Treasurer; resignation accepted. Mrs. Rich Spiersch was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

Reports from the Opera Mascot was as follows:

Mrs. Whitcomb	\$50.00	
Door Receipts	43.00	
Total	\$93.00	
Flowers	.90	
Music	5.00	
Printing	4.25	
Bal.	\$82.80	

Moved and seconded that a reporter be appointed to prepare and to hand to the newspaper the doings of the Club. Mrs. Stidham was appointed.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned. Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty

Point Richmond, Cal. May 13, 1913

Meeting of the W.W.S.I. Club met at Fireman's Hall with the Pres. Mrs. Eaton presiding. Roll call found 9 officers and members present. Minutes of the meeting held April 22nd read and approved.

The W. Side Ladies Imp Club was requested by a mother of the graduating class of the grammar school grade to communicate with the school board and see if such exercises could not be held in Washington School instead of Lincoln School. Secty instructed to write the communication. A committee of three mothers was also appointed to confer with Mr. Trout. It was also decided to have the Secty communicate with the members of the council with regards to protecting the crossing at R.R. Ave and Richmond to prevent accidents from happening to children passing on way to and from school.

Mrs. Whitcomb turned in a full report from the Opera Mascot. The proceeds to go to the Bath House Fund which is as follows: \$165.85
From Mr. Dearborn for B.H. Fund 27.65
Total \$193.50

Moved and carried that a receipt book be purchased for the use of the Fin. Secty.

A rising note of thanks was extended to Mrs. Whitcomb for her untiring efforts hosting and making the Opera Mascot a success. Letters of thanks were ordered to be sent to the Wyatt Sisters, the lady instructors who kindly donated their own and the talent of her class in the production of the Opera Mascot, also to Mrs. Wernse for the part he took in the affair. No further business, meeting adjourned. Mrs. Dunlap, Sec

Richmond Museum o History & Culture

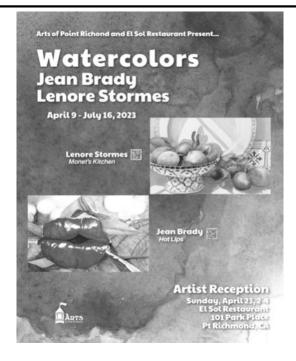


All Aboard the SS Red Oak Victory Ship from Desireé Heveroh

As one of the Ship keepers aboard the Red Oak, I often walk the halls doing my checks & think about how many years I have spent visiting. My daughter grew up attending Pancake Breakfasts & 4th of July BBQ's. I've spent countless years as a Volunteer & brought many a newbie to marvel at the magnificent ship that managed to be the lone survivor out of 747 ships produced here in Richmond. I served 2 terms as a Board Member where I met my fellow Ship keeper Oscill Maloney when she was a new hire & stood in her cabin thinking how cool it was that she was on such an amazing adventure. I am now

currently in that same cabin having my own! Though I have logged countless hours, I am still discovering new things all the time. I still get excited just walking up the gangway & I give one heck of a tour if I do say so myself! With Spring trying to push these rains out of the way. I am excited for the return of Pancake Breakfasts, 4th of July BBQ, Swing Dances & Movie nights. Thanks to my discoveries & ideas during my time as Executive Director of the Richmond Museum of History last year, there are going to be some new & exciting things to experience so make sure to tell us how you like my new content ideas (DiChiarra collection display & re-creation of location photos & Snafu the Dog). We are also looking for Volunteers all year long so consider us when giving of your time or as we say "SEAS the The Ship is a wonderful place for all generations of people so make sure to mark your Calendars for the April 22 Swing Dance, The Mother's/Father's Day Pancake breakfast & more (check the website for all event details) http://www.redoakvictory.us







from Anna Froker Arts of Point Richmond is a community association established to enrich our community by providing support, appreciation, and exposure for the arts.

For more information: www.artsofpointrichmond.com

SPRING FLING & ART STROLL in Downtown Point Richmond. Art, vendors, music, food, hat contest, children's activities, egg hunt and new round of Taking It Outdoors banners! A collaborative event presented by AOPR, Point Richmond Neighborhood Council and PRAM, with participation of local restaurants, businesses, and galleries, including an OPENING RECEPTION for the Point Richmond Faces & Places Exhibition at the Point Richmond Gallery. Saturday, April 8, 11am—4 pm.

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION for the life of DAVID MOORE hosted by The Art Squad at the Hidden City Ballroom, 304 Washington Avenue in Point Richmond. All are welcome. Saturday, April 8, 1:30—4:30pm.

WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS by AOPR artists LENORE STORMES and JEAN BRADY at the Linda Drake Gallery at El Sol Restaurant. Exhibition opens Monday, April 10, ARTIST RECEPTION on Sunday, April 23, 2—4 pm. All are welcome!

LA FAMILIA, A FIESTA OF COMMUNITY ART, celebrating Family, Community, Belonging and Cinco de Mayo. Art, food, drink and music. Friday May 5, 4—8 PM. Ongoing AOPR art exhibitions at Lara's Fine Dining and at the Point Richmond Post Office Display Windows. For more details, please go to the AOPR website artsofpointrichmond.com.





Sergeant Roque N. Ruiz

Richmond Police Trailblazer

by James Cheshareck

PART ONE

In the years preceding Richmond's 1905 incorporation and subsequent establishment of a police department, night watchmen patrolled an assigned beat to keep the peace. Dealing with fighting, mischievous children out past curfew, and intoxicated rumbags (editor: "rumbag" is a period correct slang term) in the growing number of saloons were all in a days' work. Though law and order were a hundred-fold better than today, burglaries, robberies, assaults, and even worse crimes occurred in the "good ol' days." straight razor was a common weapon of choice, but an occasional ruffian packing a gun was Richmond's rapid transformation encountered. into a large city warranted an armed police force.

Prior to having a police department, Richmond's closest equivalent to a police chief was a Marshall or a Constable. John Hamilton Gregory (b. 5/9/1850), who came to Richmond in 1902, held both positions during the Richmond Police departments formative years. Gregory was a sheriff and Marshall prior to being elected constable for the 15th township of Contra Costa County in 1910, a position he held until his death from stomach cancer on 7/20/1916. incorporation, most night watchmen transitioned into police officers, but it took four additional years for Richmond to establish a bona fide police department with a chief. Richmond's growth and demographics were molded by mass Immigration from Germany, Ireland, and Italy to a great degree. So, with that in mind, when did Richmond's first Hispanic police officer arrive in Richmond? 1945? 1955? 1965? Try 1902.

Roque Nicolás Ruiz was born 9/6/1876 in Garey, Santa Barbara County to Juan Bautista Ruiz (1837-1914) and Maria Rita Ontiveros Ruiz (1842-1925), the eighth born of ten children. the Ruiz's were early settlers and one of the oldest ranching families to settle in the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara area, settling in Garey in 1875. His

Mexican ancestry traces back to Sinaloa and Baja Although his name was Roque (pronounced ROE-KAY), the Spanish equivalent of the Italian name "Rocco," his friends and colleagues nicknamed him "Rookey" (ROO-KEE). He and wife, Teresa (b. 1870) lived on Tewksbury Avenue before they called 125 Hillside Avenue, in the Italian Colony, home. Hillside Avenue ran parallel to Standard and Tewksbury Avenues and was between the two. The eastbound I -580 Marine Street exit, traverses where Hillside Avenue once was prior to being bulldozed in the late 1980's. Ruiz had worked as a storekeeper in Garey before moving to Richmond and becoming Point Richmond's night watchman. The nucleus of his beat consisted of Park Place, W. Richmond & Washington Avenues, about all there was to patrol in Richmond's infancy.

As Point Richmond grew, so did his



popularity among residents, and the high regard extended to him. Besides keeping the peace, he was also involved in other aspects of law enforcement. In February 1903, two boys returning from a fishing trip perished from exposure in the marshes along the Bayshore of Stege.

After the bodies were transported to the Curry undertaking parlor on Washington Avenue. Rookey was among a panel of jurists who examined the bodies along with deputy coroner Samuel Curry (1868-1909). On January 30, 1907, the Richmond Board of Trustees (predecessor to the Richmond city council) raised the salary of two policemen, Roque Ruiz, and Canfield B. Gregory (12/3/1879-4/1/1959), from \$30 per Prior to the pay raise, the month to \$75. policemen received the balance of their salaries through subscriptions from businessmen. At the same time, a new officer, Francisco "Frank" A. Moitoza (2/11/1878-7/1/1933), was appointed a policeman at the same salary. Residing in Point Richmond since 1902, Canfield Gregory, the son of constable John H. Gregory, was in probability Richmond's first night watchman. However, he left Richmond prior to the establishment of a structured police department, laboring in law enforcement and other occupations in different Frank Moitoza's older brother, John cities. (4/19/1876-7/14/1934), was a former sheriff and constable in the San Pablo 10th Township of Contra Costa County. At the time of incorporation, Ruiz had been well established for some time, and a fixture with Point Richmond's residents and merchants. Point residents entered Rookey's name in an Oakland Tribune's most popular police officer listing in September of 1907. A view into Rookey Ruiz's personal experiences as one of Richmond's first police officers provides a perspective of early Richmond law enforcement and criminality.

When the first Chief of Police was appointed, none of the original force, Roque Ruiz included, were selected for the position, even though most had several years of law enforcement experience and knew the intricacies of Richmond crime. Harry Stephens (1866-1941), a Point resident, is believed to be the first of the night watchmen to transition to a police officer. The

first chief of police, James Philander Arnold (4/26/1875-4/14/1972), was appointed in 1909. He was an oil pumper at Standard Oil and resided on Nevada Avenue. Arnold promptly added additional officers to the force. One early hire was Charles Harvey Walker (4/19/1878-?), but many of Arnold's fellow refinery workers followed him, some immediately, and some in the following years. Among them: John O. McGowan (1863-1917), a former SOCO pipefitter, Philip "Phil" F. Barry (1872-1945) a former SOCO blacksmith, Samuel Fletcher Wright (1870-1920) a former SOCO pipefitter. Virgil A. Phillips (1876-1935), a former SOCO oil pumper, George Betts (1880-1922) a former Standard Oil laborer. Other hires included: John "Jack" McHale (1865-1913), a former fireman, Elijah "Edward" Jennings (1878-1964), a former railroad conductor, Otis Depew (1866-1950), a former locomotive engineer, Joseph Munday (1878-1939) a former weigher in Chief Arnold's older brother, William Arnold (1872-1945), a SOCO oil pumper, sometimes served as a reserve officer. Perhaps, the Standard Oil Police Department is a more fitting moniker. If there is a correlation between



pumping oil and law enforcement, it must have slipped my mind. The new brick building on Park Place constructed in 1910 for both police and fire department headquarters stood the heart of Rookey's original beat. It was probably a slap in the face to Ruiz who was around much longer than Arnold, who just fell off the oil truck. We will examine the highlights of Rookey's career in the following pages.

Roque Ruiz was very tough on crime, yet he was described as conscientious, efficient, and willing to listen to those down on their luck. He was like family to many in Point Richmond and was the epitome of community policing long before the concept was widespread. In 1910 while making a regularly stop by the Richmond Independent news office, the staff played a gag on He was asked if he had read former president Teddy Roosevelt's new book titled "Roosevelt's Report on Africa." The book was handed to Ruiz, and when Rookey opened the cover, a loud cap exploded, and he dropped the book like a hot potato. He laughed along with the jokesters and handed out cigars. Richmond grew, the number of saloons shot up, and the red-light district on seedy Railroad Avenue prospered. The department had a couple bumps in the road in 1911. In January, veteran officer Harry Stephens was accused of behavior unbecoming of a police officer and suspended. He resigned about a week later. Later in the year, one of the drunks thrown in iail committed suicide in his cell by cutting his throat ear to ear with a pocketknife. The man spent most of his time loitering around various saloons and the judge granted him his wish of 30 days in jail. Chief Arnold found the dead man in the cell along with the knife and a bottle of whiskey. Earlier in the day, two friends were allowed to visit him and were believed to have smuggled in the contraband. Despite the ineptness of an inmate dying while in custody, Richmond's police department gained notoriety as a top-notch organization and was profiled in the Policeman's Journal magazine. The department was a benchmark for other cities and departments to strive to meet. 1911 was a typical year, alcohol, burglaries, and violence, and never a dull moment for police. Standard Avenue was the part of town that had seen the most growth for the past few years, and more and more bars, pool halls, and saloons popped up. In the early June, Rookey and wife Theresa took a muchneeded two-week vacation in Santa Maria to visit family. Rookey was known to regularly enter drawings for prizes, and Point residents used to enter his name in drawings and contests as well. In July, he won a five-dollar gold piece in a drawing. On the lighter side, when he observed two Point teenagers, Ivan Conn (8/30/1895-4/20/1964), and Edward "Ed" McLaughlin (2/1/1896-7/6/1955) out past curfew, he sent them home after chewing them out. Conn was the older brother of Conn Drug company founder, Elmer 1911 Point Richmond was rough and tumble with plenty of disruptions. Two incidents



capped the year off. A man only identified as F. Lopez attempted to stab Rookey Ruiz while being taken into custody for drunkenness. Thankfully, Rookey managed to subdue the man in time and was not injured. Lopez was initially charged with attempted murder of a police officer, but the charges were dropped, and he plead guilty to public intoxication, and fined \$5. In December, when officer Charles Walker was serving former officer Harry Stephens jury duty papers, he ended up being punched in the jaw. Stephens later plead guilty and was fined \$15.

As 1912 kicked off to a start, Ruiz was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and given a desk. The promotion was well deserved, and he later kept a horned toad on his desk. He also had the honor of responding to a strange but sidesplitting call in Pt. San Pablo. immigrant, Nicholos J. Salonikos, was behaving bizarrely and tried to force his way into a house while toting a suitcase. When Ruiz and Virgil Phillips arrested the man, the suitcase was full of men's and women's garments, most with the price tags still affixed. Salonikos continued acting goofily and Ruiz and Phillips discovered the man was wearing women's undergarments, and threw him in jail on suspicion of theft. A common crime of the era was the looting of boarding houses and hotel rooms. While boarders were at work, thieves would enter rooms and steal everything from On 1/22/1912, Ruiz and jewelry to clothing. Phillips hauled off one said crook who was loitering around the McWay rooming house on Park Place, near the police station. Two days later, a saloon keeper on Standard Avenue reported two suspicious men loitering around multiple saloons. Most saloons and businesses on Standard Avenue had hotel rooms upstairs. Ruiz and Phillips hauled in the men, suspecting they were involved the rash of rooming house thefts, but released them the following day after a thorough investigation.

On March 5, 1912, John Dolan, a former SOCO employee who had been terminated the previous day, attempted to murder his family in their Prospect Avenue home. After the man fired a shot at his wife, badly injuring her hand, their 12-year-old son, (Robert Dolan), rushed his father and attempted to grab the gun. Dolan also shot

one of the boarders, John Kovac, but the bullet only grazed his shoulder. Councilman John Hartnett (1873-1938), a neighbor, heard the disturbance and called police. Several boarders helped the boy force Dolan out of the back door. Dolan fled the scene in the darkness and police began a manhunt. Rookev Ruiz found footprints in the mud, but it was too dark to follow them. Chief of Police Arnold sent officer Munday and the wounded Kovac to scour the grounds of the Standard Oil refinery, while Ruiz and William Around, the chief's brother, searched the hills of the Marine Street vicinity. Within 40 minutes, Ruiz and William Arnold located him. Initially, Dolan tried to run from them, but the mud prevented his escape. The six-foot, 250-pound Dolan then began fighting vigorously until Ruiz and William Arnold were able to subdue him. Prospect Avenue was once a residential street near Standard Avenue that was eradicated around 1954 for the future I-580 freeway.

In April 1912 Rookey fell seriously ill, greatly concerning his many friends and citizens of Point Richmond. With his wife Teresa by his side in their Hillside Avenue home, he was treated by well-known Pt. Richmond physician Dr. Hawley Barney (b. 8/12/1877), who was confident Ruiz would weather the storm. Towards the end of the month, he was well enough to visit the police station, but needed more time to recuperate before returning for duty. Point Richmond was relieved when he fully recovered, and once he was back to work, it was business as usual. Dr. Barney had a nervous breakdown in May 1916, and died five months later 10/7/1916. Although Charles Walker was a sergeant, although in another division, Chief Arnold appointed Sergeant Ruiz as the Acting Chief of Police in his absence, essentially, he was second in command in the department. Whenever Arnold was out of town, Rookey Ruiz was Acting Chief.

In November, Acting Chief Rookey Ruiz had the pleasure of responding to another comical call. This time it was an insane Japanese national on Montana Street, near Washington School. The man believed that the Emperor of Japan had summoned him, and he must answer his call. He stated that he would start swimming across the Pacific Ocean to reach his home country if

necessary. As can be expected, Ruiz hauled him away. As mentioned with the growing number saloons, another issue were establishments, as well as flop houses selling alcohol without a license, known as "blind pigs". The police raided these establishments on a regular basis. After three months of investigating. Chief Arnold swore to a warrant on 12/5/1912 and Ruiz and officer Munday raided two establishments: the Piedmont Winery, arresting the owner and the San Pablo Ouarry Boarding House, arresting the cook. The two were later released on \$100 cash bail a short time later. While raiding blind pigs were run of the mill, the event on the following day was not. Ruiz accompanied Chief Arnold on a trip to San Quentin to witness the hanging of a Chinese man convicted of killing his mother-in-law in San Luis Obispo. When asked about it, Rookey said that "it was all over in less time than it takes to tell it." A few days after, Ruiz, along with Phillips had the less morbid task of stopping a couple Oakland peddlers operating without a license and sending them to the tax collector's office. At the end of the month Ruiz got stuck with the chore of travelling to Santa Ana to return a deadbeat dad to Richmond.

3AM on 3/20/1913, two hobos Αt inadvertently set an empty box car on fire, where they had slept. Southern Pacific railroad agent Hershey Stiver (1878-1945) said he would not prosecute if the men left town. Judge William Lindsey (1838-1917) agreed and told Rookey to get rid of them. Ruiz took one of the men out back of the police station next to a 60-foot tower the fire department used for drying its hose stands, containing plenty of rope Rookey Ruiz told the man "They are going to hang you here in an hour, for they have found out you are the man who murdered a Chinaman in South Dakota." The man swore his innocence, and Rookey told the man that he did not believe he was the man wanted for murder, and gave him the opportunity to leave. The man and his fellow traveler were last seen running on Cutting Blvd like the Roadrunner, with smoke coming from their shoes. In May, Rookey entered a contest to win an automobile, and while he did not win the car, he later won a trip from the San Francisco Examiner. Also in May, Sergeant Charles Walker accidently shot himself in the leg

while he boarded a streetcar on Washington Avenue. His gun fell from his hip pocket onto the sidewalk causing it to discharge. Richmond police received a call from San Francisco authorities, who had reason to believe that a fugitive forger was in Richmond. Rookey scoured various rooming houses and found the suspect within a half hour. In August, Chief Arnold took a vacation, and Rookey Ruiz served as acting chief as he had many times before. Besides the dial on the station's safe breaking, nothing earthshattering occurred while Arnold was away. Ruiz had to go to San Francisco to retrieve suits of clothes stolen from a Macdonald Avenue rooming and along with Sergeant apprehended a murder suspect from picnic grounds in a park Giant (near North Richmond) in September without incident.

The most valorous highlight in Rookey's career occurred in 1913, while as Acting Chief of Police. In October 1913, 18-year-old Rose E. Domingo (b. 1895-10/2/1913) was murdered in Stege. She was raised in Stege but resided in San Francisco at the time of her death, yet she regularly returned to Stege for family visits. She formerly worked at Metropolitan Match Company at the foot of Bay Avenue (later S.47th Street) in Stege, alongside her younger sister, Mary (1896-1975), and her Portuguese immigrant father, Manuel (1856-1947). The area known as Stege, where the Domingo family resided, incorporated into Richmond around 1912. A former co-worker of Rose Domingo named Said Ali Khan (8/25/1885-?), a Punjab Muslim from British India, became infatuated with her and desired a romantic relationship. Said Khan shared a cabin with his brother, Musa Khan near Metropolitan Match. Although she had moved from Stege a year prior, Khan continued sending her letters professing his love and sought her out whenever she was visited Stege. despite his unwanted advances, she often stopped by his cabin further fueling his compulsion. When his object of desire did not reciprocate, he evolved into a menacing stalker.

On October 4, 1913, Rose Domingo's nude body was discovered at the end of the Metropolitan Match Company wharf at the foot of Bay Avenue on the waterfront. Her body was weighted down in the mud with an 80-pound, 25foot rail, and a 40-pound lead cylinder. Based on information provided by family and friends, Khan quickly became the immediate suspect. When Rookey Ruiz and Virgil Phillips conducted a search of her hotel room, letters from Khan were found, and a lot more... There were 60 postcard photographs of different men, 50 letters, and around 250 postcards. Also recovered was a ledger with names and addresses of more than 50 male friends entered it. Witnesses stated that Khan showed up at her room on 9/28 and begged her to come back to Stege with him, and she rebuffed his advances. Khan disappeared the day before the body was discovered. A cursory search of the cabin yielded no clues, but acting Chief Ruiz and Phillips returned for a second time and left no stone unturned. When they inspected the stove, it contained remnants of her burnt clothes and other items such as a gold ring, and metal buckles of satchel. In addition to arresting Musa Khan as a suspected accomplice, three other Hindu Metropolitan Match employees as were booked as potential witnesses, as well as an imam in Martinez. The Public pressure for Said Khans' capture grew, as did the police manhunt.

The big break in the case occurred when a letter from Said Khan addressed to Musa Khan arrived at the Stege post office, and the Postmaster illegally opened it. The letter contained a detailed account of his departure from Richmond on a Santa Fe train, and his current whereabouts. He had hopped on a Richmond train bound for Oxnard and later made his way to Calexico, then across the border to Mexico. Because of the postmaster's misconduct, the police knew where Said was and were determined to drag him back to Richmond from Mexico. Acting chief Rookey Ruiz was well acquainted with the territory, Mexican customs, and was fluent in Spanish, and determined to capture Said Ali Khan. Sheriff Richard Rains Veale (1864-

1937) accompanied Ruiz on the 600-mile trip to the border to jerk Khan back to Richmond. While

Veale searched along the border, Rookey Ruiz went to Mexico with resolve. Khan was working in Mexico in a Hindu work camp about 8 miles from the border. On 10/15/1913, Rookey notified Chief Arnold by telegram that he had arrested Khan, Chief Arnold announced to the press that Rookev Ruiz snatched Khan in Mexico and had to smuggle him back across the border. A subsequent story was that Rookey located Khan and snatched him when he crossed the border to go get his mail. Ruiz said that during his time in Mexico searching for Khan, he encountered a squadron of either Federales or rebels. They demanded an explanation as to why he was there. He was searched, and luckily was not carrying his gun, as this was during the height of the Mexican Revolution. Ruiz spelled out his reasoning and the posse was satisfied with his clarification. They gave him a directive to move along, and he fortunately did not end up a prisoner of war. In Richmond's eyes, Roque Ruiz was a hero. He personally nabbed Khan and it made headlines. Rookey's picture was on the front-page multiple times, including one photo of him decked out in a suit with a bowtie and hat.



Next Issue read Part Two of Sergeant Roque N. Ruiz Richmond Police Trailblazer

The Hotel Mac Rises Again

By Tom Butt taken from his E-Forum



The venerable Hotel Mac restaurant, closed since the onset of COVID appears to be headed towards new life. According to the Richmond Standard, Richmond's only remaining consistent news source, the historic Hotel Mac's Restaurant and Bar in Point Richmond has been leased to the owners of the city's Mi Casa Grill, according to Restaurant Realty Company (RRC).

Mi Casa Grill's owners, Blanca Zepedalomeli and her husband, Juvenal Magna, plan to open Biancoverde (Italian for "green and white") in the Hotel Mac space sometime in late 2023. RRC said that their concept is to offer a menu "that embraces their heritage with an Italian twist." The restauranteurs intend to feature both "classic and unique options" in the bar, while also having entertainment in the lounge.

"They will bring their vision of elegance and charm that the space deserves, while maintaining the historic elements of existing architecture," said RRC, which added that Andy Mirabell of the company handled the lease for both parties.

Aside from the Hotel Mac's restaurant space, lounge and bar, it also has a wine cellar and banquet room and has long been "recognized for its exceptional dining and a vibrant cocktail bar," said RRC. The company said the previous restaurant fell victim to the pandemic.

RRC referred to the Hotel Mac as an "anchor business" in the hamlet's center that was originally built in 1911 and was then called the Colonial Hotel. The Claremont Hotel's former

manager, M.V. McAfee, bought it in the '30s and changed its name to the Hotel Mac.

The Hotel Mac, originally the Colonial Hotel, was constructed in 1911 by entrepreneur Kate Riordan, an Irish immigrant, who had been running the St. James Hotel on Cottage Avenue after fleeing San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake. Richmond was in a growth spurt at the time, and hotels, restaurants, bars and boarding houses were in demand by refinery and railroad employees.

The architect was C.O Clausen, uncle of the late Richmond engineer Bert Clausen, and the construction cost was \$25,000. The hotel had 30 rooms, typically small and intended for single men.

Although the 20th Amendment was not passed until 1920, California adopted full voting privileges for women in 1911, and Kathryn (Kate) Theresa Riordan was the first woman in Contra Costa County to register as a citizen and as an unmarried woman with rights and privileges to vote.



Kate Riordan

With one voice all present expressed their praise of the efforts of the most successful young businesswoman that the giant among the newer cities of the Golden gate had produced ... and drank a toast to her personal worth ... her success and in appreciation of her efforts.

In 1914, Kate Riordan married James Pope, "well-known Standard oil employee." They had seven children who lived with them at the Colonial. In 1926, they traded the Colonial for a dairy ranch in Modesto and moved their big family to the country. "A culture shock," one of their daughters, Elizabeth Pope of Berkeley, remembered, but one they adapted to happily.



The original Hotel Mac dining room

The Colonial passed through two owners, E.D. Hanford and Harry and Lula Moore. In the late 1930s, it was bought by J.V. McAfee, former manager of the Claremont Hotel, who changed the name to "Hotel Mac." McAfee made the Hotel Mac restaurant a popular destination, and it was listed by Duncan Hines as an exceptional eating place.

During the years of WWII, the onslaught of shipyard workers looking for fast and cheap eats brought an end to fine dining. Those who knew him said McAfee lost heart, and he sold the building in the late 1940s. A series of ensuing managers failed to resurrect its former glory. The elegant façade was closed over and the interior "modernized," making it look like any one of a

hundred other nondescript dark bars.

In 1971, two fires did extensive damage to the top floor and roof. The bar had already been closed by owner John Nunez for "remodeling."

Nunez then sold the building to Point Richmond real estate operator Hazel Carr, who had the roof structure replaced, but further work bogged down due to lack of funding. The building was condemned by the City of Richmond, and demolition was imminent.

In 1977, the building went into foreclosure, and Jim and Darlene Byers and Tom and Shirley Butt hatched a plan to save it. "We attended the foreclosure sale on the courthouse steps," recalls Tom Butt, "and the bidding started with only one competitor, H.J. Shiells and Richard Burke. It quickly rose to \$39,000. Byers pulled the plug, and the competing bidder went home with the deed to the Hotel Mac for \$39,000." "That guy is just a flipper," Byers told me. "He'll be calling in a couple of days." "If we had continued to bid," said Byers, "the price might have gone to \$50,000, or more."

Jim was right. Two days later the new owner of the Hotel Mac called, and we negotiated a purchase for \$43,000. The Byers owned 75%, and we owned 25%. The building was a mess, and the first job was to lift the condemnation order. The next was to rehabilite the building shell.

Design of the structural work for seismic bracing was already started by Clausen Engineers, who had designed the roof repair for Hazel Carr and then completed by a structural engineer who left Clausen to start his own business. I (Tom Butt) provided architecture and construction management for the shell rehabilitation through Interactive Resources.

Money was as tight. Point Richmond, which was pretty rough around the edges then, didn't have any track record for successful real estate ventures. The famous Point Richmond Fourth of July riot was a recent memory for many. The village was virtually dead with people living in storefronts and Hell's Angels routinely descending on the town to patronize the local bars. On any given Sunday, you might see hundreds of Harleys parked from Tewksbury (which was then the main highway) to West Richmond Avenue. Bar patrons spilling out into the street to settle differences was

common.

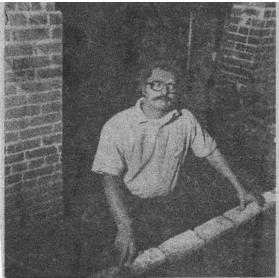
We had to keep the construction cost down, and one way of doing it was to apply for Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives, which then consisted only of accelerated depreciation. But anything would help. I looked into getting the Mac onto the National Register of Historic Places so it would qualify, but it was not significant enough as an individual building. However, Caltrans had recently conducted a National Register eligibility study for Point Richmond as a historic district in conjunction with planned improvements that preceded but eventually became a part of I-580. The State Office of Historic Preservation had deemed Point Richmond "eligible" as a district.

Knowing the outcome would be positive, I recruited Lucretia Edwards and several other neighbors to help inventory the buildings and prepare a formal National Register application. We were successful, and Point Richmond Historic District was entered on the National Register in 1978. The Hotel Mac was listed as a "contributing structure," along with some 330 others. We were in!

Construction of the building shell was completed in 1978 for about \$250,000, but we needed tenants. Interactive Resources was providing structural work for a restaurant, Steamer Gold Landing, in the historic Great Petaluma Mill at the time. I asked the restaurant designer, Geoff Beckham, if he know of any restaurateurs looking for a location. As it turned out, he did. He introduced us to Bill Burnett and Griff Brazil, who had recently worked in the Ancient Mariner and Rusty Pelican restaurant chain. Burnett and Brazil, along with Jim Byers, proceeded to form a company and build out and open the "new" Hotel Mac restaurant and bar. They probably spent another \$500,000 or more on the restaurant interiors and equipment.

One of the features of the restaurant was the faithful reproductions of the original dining room stained glass windows that had mysteriously disappeared sometime in the 1970s. Point Richmond artist John Haley recreated the original design from a black and white photograph. The new interior of the Hotel Mac did not replicate the historical, which no longer existed, but it set a

tone that was certainly reminiscent and turned out to be immensely popular. The reborn Hotel Mac opened on December 27, 1978, to full houses that continued for many years. It was clearly the finest restaurant in Richmond for decades. Many a political deal was consummated in the Hotel Mac, including the \$90 million community benefits agreement (ECIA) connected with the City's approval of the Chevron modernization project.



A CONCRETE IDEA — Bill Burnett of Point Richmond's Hotel Mac stands over recently poured concrete near the entrance to the wine cellar. Renovation of the historic hotel is proceeding on schedule, with the restaurant's opening planned for late November or early December.

A young Bill Burnett anticipates opening day in 1978 (Richmond Independent, September 1978)

The restaurant occupied the first floor and part of the second. The remainder of the second floor and the third floor were rented to a software company. Many years later, the remainder of the second floor and the third floor were converted once again to hotel use.

While the New Hotel Mac had sparked somewhat of a renaissance in Point Richmond, the village was still a bit of the wild west. Street fights emanating from the infamous Mariner tavern across the street were frightening Hotel Mac customers. On occasion, shots were fired. The Byers and the Butts decided to buy the property and shut down the tavern, which turned out to have the desired result but apparently offended some of the former patrons. One late night, someone lobbed a heavy glass beer mug through our living room window, scaring the heck out of us. Fortunately, a neighbor who used to ride with some of the displaced patrons interceded and persuaded them to move on.

Several years later, the Byers and the Butts dissolved their partnership, with the Byers taking the Hotel Mac property and the Butts taking the former Mariner property. Both Jim and Darlene Byers are now deceased, and I assume the Hotel Mac property is owned by their heirs. The Mariner property ownership later expanded to include other principals of Interactive Resources who eventually entered into a joint venture with Richmond Development Company to build a new building across from the Hotel Mac. Also on the property is

the El Sol restaurant, a structure rehabilitated from the historic Richmond Bakery.

In 2011, Bill Burnett and Griff Brazil decided to put the restaurant on the market, and in 2012, it was bought by Lara Choe, who operated it with few changes until 2020 when COVID hit. Lara had also bought the former Salute restaurant at Marina Bay, which she continues to operate as Lara's Fine Dining, and the challenges of COVID were too much for two restaurants. Lara let her lease of the Hotel Mac lapse, and the building went vacant.

After 45 years of mostly successful operation in its second reincarnation, including hosting some of the biggest political deals and plots in Richmond history, the Hotel Mac restaurant will now be passed on to yet a new owner, perhaps number seven or eight in a line that stretches back over a hundred years. I hope the new owner respects the building's history and continues to serve the City of Richmond as a place to meet, greet, eat and hatch political plots for many more years.

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Photo Essay: Atmospheric Rivers, a March 23, 2023 Walk through Melville Park, Richmond

by Oliver B. Pollak

Dogs, birds, insects, children, swings hammocks, like trees.

Photosynthesis, shade, firewood and mulch are inestimable

Arborists battle Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, pine wilt, and so on

Trees range in size from bonsai miniatures to Giant Sequoias.

Timbermen, lumbermen and lumber yards monetize trees.

Construction workers and carpenters build with wood.

Trees can be used as windbreaks but sometimes wind breaks trees.

Trees need water, but too much can be destructive.

Unrestrained wind, rain, ice, and fire are the natural enemies of trees.



On October 25, 1997 in Omaha, Nebraska wet snow fell on fall leaves, the weight caused limbs to crack. Explosive sounds were heard throughout the city as thousands of trees were damaged, including in my backyard. Powerlines went down. Halloween was delayed.

We moved to Richmond in October 2016. Since that time I have seen at least ten trees in my Marina Cove and Melville Park neighborhood along Regatta, Blvd, Schooner Ct., Esplanade Dr. and Melville Square felled by the extreme natural forces of rain and wind, or planned culling by arborists.

A large tree at Melville and Regatta fell in 2018. Heavy rain softened the ground and wind stressed the anchoring root ball. The tree fell over and blocked the Regatta Blvd. City crews cut the trunk and limbs into pieces and ground out the root base. This is all that remains of the majestic tree.

In March 2023 Melville Park lost about five large trees the victims of atmospheric rivers with inches of rain softening the ground and very high winds. Several parts of Melville Park were marked with yellow

danger tape. Where the major limb falls, the tree may survive. Where the root ball turns horizontal the tree is dead.

As the wind comes in from the bay it places pressure on the tree crown. This leaning tree on Esplanade is being pushed close to its limits. The yellow caution tape warns walkers of potential danger.

On the next page the three upended trees in Melville Park were victims of the atmospheric river. Trees reveal the

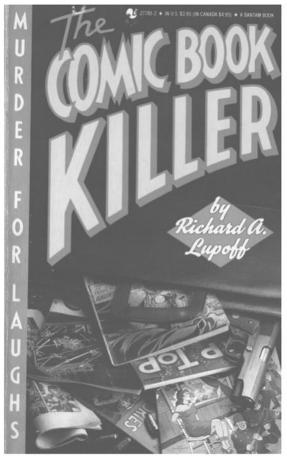


beauty, strength and vulnerability of nature. Trees enhance neighborhood livability. Reforestation, usually applied after clear cutting or forest fires, should also be part of urban environment agendas.









Kathe Kiehn donated this book to the History Association because it contains a mention of Joel Beck. He is only mentioned in passing near the very end but much of the book's action takes place in Point Richmond. The author takes some liberties with street arrangements but overall it is a fun read. Can anyone else offer titles that include Point Richmond in the storyline?

.....Bonnie Jo Cullison



Birthdays April

LOOF LIRPA Kathy Dornan Barnes Billie Bonham Shaw Erin Frame Roberta Dornan Palfini Charlene Smith Ruth Wilson

Paula Israeli

Pam Wilson Don Amantite Joel Peterson Teri Meister Charlotte Knox Monica Doherty Eric Hoiland Rosemary Corbin Alison Lord John Maxwell Sherri Mertle Carol MacDiarmid Gloria Smith Robert J. Palfini Terry Downey Sharon Mertle

Charline Barni Louis Stockdale Joni Loux Emerson Donna Diaz David Roth Ann Hathaway Kissling Kate Harps

May

Patricia Beth Dornan Diana Corbin Richard Mattuecci Jon Doellstedt Sara Eeles Rena Gonsalves Sandra Loux Fuller Sophia Dolberg Julina Smith Anne-Catherine Hadreas Roger Glafke

Shoney Gustafson Winifred Boziki Norm Reynolds Patrice Verhines Mark Healy

Henry Marchitiello

Karen Brougham Nilda Gozzi-Reed Annabella Feese Lorenzo Feese Dale Roberts Neil Owens

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Please help me keep our lists current, 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

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Ad is from James Cheshareck June 24, 1911

Memorials.....

Jerome (Jerry) Cerkanowicz was born in Arlington, Virginia on September 4, 1944. He quietly passed away at Point Richmond in his Golden Gate Avenue home on February 17, 2023 while holding the hand of his husband and soulmate of 58 years, Gary Shows. In 1970 Jerry and Gary decided to leave Austin, Texas for a great adventure to the San Francisco Bay Area. After the eventful journey they arrived there and soon fell in love with the area, especially Point Richmond. Jerry became involved with the Point Richmond History Association and became it's second president in 1988 when it's founder, Donna Roselius moved to



Oregon. For his legacy he decided that the addition of a physical museum in downtown Point Richmond was what the PRHA needed and would be a welcome addition to our community. When the little Richmond Supply Company building became available, Jerry tackled the job of moving the little building from West Richmond Avenue to Washington Avenue. In 1990, with the help of many savvy Point residents, Santa Fe Railroad and Standard Oil the new little local history museum became a reality. He braved the rath of the Richmond City Council by defending the unauthorized move as the one and only way to save the building from destruction. He succeeded and the museum became a reality. Jerry loved music, books, history, art and fun. He is survived by his husband Gary Shows and his sister Deidre Cerkanowicz and was preceded in death by sister Diane Cerkanowicz and parents Grace and Jerome Cerkanowicz, Sr. Jerry was a kind and gentle person who was loved by all who knew him. He will be missed by many....none more than your TPIT editor.

So, rest in peace Sweetheart, I am grateful to you for sharing the last 58 years of your life with me, you made those years wonderful and sometimes, magical. My Sweet Jerry, I will always love you, Gary.

Thomas Howard McGowan set sail from this world on January 12, 2023, from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico after a short battle with bacterial pneumonia. He was 82 years old. He once characterized his own passing as his "final perfect 10 over the taffrail" and wrote that afterwards his love would go on in a different form saying "just like the green green grass and the songbirds and the trees; all so seemingly fragile and transient, but in fact ever-renewing; our love will go on just like it does now."

Through his global community of friends and family, the memories he created and the laughter and love he shared, lives on in all of us. He lived and led through example, teaching respect and irreverence, sincerity and goofiness, community and independence, sometimes planning and sometimes living like there's no tomorrow. He capitalized on his strengths as well as his opportunities to grow and be a better man. He was quick to make friends based simply on smiles, words, and actions. He loved to write, and wrote many songs, poems, and stories, and he wouldn't hesitate to sing a love song loudly at a crowded bar or recite stories on a quiet patio. His seven grandchildren ("the Cugini"), were a source of immense happiness and pride, and he often marveled at their creativity, talents, and inspiration to develop their lives, be happy, and make the world a better place.

He was born in Eureka, California to Ruth and Howdy. In college he met Jan Connor and they married in 1964. They had two children, Greg and Lisa. They lived in Walnut Creek (where Jan lives

happily today) and as a family there were many celebrations, hikes, school activities, river-rafting trips, and other small and large adventures. He planted the love of travel that has grown in his children (and now grandchildren). He became a stockbroker having enjoyed the conversations he had with stockbrokers while life-guarding at the Ingomar Club in Eureka. He met some of his very closest friends through his work at Dean Witter. Tom was an avid sailor. He loved the peace and quiet of being at sea under the power of the wind. He sailed regularly on San Francisco Bay as well as blue water sailing on the oceans and seas of North America and Europe. Simpatico, a 35-foot wooden sailboat, was part of the family and is a central figure in wonderful memories for family, friends, and the many guests that enjoyed her decks. As with everything else in his life, Tom loved most the opportunity to share it with family and friends.

As part of the Prospector crew racing annually in the Ensenada Race, he met Shannon Behrens. They married in 1983 and she and her two children Liz and John joined the family. The four kids, Greg, Lisa, Liz and John got along famously from the start and have only grown to love and enjoy each other as brothers and sisters ever since. Moving to Point Richmond, the family traveled extensively and continued to sail and ski, live and learn. It was a full, noisy, happy, and loving home. Shannon passed in 2004; her kind, calm nature becoming part of the universe.

Tom was regularly engaged in helping people. His involvement with the Many Hands project, was one of his proudest accomplishments. The Many Hands project brought the Point Richmond community and businesses in direct connection with the local elementary school and was an inspirational success. Whether it was simply respecting the local unhoused with dignity as friends, or more formally through Rotary or through engagement with The Wellness Community and the Many Hands project, helping others was an integral part of his sense of self.

Tom and Barbara met in South Lake Tahoe and became close friends. Their first adventure as a couple was a weekend spent on Simpatico, and for the next two decades, they sailed on and lovingly cared for Simpatico, traveled extensively, relaxed expertly, worked and played together. They have been sharing a joyful and adventurous life from Tahoe to Mexico making friends everywhere along the way. They kept a running game of dominoes wherever they were.

Tom maintained a rich love with his four children, teaching and learning from each other throughout his life. Several years ago, we started a family group text and shared almost daily anecdotes, pictures, and stories of our lives. Moments, memories, and messages of love and laughter. He would often send a note titled "Family Memories" and just include a few words that would trigger a memory of one of our family experiences.

In his embrace of living one's best life, he often said "If there is something you'd rather be doing, now is the time." He shared love and laughter, and created wonderful moments and memories that live now in all of his friends and family. His last words were "I want to go to the beach." Only he knows if that was an existential or literal request, but he has achieved both as his spirit again enjoys the peace and tranquility of an ocean sail with a warm breeze off the stern quarter and a following sea. He is missed by all of us, but he would prefer that his life inspires each of us to find and follow the things that make us happy, and to seek to inspire the same in everyone around us.

David Moore was a beloved member of Arts of Point Richmond for many years and was AOPR's webmaster from 2014 to 2019. Sadly, he passed away on February 24, 2023.

David was an artist whose tools were pens, pencils, and watercolor. He said that he loved drawing from the time he was a kid growing up on an 80-acre corn and soybean farm in Southern Illinois.

After he got out of the army, David moved to San Francisco and took life drawing classes at the San Francisco Academy of Art. He had read that if you could draw the human figure you could draw anything. He started drawing and never stopped, all through his varied art life, which ranged from cutting edge computer assisted design to a successful greeting card company selling political satire paper dolls. David did lots of free work for nonprofits like Saffron Strand & Oakland libraries, and wonderful political cartoons for Richmond Progressive Alliance.

David was one of the founding members of the Art Squad in the early 1970s, who met weekly first in San Francisco and later in Point Richmond. The Art Squad "team" drew collaboratively, literally on each other's art – ever since the '70s.

As one of the early members of the Arts of Point Richmond, David was an active participant and volunteer. In 2022, he had a show in the Point's post office windows - a comprehensive summary of his career, closely followed by an exhibit in the West Side branch of the Richmond Public Library. David's instantly recognizable drawing style seems effortless, and perfectly captures the emotions, humor, and concerns of people going about their lives. He was a talented, friendly, sweet, and kind man, and will be missed by all of us here in Point Richmond.

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Pam.

Many thanks for your reminder of renewing my annual subscription to "THIS POINT....in time"! Best wishes and take care, of course! Thanks for continuing sending me the newsletter. Sincerely yours.

Sincerely yours. Penny Canario San Jose

DORNAN IN ACCIDENT

Robert Dornan, owner of the Richmond Supply Company and prominent Odd Fellow, had his left foot crushed when a motor truck loaded with gravel ran into the wagon he was driving, throwing him out and crushing his foot. The motor truck was driven by Maton Thein.



Welcome to Dre and Charity Elmore. Chosen to be the new keepers of East Brother Lighthouse

Newspaper article from December 1, 1916

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

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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

email: garyshows@gmail.com

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Visit our website

PointRichmondHistory.org Join our Lively Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/

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