

# THIS POINT .... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.alkos.com/prha](http://www.alkos.com/prha)

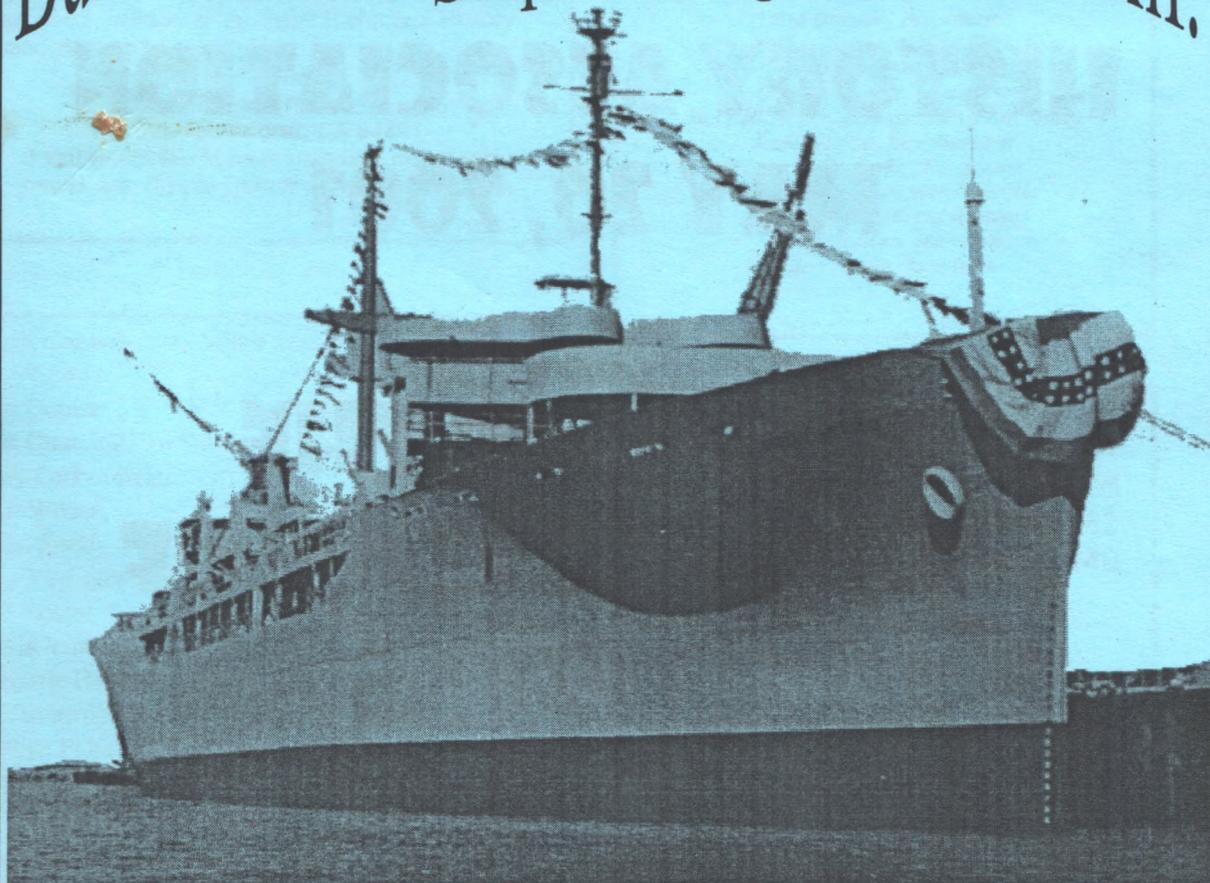
Vol. XIX No. 5

February/March, 2001

\$1.50

USS General J.H. McRae

Built by Kaiser Company, Richmond, Calif.  
Ship Yard #3



**GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING  
OF THE  
POINT RICHMOND  
HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
MAY 20, 2001**

**DETAILS IN THE  
APRIL/MAY ISSUE OF  
TPIT**

# From The President

*Mid Dornan*

Rains in January ushered in a new year that began with power shortages and rotating blackouts, the inauguration of our 43rd president, George W. Bush, four council members announcing their intention to run for Mayor and a survey to underground utility poles in the Point.

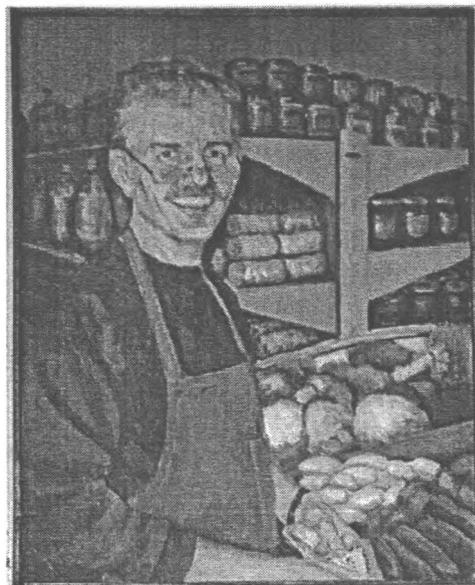
In 1901, winds and rain blew down the local tents (in which most residents lived), William McKinley was inaugurated as the 25th president (with 271 electoral votes also), there weren't any elected officials in Richmond and there wasn't any electricity.

As we make and preserve history, the similarities and differences are noted and make us remember how science fiction writers envisioned everyday space travel and people on other planets by 2001. What changes do you remember? And, what foresight for the future do you envision for 3001? Drop us a line and keep history alive. I hope this year brings each of you what you most desire.

*Painting of Bob Peckham,  
Santa Fe Market owner by  
Dan Schwob*

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Thank you to the following members who have renewed their memberships:

**Beverly Lyon**  
**Roberta Jenkins Smith**  
**Ed Gingrich**  
**Arline Rodini, MFT**  
**Teresa B. Meneghelli**  
**Katherine Harps &  
Dale Roberts**

**Theodore W. Beck**  
**Myrna Wishart**  
**Louise Hammond**  
**Lee Christian**  
**Audrey Edwards**  
**Bonnie Jo Cullison**  
**Dale & Lorna Huffstetter**  
**Herbert J. Hunn**  
**Mary J. Forbes**  
**Patricia Pearson**  
**Sandra & Bruce Beyaert**  
**Stella A. Giovannini**  
**Al Franco**  
**Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza**  
**Roth-Karl Family**  
**George Williams**  
**Steve Wyrick**

And a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Beth Miramon**  
**Todd Reamon &  
Courteney Coolidge**

Museum Staff Coordinator  
Betty Dornan thanks the  
volunteers who staffed the  
History Building

In December and January

**Ann Bartram**  
**Bruce Bartram**  
**Anita Christiansen**  
**Sonja Darling**  
**Betty Dornan**  
**Mary Forbes**  
**Dody Perry**

*Thank You!*

**Santa Fe Market**  
and  
**Point Richmond**  
**Market**

*for their donated distribution of  
"THIS POINT....in time  
and to*

**Sandra & Bruce Beyaert and  
the Chevron Matching Gift  
Program**

If you can help staff our History Building (2½ hours per month) call museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

**Museum Hours:**

**Thursday** 11:30am - 2:00pm  
**Saturday** 11:30 - 2:00pm

# Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Production of this February/March issue went quite well. Thanks to all for getting your stuff to me early. Welcome to Lorilyn Parmer-Folks a new contributor, who will be keeping us up to date on the activities of her organization, Point Richmond Association of Mothers (PRAM). Also welcome to new Masquers reviewer Marjorie Harmon. It is great to have you both contributing to TPIT! Sure do miss our library column, it has been submitted anonymously, so I do not know who to complain to, so Ms. Tek, we miss knowing what's going on at the West Side Branch.

Hey I goofed, if you collect issues of TPIT please note that our current volume is XIX, somehow issues number 2, 3 and 4 of the current volume were labeled volume XIV, please correct your copies. Sorry about the confusion.

The deadline for the April/May issue will now be Friday, March 23, 2001.

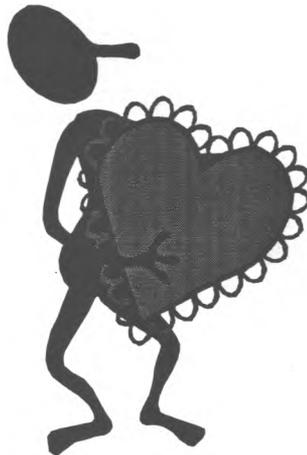
Thanks to the December/January issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Jerry Cerkanowicz  
Gary Shows  
Betty Dornan  
Liz McDonald  
Sonja Darling  
Mary Highfill

## **The Cover of this issue:**

**U.S.S. General J.H. McRae depicted in a color photo donated to the PRHA by LaVerne Rentfro Woolman.**

**This ship is a C4 Transport Troop Carrier one of four major ships built in Richmond for the war effort.**



# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Why does February have only 28 days? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

February is a short month, just about right to pay the Christmas bills, send a valentine and oil those tools for spring.

\*\*\*

March is a great month to wear green (or orange, if you are from the North) and eat green-Irish food. St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated since the late 1700's in the states. But in Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is a more serious holiday. Since Saint Patrick is believed to have brought Christianity to Ireland, this national holiday is a day of religious significance.

\*\*\*

The noblest of all dogs is the hot dog. It feeds the hand that bites it.

\*\*\*

Summer Berhens, after completing a course of study in Australia, has returned to continue studies at Dominican College in

Marin. Summer is the granddaughter of Donna Wilson where she is staying while attending college.

\*\*\*

*From Richmond Herald, July 21, 1915:* Carpenters began work on a new band stand on the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenue. First concert band on July 28. Only the latest musical hits will be rendered.

\*\*\*

New, first-time grandparents, Hank and Jean Allyn, are beaming over granddaughter, Steevie, born November 22, 2000, 6lbs 5 oz, to Melissa and Ray Delio in Durango, Colorado. Needless to add that they were there for the birth!

\*\*\*

The formal celebration of Chinese New Year began in the T'ang Dynasty (AD 618-9007). Twelve animals comprise the symbolic cycle of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Each is honored once every 12 years. This is the year of the Serpent and your sign if you were born in 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, or 1989. You 'snake' people have more than your share of the world's gifts, including basic wisdom. You are likely to be handsome, well informed men and graceful, beautiful women. Gung Hay Fat Choy (May you prosper).

\*\*\*

The noise from firecrackers is intended to drive away evil spirits. The red paper debris lying on the ground is a symbol of good fortune.

\*\*\*

George Washington never told a lie. Of course, he never played golf or filed an income tax return either.



\*\*\*

Your priorities determine your progress.

\*\*\*

Answering the request for a local handyman was Moshe Israeli, husband of Paula Wilson-Israeli who is now back in Richmond. For a resume and recommendations contact him at 232-4760.

\*\*\*

In a study on accidents in the home, it was noted that most accidents happen on the top or bottom stair steps. The study results were fed into a computer, and the computer solution was, "Remove top and bottom stair steps".

\*\*\*

Our confusing language: tire, lyre, prior, liar, brier, shyer.

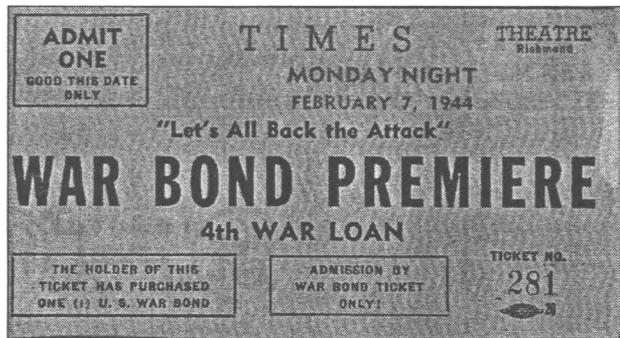
\*\*\*

The act of giving a Valentine's Day gift is the act of symbolizing and celebrating love. A valentine card can express that act.

\*\*\*

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

ANSWER: Because Julius and Augustus Caesar each took one day from it to add to July and August, the months named for them.

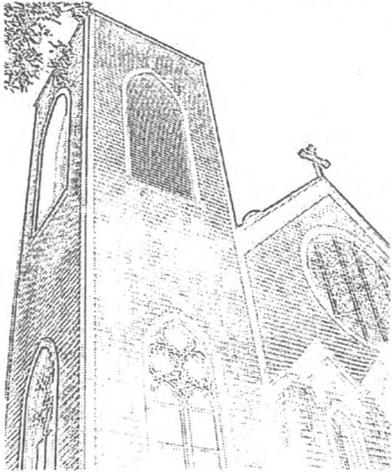


## City Hall

On January 23, 2001 the PRHA appealed to the Richmond City Council a Planning Commission decision to allow the remodel of an older house at 519 Golden Gate Avenue. Our Board of Directors felt that alterations being made to this structure were detrimental to its historical appearance.

The Council did not agree and denied our appeal. We accept this decision and give the owners of this property our best wishes and we hope there is no ill feeling on their part. However, we think the decision of the Council was wrong and we do not apologize for our action. Our intent was genuine and promoting of the larger interest of our historically significant California neighborhood.

# Church News



## Our Lady of Mercy

*Dee Rosier*  
232-1387

Welcome to 2001! After all the hoopla of a year ago, weren't you surprised at how easily 2001 slipped into place—hardly a ripple. We can now put the political shenanigans aside and move on to new quests—lets make the most of it.

As we welcome the new year, we also welcome a new pastor, Father John Lima, who comes to us from a parish in Las Vegas. Prior to serving in Las Vegas, he served at several meetings with different groups within the parish acquainting himself with the parishioners and the parts they play within the parish. Let's all welcome Father Lima!

The long awaited parish directory has been distributed to all who had their photos

included in it and mailed to those no longer in the parish. It was a rewarding experience to hand deliver the directories to those who do not attend Sunday morning Mass and to those unable to attend. My first stop was the Santa Fe Market where Bob Peckham was so elated to receive his that when my daughter made her daily stop there that evening he was still going on about it. At Alan Smith's I was able to take part in a Spanish lesson with Marcellina and Connie Healy. It was a great opportunity to enjoy conversation, with those that do not attend Sunday morning Mass. The directory is a great resource, and I hope that everyone enjoys it as much as Bob Peckham.

There's a glitch in our new envelope system. Most of us did not receive our envelopes until mid-January, which caused a lot of confusion and calls to the rectory. We are working on resolving this problem with the issuing company—please bear with us.

Many of us were honored to be present at Msgr. Kraus' installation as Pastor of his new parish in Orinda. It was a standing room only crowd and the ceremony was awe inspiring. Our Lady of Mercy parishioners filled several pews along with Msgr.'s Golden Girls. Others of the parish were sprinkled here and there. The adult choir of 25 and the children's choir of equal number were voices of joy, especially when they jointly sang Handel's Messiah. Several speakers spoke of his past pastoral duties in their parish. One of the speakers told of his time spent at St. Monicas in Moraga. She went on to say that he was new to the area and that they had taught him everything he knew and had ironed out all of the wrinkles. He reciprocated by saying that indeed it was a true statement, but that it was the time spent at Our Lady of Mercy that had taught him

how to be a Priest. A statement all who were present will carry in their hearts forever. Aside from a cold he got over the holidays in Buffalo, he is well. It was a very special day and a delight to see how very happy he is in his new parish. We wish him well

The Parish Council met with Father Lima to plan his installation which will be held at the 9:30 A.M. Mass on February 11. It is Father Lima's desire that a wide cross section of our faith community participate. Parish Council Vice-Chairman, Javier Lopez has been in contact with these parishioners and all have graciously accepted. Additional meetings will be held to firm up what we have planned, as well as practice sessions.

Welcome back to Angie Kirkpatrick and Vee Garcia who both underwent serious surgery. We wish you continued good health.

The Point Richmond Walking Group originated several years back. Parishioners recently joining the group are Chano Forner and Dennis Amantite. The group walks Miller/Knox Park everyday—rain or shine and then solves all the world's problems over coffee at Little Louies.

Speaking of Chano—he donated his motor home to the parish, with the proceeds of the sale going to the "Raise the Roof Fund." The amount of sale was not enormous, but every little bit helps. The story that goes along with the sale is heartwarming. The motor home was purchased by a young man who had hit hard times. He had lost his job and he and his young son were living in his pickup truck. While trying to come up with the money he and his son lived in the motor home in the church parking lot. The motor home now sits behind his parent's property in Pinole. He has a new job, and hopefully he and his son can live happily ever after. He talked with Chano and

wantes to get license plates that say, "CHANO".

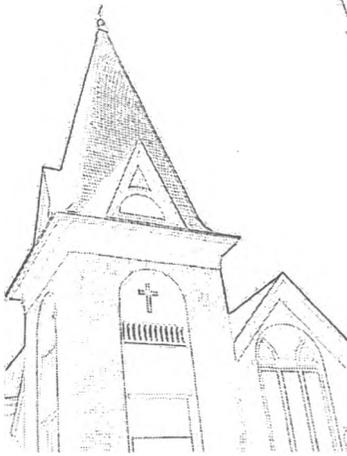
Mike Canepa contributed a great article in the last issue. It prompted Anna Schwartz to purchase a copy of TPIT to see here name in print and also to get in touch with Mike. Many moons ago, Mike's sister Pat and I stated our working careers in San Francisco. Where are you Pat? I also remember attending parties at Dr. Fenimore Cady's bungalow which was on the same property as the house Mike lived in. Small world!

The following was contributed by my Methodist friend, Fay Hawkins:

*Do you know how to make holy water?  
Boil the HELL out of it!*

Remember your valentine.  
See you in church.





## Point Richmond Methodist

*Jean Reynolds*

235-2988

[jeanormr@pacbell.net](mailto:jeanormr@pacbell.net)

Maddie Bradshaw, Taylor Bradshaw, Jack Bradshaw, Reagan Bradshaw, Zina Fosten, Hannah Frye, Aaron Marshall, Michael Marshall, and David Reynolds performed the play "The Great Walled Village" on January 7 during Sunday morning worship. Megan Timberlake directed. Megan adapted a favorite story from her childhood to create the script for "The Great Walled Village". It was much enjoyed by those who attended, and the young actors are already talking about which part they would like to have next year.

The performance by the Joyful Noise Choir on Sunday, December 17, of Handel's *Messiah* went smashingly well despite director Virginia Cherniak's bout with pneumonia. Eileen Johnson, the many talented "First Lady" of the parsonage, was able to step in while Virginia was absent and direct the choir and strings, as well as sing one of the solos herself. We rejoice that Virginia is well now and back at the helm of the choir. If she had not schooled

the choir so well before she got sick, the concert would not have gone so smoothly.

We welcomed Jean Eakle, Anne Brown and Bob Cheyne as church members on December 17. Hooray! I am glad to be part of a group they would choose to join!

The Jazz Christmas Eve service featured music by the Dan Damon Trio, Paula Helene, Mark Barringer, the Angel Choir, and Heather Damon; and readings by Liam Thompson and Linda Andrew Marshall. One hundred eighty people attended! We threw open the doors and set up chairs in Friendship Hall. We were glad to have Jab there on trumpet (we missed him this year at the Messiah performance.) It was a great community event and no doubt will give us a reason to install some speakers in Friendship Hall.

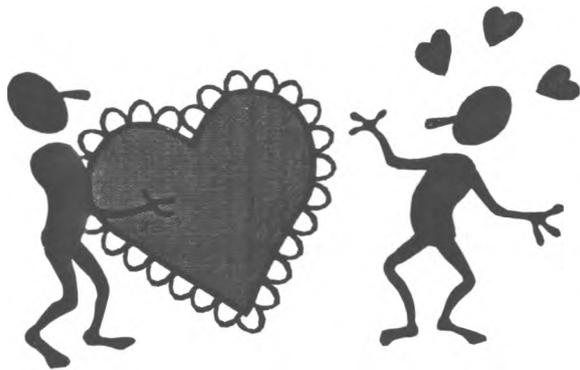
United Methodist Women celebrated the Christmas season at Helen Valentine's house, with a potluck ham dinner and gifts for people served by the Rescue Mission. We bring unwrapped gifts so we can ooh and ah at all of them; then we wrap them. It is hard to give away some of the toys...

The church youth celebrated New Year's Eve by going to a movie and having an overnight party at the home of Linda and Jim Brooks.

### On the Calendar:

Thursday, February 15, will be our third annual Sweetheart Dinner held at the Richmond Golf and Country Club. We will celebrate our first century as a church. The Dan Damon Trio will entertain from 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$27 and available through Fran Smith (222-2999.)

It's no longer the "Centennial" Concert Series, but we didn't want it to end just because our centennial year is over. On Sunday, February 25, at 5:00 p.m. Bobby Hall and Friends will present a concert of gospel music. Suggested donation \$10. After this concert you will have a whole new concept of what it means to "go postal" (Bobby and Pamella Hall both work for the Post Office.)



## FYI

During the war effort there were four major types of ships built here in Richmond, they were:

1. Liberty Ships
2. Victory Ships
3. C4 Transport Ships
4. Landing Ships (LST)

## Point Methodist Church History

-Mid Dornan

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the first Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 49th installment.*

May 4, 1926

Social League met in the Church parlors with 13 members present. Mrs. Dicely and Mrs. Dingle were the hostesses. Social League was given credit for \$30 paid to the church from the calendar month.

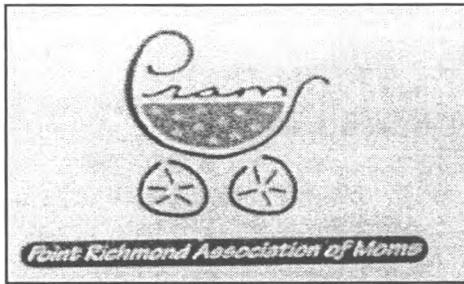
Tea Committees were appointed and it was moved, seconded and carried that the Tea be held the 18th of May. Each member having the privilege of inviting four guests.

The Fellowship dinner for the 4th of June was discussed and it was decided that the League would give it if the absent members were in favor.

Previous balance 22.37

Plate collection 1.50  
23.89

Mrs. W. Schmidt  
Sec



By Lorilyn Parmer-Folks

It's hard not to notice the baby boom that's occurred in Point Richmond in the last few years. Strollers regularly navigate the sidewalks and streets, weekly Storytime at the Westside library is packed, and on sunny afternoons Janice Playlot is teeming with little ones and their parents. Just over two years ago, a group of mothers gathered together to address the need for connection and support for families with young children. We created the Point Richmond Association of Moms, or PRAM.

**What is PRAM?** A volunteer-run organization, we aim to facilitate information- and resource-sharing, foster friendships and contribute to improvements in the larger community. Through its many activities, we believe that PRAM enriches the lives of our children and helps us to be better parents. In two years we have grown to over 80 families, from Point Richmond, Brickyard Landing, Marina Bay and beyond.

Our activities include monthly meetings, playgroups, social events and outings, a

# PRAM Keeps Rolling Along

newsletter, community outreach and service programs, and advocacy on issues important to children and families. We are committed to serving all parents and young children in the area and helping our community to become more family-friendly. Here's a sampling of what we're up to:

**Community Events.** After the annual Tree-Lighting at the end of November, PRAM co-sponsored with the Point Richmond Business Association and Neighborhood Council, a festive reception and toy drive kick-off at the Community Center. The holiday food and drink and creative craft activities engaged adults and children alike. We were gratified by the enthusiastic attendance and generous contributions to the toy drive. We look forward to helping with the planning of other events such as the Point Richmond Stroll.

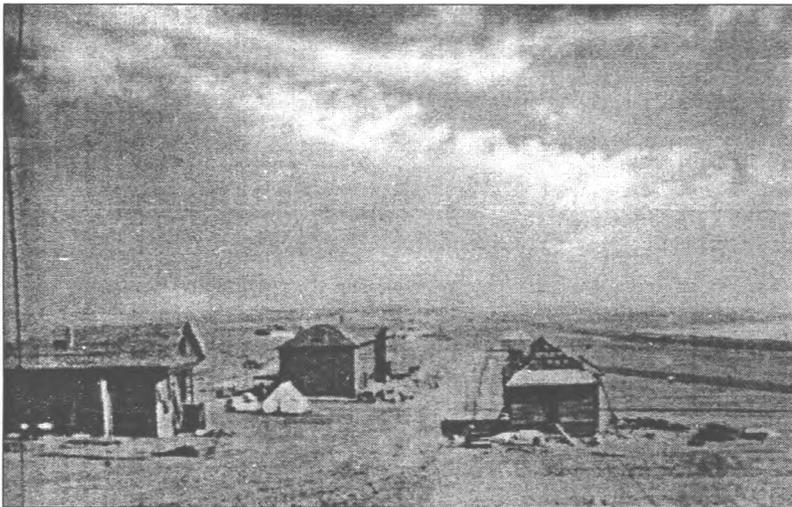
**New Preschool.** On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001 a new preschool opened in Point Richmond, on the grounds of Washington Elementary School. It promises to provide exciting learning experiences for 3 to 5-year olds and valuable early childhood development

education for parents. Members of PRAM have been working with local school district officials to develop this innovative program, which will provide a stimulating, nurturing environment for children from diverse economic backgrounds. The Point Richmond preschool program could serve as a model for other public-private collaborations across California.

It has been over 15 years since a school for young children operated in the Point (From the mid-70s to mid 80's, Lynette Pease operated a preschool in the Washington Field House.) The community

has already stepped forward to help ensure this school is successful. The Business Association has joined PRAM in making financial contributions to support start-up costs, through the Many Hands Project. The additional furnishings and materials provided through such contributions will help the teacher create and maintain a warm, well-equipped learning environment for our community's children.

If you'd like more information about PRAM or its projects, please leave a message on our voice mail, 273-9959. Or call me at 235-4316.



*Believe it or not, the intersection of Washington and West Richmond Avenues in 1900.*



## Westside Branch Library News

*By Biblio Tek*

Sorry no report we miss you Biblio.

## Velma Healy's Point Memories

I was born in Richmond Cottage Hospital. We lived on South 8th Street, a half-block off of Cutting Boulevard. We were a hop and a skip away from the Kaiser Shipyards. My father worked next door to them at Richmond Navigation on tug boats with Captain Lauritzen.

I know they did their regular “tug boat work”, but during World War II, something else was going on. In the middle of the night, 2, 3, 4, AM the telephone would ring. It was always Capt. Lauritzen and they always had to make a “run” from San Francisco to Vallejo for the Navy in the dead of the night. Why? To the day Dad died, he would not say.

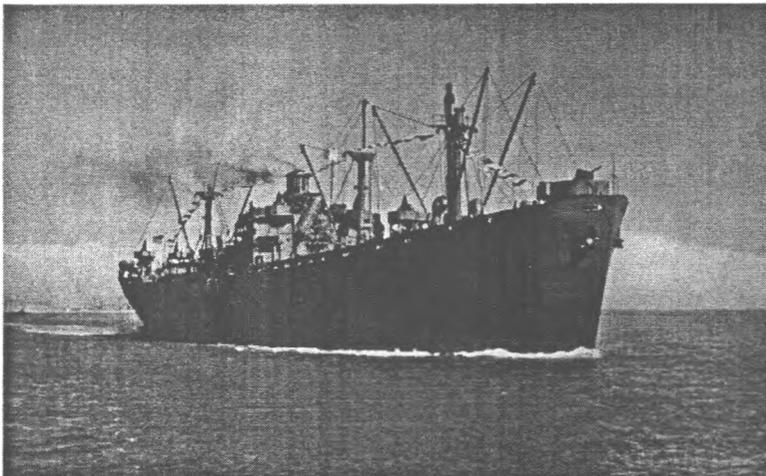
I am guessing, but I think it was because of Capt. Lauritzen and Dad’s undercover work (whatever it was) that we were given front row seats to every launching of every victory ship. Can you imagine a tiny four or five year old standing next to a huge, huge ship? Watching some celebrity with the champagne bottle crush

it on the bow? But the most exiting was watching each ship slowly go down their “slide” into San Francisco Bay and watching the waves, hearing the lapping of the waters. Such huge monsters letting go free into the open sea, to carry 18 and 19 year old sons who defended our country, perhaps to die.

Many, many years later, I met and married my Wade. He told me about his induction into the Army. It was the Korean War, They were put on a ship, sent “below” and there on the inside of the ship’s wall, someone had painted in white, “This god-damn ship was built in Richmond, Calif. I hate Richmond, Calif.”

It was that white painted relief from someone that kept my husband from getting sea sickness, sitting in the bottom of the boat, rolling and rolling all the way to France..... not Korea?

Life needs humor. I have it, and my husband sure had it.



*Liberty Ship  
Built in Richmond*

# HENRY J. KAISER COMPANY

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

1522 LATHAM SQUARE BLDG.  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

June 15, 1944

To the Men and Women  
of Yard Three:

May I express to each of you my sincere appreciation for your faithful performance of duty in maintaining a successful drive by which you delivered four C-4's in March, and for your sustained high production level which has earned you the commendation of the United States Maritime Commission.

Typically American was the manner in which you adapted yourselves to a job when your services were most urgently needed. You went to work with a will, and all Americans are proud of the record you Americans have established.

You could never have achieved your goal without the driving spirit of patriotism which caused many of you to uproot yourselves from other parts of the country and to proceed here where you could best help win the war. I know that you are thankful for the opportunity to grow strong and taste the fruits of industry and accomplishment. The whole world knows that you have thrown your strength into the scales of war, not alone to defend those traditional freedoms of the past, but to guarantee the new promises of the future.

The great ships of our Navy would remain idle on the drafting boards were it not for the toiling hands of the workers who build them. And the troop transports, which mean victory to landing parties against enemy fire, would remain a marine architect's dream were it not for the flesh and blood workers, the men and women of this shipyard, who have deservingly won the plaudits of a nation. May I express my personal thanks for your loyalty, your great effort, and your outstanding success in overcoming all obstacles.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY J. KAISER



*Letter donated by LaVerne Rentfro Woolman along with this issues cover photo.*



The  
MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

presents

# Picasso at the Lapin Agile

by Steve Martin

Directed by Betty Baker Bindner

Produced by Special Arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



*The place is a Parisian bar called the Lapin Agile. Two great geniuses of the 20th century, the passionate Pablo Picasso and the fiery Albert Einstein, lock wits in a hilarious battle of ideas about painting, probability, lust and the future of the world.*

#### The Cast

Timothy Beagley • Jim Colgan • Anne Collins •  
Jared Cox • Jill Sanderson-Croley • Patrick  
Dowling • Michael Haven • Ben Ortega • Walter  
E. Phelps • Irv Siegel

January 19 through February 24

Box office opens half hour before curtain

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00

Sunday matinees at 2:30

on Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 18

All seats \$12 For reservations call 510-232-4031

All tickets must be prepaid by cash, check or credit card. All sales final.



Dinner at the Hotel Mac and *Picasso*  
on Thursday, February 22 for only \$28  
Call 510-236-4988 for reservations

A Review  
by  
Marjorie Harmon

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE opened at the Masquers January 19th and will run through February 24th. Steve Martin's one-act play is a witty celebration of the 20th Century that features two geniuses of our time: Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso. The play is set in 1904, the beginning of the new century, and the place is the Lapin Agile, a neighborhood bar where patrons meet to discuss life, men, women, and what the future will bring. A young man of 25, Albert Einstein, joins in with the repartee. Later,

another young man, Pablo Picasso, joins the group. Both are on the verge of achieving greatness, and as they meet they spar over the merits of art and science.

The Masquers give a fine, ensemble performance that carries the humor along at a fast pace. Philosophy flows with charm and wit in their production.

Within this talented group, there are performances of special note: the dry

brings to the role of Germaine, the waitress. Ben Ortega's Picasso is a figure of passion and wit, while Timothy Beagley brings warmth and lightheartedness to his role.

But what of the 20th Century? What great events will occur? What geniuses will arise to leave their mark on the world? What will its hallmark be? The author says that in the 20th Century, "the accomplishments of artists and scientists outshone the accomplishments of governments".

For an enjoyable evening, this is a production not to be missed.



## **NOVEMBER 2000 ELECTION**

Nationwide, voter turnout in November was 105,380,929 ballots cast or 51.2 percent of those eligible. This was significantly lower than the 62.8 percent who voted in 1960. The 2000 election had one of the lowest turnouts.

George W. Bush, "secured" the Electoral College majority required to be the 43rd president, but lost the nation's popular vote to Al Gore by 539,897 votes according to a final vote tally compiled by a nonpartisan research group from state reports. Republican Bush received 50,456,167 votes and Democrat Gore drew 50,996,064. Slightly more than half of 1 percent of the overall vote count separated them. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader had 2,864,810, Reform Party Pat Buchanan took 448,750 and the remaining 34 vote-getters drew the rest.

Based on reports of total ballots cast in 34 states and the District of Columbia, there was an estimated undercount of 2.1 million ballots nationally. The undercount includes those who did not vote for president but voted for other offices and ballots that were discarded.

# Allan Smith's Point

I have an old video tape which featured "The Dean Martin Roast". Remember that show many years ago? Well, one of the writers for the program was a Richmonder who I went to school with. His name was Don Hinkley. His father was a former Mayor of Richmond and a renowned chiropractor. The last time I saw Don was after high school graduation in 1938 when he got a job with the Standard Oil Marine Department and he sailed on the S/S M. E. Lombardi. Don was what we used to call a 'good guy'.

*AP Smith*

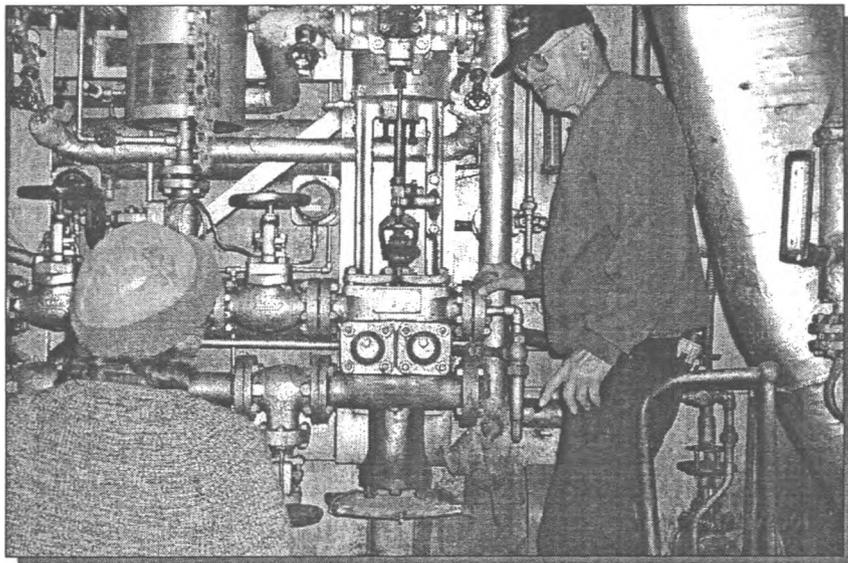
Many thanks to Richmond's Mayor and Point Richmond's Rosemary Corbin for having the 'rock' that contained the John

Denny Park plaque returned to the Point and placed at the flag pole in front of the Richmond Plunge, a perfect location.

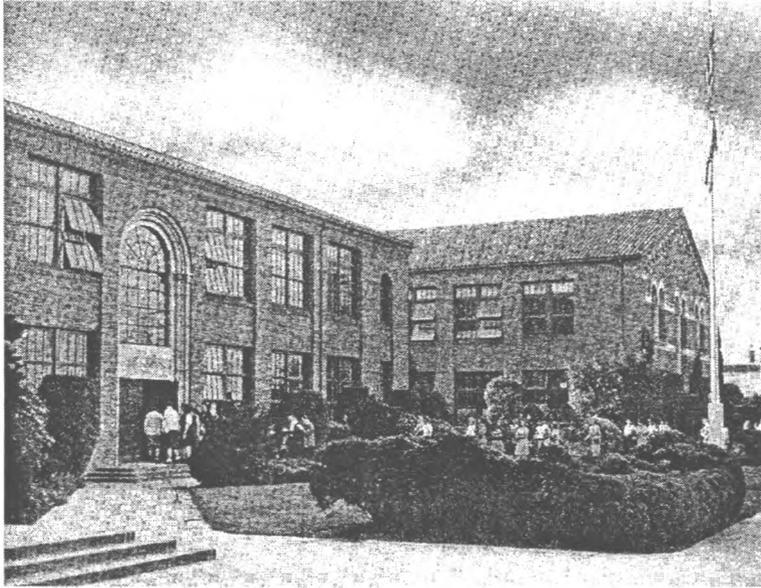
The late John Kenny was a Richmond Councilman in 1939. He was a Point Richmond native who lost his life during World War Two while serving in the U.S. Air Force on a B-25 Bobber. That was early in 1942 somewhere in New Guinea. John Kenny was very active in the Point serving on the Point Richmond Improvement Club and Point politics.

Kenny's father owned the Kenny Pool Room on Park Place, which is now Little Louie's Deli.

*AP Smith*



*Allan's brother Bill Smith giving a tour of the Red Oak Victory's engine room, boiler area*



### Dedication

We dedicate the SHEILD of June, 1944, to the hope that lives in the hearts of every true American high school student; the hope that we shall always have a democratic way, marked by laughter and light humor, ever reigning in our halls, and that we shall always be able to present such a book as this, flavored with the gayety of the year's activities. May our worldwide struggle and the heavy tasks we shall be called upon to do, make us appreciate and desire to preserve our way of living and enshrine its greatness in our hearts and in the hearts of those to follow.

*This "heavy" stuff is from a 1944 Richmond Union High School "Sheild" donated by LaVerne Rentfro Woolman*

### MOST POPULAR NAMES IN 2000

Yell "Michael" on any playground and expect a mob. The same may hold true for "Hannah!" in about five years.

Those were the most popular names for babies born in the United States in 2000. Last year, Jacob edged Michael for the top spot, but Michael had been the No. 1 boys name for the previous 35 years. Hannah surpassed Emily, 1999's front-runner. The top 10 boy's names for 2000, in order were: Michael, Jacob, Matthew, Nicholas, Christopher, Joseph, Zachary, Joshua, Andrew and William.

Top names for girls were: Hannah, Emily, Sarah, Madison Brianna, Kaylee, Kaitlyn, Haley, Alexis and Elizabeth.

# Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Professional football is nearing the end of its season with the Super Bowl on January 28th. I don't remember any of the Richmond players who ever played in a Super Bowl, but do remember several who played in College Bowl games. I went to school with Bruno Banducci, Johnny O'Disio and Joe Vargas, who all played college and professional football. Larry Slagle from Point Richmond played in a Rose Bowl game for U.S.C. The late Frank Shock and Bob Hartnyk both Point people played in the Cotton Bowl for St. Mary's College.

From the book, The Abundant Life, which is a biography of Benjamin Ide Wheeler, who was President of the University of California at Berkeley from 1899 to 1919. "The participants in the game are not players but cogs in a machine. One man does all the kicking, two do all the carrying and the rest their specialized pushing. American Intercollegiate football is a spectacle and not a sport. If the element of 'gate money' were removed, the whole thing would

vanish away."

Football is not my favorite sport, especially after seeing two Point Richmond players, twenty years ago, playing in a high school game where one, David Giacomelli, playing for Salesian High was carried injured off the field, and our son Bryan Smith, playing for St. Mary's High was escorted off the field by the team doctor and the coach after being "sacked" pretty hard. I forget who won the game, Salesian, I think. Salesian High School was coached by Dan Shaughnessy, legendary high school football

coach, who is retiring after 25 successful years in the sport. Dan ended his career as coach at St. Mary's High School

Baseball season is over but spring training is fast approaching. I always wrote that Point Richmond had only one big league baseball player, Russ Christopher, who was in a World Series. Now, I have found out that Jim Cronin, born in Point Richmond, was on the Philadelphia Athletics in 1929 when they won the World

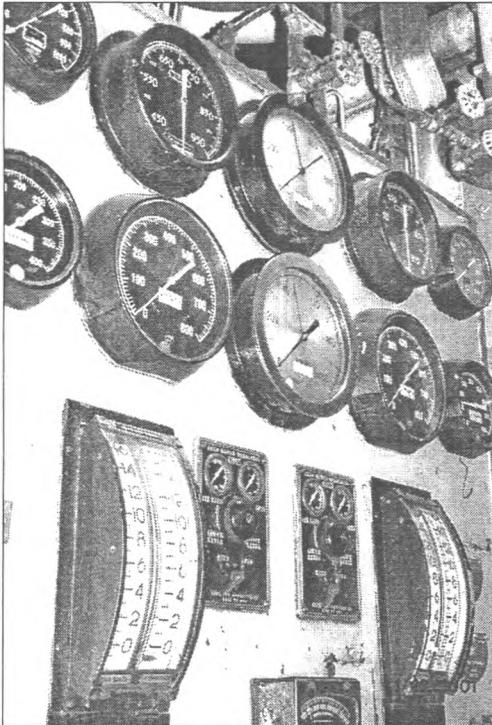


Series, beating the Chicago Cubs four games to one. I obtained this information from Point Richmond's Jack Healy, a relative of Jim Cronin. Jack does not know what happened to Cronin's World Series ring.

Incidentally, Jack may write a column for our PRHA's "This Point....in time". Jack Healy's family has a long history with the Standard Oil Company. Relatives worked for the company when it was known as the Pacific Oil Company located in Alameda before moving to Point Richmond.

Les Allen writes for the Oakland Tribune every other Saturday. One of his columns was titled "Baseball Makes for Great Memories". I will be using some of his material if our congenial editor Gary Shows will let me continue writing. I'm always a week late with

my contribution which makes his work more difficult. By the way, did you read his letter in the West County Times? Very interesting—he should write more for our TPIT. Anyway, back to Les Allen, he wrote about baseball cards which were very popular in his time, the early thirties. In grammar school we would gamble with the cards that featured pictures of baseball players by sailing them against the wall at about a distance of 15 feet. The guy whose card came closest to the wall was the winner and gathered up all the losers cards. I quit playing when it was discovered that some did that was always winning because on the back of his card he placed a coat of wax which made it easy and accurate to sail. Not bad for a grammar school future entrepreneur.



*Gauges in the boiler room deep inside the hull of our U.S.S. Red Oak Victory ship.*



# LETTERS



December 11, 2000

Dear Pam,

I hope this doesn't arrive too late to get my December issue of the newsletter. I just received the November issue on December 9th. It evidently comes by slow boat because I always get it a month late.

My sister, Inez Pestana, usually renews it for me for Christmas but she has been ill in the hospital in Modesto since October 25, so wasn't able to renew it this year. She is doing slightly better the last few days but not well enough to leave the hospital yet. We always enjoy the newsletter since we lived in Point San Pablo when we were small children.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Edwards  
Kahulii, HI



Dr. Mr. Shows,

Enclosed is a picture of a ship captioned: "U.S.S. General J.H. McRae, built by Kaiser Company, Inc., Richmond, California." This picture was given to my father, W. Ira Rentfro, along with the enclosed letter, from the "Office of the President", with the signature of Henry Kaiser. Notice the letter reads, "To the Men and Women of Yard Three", and is dated June 15, 1944.

My father worked as a shipwright at Shipyard Number Three in Point Richmond, from May 1942 until the shipyard closed. After that time he was employed at the Richmond Hospital for 12 years. He made his home in Richmond the last 51 years of his life, and he lived to be 103 years of age, 8/7/1890 to 12/23/1993.

I telephoned the Association's office to ask about the interest in the picture. Thank you very much for sharing it.

Sincerely,  
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Rescue, CA



Hello-

Greetings from a person who was born in Richmond on September 18, 1925. I attended Grant Elementary, Longfellow Junior High and Richmond High School, graduating in June of 1943/ I moved from Richmond to Lake County, California in 1969 and from there to Kingsburg (south of Fresno) in June of 1999 to be near family members.

I would like to locate Dorothy Curry, she lived in Point Richmond. My great grandpa, Thomas Franklin Dingley and her great grandpa William Henry Dingley were brothers. For

## LETTERS *Continued.....*

your information T.F. Dingley was born in Hallowell, Maine on September 10, 1927 and William Henry Dingley was born in Hallowell, Maine on March 23, 1826 and was murdered on September 15, 1888 in Alaska. I believe he left his wife and three or four little girls in San Francisco to go to Alaska. Another brother, Charles Llewlyn Dingley took him to Alaska on one of his sailing ships. Much earlier T.F. Dingley accompanied Willam Henry Dingley's wife from the East Coast to San Francisco, her maiden name was Lillibridge.

I don't have any information Dorothy Curry's marital status or even if she is alive. I would if she is contacted and wishes to do so, like to share/swap the Dingley family history that I have with her. Thank you very much for any help or information you can give me.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. M.T. St. Onge  
1551 6th Avenue Dr. #52  
Kingsburg, CA 93631  
(559)897-7089

## Deaths....

**Joseph Francis Bernard**, a native and pioneer of Point Richmond, died in Vacaville on December 6, 2000. Age 91. For more than 50 years he was a roofer for Master Craft Roofing, a member of the Roofers Union local 81 in Alameda and the Fratellanza Club in Berkeley. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Minnie; sisters Teresa Meneghelli of Richmond and Anne Canellos of Windsor; and three grandchildren. Services were held in Vacaville.

**Charlotte G. Woods** of Point Richmond died on January 14, 2001. The San Pablo California native was born on the Amend Ranch in the hills of El Sobrante on March 27, 1907 to Leland Lambert and Mary Page. She was preceded in death by her husband Clarke L. Woods and here sister Mary Elizabeth King. She will be particularly missed by her loving cousins, Loretta Taylor of Corte Madera, Sue Moses of Menlo Park, and Lillian McNeff, Helen Roberts, and Becky McNeff all of Oroville. Charlottee graduated from Richmond Union High School in 1925 and from the University of California Berkeley in 1929. She was a member of the California Alumni Association of Berkeley, Phi Delta Sorority, Point Richmond History Association and the Richmond Museum.



# February Birthdays

Mark M. Gebhart (90)  
Ed Garrard  
Sarah Wilson  
Hortense Gnaga McGee  
Mary Shur  
Steven Mertle  
Frank Pearson  
Dixie Copeland  
Allan Smith  
Doug Busby  
Chris Rotting

Bessie Squires  
Walter MacMillan  
Barnaby Edwards  
Connie Healy  
Helen Valentine  
Marcos Rotting  
Arlene Hartman  
Landow Howe  
Rowene MacMillan  
Dody Perry  
Ethel MacMillan

Kim Ward  
Dagmar Francis  
Phillip Dorn III  
BOY SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA  
Pearle Westman  
Velma Healy  
Carrie Wickman Dorn  
Adele Bruno Waymire

# March Birthdays

Karolyn Macdiarmid  
Dale Hawkins  
Virginia Cherniak  
Carol Paasch  
JoAnn Bray  
Wendy Wirth  
Carol Darling  
Jim Morrison  
GIRL SCOUTS  
Dolly Frosini  
Carl Paasch  
Reba Downs

Rich Schuldt  
Allan Smith, Jr.  
Phyllis Feyder  
Janice Jones  
Jean Knox  
Marie Wilson-Dietz  
Avis Blanchette  
Delphina Franco  
CAMP FIRE GIRLS  
Winnie Guisti  
Brian Richardson  
Ben Bray

Alexandra Gautraud  
Maxine Mayer  
Susan Berman  
Mary Valenzano  
Rachel Elizabeth Palfini  
Myron Pestana  
Elizabeth Buhler  
Lucile Cottingham Meyer  
George LeRoy Willims  
Isobel Folson  
Edwin Loux

## Exclusive—Over 90 Club

*\*Member of the Exclusive—Over 90 Club*

*Mae Mandl  
Ruth Wood  
Bernard Bernes  
William Kollar  
Thelma Hecker Harvey*

*Pina Barbieri  
Chet Thompson  
Mark M. Gebhart  
Willard Spiersch  
Louis Shaw*

*Alice Helseth  
Rena Cairo*

*Have we missed anyone?*

*THIS POINT.....in time*

# Calendar of Events

## Alphabetical by Group

### **GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY**

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

### **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" Friday and Saturday Evenings January 19 thru February 24  
Reservations 232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and *Picasso* on Thursday, February 22 for only \$28. Call 510-236-4988 for reservations.

### **POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)**

Mondays, at 7:00 PM; , December 11 on Mondays at 7 PM, Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street.  
Information on the December meeting call 273-9959.

### **POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11.  
Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

Annual Valentine Making Contest, Community Center, 12 to 4 PM, February 10. Artist judges, with categories from pre-school to out-of-school.

Annual Easter Egg Coloring and Basket Making Contest, Community Center, 12 to 4 PM, April 14.  
Artist judges, with categories from pre-school to out-of-school

### **POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE**

Info: 233-6881

## **POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

The deadline for the April/May issue of TPIT is Friday March 23, 2001.

The next General Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association will be in May. Check the next issue of TPIT for details.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Rod Satre, President, 232 5059.

## **RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

February 20, 2001 at 7:30 , First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond. On the February agenda are discussions of sites in the greater Richmond area in which potential development is raising questions of serious environmental damage. Info: 234-2706 or 215-6100

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Miss Jones, Secretary 510-232-1436.

## **WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

*For comments, corrections or additions to the TPIT Calendar of Events contact:*

*David Vincent  
125 West Richmond  
Point Richmond, CA 94801  
510-235-4850*



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Maker	100.00

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

**Pam Wilson**  
521 Western Drive  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**Gary Shows**  
229 Golden Gate Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or

fax 510-217-2429

or

email: [gary@alkos.com](mailto:gary@alkos.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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Allan Smith	Articles/photos
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Dee Rosier	Article
David Vincent	Calendar/Photo
Marjorie Harmon	Article
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Lorilyn Palmer-Folks	Article
Velma Healy	Article
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Visit us at our website

<http://www.alkos.com/prha>

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387  
Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387

For Red Oak Project information visit:  
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>