

The Point Richmond History Association

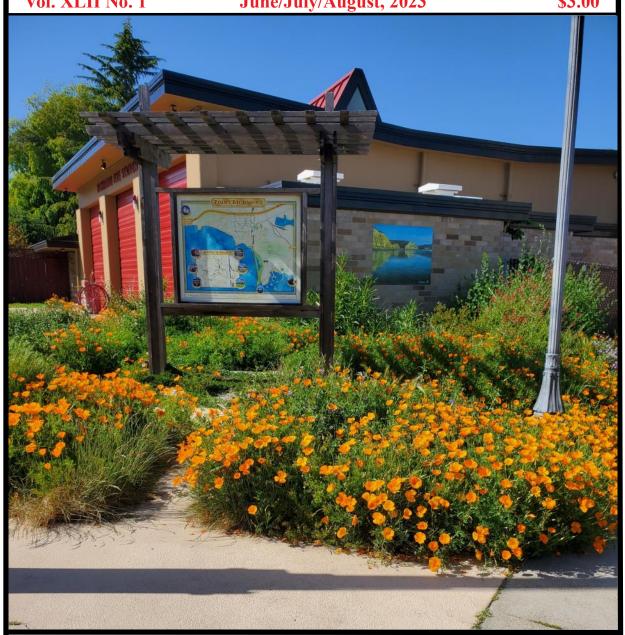
Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XLII No. 1

June/July/August, 2023

\$3.00



The Point Richmond History
Association had it's Annual
Meeting and Election of Officers on
May 21st at the Methodist
Church's Freedom Hall

Starting at the top, left to right:

Caitlin Hibma, Secretary
Bonnie Jo Cullison, President
Kathe Kiehn, Treasurer
Heinz Lankford, Vice President
Jim Davis, Special Programs
James Cheshareck, Historian
Pam Wilson, Membership
(not shown)
Gary Shows, Newsletter
(not shown)
Lower left, Our Audience, you will
find board member Pam Wilson in
the far rear, left
Lower right Desiree Heveroh giving
her presentation

You will find Caitlin Hibma's minutes of the meeting on page 26.

















From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

We've been busy since the last Newsletter. We had a well -attended in-person annual meeting on May 21 which was highlighted by an entertaining and informative presentation by Desiree Heveroh about her experiences "keeping" history In Richmond; as the interim East Brother Light Station keeper during the pandemic, a Red Oak Victory Ship keeper and the innkeeper of the Hotel Mac.

We added 2 new Board members. Jim Davis became our Projects Manager and James Cheshareck is now our Historian. Thanks primarily to Jim's diligence, James' research and Caitlin Hibma's artistic talents we have 3 historical plaques nearly ready to be sent to the brass foundry. Once they have been cast the Masquers Playhouse, the former Santa Fe Trainmaster's building (now housing a branch of the Mechanic's Bank) and the Hotel Mac will receive a historical plaque. Plaques for the Abbott Hospital and the Episcopal church are in process and another one is waiting in the wings. If anyone would like to nominate a building for historical plaque consideration please contact one the Board members.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about a wonderful donation we received. Chris (Agostini) Ramos gave us a handsome oak and glass display case which was once a bread case in Regolo Giovannetti's grocery store on Golden Gate Ave., 1905 until the late 1930's. The case looks like it was made for our Museum. Stop by and have a look. Maybe when you come to the Point Summer Music programs. We'll be open!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer



Contents of this Issue				
From the President	1			
Members	2			
Editor's Notes	3			
Church News	4			
West Side Womens Improvement Club	8			
Arts of Point Richmond	10			
Sergeant Roque N. Ruiz	12			
The Book Corner	18			
Richmond Museum of History	20			
PRHA Gets New Museum Case	21			
Ro Ro, Where Ocean, Railroad Meet	22			
WWIC Meeting Historic Minutes	24			
Cards Letters and Emails	25			
90"s Club and Birthdays	25			
May 21st Annual Meeting Minutes	26			
Calendar/Information	28			
Contributors/Contacts/Membership	29			



Bonnie Jo Cullison

Thank you members for your renewal:

Karen Shaw Louis Stockdale John Larsen Olga Thomsen **Esther & David Goodstal Family** Bernie McIntosh** Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza** Sharon Haipern & Victor Morales** Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth** John Thiella & Rosa Casazza** James Jacobs & Olivia Jacobs** Gloria Crim **Rick Dustin** Omera Johnson Floria Jones Winifred San Fillippo Offie Walker **Christopher Wilson Gary Shows Family** Frank West **Michael Pippin** Mark Healv Don Woodrow **Burl Willes** Marianna S. Stevens **Kevin Christopher** Kathe Kiehn Carol Kiehn Alexis Lane Jensen **Ingrid Lindemann** Karen & Art Gagnier Marianne Takeda & Frank Craig

Welcome to new members:

Mrvin E. Collins Gregory Brock Lemora Martin Chris Ramos

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

For distributing

"THIS POINT....in time"

Now more than ever, it is important to support all of our local retailers and restaurants.

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

Open Thursdays and Saturdays

And the first and second Tuesday

of each month

11:30 am-2:00 pm

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

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

The Cover: Springtime flowers in Point Richmond

Thank you to the Womens Westside Improvement Club Gardeners

^{*}Gift Membership
**Special Supporter, *Thank You!*

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

Happy Summertime! TPIT will be taking a bit of a break, the next issue will be September. I am grateful to our newsletter's contributors for timely, interesting and quality information.

With this issue I welcome James Cheshareck to the PRHA board, James has been writing interesting historical articles for some time and has many more to come. Also, welcome to Jim Davis to the board. Jim gave his first article with this issue, a book review called "The Book Corner" and will review books that relate with

Point Richmond. Welcome Jim and James.

See you in September



The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT....in time" will be Friday August 18, 2023 and will cover September and October.

Thanks for addressing and mailing the last issue go to:

> Gary Shows Bonnie Jo Cullison

We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Donna Wilson Rosemary Corbin Kathe Kiehn

Iohn A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza

Roberta & Richard Palfini Patricia Dornan

Norm and Jean Reynolds

The Bartram-Owen's Family

Garry & Maryn Hurlbut

Bob Armstrong

Steven Birnbaum

Ron Vandergrift

Lynn Maack

Bárry Goode Mark J. Kornmann

Jim & Olivia Jacobs

Marcelina Smith

Rick Beal

Iim Fisher

Dee Rosier Ken & Nancy (Comer) Reed

Virginia Rigney

Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow

George O. Petty Guadalupe Torres (New Leaf Salon)

Tames J. Cheshareck

History Preservers

Thomas & Shirley Butt

Kevin, Reneé & 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 Tony Lizarraga

Bobbie Swerdfeger-Lizarraga

Joanne Pike

Jeanne Pritchard

Joe Pritchard

Jim & Olivia Jacobs Caitlin & Michael Hibma

David N. McCuan Kathy Dornan Barnes

Tim & Roberta Montgomery

Karen Buchanan

Sandra & Bruce Beyaert

Margi Sullivan Paul Ciabattari

Stephen, Patti, and Stephanie Kowalski

Steve Lizarraga

Sharon Halpern & Victor Morales

Kathy Sundbeck Iack Mormon

Sarah Stierch

Church News



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

The abundance of rain received this year has produced many outstanding super blooms in many areas. Ours is an exclusive array of orange California poppies that brighten the corner of the Fire Station.

The new digital fire alarm monitoring system for the church is working well, saving hundreds of monthly dollars nor freed from expensive and problematic alarm phone landlines. We await a final sign-off ty the City of Richmond Fire Department.

Spring has brought about many needed maintenance projects and repairs. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, walls were patched and painted, doors fixed, sewer lines and plumbing upkeep. All that goes with the maintenance of beautiful property over 120 years old. Next on the list is to refurbish the wooden sign at the corner of West Richmond and Santa Fe Avenue and upgrade the lighting, thanks to the funding received from the Pt. Richmond Gateway Foundation.

A new projector was recently purchased/donated for movies in the parish hall. It will be good to be fully gathering again, whether for worship or socially, after several years of pandemic cautions and restrictions.

We look forward to the installation of a new non-commercial stove in the parish hall, hopefully later in the fall. Our parish community and St. Vincent de Paul team look forward to offering parish pancake breakfasts again.

Our Lady of Mercy is offering time and space to listen to women's voices. We are considering women's leadership through the eyes of the Catholic Church. Our initial gathering, May 15, introduced Rev. Gayle Dickson to our community. She shared her beginnings in Oakland, her education and service in the Black Panthers. She elaborated on the scriptures that gave her hope in the midst of destruction.

(Habakkuk 2:2-3). "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets (or poster) so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits on appointed time." She reminded us that through unity and community we can disrupt our being scattered and end isolation. We were encouraged to celebrate the artist we are whatever medium or form that takes.

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

DAYNA BRADFORD, THOMAS BRADY, LINDA CHESHARECK, BARBARA DRAKE, ROSEMARY GIACOMELLI, RICHARD HERTZBERG, JACK HILL, LAURA HOLMES MURPHY, MICHAEL LAMBERT, RAPHAEL LOPEZ, MARGARET MORKOWSKI, EDWINA MURRAY, FR. O'ROURKE, MARIE PECKHAM, BOB PERATA, DEE ROSIER, FRED SIEGMUND MARCELLINA SMITH, JUDY SPENCER

Condolences to the Arkin Family in the recent death of Jim. A favorite of many.

Bob Perata underwent open heart surgery

and is at home recuperating.

Fred Siegmund is now at home and spending time exercising on his own and endeavoring to increase his strength.

The following is a writing from Anne Brossok's recent annual trip to Lourdes:

Little did anyone know that the poorest and most ignorant (her own words), 14-year old illiterate peasant girl names Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, France would become a saint one day. We believe she had 18 encounters (apparitions) with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since 1858 Lourdes quickly became one of the holiest and most popular pilgrimage sites. Known for its healing waters, visited by more than four million people annually – pilgrims of all faiths from around the world. Lourdes is a very special place offering comfort and hope to many. miraculous healings have been officially verified by the Church after years of careful international medical, scientific and church review and scrutiny. The real number of healings will never be known

I believe everyone who goes to Lourdes is healed in some way. It is often not immediate or obvious. Sometimes it is simply the peace and grace to deal with a severe or terminal illness, facing one's own mortality of helping others deal with theirs. All who visit Lourdes are transformed in some unique way from the rugged beauty of the landscape at the foothills of the French Pyrenees to the stunning churches, architecture and layout of the Domain. It is also from being with the many faithful and hopeful travelers on a journey both intensely private as well as shared. You hear many languages spoken, especially during the nightly candlelit procession when thousands walk saying the rosary and intentions in at least six different languages.

The Order of Malta Western Association had a record 376 participants on its recent 48th annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, including taking 62 of the sick plus their companions. Over the first weekend in May, the Order of Malta met with hundreds of other members from the United States and internationally, also bringing those in need of healing to Lourdes

You might think of Lourdes being a somber

place, quite the contrary, Lourdes is a hope filled, uplifting place. Yes, there are tears at times, but also great joy and laughter. I've come to realize that I am very happy when serving on the Lourdes pilgrimage, now my seventh this year. And I understand why folks choose to go again and again.

To quote Pope Francis and others: "to one who believes, no explanation is necessary; to one who does not believe, no explanation is possible."

Thank you Anne for your enlightening words.

Our parishioners, Michael and Betty Ann Lambert introduced us to the Lourdes pilgrimage. Anne is now our annual representative and carries with her all of our petitions.

The Hallett family was unable to attend the trip to Lourdes this year due to John's knee surgeries as well as family obligations in Southern California.

We welcome Christine Aguirre as our newest Parish Council member.

When thinking of the Hotel Mac reopening, had completely forgotten our previous parishioners – the Byers family who were partial owners. Years back it was an annual event for the parish to host a BBQ. The leftover steaks (donated by Bob/Marie Peckham, Santa Fe Market) were prepared for the working hands of the volunteers – good times are never forgotten.

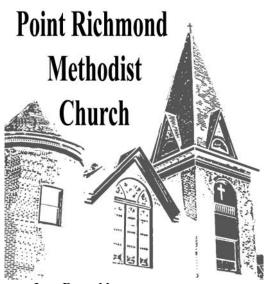
We celebrated Mother's Day – Of all the gifts that life has to offer, a loving mother is the greatest of them all. I was blessed in having one and my hope is to mirror her.

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS - RENEE AND KEVIN KNEE

HAPPY SUMMER ALL



Dee Rosier



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

Our circuit congregations celebrated Good Friday on April 7 at Pinole UMC. It was especially poignant since three pastors will be leaving at the end of June: Rev. Elmar de Ocera from Pinole UMC is retiring, Rev. Caiti Hamilton from Open Door UMC is going back to school, and our pastor Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones has a new position at the Annual Conference office.

On Easter Sunday, April 9, we had worship in the labyrinth garden at 8:00 AM. For breakfast, Jean Reynolds made Cheesy Amish Breakfast Casserole, grits, and coffee, and brought fruit and yogurt. Linda Andrew-Marshall brought juice, muffins, and croissants. The weather was splendid! Some people ate breakfast outside. We had hybrid worship in the sanctuary and on Zoom at 11:00. Gill Stanfield, Linda Andrew-Marshall, and Jean Reynolds sang "In the Garden," accompanied by Alice Thompson. Afterward, Cecilia Butt and her team, Ryland Butt and Kate Chu, organized the Easter Egg hunt. Families gathered while the younger folks collected eggs. People lingered beneath the palm tree and chatted well into the afternoon.

On April 16, Rev. Lindsey Bell-Kerr preached via pre-recorded message. Rev. Jacey

had just been to visit her Grandma Helen in Pennsylvania, so Lindsey's canned sermon was a blessing to all.

Rev. Kim Montenegro preached in person on April 23. She is the Director of Spiritual Life at University of the Pacific. Rev. Jacey was officiating a *wedding in Redding*. (See, it rhymes!)

California-Nevada After the Annual Conference hired Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones as Associate Director of Intergenerational Ministries, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee met several times with Rev. Shinya Goto, our District Superintendent. On April 16, he announced our new pastor would be Rev. Dr. Carieta Cain Grizzell. After considering the hilly Point Richmond terrain and parsonage stairs, Rev. Carieta decided she could not serve here because of her husband's mobility limitations. On May 14, Rev. Goto announced Rev. Dr. Eun-Joo Myung will be appointed. Eun-Joo (or E.J.) currently serves at Patterson Federated Church; she will start fulltime here July 1.

Daniel Barth visited after worship on April 30 to offer us ways to help with SOS! Shower Power now that we are no longer needed to wash towels. We do not feel qualified to directly meet needs of homeless people who live under the freeway, so are still unsure what we will do next.

On Mother's Day, we mourned the loss of Robert Love, a former director, actor, and member of the Masquers Playhouse who died suddenly on May 12 of pancreatic cancer. Robert is survived by his husband Coley Grundman of San Francisco. Robert emceed joint performances of the Masquers and our Joyful Noise Choir, especially "Amahl & The Night Visitors," and added his own brand of farce to some of our church Sweetheart Dinners. Robert and Coley attended Pastor Dan Damon's retirement party on April 23, 2022, and Robert's remembrances were hilarious, yet always contained a glimmer of truth. Robert will always remain larger-than-life in our hearts.

All about Junktique:

We held our famous Junktique Sale on May 6. It only rained a little at the beginning of the day, so the weather was a win. We served hotdogs, meat or veg, cooked by Barbara Haley

on the grill, and slices of pie served by Doreen Leighton, Jennifer Metz Foster, and others.

Pat Dornan was the genius behind the grabbags available at the cashier station. They sold at \$2.50 each with a guaranteed value of \$10. Two unidentified bags were valued at \$25. All bags sold; at least one sold more than once. Some people opened them on site and exchanged contents with their friends. One buyer got four as party favors for his evening dinner guests. Everyone loved to take a chance on the unknown!

A staggering number of people were involved to make the day such a success. Pat Dornan, Fran Smith, Ron Wheatley, Bill Thompson, Jonathan Swett, Diane Frary, Alice Thompson, Heinz Lankford, Gill Stanfield, Linda Andrew-Marshall, Russ Johnson, Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones, Barbara Haley, Doreen Leighton, Matt Foster, Jennifer Metz Foster, Claudia Russell, Janet Heckmann, Chris Logston, Eurisa Camacho, Annie Ao, Steve Chen, and Jean Reynolds helped before, during, and/or after the sale.

Pie bakers -- Isabelle Murphy, Barbara Haley, Jennifer Metz Foster, Doreen Leighton, Eurisa Camacho, Jean Reynolds -- outdid themselves and the sales from pie alone exceeded the amount we used to make when we offered pie, chili, and minestrone.

Our basement magnate, Ron Wheatley, draws on his early experience working at Macy's. Ron shared, "I thought we could organize things like it was a junky department store. I am kinda the 'Felix Unger-of-the-odd-couple' type of personality!" Bill Thompson recalled, "For me, the favorite parts of the day were making and meeting new friends and connecting with friends from past sales." Chris Logston sold toys, games, yarn, and baskets. He spread some stuffed animals out to air on the lawn. A small girl scooped up a pile of them and scampered off. Chris found her mother and told her, "Some of the stuffed animals are a bit mildewed." She responded, "That's okay. We all are." Janet Heckmann worked the toy station, too. She and Chris opened a Trivial Pursuit game, and noted how out-of-date the questions were. Issued in 1981, it referred to the Soviet Union. The game could be part of a time-capsule to represent that era; some of its questions might have different answers now, even though 1981 seems just like yesterday.

The customers are the best part of Junktique. They raved about low prices and perfect buys, and several indulged in multiple flavors of pie. We plan to hold Junktique II in the fall, to revisit the fun.

Missions:

Dennis Johnson performed a classical piano recital at the church on May 13 to benefit Spirit in Action, a non-profit which supplies grants to partners in various African countries. He collected over \$1100 for their work; Dennis performs house concerts, too, and all proceeds go to the same worthy cause. Kathleen King, President of the Spirit in Action North American Board of Directors, came to the concert and shared her experiences from when she visited some of the African partners last November. Dennis and Marsha Johnson live in Placerville but have dear friends in the Bay Area since they lived many years in San Francisco.

We made spaghetti in the church kitchen on Friday, May 19, for the Movin' 4 the Movement basketball tournament Philippine Solidarity Task Force. The tournament has been on hiatus since December 2018, so it was a pleasure to participate



again. Jean Reynolds

(Continued on page 9)

WWIC Est. 1908

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

The Womens Westside Improvement was among many of the clubs and businesses in Point Richmond that took part in the annual Point Richmond Art Stroll on April 8th. Club members took part in both a membership drive, situated near the Indian Statue and their first-ever rummage sale in the garden of the Point Richmond Art Gallery at 145 Washington Avenue. The membership Chairs, Diane Diani and Doreen Leighton handed out information about the club and packets of flower seeds to interested parties. The rummage sale Chair, Ruth Frassetto, reported the rummage sale portion of the event to be a success. The funds gained from the sale were distributed among the club's three favored local charities; The Bay Area Rescue Mission, the Richmond Emergency Food Bank,

and Parents, Resources, and More.

In May, the club invited Sergeant Eric Oliver and Detective Andy Domenici of the Richmond Police Department to discuss crime prevention. Their presentation covered an array of current internet and telephone scams that had been circulating within the community, as well as other scams to be aware of. They also presented the club members with a list of tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of these types of crimes.



left to right: Fran Smith, Jessie West, Jeanette Giannetta, Ann Langille, Diane Marie (seated), Officer Domenici, Leslie Hicks, Officer Oliver, Karen Buchanan, Diane Diani, Doreen Leighton, Diane Hedler, Susan Koide, Linda Newton and Mary Lee Cole

There was also an election of upcoming Officers to the Board: 1st Vice President Diane Marie, Secretary Kathleen Wimer, and This Point In Time Correspondent Juelann (Juels) Klotz.

Garage Sailers from left to right Ruth Frassetto and Leslie Hicks



(Continued from page 7)

Point Richmond Methodist Church News

Spaghetti chefs Barbara Haley, Nikki Salde-Azzam, Norm Reynolds, and Jean Reynolds made four large trays of spaghetti. Jean heated them the next morning, then delivered them hot to Willie Keyes Recreation Center in Oakland. Those who participated in the tournament heard about the current human rights situation in the Philippines while they lunched on spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and cookies.

We shopped and delivered food for dinner at the GRIP family shelter on April 20 and May 18.

We sent \$1200 to Heifer International for their program that provide animals to families to increase their food security and ability to afford education and necessities.

<u>Trustees:</u> We have new basement doors!

On the Calendar:

Pastor Jacey's last day preaching is June 11. A BBQ lunch will follow worship to celebrate the three years she has served with us. All are invited to join the party and wish her well on her new assignment!

During worship on June 18, representatives from Whippoorwill Arts will speak about their commitment to support musicians and will provide some special music. Whippoorwill Arts is a non-profit that meets at the church on Mondays. Rev. Jacey will be at Annual Conference.

Sunday, June 25, Pastor Dan Damon will return to give a sermon in song. The whole service will be Dan's music with ample opportunity to sing along.

Vacation Bible School for children aged 4 to grade 6: August 7-11. We meet daily 9:00 to 11:30 AM, and have lunch on Friday with staff, children, and their families. With engaging stories, spirited songs, rollicking games, creative art, and snacks made with love, it is my favorite week of

Our Lady of Mercy Church

My sincere apology to Dee Rosier for inadvertently omitting the finale of her article in the April/May issue. Here it is:

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

them:

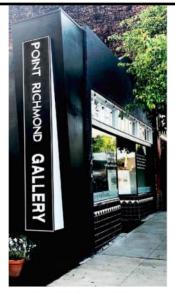
JIM ARKIN
DAYNA BRADFORD
THOMAS BRADY
LINDA CHESHARECK
ROSEMARY GIACOMELLI
RICHARD HERTZBERG
LAURA HOLMES MURPHY

MICHAEL LAMBERT
MARGARET MORKOWSKI
EDWINA MURRAY
FR. O'ROURKE
MARIE PECKHAM
MARCELLINA SMITH
FRED SIEGMUND
DEE ROSIER
JUDY SPENCER

NEVER BLAME ANYONE IN YOUR LIFE: GOOD PEOPLE GIVE YOU HAPPINESS BAD PEOPLE GIVE YOU EXPERIENCE WORST PEOPLE GIVE YOU A LESSON BEST PEOPLE GIVE YOU MEMORIES

SPECIAL NOTE TO DAVID VINCENT: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE CATHOLIC TO READ MY ARTICLE.





POINT RICHMOND GALLERY PRESENTS ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND GROUP SHOW

'Faces and Places"

SATURDAY + SUNDAY
JUNE 10 - 11, 1-5PM

MUSIC

CELEBRATION!

MEET THE ARTISTS!

POINT RICHMOND GALLERY

MARGI SULLIVAN 415-286-6298



from Anna Froker

- New series of *Taking It Outdoors* showcasing AOPR member artwork on 54 banners on display around downtown.
- Closing Reception "Point Richmond Faces & Places" at the Point Richmond Gallery, June 9 & 10, 1—5 pm. 145 West Richmond Avenue, Point Richmond. Refreshments served, and guitar music by Christopher Rush
- ♦ New AOPR members' art exhibition at Lara's Fine Dining, June 24—November 18.
- AOPR artists group art show celebrating family, community and belonging at Mom & Pop Art Shop & Gallery ends June 30.

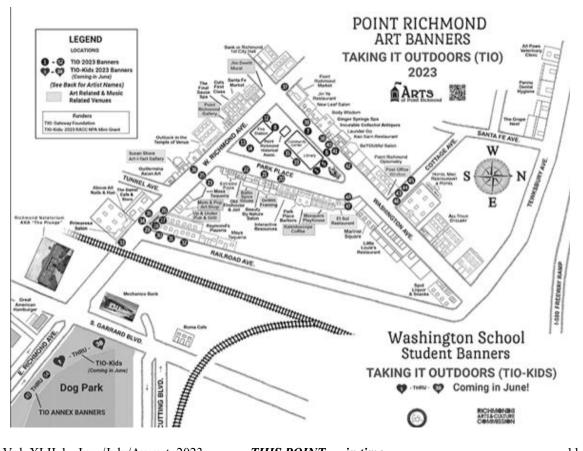




Arts of Point Richmond is a community association established to enrich our community by providing support, appreciation, and exposure for the arts. For more information: www.artsofpointrichmond.com

TIO-Kids new series of banners on display in early June on the fence surrounding the unofficial dog park at the corners of S. Garrard, Cutting and East Richmond Ave. Appreciation and congratulations to Kenoli Oleari and Sharon Goods for their successful efforts obtaining grants and working with Washington School personnel to make another series of TIO Kids banners happen! This year, students created art inspired by the theme of "HOME".





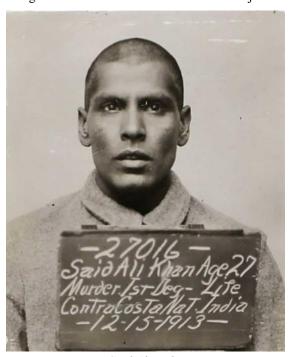
Sergeant Roque N. Ruiz

Richmond Police Trailblazer

by James Cheshareck

PART TWO

Khan was said to have confessed to the crime during the trip back to Richmond. Khan was enraged that Rosa Domingo was seeing other men and that she had laughed in his face when he asked her to return to Stege, and that he had spent \$250.00 on her over a course of time. He strangled her with a necktie, burned her clothing and suitcase and dumped her body. Once Said Khan was back in Richmond, he then denied making a confession. The British Consul declined to intervene on Khan's behalf during his 10/23/1913 preliminary hearing. On 12/9/1913 his trial began in Martinez, and any temporary insanity defense was feckless, as he was convicted on 12/12/1913. He was only spared the hangman's noose because of two holdout jurors



Said Ali Kahn

and was sentenced to life in San Quentin. Also, in December 1913, Ruiz and Phillips arrested Thomas J. Mooney, H. J. Hanlon, and Joe Brown for possession of dynamite in their sailboat. The trio were accused of plotting to blow up the towers of PG&E that carried power lines across to the Carquinez straits during a lineman's strike. Ruiz and Phillips went to Sacramento to testify in the case. The San Francisco labor Council believed the charges against the trio was a frame up. The council also had the nerve to send a letter to Sheriff Veale alleging the trio's unfair treatment because they were denied pies and cakes while incarcerated.

In January 1914, chief Arnold fell ill and once again turned over the reins to Rookey, who in the past year had spent significant time in as acting chief. On 2/4/1914 a quarrel on Railroad Avenue erupted between factions of Municipal Tunnel laborers clashing over the shortage of lodging in rooming houses. The row escalated to guns being drawn. When Rookey Ruiz arrived on scene, the workers refused to talk. Ruiz warned them that if there was any further ruckus, he would close the boarding houses down. days later Ruiz followed up and inspected 4 of the rooming houses and found there were 3 to 4 beds per room. He found the conditions unsuitable and proposed the State Board of Health get involved. During the same time, commercial burglaries skyrocketed throughout the city, obliging Rookey to add 7 extra officers to combat what he believed to be the work of an organized ring of thieves. Business owners were also on high alert, prompting some to resort to preventative action of their own. A Washington Avenue clothing store, which I believe to be "The Hub," owned by the McRacken family, armed one of their clerks. The clerk was in the store in the darkness of night when police noticed him in the building. The police took him for a burglar, and he likewise. Luckily, nobody was shot. Also, on 2/6 the cash register at the Walborg Hotel on Standard Avenue was robbed and the rooms pilfered. Rookey solved the case because the thief left a button behind, and arrested George McCloud on Railroad Avenue. About a week later, McCloud admitted to a pulling a string of burglaries, but denied the sacking the cash register. It turned out that McCloud was on the run after escaping from an institution in Wisconsin.

Another remarkable event in Rookey's career took place on 3/5/1914. Coxey's Army was a marching protest movement birthed out of the depression of the 1890's. A group of unemployed workers marched to Washington D.C. in 1894. There were nationwide factions of Coxey's Army, including one in San Francisco led by Rev. Charles T. Kelly, (1861-1935), known as General Kelly's Industrial Army. The group had over 1,000 unemployed "soldiers", and Kelly decided they would make a pilgrimage to Washington D.C. on the twentieth anniversary of the original march. Authorities of all East Bay cities were on alert, as the group marched along San Pablo Avenue. When the army crossed into Richmond, a riot broke out. Kelly's army was populism, socialism, and anarchy rolled into one. On the corner of San Pablo and Macdonald Avenues, the army attacked a building that housed the D.W. McLaughlin Company, a real estate and insurance business owned by Daniel W. McLaughlin (1867-The hooligans used axes and other weapons to demolish the building. Rookey was not having it. He led six of his men, revolvers drawn, and charged into the mob and threatening to shoot them dead. The army was next corralled into Grand Canyon (Alvarado) Park, but McLaughlin's \$4,000 building resembled coleslaw. General Kelly's pilgrimage ultimately cut short by authorities in Sacramento. A few weeks later when an independent reporter ask Rookey if anybody happened to be in jail. Ruiz jokingly remarked that the jail had been empty for the past three days and that all the bums must have joined Kelly's Army. There were only two sleepers in the jail that night. A nickname of the jail was "Hotel D'Arnold", a take on the Hotel D'Italia on Railroad Avenue owned by the Mighetti family.

On 5/6/1914 Ruiz and Charles Walker cracked down on speeders on Ashland Avenue

(now Garrard Blvd.), arresting two scofflaws, who then posted \$25 bail. In those days, motorists driving too fast or a in a reckless fashion were physically taken into custody to appear before a judge. The fine varied depending on the nature of the infraction, and the judge's mood that day. Both Chief Arnold and other officers were often subpoenaed to testify in criminal cases. For the latter half of May and most of June, Rookey was absent between testifying in Sacramento and taking a vacation. On 6/9/1914, Chief James P. Arnold announced his resignation effective 6/30. Arnold planned to run against Richard Veale for sheriff and launch his campaign. The city council and many officials were disheartened at Arnold's departure, as he commanded a well-organized force. Rookey noted that during his tenure as chief of police, Arnold had made a total of 4,157 arrests. Roque "Rookey" Ruiz had been the number 2 cop in the department. Surprisingly, Arnold recommended the city council appoint Charles Walker as the new chief. While both were sergeants, Rookey was senior to Walker, and most importantly, was designated the acting chief. Rookey also had kept the department



books; yet he was passed over for the position. On 7/1/1914, Charles Walker became the second chief of police. The new Chief designated Rookey Ruiz Inspector Sergeant, and Virgil Phillips, who handled Bertillion for the department, was also named sergeant. James Arnold was unsuccessful in unseating Richard Veale for sheriff, and next was co-partner at Bay Cities Insurance company on Macdonald Avenue that did not pan out. He was becoming more involved in the Elks lodge, and in 1917 went to work at Standard Oil's security department. Rookey motored on; a comical incident occurring on 6/19/1914 when he went to apprehend a thief who stole a tray of eggs. When Rookey hollered "Halt, you are under arrest," the thief threatened to pelt him with eggs.

On 8/19/1914, after observation for several nights, Chief Walker and Rookey Ruiz conducted a midnight raid on two Yugoslav-run blind pigs, resulting in the arrest of 14 men and seizure of a large amount of illicit booze. The first raided was the Tunnel Avenue home of Michael Radcovich, followed by the apartment of Joe Obrodovich, on the corner Santa Fe and Richmond Avenues. In late August allegations of corruption possibly involving multiple officers was brought to the attention of the city council. While September began like any other month for Rookey, behind the scenes, a storm was brewing. On 9/5, Rookey had another amusing task of driving to San Pablo and arrest a man for stealing his roommates' trousers, but just six days later, he turned in his badge.

Roque "Rookey" Ruiz resigned 9/11/1914, only three months after Charles Walker took over as the new chief. There were several accounts and speculation as to why he departed. It was rumored that Rookey was accused of taking protection money from a "certain resort". The prevalent belief was Ruiz and Walker had been engaged in a bitter feud since the day Walker became chief, and Walker railroaded Rookey out On 9/19/1914, Frank of the department. Standiford (1864-1934), a carpenter was appointed fill Rookey's position, Walkers at recommendation. Chief Charles Walker may very well have forced Roque Ruiz out of the department, but Walker himself would be the subject matter of controversy and accusations of wrongdoing just down the road, and his character called into question. After leaving the force, Rookey mentioned to friends that he was contemplating returning to his farming roots, and raising alfalfa on a piece of property he owned in Fresno. He remained in Point Richmond among his numerous friends, but no love was lost between he and Walker. On Christmas Eve 1914, the Richmond Independent printed a little column "What They Would Like Santy to Drop Them". Several of Richmond's prominent citizens such as Mayor Garrard were asked, and their wishes were printed. Walker answered, "A crimeless city." Roque Ruiz replied, "The days when Arnold was chief."

"May" On 4/13/1915, Mabel Evans (5/13/1885-1/26/1931) was arrested for looting a room in the Colorado boarding house on the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues. Evans and several alleged accomplices stole items including a diamond stick pin and a diamond ring from Frank Lorbeer (1851-c.1920). Evans resided at 408 Tewksbury Avenue with her mother, Delia Fox (1864-1954), younger sister, also named Delia (1901-1973). Evans refused to be searched, but the jewelry was found after a struggle with police. One accomplice, Joseph Hackett, left the rest of Lobeer's property with a bartender, George Agee (1897-1972), at Mac's bar on Macdonald Avenue. On April 30, Rookey Ruiz, and Robert C. King (1878-1934) furnished her \$500 bail. King, along with his older brother, Arthur (1875-1948) owned King Brothers Cigars at 106 Washington Ave. Evans stood trial, was convicted, but released after one of her accomplices took the fall. I did not find



out why Ruiz and King assisted May Evan's, whose life was a disaster, and whose family dynamics were more akin to dynamite.

Although James Arnold failed to unseat Richard Veale for the sheriff's seat, he later launched a bid for city council. On May 7, 1915, during the primary council race, The Daily News of Richmond printed a headline stating that James Arnold was unfit for office, and alleged that Arnold, while still Richmond Chief of Police, accepted weekly protection money from Mrs. Jean Martin, who ran the blatant bordello christened the "White House", an apartment building on the northern end of Seventh Street in North Richmond. Mrs. Jean Martin had innumerable showdowns with law enforcement, and a pet monkey on the grounds, but somehow managed to remain in operation. Arnold and his supporters characterized the accusations as unfounded smear tactics from his political opponents. Mrs. Jean Martin signed a statement declaring that she was never solicited by or had given any money to Arnold. Martin was later arrested in November for shoplifting. James Arnold filed a \$25,000 libel case against the paper, and its editor, Norman H. Matson (1893-1965). Rookey was among the many witnesses who testified during the trial, and this was the "certain resort" that Rookey was accused of asking inspector George Betts to "collect a bill" from Jean Martin. Matson was arrested and stood trial for criminal libel was convicted and fined \$400.00. James Arnold settled with the Daily News for \$1,000 and a printed retraction and declaration of his innocence. A few days before the city's red-light abatement act was to go into effect Friday 12/8/1914 at 10:27 PM. Chief Walker was asked by a reporter what was going to happen to the White House. Walker replied "she has a hotel license." It was not until 8/23/1916 before a permanent injunction was slapped on the White House.

Even a year after leaving the Richmond police department, Rookey stayed in close touch with friends in the Point, but In July 1915 he cleared the titles to a few lots he owned and sold them that August. Rookey took a job at Standard Oil as a pipeline inspector. In a cruel twist of fate, a good number of the Richmond police force had left Standard Oil to become officers, but Rookey

had left the police department and went to Standard Oil. On March 31,1916, Teresa Ruiz died at age 46, and Rookey may have felt there was not anything left for him in the Point. After 14 years Richmond, notably during Richmond's formative years prior to incorporation, Rookey Ruiz moved to Emeryville for a fresh start, and sometimes used the name Robert Ruiz. He remained employed at Standard Oil and eventually made foreman. While things slowly improved for Rookey, Chief Walkers facade began to fissure. Officer John McGowan got into a heated feud with Walker and resigned in disgust. McGowan next took a job at Giant Powder company, but sadly died in 1917 after accidently inhaling acid fumes.

Around February 1916, officer Frederick "Fred" Eigenmann (1883-1973), accused Chief Walker of acting as an agent of Macdonald Avenue ieweler Elmer C. Atterberry, by trying to sell jewelry to members of the force. Eigenmann also accused Walker of instructing members of the force to do political work for certain nominees in a city election. A hearing on Eigenmann's allegations was heard by the city council, but they ultimately exonerated Walker of the charges. However, the city council passed a resolution admonishing Walker for laxity in enforcing the city's gambling ordinances. Walker ended up firing Eigenmann, who afterwards went to work for the Santa Fe railroad as a brakeman. If Walker thought he had disposed of his problems when he terminated Eigenmann, he was very wrong. Around the time Rookey Ruiz moved from Emeryville to Oakland in 1917, Walker had become loathed by many of the rank and file, as additional officers came forward accusing Walker of incompetence and skullduggery. The city council consistently backed Walker, and his many supporters circulated a petition of confidence, but his growing number of detractors had zero confidence in the chief.

Sgt. Elijah Jennings later stated that he was hospitalized for treatment on 3/16/1916, and in and out of consciousness from sedation. He claimed Sgt. Ray Kraemer (1889-1949) arrived and had him sign what he believed was a weekly report but turned out to be a statement charging Fred Eigenmann with neglect of duty. Jennings stated that Chief Walker later arrived at the hospital and

asked him to swear that he signed the statement back in January, not March. Walker the "jeweler" had used Jennings' statement as grounds for Eigenmann's termination. Virgil Phillips also submitted a three-page affidavit accusing Walker of giving false testimony in the Eigenmann hearing and brought up the chief's excessive Considering Jennings' and Phillips drinking. testimony, Eigenmann appealed to District Attorney Thomas D. Johnston (1877-1941), to issue a warrant for Walker's arrest. Thomas L. Christianson (1880-1965), an Oakland attorney representing Bernard Johnson in a lawsuit against Walker and Barrett Avenue saloon owner Henry Trautvetter (1862-1937) for damages of false arrest swore that Walker was drunk during the hearing of the case in San Francisco. Johnson, who had been arrested on a charge of issuing bad checks, submitted an affidavit charging Walker with malicious treatment. Johnson stated that Walker told him that as a lodge brother, he could get probation if he confessed to the crime. He also charged that during his damage trial that Walker

used lodge signs to gain favor from the jury. Walker again was exonerated of the charges.

Following long rift, Walker fired Virgil Phillips 6/4/1917. Phillips may have a former pumper at Standard Oil, but he had evolved into a highly regarded expert in the Bertillon System, technique for tracking criminals and suspects bv photographs using measurements of specific physical characteristics. The





Bertillon System was the first scientific system used by police to identify criminals. Chief Walker reasoned Phillips' termination by claiming he had one too many officers on the force and he needed to stay within the budget allotment. The senior officer immediately spoke out, claiming that his termination was retribution for voicing his concerns to city officials as to Walker's competency to serve as chief, and reporting his corruption. Phillips accused Walker of being a habitual drunkard who was at least partially under the influence of alcohol at any given time of the day. Phillips also alleged that Walker would arrive at work around 9AM and laugh in a maniacal manner, and furthermore that Walker at times slept in the jail. Phillips also sued Walker for \$5,000, claiming that he was behind an untrue statement printed in the newspaper. Phillips maintained that the statement was made to hurt his chances of getting a position in the State Bertillon Department. More officers came forward with further allegations of wrongdoing. Phillips later worked Bertilion for the U.S. Government.

Officer George Betts had enough of Walker too and had resigned too. Betts said in a sworn statement that at about 10pm one night he observed Chief Walker drive up to a saloon and stagger in. Upon return, around midnight, he witnessed Walker buying drinks for women and dancing around the barroom like an Indian. Another source alleged that Walker visited Grace Miller's (true name Helen M. Cook) brothel at 86 Railroad Avenue, in the Point's red-light district. On 6/25/1917, Mrs. Clara Wilson (5/27/1883-1/2/1981), of the Women's Christian Temperance Union levied seven charges against Walker and another city council hearing was set. Considering the increasing number of officers coming forward, the W.C.T.U. took the initiative to depose Walker, undoubtedly due to alcohol being a factor. The seven charges were: Incompetence as police chief due to drunken behavior, committing perjury, subornation of perjury, solicitation of false testimony, repeated violations of city ordinances, purchasing and drinking alcohol with women in saloons, and drunk driving. For one reason or another, Wilson withdrew all charges 7/11/1917, and Walker was exonerated.

On 11/21/1918, officer William B. May

attacked Macdonald Avenue merchant Harry Marcus (1884-1960) in front of several witnesses. The incident stemmed from an argument that resulted in Marcus calling Mays an insulting name. Mays brutally beat Marcus to a such a degree that Mays was arrested for the incident. When word of the incident appeared in print, it stoked widespread outrage throughout the city, and the public, in turn, were increasingly viewing the police force in a negative manner. Although Walker rightfully could not be blamed for the action of a rogue office, the public increasingly questioned Walker's competency to lead the department. On 12/18/1918 the city council cleared Walker again of incompetence, but more and more citizens were becoming fed up with Walker. Walker's time as chief was muddled with scandal after scandal and there were far too many officers whose accusations could no longer be dismissed. The firings, the resignations, and finally the Harry Marcus incident. The people of Richmond would not tolerate another scandal, nor another exoneration by the city council. Following several weeks of chatter around city hall that a new police chief was coming, Charles Walker submitted his resignation on 7/21/1919,



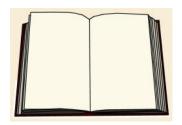
effective on August 15 th . It was read and accepted by the city council without comment. Walker only stated that "I am tired of being made the buffer of everything that goes wrong in the city." One councilmember remarked that people have been clamoring for the council to take some action against the current police, and that Walker's resignation is the best thing that has happened in Richmond in years. I somehow envision Rookey, his Pancho Villa mustache, with a big grin on his face as Walker packed his steamer trunk.

On 8/19/1919, William H. Wood (1873-1937) became Richmond's third chief of police, previously being chief of police in Pasadena. After leaving the department, Charles Walker moved to Oakland and went to work for Standard Oil. Perhaps, he and Rookey crossed paths. In 1920 Rookey married Ida Clara Emrich (b. 10/10/1885), and the couple settled in Berkeley. The following year, Charles Walkers wife filed for divorce, alleging he called her profane epithets, told her it was none of her business when he came in late at night, and.....drinking liquor to excess. The Ruiz's later moved to Walnut Creek. and in a twist of fate. James Arnold became Standard Oil's chief special agent, and Rookey traded inspecting pipes and finished his career as a refinery guard. Arnold was Chief, Rookey was a guard, and Walker was a plain oil worker. Imagine that. Roque "Rookey" Ruiz died on 4/29/1944 at age 67. His second wife, Ida, died in Berkeley on 4/30/1955 at 70. Rookey was a Richmond law enforcement trailblazer, and was Point Richmond's guardian. Que descanse en paz, nuestro amigo.

Thank you to the Richmond Museum of History for use of historic photos.

This concludes James Cheshareck's "Sergeant Roque N. Ruiz: Richmond Police Trailblazer"

Look forward to James' comprehensive study of Kozy Kove in the near future.



The Book Corner

by Jim Davis Imperial Richmond?

A hike up Nicholl Knob will still give you an unobstructed view of this place. Once at the top, you can simply rotate 360 degrees and see much of Richmond, Point Richmond, and a sharp bend in the body of water that marks where San Francisco Bay ends and San Pablo Bay begins. You can also see San Francisco, the waterfront—a beehive of activity in World War II—vast stretches of rail yard, warehouses, and what is left of the region's industry.

Augustin MacDonald interrupted his duck hunting in 1895 by standing in the same spot, only he had a much different view, looking down at ancient shell mounds, marshes, and mudflats. But most consequential for all of us, he also saw potential.

Shortly after that, heavy industry began to arrive, kick-started by the designation of Richmond as the North American terminus for the Santa Fe Railroad. In short order, local farmland disappeared as Standard Oil decided to build one of world's largest oil refineries here, fed intravenously by a 283-mile pipeline that connected Richmond to the oil fields of Southern California. Stores, bars, and private homes shot up along the northeastern side of the hills like weeds. All this happened in the stunningly brief period of about two decades.

Gray Brechin in his book Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin takes a regional look at this transformation, anchoring his narrative to what he calls "Imperial San Francisco," a period in the city's history that saw San Francisco muscle its way to power and wealth, often dominating neighboring local communities in the process, including Richmond.

Brechin is fundamentally an urban historian, and he tries to fit San Francisco into a pattern in which some cities, throughout history, have built wealth and power on the backs of those who live in the surrounding countryside. Typically, these "imperial" cities radically alter the environment in support of growth. Cities function much like empires, he argues, consuming what is often produced outside their walls in a restless search for resources. To support his contention, Brechin often seasons his narrative with abundant references to history, much of it relating to urban developments that took place centuries or even millennia before. We meet ancient Romans. Renaissance popes, German miner-turned-banker Jacob Fugger, and even French Emperor Napoleon III.

In this book, San Francisco in the first century and a half of its existence becomes one of these imperial cities, propelled initially by mining and then banking. Imperial pretensions surface in statues and monuments and in the self-consciously imperial urban architecture of Daniel Burnham (who did so much to influence the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and transform Manila with his "City Beautiful" movement.) The imperial gloss spreads and intensifies through such projects as Golden Gate Park and, across the bay, the Campus of the University of California at Berkeley (under the indomitable leadership of Phoebe Hearst, William Randolph's mother, and early university president Benjamin Ide Wheeler).

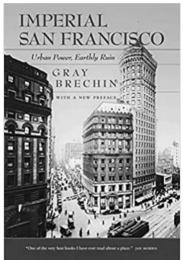
Resting on a well-financed foundation of what Brechin calls a "pyramid of mining," San Francisco stretched a long arm across a regional landscape to tie up water resources, as local creeks and watersheds were drained by the Spring Valley Water Company. In 1905 PG and E was founded, headquartered in San Francisco, to secure a steady flow of power. Richmond pitched in by offering the Santa Fe rail terminus (which conspicuously outflanked rival Oakland) and ready access to Standard Oil petroleum. The urban imperial capstone of this power-hungry era was the ruthless sacrifice of a portion of Yosemite to the Hetch Hetchy water project, which literally dealt a fatal blow to John Muir.

How does Richmond fit into Brechin's narrative? The city became an important cog in

the "Greater San Francisco" movement, the ultimate expression of the imperial city. Politician James Phelan and local newspapers The San Francisco Chronicle (the de Young family) and The San Francisco Examiner Randolph (William) Hearst) championed expanding San Francisco by absorbing the entire Bay Area in one large centrally run urban complex. The model was New York City with its Richmond. Brechin boroughs. writes, would be the place where the unseemly sights, sounds, and smells of heavy industry would be lodged conveniently across the bay, so as not to taint the San

Francisco landscape and such emerging affluent communities such as Hillsborough and Nob Hill. In fact, a continuous belt running from the north of Oakland, into Contra Costa County all the way to Carquinez Strait would gin out not only petroleum, but Pullman Cars, gunpowder and explosives, iron smelted from the Selby operation, and refined sugar from Spreckles. culminated in the Pacific Panama Exposition of 1915, a well-orchestrated effort to showcase not only the city but its productive hinterland. Richmond even managed to attract a brief contingent from the exposition carried through the city in an auto caravan that toured the rapidly industrializing urban setting. "Greater San Francisco," Brechin implies, had much to do with the striking growth of Richmond and Point Richmond in their early years.

While Brechin's argument is in many ways prepossessing, there are things missing here that also account for, or at least accompany, the striking growth of San Francisco and its neighboring region in this period. There is virtually no mention of agriculture or organized labor. In fact, there is very little if anything here about opposition to all this industry and finance. Popular writer Henry George, who wrote compellingly about the concentration of wealth, merits only one page in the index. John Muir and the conservation movement are mentioned only



briefly, and then only in connection to Hetch Hetchy. Southern Pacific, which once owned eleven percent of the land in California, barely appears in this account, as does rail road critic Frank Norris. Above all, the Progressive movement, led so brilliantly in California politics by reform Governor Hiram Johnson, barely puts in an appearance.

Perhaps most surprising, the 1906 Earth Quake, although mentioned in a couple of places, gets scant treatment. It had much to do with 1915 exposition that seems so important to Brechin. It is also formative for many families who wound up in Point Richmond in a

desperate search for housing, relief, and employment from a shocking disaster. The reader will have to go to the impressive work of Kevin Starr and others to flesh out the story of late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century California.

Still, Brechin gives us a lot to ponder, much of it fruitful for those wrestling with the Bay Area's many current challenges. He also offers a compelling explanation for why Point Richmond grew when it did, the way that it did, and as fast as it did.

I discovered this book by carrying out an urban imperial excursion of my own that began at the Richmond ferry terminal, continued with a boat trip across the bay, and led to a hike up into North Beach, where the book was recommended to me by one of the many helpful clerks in City Lights Bookstore. After buying the book, I crossed Broadway and went to the Café Trieste, where I settled most comfortably into a café chair with a cappuccino and my new book. At that moment, "Greater San Francisco" did not seem so very far from Point Richmond.

Gray Brechin, Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 2006). University of California Press. 437 pages. \$29.95 (paperback).

Richmond Museum o History & Culture Out of the Hands of Babes

By Desireé Heveroh



When rebuilding the Volunteer staff at the Richmond Museum of History, we got a couple of gems! One was a very capable Volunteer named Anne Lackey. I quickly saw what she could do so I gave her some projects with more meat on their bones such as getting the Museum listed on the National Register of Historic places (can you believe it isn't already!?) to open us up to some of those grants. I also encouraged her to come to me with any ideas. She wanted to talk about the Monica Haley collection of over 1,000 examples of Children's Art from the WWII era. I told her to run with it & sent her an Art Grant that had just come up to see if we could expand her idea. She applied, we got approved & prints of several pieces can now be seen hanging in businesses all over Richmond! To see the work is to understand how heavy the war was on the minds of the children. Some make you sad that a child ever had to think about such things. Some show the innocence they were still trying to hold on to. All of them tell the story of a chunk of time in Richmond's History through the eyes of the children who had Dad's that were fighting (some never to return), Mom's that were working & the

camaraderie with friends at the Maritime Children's Center! Please keep the stories of the children alive by checking out these glimpses into the minds of the WWII era Richmond kiddos:

- Maritime Child Development Center across from Historic Classroom
- Kaiser Richmond 1st Floor near Children's Clinic
- ◆ SS Red Oak Victory Ship
- Golden State Model Railroad Museum
- Children's Room at the Richmond Public Library
- East Bay Center for Performing Arts
- ♦ Family Justice Center
- Early Childhood Mental Health Center





Examples of Children's Art

Point Richmond History Assoc. T-Shirt A gray t-shirt that features a colorful drawing of our little museum on the town triangle drawn by the PRHA founder, the late Donna Roselius. They are now in stock in all sizes available at the museum or online.



Mail yo	our shirt t	<i>o</i> :			
Name:					
Addres City/St					
Small	Medium	Large	X- Large	2X- Large	3X- Large

Mail Check or MO To:

PRHA T-Shirt

144 Castro Street, Point Richmond, CA 94801

Prefer to pay online by credit card?

Go to URL

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

PRHA Acquires a Beautiful New Museum Display Case

From Bonnie Jo Cullison

This beautiful oak and glass case was once used to store fresh bread in R. Giovannetti Groceries in Point Richmond. The case was made in Grand Rapids, Michigan about 1915 and purchased by Regolo Giovannetti for his grocery store at 125 Golden Gate Avenue. R. Giovannetti Groceries was established in 1905 and closed in the late 1930's. About 1978 the case was given to Elvo Agostini, the husband of Regolo's granddaughter, Stella Martinetti. It was subsequently given to Denton Johnson who restored the wood which had become black and grimy from years of linseed oil and dirt build-up. He also replaced the damaged oak shelves with glass shelves. In April 2023, Denny's widow, Alvina Johnson, returned the case to the Agostini family. Chris (Agostini) Ramos, the great

granddaughter of Regolo donated it to the Point Richmond History Association Museum.

And we want to give a special thank you to PRHA board members Heinz Lankford and Jim Davis for moving it safely and intact to its new place in our little museum.







"Ro Ro, Where Ocean, Railroad and Automobile Meet"

By Oliver B. Pollak

Point Richmond lies between the Port of Richmond and the Chevron Long Wharf adjacent to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

Since moving to Richmond in November 2016 I have biked and walked the Bay Trail hundreds of times. Looking across the Santa Fe Chanel from Ford Point, Sheridan Observation Point Park, Craneway Pavilion, and since January 2019 the Ferry Terminal, is Rigger's Loft, General Warehouse, *Red Oak Victory*, acres of parking for newly arrived cars, Union Pacific rail head, and frequently a behemoth Ro Ro, (Roll on Roll off), technically a PCC, "Pure Car Carrier."



Phan Rang, 1966

The Landing Ship Tank was developed during World War II. During the mid 1960s I served on the *USS Sumner County*, LST 1148. The bow doors opened on Vietnamese beaches and out drove jeeps and larger vehicles.

Postwar Asian and European automobile

production boomed. The demands for an efficient vehicle delivery supply chain created the Ro Ro. The 16 Ro Ros I photographed in Richmond harbor were built between 1998 and 2018, weighed 59,000 to 72,000 tons; had speeds of 19 to 22 knots, crews of between 15 and 30, and carried 5000 to 7600 cars. The *Thermopylae*, which has not visited Richmond, carries 8,000 cars on 13 decks, can go 39,146 miles without refueling.

Ship names evoke galaxies and the geographically exotic. They are registered in Panama, Liberia, the Marshall Islands, the USA and elsewhere could be sold and change names. The *Cygnus Leader* built in 1998 became the *Green Lake* in 2011. The *Hercules Leader* built in Japan in 1998 became the *Green Ridge*. The *Grand Orion* was built in 2006. Probably the largest Ro Ro to berth in Richmond, the *Dong-A Glaucos* built by Hyundai in 2011, weighed 72,408 tons, travels at 20 knots, hadsa crew of 21 and holds 7600 cars.



Glovis Crystal built by Hyundai in South Korea in 2015 carries 6,612 cars. On May 22, 2023 it stayed in Richmond Harbor for 12 hours.

The *Dalian Highway* built in 2011, and the *Freemantle Highway* built in 2013 are registered in Panama. The Eukor line, a portmanteau for Europe and Korea, served Richmond. The first name of each of its ships is "Morning."



The NYK Line, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha, operates about 792 vessels including 118 car carriers with a capacity of approximately 642,000 vehicles. Visitors to Richmond include the Delphinus Leader [small constellation in the Northern Celestial Hemisphere] built in 1998, the Atlas Leader built in 2008, Antares Leader [brightest star in Scorpius constellation] built in 2011, Hestia Leader [Greek goddess], and Sara Leader built in 2018



Freight trains can be over 7500 feet long. This Union Pacific Autorack is loaded with American made vehicles.



Jupiter Spirit, built in 2011 and operated by Nissan Motor Co., carries 5,007 cars.

Port of Richmond is part of the international economy. There could be two or three ships in as many weeks or none for months. Port vitality is linked to American purchasing power and strength of the economy, foreign production schedules, the supply chain for parts, the development of electric vehicles, potential Chinese imports, and competition from other ports.



Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

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

-Linda Newton, Past President

Richmond, Calif. July 1, 1913

Meeting called to order by the President elect Mrs. U.P. McHenry. Minutes of meeting held June 17 read and approved. Roll call found four officers present, Mrs. Adams reported her inability to see Richard Spiersch in regard to Rest Room matter, further time was granted to her.

The following committee was appointed to confer with the City Council in regard to building a branch library. Mesdames Hopkins, Adams and Maynard. Mesdames McHenry, Adams and Hopkins were appointed to act on a committee to further plans for a city park and playground.

No further business, meeting adjourned to meet first Tuesday in Sept.

Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty

Richmond, Calif. September 8, 1913

The Womens W.S. Imp. Club met in regular session in Fireman's Hall with five officers present. Minutes of meeting held July 1 read and approved. Pres moved the reading of meeting held September 2, 1913.

The rest room matter was brought up and the Pres. reported having seen Mr. Chapman who promised to bring the matter up before the council on September 8th. A bill for 6.00 from Spiersch Bros. for rent of said room for July was read and laid over.

The chairman of Playground Committee Mrs. McHenry reported having viewed different sites with the rest of the committee, but as yet nothing definite has been done. The Commercial Club held a conversation with the Pres. relative, to the Clubs attitude toward the city having a municipal band

whose duty would be to hold concerts at stated times in our city. Such concerts to be open air concerts. The matter of municipal, etc. was brought up and discussed by Mrs. Kate Smith of Richmond Ani Club was product and presented the plan of the Bureau of Public Discussion from U.C. of Berkeley. The plan of U.C. Extension Div. is to furnish literature and etc. also a speaker to meet with the people. Secty instructed to send to U.C. for brief #2 and no. 5, subj Mexican Intervention. The President outlined a program for the ensuing year which was heartily endorsed by the members.

Following is the plan:

First Monday A regular business meeting shall be held, at which time the books of the Secty, treasurer and Fin Secty shall be ready and open for inspection by any or all members of the Club. Suggestions will be received for subjects to be discussed at Club Extension Day.

Second Monday This will be Club Extension Day. At which time members will have the privilege of inviting friends to attend who may listen and help in the discussion of subjects brought before the club and they will be invited to join their force with ours for the uplift of their city. Homework will also be one of the features of the (day) afternoon.

Third Monday Four members only. Advice will be offered on subjects previously discussed and action taken if needed. Domestic and Political Economy and also Municipal affairs.

Fourth Monday This day will be spent in reading and discussing noted actions and their works, interspersed with a public and parting musical or tea.

Meeting adjourned, Mrs. Dunlap, Secty

BirthdaysJune

Alissa Bagley Phyllis Downey William Shea Emeric H. Baxter Andrew Butt Kristine Lazaro Joanne Lansing Cathe Brazil Brian Rotting Stacey Spinola
Gill Stanfield
Alice Baxter
Wilson Gandola
Rosemary Giacomelli
Daniel Buhler
Dianne Primaver
Suzanne Unser
Bill Smith

Aaron Marshall
Cynthia Wilson
Workman
Michael Marshall
Marcelina Smith
Gerry Higuera
Judy Travis
Lee Christian
Lillian Karl

Luke Karl Graciella Feese June Solosabal Doreen Minkwitz Mary Lee Cole Virginia Martinez Omera Johnson

Francis Smith Amy Rotting Nicole Sebastian Mrs. Chas Baldwin Dan Damon Julius Matteucci

Bea Read

Mary L. Knox

Richard Smith
Allen Anderson
Roger Elle
Trace Smith
Alice McMahon
Hilary Lord
Clifford (Lou)
MacMillan

Loretta 'Mertle' Lease Madeline Bellando Albright Jean Reynolds Regan Bradshaw Jon Healy Golda Pettycord Howard

Martha Bielawski Madison Bradshaw Dixie L. Mello Lea Smith Terry Lizarraga Joan Glover-Carter Hector Lizarraga

August

Donna Wilson Kevin Pryne Molly Kate Barnes Joe Darling Marlene Smith Barbara Ward Connee Fisher Alice Thompson Linda DeLaTorre Mary Knox Karla Peterson
Alia Smyk
Terrence Doherty
Lisa Smith
Kelly von York
Rose Barra
Bonnie Ritzenthaler
Wilson
Bob Armstrong
Kim Morales

R. Clayton Barnes
Michael Shaw
Suzanne Bartram
Owens
Megan Lizarraga
Roy Henry Glover
Bernie McIntosh
Beatrice Beesley Casey
Jim Healy
John Lizarraga

Karen Gagnier Steve Rice Kendall Craig Gloria Crim Floria (Crim) Jones Victor H. Morales Patti Kowalski

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

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 102 Mary Bianchini Highfill - 98 Victor Morales - 94 Billie Bonham Shaw - 100 June Beesley Sosabal - 99 Marcelina Smith - 97 Donna Wilson - 92 Florence Wilson - 92
Alphonso Diaz - 95
Christopher Wilson - 99
Patricia Jackson Kierce 90
Frank West - 90
Altha Humphrey - 90

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

Point Richmond History Association Minutes for the Annual Meeting, May 21, 2023

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) was held at the First United Methodist Church of Point Richmond on May 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by PRHA President, Bonnie Jo Cullison. The current officers and appointees present, in addition to Bonnie Jo, were James Cheshareck, Jim Davis, Caitlin Hibma, Kathe Kiehn, Heinz Lankford, Gary Shows, and Pam Wilson. A total of 28 people were in attendance. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

1) Welcome and Introductions

Bonnie Jo introduced the PRHA board and new board members, James Cheshareck and Jim Davis. Jim gave a summary of his efforts toward the historical plaque project.

2) Minutes of the 2022 meeting

Secretary, Caitlin Hibma, read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. They were unanimously approved as read.

3) Treasurer's Report

Kathe Kiehn, treasurer, presented the financial report (on file). She noted that the organization spent more money than was received, by a sum of \$195. The largest expenditure was for electrical repairs, which cost \$1,700. She reported that the PRHA bank account currently has a balance of \$2,574.49, while the money market account has a balance of \$18,705.37, for a total of \$21,279.86. Sales tax of \$75 for calendar year 2022 was paid in January and all necessary IRS forms for PRHA's non-profit status have been filed for the fiscal year.

4) PRHA Activities in the last year

There was a break in at the museum for the first time since the museum has been in operation. A window was jimmied and \$50 was stolen from the cash box. A few days later, the front window of the museum was spray painted and other businesses in the area were also hit. In response, a small alarm has been installed at the museum. An audience member inquired about the installation of a camera, which may be explored if there are further issues. Same audience member noted that the restaurant across the street got camera footage of the spray- panting incident and the vandal was eventually caught. A power outage, caused by irregularities in the way the museum receives power from the fire station, caused the museum to be closed for about a week.

The museum received the gift of an antique oak and glass display case, which is now installed in the museum. It was donated by Chris Ramos and belonged to her great-grandfather, who owned a grocery store on Golden Gate Ave. The case dates to 1915 and was used in the grocery store. The old display case was donated to the Red Oak Victory.

Point Richmond History Association

The plaque project is very active, with the Masquer's Playhouse and the Trainmaster's/Mechanic's Bank buildings being first on the priority list to receive plaques. Text is also ready for a plaque at the Episcopal church. The owner of the Abbott Hospital property is still being identified. Nominations for other plaques were solicited.

The museum has been open consistently for the last year. A total of 275 visitors signed the guest book, including those from 9 states outside of California, one from Mexico, and local congressman John Garamendi. There are currently 7 docents and Linda Andrew-Marshall now serves as the docent coordinator.

5) Election of Officers

PRHA members Tom Piazza and Mary Crosby acted as the nominating committee for 2023 and solicited current officers for their continued willingness to serve. Based on responses, the slate nominated for 2023-2024 was as follows:

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

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

10) Remembrance of Jerry Cerkanowicz

The recent passing of Jerry Cerkanowicz was noted. He is remembered as a past-president and avid supporter of PRHA.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., and the meeting proceeded with refreshments and a presentation by guest speaker, Desiree Heveroh. Desiress talked about her many experiences "keeping" history in Richmond; as the East Brother Light Station keeper, Red Oak Victory ship keeper, and Hotel Mac inn keeper.

Respectfully submitted, Caitlin Hibma, Secretary

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Gary,

My heart felt sympathy for your loss of Jerry.

I had my 90th birthday on Jan 9th. I would like to be part of the "Over 90 Club". I've been a member of the History Association for over 30 years. I look forward to every publication of "THIS POINT....in time". It is read cover to cover. I love Point Richmond.

Altha Humphrey Point Richmond

Thank you Altha, yes I will always miss him, sad time for me. And I also love Point Richmond and I am proud to call The Point my home as well! Welcome to the 90s Club Altha, Gary

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

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

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900-A Dornan Dr. From April-Sept. open Sundays 12noon to 5pm with trains running, open Saturdays 12noon to 5pm for viewing only (free, but no trains running). Oct. to Dec. we close at 4pm on both days. We usually have extra holiday shows in Dec. see our website www.gsmrm.org for more info. When trains are running, Adults \$5, children 4-11 and seniors 63+ \$3, families \$10, children under 4 free. 510-234-4884 for details.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

105 Park Place. Newly renovated and open for the 2022 Season. For more information see the website, http://www.masquers.org

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

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

PARENT. TEACHER ASSOCIATION Joanna Mina, Contact, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Andrew Butt, 510-236-7445

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 510-620-6905

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00. See the Editors Notes on page 3 for next TPIT deadline. For information call President Bonnie Jo Cullison at 510-412-2202.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

Contact: Philip Rosenthal, President

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY SHIP

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 3 pm. \$10 Donation/Boarding fee. Pancake Breakfasts one Sunday a month, April - June, August - October, \$9/adults, \$5/kids under 8 years,. For more information call the ship at 510-237-2933 or visit www.richmondmuseum.org

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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

RICHMOND SWIMS

The Children and teens "Sail Fish" and Masters swim teams at the Richmond Plunge. Contact: Coach John Schonder, 510-504-0330 - More info at http://www.richmondswims.org/ or call 415-892-0771

ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway. For more information call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori. GREAT movies all day

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Diane Diani, President. Email: italiandiane@gmail.com

RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (RTA)

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

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

I would li	ike to join the P.R.H.A	١.		
Name:				
Address:	:			
Phone:				
E Mail:		_		
Type of membership (check one):				
	Single	\$20.00		
	Senior (65+)	15.00		
		25.00		
	History Preserver	50.00		
		100.00		
	_ifetime Member	500.00		
		mond History Association		
includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINTin				
		Please make your check		
payable to the Point Richmond History Association and				
	mail it to: Pam Wilson			
521 Western Drive				
Point Richmond, CA 94801				
CHECK HERE if you would like to receive your				
newsletters electronically instead of by US Mail				
If you would like to have birthdays noted in the				

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 Mark Kornmann Proof Read Pam Wilson Membership Info Jean Reynolds Article Dee Rosier Article Donna Roselius Line Drawings James Cheshareck Article/Photos Desireé Heveroh Article/Photo Jim Davis Article Caitlin Hibma Minutes Oliver B. Pollak Article Richmond Museum of History **Photos**

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

email: garyshows@gmail.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at: 139 1/2 Washington Avenue Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

PRHA Board of Directors:

Bonnie Jo Cullison, President Heinz Lankford. Vice President Caitlin Hibma. Secretary Kathe Kiehn. Treasurer Pam Wilson. Membership Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Jim Davis. Special Projects James Cheshareck, Historian

Contacts

Bonnie Jo Cullison 510-412-2202 bjocullison@sonic.net

Visit our website

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

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

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

Point Richmond History Association 139% Washington Avenue Point Richmond, CA 94801



Time Sensitive Publication

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