

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

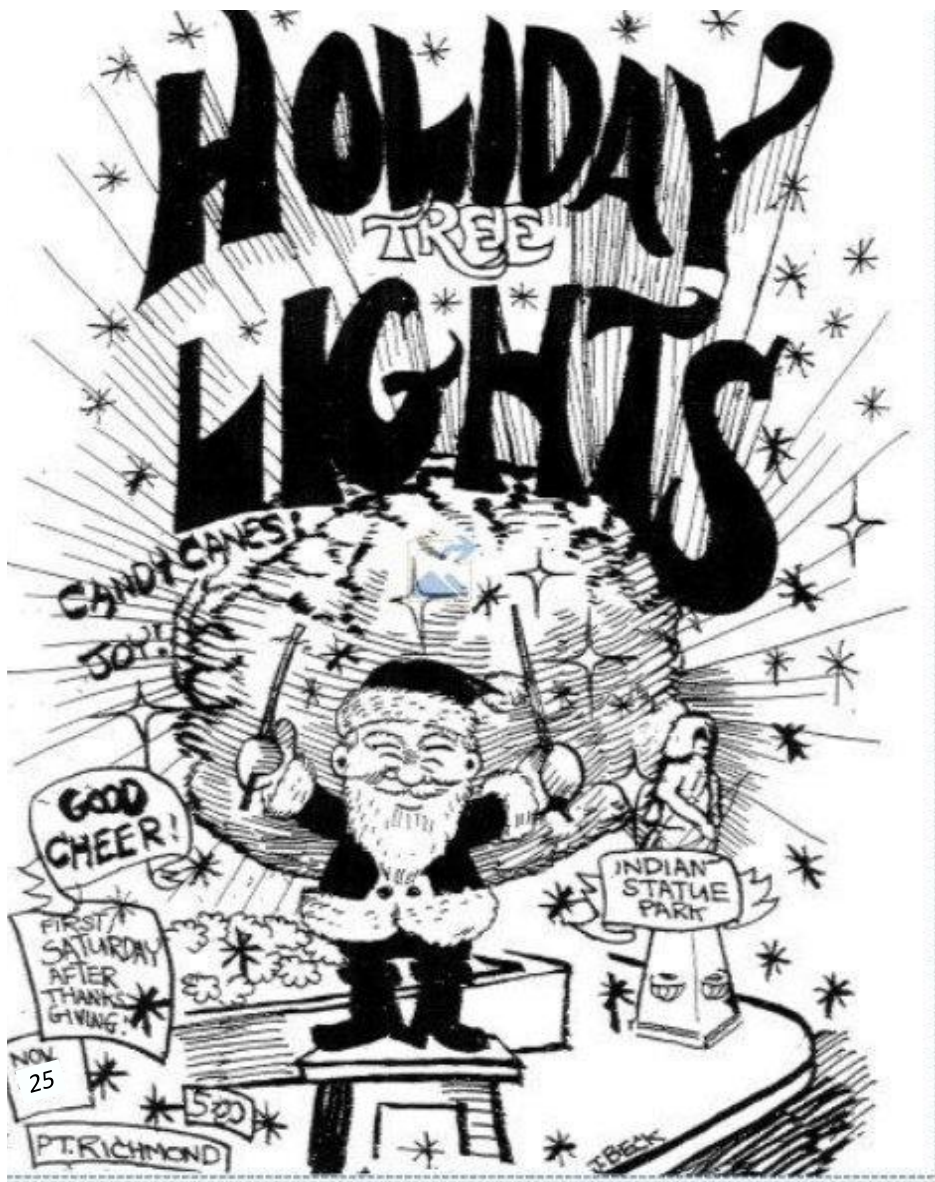
www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XLII No. 3

Nov/Dec/Jan 2023/24

\$3.00





**Saturday November 25th at 5PM
Indian Statue Park on the Triangle
Point Community Choir & After Lighting Sing Along
Santa, Tree Lighting, Luminaries**

From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

Hello everyone.

My neighbor told me recently that she discovered that the sidewalk on Summit Place was built by the WPA in 1939. She found a WPA stamp in the pavement in front of 343 Summit Place. She also found a WPA stamp dated 1940 in the sidewalk pavement at West Richmond and Martina Streets. She registered both of them at the Living New Deal website:

<https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ca/richmond-ca>.

She has prowled Point Richmond in search of other sidewalks which have WPA stamps but has not found any. Does anyone know of others? One other Point Richmond WPA construction is listed on the Living New Deal website. The rock wall at 220 Bishop was built by the WPA in 1940. It is six feet high and runs the length of the property, about 40 feet. The multi-colored stone used for this wall was provided by the property owner (the Dornan family) for use by the WPA. Another 3-level wall on Bishop Alley is from the same period.

Looking for other WPA stamped constructions might make a fun treasure hunt. If anyone knows of or finds other WPA projects in Point Richmond, please let us know. We will keep a list of them at our museum and print them in the Newsletter. Also consider registering what you find at the Living New Deal website.

The Point Richmond Fall Fest that took place on Saturday, October 28, was a big success and it attracted many visitors to our museum. Gary Shows hosted visitors until 2:00 when our newest docent, Kevin Christopher, took over. Aply assisted by his wife and his mother, Kevin greeted visitors until well after 5:00.



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*Spiersch Brothers on Park Place
PRHA photo archive #0779*

Thank you members for your renewal:

- Carla Lawler
- Ken Madison
- Bruce and Sandra Beyaert**
- Melinda Anderson Family
- Florence Wilson Family
- Steve Lizarraga**
- Roxanne Sullivan
- Patricia Lanning Bonderue
- Joanne Pike
- Jack Mormon Family
- Caitlin & Michael Hibma**
- Linda Newton**
- Dr. Robert B. Pollak Family**

Welcome to new members:

- Mike & Cynthia Workman*
- Juelann L. Klotz*

- *Gift Membership
- **Special Supporter
- ***Lifetime Member



Thank You To Friends at 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:

*PRHA photo archive #1271 -
Marilyn Wegner
My Grandmother and Grandfather
Bernes, who immigrated from France*

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

Here is your winter issue of TPIT. .

We have a good crew of contributors forming here.. I think you will enjoy this one. I have been busy sorting and scanning thousands of 35mm slides taken by the late Royce Ong. Most are them are of his first interest, buses, trains and trolleys and of course, his cats. But a number of them are of Point Richmond in the 1950's. You will see them here in the next few issues.

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" will be Friday January 19th, 2024 and will cover February and March.



We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

Lifetime Member

Patricia Dornan

History Makers

Donna Wilson

Rosemary Corbin

Kathe Kiehn

John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza

Roberta & Richard Palfini

Norm and Jean Reynolds

The Bartram-Owens Family

Garry & Maryn Hurlbut

Bob Armstrong

Steven Birnbaum

Ron Vandergrift

Lynn Maack

Barry Goode

Mark J. Kornmann

Jim & Olivia Jacobs

Marcelina Smith

Rick Beal

Dee Rosier

Virginia Rigney

Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow

George O. Petty

Guadalupe Torres (New Leaf Salon)

James J. Cheshareck

Ruth Frassetto

History Preservers

Thomas & Shirley Butt

Kevin, René & Griffin Knee

Linda Newton

The David Dolberg Family

Bernie McIntosh

Don & Ingrid Lindemann

Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza

Norma Wallace

Victor J. Westman

Gloria & Mark Maltagliati

Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth

Tony Lizarraga

Bobbie Swerdfeger-Lizarraga

Jeanne Pritchard

Joe Pritchard

Jim & Olivia Jacobs

Caitlin & Michael Hibma

Dave & Linda 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

Jim Fisher

Sarah Stierch

Lisa Hire & Thomas Young

Church News



✠ Our Lady of Mercy
Church

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

We enter a new season with changes – the latest being time. Our days of daylight will become shorter and indoor lights will remain on longer. A new schedule will be put into place so we can proceed as Previously – give it time, it will all work out and soon our animals will also adjust. We also look forward to the anticipated rain – no drizzles – real rain.

Celebrated in church were All Saints Day as well as All Souls Day. Father offered Mass on both days. All Souls Day honors our deceased loved ones. Their names are retained on the altar and remembered daily. They are never forgotten. Father also scheduled a Mass of Prayer for peace in the Middle East.

The annual West County SVdP Friends of the Poor Walk took place on September 23 at St. Joseph's School in Pinole. Parishioners Mike and Lori Summers and some of Mike's students have previously walked with some of our neighboring parishes and SVdP conferences. Our Lady of Mercy provided snacks for the walkers. It is

always good family fun, fellowship exercise. All donations go directly to the conferences in the West County. Your generosity enables us to care for those in need in our neighborhood and beyond.

We recently applied for this year's Point Richmond Foundation grant. The original grant request last year was to update the rectory building/outside electrical to properly support enhanced lighting on the corner. The maintenance and upkeep on our beautiful church properties from 1902 are supported by wonderful community groups such as the Pt. Richmond Gateway Foundation and, of course, parishioners and neighbors.

Women's Voices recently hosted Michele Jurich from the Catholic Voice. She addressed our round table of women about her career as a journalist (Mercy News) and as Editor of the Catholic Voice. She shared stories of her years as the Voice transitioned from a newspaper to a magazine format. The pursuit was in the beginning of the pandemic. Michele was passionate that the Oakland Diocese get this sent to their homes as we needed a link to one church while in quarantine. She carries her notebook with her and keeps an ear out for interesting stories. We have recently had our parishioners, Trish Maniantis and Anne Brussok publish articles, as well as Father David.

Anne Brussok recently wrote a heart-warming story of Francisco, a refugee of one of the poorest countries in South America, who was a patient at the Order of Malta Clinic, where Anne is employed.

He received medical care and hope of success for a life in this country. They made the right move by seeking assistance at the Clinic. Am sure Francisco is just one of many stories she could share.

The projector in the Parish Hall is receiving rave reviews. Nancy Noble recently shared a video, "The Illuminator and a bible for the 21s Century." It is the story of: Donald Jackson, who

was a longtime scribe to Queen Elizabeth, is a world-renowned calligrapher and illuminator. The monks at Saint John's Abbey and University of Collegeville, Minnesota, commissioned Jackson to hand letter a Bible for our time. Over ten years, he and several calligraphers hand lettered each page of the seven-volume Bible. The original is still housed at St. John's Abbey. There are 299 fine art editions around the world. One is located at the Cathedral of Light in Oakland. All who attended raved at the presentation. Unfortunately, I missed it, but word from Nancy Noble (also a calligrapher) is that it will merit a repeat performance. Other movies are scheduled. Plan to attend.

Anne Brussok recently underwent cataract surgery. As most who have had similar done, it is one of the pluses in eye surgery, which is painless and such a worthwhile rebirth of beautiful, clear eyesight. Will always remember Varsie Lometti, after her surgery claiming she could see forever.

The second collection of the first of the Month is used for Maintenance. New interior lights were installed in the rectory and the flooring in the washroom replaced.

A memorial service was recently held in honor of Joe Darling. A reception followed at Biancoverde. Joe was a long-time parishioner and Point resident.

Another parish dinner is scheduled for November 18. Be sure to sign up and attend.

Missed celebrating the City of Richmond's recent birthday – August 7, 1905. Remember driving the Main with a downtown area that housed department stores, i.e., Macys, Pennys, Kresses, etc. where you could shop without fear. Are these days gone forever????

Welcome back to our journalist friend, Michael Fitzgerald. Michael will be with us for a while. He was here awaiting the birth of a granddaughter. He was able to return and fit right back into the void he had previously left when he moved to Oregon.

Anne Carroll hosted her sister visiting from Ireland as her house guest. Michele Connolly lives in Drogheda County Meath in Ireland. Anne and her daughter showed her around the Bay Area and am sure she returned to Ireland with some

stories to tell.

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

RON ACUNA
THOMAS BRADY
LINDA CHESARECK
ILIANA DE LA TORRE
BARBARA DRAKE
RIVHARD HERTZBERG
JACK HILL
MICHAEL LAMBERT
RAPHAEL LOPEZ
ROBERT MARTINEZ
MARGARET MORKOWSKI
EDWINA MURRAY
FATHER DAVID
MARIE PECKHAM
BOB PERATA
DEE ROSIER
FRED SIEGMUND
JUDY SPENCER
DAVID YOUNG

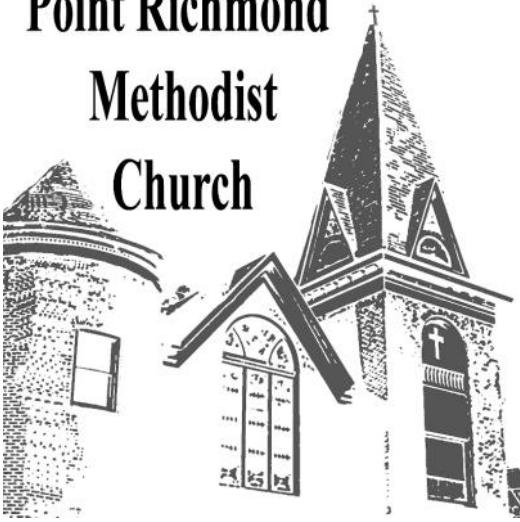
ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND STAY WELL.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

YOUR JOB IS THE DREAM OF THE UNEMPLOYED
YOUR HOUSE IS THE DREAM OF THE HOMELESS
YOUR SMILE IS THE DREAM OF THE DEPRESSED
YOUR HEALTH IS THE DREAM OF THOSE THAT ARE ILL
BEAUTIFUL THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM NEGATIVITY
FIND SOMETHING TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

SEE YOU IN CHURCH

Point Richmond Methodist Church



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

Missionary Katherine Parker, back from Nepal to share stories of her work with her US partners, visited us on August 24. We have been covenant partners with Katherine since 2013; she first visited us then after spending five years in Cambodia, just as she was beginning her work in Nepal. She evaluates and is a resource for programs supported by United Missions for Nepal, a non-denominational faith organization. Villagers in communities they serve decide what their community needs. It might be a literacy program, focus groups to reduce spousal abuse, sex education, job training, sanitation, or improved circumstances for adults and children with handicaps. We were inspired to hear about the progress communities have made through their own efforts, supported by resources and information provided by Katherine and her colleagues.

Rev. Eun-Joo joyfully hosted an open house at the parsonage on August 27. She thanked Betty Graham, Jonathan Swett, Bill Thompson, Doreen Leighton, Matthew Foster, Rose Ayers, and Laurence Tietz and acknowledged their labor to repair, clean, remodel, and/or assist with her move. Joann Cho and Lara Choe prepared and

served excellent Korean food. Eun-Joo reconsecrated the parsonage and blessed it for service. Father David from Our Lady of Mercy was an honored guest, along with numerous neighbors, friends, and church folks.

We held our scaled-down mini-yard sale, Junktique II, on September 9. We were thrilled Diane Frary came to sell her beaded jewelry. Jonathan Swett, Bill Thompson, and Ron Wheatley sold furniture; Gill Stanfield and Alice Thompson staffed the electronics and books; Jennifer Metz Foster served pie by the slice with a guide to the bakers. Barbara Haley cooked hotdogs on Mark Ellis' gas grill. Pat Dornan sorted jewelry and made grab bags in advance, and Fran Smith sold jewelry the day of. Matt Foster and Rose Ayers were cashiers. Shirley Butt, Janet Heckmann, Susie Ashworth Bader, Nate Bader, Charlotte Bader, Pastor Eun-Joo, Doreen Leighton, and Jean Reynolds helped shoppers and filled in as needed. Norm Reynolds helped Matthew count the proceeds afterward. It was another wonderful day as we worked together, made shoppers happy, and recycled usable goods.

We resumed adult Bible study Sunday mornings at 10:00 am in Friendship Hall and via Zoom. Our current focus is the Gospel of Matthew, one or two chapters a week.

Rev. Eun-Joo went to Korea to spend a harvest festival "Chuseok" holiday with her extended family. Sept 26—Oct 16. She missed three Sundays with us. On October 1, World Communion Sunday, we attended Buena Vista UMC's worship service via Zoom, some from our Richmond sanctuary, some remotely. We wanted to learn more about their hybrid service as we continue to improve ours. As part of worship, they remembered and named their members who died in the month of October throughout the years. The World Communion service included several types of bread, each symbolizing a separate community of people.

On October 8, Tanya Cothran, Spirit in Action Executive Director, preached over zoom from her home in Toronto, Canada. She shared stories from their partners in Africa, and of her recent trip there to connect with some of them in person. She told us about Yannick, a Burundian refugee living in Rwanda who nonetheless does

humanitarian work raising pigs to profit the community. When she visited, she shared a meal with him and his housemates, and dined at a café funded by another Spirit in Action grant. Grant recipients often change their circumstances greatly using a small amount of capital. <https://www.spiritinaction.org>

On October 15, Bill Thompson shared his faith story. He began with his first experience of Sunday school as a child when the teacher asked his mother to keep him and his brothers at home because they were rambunctious. No wonder Bill is not surprised by active children! He told about how our church was his center as he was married, taught Sunday school, raised his children, served on trustees with his dear friend Jonathan, and found solace and support when their son Liam died in an auto accident. The love of God radiates from Bill and blesses all who meet or know him. His courage to speak his truth is life-affirming.

Book Study finished Building Lasting Bridges book and workbook. It was a short book, dense with ideas. It suggested exercises to explore the journey to being antiracist: comfortable to treat people of other cultures and races as equals and willing to work to end systemic and institutional racism. It equipped us with new ways to connect with people who are different from us, and we are already practicing some of the skills we acquired. Our next book is *Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm: The American Methodist Church and the Struggle with White Supremacy*, by John Elford.

As a follow-up to Building Lasting Bridges, Rev. Dr. Dale Weatherspoon, pastor at Easter Hill UMC, came October 29 for the first installment of our “Book Concert” Series. Dale is one of the authors. As an opening exercise, we each shared in a small group how we got our name, whether we like it, and what we call ourselves. Rev. Katy Choy-Wong will preach on November 12, and will stay after for her part of the “Book Concert,” and Shan McSpadden will close the “Book Concert” series on November 17 with a program in Friendship Hall after worship. We are fortunate Rev. Eun-Joo knows all three authors. They are generous with their time and knowledge.

Bill Thompson and Jonathan Swett hoisted two welcome banners outside the building on October 31. They are brightly colored with a

rainbow background, our church logo, Reconciling Ministries Network logo, and the message “Richmond First United Methodist Church, A Caring Community Since 1900, You Are Welcome Here, Worship Sundays at 11:00 am.” Bill, Rose Ayers, and Jean Reynolds planned them, the Ad Board approved the design, and Laurie Corl, member at El Sobrante UMC, made them at Same Day Signs.

Linda Andrew-Marshall took food to the GRIP shelter for family dinners on September 21 and October 19. Pastor Eun-Joo and Jean Reynolds participated in GRIP’s Harmony Walk fundraiser on October 28. Eun-Joo walked and took a tour of the GRIP facility; Jean tabled for California OneCare, a single-payer healthcare system envisioned for California. In October, we collected diapers for families who are clients of Early Childhood Mental Health Program.

On the Calendar:

Book Concert: Rev. Katy Choy-Wong will preach at 11:00 am on November 12, and will stay after worship for refreshments and a workshop on her book, *Building Lasting Bridges*.

Shan McSpadden will close the Building Lasting Bridges Book Concert series on November 17 with a program in Friendship Hall at noon after worship. Join us for lunch and a workshop!

Thanksgiving: We are collecting funds to buy ready-made meals for residents at the Todd Hotel and for others in our community.

Holiday Bake Sale: December 23, 9:00 am to noon, at the church, 201 Martina Street at the corner of West Richmond Ave. Come early for the best choice of luscious pies, candy, breads, and our famous variety cookie platters. Serve your holiday guests, share as a gift, or treat yourself!

Jazz Christmas Eve service, 7:00 pm, December 24. The Kurt Ribak quartet will provide sounds of the season for all. Arrive early for the best seating. Masks are welcome but not required. Check the church website or look for signs downtown for details.

For calendar updates, links to our live events, or to play a recording of the weekly worship service, see the church website: <https://www.pointrichmondmethodist.org>

WWIC Est. 1908

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

The Womens Westside Improvement Club's new 2023 ~ 2024 year started with a presentation made by their guest speaker/new member, Pat Handshy. Pat, who is retired now, had worked at Marin General Directive Care as a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner for Hospice. She gave an excellent presentation on the importance of everyone having an Advanced Care Directive. She provided detailed information to the club members and described how important it is to provide a copy of the directive to all those involved in "end-of-life" decisions, so family and friends don't have to make emotional decisions themselves.

In preparation for Point Richmond Business Association's 2nd Annual Fall Fest on Saturday, October 28th, a number of club members and Friends of the WWIC got busy with a thorough clean-up day in the Point Richmond gardens. Member Margi Sullivan took some time away from her art gallery to demonstrate her prowess with a leaf blower as depicted in the attached photo.



Point Sisters Harp Duo

On November 7th, the club will be holding its first of the year Fund Raiser BUNKO game. The WWIC will be raising money to be donated to several local Richmond charities. One of their favorite charities, to which they have donated funds in the recent past, is Parent Resources and More (PRAM), located at 110 East Richmond Avenue, Point Richmond. PRAM is a community-driven non-profit organization that supports local families with young children.



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

Richmond, Oct. 27, 1913

The Womens West Side Improvement Club met in regular session in Firemen's Hall. Pres. McHenry presiding. Secty not being present the President moved the reading of minutes of meeting held Oct. 20, 1913.

Eleven officers and members present. Mrs. Whitcomb chairman of the Library Lot Committee, requested the regular Com. to meet with City Atty. Call and a committee appointed by the Council with regard to renting library lot, etc. Moved by Mrs. Eaton sec. by Mrs. Murray that (the following) letter be sent to the Council stating that the club considered the price of the Nicholl lots exorbitant. Nov. 21st was set for the first club dance, and to be held in P. Hall. Members were urged to attend and otherwise boost T.B. benefit held Oct in Lincoln School.

Mrs. Adams, Secty protrem.

Oct. 29, 1913

A call meeting was held at the home of Mrs. McHenry for the purpose of extending appreciated thanks to John H. Nicholl for the generous gift of \$1,000 from the John Nicholl Co. which he represents, which sum is to be applied to the Library Fund.

Mrs. Dunlap, Secty

Richmond, Calif, Nov 3rd, 1913

The W.S.W.I. Club met in Firemen's Hall with the president Mrs. McHenry in the chair. Minutes of regular meeting held Oct. 27 and call meeting held Oct. 27 read and approved. Roll call found eight officers and members present. A communication was read from Dist. Atty. A.B. McKenzie in answer to the inquiry sent to him, in the matter of forged names

reported on petition sent to Legislature regarding the Red Light Bill. Action on said letter deferred for one week.

A com. from May V. Nuholz read a new dept has recently been created in Women's Clubs. Peace and we were asked to appoint a Peace Committee in our club to arrange programs for Peace Day. Another com. was read from Mrs. Claude Leech offering her assistance in any way possible to help the Club. Secty instructed to write and accept kind offer.

The members sold \$5.75 worth of tickets for the A.J.B. society. Mrs. Whitcomb's committee to assist Mesdames Adams, Eaton Runjon Jones and Weise. The Pres appointed Mesdames Luce, Cramer, and Pritchard on Cards Party Committee.

Meeting Adjourned, Mrs. Dunlap Secty

Richmond, Nov. 10, 1913

West Side Womens Improvement Club met in regular session in Firemens Hall with President McHenry in the chair. The secty was absent so the reading of minutes and roll call were waived.

Mayor Rolf sent a communication regarding the Hetch Hetchy Water proposition for S.F. laid over and one was rec'd from the Society of National Park Preservation who are against the Hetch Hetchy Bill, laid over.

Bills, one from Mrs. Pritchard for stamps 80 cents ordered paid. Moved and carried that 100 window cards to adv. Dances be purchased. Com. for same Mesdames Weise, Hopkins and Moyle.

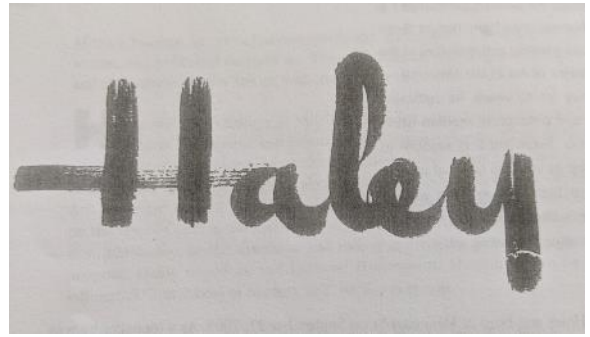
The Red Cross Seal Society thanked Club Members for helping in their recent entertainment at which \$60 and \$70 was cleared. Com. for attending to sale of seals during Xmas week.

Mrs. Dunlap, Secty

Haley's Hotel Home

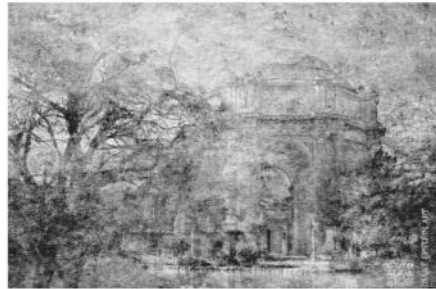
by *Desiree Heveroh*

In the summer edition of TPIT, I wrote about the Monica Haley Children's art collection. I learned that her Husband was quite the artist himself! They moved to Point Richmond in 1932. He had his studio off the side of his home on Ocean Avenue and he taught at UC Berkeley for many years. RAC and RMH have both had past exhibits of his art. They were neighbors to the Byers family who owns The Hotel Mac. I was talking to Mark Mays who was married to Mr. Byers' daughters and as it turned out, he had an original Haley that depicted early Industrial Point Richmond. I tried my best to contain myself when he offered it to be displayed at The Mac. One can clearly see the symbolic depictions of many landmarks from the Refinery to the Whaling Station. There is even a section of cobbled rock wall that looks a lot like the one the Haley's had in their backyard. When you are here, make sure to pass by to marvel at this Masterpiece that has found it's way back to the Point.



Nature, Architecture and the Spirit of Place:

The Art of Diane Epstein



Exhibition Opening:

Saturday December 9, 2023 3PM-7PM

Artist in attendance

In Conversation:

Sunday December 10, 2023 3PM

Biophilia, Art and The Human Connection

Mary Davidge, LEED® Fellow and

Dr. Eve Edelstein, Ph.D Neuroscience and MA Architecture

Point Richmond Gallery, 145 W Richmond Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

EXHIBITIONS



Point Richmond
Post Office

Stephen
Kowalski

Upcycled
Steampunk

September 18–November 13

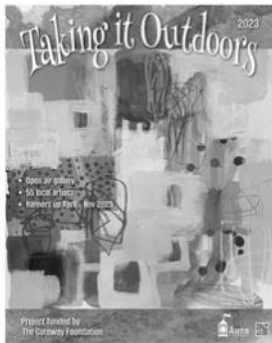
[Learn More →](#)

Taking it Outdoors

Spring 2023 Banners

AOPR artists' work on 54 banners on display around Point Richmond. Click "Learn More" button below for map of banner locations and artist names.

[Learn More →](#)



Project funded by
The Gateway Foundation



Linda Drake Gallery
El Sol Restaurant

El Día de los Muertos
Paintings & Art
by

Eric Carlstrom

October 15–January 14, 2024

[Learn More →](#)



Lara's Fine Dining

AOPR Summer 2023 Membership Exhibition

June 24, 2023 - November 18, 2023

A unique exhibition of artwork displayed throughout the restaurant by artists working in a variety of media.

[Learn More →](#)



From
Anna Froker

Arts of Pt. Richmond

2023 Holiday Faire

UNIQUE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

11 AM TO 4:30 PM

Community Center
139 Washington Ave.
Pt. Richmond

Like us on Facebook

www.artsofpointrichmond.com

Follow us on Instagram: @arts_of_Point_Richmond



Arts of Point Richmond is a non-profit, volunteer organization of over 150 artists who strive to enrich their community by supporting and promoting local artists, art exhibitions and events. AOPR is always happy to welcome new members and you don't have to be a professional artist to join. For more information, go to <https://www.artsofpointrichmond.com/>

PART ONE
**RICHMOND ART
CENTER
THE LEGACY OF
HAZEL SALMI**

by James Cheshareck

As I was leaving Kaleidoscope Coffee after a meeting with Bonnie Jo, Jim Davis, and Point Richmond Neighborhood Council president, Philip Rosenthal, Jane Diokas approached me and requested I pen something about the Richmond Art Center. I was somewhat familiar with Hazel Salmi and had a general understanding of the Richmond Art Center's history because Flora Horner (1887-1971), was a founding member. Her husband, Clare Horner (1886-1968), was a prominent Richmond attorney, judge, and acting City Attorney for a time. The Horners played a role in the subject of my current long-term research project. I agreed to write an article on the Richmond Art Center as it is relevant to Richmond and Point Richmond history alike. Hazel Salmi was also a longtime Point Richmond resident who resided on the waterfront, another topic of my massive writing project. Fortunately, there is an abundance of information out there about her, but I still grabbed my Scotland Yard shovel to unearth additional trivial details not widely known. Decades prior to the establishing the Richmond Art Center, few options were available for those seeking lessons, and

she was Richmond's premiere arts and crafts instructor. Hazel Gowan was born on 11/30/1893 in Rockport, Mendocino County, the first of four children. Her father, Ernest, was a building contractor, and her mother, Stella, was a schoolteacher and writer. At a very young age, Hazel had a grim habit of playing on railroad tracks. One day, she failed to dodge a logging train quickly enough, and was nudged by the lead railcar, and thrown between the rails. An alert brakeman yelled at her to lie down, thus saving her from injury, or more likely, death.

At age 7, her family relocated to San Francisco, but maintained a family summer home in Indian Creek. In 1903, at age 10, she walked into her neighbor's yard to admire some fox terrier puppies, and the mother bit her severely on both of her legs, arms, and hands, requiring cauterization of the wounds. Danger-prone Hazel Gowan exhibited talent at a young age, and her aptitude spanned broader than arts and crafts. Around 1910, she began attending the School of Design of



Hazel Salmi

the San Francisco Institute of Arts. She won awards, including a scholarship in 1911, and graduated with her teaching certificate in 1912. She further became a member of San Francisco Society of Women Artists, designed dresses, performed opera, and was a cubist ballet pageant performer. As a teenager, she was taught to dance by the revered Anita Peters Wright (5/28/1875-3/11/1969), the San Francisco dancing teacher accredited as creator of the interpretive modern dance. Hazel Gowan was one of Anita Peters Wright's classical dancers known as the "San Francisco Society Girls." The troupe consisted of the pioneer dance instructor's top students that regularly performed in San Francisco theatres, such as the Palace of Fine Arts, and California Theatre, and

beyond San Francisco.

She met her future husband, Martin E. Salmi (b. 2/23/1888), in a San Bruno Presbyterian church they both attended. Martin Salmi was raised in San Francisco by his Finnish immigrant parents, Martin Sr., a furniture varnisher, and his mother, Sophie. The couple married on 6/19/1916, and settled in San Francisco, where Hazel continued dancing, even performing in a San Francisco production of "Aida" just two months after the wedding. Their son Douglas Stuart "Doug" was born on 6/23/1917. Martin Salmi was an automotive engineer in the days of the White Steamer, also known as the "Stanley Steamer," an automobile powered by steam. Though Martin Salmi was an engineer who could have taken a high-income career in automotive or industrial engineering, he longed to be a teacher, and when given the opportunity to establish the machinery shop at Richmond Union High School, the couple moved to Richmond in 1921 and settled into house on 9th Street. The master machinist gave his all to students, and additionally taught an advanced machine shop course at the Richmond

Evening High School Program. After settling in Richmond, Hazel kept her ties to San Francisco performing arts, particularly the Girls Club of San Francisco, where she was Art Director between 1920-1936. In 1927 she directed an operetta for children, named The Toy Shop, and regularly oversaw costuming for the Girls Clubs community chest pageant. She furthered her education at Oakland College of Arts and Crafts, Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design, and U.C. Berkeley. In 1933, the couple constructed their home at 411 Western Drive and settled in Point Richmond in a time when the waterfront was modest, and yet to be fully appreciated. The couple kept active, enjoying running the Dipsea Trail from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach and walking back. Around the late 1920's, Hazel took up a cause that left a lasting mark on the City of Richmond. It was her opinion that Richmond's communities lacked opportunities for creative expression, and she set out to do something about it.

Hazel Salmi started teaching arts and crafts lessons to volunteer groups, even providing the necessary supplies in a suitcase full of equipment she toted around, whether on foot, bicycle, or streetcar. She did not have any assistance and was relegated to using empty school rooms and clubs to give classes from, and teaching flower arranging classes in her home. Educators took notice and provided her with \$93.00 per month funding (\$2,045.27 in 2023) from the EEP (Emergency Education Program), of the WPA (Work Progress Administration), a centerpiece of President Roosevelt's depression era New Deal. WPA funding for Richmond schools was secured by Superintendent of Richmond Schools Walter T. Helms (1877-1972), who was a supporter of her cause. Hazel Salmi was employed to teach classes at various Richmond schools where space was available, and in 1936, the transitory Hazel Salmi was provided an empty room to teach from at Roosevelt Junior High School at 175 9th Street. Little did Richmond know that the seedling planted in Room 120 would blossom into the Richmond Art Center years later. Hazel Salmi brought several of Richmond's art instructors together under one roof, her "Community Studio Workshop," and Room 120 became known as the "Richmond Art-Craft Center", sometimes referred



Martin E. Salmi

to as the “Junior Art Center”.

One could now pick up the telephone, ask the operator for 178-J, and enroll for six or twelve-week courses in crafts, color, flower arrangements, block printing, sketching, screen printing, metalworking, and woodworking. Under Hazel Salmi’s leadership, the group of several instructors doled out an education of arts and crafts to innumerable students. As demand for classes rose, the staff, supporters, and members joined together to support Hazel Salmi’s gift to the community. On each last Friday of the month, the sketch class met at 2PM for an art appreciation lecture and discussion, which also was open to the public, garnering further interest and more members. The Richmond Art-Craft Center started holding exhibits, and participating in WPA arts and crafts exhibits in the Lincoln School Auditorium, one of Richmond’s largest venues for events. Though the Richmond Art-Craft Center worked with the WPA, members formed a community organization to maintain a separate identity. One of the center’s prominent instructors, was Stephanie Pezza Hendricks (1/3/1864-1/20/1951), a Torino, Piemonte native, and Academy of Rome graduate, who came to the Bay Area to exhibit her paintings in the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. She was an interior decorator who excelled in oils and pastels and spoke Italian and French. Her husband, Orville Hendricks (1/5/1878-12/13/1953), was also an artist, and the couple had a studio in their El Cerrito home.

Enrollment increased to the point of room 120 bulging at the seams and limiting availability of lessons to many who were interested. Alternative locations such as an upstairs room at city hall, and the Richmond Recreation Center building at S. 10th and Virginia St. were used at times to accommodate larger groups of students. The Richmond Recreation Department factored into the equation a few years later, as you will read. When informed that WPA funding would soon cease, the fast-growing Richmond Art-Craft Center required structure greater than a loose community organization. Hazel Salmi grabbed the bull by the horns in September 1937, and started assembling a coalition of artists, art teachers, educators, and prominent citizens and created the Richmond Art-Craft Center governing board. As Chairman of Activities, Hazel Salmi was at the forefront of the board. The formation of

Richmond Art-Craft Center’s board was officially announced on November 9, 1938, attaining newfound influence and to proper place for a permanent building. The governing board was fashioned by electing two members from the six major arts and crafts divisions. The Chairman was Marguerite Abbott (8/28/1892-12/13/1993), wife of Dr. Clark L. Abbott (10/5/1874-9/11/1963), who was the most prominent surgeon in Richmond, and Contra Costa County coroner for many years. Dr. Abbott’s original residence was 126 Santa Fe Avenue, and his original hospital was located at 162 Santa Fe Avenue. The Vice Chairman was Dorothy Smith (12/3/1896-11/11/1967), an assistant director of the Richmond Recreation Department, senior regent of the Richmond Moose Lodge women’s club, and a handicraft instructor active in the Girl Scouts. Secretary-Treasurer was Ada Greenway (8/11/1906-1/1/2004), Sigma Phi Epsilon alumnus, and wealthy owner of Greenway Driveaway Service, which trucked new Ford automobiles from the Richmond factory to dealerships.

Other members of the newly formed board were Flora Horner, Anne Mero (7/3/1891-1/9/1975), who was half-owner of Mastercraft Tile and roofing, the largest of that type of business in Richmond. Ruby Craven (3/4/1893-6/14/1970), and Ramona Germeshausen (b. 2/28/1907), a well-liked instructor who taught painting, jewelry, metal, and just about everything else. The Richmond Club, Richmond’s largest civic women’s organization, for which Hazel was a member and one-time President of, had a garden unit credited for landscaping and beautifying many of Richmond’s public streets and parks. At least four garden club members were active in the Richmond Art-Craft Center. Minnie Jaquith (12/22/1879-6/13/1954) was President of the garden club, Viola Vloeberghs (2/8/1883-9/27/1969) taught home gardening classes and participated in Richmond Club gardening sales. Alice Ryan (11/10/1894-6/30/1989), was a Girl Scout leader active in the Potrero Historic Hiking Club. Myrtle Marland (7/7/1884-5/8/1965), was an ace on the history and growing methods of rare plants. She and her husband were Point Richmond residents prior to moving to the upscale Mira Vista neighborhood of El Cerrito. A distinguished Richmond Art-Craft Center board member was Rose Abbott (6/18/1876-10/25/1957), wife of Dr. Ursa “U.S.” Abbott

(6/3/1873-11/23/1943), a prominent Richmond doctor, and Clark Abbott's medical partner. Another noteworthy board member was Barbara Vincent (3/6/1916-9/24/2012). She and her husband, John "Jay" Vincent Jr. (1/18/1912-5/4/2005), were fervid activists for public access to Richmond's shoreline, and honored with a park dedicated in their names.

The now structured Richmond Art-Craft Center squandered no time holding fund raisers for supplies and resources, and furthermore to lobby the City of Richmond for funding and a new building. The first annual Christmas sale was held on December 12th and 13th 1938, and Hazel Salmi and Ada Greenway made starched wrapping paper for the yuletide fundraiser, along with the other articles contributed by members. Rose Abbott made candle sconces, Penelope Davis (5/26/1903-1/22/1954) made silver Christmas trees for table decorations, and Ramona Germeshausen and Maude Sikes (2/11/1876-6/20/1946) provided watercolors of the landscapes of Point Richmond and Alvarado Park. Madeline Rodini (more on her later) made pottery Madonna's. There were many other items to choose from, including salad fork and spoon sets. Proceeds from the successful bazaar, chaired by Dorothy Smith, went towards supplies that the center had previously relied upon Hazel Salmi for. In January 1939, Ada Greenway wrote a letter of thanks to the Richmond Independent newspaper for their continuing support. Decades later, the annual Christmas sale came to be known as the Holiday Arts Festival. Things were off to an enthusiastic start, but adequate funding for sustenance and obtaining a building would prove a tough nut to crack. Son, Doug Salmi attended Richmond Union High School, and played on the football team. Like his parents, Doug Salmi gave to the community, by working with the Richmond Recreation Department, which would play a huge role in the Richmond Art-Craft Center's destiny. The Director of the Richmond Recreation Department was a man by the name of Ivan "Maj" Hill (b. 11/24/1893). He got his nickname from the rank of a Major, which he held in World War 1. He was an Oakland schoolteacher who arrived in Richmond in 1919 and took a job as the coach and physical education teacher at Richmond Union

High School. In 1930, he brought the City of Richmond and the Richmond School District together and created the community's first recreational program at playgrounds, parks, and gymnasiums. His married his wife, Ruby B. Larson (10/14/1897-4/4/1963), in 1932. She too, was a schoolteacher and served as principal of Washington School between 1945-1959. Major Hill was a hailed civic leader, and when the new \$350,000 Harry Ells High School gymnasium later opened in 1950, it was dedicated to him. In 1951, Major Ivan Hill was named Richmond's Man of the Year by the Richmond Junior Chamber of Commerce and honored with a banquet at the Richmond Country Club. Major Hill's mother, Anne Warnick (1867-10/24/1931), was a Richmond schoolteacher who resided on Ocean Avenue. For several years, the Richmond Recreation Department held hobby and handicraft shows at the U.S.O. building on Tenth Street, and with the advent of the Richmond Art-Craft Center, there was some collaboration, but the two bodies remained separate. Major Hill even purchased a watercolor of his own house from a Richmond Art



Douglas Salmi

Craft Center fundraising sale.

After graduating from Richmond High, Doug Salmi went on to U.C. Berkeley. In July of 1937, he received honorable mention from the Fisher Body Craftsman Guild for a car design he submitted in a California competition. He received minor injuries in 1938 while motoring on Western Drive near future Keller Beach when another motorist collided with him. He graduated in 1941 with a B.S. from the College of Engineering. While at U.C. Berkeley, he met his wife, Marilyn (1919-2011), who graduated the same year. The couple married in November 1941 and moved to Southern California where Doug took an engineering job at the Lockheed Martin aircraft plant near Burbank, CA. Lockheed had to camouflage the grounds to protect it from enemy reconnaissance. On May 20 and May 21, 1941, the Richmond Art-Craft center held an "Art in Action" exhibit at the Lincoln Auditorium. The press commended the remarkable work of artists under Hazel Salmi's direction, and noted how it was becoming one of California's most important art centers. The press also mentioned that some of the most distinguished western artists reside in Richmond, and many refer to the cliffs of Richmond as the "Richmond Riviera". Marguerite Abbott, Rose Abbott, Ada Greenway, and Ramona Germeshausen assisted Hazel with the exhibit, along with Ruby Coles (10/23/1905-7/21/1967), and the Salmi's Western Drive neighbor, Orphelia Hales (6/25/1901-7/3/1980), who was in society circles in the art world.

Hazel Salmi was active in several organizations, the Soroptimist Club of Richmond being one of them. In 1941, while serving as Vice-President, Major Hill gave a speech on high school military training before the club. She was elected President in 1942. The Salmi's strongly advocated for students at Richmond's schools. She was involved in the Richmond Council of Parents and Teachers and stressed the importance of a trade or vocational interest for every boy. Miriam Garrard Kiraly (8/17 1903-3/21/1976), daughter of late mayor Edward Garrard, introduced Martin Salmi at a Woodrow Wilson P. T.A. executive meeting to hear him speak. Like his wife, he stressed the importance of vocational

training. Hazel was also President of the Richmond Club, and years later headed the Community Welfare Council, helped build a youth center, and served on the boards of the YWCA, Neighborhood House, and Richmond Ballet. She frequently attended Bay Area art fairs, and in 1941, she and Martin viewed an exhibit of French paintings at the DeYoung gallery in San Francisco, that received nationwide attention.

Major Ivan and Ruby Hill were the Salmi's next door neighbors, and Major Hill was an ardent supporter of Hazel Salmi's cause and knew of the Richmond Art-Craft Center's need for additional space. In 1941, the center was given use of a vacant, city-owned building once used by the health department at 237 9th Street, between Bissell and Chanslor Avenues. The building, still standing today, was only a block away from Roosevelt Junior High, and provided the Richmond Art-Craft center badly needed space to accommodate more students and activities. The gesture also displayed the City of Richmond's willingness to lend a hand. When Richmond segued into the wartime years, the Richmond Recreation Department was hit-hard during the span of one year, when 18 playground directors entered the military, representing every branch of the armed services. Despite the challenge, Major Hill managed to keep the department running at full operation. Members and supporters of the Richmond Art-Craft Centers' continuous appeals for official city support grew, and in 1943 the Richmond Art-Craft Center reached a milestone when it officially became the "Arts Division" of the Richmond Recreation Department. However, Hazel Salmi was not content and adamant that the Richmond Art-Craft Center be separate, and not under the auspices of the Richmond Recreation Department. Hazel Salmi called on the city to fund an inclusive art center that integrated painting, crafts, music, drama, and dance, stressing that a community art center was just as essential as a public library. It was significant that the Richmond Art-Craft Center was provided an old city-owned building, followed by official validation from the City of Richmond two years later. These were great leaps for the Richmond Art-Craft Center, and Major Hill unquestionably was responsible, but neither fulfilled Hazel

Salmi's dream, and she was not going to stop until the Richmond Art-Craft center had a brand-new building. She even designed plans that included an outdoor stage for children, and a small theatre for performing arts, and now was in a much better position to lobby the city.

As Richmond's wartime population surged, the Salmi's contributed to the war effort with support of Kaiser shipyard workers, many who had little or no formal education. Hazel Salmi boosted moral, and in addition to teaching art at all eight housing projects, she arranged professional and amateur art shows by and for shipyard workers, and Martin Salmi volunteered time teaching shipyard workers valuable machinery skills, which undoubtedly benefited them both in ship building and finding post-war civilian employment. Hazel Salmi's curriculum also became part of the Richmond Evening High School Program, and one must wonder if Hazel had any free time for herself. When talks of building a new civic center to house City Hall, the auditorium, public library, and the Hall of Justice spread, Hazel Salmi's rallying call for a new civic center building snowballed. More and more citizens, educators, intellectuals, and civic leaders stood in solidarity demanding the City of Richmond construct a large, permanent structure to house the Richmond Art-Craft Center.

At a board meeting held on May 26, 1944, the topic was discussed in length. Besides Hazel Salmi, speakers at the meeting included Walter T. Helms, Clare Horner, Marguerite Abbott, and City Librarian Coit Coolidge (4/27/1906-9/18/1972). Coolidge, a Santa Barbara native and Stanford and Columbia alumni, was first vice-president of the California Library Association, and a U.C. instructor. He was committed to Richmond, having turned down higher paying offers from other cities, and he is credited for opening library branches in Richmond's shipyards. Emil Esola (1899-1984) was Vice President of the Richmond branch of the American Trust Company, and a Chamber of Commerce leader. At 16, Esola began his own orchestra and was known by the nickname "Chief." Esola made a motion, and the Richmond Art-Craft Center Planning Committee formed the "Richmond Art Association" for the purpose of lobbying for a new civic center

building. This group consisted of the elite of Richmond, many who had moved up the hill to Mira Vista. On a side note, many residents of the flatlands of Richmond jokingly referred to Mira Vista as "Hamburger Hill," insinuating that homeowners could only afford ground beef due to high mortgage payments. A few positions were filled during the meeting to kickstart the new organization. Dr. C. Edward Rutledge (10/25/1905-6/28/1987), a Richmond dentist and Richmond Rotary Club member, was elected president of the new Richmond Art Association, and Mary Lowden (10/10/1896-4/1/1969), a Richmond Board of Education administrator, was elected secretary. A constitutional committee



Major Ivan Hill

with many influential people was organized. Committee members included Dr. Edmond M. Diefenbach (1/19/1917-10/10/1984), Della McVittie (9/5/1890-12/15/1968), whose husband, James McVittie (2/8/1885-4/1/1940), was Richmond's first City Manager. The McVittie Annex post office at 21st and Chanslor Avenue was dedicated in 1954. Like Hazel Salmi, Della McVittie was an expert in floral arrangement. Grant Elementary School P. T. A. leader, Philip Nemir (8/14/1907-12/23/1985), owner of a Ninth Street shopping center was selected, along with City Attorney Thomas "Mr. Richmond" Carlson (9/17/1893-6/25/1961). In 1949, Pullman Avenue was retitled Carlson Blvd. in acknowledgement of his allegiance to Richmond.

The bulk of Richmond Art Association positions were selected during a following meeting held on 7/1/1944. Civic leader Dr. C. Walter Cole (3/21/1898-2/10/1975), was appointed Vice-President. Cole was President of Richmond Rotary Club, an exalted ruler of the Elks Club, and active in the Live Oak branch of Children's Hospital Association of the East Bay. Helen Kingsbury (6/18/1877-9/3/1952), Secretary of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for 27 years, was appointed Correspondence Secretary. She was a member of Richmond Business and Professional Women's Club. Kingsbury also was a Soroptimist, on the YWCA Board of Directors of, a board member of the Richmond Civic Music Association, and Secretary of the Richmond Community Chest, a fund-raising organization that secured money for Richmond's various charity groups. Helen Kingsbury was commended by civic leaders for her outstanding contributions to the community welfare during WW2, and Hazel Salmi established a memorial award in her name for art contests after her death. Duncan Currie (7/22/1893-4/6/1965), manager of the Richmond Bank of America branch, was appointed Treasurer. Currie was President of the Richmond Community Chest board, involved with the East Bay Children's Hospital, and Chairman of the Central Valley Water Pollution Board. His wife, Jean (7/22/1893-4/6/1965), was an art aficionado. Warren A. Brown Jr. (1/28/1913-8/22/1990), publisher of the Richmond Independent newspaper, was named Press

Chairman. Thomas Carlson, and State Senator Truman H. "Tony" Delap (10/30/1885-12/31/1974), Clare Horner's law partner, were named as Legal Counselors. Delap, an artist, served as District Attorney., El Cerrito City Attorney. In addition to Chairman Hazel Salmi, the nine other board members were Walter T. Helms, Coit Coolidge, Emil Esola, Della McVittie, Major Ivan Hill, along with Standard Oil executive, Francis Hall Smith (1/20/1893-12/17/1974), who oversaw the entire refinery, and a board member of the Richmond Community Chest. Smith furthermore was active in the Rotary Club, and several Richmond charitable organizations, including Red Cross, and YMCA. Morris Wortman (3/3/1904-8/4/1993), a Kaiser architect in the Richmond shipyards, was an artist who exhibited his water colorings at the Paul Elder Gallery in San Francisco. Edgar W. Dale (4/15/1898-9/5/1989), was Secretary of the Elks Club, and Chairman of the Contra Costa County Probation Committee. Dale also was a member and 1-year President of the Contra Costa College Governing Board, was President and CEO of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, helped organize the Boy's Club of Richmond, Director of Mechanics Bank for over 40 years, and named Richmond Man of the Year in 1963. Mayor Robert D. Lee (10/15/1905-2/16/1968), was Vice President of the Contra Costa County Buildings Trades Council, a leader in the American Federation of Labor, and a councilman. In 1949, he was appointed Executive Director of the Richmond Housing Authority. One of the large projects he oversaw was construction of the 300-unit Easter Hill low-income housing project in 1954. Lee was later a realtor after retiring from the city.

End of Part One

The conclusion of James Cheshareck's

**"RICHMOND ART CENTER
THE LEGACY OF HAZEL SALMI"**

*Will print in the next issue of
THIS POINT.....in time*

Holiday Gift Idea

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.



\$20

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

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144 Castro Street, Point Richmond, CA 94801

Prefer to pay online by credit card?

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Things to Ponder

- 1) If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- 2) Which letter is silent in the word 'Scent', the S or the C?
- 3) Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- 4) Every time you clean something, you have to make something dirty.
- 5) Over a hundred years ago, everyone owned a horse and everyone rich owned a car. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- 6) If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
- 7) Why is there a 'D in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
- 8) Common sense is like deodorant. People that need it most don't use it.



Congratulations Rodriguez Family
Thanks to Dee Rosier for info

November 1943: War and Happenstance in Richmond

by Gregory Brock

It was 80 years ago this month. Richmond, like the world, was at war. The four Kaiser shipyards in Richmond were working around the clock to produce vessels for the war effort.

There were so many new residents in boomtown Richmond that the elementary schools tried to educate students in shifts of two or three classes per day. Juvenile delinquency was on the rise. So was child neglect. Wartime housing projects sprouted up along Cutting Boulevard from the Access Highway to Point Richmond, and along Canal Boulevard to Kaiser Shipyard No. 3.

Meat, sugar, coffee, gas, and tires – among many other commodities - were strictly rationed. People carpoled to the shipyards and other factory jobs. And workers rode the nascent Shipyard Railroad from 40th and San Pablo in Emeryville to the end of the line at Point Potrero.

In the 1940s, as in my younger days in the 1960s and '70s, the Richmond Independent was the city's major news organ. It reported happenings from near and far. What follows are items I found reading the bound volumes of the Independent from November 1943 in the research room at the Richmond Museum of History. All of the following appeared in the newspaper in the first week of November 1943.

On November 1, 1943, there was an explosion in a troop transport being constructed in Shipyard No. 3. One dead, six injured. The accident happened when marine electricians working in the bottom of a hold lit a match which exploded oxygen gas from a leaking line.

Dimout restrictions were lifted at one minute after midnight that day, ending 15 months of gloom. Theater marquees, restaurants and other businesses would turn on lights for the first time in more than a year. The Army warned that lighting restrictions might be imposed again when imperative for coast safety.

Permanente Metals Corporation launched and delivered one ship a day for a total of 31 Liberty ships in October. This set a world record in ship production. Advertisements show that the film, "Mr. Lucky" starring Cary Grant and Laraine Day was playing at the Cerrito Theater.

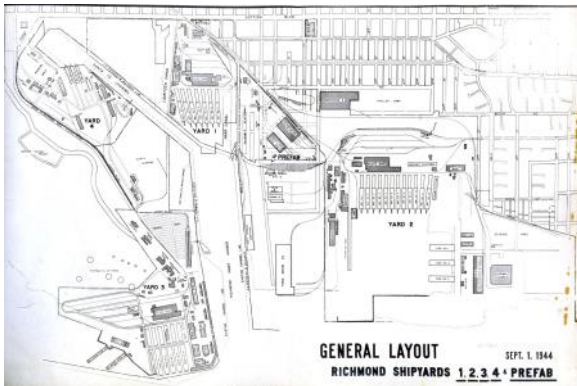
The sports page reported the Shipyard Softball Standings. The 12 teams in the league played at Nicholl Park diamonds at 11 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Some of the team names were the Singe Burners, the Tank Testers, and the Yard No. 2 Chippers.

The paper ran an obituary for expatriate German film director Max Reinhardt. His last words were: no flowers, no pomp. Tell anyone who wishes to send flowers to make a contribution to any war effort that will defeat Hitler.

On November 2, 1943, there was an article about juveniles aged 14 to 18 who were getting draft cards by saying they were 18, then were using the draft cards to get shipyard jobs.

That day, the Independent reported summarily that a German spy had been arrested in Richmond. Another report stated "Two More Girls Go Missing." Betty Jo Carter, 14, disappeared while her mother was shopping. Donna R. Peck, 15, didn't come home from school at Longfellow Junior High School; her sister said she may have gone back to Oklahoma.

An advertisement touted a "Big Dance Every Tuesday Night at East Shore Park", with live music by Ray Wade and the Rhythm Riders. 8:30 pm to 12:30 am. Mr. Wade and the Riders were also engaged at barn dances on Thursday and Saturday nights at Maple Hall, Church Lane, San Pablo.



Six draft dodgers were convicted in Los Angeles. They received 1.5 to 2 year sentences plus \$1,000 fines. An ad for the Richmond Café, at 4th and MacDonald, bore the catch phrase: "We're famous for food."

A juvenile robbed an 11-year-old Independent paper boy of \$20.

14-year-old Fidelia Valdez was reported missing by her father. The girl took her clothes and was seen at the Richmond bus depot and then not seen again.

On November 4, 1943, the Independent reported that shipyard workers gained a pay boost.

A 1937 Cabriolet auto was stolen from the Shipyard No. 1 parking lot last night said Aldo Gallo Paves of 1427 Addison Street, Berkeley.

A suitcase was stolen from a car parked at Ninth and Nevin. The owner lost \$200 in clothing and also Army discharge papers.

Trial was underway for man struck by a Key System train on the north side of Shipyard No. 3 Access Road on May 3. The wife and three children were seeking \$50,500 in damages.

A Marin ship worker, Margaret Vinnard, 29, a ship fitter trainee, was killed when run over by a truck at the yard.

Pin setters were wanted at Richmond Bowl, 11th and Bissell. Steady or Part-Time. Beds furnished for men. 9 cents per line, paid daily.

On November 5, 1943, the paper reported that bids were accepted for construction of Seaport War Housing, the Pullman War Apartments, and the Cutting War Apartments.

A youth, age 20, was arrested in a gas coupon racket. He sold coupons to two sailors who paid with marked money. The youth had coupons for 116 gallons of gas on his person.

Gamblers with a dice table were arrested on a ferryboat bound from SF to the Richmond Shipyards. They were found with \$100 in silver.

An 8-year old boy was deserted by his mom and step-dad at the Canal Apartments. The boy had a history of petty thievery, mostly for food. School records show no attempt was made to send him to school.

Two 12-year-old boys broke into Albert's clothing store at Ninth and McDonald. They ran away from home Sunday and had been traveling between Oakland and Richmond attending shows,

stealing food, and sleeping in boiler rooms of federal apartments. They threw a pair of pliers through the glass door of the store and entered. They took wallets, fountain pens, belts, and shoes. About then, the police arrived.

Thugs were on a spree of holdups in Richmond. They pulled up to a man at South Twenty-Fifth Street and Access Highway, kidnapped him, and let him out at South Twenty-Third Street at Cutting. They robbed him of his wallet at gunpoint. Next, a taxi driver picked up robbers at South Tenth and Cutting who asked to be driven to South Twenty-Third and the Access highway. The driver was robbed of \$48 by one of the men. Finally, two men attacked another youth on MacDonald near First Street and robbed him of \$5. The men then ran towards Atchinson Village.

Four autos were stolen in Richmond last night. One from in front of Mrs. Thomas M. Phipps house at 225 Virginia Avenue. Paul Lee's '36 sedan was stolen from the vicinity of Eighth and Macdonald. Another '37 sedan taken from San Pablo and Nevin. And a '39 sedan was stolen from the parking lot at Richmond No. 3 shipyard.

On November 6, 1943, the Independent's headline read: "Hitler Suffers Greatest Blow as Russians Seize Kiev."



These snippets from the Independent from November 1943 show Richmond in a world at war at home as well as abroad. The strains of wartime conditions show up in accidents and crime at the Kaiser shipyards, juvenile delinquency and child abuse in government housing projects, the scammers who violated the rationing rules, and the thugs who stole and robbed in the night.

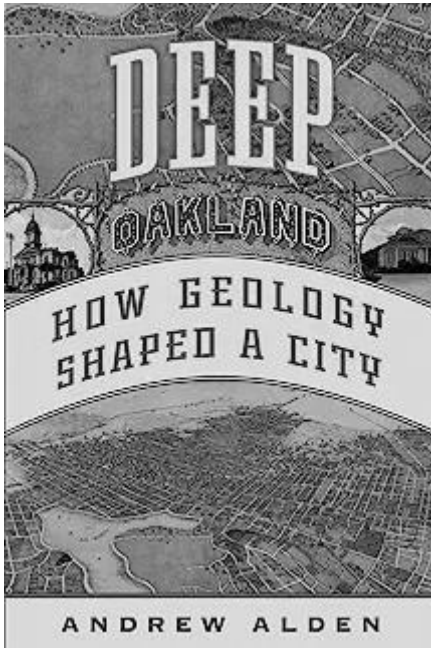
The pages of the Richmond Independent captured the spirit of the times. To read them is to bring those days to life.



The Book Corner

by Jim Davis

How Deep Can it Get?



When I began to study history some decades ago, an internecine debate raged about whether history was a humanity or a social science. Either way you parsed it, the discipline fit cozily into a study of humans, as individuals (biography) or in groups. Since then, the discipline has been bursting out in all directions from this human center. There are now excellent histories of beavers, camels, cod fish, rats, and mosquitoes. There are histories of things you can't see, such as microbes. Even timelines (once so comfortably

snug in the world defined by the invention of agriculture) have, almost literally, exploded. In some universities you can now take a course in "Big History," a study of the history of the entire universe since the big bang. Pioneering historian David Christian even managed a Ted Talk (now a YouTube video) treating the entirety of Big History, from the big bang up to the nuclear age, in 18 minutes. This makes those of us trapped back in the humanity or social science trenches appear truly lilliputian. If you are going to step back and look at things, why not step way back.

That is what Andrew Alden does in his recent book *Deep Oakland*, taking a look at Oakland and the East Bay back over geological periods. How does the non-human or even the non-biological (minerals and tectonic plates) shape the history that has found its way into books, newspaper articles, and even the occasional documentary? Most radically new history demands radical shifts in perspective, seeing things in new and fresh ways. Alden launches his book in that spirit: "Regarding a city in terms of its geology—seeing it from the ground down—is not the usual way."

This perspective can shake a conventional historian down to his roots. Sometimes we get distracted by the human past with its documents, buildings, roads, bridges, shipyards, oil refineries, city halls, etc. and forget that all this happened in the blink of an eye. One of the many valuable contributions offered by the region's venerable regional parks and bicycle paths is to get us back not only to plants and animals (as we encounter them) but to the bones, so to speak, to the rocks, hills, creeks (when they're not dry), and natural waterfronts that have been shifting and changing right under our feet, according to their own deep schedules.

Alden does everything he can to help a non-geologist understand this deep change. He writes in a fluid, engaging style, with jargon and technical terms studiously weeded out. Every so often, he provides us with simple, homemade drawings of landscape cutaways to show surface features (creeks and hills) and what lies beneath.

One of the most illuminating chapters for Point Richmonders is on the bayside mudflats and what development did to them, described in this

vivid passage:

“The destruction of its quiet primeval shoreline was the largest environmental injury Oakland ever inflicted in its dogged climb to civic greatness. To the Americans, the marsh was something to be made into deep navigable water or dry developable land, one or the other. Dredging the Bay and burying the marsh with the spoils, they created made land and made water in one act that forced a binary scheme upon an organic, gradational landscape. This work ended only when the marsh was almost gone. Few photos of its original state survive.”

Although the focus here is on Oakland, it could just as easily have been on us here in Richmond and Point Richmond. Our mudflats were once such a prominent part of our geology that John Parr Cox (the nephew of pioneer waterfront developer Fred Parr) described a Southern Pacific locomotive jumping its tracks and disappearing below the Richmond mud, the way ill-fated movie actors disappear in quicksand. According to Parr, it lay there, swallowed by the mudflats, fifteen feet below the surface.

But what geology and deep change took millennia and longer to create, the twentieth century took away quickly. As war engulfed Europe in the early 1940s, Richmond’s farmlands and mudflats were sacrificed to the allied cause, as Henry J. Kaiser obliterated much of them with dredging, pilings, and fill. Stunningly, much of this was accomplished in just three weeks, as Kaiser typically did it all ahead of schedule. And there was more here than just dredging and fill. Whole hills disappeared. Something had to be done to ensure that more ships were built than could be sunk by German U-boats operating along the Atlantic shipping lanes, and it was

largely done here. In terms both human and geological, the place would never be the same again.

While the mudflats get their chapter, the real star of Alden’s deep show are the tectonic plates and what they have done and are still doing to shape this area. “Oakland,” he confidently asserts, “is earthquake country.” Few pages of Alden’s narrative pass without yet another mention of the Hayward Fault. As with the mudflats, we are part of this story. A US Geological Survey map shows a thick black line (the Hayward Fault) running from just east of San Jose, passing through Richmond until it reaches its terminus beneath the waters of San Pablo Bay. The map’s narrative warns that odds are we will be in for one above 7.0. On a map like this, you do not want to live in the dark shaded parts. As Point Richmonders, we sometimes imagine that we can luxuriate on bedrock, free from the distinct kind of rock and roll that those who live directly above the fault will have to face. Still, we are close. Uncomfortably close?

The plates have moved and continue to move, pushing up the East Bay Hills at the rate of a millimeter a year, according to Alden. Even though this landscape has been ocean bottom several times over, the plates abide, grinding away below us, determining our future perhaps more consequentially than anything we can hope to accomplish through mere human history, operating, as we do, on the surface. It pays to go deep in one’s thinking once in a while, and Andrew Alden’s very readable book helps us to do that.

Andrew Alden, *Deep Oakland: How Geology Shaped a City* (2023). Heyday.

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: “No good in a bed, but fine against a wall”

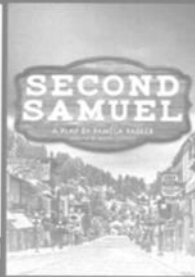
~Eleanor Roosevelt



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by Pamela Parker
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February 2 - 25

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SPRING AWAKENING

book and lyrics by Steven Sater; music by Duncan Sheik; directed by Kyle Carrillo-Enders
April 12 - May 5

Spring Awakening is based on a scandalous German play from 1891 about sexual awakening and self-discovery. In the 2006 Broadway show it was turned into an alt-rock musical with a folk-infused rock score. IT WON 8 TONY AWARDS including BEST MUSICAL! Be prepared, *Spring Awakening* packs a powerful emotional punch! Mature themes. Parental guidance suggested.

CLYBOURNE PARK

by Bruce Norris
directed by Richard Perez

June 28 - July 21

Winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and

the 2012 Tony Award for Best Play, *Clybourne Park* "applies a modern twist to the issues of race and housing and aspirations for a better life"

— *Washington Post*. A continuation of Lorraine Hansberry's 1959 *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Clybourne Park* is intense, witty, complex, and rewarding.

GOD OF CARNAGE

by Yasmina Reza
directed by Chris Rubingh

September 6 - 29

When one boy injures another in a playground incident, their parents get together to discuss the situation "in a civilized manner." What begins as a well-mannered meeting soon degenerates into chaos in this 2009 Tony Award Winner Best Play and Laurence Olivier Best Comedy Award.

THE 39 STEPS

by Patrick Barlow
directed by John Maio

November 15 - December 8

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python, and you have the thrilling, riotous and un-missable comedy, *The 39 Steps*—a unique theatrical experience, equal parts farce, clowning, and noir thrills, this wonderful comedy features four actors playing 139 roles with fast-paced action and riotous invention.

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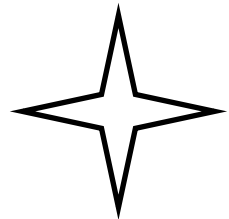
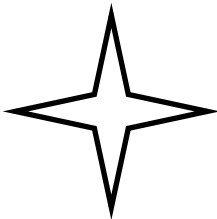
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Lynn Rendle
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Chuck Dutrow
Mary Ann Gaspard

Shirley Butt
Chris Bradshaw
David T. McCarthy
Clare Doherty
K. Patrick O'Higgins
Jason D. Crowson
Dee Rosier
Xavier Delatorre
Joe Savile

Shane Thomas
Jay Fenton
Joann Bill-Cannon
Linda Feyder
George Tomberlin
Nicole Vargo
Kathryn Pinkerton
James Cheshareck, Jr.
Audrey Edwards

Bobbies Boziki
Debra Jackson
Linda Cheshareck
Katrina MacDiarmid
Albert Kollar
David Dolberg
Charlotte Birsinger
Gary Shows
Offie Walker

December

Alexis Lane Jensen
Donald Smith
Debbie Seaburg
Fred Frye
Christine Hayes
Michael D. Jackson
Lydia Jahromi
Jeff Corbin
Heidi Frameric

Mike Turner
Lauren Nason
Marilyn Darling
Linda Mertle
Michael Cheshareck
Eric Turner
Seth Fenton
Vince Smith
Jennifer Rosier

Christina Nagatani
Thomas Mercer-Hursh
Jerry Feagley
Ilana Dolberg
Kayla Dolberg
Bob Burdick
Pat Pearson
Tony Lizarraga
Fernando Garcia

Becky Garcia
Kenny Paasch
Gary Massey
Christopher W. Wilson
Lisa M. Hire
Patricia Jackson Kierce
Karen Buchanan

January

Don Lindemann
Donna Buhler
Rahne Rosier
Tom Brennan
Altha Humphrey
Gloria Mallaghliate
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Bryan Smith

Brad Feagley
Ken Reed
Jim Allgaier
Doug Greiner
Jeff Quist
Ed Paasch
Jan Burdick
Robert McIntosh

Mary Highfill (100
years old on
Jan. 5, 2024!)
Taylor Brougham
Alphonso Diaz
Karen Kittle
John Cutler
Marilu Fox

Elaine Harris
Kristina Hollbrook
Les Hathaway
Richard Palfini
Sena Bowles
Diana Mertle McHenry

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EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 103
Mary Bianchini Highfill - 100
Victor Morales - 95
Billie Bonham Shaw - 101
June Beesley Sosabal - 100
Donna Wilson - 93
Florence Wilson - 93

Alphonso Diaz - 95
Christopher Wilson - 100
Patricia Jackson Kierce 91
Frank West - 90
Altha Humphrey - 90
Paul Ciabattari - 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

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Gary:

I came across the enclosed photos and thought you may like to have them for your archives.

One photo is of the Javellana family float representing Hawaii, their homeland, dated August, 1961. Mr. Remigio (Java) Javellana is third from left in the light colored Aloha shirt and his wife Jane is standing next to him on the right. Other family members are nearby. The float was probably entered into the July 4th parade and celebration at the Point. Another photo is of the family home on Washington Ave. as it looked in the late 50's and last is a photo of the Javellana family performing at the Oddfellows Hall in Point Richmond.

The Javellana's moved to Point Richmond October 8, 1955 according to family records. They rented for a time and then purchased a home at 421 Washington Ave where they lived until 1989.

Many wonderful family gatherings happened at this home and music was always a part of the day. Mr. Javellana started a music and entertainment group called the Hawaiian Islanders comprised of family members. They performed for local civic groups.

Kristen Highfill Javellana
Pinole, CA

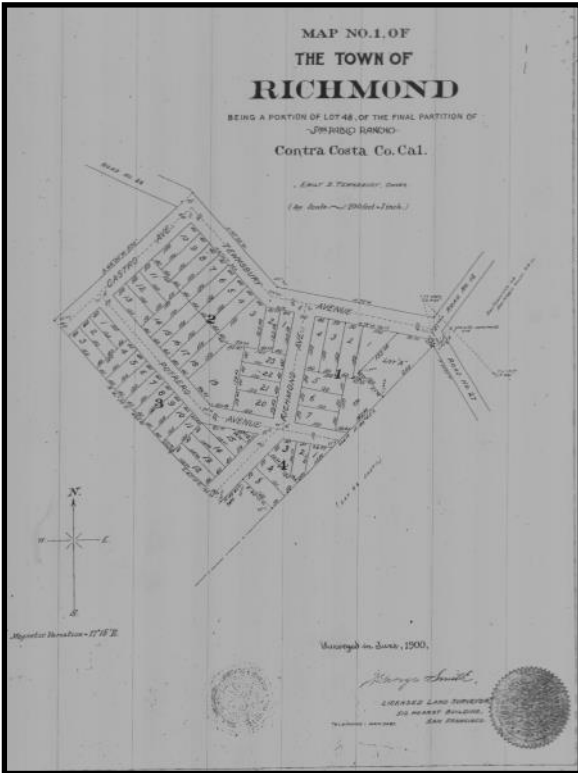


*View from Golden Gate Avenue in
1955*

*PRHA photo archive
#1390—Royce Ong, 1955*

Memorials.....

Katherine Madison passed away on July 17th at the age of 84. She leaves behind her loving husband Kenneth and four children, Debbie Neighbors, Randy Long, Ronald Long, and Robert Long. Also three step-children, Debra Archuleta, Dan Creson and Kenny Ray Madison. Katherine was a RN for over 30 years and a retired chiropractor. She was loved by everyone that knew her.



*Three Point Richmond street maps from 1900
Thanks to Marie Kochaver,
they are in our archives*

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Contact: Pat Tostenson, jptostenson@gmail.com

More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

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

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900-A Dornan 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.

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PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

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Washington Elementary School PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Kelleen Peckman, President

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

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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

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WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers a Spanish/English dual language immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade.

Contact principal Mr. Juan Carlos Alvarado

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

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

RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (RTA)

Adult/Youth Lessons and USTA League Play, Hurlbut Tennis and Garden Park (Plunge)

Contact: Garry and Maryn Hurlbut, WWW.RTA-CA.ORG, 510-547-8111

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

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

Gary Shows

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

or

email: garyshows@gmail.com

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Mid Dornan	Articles & Stuff
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Dee Rosier	Article
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