

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XL No.

February/March 2022

\$3.00



Welcome Back!

Masquers Playhouse

This 89-seat community theatre is home to a local performing group that has been in production since 1955. Their first play at the playhouse was

The Happiest Millionaire in March of 1960.

Now their building is retrofitted and they are back in 2022!

Coming up at Masquers Playhouse



From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

Hello PRHA members and non-members.

At the Point Richmond History Association annual meetings Mid Dornan would always make a point of mentioning the many states and countries visitors to our Museum had come from during the previous year. I would like to carry on that tradition. I think it’s fun and informative to know how many people visit our Museum and how many of them come from outside the Bay Area and beyond California. I decided to use my allotted space in this newsletter to let you know that even though we had to close the Museum sporadically during 2019 and, in spite of the impact that the pandemic had on people’s travel patterns, we still received visitors from near and far. We had more than 370 people sign our guest book between our last in-person annual meeting in May 2018 and May 2020. As is to be expected, the majority of our visitors came from Point Richmond and the surrounding Bay Area cities and towns. But during that time we also had visitors from 16 different states and the District of Columbia. And one visitor from Canada. (I got a kick out of the comment left by a visitor from Minnesota, “COLD”). It’s gratifying to think that so many people know a little bit more about Point Richmond and its context in the Bay Area’s history. Be safe.

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*Fascinating view
of Water Street
Hill before the
Freeway*

*PRHA Photo
Archive #1077
from James
Cheshareck*

Thank you members for your renewal:

Garry & Maryn Hurlbut**
Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth**
Chris W. Wilson
Karen & Jay Fenton Family
Ronald W. Vandergrift**
Kathy Dornan Barnes**
The Bartram-Owens Family**
Francis A. Cappelletti
Frank West
Sharon Halpern/Vicctor Morales**
Sonja Gandola
John Larsen
Tim & Roberta Montgomery**
Barbara & Jeff Ward Family
Don Amantite
Jeff Rubin
Diane Diani
Jessie West
Pat Miles & Winston Tharp Family

Welcome to new member:
Rick Beal**

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



My favorite picture of you Mary Highfill

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

For distributing

“THIS POINT.....in time”

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

*Visit our little museum and view our
1000+ picture slide show of historic
Point Richmond photos.*

*Open Thursdays and Saturdays
And the first and second Tuesday
of each month*

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

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

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

***The Cover:
The Masquers has reopened!***

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

gary@pointrichmondhistory.com

And here is the February/March issue. Thanks to our clever contributors I think you will enjoy it.

I am impressed with James Cheshareck's continuing study of our lost Standard Avenue. What do you all think about Kathy Barnes's idea and practicality of supporting a mural of Standard Avenue buildings on the freeway walls? What do you all think about that guys? I think the archive picture #1225 on page 11 would be a good guide for it.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I am feeling very optimistic about this never-ending,

dragging pandemic. I am betting that by the next issue we will be talking about good times without it. So there!

Last The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" will be Friday March 25, 2022 and will cover April and May.

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

Gary Shows

Jerry Cerkowicz

Bonnie Jo Cullison

We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

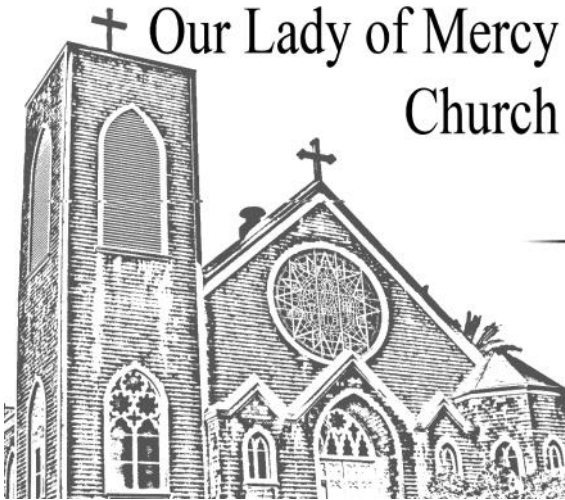
Donna Wilson
Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
Thomas & Shirley Butt
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Roberta & Richard Palfini
Patricia Dornan
Les Crim
Norm and Jean Reynolds
David & Ruth Janes
The Bartram-Owens Family
Burl Willes
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Bob Armstrong
Steven Birnbaum
Ron Vandergrift
Lynn Maack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

History Preservers

Kevin, Renée & Griffin Knee
Linda Newton
The David Dolberg Family
Bernie McIntosh
Don & Ingrid Lindemann
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza

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

Church News



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

Welcome to 2022 – hopefully it will not pass as quickly as 2021. We remain in pandemic mode and continue to adhere to latest guidelines. In February we will enter a new lunar year – The Year of the Tiger. The tiger depicting strength and bravery. According to folklore one begins the New Year by a thorough cleaning of their home in order to sweep away bad luck of the previous year and making your home ready for good luck. Decorations should be in the color red which is the auspicious color for the New Year.

Donation envelopes continue to be delayed. In the interim, there are some handmade ones available at the entrance to the church.

The Christmas season was celebrated with the Christmas trees hung on the walls, prior with the purple decorations and later with the red. The altar was adorned with red poinsettias. The Christmas trees are now down. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the three kings (also known as the Wise men) travelling to Bethlehem to greet Baby Jesus with gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh. Although the birth is celebrated on Christmas Day, the three Kings did not actually reach him until twelve days later which is why Three Kings Day is celebrated on the 12 th day of Christmas. This is also why it is tradition to leave your Christmas tree up through January 6, because the Christmas season does not end until after Three Kings Day has been celebrated.

Due to the pandemic, our Giving Tree this year requested gift cards. After the Epiphany, the cards were delivered to the Family House at Children's Hospital, Oakland. This is an annual tradition previously brought to us by The Toledo's.

Some lighting repair replacements have been done. A Parish cleanup was scheduled in November. The doors to the hall were open and all on display was up for grabs and the remains donated to the Rescue Mission. The Hall itself is in need of a thorough cleaning which Council Members are looking into. There are other costly repairs needed. The fire alarm system in the church is in need of upgrading as well as leaking pipes. Due to cost, donations will be requested.

Anne Brussok is working on the 2022 budget. Tax donation receipts will be mailed prior to January 31, 2022. A request has been made to Gateway for funds to replace/repair our welcome sign with new posts and correct mass times.

If or when Father would like to see the Bible Studies group return, there is a need to recruit church attendees to become involved in parish activities.

Unfortunately, the Fire Marshall has lost the notes from his preliminary visit and walk through some months ago. We await his contact in order that we move on with his suggestions.

The rain came and went quickly. We and our gardens are in hope that it soon return. During the rainy season, a friend was going through old TPIT issues and reminded me that Alan Smith had retired from writing the Church News in May 1997 and I would replace him. It

was a very scary time for me, knowing that Alan was an expert at Point Richmond history. In fact, when we moved to Idaho Street, both senior Smiths were living in the family home on Oregon Street. Alan's shoes were big ones to fill, but as years passed, have become more adept to writing.

Years ago, we had several Atchison Village families attend Mass. They had several children and when Sunday Mass came, they would fill the church. They were the Gerks – 9 children, The Pohls – 7, and the Jacquints – 6. On occasion a Gerk family member attends and Rosemary Jacquint and her family are regular members. During the time Maureen Pohl resided locally, she and her son attended Mass and her son was one of the group of youngsters who presented the gifts to Father. Maureen and her family moved to Utah. Was recently notified Maureen's 17-year old son, Domingo unexpectedly died. We offer our sincere condolences.

Condolences are sent to the Woodrow family in the death of our neighbor Carole Woodrow. A memorial service was held at Little Louies and Idaho Street had a grand representation.

Condolences in the death of Monsignor Daniel E. Cardelli. Fr. Cardelli was a writer of wisdom in his articles and always knew how to use his words to remain with his readers.

Our girlfriend Tyler Trivers, who now lives in Oregon, writes us that she has chickens which are named for her favorite Point Richmond friends. The sad news is that the chicken with my name was recently attacked by a hawk and is no more. A replacement is expected soon.

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

Marcellina Smith
Jim Arkin

Carol Bowen
Dayna Bradford
Thomas Brady
Linda Cheshareck
Diane Diani
Rosemary Giacomelli
Diane Marie
Michael Lambert
Margaret Morkowski
Edwina Murray
Fr. David O'Rourke
Marie Peckham
Fred Siegmund
Blaine Yaris
Emom Roongruangphol

Diane Diani's name will soon be removed, since she is now walking without a cane after recovering from a broken femur.

A gracious note was received from Rosemary Giacomelli informing us she was now in remission. Her name will remain in order for her to remain in remission.

MY NEW YEAR'S WISHES FOR YOU;

12 MONTHS OF HAPPINESS
52 WEEKS OF LAUGHTER
365 DAYS OF SUCCESS
8,700 HOURS OF GOOD HEALTH
525,600 MINUTES OF BLESSINGS AND
31,536,000 SECONDS OF JOY

SEE YOU IN CHURCH

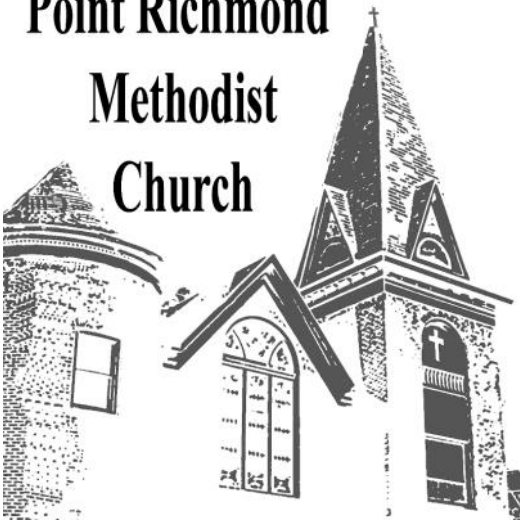


Dee Rosier

Comments Made in the Year 1957

“Kids today are impossible. Those Ducktail haircuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls.”

Point Richmond Methodist Church



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

Worship:

Tanya Cothran, executive director of Spirit in Action, preached our sermon November 21, from Toronto, Canada, via zoom. We set up a screen in the sanctuary so people who came in person could see her. Tanya described a grant application from an organization called Tubuganire. It means “let’s add to their efforts” in the language spoken in Burundi. The name captures Spirit in Action’s mindset: be of service to projects already in motion; refrain from imposing unwanted help. Tubuganire helps women increase their financial freedom and provides emotional support. We are enriched by Tanya’s insights and the work of Spirit in Action. Read more stories of the projects and people uplifted through their microgrants on the website: <https://www.spiritinaction.org>

Our Advent worship theme was “Come Home for Christmas,” especially poignant as people weighed whether or not it would be safe to travel during the holiday. One Sunday, Rev. Jacey acknowledged people who don’t feel safe or loved at their literal home, and how all of us can find safe space and support in other places, perhaps even in church.

Longest Night service: We combined with members of El Sobrante United Methodist Church to celebrate the longest night, December 21, via zoom. The service was designed to allow people to mourn their griefs, lament, and pray, during a season everyone expects you to feel only joy.

Jazz Christmas Eve, The Kurt Ribak trio appeared live at the church on Christmas Eve along with vocalists Sheilani Alix and Gill Stanfield. Kurt’s trio was Kurt Ribak, bass; Greg Sankovich, keyboard; Rob Hart, drums. We missed Lincoln Adler, our favorite sax player, who was isolating after a positive Covid test. The congregation participated virtually over zoom, and the zoom screen was filled with our friends near and far.

We reverted to online-only worship on January 9, in response to the uptick in omicron Covid cases locally. Both/and hybrid worship will not resume before February 13.

Leadership: Our annual church Charge Conference met November 20, chaired by our District Superintendent, Rev. Shinya Goto. We reviewed the previous year, set our pastor’s salary, assessed the membership list, and approved our slate of leaders. This year, Karen Buchanan will vote as our Lay Member to Annual Conference and Jennifer Metz Foster is the Alternate. Other officers are the same as last year: Doreen Leighton, Ad Board Chair; Barbara Haley, Secretary; Matthew Foster, Treasurer; Rose Ayers, Financial Secretary; Bill Thompson, Trustees Chair; Linda Andrew-Marshall, Pastor Staff Relations Committee Chair; Jonathan Swett, Finance Chair; Jean Reynolds, Lay Leader. We have a deep bench of effective leaders.

Fundraiser: We had a successful Holiday Bake Sale with most items picked-up or delivered on Saturday, December 18. We accepted orders online in advance, courtesy of Rev. Jacey’s Google form. Buyers enthused about cookie plates and ordered a total of seventy-three-dozen cookies. That’s 876 cookies. We had quite a stash of cookies, from bakers Doreen Leighton, Barbara Haley, Sandra Simmer, Shirley Butt, and Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones, but their popularity required eleventh-hour baking by Doreen and Barbara. We missed Jennifer Metz Foster’s fine cookies this year: she worked until just before Christmas. In addition to cookies, we sold banana, persimmon,

and pumpkin breads, baked by Barbara, Doreen, Linda Andrew-Marshall, and Pat Dornan; apple, pecan, pumpkin, and cherry pies, baked by Jacey, Barbara, Doreen, and Jean; and rocky road candy, created by Pat. Fran Smith dispensed baked goods with a smile and took payment at the door to Friendship Hall, and Linda delivered items to people who needed to stay home. Thanks to intrepid bakers, and to Pat, who beautifully packaged all those cookies, our generous neighbors had a sweet holiday indeed!

Gateway Grant: In December 2021, were awarded a grant for Rabbit Air® air-purifiers for Friendship Hall. We will not have to move existing purifiers from the sanctuary to help make it healthier to meet in Friendship Hall.

Missions: Aware that the community would miss our Thanksgiving feast for the second year in a row, we collected non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Contra Costa Solano with bins in downtown Point Richmond and by the church. One out of nine of all residents in the two counties used the services provided by the food bank. It provides free food for families in need for pennies on the dollar through government grants and programs, individual donations, and deeply discounted food from the business community. Thanks to all who donated and filled the bins!

In December, we donated new stuffed animals for families served by the Contra Costa Family Justice Center in downtown Richmond.

Pat Dornan collected cash and bought gifts for children living at the GRIP shelter, one of her favorite holiday traditions.

In January, many unhoused neighbors must be benefitting from the SOS! Shower Power program. We have received bags of used towels to wash more than once a week. Several people donated towels after an appeal for more on Next Door. We celebrate the work of Shower Power and work and pray for a time when their service will no longer be needed.

Trustees: Bill Thompson, with advice from Matthew Foster, ordered speakers, funded by a Gateway Grant from 2020, to enhance our both/ and (online and in-person) worship services.

At the parsonage, trustees emptied the gutters on the roof. They removed vines on the exterior wall, repaired the garage door, blocked small openings in the basement, and used traps to

successfully abate a persistent mouse infestation. Ellen the parsonage cat no longer has tea with Mrs. Mouse.

The church kitchen is still in the process of a major make-over. To paraphrase Genesis, "Let there be light, cleansing water, smooth surfaces, and paint!" Chris Davis, our favorite licensed electrician extraordinaire, rewired the kitchen to include recessed LED lighting in the ceiling and lights beneath the cabinets to illuminate the counters. Chris wired a place for a household-style dishwasher, still to be delivered. Hermán Alvarez has begun some of the finishing touches: drywall, paint, and more. Professionals installed granite countertops. "And (we) saw it and saw that it was good!"

Point Richmond Possibilities: On January 6, Rev. Jacey pitched the concept of Kaleidoscope Coffee as a new setting for outreach for our California/Nevada Annual Conference. It was fun to help her flesh out a vision of what a Kaleidoscope setting for new ministry could be. Each of eleven clergy members of a church-startup contingent, including Jacey, presented a proposal for a new ministry to the bishop's cabinet and conference CORE team. No decisions have been made about which project(s) the Annual Conference will pursue.

The Wednesday morning Bible study/book group finished reading *Always with Us?* What Jesus Really Said about the Poor in November, and delved into advent scriptures during December. In January, we started *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on changes in our attitudes, spirituality, and priorities as we age.

On the Calendar:

Rev. Jacey holds "Coffee Hours" on Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Kaleidoscope Coffee or on zoom when Covid case levels are high. Contact her via email pastorjacey@pointrichmondmethodist.org

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

For updates, and to find links to zoom gatherings, see the church website: <https://www.pointrichmondmethodist.org>

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Mary Lee Cole

The Westside Women's Improvement Club activities were up to date for "This Point.....in time" readers through November of 2021. We pick up again in this issue at our December 2021 meeting—still on Zoom and still happy to see one another, even though in little Zoom boxes.

President Diane Diani called the December meeting to order and honored members with birthdays for the month: Suzie Koide 12/14, Pat Pearson 12/17, and Karen Buchanan 12/22. Doreen Leighton gave the treasurer's report and secretary Juels Klotz updated the November minutes with corrections; the corrected minutes were approved.

First VP Ruth Frassetto reported on progress with WWIC welcome bags for new Point Richmond homeowners. The bags are ready to be filled and distributed, and they will include the merchant map of Point Richmond that Karen Buchanan and David Moore are creating. The map includes 24 Point Richmond businesses on one side, and on the reverse side there are squares for merchants to stamp when the new homeowner visits. Visitors with ten stamps will get a prize. The map, which is

sponsored and paid for by the Point Richmond Business Association, will be updated quarterly with limited-time incentives from merchants. Ruth also reported that she brought a stack of WWIC recyclable shopping bags, with the Indian Statue decoration, to the Arts of Point Richmond Holiday Faire for sellers to use. Diane Hedler suggested that bags could be offered to the First United Methodist Church for their upcoming bake sale products. At the next member meeting members will have a chance to request a bag.

Marlee Prutton reported on the Triangle gardens and thanked club members for their monthly weeding. The gardens are looking attractive; people visiting and shopping in town appreciate the Triangle and Rose Gardens. The next weeding dates are December 17th, from 3-5 pm, and January 7th, from 10 am to noon. Linda Newton said she has not heard from Maureen Decombe about progress on the plant map for the display case; hopefully she'll have more information to share at a later meeting. Linda has planted some natives and brings water from home to water them. She urged everyone to



Westside Women's Improvement Club members wish their Point Richmond neighbors a happy, healthy 2022

check out natives and feel free to pull the weeds.

Ann Langille continues to send birthday cards a day or two before each member's birthday. She will send a card to Carla Bowman who is recovering from an injury. Members expressed their appreciation for Ann's work.

Kathleen Wimer reminded the group that the book club meets the Thursday following the WWIC monthly meeting; at the upcoming meeting December 9th we will discuss *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. Kathleen is gathering suggestions for the 2022 reading list, so club members should send her book suggestions to add to the list. There is always room for more to join.

Diane D. reminded everyone that the next club meeting will be February 1, 2022, at 1 pm on Zoom. The guest speaker will be Deneshia Clemons of Loving Hands, INC., a charitable organization in Point Richmond that helps women and children escaping domestic violence.

To celebrate the holidays Diane asked the group to share their festive home décor and tell a Christmas story, whether true or not. After enjoying a virtual tour of home decorations, from a child sized nutcracker statue, hand made gifts and decorations for the mantel to special glass blown ornaments, we entertained one another with stories of previous holiday experiences that ranged from hilarious mistakes to memories of moonlit snowscapes and festive family celebrations.

After the fun memories of past eventful holidays, we enjoyed a musical sing-along, karaoke style, with Diane as DJ, sharing music she had downloaded on her computer. We started with Jingle Bells, and then turned to old favorites such as Angels We Have Heard on High, White Christmas and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. We wrapped up the singing with our traditional finale of Silent Night, which has a special meaning; previous club member Anna Schwartz, who was from Czechoslovakia, always sang Silent Night in German for her WWIC friends, while playing her accordion. We took a moment to fondly recall how Pastor Dan Damon played the piano for this annual holiday sing along.

Diane thanked all for sharing their stories and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a joyful New Year. As the meeting adjourned, we all wished one another Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Drinking Fountain Provided for Point Richmond by Women

West Side Club Gets Sub- scriptions for Another Civic Improvement.

Through the efforts of the West Side Women's Improvement Club of Point Richmond, that town will have a public drinking fountain.

The club has done much toward the welfare of the manufacturing center. Besides providing a beauty spot, it has established a public reading room on Richmond avenue. To crown its work, the club began months ago to raise funds for the drinking fountain. So substantial was their support that in a short time there will be installed at the junction of Park place and Washington avenue a nine-foot bronze fountain. It is on the road from the Mott Iron Works of New York. Probably it will be installed within a few weeks.

Extensive preparations are being made for a celebration which will last all day and into the night. There will be suitable ceremonies, concluding with a ball.

PRHA Archive Photo #1234 from Roxy Miravalle

The “Rooted in Richmond” Project Needs You!

by Caitlin Hibma

The City of Richmond, through the work of its Historic Preservation Commission, has received a grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation for a project we are calling “Rooted in Richmond!”

The Project

The project will undertake the development of a mobile app and web-based self-guided tour of our city’s historic sites, features, and important cultural districts and neighborhoods. Over a dozen of Richmond’s historic features will be highlighted on a six-mile biking or walking route that will examine the most significant sites in the city’s history, with a specific focus on the downtown core, which currently represents less than 10% of the city’s formally designated historic resources, despite being home to the city’s most diverse, dense, and transit-oriented neighborhoods.

The Background

Past preservation efforts in Richmond, though commendable and impressive, have been limited to the waterfront and coastal sites west of Interstate-580. Prior to the 1990s, Richmond’s waterfront was an industrial morass of abandoned buildings and toxic plumes that presented an opportunity for adaptive reuse and cleanup when redevelopment agency funds were made available. The Rosie the Riveter Home Front Park (centered at the waterfront) was a boon to the city at large, but the city’s downtown residents have not directly benefited from these efforts (despite recent well-intentioned efforts to bring the “Home Front” Park closer to the “homes” of most Richmond residents).

The downtown mixed-use spines of Macdonald Avenue and Bissell Avenue hold a heavy concentration of presumed (i.e. older than 45 years) historic resources in the city; yet, extraordinarily little of this area (about 10% of the

city’s total designated historic resources) has been recognized formally in the national, state or local register. This has more recently led to the demolition of potential resources downtown because of a lack of formal nomination. The largest barrier to recognizing and protecting these resources is disinterest or the lack of understanding the value of historic preservation. In this case, education needs to come before – or even concomitant to – brick-and-mortar preservation or designation.

“Rooted in Richmond” will serve as a public outreach tool in communicating historic preservation’s contribution to the health, resiliency, sustainability, equity, and stability of our city’s neighborhoods. This essential, early step in the preservation of neighborhoods such as the Iron Triangle and MacDonald Avenue could help jump start efforts in the city that have long lacked needed investment and interest in historic preservation.

How You Can Contribute

The Historic Preservation Commission is interested in hearing from you and your neighbors about the important memories and histories associated with your community. We are embarking on a year-long effort to record stories from community members on the places that you think are important to highlight and celebrate. This information will be used to develop an online website and associated app that will enable community members and visitors to connect with the important places and cultural stories of Richmond’s various neighborhoods.

So...

1. What Richmond neighborhood do you feel is special and why? What stories, memories, or landmarks resonate with you most in that neighborhood?

2. What do the murals, streets, parks, and

churches in the neighborhood mean to you? How do these places reflect (or not reflect) your community's history?

3. Is there an aspect of the neighborhood's history that isn't being told? If so, what is that, and do you think it deserves more attention?

Please share with your neighbors and fellow Richmonders, and consider lending your insights to this project. You can contribute by emailing answers, stories, and other input to hpccomments@ci.richmond.ca.us.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it is H to O.

"There is an inherent legacy in trails – one that honors the past, enriches the present and provides a gift to the future."

– Keith Laughlin, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Standard Avenue in all of its glory. Could we commission a muralist to put these buildings on the I-580 retaining walls?

PRHA Photo Archive #1225 from Daniel Butt.



from
Patricia
Tostenson

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



At the Post Office

New exhibition of stunning
black and white
photography by Bill
Johnston, Jr. in the
Post Office windows.
Through February.

- * **A New exhibition at Lara's Fine Dining featuring over 60 pieces by 30 Arts of Point Richmond artists. Opening January 29th, through July.**
- * **The current exhibition of travel and wildlife photographs by Brian McGilloway and K Olival at El Sol Restaurant has been extended until April 4th.**
- * **Mark April 3 on your calendar for a new event: Art Stroll in downtown Point Richmond! Featuring five art galleries and an outdoor banner exhibition:**
- * **Landscape Painting by Dee Bell, Exhibition at Kaleidoscope Café**
- * **"Bring Back Love" Exhibition at Mom & Pop's Art Store**
- * **June Felter Exhibition at the newly opened Point Richmond Gallery, 145 West Richmond**
- * **Exciting new "Taking It Outdoors" banners by local artists**

Yes it is True

Masquers Playhouse is Back!!!

by Fran Smith

The cover of this issue shows the newly re-painted Masquers Playhouse and says Welcome Back. And we mean it.

Six years ago it was discovered that the main ceiling beam that ran from front to back of the theater was cracked. Of course the theater was closed immediately. A myriad of supporters, members, funders and theater lovers helped raise the funds to rebuild not just to repair the beam, but also to make it compliant with the ADA requirements for people with disabilities, upgrade the lights and sound equipment and refresh the lobby. Just as repairs were finished and we were approved by the city planning department to reopen, Covid hit us.

We are delighted that the first show of our 66th year is "As You Like It", by William Shakespeare and re-envisioned by the enormously talented Rice Majors, Director and Composer. The upcoming season includes a wonderful selection of shows and other events to provide laughter and joy to the community.

A few members of the audience of the first show left the following comments;

- * ***Great Show!***
- * ***Love all the music from the 60's.***
- * ***Excellent show. Glad you're back!***
- * ***She show is wonderful.***
- * ***Fantastic. Acoustics are great. Everybody loves it.***
- * ***I loved it. What a fun adaptation! And a very strong cast.***
- * ***I found Masquers by chance and it turned out to be a community that celebrates my gifts.***
- * ***Tonight's show shows the best of the Masquers family. GREAT JOB!***

A Little More From the Website

In my opinion Point Richmond, during the time I lived there, was the greatest place on Earth. My Mom was an Avon Lady in the early years and my Dad worked at Standard Oil, now Chevron. I use to go house to house with my Mom, before I started school at Washington Elementary, selling Avon. We knew almost everyone back then. We lived on Golden Gate Ave., last house on the right. My Dad turned it into a duplex and the upstairs was rented out and we lived downstairs. We had chickens and lot's of blackberries, a winding staircase we use to slide down and promptly get in trouble for doing it. My parents sold that house and bought Dr. Thompson's house on Scenic Ave. While we lived there my Dad built 480 Western Drive with only the help of my Mom and we girls, four of us. He also built us a Summer Home in Arroyo Seco in the Carmel Valley. My Dad was an amazing man and the greatest Dad in the World, my opinion of course. Just thought I would share my thoughts. Have a productive day everyone.

Marian J. Pierce

~~~~~

Loil Foster on the Fourth of July a long time ago.



Photo is from Georgia Egger.

# THE NICHOLL RANCH

Excerpted by Bonnie Jo Cullison, from *Richmond – Windows to the Past* by Susan D. Cole in 1980, from Wildcat Canyon books, Richmond, Ca. [out of print]

**John Nicholl** was born in Ireland in 1822 and emigrated to New York in 1849. After he and Agnes Booth Hodge were married in 1853, they set out for California with \$20 to their name. They traveled by the steamer George Law to Panama. In those days before the Canal, the isthmus was thirty-five miles of mosquito infested jungle. John Nicholl walked the isthmus leading a mule upon which his bride rode. Upon reaching the Pacific, they again boarded a steamship to continue their journey to California. The trip had taken two months.

Nicholl worked on a farm in Alameda County for a year and then purchased a squatter's interest in a grain ranch in San Leandro. Four years later he sold the property for \$6,000 and purchased 200 acres of the Rancho San Pablo. He raised hay, grain, stock, and operated a threshing machine. As he prospered, he purchased an additional 367 acres – for which he was given a quit claim deed.

The Nicholl Rancho was divided into two sections by what is now called Macdonald Avenue. The first section was from Ohio Street to Macdonald Avenue, and from 23rd to 34th Street. The second section was from Macdonald Avenue to Gaynor, and from 23rd to 30th Street.

As with many settlers in the area, Nicholl found the title to some of his property was

unclear. When the land settlements began, part of his property was taken into custody with the crops still on it. In 1891 when the distribution of property under quite claim deeds was prorated and made, Nicholl exchanged 400 acres that would have been returned to him for 150 acres of land in Point Richmond. This exchange proved to be quite profitable – when Santa Fe came to Richmond, it needed land for a terminal. Nicholl sold them 57 acres of land in 1899 for \$80,000. This was indeed his start to fame and fortune.

Nicholl purchased 1,000 acres from a Spanish grantee in Ventura. He introduced the lima bean into the area; the new crop was very successful, and Nicholl was soon yielding \$40,000 a year profit.

When his wife died, Nicholl moved to Oakland. In 1898 he formed one of the first incorporated estates in California, the John Nicholl Company. He retained all stock in the company and remained its President until his death on July 28, 1914. His estate was valued at more than \$2,000,000.

John Nicholl was survived by eight children – three boys and five girls. Joseph L. Nicholl remained in Richmond to farm the ranch. John H. Nicholl remained in Richmond to manage the John Nicholl Company; he became one of the city's biggest subdividers.

John H. Nicholl became involved in the Battle of City Halls. Richmond's original city hall in Point Richmond, next to the Bank of Richmond, had become hopelessly crowded. George S. Wall, a real estate man with a great deal of land on the south side of town, offered the City free land if they would build their new city hall on it. He also offered to loan the City \$13,320 for the building, to be repaid at the rate of \$185 a month. Mr. Wall's offer was accepted, the hall built, and the offices were opened on June 15, 1915.

Mr. Nicholl, who wanted the City to build on his property so that the surrounding land would become more valuable, was incensed! He told the City that he would not only give them free land if they would once again move their City hall, he would give them the \$25,000 building. Exactly four months after the Wall City Hall had been occupied, Richmond voted to



*The Nicholl Ranch and poppy fields from Richmond Museum of History*

accept Nicholl's offer. In December of 1916, the city offices were moved into Nicholl's City Hall at 25th and Nevin Avenue. It served as the city hall until 1949 when construction began on the new civic center.

As was his father before him, John H. Nicholl was involved in banking. John Nicholl helped to establish the Bank of Richmond in Point Richmond; John H. Nicholl served as President of the Mechanics Bank from 1915 until 1919, when he resigned due to his failing health.

The old, two-story wood frame home is

gone, as are most of the eucalyptus trees that lined the old stagecoach road known as Davis Lane (now Macdonald Avenue). What remains to remind us of the pioneer Nicholl family is Nicholl Nob, the keystone of George Miller Jr. Regional Park in Point Richmond, and Nicholl Park, in central Richmond.





# The Last Remnants of Standard Avenue

*James Cheshareck*

Shortly after the “Standard Ave. Right of Way Files” article was printed in the April/May 2021 newsletter (vol. XXXIX No. 5), the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway made improvements to their facility between Railroad Avenue and Garrard Blvd. This construction entailed razing the sidewalks and foundation of the old Standard service station on the corner of Standard Avenue Garrard Blvd. and paving over the surrounding area. Decades earlier, before this intersection was the epicenter of 1970’s traffic nightmares, it had been the grand entrance to downtown Point Richmond.

The then ATSF Railway acquired and sealed off most of the old road around 1981 when Caltrans vacated it upon completion of the two grade separation overpasses known as the “Railroad Avenue Overheads”. A small piece of Standard Avenue was also vacated to Chevron, whose gas station was on the southwest corner at Garrard Blvd, so vehicles could continue to access its driveways. Since Highway 17 traffic no longer flowed along Standard Avenue, Chevron sold the station to a private commercial operator. The station was unmanned, and customers operated the pumps by credit card. The station closed in the 90’s and BNSF eventually bought the property and tore the building down, now owning the entire stretch of road between Railroad and Garrard.

For 40 years after abandonment faint traces of the old highway were visible, especially when viewed overhead on Google maps, you see a

picture taken before the recent paving. The picture is on the opposing page of this newsletter. There were sidewalks on both sides of the street, white lines painted on the road, and an old light pole that once held a highway 17 sign and traffic signals. Most prominent was the footprint of the old Standard station, which based on research I believe was the first fueling station in Richmond. Its vintage floor tiles were still there, along with the two driveways, and the metal poles that protected two phone booths that once stood.

The BNSF facility improvements obliterated all discernable vestiges of the prior major thoroughfare. The only remaining evidence of the roadway are the parallel power poles, a Bell System manhole cover, and the crown-shape outline of the roadbed. There are many recent photos taken of the area prior to construction. Although drab, they illustrate another lost piece of history. The only intact original portion of Standard Avenue runs in front of the Spot bar between Railroad and Washington Avenues. It was absorbed into Tewksbury Ave around 1981 when the overpasses opened to traffic.

The eastbound I-580 Marine Street exit leads to what is “East Standard Avenue” on the map. This is a misnomer as this isn’t a portion of the original Standard Avenue and actually follows the alignment of Hillside Avenue which was eliminated in the late 80’s for construction of I-580. Here are some photos for perspective.



*Modern Day Marine Street and Freeway*



*Pile of rubble from the Standard Ave. sidewalks*





*Above, Last Remnants of Standard Avenue and foundation of the old Standard gas station from Google Maps.*

*Below, Standard Avenue was main entrance to downtown Point Richmond in the 1960's. Yes, there is a Standard Oil fire in the background.*



*Remains of the vintage tile floor of the old Station*



*Trees removed to make way for BNSF improvements*



## *Interesting Discussions on Santa Fe Railroad's Native American Village on the PRHA FB Website*

### **Robert Flores**

Out of everyone in this group, how many of you are aware that Santa Fe Railroad, Richmond yard, used to have housing in a specific area that housed Native American Indians who worked for the railroad? Eventually the people moved and the village was torn down. More tracks were laid in that eastern end of the yard where the trains first entered it. A little bit of history I just remembered.

### **Leo Greiner**

I also remember friends from Washington school lived there. I think one was named Derek White. Any other old timers remember him?

### **Rosemary Corbin**

Leo Greiner Yes. The children went to Washington School, & their parents were active in the PTA.

### **Lynne Black**

I remember it, my grandparents lived on 1st street and hobos would go to my grandparent's house begging for food. My grandmother never turned them away, she sent them to the back door and would give them a cup of coffee and bread soaked in milk with a little butter and cinnamon on it. I think she called it 'milk sop'?

I knew because my grandmother lived really close to the RR yard, on 1st street. My Grandmother used to give coffee and bread to the hobos who rode in the RR cars, my parents would scold her for feeding the 'bums'!

### **Ernest David Lindstrom Jr**

I worked in the Telecommunications shop in the Santa Fe Yard from 1971 until 2001, and knew several people that lived in the "Village." My understanding was (then) that the Santa Fe provided work and housing, in exchange for trackage rights through Native American reservations, predominantly in Arizona and New

Mexico.

### **Pamela Evans**

Yes I did know that because we used to pass by it when we came from Richmond to go to my great grandma's in Point Richmond. I remember seeing their big bread cooker outside or something like that that's what I told it was it where they cook their breads or meat in

### **Pat Dornan**

Was called Boxcar village and the Acama and Laguna peoples lived there --one side was pink and the other was magenta. There was a speaker at Rosie for many years about the people that moved Richmond forward.

### **Lana Martarella**

Chief Sanchez and his family, Larry Lydia and others, was part of the boxcar village for many years. Pop Sanchez was cast in several Hollywood westerns in those days. When they closed the village, some of them moved their boxcar house to surrounding streets but others returned to Acoma Sky City in New Mexico. I visited some of the family there on the reservation and at the Sky City Casino. There is a really good visitor center at the reservation and a wonderful

historic Adobe city on top of the Mesa. They are happy to maintain ties to Richmond.

### **Robert Flores**

Marie Davies wow, that is cool. Thanks for remembering the hard working native Americans who worked there.

### **Gloria D. Crim**

We at Washington School knew a lot about the Native American Village because, as many have already mentioned, we were in class with the kids from there.

### **Conrad Strasheim**

Gloria D. Crim I had a Navajo classmate,



*(Continued on page 19)*

Raymond Sanshu, at Roosevelt Jr. High who lived in that village.

***Florencio Martinez***

I had friends living there. Recall a bridge that I would walk over the railroad tracks and also teepee's in that area. (Frenchy ) was raised on South 1st street.

***Robert Roeder***

there was also the work crew houses. My dad described then as a dozen smaller houses and a large one for the foreman. I believe there are still a few at the base of MacDonald I think Atchison Village was one.

***Jennifer Allaire***

Many of these "crew houses" were moved to different locations in Point Richmond. Two of them were on E. Richmond Avenue in which the Sinawi family lived in during the late 60s. And there were five all in a row on Marine Street of which I resided in the middle house for several years in the 80s.

***Kathe Kiehn***

I only learned about the boxcar village a few years ago via a presentation at the Richmond Museum of History.



*1930's Arial photo of the City of Richmond  
PRHA PHOTO ARCHIVE #1250 from Christian W. Wimmer*



# Jack the Mailman

by Karen Buchanan

John “Jack” Thomson, affectionately known as Jack the Mailman, delivered the mail in downtown Point Richmond for 20 years, until his retirement on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021. He was a beloved fixture in the downtown Point Richmond, always delivering letters and packages to local residents and businesses with a smile and some friendly conversation.

Jack Thomson was born an Air Force Brat at the Army Hospital in Fort Dix, New Jersey, because the nearby McGuire Air Force Base hospital didn’t have a maternity ward. He grew up on various Air Force bases in the United States and Germany, and joined the Air Force himself when he came of age.

Interestingly, his career in Government service exactly mirrored that of his father, who worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 21 years after he left the Air Force. Jack served in the Air Force from 1974 to 1996, mostly stationed in Germany, with stints at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, at the beginning and end of his career. He settled in nearby Vacaville after leaving the service. He started working for the U.S. Postal Service in August of 1997. With 22 years in the Air Force and another 24 years at the U.S. Postal Service, he had a grand total of 46 years of Government service.

Jack loved the overall friendliness of the people in Point Richmond that he would encounter on his delivery route, and enjoyed stopping to chat with residents and business owners as he delivered the mail. He liked to go at his own pace, which sometimes ran afoul of his Post Office bosses’ demands. Sometimes they would admonish him that “you’re not doing your route in sequence,” because there was a certain way he was supposed to deliver the mail: deliver all the mail in sequence along the delivery route, including letters, parcels and packages delivered at the same time. However, as the years went by and the volume and weight of packages increased, Jack devised his own way of doing it. First thing in the morning, he would start in his postal truck


delivering all the heavy packages first, then park the truck and do his entire route on foot, in sequence, to deliver the letters and parcels. He was always consistent with his delivery times, with less than 10 complaints over his entire 24-year postal career.

Several Point Richmond residents and PRHA members recounted their happy memories of Jack the Mailman. Linda Andrew-Marshall, one of the PRHA Museum docents, often encountered Jack delivering mail to the Museum when she did her second Thursday shift. She was amused that he wore his U.S. Postal Service uniform shorts year-round, rain or shine, no matter how low the temperature dropped. When Linda talked to Jack on his next-to-last-day, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, he told her he plans to do a lot of hiking since he had built up a lot of stamina after walking over 7 miles on his delivery route every day for 24 years. Heinz Lankford mentioned that he and Jack had chatted about his military background and Jack’s plans to take up bike riding again in retirement and go on bike rides with Heinz. Fran Smith said Jack always treated her mail very carefully, putting large items inside her screen door to protect them, and greeting her by name. Shirley Butt noted that Jack was her favorite mail delivery person in Point Richmond, even though his route didn’t cover her residence. Shirley said he “has always gone beyond the job requirements and he will be greatly missed!”

Jack is looking forward to long and happy retirement. Asked what he plans to do in retirement, he responded, “Not a darn thing I don’t want to do!”



## 194 Restaurants



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WE DELIVER ANYWHERE IN  
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SUNDAYS 2 P.M. TILL 10 P.M.**

**CLOSED MONDAYS**

**BEacon 2-3870**

**2 W. RICHMOND AVE.  
End of West Cutting Blvd.**

### Sugarless Days (9/30/1919)

"The anticipated sugar shortage is here.

Many local stores are entirely out of granulated sugar....it is said that many of the coast refineries have sold out their output to eastern dealers where the price has always been much higher than on the coast"



*History Museum Enthusiast Lucy visits our little museum, Bonnie Jo, Aunt Effie and Penny are in the background*



*Great shot of the Hunn Tree towering above Point Richmond Homes from Andrew Butt*





## Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

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

*-Linda Newton, Past President*

### **Pt. Richmond April 2, 1912**

Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. Cramer. Roll call result in all the officers being present except V.P. Reading of minutes of previous meeting was read and accepted.

Communications from Mrs. John Thread asking for names of officer and members of the club President Mrs. Cramer answered the same.

Mrs. Corum was elected to membership. A resolution was presented in writing asking for a change in our by-laws the resolution reads as follows: Resolved that we change Article section of our by-laws to read, Election of Officers shall take place the last regular meeting in April. Mrs. McHenry was elected reception comm. to the Biennial Convention to be held in Oakland in July our President also being our representative. Mrs. Cramer read from the Charter from the first to "the duty of the Officer". The future of Richmond was discussed and a suggestion was made to ask the people to beautify their yards. Mrs. Whitcomb made a motion that the club send a communication to the council asking them to take some action to clean up the place at the foot of Washington Ave. between the Ave. and railroad, carried. Mrs. C.E. Adams gave a resitation and spoke on the anti-saloon question also announced that Dr. Bristol would speak on the subject at the Opera House Thursday eve.

The club will give a dance on or about the 1st of May. The committee in charge Mrs. Whitcomb Chairman Mrs. R. Spieresch & Mrs. Runyon they to appoint the sub committee also to have a food sale in Spierich Bros Plumbing Shop next Friday. Cake and lemonade was served/

There being no father business club adjourning. Nellie Adams Sec.

### **Pt. Richmond Apr 9th 1912**

Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. T.T. Cramer. Roll call of officers result in all being present except V.P. and Fin. Sec'y.

Reading of Minutes of previous meeting was read and accepted as corrected.

No bills.

Communications include Invitation from O.E. S. No. 205 for Whist Party Apr 16th 1912. One from chamber of Commerce of CC County and a lot of literature in regard to child welfare also the by-laws of the general federation of Women's Clubs.

The second reading of the resolution to change our by laws in regard to holding the election of officers the last meeting in April. Motion suggested by Mrs. Rose Willis "live bravely". Food sale change. Will give a dance May 1st at East Shore Park. The red light dist was again discussed. Also quite an interest was taken in discussing the Club House.

A motion was made that we adjourne, carried. Nellie Adams, Secy

### **Pt. Richmond Apr 16th 1912**

Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. T.T. Cramer. Roll call of officers resulted in all being present except V.P. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved.

No bills.

Receipt from the Tres. of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs for the dues sent 4.30. The resolution changing the by-laws was read for the third time and adopted. Resolved that we change Article 4 Section 1 of our by-laws to read Election of Officer shall take place the last regular meeting in April – carried.

Reception comm. Appointed for the dance May 1st is as follows, Mrs. Feuner, Mrs. Dimm, Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Neidicker and Mrs. McHenry. Floor comm. Mrs. Whitecomb, Mrs. Spiersch, Mrs. Runyon, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Trautvetter. Box office Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Maynard. Mrs. McHenry suggested several mottos. "To Will is to Do", "To Learn and Strive", "Learn to Labor and to Wait", "More Wisdom – More Work, new Fields to Conquer", "Forward out of Error, Leave Behind the Night", "Forward Through the Darkness, Forward into Light". The branch library was talked of as to the advisability of building a larger building than was now planned. Mrs. McHenry was very much in favor of the larger building.

The club as a club indorsed Mr. Roths property for a detention home and Mrs. Whitecomb the Sec write to the Carnagie Library people was a committee of one to see if she could secure a lot on which the old babtis Parsonage could be moved and fitted for a home.

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

Nellie Adams, Secy-  
Finance:

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. J.A. Neill  | 1.50                  |
| Mrs. T.T. Cramer | .50                   |
| Mrs. T.F. Stout  | .50                   |
|                  | 2.50 for Apr 16, 1912 |

Eash delegate should present to the credential committee at S.F. a letter signed by the Pres & Rec Secy of the club which she represents a copy of the S.F. Treasurer's receipt for dues for the year ending Apr 1 1913, and her visiting card.

July 1912

S.F. of Woman's Clubs of U.S.

## Pt. Richmond, Apr. 23rd 1912

Woman's West Side Improvement Club meet in Fire Hall and was called to order by President Mrs. Cramer. Officers present except VP and Tres.

Due for Mrs. Eaton, Stamps .25¢  
Minutes of previous meeting was read and accepted as corrected.

A post card from Mrs. Orr of S.F. announcing we now are a member of the General Fed. Of Woman's Clubs, also the Certificate of Membership, Mar 19th 1912.

New Business, Mr. Cutting would lease ground for a detention home for 5 years free. Mrs. Whitcomb received a communication without a signature, the sec was instructed to have a notice put in the paper stating all communications coming to the club must be signed if the parties wanted the assistance, we would ask in regard to the branch library. The club to see if the Richmond Club would join in having Mrs. Green come and give a lecture on Waterways in the near future. Mrs. Adams was Appointed to confer with some of the members and report next meeting Mr. Nelson was announced and talked minstrals. It was decided to have a minstral show soon. The president to write and ask permission of the fireman to hold rehearsals in the hall.

There being no father business club adjourned.

|            |                  |      |        |
|------------|------------------|------|--------|
| Fin. Secy: | Mrs. A.C. Lang   | Dues | \$1.50 |
|            | Mrs. E. Weise    | "    | .75    |
|            | Mrs. R. Spiersch | "    | 1.00   |
|            | Mrs. E. Gerlach  | "    | .50    |
|            |                  |      | \$3.75 |

Nellie Adams Sec'y

## EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

**Martha Bielawski - 100**

**Mary Bianchini Highfill - 97**

**Victor Morales - 92**

**Billie Bonham Shaw - 99**

**June Beesley Sosabal - 97**

**Morris Simpson - 99**

**Marcelina Smith - 96**

**Hector Lizarraga - 97**

**Donna Wilson - 91**

**Florence Wilson - 91**

**Loretta Stevens Johromi - 95**

**Alphonso Diaz - 95**

**Christopher Wilson - 97**

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

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

- |            |                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07-01-1919 | Postage goes back to 2¢ for letters and 1¢ for postcards today.                                                                    |
| 07-11-1919 | SOC0 has sold its two sailing ships: the John Ena and the Dunsyre to Robert Dollar Co. for 1/2 million.                            |
| 07-17-1919 | Drinkers are turning to candy from booze since the closing of saloons.                                                             |
| 07-25-1919 | New law says no city can impose and collect fines for speeding unless signs are erected in speed zones.                            |
| 07-28-1919 | World's fattest man dies, He was 5' 5" and weighed 650 pounds. He was 28 years old.                                                |
| 08-06-1919 | Mrs. H.H Krundick drops dead while shopping in Woolworths in Oakland.                                                              |
| 08-18-1919 | Mayhem on Std. Ave. Biale Giacomo bites off lip of g. Bizzona in fight over money.                                                 |
| 08-22-1919 | Gus Allyn and Louis Jandos have sold Eagle Restaurant at 57 Washington Ave to Athan Hamon and Peter Cotronic.                      |
| 09-10-1919 | Ban placed on wiggle at public dances (and no shimmi) ordinance passed.                                                            |
| 09-29-1919 | Every Richmond patrolman has instructions to arrest any child under 18 who is out after 9pm.                                       |
| 09-30-1919 | Richmond Cops start riding beats in their own cars today.                                                                          |
| 10.09-1919 | Kozy Kove offered to city as park for \$22,500 <b>(Ed. Where did this go? Someone should look into this!)</b>                      |
| 11-20-1919 | Battleship California launched today at Mare Island.                                                                               |
| 12-16-1919 | 14,000 barrels of wine to go out of Winehaven on one steamer.                                                                      |
| 12-23-1919 | Point Baptist Church to have Xmas tree and entertainment.                                                                          |
| 12-26-1919 | Statistics show 1,725 British girls married American service men during World War One.                                             |
| 12-27-1919 | 45 persons including several women die in western northeast states as the result of drinking bootleg whiskey made of wood alcohol. |

*I am hoping for a few more issues of this Don Church “Fact Diary” but I am finding it interesting that starting in 1919 it seems that the Point is beginning to disappear from the news and go into several decades of isolation. Richmond news and events are moving to eastern Richmond neighborhoods.*

## Cards, Letters & E-Mails

Wonderful issue Gary,

Thanks so much for squeezing in Jean's full obit, & great you put the big blue tank next to the plaque - & showed it towering over the newly built Brickyard condos. You're doing a great job!

Hope someone has been in touch with Janie Amdal, the woman who wrote the letter to the editor, she recently retired & wants to join in with PRHA activities.

*Thanks so much for all you do  
Linda Andrew-Marshall*



Hi Pam,

I loved James Cheshareck's last sentence in the Chasseur Brothers article. [ed. "Little Italy is long gone, but not forgotten."]

Has there ever been a real suggestion to paint a mural of the storefronts on the side of the I-580 retaining walls? I'd donate to hire a muralist for this.

Kathy Barnes

Merry Christmas to your family!

*That is just a wonderful idea Kathy! Gary*



*Top right picture is PRHA Photo Archive #1253 of early Castro Point, Steam train in the foreground the picture is from Jay Francis. Below that is Photo #1253 showing the late Jay Francis standing next to what he says is the last Whaler, "Sioux City". Thanks to Andrew Butt*

*Jay was one of the first people I met when I arrived in the Point the summer of '70 - he was the sweetest friend then & remained so all these years. We had so much fun dancing those early years at the original Point Bar, Baltic, Ardell's & at house parties. Our birthdays were a few days apart & we often Celebrated together! Our last visit was when he came to the Point History Museum this winter while I was a docent & we enjoyed a great chat.*

*Love & Rest Well, Dear Jay*

*- Linda Andrew-Marshall*

*I would love to add I had known Jay since early '70's from all of us living at 121 Santa Fe, paying \$35 a month for rent. Jay was such a great friend I don't think there is anyone in The Point that hadn't gone camping with him or fishing! Jay had an endearing quality to all who knew him, he always reminded me a bit of Peter Pan, twinkle in his eye and Peter grew up and turned into a seasoned mountain man. He loved his boat to his motorcycles and all of his friends we loved him back. Jay was always there for me or anyone that needed help. A roof over your head or VW repair! Yes, one of a kind and well loved like no other*

*Barbara Rhodes Friday*

# *Birthdays*

## February

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Karen Shaw  
Mark Gebhart  
Sarah Wilson  
Steven Mertle  
Billy Bob Karl  
Chris Rotting  
Walter MacMillan

Connie Healy  
Marcos Rotting  
Jim Allgaier  
Thomas R Williams  
Landow Howe  
Rowene MacMillan  
Ethel MacMillan  
Art Gagnier  
Mitzi Kruse

Hilda Gozzi-Reed  
Kim Ward  
Anne Brussok-Roth  
Jared Bigard  
Lupe Padilla Lopez  
Allegra Fenton  
Kay Mayfield Madison  
Artrese Morrison  
Kiley Brougham

Frank Smith  
Leonard Smith  
Mark Mallagiatse  
Gretchen Van Tassel  
Shaw  
Maryn Hurlbut  
Ron Vandergrift  
Nancy (Comer) Reed

## March

### GIRL SCOUTS CAMP FIRE GIRLS

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

Claire E. Crowson  
Ben Bray  
Ken Madison  
Lavinia Karl  
Darlene A. Wright  
Brian Richardson  
Susan Berman  
Mary Valenzano  
Isobel Folson  
Myron Pestana  
Mike Smith

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

Frank West  
Mark Kornmann  
Roy Javellana  
Susan Reynolds Prine  
Garry Hurlbut  
Thomas Young  
Paul Ciabattari  
Ms. Bean Dolberg  
Delphina Franco  
Tawney

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

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

February 20, 1917

The Steamer Minnesota left Winehaven with the largest cargo of wine ever shipped in a single steamer, from Europe as well as from California. A total of 25,100 barrels of which the California Wine Association shipped 17,000 barrels or 1,255,000 gallons. The freight charges were \$81,000 and the value of the wine was about \$475,000, and the government collected \$60,000 Internal Revenue on it. To ship by rail would have required 418 cars or a train more than three miles long. Were it bottled, 6,275,000 commercial quart bottles would be required, which placed end-to-end would reach from San Francisco to Omaha, Nebraska.

To fill the barrels would have taken one man two-thirds of a year, and would have taken three men a month to stencil the barrels. If the barrels were arranged nine square or 81 to a time would, if piled on such a foundation reach as high as the Eiffel Tower.

(Strange, they didn't figure how long it would take these men to drink it!)



## *Memorials.....*

Longtime Point resident **Jay S. Francis** died on January 11, 2022 at his home of forty-plus years on Scenic , Avenue. Jay was born on February 3, 1947 in Detroit MI, moved to Point Richmond where he lived on Montana Street in the 1950's, and attended Washington School until the family moved to Clinton Avenue when he was in third grade. In his youth he was a paperboy for the Oakland Tribune. He was a pupil at Grant Elementary, Downer Jr. High, and lettered in swimming at Harry Ells High School where he graduated in 1964. After high school he was first a Volkswagen mechanic for Albrick Motors in Berkeley, then a mechanic at AC Transit until retirement.

He was an avid outdoorsman whose favorite fishing spot was the old Point Molate whaling station. (ed. see page 25 for a photo) He also was an ardent surfer along with friends Chuck Dutrow, Gary Brieger, and Frank Bethany. He was a fixture at Little Louie's every morning. Jay led a full and happy life and will surely be missed by many.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frederick E. and Elizabeth Francis, sister Elizabeth O'Leary, and brother Frederick D. Francis. He is survived by his sister Donna, and several nieces and nephews, and many friends from the Point.



**Leslie Wayne Crim** (December 1, 1946 – September 14, 2021) passed away in Lower Lake, CA, from an unknown cause. Though he sported a gruff appearance, Les had one of the biggest hearts ever to those who knew him. His devotion to others included his family, lifelong friends still in touch since kindergarten at Washington School, and a long line of four-legged furry friends, including the feral types who he regularly fed and protected.

Les was a devoted Marine, proud of his military service, a fast and faithful friend to veterans whether he knew them personally or not. He was an avid reader and, as such, had a tremendous knowledge and understanding of a myriad of subjects, enjoying his book club membership right to the end. He generously supported the Wounded Warriors organization and Wildlife Fund, among others. Though he suffered severe traumas throughout his adult years, including the devastating effects of Agent Orange in Vietnam, and a catastrophic road accident that left his body broken, his disciplined self-care afforded him a quality of life that he used in nurturing friendships and pouring his support into areas he was passionate about. Among those areas of passion was his love for his childhood home, Point Richmond. Les had countless stories and memories of growing up on Western Drive. He enjoyed being a member of the Point Richmond History Association and gifted many of his family and friends with memberships, not to mention sending generous donations when he renewed his own.

Les is survived by his twin sisters: Gloria Crim and Floria Jones (Bob); his nieces: Heidi Carter (James) and Gretchen Guijarra (Jesus); his great-nephew, Joshua Carter, and great-niece, Jordan Carter; five generations worth of aunts, uncles, and cousins; and good friends and lifelong buddies too numerous to list here, but remembered always with boundless gratitude and love.

## **CALENDAR/DIRECTORY**

### **ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND**

*Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Contact: Pat Tostenson, [jptostenson@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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: Peter Thelin at 510-326-8108

### **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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://WWW.RTA-CA.ORG), 510-547-8111

Additions/Corrections to this Directory/Calendar? Email Gary Shows, [garyshows@gmail.com](mailto:garyshows@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one):

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

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

**Pam Wilson**

**521 Western Drive**

**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in "Editor's Notes" on page 3  
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**Gary Shows**

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

or

**email: garyshows@gmail.com**

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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### Main Contributors to this Issue:

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gary Shows             | Editor/Uncredited Photos         |
| Bonnie Jo Cullison     | Various Articles and Information |
| Don Church/Allan Smith | Historic Photos                  |
| Mid Dornan             | Articles & Stuff                 |
| Jerry Cerkowicz        | Information                      |
| Mark Kornmann          | Proof Read                       |
| Pam Wilson             | Membership Info                  |
| Jean Reynolds          | Article                          |
| Dee Rosier             | Article                          |
| Mary Lee Cole          | Article                          |
| Donna Roselius         | Line Drawings                    |
| James Cheshareck       | Article                          |
| Patricia Tostenson     | Information                      |
| Susan D. Cole          | Story                            |
| Lucy                   | Dog Visitor                      |
| Kathe Kiehn            | Information                      |
| Frances Smith          | Article                          |
| Caitlin Hibma          | Article                          |
| Karen Buchanan         | Article                          |

### Contacts

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Visit our website

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

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

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

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



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