

# THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

[www.PointRichmondHistory.org](http://www.PointRichmondHistory.org)

Vol. XLII No. 4

February/March, 2024

\$3.00



# *We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!*

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Gretchen Swerdfeger-Stevens & Mark  
Stevens  
Henry Marchitiello

# From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

It is very gratifying to start the new year being able to thank people for their generosity. We are grateful to our 3 Lifetime Members: Pat Dornan, Gary Shows (in honor of Jerry Cerkanowicz) and Lara Choe, proprietor of Lara’s Fine Dining in Marina Bay. We are extremely appreciative of the Gateway Foundation for their generous grant to help us continue “plaqueing”. (My apologies to those of you who shudder when some of us turn nouns into verbs!) And a rousing “thank you!” to all of you who contribute so much information (photos, newspaper articles, memories) to the PRHA Facebook page. You are gold miners of Point Richmond history! And, while I’m at it, thank all of you who support the Point Richmond History Association with your membership, archival contributions, and interest in the history of The Point.

For those of you who would like to expand your historical perspective beyond this little corner of the world, Jim Davis, a PRHA board member and a volunteer at the Rosie the Riveter Museum, gives a lecture at the Rosie Museum every first and third Thursday of the month on topics tangential to this area. Here is a sample of subjects he has covered so far (and which will be repeated): Women in WWII; Filipinos in WWII ; Why Were Richmond’s Ships so Important? The Battle of the Atlantic; Entertainment in World War II Part 1. “Movies and More Movies, Hollywood Goes to War” and Entertainment in WWII Part 2, From Radio to the Shipyards. Jim’s one-hour presentations are well-researched, lively and “profusely illustrated”. Lots of old photos. The lectures start at 2:30 p.m. in the theater at the Rosie Museum usually on the first and third Thursdays. Check this website for exact dates: <https://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm> I highly recommend them!

Be safe. Be kind.

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*Rosie the Riveter Lecturer and PRHA Board Member Jim Davis. You will enjoy his Rosie performance. In the Rosie Visitor Center.*

***Thank you members for your renewal:***

Dr. Oliver and Karen Pollak\*\*  
Lara Choe\*\*\*  
Gary Shows\*\*\*  
Bruce and Sandra Beyaert\*\*  
Linda Andrew-Marshall  
Mark & Gloria Maltagliati\*\*  
Joe & Julie Heath Family  
Theresa Daniel  
The Dolberg Family\*\*  
Donna J. Wilson\*\*  
Barbara Ward Family  
Karen & Jay Fenton Family  
Henry Marchitello\*\*  
Tim & Roberta Montgomery\*\*  
Karen Buchanan  
Evelyn Thill  
Jeff Rubin  
Gretchen Swerdfeger-Stevens &  
Mark Stevens  
Cindy Toth  
Altha Humphrey  
Hon. Barry Goode\*\*  
Diane Marie  
Teresa Albro  
Pamela Dutro Horn

***Welcome to new members:***

Anna & Dave Froker Family  
Mary Swerdfeger- Comer\*  
Laura Balko  
Claudia & Bruce Kaplan  
Lara Choe\*\*\*

\*Gift Membership  
\*\*Special Supporter  
\*\*\*Lifetime Member

*Thank You To Friends at*  
**Santa Fe Market**

*For distributing*  
**“THIS POINT.....in time”**

*Visit our little museum and view our*  
*1000+ picture slide show of historic*  
*Point Richmond photos.*  
*Open Thursdays and Saturdays*  
*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  
Kevin Christopher

***The Cover:***

***Joel Beck image of what some say is his depiction of Point Richmond.***  
***See page 10 for information on Point Richmond Gallery's Joel Beck Collection.***

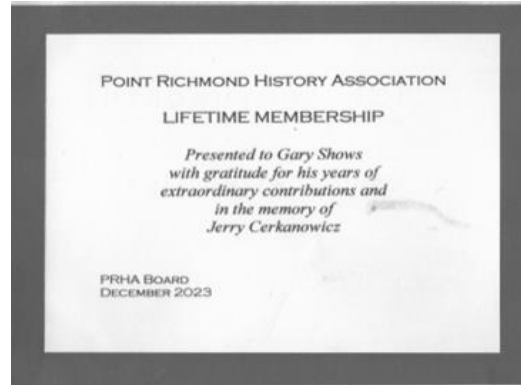
# Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

Sending a sincere thank you to the PRHA Board for the gift of a Lifetime Membership to the Point Richmond History Association. I am extremely proud of this gift and am so happy to include my dear late Jerry's name in each of our newsletters, thank you PRHA Board! Jerry was once president of the History Association.

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" will be Friday March 22nd, 2024 and will cover April and May.



## The more things change, the more they stay the same

by Desiree Heveroh

My favorite history quote is "they say that history doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes." Whilst Executive Director of the Richmond Museum of History, I saw an intriguing photo of masked staff members taken on the grounds during the Spanish Influenza when this beautiful Carnegie building was Richmond's Public Library. It solidified an earlier realization that

many of our Historic buildings were living through their 2nd flu epidemic & how closely my life was mirroring those who came

before. Wanting to honor this, I asked a volunteer & staff member to help recreate this photo. Hopefully the corner Victoria & I created dedicated to the days as a Library is still there. You can see Ethel's spectacles, a book cart & other interesting artifacts.



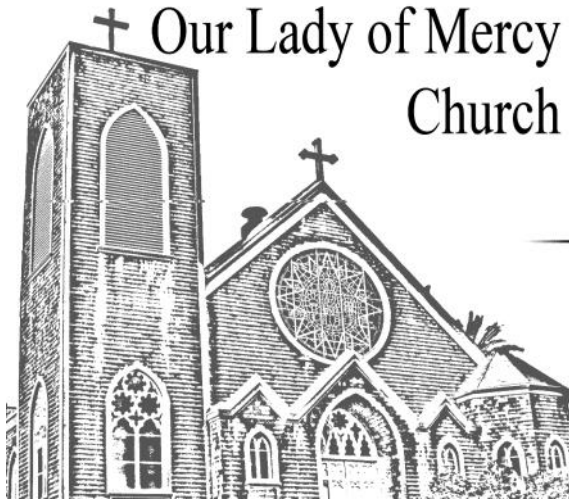
The Museum staff, 2022. During the Covid "flu" epidemic the staff was required to wear masks. This picture was taken on the North side of the Museum at 4th Street and Nevin Avenue next to the cornerstone honoring its history as a Library

Hiding behind the masks are (l. to r.) Staff, Victoria Stuhr (Collections/Gallery Manager) and Desiree Heveroh (then Executive Director) Photo recreation courtesy of Desiree Heveroh

The library staff, 1918. During the "flu" epidemic the staff was required to wear masks. This picture was taken at the east side of the library at 4th Street and Nevin Avenue. Hiding behind the masks are (l. to r.) Ethel Griffins (Kerns), Edith Pickett (Bowser) and Ruth Adair (Brown). Photo courtesy of Ethel Kerns.



# Church News



DEE ROSIER  
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As we enter a new year, reflect on the previous – some good, some not so good, let’s start a new and move on. Hopefully the days will not fly by as quickly.

Our Lady of Mercy Pastoral Council met with new members participating: David Binting, Nancy Noble and Michelle George, who introduced themselves to members, Anne Brussok and Mike Summers. The Council acts as an advisory to Fr. David, who is not a member. More members are needed,

Father announced that more people were being married and children were baptized at our Parish. He announced that we had made and sent the correct amount of our annual assessment. The proposed budget for 2024 is due to the Diocese at the end of January.

The Pt. Richmond Gateway Foundation grant of \$1,500 was awarded to OLM. It will be used toward the needs of St. Vincent DePaul.

The showing of movies in the church hall proved to be popular, so they will both be shown

at a later date – “Oppenheimer”, and “St. John’s Bible.” The Council also discussed inviting Rev. Eun-Jin and her congregation. The church hall has been well utilized and should it continue, will require a host or monitor/coordinator for events and advertising. Father would also like to give a retreat about once a week. Discussion followed regarding having one during Lent.

David presented some before/after pictures of the interior of OLM showing having walls painted and some modifications to the wood, trims, etc. The members were in favor of modifications and inquiries made as to restoring, etc. Father also mentioned that he would like to have 12 new chairs for the hall. Anne stated she has a source; which is a company that works with non-profits.

On entering the church on December 17, a handwritten sign by Fr. David appeared on the entry which read, : “120 YEARS AGO TODAY ... THE WRIGHT FLYER WAS AIRBORNE. THESE VERY DOORS WERE ALREDY OPENED 4 MONTHS PRIOR.”

The Annual Giving Tree was set up for donations to UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, Oakland Family House. A basket was provided for gift cards which will be used to purchase supplies needed to stock and run the family residential house, a home away from home, for families of critically ill children. The cards will be delivered after Epiphany. Would like to give thanks to former parishioners, Nancy and Stan Toledo who years ago introduced us to the Giving Tree. 2024 Donation cards are now available - be sure to pick yours up.

Christmas services brought us Elizabeth Hertzberg as cantor at the Evening Mass. It is always an event to look forward to as her voice resounds within our church. She is always welcomed.

Years ago Altar Boys were a given at Mass. What a welcoming surprise it was to see an altar boy at the entrance to the church on a recent Sunday. He was dressed in outstanding altar clothes and not the usual we were used to. He was

indeed a gift for the day. John Mally is the son of Dr. Michael Mally who is on the Clinic Board of Directors. His father and sister were also present at Mass. This coming year, John will travel to Lourdes for the first time. John – you were indeed a gift and always welcome to attend. At one time, we had not just altar boys, but an altar girl – Rosemary Giacomelli.

The Rev. Eun-Joo Myung, Methodist church Minister was guest speaker at Women’s Voices. She delighted us with her initial journey from Korea to her present position in Pt. Richmond. Her life has been one of constant interest and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

At one time we enjoyed joint events with our nextdoor neighbors and with her presence look forward to continuing such.

If you travel on BART and progress to the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Station, you will recognize a familiar face on a poster wall – Anne Brussok. Anne is employed at the Order of Malta clinic of Northern California. Treatment and care are given to those without medical insurance. Her picture was an ad to those in need.

Condolences to Tom Boone who recently traveled to Pennsylvania for funeral services for his mother, Carol. Many years ago, Tom’s parents attended Mass at OLM.

Condolences to Kathleen Sommers in the recent death of her Father, Bob Kelleher.

Condolences to the Gerk Family in the recent death of Tommy Gerk. The Gerk family were Loyal members of OLM and always present with a helping hand. The family was a large one and when attending church would consume an entire pew.

Condolences to the family of Marilyn Darling. Marilyn was a member of OLM for many years and very active in all church events. The family owned Ivy Inn on Cottage and her family were all members of OLM. Services were held at St. Callistus by Salesian Father Al. Her family of 5 drew a large crowd which was a tribute. Marilyn lived in Phoenix along with two daughters and their families, plus two sons who live locally. It was her desire to return home for her services.

It is with heavy heart that I share that Judy and Dave Spencer will be leaving this area. Both

have health issues and have made the decision to move to an assisted living facility closer to one of their sons in the Sacramento area. Judy was actually the originator of the Huggers Group. They will be missed, but will continue to keep in touch.

Please remember those who are in need of our continued prayers for health and healing and for all who care for them: RON ACUNA, THOMAS BRADY, ANN CHAVEZ, LINDA CHESHARECK, ILEANA DE LA TORRE, DALE DARLING, BARBARA DRAKE, RICHARD HERTZBERG, JACK HILL, MICHAEL LAMBERT, RAPHAEL LOPEZ, ROBERT MARTINEZ, MARGARET MORKOWSKI, EDWINA MURRAY, FATHER DAVID, MARIE PECKHAM, BOB PERATA, ELIANA QUINTARA, DEE ROSIER, FRED SIEGMUND, JUDY SPENCER, DAVID YOUNG.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – RAHNE ROSIER AND GRIFFIN KNEE

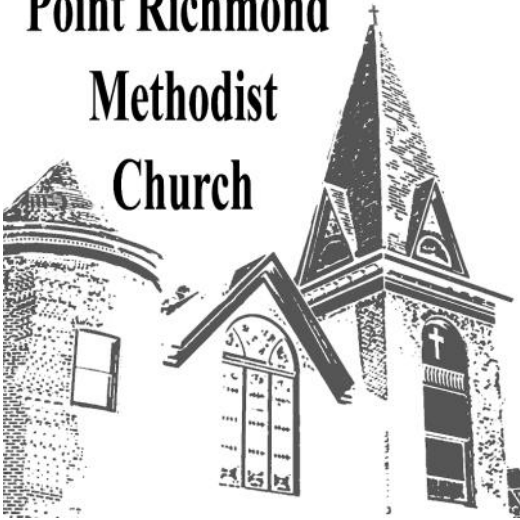
MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE:  
LOVE TO SHARE  
CASH TO SPARE  
TIRES WITH AIR  
AND FRIENDS WHO CARE

SEE YOU IN CHURCH



Dee Rosier

# Point Richmond Methodist Church



**Jean Reynolds**  
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sweetheart05@mac.com

We received Betsy Lance as our newest member on Sunday, November 19. Betsy is already active in our community: she brought refreshments to coffee hour, baked cookies for the bake sale, and joined the book study on Wednesdays. She is a good listener and friend, and we are so glad she became a member!

Susie Bader died unexpectedly on December 4, the day after she served as liturgist and read scripture in worship over Zoom. We are still reeling from the news. She was creative, playful, a devoted mother and wife, loved and loving. Her husband Rob just died in March. Susie is survived by children Jack, soon to graduate college; Nate, high school junior; and Charlotte, middle-schooler. A memorial service to celebrate her life is Saturday, February 3, 11:00 AM at the church.

On November 25, several folks joined in the Community Christmas Carol sing in the Point Richmond Triangle before the tree lighting and Santa visit. Karen Buchanan, Doreen Leighton, Laila Millar, Rev. Eun-Joo Myung, Norm Reynolds, Diane Diani, and Jean Reynolds added our voices with others to join the celebration. Shout out to Amy Ukena for leading the singing!

During worship November 26, retired pastor

Dan Damon accompanied our hymns and provided the anthem, mostly hymns from his new collection *Look at the Light*. A recording of the songs is available online on usual platforms, and digital copies are available on the Hope Publishing website:

<https://www.hopepublishing.com/Search/look%20at%20the%20light.aspx>

Dan will sing and lead songs from the collection on January 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the church, and help us christen the songbooks we purchased.

On November 26, we had a ‘Book Concert’ after worship with Dr. “Shan” Lucia Ann McSpadden, co-author of *Building Lasting Bridges*. Shan experienced an immersion in another culture in Sweden and shared cultural differences she had to adjust to there. She had each person share how their grandparents survived. For the third part of our series, author Rev. Katy Choy-Wong will give the morning sermon March 10, and stay to lead a workshop on cross-cultural competency during coffee hour.

Saturday, December 2, we met for our Church Charge Conference presided by District Superintendent Shinya Goto, probably seeing him as DS for the last time since he returns to parish ministry in July. We approved officers, committee members, and pastor’s salary; received a membership report, and heard reports from the Lay Leader and Pastor.

The Joyful Noise Choir resumed regular rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM on December 6, led by Laila Millar. Hooray! We still record hymns digitally to supplement online streaming of our service on Zoom, but the anthems have been sung by the choir in real time, with occasional variance. Jonathan Swett sang a solo anthem pitch-perfectly via Zoom on January 7.

On Tuesday, December 19, eleven people caroled at the memory care unit at Belmont Village in Albany where Jane Carnall lives. Mike Carnall and all the residents gathered for the music and fun! Fran Smith, Jessie West, Alice Thompson, Bill Thompson, Doreen Leighton, Barbara Haley and her granddaughter Melanie, Pastor Eun-Joo Myung, Gill Stanfield, Laila Millar, and Jean Reynolds sang several carols; Jane and others sang along. The words and tunes are second nature even when memory fades. We



planned to sing for Mim Drake and others at Greenridge Nursing Home in El Sobrante, but a covid outbreak there kept us away.

More than fifty people attended Christmas Eve Jazz Service in person and seventeen joined on Zoom. Sarah Sutton and Tyrah Weems attended virtually from Virginia; May and Dan Cotton zoomed in from Spokane, Washington, and saw their grandson Xander who had joined from Oakland. Nancy Compton listened in from Sacramento; Tom, Shirley, Andrew, and many of the Butt clan were online from Sierra City, CA. Bassist Kurt Ribak led the band: Lincoln Adler, saxophone; Carrie Jadhe, drums. Lee Bloom, piano, saved the day after Greg Sankovich tested positive for covid and had to bow out. Sheilani Alix's voice was smooth as silk; Gill Stanfield sang two pieces perfectly. Rev. Eun-Joo Myung taught us to sign hope, peace, joy, and love in American Sign Language. Jean Reynolds read the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20. We all got to sing along for the final two hymns. It was a joyful celebration!

**Special offerings:** In November, Barbara Haley and Doreen Leighton delivered socks we gave for people served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission and GRIP.

In December, the Family Justice Center staff asked for diapers and wipes to help their client families instead of the usual stuffed animals. Pastor Eun-Joo, Barbara, and Doreen delivered them.

We collected scholarship funds on United Methodist Student Day in November.

**Other missions:** Lacking an outreach team to organize a community feast at the church, we purchased premade Thanksgiving dinners for about thirty people at Todd Hotel. Jonathan Swett and Diane Frary delivered them. Diane described the smiles of happiness she saw on the faces of the men who rushed out to help take the dinners inside to their neighbors.

Linda Andrew-Marshall bought food on our behalf and took it to the GRIP family shelter for dinners on November 16, December 21, and January 18. Pat Dornan provided Christmas gifts for twelve children and three adult residents of the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's family shelter. Each received a coat or vest, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, books, and personal items. We

donated money for gifts and items to add.

**More Activities:** Book Study readers were fascinated by *Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm: The American Methodist Church and the Struggle with White Supremacy*. The Methodist Church has propped up White Supremacy but some people and groups in the church have worked to dismantle it. Methodism's founder John Wesley opposed slavery and affirmed the humanity of Black persons as equal in God's sight. If only we had kept that vision. Our current read is *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World* by Rabbi Sharon Brous.

We sponsored a holiday bake sale to benefit the church on Saturday, December 23. We used Google form for people to preorder and had items ready for pick up the day of the sale. Super cookie bakers included Betsy Lance, Shirley Butt, Isabelle Murphy, Jennifer Metz Foster,

Barbara Haley, and Doreen Leighton. Doreen, Barbara, and Jean Reynolds baked pies, and Pat Dornan made rocky road candy and wrapped our cookie plates. We sold over 492 cookies, 13 pies, 10 breads, and 2 mugs of rocky road. On sale day, Barbara, Doreen, Eun-Joo, and Jean greeted shoppers in Friendship Hall and made sure their orders were complete.

Rev. Eun-Joo shared the story of her calling to ministry with the Women's Voice group and Father David at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on January 18. Eun-Joo's faith journey overlapped with Catholicism at several points of her life. She closed the program by reciting the Hail Mary prayer in Korean. Plans for another collaboration are forthcoming!

Looking Ahead:

January 28, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Dan Damon will introduce his new *Look at the Light* songbook.

Come sing along and listen!

Ash Wednesday service, February 14, 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Sunday, March 10, Rev. Katie Choy-Wong; Sermon at 11:00 AM, Workshop 12:30 PM

Sunday, March 17, 3:00 PM, Paper Birds Concert: Acoustic musicians and singer/songwriters Claudia Russell and Katie Dahl with Bruce Kaplan and Rich Higdon. Check the church

(Continued on page 20)

# WWIC Est. 1908

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

On November 7, 2023, the Womens Westside Improvement Club held its annual Fund Raiser BUNCO game. There were 24 members and friends who played to raise funds to be shared among several local Richmond charities. The charities selected by the club members for this year were Parents Resources and More (PRAM), Bay Area Rescue Mission (Women's Shelter), and the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry. Those players going home with prizes were Diane Marie for Most Wins, Margi Sullivan for Most Buncos, Fran Smith for Most Losses, and Ann Langille for Bunco Baby.



*Fran Smith (left) Diane Marie (right) sharing a laugh or two.  
Photo by Juels Klotz*

The club held its Christmas celebration at the home of member Lara Cho. Lara graciously hosted the group at her beautiful home, serving them a fabulous luncheon she prepared. Guest Suzie Hardt, owner of The Hidden City Ballroom,

graciously led the group in several Christmas carols to raise their holiday spirits.



*Left to right: Andi Cukor, Jeannette Giannetta, Lois, and John Hardt.  
Photo by Diane Diani*



*Dining Alfresco left to right: Diane Hedler, Wendy Hallett, Cheryl Willis, Ann Langille, and Karen Buchanan.  
Photo by Diane Diani*

*(Continued on page 10)*



# 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, Cal. Nov 17, 1913

West-Side Womens Improvement Club met in Firemans Hall with President McHenry in the chair. Eight officers and members present. Minutes of the meeting held on Nov. 10 not on hand.

Several communications were read from different clubs etc. but being of no value to us were ordered placed on the table.

Mrs. Trautvetter and Mrs. Pritchard were appointed to serve on Peace Day Program Committee.

Club voted to subscribe for two copies of club woman and have them placed in the Public Library. A warrant was drawn on treasury for \$1.00 to pay subscription.

Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty.

## Richmond, Cal. Nov 24

WestSide Womens Club met in regular session in Firemans Hall with Pres. McHenry in the chair. Eight officers and members present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Communications

Bill from Mrs. R.L. Adams for fruit for dance \$1.50

Bill audited and allowed.

Receipts from Dance Tickets

Tickets	\$38.50
Ballroom	2.60
Total	41.10

Expended-

Music	\$17.50
Hall Rent	7.00
Chatroom	1.50
Fruit	1.50
Total	\$27.50

Bal	13.60
Fin Secretaries Report	
Dues- Mrs. Maynard	\$1.00
Mrs. E. Elsee	1.00
Mrs. Trautvetter	1.00
Mrs. E. Wiese	1.00
Total	4.00

No further business meeting stood adjourned.

Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty

## Richmond Dec 1, 1913

Womens West Side Improvement Club met in regular session in Firemen's Hall with the President Mrs. McHenry in the chair.

Six officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved as read.

Mrs. Witcomb reported having been able to secure Pythian Castle for the next dance to be held on Dec., 1913. Motion made and carried that a communication be sent in regards to the lot for the library building.

Mrs. Hopkins dues \$1.00

Nothing further meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Dunlap

*My cat  
Baber, resting  
after helping  
me type these  
minutes.*

*Gary*



*(Continued from page 8)*

**Westside Women's  
Improvement Club Report**

Throughout the holidays, the group continued to maintain the lovely gardens within the Point. Community volunteers are always welcome to pitch in the garden's upkeep. See a weed, pick a weed!

Club members Marlee Pruton, Doreen Leighton, and Diane Diani attended the Mechanic's Bank Gateway Foundation holiday event, where the Gateway Foundation presented this year's financial grants. Marlee, Diane, and Doreen were delighted to receive funds granted to the WWIC on behalf of the Gateway Foundation to support them in the maintenance of the local gardens. Thanks to this generous grant and the care provided by the members of the WWIC, botanical beauty will abound in Point Richmond.

2023 was a thriving year for the club, welcoming five new members. Individuals interested in the Womens Westside Improvement Club are welcome to visit their website, where information about the club and how to join is provided at the club website: [www.pointrichmond.com/womenswestside](http://www.pointrichmond.com/womenswestside).



gallery 415-286-6298  
margi sullivan  
sullivanmargi@gmail.com

**FEBRUARY 25  
GRAND  
OPENING**

sunday noon to 4ish pm

**Stanley  
Abercrombie**

author, colorist  
and collagist

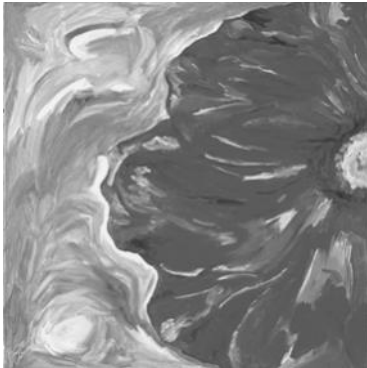
**APRIL 13 + 14  
GRAND  
OPENING**

**Joel Beck**

'WTF  
From Hell Holes  
to Hula Bears'

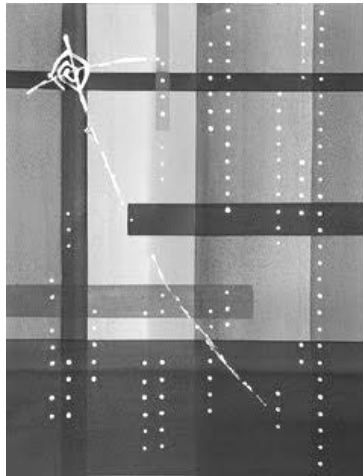


## Current and Upcoming Exhibitions



The Art of African Diaspora satellite exhibition featuring paintings by artists Bernadette Robertson and Arthur Norcome from January 14-March 3 at The Linda Lee Drake Memorial Gallery at El Sol Mexican Restaurant.

Special exhibition at El Sol presented by owner Josephine Orozco and her family from March 3 to April 14 about growing up in Point Richmond as children of Filipino parents who worked for Standard Oil. Be sure to check out the exhibition and sample new Filipino dishes on El Sol's menu!



Colorful paintings by AOPR artist Jennifer Hoifeldt in the Post Office Windows until March 11, followed by selected work from The Art of the African Diaspora until April 29.

\*\*\*

Winter Exhibition of AOPR artists at Lara's Fine Dining in Marina Bay on display until May 18.



From  
*Anna Froker*

*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/>*

Meet the artists from Art of the African Diaspora exhibiting in Point Richmond satellite venues (El Sol Mexican Restaurant, Westside branch of the Richmond Public Library and Kaleidoscope Coffee). On Saturday, February 17th from noon to 3 pm.

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

*by James Cheshareck*

Although the Richmond Art Association was governed by the most powerful individuals in Richmond, including many in city government, a brick wall of apathy from the City of Richmond was encountered. The formative wartime industrial boom was the city's priority, the civic center project was on the back burner for some time. After the war, the Richmond Art Association coalition once again turned up the heat, and In 1947, the Richmond Art-Craft Center further organized by formally incorporating under the title "Richmond Art Center;". In a course of just over a decade, the Richmond Art Center had \$6,000 in equipment (\$82,813 in 2023), including six weaving looms, and a pottery kiln, but were now cramped in their present building, as membership continued to rise. The Richmond Art Center was staffed with exceptional local instructors, such as Madeline Cortese Rodini (4/10/1913-1/31/1963). She was a hobbyist, assistant director of the Richmond Recreation Department, studied ceramics at Mills College, and her specialty was silk screen painting. She entered her work in State fairs and was

represented nationally. During WW2, she worked in occupational therapeutics and helped set up programs of finger painting in naval hospitals in conjunction with psychiatric treatment. She studied with sculptor Claire Falkenstein, instructor Harry Schaefer Simmern of Berkeley, and F. Carlton Ball. She was a member of the San Francisco Museum of Art and a serigraphy and pottery instructor at Richmond Art Center. Her first marriage ended in divorce in 1949, and she later married Point Richmond sculptor and painter R. Alan Williams (8/4/1924-7/1/1995), a Berkeley teacher. Madeline's daughter, Arline Rodini Hartman (2/2/1936-DECEASED), was a talented artist and longtime Water Street resident. Audrey Garrard (10/29/1922-2/11/1984), daughter-in-law of Edward Garrard, instructed silk screen painting. She was active in the Festival of Nations, and Childrens Hospital of the East Bay. Two other instructors were Raymond Bowles (6/12/1919-10/27/1999), a Standard Oil draftsman, and Audrey Boyer.

Rosalind Ray Wheeler (later Rosalind Ray Watkin) (10/21/1908-9/4/1986), was an assistant director of the Richmond Recreation Department, and instructor of weaving and arts and crafts. She was a Pennsylvania native and U.C. Berkeley graduate who moved from Berkeley to a house on Bishop Avenue to teach, and was a mentor to many Bay Area artists. Having studied weaving techniques in Sweden and Finland, she was an internationally known weaver noted for her rya rugs, winning awards both at home and abroad. Her weavings were displayed at the San Francisco de Young Museum, and Museum of Modern Art. She later moved to San Anselmo and taught at Dominican College in San Rafael. Sally Neu (4/13/1930-6/25/1997), began lending her talent to the



*Hazel Salmi*

By Don Cooner  
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Richmond Art Center well before graduating high school. She specialized in dyeing materials for hooked rugs in Maglo Ball, particularly Point Richmond residents knew her as Sally Rush. Her husband was Bay Area Composer, Loren Rush (b. 8/22/1935). Loren Rush evolved from a late 1950's beatnik KPFA executive into an Internationally known, award winning composer, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music instructor. Sally Rush was a longtime resident of Terrace Avenue. Another Point Richmond instructor was Louise Hammond (9/23/1913-2/4/2008). Her husband, Veil (7/21/1912-2/8/1998), was a Standard Oil chemist, and the couple resided on Garvin Avenue for several years. In 1942, they constructed perhaps the first house on the cliff of Cypress Point. The Hammond's and their three neighbors graded the surface of Cypress Point Road by shovel. In addition to teaching courses at the Richmond Art Center, Louise was active in the Washington School PTA, and a vice president of the League of Women Voters. Basil Marros (4/14/1895-11/25/1954) was a Greek-born artist of national

fame. He immigrated in 1916 and settled in San Francisco, receiving a scholarship from the Art Students League in 1921. In 1924, he moved to Paris to study with French modernists, and later returned to America. In the 1930's and 1940's, his work was exhibited in both New York and San Francisco as well as the New York's World's Fair, alongside the work of Ad Reinhardt, and Louise Nevelson.

On 6/6/1947, the eleventh annual art exhibit was held at the YMCA building at 1030 Nevin Avenue. The display of amateur works of fabric, weaving, clay modeling, leather, woodworking, and painting were all the work of locals. Ramona Germeshausen, Madeline Rodini, Rosalind Wheeler, and Sally Neu assisted Hazel Salmi in arranging the affair. Civic-minded Hazel Salmi participated in the 1947 opening of the East Bay Recreational Institute, but a new building at home remained her priority. The rejuvenated plans for a new civic center complex energized the Richmond Art Association, and this time, they struck while the iron was hot. In April 1948, Hazel Salmi was back in front of the City Council armed with a stack of letters from supporters, and rigidly made her case to include the Richmond Art Center in the new Civic Center complex. She emphasized that the center had outgrown their present building. Mayor Dr. Amos Hinkley (1894-1982) opined that funding was not sufficient to include a new building within the proposed new civic center complex. Hinkley suggested the old Carnegie library building at 402 Nevin Avenue, which would vacate upon completion of the new civic center, offered an adequate alternative. Instead of settling for another old building, the Richmond Art Association and supporters further nudged the city to cough up the necessary funding. The Richmond Art Center next took the initiative to incorporate as an independent non-profit organization, leaving one less excuse for city hall to invoke. Supporters proceeded on a forceful, nearly two-year battle to overcome inertia and red tape. Although the movement began prior to 1944, Hazel Salmi's coalition was empowered more than ever, and it relentlessly bombarded City leaders, and this time the Richmond Art Association prevailed. It was announced in early 1950 that the Richmond Art Center would have a



*Martin E. Salmi*

building within the new Civic Center. Hazel Salmi proved that one can fight city hall, though the Richmond Art Center had to make concessions. Plans for an outdoor stage for children, and a small theatre for performing arts were scrapped due to costs. The Richmond Art Center also remained a unit of the Richmond Recreation Department headed by Major Ivan Hill.

On March 1, 1951, the Richmond Art Center moved into their new, present-day facility. The modern 24,000 square foot U-shaped building, wrapped around a garden and public courtyard. Instructors and students now had six studio and multipurpose rooms for lessons, four galleries, and a 2,200 square foot main gallery for exhibits. Hazel Salmi now directed an executive board of 8, plus an advisory board of 36 prominent men and women, both artists and not. The Richmond Art Center had two full time, and 7 part time staff members. An

endowment funded was maintained through membership fees, fund raisers, donations, sales of products, a store where supplies were sold, and commissions from artwork sold through the center. Like the Richmond Art Center, the Richmond Recreation Department had grown significantly in size during the wartime years. The department handled all city-sponsored community and cultural activities, such as music, dramatics, and arts and crafts. Even though the Richmond Art Center was a non-profit, it was not entirely independent, as it was reliant upon city subsidization, but terms with the City of Richmond were exemplary and did not stifle the Richmond Art Centers agenda or free expression. The Richmond Recreation Department not only maintained the building and covered overhead, but it also funded the salaries of staff and instructors. Major Hill was guardian of Hazel Salmi's Richmond Art Center, and he made sure it would remain a permanent, yet independent appendage of city government, long after his retirement.

The Richmond Art Center was now a contemporary institution known throughout the country in art circles. Though modernized, the curriculum of pottery making, leather work, wood carving, metal craft, jewelry, weaving, screen printing, fabric painting, design painting, and finger painting remained, along with additional crafts. The sizeable building provided enough space to hold several additional exhibits, including junior art shows. Hazel Salmi displayed a ceramic bust of St. Francis of Assisi she created, and established and directed what became an annual exhibition of oil and sculpture. She also established photography exhibits, and requested prints from the Richmond Viewfinders, a Richmond photography club. Richard L. "Dick" Rundle, (4/11/1914-11/22/1976) owner of Dick's Camera Shop on



**POTTERY TECHNIQUES**—A new pottery class has been started at the Richmond Art Center. The class gives advanced pottery techniques with discussions on form and function. Madeline Williams, right, is the instructor. Here she gives pointers to, left to right, Dorothy Bunnell, Laura Davis and Marie Alves. —Independent Photo.



Macdonald Avenue, provided 40 of his best prints. Rundle's photography store was the most comprehensive in the city. At the end of 1951, the Richmond Art Center had more than 400 members, over 100 children in the Junior Art Center, and **22,000** visitors had toured the state of the "art" facility. After 15 years, Hazel Salmi's vision was reality, and it was also the envy of the Bay Area. Who would have thought that a woman who once lugged around a suitcase full of public-spiritedness would transform art education and put Richmond on the map as a major player in the world of art? The following year, the Richmond Art Center introduced the annual exhibit of "Art from the Homes of Richmond." The display of privately owned oil and watercolor paintings, etchings, and prints all came from local citizens, including board member Tony Delap. The Richmond Designer and Craftsman Show, a month-long exhibit was another favorite. Richmond Viewfinders photography exhibits became a permanent venue, and member George Meyer (12/4/1909-5/24/1979), a Richmond Police identification tech, provided a 30-print show that hung in a June 1953 exhibit. In the 1950's, Hazel Salmi was active in the Contra Costa Dental Society, and was one of the talent judges in annual dental health poster contests. She received honors from the Dental Society for her volunteer work, and she remained active in the same charitable organizations for decades. She was second Vice President of the Richmond-El Cerrito Community Chest, and assisted with flower arrangement and window decoration displays. In the early 1950's, Doug, and Marilyn Salmi, and their three children, settled in Richmond, where Doug took an engineering job at American Radiator. It had been three years since the new Richmond Art Center building opened its doors, and growth in membership and students continued to soar, and 1954 was grand for Hazel Salmi. It was a year of fairs, exhibits, competitions, and a Mardi Gras ball she threw. She was a judge in a United Nations poster contest, with the prize going to a Richmond High student. Christina B. Cameron (1/9/1886-11/15/1974), was Assistant Supervisor of the Richmond School District for 30 years, and a charter member and first President of the Richmond Soroptimist Club. Since 1936, she had

been aware of the need for special classes to accommodate physically handicapped children, and in 1948, she established Richmond's first class for children with cerebral palsy. When a new special needs school opened in El Cerrito, it was christened the Christina B. Cameron School for Handicapped Children. She was a close friend of Hazel Salmi, and in 1954, Hazel painted a portrait of Cameron and presented it to her at a dedication ceremony. Major Hill also partook in the school's recreation for the physically handicapped program. In late 1954, Hazel Salmi believed that ballet lessons were necessary to round out her center of arts. A ballet dancer herself, she helped organize the Richmond Ballet Company. Though the Richmond Art Center building was subsidized by the city, no funding was provided towards equipment. In November, a large fundraising drive was held, with the traditional handmade Christmas articles sale, and a call for private donations to purchase more equipment such as new potters' wheels and weaving looms. The Richmond Art Center hosted an exhibit for the Society of Western Artists and



*Douglas Salmi*



*Major Ivan Hill*

made the show annual. Her good work did not go unnoticed. The Richmond Quota Club, who was active in the United Nations children's health program, and other causes, named Hazel Salmi Richmond's Woman of the Year for 1954 for her 18 years of contributions to the city's cultural life. A testimonial dinner was given at the Richmond Country Club.

Throughout the 1950's, Hazel Salmi spent a large amount of time judging at various art fairs and contests. In 1956, she was a judge in a Fresno art fair, and served on the judging committee of the Scholastic Art Award held in San Francisco. She also judged a California State Fair for ceramics, enameling, metal work, jewelry, and textiles. While Hazel Salmi stayed energetic and ambitious, Martin Salmi, the engineer who selflessly mentored generations of students, retired

after teaching at Richmond High School for 35 years. While Martin could relax, Hazel continued travelling to art events throughout the State. When cherished instructor Ramona Germeshausen died on 6/3/1955, at age 48, Hazel Salmi established the annual Ramona Germehausen Memorial Prize contest in her honor. In 1957 she was elected second Vice President of the Western Art Museum at their 34<sup>th</sup> convention in Santa Barbara. Next to retire was Major Ivan Hill. On 6/30/1959, after 39 years of public service, he put away the shovel for good. Many are not aware, as I was not, of how important Major Hill was to Richmond's parks and city-sponsored public parades and festivals, and most importantly to the Richmond Art Center. A year later, Hazel finally decided to retire. On July 1, 1960, she stepped down as Director of the Richmond Art Center, and handed over the reins to Rudy H. Turk (6/24/1927 -8/14/2007), a historian, writer, lecturer, and painter. Her departure was not welcome news to the Bay Area art world. Hazel Salmi often said the Richmond Art Center was born out of a suitcase, but she likely did not expect it to reach such a high status. She could finally relax with Martin and devote more time to the Soroptimist's and other organizations, as her work was done. Or was it? Hazel Salmi simply could not stay away from the Richmond Art Center. She remained an honorary member of the Board of Directors and continued to coordinate activities, and the Hazel Salmi award was established. Martin Salmi died on 3/25/1964 of an apparent heart attack at age 76. The 52-year member of the Society of Automotive engineers eschewed a high-paying career in the engineering field, because teaching was more purposeful to him. Hazel was in the limelight, but Martin Salmi left his mark at Richmond Union High School through the many skilled machinists who learned the trade from him.

As the Richmond Art Center thrived and evolved throughout the 1960's, Hazel Salmi's traditions were carried forward. She was celebrated too many times to count, and on May 27, 1967, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, for which she was a board member, performed a concert in her honor. A reception followed with Donna Roselius in charge of the affair, which marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Richmond Art

Center. Later that year, Hazel Salmi, her daughter-in-law Marilyn, and Sally Rush held an exhibit in the Old Firehouse on Park Place. An assortment of notable artists from throughout the nation and beyond graced the Richmond Art Center in the 1960's, ranging from the unpretentious, to radical counterculture begetters. Exhibits, and contests were frequent and sundry, and at a 1969 annual exhibit, internationally known artist, Wayne Thiebaud (1920-2021), one of the foremost painters working in new realism, judged entries. On 4/25/1968, unsung hero Major Ivan Hill died at age 74, and on a sad note, Hazel Salmi endured the death of her son, Doug, who died of heart failure on 6/10/1976 at age 58.

Through the 1970's the Richmond Art Center continued its mission of education and outreach, providing well over 100 classes for adults, teens, and children during Spring and Summer. Adults were offered classes in ceramics, drawing, painting, jewelry, among others, with many courses qualifying for academic credit. Two sixteen-week sessions were offered in spring and fall, and 8-week sessions during summer. Teens were offered courses in ceramics, painting, and drawing held after school hours between 3:45 and 5:45, and children's classes for grades 1-6 were held Saturday mornings during the fall and spring semesters, and weekdays during the

summer semester. Weekend workshops, and short term four and six-week classes were offered in specialized areas such as printmaking, stained glass, quilting, card weaving, bead making etc. The Richmond Art Center survived budget cuts that threatened closure in the late 1970's and early 1980's. The Richmond Art Center carries on with its purpose, and even kept the doors open during a massive renovation of City Hall in 2008. Hazel Gowan Salmi died 4/22/1986 at age 92. To this day, many Richmond residents, artists and not, are aware of the degree to which Richmond is indebted to her. Hazel and Martin Salmi were tireless advocates for education and betterment of the City of Richmond. On September 30, 1990, the Richmond Art Center held "A Night to Remember" gala party in her Western Drive home to celebrate her creativity. She is listed in the "Who's who of American Women," the biographical dictionary of notable women. There is one puzzling problem. There is not a portrait of Hazel Salmi anywhere to be found in the Richmond Art Center, and that must be remedied immediately. Any volunteers? Along with brushes and scissors, she also carried a dream inside that old suitcase. The Richmond Art Center. Arranged, crafted, woven, and sculpted by Hazel Salmi for us all. And remember to salute the Major.



*Tree Lighting Carolers, Karen, Amy, Jean, David, Norm, Laila, Doreen & 3 unknown singers  
November 25, 2023. Thanks to Linda Andrew-Marshall for this great photograph.*

# ***Fred D. Parr: The Man Who Brought Kaiser to Richmond***

***by Gregory Brock***

Richmond's business luminaries gathered at the New Hotel Carquinez at 410 Harbor Way for the big occasion. The Chamber of Commerce staged a banquet to honor those responsible for the planned construction of a new shipyard in Richmond. The date was December 26, 1940.

Today, the Hotel Carquinez functions as a senior housing center. One block away is Kaiser Permanente's Richmond Medical Center, the lineal descendant of the health care system born in the Richmond shipyards during World War II. For many, like me, being a Kaiser member is a link of continuity from the wartime shipyards to present-day Richmond.

At the 1940 luncheon, representatives from the city's powerful interests, including Standard Oil, the Santa Fe Railroad, the Ford Motor Company, and the City of Richmond, delivered speeches hailing the new shipyard as the opening of a new age of prosperity in Richmond. There was one man at the banquet who knew every person in the crowded room by name. Since the 1920s, that man had used his considerable gifts for organization and promotion to develop the Richmond waterfront and attract industry to the city. When World War II broke out in Europe, he was the man who persuaded Henry J. Kaiser and his partners to locate a shipyard in



*Fred D. Parr*

Richmond. The man who brought Kaiser to Richmond was Fred D. Parr. This is his story.

Fred Depler Parr was born on a ranch in Visalia, California in 1885. The Parrs raised beef cattle and grew barley, which they transported around the state for sale. The Parrs operated a chain of slaughterhouses and became the biggest wholesaler of meats to Los Angeles. And they acquired land in the Central Valley. Lots of land.

Fred Parr's father died suddenly in the early 1900s. Fred became the head of family. He and his mother and three siblings sold most of the family land in the Central Valley and moved to San Francisco in 1905. Fred Parr attended Heald Business College in the City, completing the full course in just seven months, finishing with a score of no less than 99% in his courses. His was a first-class mind.

Fred Parr survived the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 without major disruption. The fire didn't reach his apartment on Walnut Street.

Fresh out of school, Parr went to work as a bookkeeper for the E. J. Dodge Lumber Company. Soon he was partners with old man Dodge. While

in this business, Parr spotted a flaw in the shipping system that transported lumber from the Pacific Northwest to San Francisco. The steamers arrived full but returned nearly empty. Parr conceived the idea of chartering space in returning ships to haul freight north.

In 1908, Parr formed a company: Parr-McCormick Steamship Line. The company shipped steel to Alaska for construction of railroads and hauled school supplies there under government contracts. The venture was wildly successful. Parr-McCormick expanded to passenger ships. At its peak, the company's fleet

numbered 35 ships.

The Parr-McCormick Steamship Line thrived until 1914 when the U.S. Government seized the ships by eminent domain. The Great War had begun and the government needed the ships for hauling lumber for airplanes on the Alaskan coast.

Fred Parr now set his sights on expanding the Port of Oakland. At that time, the shore was a mile inland from the current waterfront. Parr worked out a plan to fill in the wetlands using soils dredged from Oakland's Inner Harbor. Parr needed a breakwater to contain the landfill. A breakwater required approval of a bond issue by the voters of Oakland. At first there seemed no chance of voter approval. In those days, Oakland's garbage was collected at the Inner Harbor and placed on steam schooners to be dumped at sea near the Farallon Islands. The collection site was infested with rodents. Fred Parr hired a photographer to capture a picture of a gigantic rat snarling amid the garbage. Then he took out a centerpiece ad in the Oakland Tribune featuring the rat photo next to an image of a baby bitten by a rat. The headline read: "Mothers of Oakland, do you want this to happen to your child? Vote for the breakwater bonds so we can extend the sewers." The bond passed by a wide majority. Parr had his breakwater. He filled the land and reached an agreement with the City to operate a pier on the new harbor front.

In the late 1920s, Parr sold his interest in the Port of Oakland and turned his attention to the City of Richmond.

Richmond had a port facility called Terminal No. 1 located near the old ferry to San Francisco (at the northern edge of what is now Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline at 1500 Dornan Drive in Point Richmond). The facility was losing money hand over fist. Parr convinced the City to contract with him to assume operations. Parr also undertook to attract major industries to the Richmond waterfront.

Under Parr's management, Terminal No. 1 became profitable in the late 1920s, supported by outbound shipments of beans to Puerto Rico and inbound shipments of cold-rolled steel from Bethlehem Steel.

Parr's company also assumed operation of

the City's Terminal No. 2, located at 1145 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA. Terminal No. 2 was known as the Sugar Dock. It received ships carrying sugar from the C&H Sugar Company in Crockett, CA. The sugar was then loaded onto rail cars connected to the terminal.

Fred Parr also developed Terminal No. 3 at 1411 Harbour Way South, abutting Terminal No. 2 to the south. Parr bought up land from private owners at and around Terminal No. 3. The new terminal began operations in 1928. The pier at Terminal No. 3 was the finest on San Francisco Bay at the time.

Now Fred Parr set out to attract major industry to Richmond. He heard Henry Ford was planning to locate a new assembly plant in the Bay Area. He traveled to Michigan and hung around the Ford Motor Company headquarters a week before a big meeting of Ford sales representatives. Using his charm and personal magnetism, Parr became friendly with the secretaries in the corporate office. There was a demonstration model automobile in the giant lobby, and Parr spent hours inspecting the car and taking notes. By the end of the week, everyone knew and liked Mr. Parr and assumed he was one of Ford's top sales executives. One day he walked up to a secretary and said, "I've got to see Mr. Ford." The secretary said, "Yes, yes," and waived him in. He met with Henry Ford and laid out plans and architectural drawings for an assembly plant to be constructed at the terminus of South 10th Street (now Harbour Way South). Parr was extremely persuasive. Henry Ford agreed to construct an assembly plant right behind Terminal No. 3.

Parr now scrambled to prepare the site for the new plant. As he had done at the Port of Oakland, Parr created a breakwater, then filled it with spoils from harbor dredges. This landfill was the site of the Ford Motor Company assembly plant, what is now the Craneway Pavilion.

Fred Parr attracted other businesses to the area. He heard that the Filice & Perrelli Company was looking for a cannery site. He offered F&P a site across the street from Terminal No. 3. After much persuasion, Parr made the sale. The F&P Cannery began operations in 1930. The Ford plant opened soon after.

The Ford plant and the F&P Cannery weathered the Great Depression of the 1930s relatively well. Operations at Richmond industries were continuous during this period, providing steady income for Richmond's workers.

In 1936, Parr contracted with the City of Richmond to develop and operate a fourth port terminal. Terminal No. 4 took shape on what is now Stenmark Drive near Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor. Parr bought up land for the new dock facility. When operating, Terminal No. 4 received tankers hauling bulk quantities of coconut oil and freighters bearing molasses from Hawaii.

The Parr companies held 50-year leases on the four Richmond port terminals.

A lifelong bachelor, Parr donated much of his time and one-third of his income to charity.

After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, England and France declared war on the aggressor. Soon the rumor spread that Henry Kaiser and his partners were bidding on a contract to build merchant ships for the British Government. Immediately, Parr contacted Henry J. Kaiser and Stephen D. Bechtel, and began wooing them, courting them, convincing them to build a shipyard in Richmond. Fred Parr had known Henry Kaiser since hiring him years earlier as a contractor on the Oakland pier.

The first Richmond shipyard was operational in 1941. The Kaiser operations grew to include four Richmond yards by 1943.

After the war, the shipyards were put up for sale. Parr formed a new company to purchase the shipyards. Under Parr's direction, the sites were used for productive industrial operations for the next 20 years and more.

Housing was in short supply in the late 1940s. Parr went into the home construction business, building hundreds of dwellings in the Richmond area. He became a proponent of a new residential development in North Richmond. Parchester Village was one of the first local communities open to all Americans, regardless of race. By the 1950s, Parchester Village – named to honor Fred Parr - became an all-African American community when Caucasians moved to other communities.

Fred Parr died at 79 in 1964. The memory of his service to Richmond lives on in the places that bear his name: Parr Boulevard and Parchester Village.

*(Continued from page 7)*

**Point Richmond Methodist Church News**

website for more information as the date approaches.

Good Friday, March 29, El Sobrante United Methodist Church, 5151 Argyle Road near Appian Way. 7:00 PM.

Easter Sunday, March 31, Early service 8:00 AM in the labyrinth garden, weather permitting, followed by a full breakfast in Friendship Hall, starting around 9:00 AM. Sunday School or coffee in the garden at 10:00 AM. Worship in the Sanctuary, 11:00 AM. Easter Egg Hunt for children after worship, 12:15 PM. Come celebrate the joy of Easter and take part in any of these events!

For calendar updates and links to join our live events virtually, see the church website:

<https://www.pointrichmondmethodist.org>

**An engineer died and was mistakenly sent to hell. Fairly quickly, he had redesigned the place. Hell cooled down considerably thanks to the air conditioning he built and installed.**

**The escalators and elevators worked just fine. Manual labor was quickly becoming a thing of the past. God looked down one day and noticed all the changes. He called down to the devil to ask how these improvements came about. The devil replied, "That engineer you sent me."**

**"What engineer? You're not supposed to have an engineer. Send him back up here!" The devil's answer was simple... "No." "If you don't send that engineer back right now, I'm going to be very angry. In fact, I'll sue you!" The devil replies, "And... where are you going to get a lawyer?"**

I learned recently that Philip Rosenthal has been making a wreath for our door for the past several years. I had no idea it was him that had been doing that. We all take this opportunity thank you!

BJC

Thank you to Joe Dunlap for sharing a number of aerial photographs of the Richmond Shipyards in action. Go to the history Association's Facebook site to see more of them. I will post them on the PRHA Website later.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

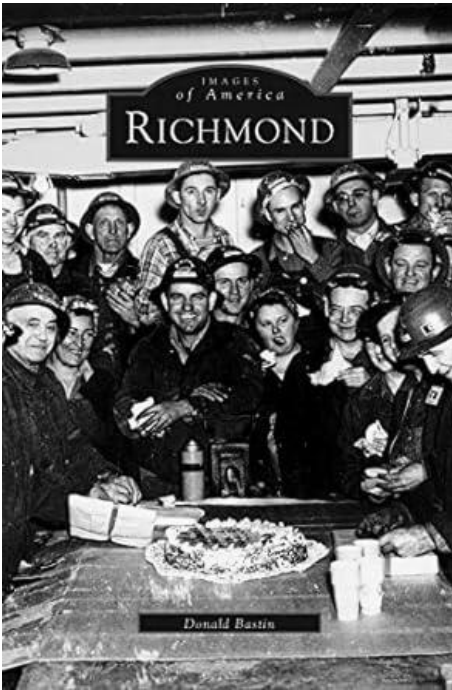
Gary



# The Book Corner

by *Jim Davis*

## *What Gets in the History Books and What Does Not?*



When you are writing any history, you have to decide what to include and what to leave behind. Usually, the impulse is to stuff too much onto the page. Your best friend, you are told over and over again as a young writer, is the delete button on the computer.

This is especially true when you are trying to

complete a slim volume on local history that will end up with a lot of photos. There just is not much room for text. This was the challenge that very likely faced Donald Bastin when he wrote *Richmond*. So, what got included and what got left out?

Compared to two previously published histories of the city—Joseph Whitnah’s *History of Richmond California* (published by the local Chamber of Commerce in 1944) and Lee Fridell’s *History of Richmond* (1954)—Bastin’s book does cover areas (however briefly) that had been previously neglected. All three books are slim, which puts a strain on inclusion. In Bastin, we get an important and revealing treatment of the region before 1900, when a good many histories begin with the opening of Santa Fe Railroad’s western terminus in Point Richmond. In place of vague statements about local Indians, we get a more focused description of the local Huchium Indians and the Ohlone.

In some histories of the city, Francisco Castro and his family are mentioned but their connection to the intense period of real estate and industrial development in the early Twentieth Century often fails to appear. Bastin helps us recognize the importance of 1894 in the early history of the area, when a complex and seemingly interminable Castro family lawsuit finally settled the fate of the Castro inheritance. After this date, early developers such as Jacob Tewksbury, John Nicholl, and Augustin Macdonald were able to move in and sell off portions of the landscape to early industrial interests and for residential construction.

While those robust early decades of the Twentieth Century get generous attention, there is no attempt to connect the Santa Fe Railroad, the sizeable Standard Oil refinery, and Pullman to larger economic trends and development. How did all of this relate to commercial interests in Oakland, San Francisco, and even financial centers on the East Coast?

Perhaps the most satisfying section of the book was Bastin’s treatment of Fred Parr and waterfront development in the 1920s and into the early 1930s. A truly remarkable chapter in *Richmond’s* history, this period saw the appearance of the Ford Plant and Filice and



Perrelli that were very much connected to the dredging of the channel and the eventual arrival of that human tsunami known as Henry J. Kaiser. Still, there could have been more. In his oral history of the waterfront, Parr's nephew John Parr Cox talks about meetings involving city government officials and Parr that took place in the local newspaper office of the Richmond Independent. Cox mentions that he was a kid at the time and had to wait in the car while the meeting went on, plotting the future of Richmond and its waterfront. What went on in that meeting? What kind of deals were struck? While there is mention of the relationship between Parr and Kaiser, it gets little more than that, a mention. What happened between these two titans of waterfront development? Oh, the stuff that gets left out of history books, especially slim ones.

One dimension of this book comes as a breath of fresh air, however: some coverage of the ethnic history of Richmond. Not everything happened here as a result of entrepreneurs, operatives working in corporate headquarters, or local elites bustling about the unused rooms of the local newspaper. There were Italians, Portuguese, Blacks, Latinos, Dust Bowl migrants and others who were left out of these meetings yet did much of the heavy lifting behind early industrial development, the transformation of the waterfront, and the miracle performed by the civilian workforce in Richmond shipyards. Since its formal founding in 1905, Richmond has always been ethnically rich and diverse, as it evolved from a city heavily populated by Italians, then African Americans, and, most recently, Latinos. Future histories should give this dimension of Richmond history far more attention. Bastin at least makes a start here.

The book takes things up to the opening years of this century (interesting, as the modern, industrial history of the city began in the opening years of last century). Published in 2003, it came up just short on the centennial by two years. That means that it covered both the rising and the setting sun on Macdonald Avenue, as we end with the emergence of Hilltop and the waterfront revival signaled by the appearance of Marina Bay.

All in all, this is a delightful book. The shortcomings merely suggest that there is more reading to be done and, above all, more books to be written about the history of this city. Although it lacks an index, Bastin's book is generously illustrated with vintage photographs, which, in the end, make it a relaxing read.

Before I close, I want to say a word or two about the book's venerable publisher, Arcadia, a company whose dedication to America's local history can be called heroic. For Contra Costa County alone, Arcadia offers books on East Contra Costa County, Maritime Contra Costa County, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Port Costa, and Hercules. These are each books, mind you, soundly written and richly illustrated with photographs, and I am sure that I left some titles out. As for the rest of the Bay Area, the list would be too numerous to include in this review. Moreover, the books are easy to find. Believe it nor not, I found a whole rack devoted only to Arcadia local histories featured prominently in a local supermarket. (I won't tell you which supermarket. You'll have to discover that yourself; hint: it is located off Appian Way near Highway 80). So, savor these books with their reasonable price tags and delightful photographs.

***Donald Bastin, Richmond (Charleston, 2003).  
Arcadia.***





***Congratulations to Christopher (Boots) Wilson for turning 100 years old on December 13th! Known as “Grampa Boots” Chris is seen next to the plaque on the Indian Statue base with his name on it.***



# Birthdays

## February

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

Connie Healy  
Marcos Rotting  
Jim Allgaier  
Thomas R Williams  
Ladow Howe  
Rowene MacMillan  
Ethel MacMillan  
Art Gagnier  
Mitzy Shows Kruse

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

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

## March

### GIRL SCOUTS CAMP FIRE GIRLS

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

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

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

Frank West  
Mark Kornmann  
Roy Javellana  
Susan Reynolds Prine  
Garry Hurlbut  
Thomas Young  
Paul Ciabattari  
Ms. Bean Dolberg  
Gretchen Swerdfeger-Stevens

*Three buddies die in a car crash, and they go to heaven to an orientation. They are all asked, "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning upon you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"*

*The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time and a great family man." The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher which made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow." The last guy replies, "I would like to hear them say, "Look! He's moving!"*

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

## EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 103  
Mary Bianchini Highfill - 100  
Victor Morales - 95  
Billie Bonham Shaw - 102  
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 - 91  
Ruth Wilson - 93

*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

Gary,

Many thanks to James Cheshareck for his research and excellent writing in the "Legacy of Hazel Salmi" Part One article relating events setting the stage for establishment of the Richmond Art Center — and to PRHC for publishing it in TPIT. It's quite a story involving many volunteers who were committed to providing artistic opportunities for the community at that time.

Bruce & Sandra Beyaertl  
Point Richmond

*Yes, James Cheshareck has become a true treasure, and there is more to come.*  
Gary



Gary;

This is a great map. Of the streets on this map just about the only streets which have retained their names are Tewksbury and Castro (see attached). It's interesting how much Point Richmond changed from the early days!

Thank you very much. If you ever come across Tewksbury Avenue shots (or the old RSS yard at 247 Tewksbury) I would love to see them. Before the garbage truck yard/warehouse burned down around 1930 (I think it was originally addressed on Standard, not Tewksbury), it was quite a substantial yard.

Thanks very much. And thank you very much for the excellent periodical which you and your team produce. It's such a pleasure to read it.



Thank you.  
Olivia Jacobs

Dear Mr. Cheshareck,

On behalf of everyone at the RAC, we want to thank you for the fantastic article that appeared on the Pt Richmond newsletter. It is the most comprehensive account of our history that many of us didn't know! We can't wait for the second installment

Thank you again, come visit us sometime in the new year, and happy holidays.

José R Rivera  
Executive Director  
Richmond Art Center



Dear Gary,

I am now 91 years old and I am still having fun! My birthday is 1/9/1924. Thank you for "THIS POINT.....in time"

Altha Humphrey  
Point Richmond



# Memorials.....

**Frank Cheshareck Jr.** passed away on 12/20 at age 81. He was a Point Richmond native, and oldest son of Frank "Shock" Cheshareck, and Ann Marcheschi Cheshareck. He graduated from Richmond High School in 1960, and met his future wife, Madeline Rieger at the Washington School rec. center. Madeline was also raised in Point Richmond, and the couple married in 1963, raising four children.. He is predeceased by his wife Madeline, two brothers, John, and James, and survived by daughters Karen Anderson, Lynn McDowell, Lisa Luna, and son Brian Cheshareck. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren, sister in laws Barbara Ciarlo, and Linda Cheshareck, and many nieces and nephews.



*Circa 1900 this is Golden Gate Avenue, note the new town's water tanks at the top of Water Street. Most of the houses still exist in one form or another.*

*PRHA Photo Archive #778 magnified and cropped..*

# CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

## ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

*Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Contact: Pat Tostenson, [jptostenson@gmail.com](mailto:jptostenson@gmail.com)  
More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com>*

## 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](http://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 0-8 years old. Playgroups, party rental, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net>*

## 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

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

## RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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

## RICHMOND SWIMS

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

## ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

*1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway. For more information call 510-232-5050 or visit [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori).*

*GREAT movies all day*

## WASHINGTON 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](mailto:italiandiane@gmail.com)*

## RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (RTA)

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

*Additions/Corrections to this Directory/Calendar? Email Gary Shows, [editor@pointrichmondhistory.org](mailto:editor@pointrichmondhistory.org)*

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

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

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

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

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

Type of membership (check one):

- |                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single            | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+)      | 15.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History Preserver | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History Maker     | 100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime Member   | 500.00  |

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**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 newsletter, please include names and months.

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

**Gary Shows**  
**229 Golden Gate Avenue**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**  
or  
**email: garyshows@gmail.com**

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Joe Dunlap	Images
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Michael Wilson	Information

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**PointRichmondHistory.org**

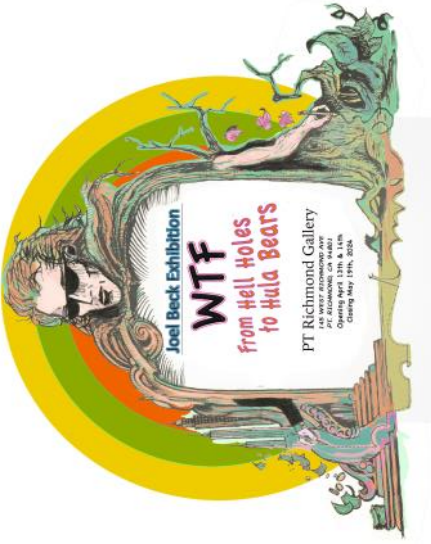
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

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

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