

# THIS POINT... in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

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

Vol. XXIV No. 6

April/May, 2006

Special Garden  
Issue  
**\$3.00**



# Natives

# Point Richmond History Association General Meeting

2:00 pm on May 21, 2006 at  
The Point Richmond Community Center  
139 Washington Avenue

*Have you been curious about the Trainmaster's Building  
recently moved to the Cutting Blvd. entrance to  
Point Richmond?*

*Now is your chance, after the meeting  
there will be a tour of the building!*

*Refreshments will be served.*

## ***An Invitation to: View the View Points***

After approximately eight years of work (with the concept originated by Lucretia Edwards in 1973) you are invited to help celebrate the official opening of Richmond's four new Pedestrian View Point Overlooks!

These mini-parks are truly a collaborative effort of local volunteers, professional engineers and architects, elected officials, City staff, the Point Richmond Neighborhood council, MCDC, Coastal Conservancy and those committed to shoreline access. These view and access points have been recovered from weeds, brush, and fences and are now available for all to enjoy Richmond's fantastic neighborhood shoreline.

To show appreciation to the many benefactors that have been part of this effort and to introduce the parks, there is a public opening on April 8, 2006 beginning at 10:00 AM to noon. A self-guided tour starts at the Santa Fe site and continues on to Western Drive, then Clarence and finally the Marine Street View Point.

Light refreshments will be served at the Santa Fe and Western Drive locations.

### LOCATION MAP



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Mid Dornan*

Once again Point Richmond is benefiting from the foresight and visions of a few interested historical preservationists. Thanks to Councilman Tom Butt and the Richmond Historical Preservation Committee, the old Trainmasters Station, originally the Santa Fe Reading Room positioned at the foot of Macdonald Avenue on Garrard Boulevard, has been saved from destruction.

That large building has recently been moved to the intersection of Cutting and Garrard. This area was created a new approach to the tracks was ordered in order to save the historic Wig-Wags on West Richmond Avenue. With attractive landscaping it will serve as an entrance to the Point.

A number of people have questions in regard to the building. Who was responsible for having it saved and moved? What is happening with the building? Is it non-profit? For profit?

You are invited to our ANNUAL POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION meeting on Sunday, May 21, at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center on Washington Avenue in the Point.

Join us to ask questions and to find the answers, tour the building and enjoy refreshments. Mark your May calendar for the 21st CU THEN.

*Trainmaster's Building being moved to its new location.*

*Photo courtesy Mary Highfill*

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*Thank you members for your membership  
renewal:*

Norma Wallace  
Barry & Erica Goode  
Joshua Stearns  
Penny McGee Canario  
Rena Nee Cairo Gonsalves  
Jerry & Theresa Daniel  
Stephen Kowalski Timeworks, Inc.\*  
Dean Smith  
Roberta Jenkins Smith  
Joel Spinola  
Eunice Hursh

*And a warm welcome to these new members:*  
First Church of Christ, Scientist\*  
Pat Houck  
TransOral Pharmaceuticals, Inc.\*\*

*\*Corporate Sponsor*

*\*\*History Maker*

*Thank You!*  
**Santa Fe Market**  
and  
**Point Richmond Market**

*For selling*  
**“THIS POINT.....in time”**  
*For us*

*Museum Hours:*  
**Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm**  
**Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm**

*Thank You!*  
*Our Special Supporters!*

*History Makers*

Sherri Mertle  
Doug & Rosemary Corbin  
Kathe Kiehn  
Elizabeth M. McDonald  
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee  
Margi Cellucci  
TransOral Pharmaceuticals, Inc

*Corporate Sponsor*

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company  
*Stephen Kowalski Family*  
First Church of Christ, Scientist

*History Preservers:*

Royce Ong  
Edward J. McGarvey  
Gilda Markarian  
Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee  
Jean & John Knox  
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
Catherine Burchell



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# EDITOR'S NOTES

**Gary Shows (510-235-1336)**

You might have noticed that ever since we have gone “full color” TPIT has had a theme. The theme of this issue is Point Richmond gardens. Thank you to Theresa de Valence for producing this beautiful garden section.

This issue has more pages and much more color than usual, even for our new “full color” style, but we have kept the price the same \$3 newsstand price thanks to our printer not charging us any more than for regular issues. PRHA members pay nothing extra, it is simply a special treat for them.

Thanks all who contribute to “THIS POINT ..... in time”, you help to make our little community special. See you at the meeting on May 21st.

The deadline for the June/July/August (Summer) issue will be May 26, 2006, enjoy summertime!

The February/March issue assembly crew was:

Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Betty Dornan  
Marcelina Smith  
Pat Pearson  
Bruce Bartram  
Ann Bartram  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Sonja Darling

P.S. It seems that volunteers on the Red Oak Victory would rather not see visitors after 3:00 as they are busy getting ready for 4:00 closure.



*Above is an Echeveria 'After Glow.'*

*(Photos taken in Shirley and Tom Butt's garden by Theresa de Valence, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.)*

## The Cover

On the cover blooms a *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy). These showy white flowers are the largest of any plant native to California. (Photo taken in Shirley and Tom Butt's garden by Tom Butt; enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.).

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# A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: First class postage recently was raised 2¢ to 39¢. Has there ever been a postal decrease? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

Pat Nelson doesn't get any sympathy with her broken collarbone because she doesn't have any outward evidence like a cast!

\*\*\*

Do you recognize Liz Madonald with her smart new haircut?

\*\*\*

Sympathy is extended to Janice Cook on the recent loss of her 90-year-old father.

\*\*\*

We all need to know Gordon Miller's secret of life! At 98 he went to DMV for his license renewal which is now good until he is 101!! And, Gordie is already inviting friends to his 100th birthday. Being positive must be one of life's longevity secrets.

\*\*\*

It was a delightful celebration of Barbara Vincent's 90th birthday held at the Richmond Yacht Club on Saturday, March 4th. A scrumptious luncheon was attended by her family and her many friends who paid tribute to this special lady. Here's to your 100th Barbara!

\*\*\*

The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes!

\*\*\*

Chuck Palenchar, Glen Ellen, has shared some of his Mom's (Josephine Palenchar) souvenirs with the PRHA. Among the mementos included were an Indian Statue button (Oct 20, 1984) and a Name-a-Brick button (Oct 18, 1986). Look for them on display at the Point Museum.

\*\*\*

Welcome to TRANSORAL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. who are moving from Corte Madera into the Wareham properties at

1003 W. Cutting. On March 16th, employees were invited to inspect their new facilities being readied for their move followed by a lunch catered by the Baltic. Pat Pearson and Mid Dornan were invited to tell them about Point Richmond history and today's assets, services and facilities in the area. John Gioia represented the county. The company is an asset to Richmond and we wish them growth!

\*\*\*

Feel younger than you are? You should. Researchers calculate that

70-year-olds today are equivalent, health wise, to 65-year-olds who lived 30 years ago.

\*\*\*

Microwave garlic cloves for 15 seconds and the skins slip right off.

\*\*\*

Did you know STROBOGRAMMATIC is a word that looks the same upside down. (NOON...SWIMS).

\*\*\*

In February, Sonja Darling traveled to Mesa, Arizona to meet with some college friends for a reunion. Paula Tronson, North Dakota; Jan Sannes, Texas; and Sonja, California met in the Mesa, Arizona condo of Ila Flesche from Minnesota. It had been 44 years since some had seen each other. After catching up on family, careers and old times in college, the four decided to get together again in North Dakota the first week in July when classmates, Judy Hagensen of Alaska and Eleanor Jones of North Dakota will join them.

\*\*\*

If and when the City of Richmond seeks an official host and hostess, Bonnie and Rod Satre have to head the list without competition.

\*\*\*

Q: What is a bargain?

A: Something so cheap you can't resist it, even tho you can't use it and really don't want it.!

(Continued on page 8)

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# CHURCH NEWS



By Dee Rosier  
510-232-1387

Rain, rain go away. We have had a lot and really don't mind it, gives me a chance to complete some of the tasks we file away for a rainy day.

Father O'Rourke has been into crashes lately. In trying to rid some ants in the pantry, he fell off of the ladder onto the freezer and then crashed to the floor. As if that wasn't enough, his computer decided to crash. The computer can easily be repaired and back in working order within a reasonable amount of time. Father's body will take a little longer to heal. The trip he had planned to ski was cancelled. He is now walking without the use of a cane.

We welcome Jim Sullivan who will be the keyboardist at Sunday Mass. Jim is an experienced musician and until recently led the choir at St. John's in El Cerrito. We will be looking for a new piano for Jim and hope that a group will form a choir.

The new lector's discussion books are available in the front of the church.

We drew a great crowd for the last after-Mass coffee and donuts get together. Many new faces joined and we look forward to seeing more. The gathering is a great social means to greet new and prospective parish members and make them feel welcome.

The deadline for returning postcards for the parish directory was in February. The information

received will be compiled into a directory of parishioners. It has been a while since we have had an accurate directory.

During the season of Lent, the Small Christian Community evening group will meet every Wednesday, except during Holy Week. If you are interested in attending the evening group, please contact Steve Shaffer (677-2914). The daytime group also continues to meet. Also during Lent, Stations of the Cross will follow the Friday Mass at 5:00 P.M.

The last Parish Council meeting focused on ways to increase our faith community. We are one of the smallest parish's in the Diocese, located in a uniquely, beautiful area. Look for our welcome mat to spread. Don't forget our webpage: **[pointrichmondccatholic.org](http://pointrichmondccatholic.org)**. Our numbers have been going up steadily during the past year.

Our last potluck was held to hear the voices of the parishioners and just what we want to do for the future preservation of our parish. Dave Crowley, a professional engineer, gave a summary of the state of the edifice. Dave was very specific and informative. A question and answer discussion followed. Because of the enormous amount of money involved, and our lack of it, the consensus was that we would remain status quo for the present time. We will, however, handle small maintenance repairs as needed, i.e., windows, lights, drain, etc.

The Italian Catholic Federation celebrated their quarterly Communion at Our Lady of Mercy on February 19, 2006. Twenty-five members attended Mass and later enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Hidden City.

Javier Lopez who relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, never fails to surprise us by showing up to attend Mass and he is always welcome with open arms. Javier was one of our major parishioners and a great trumpet player.

Congratulations to the family Crowley. Dave and Bridget welcomed a daughter, Paige, born March 8. Pete (our bell ringer) is now a big brother. Pete stayed with us while his Mom and Dad went to

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the hospital. It is bittersweet because the Crowley's will be relocating to New Jersey.

Another Pt. Richmond swap, Gloria Crim has purchased a home in Crockett.

Barney Dietz had to walk a little further to join the Pt. Richmond Walkers, since his car was stolen from his carport. Fortunately the car was found a few weeks later in Marina Bay.

Condolences to the family of Fay Hawkins and Bo Amantite. Both Fay and Bo were once members of the Pt. Richmond Walkers.

Continue to pray for those unable to join us for Mass: Theresa Meneghelli, Frankie Mello, Renee Pollard, Mary Shieler, Dody Perry, and Sue Kafka.

There is a skunk lurking in our neighborhood. He has taken a liking to my lawn and is aerating it as he looks for worms. Am looking for advice on how to keep him off of the lawn. Feel that he holds the advantage over me, since I don't want to anger him.

Bob and Marie Peckham plan to return to Lourdes and Bob will celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> in Paris. Will that be, "April in Paris?"

The Knee family is back after their annual Hawaiian vacation.

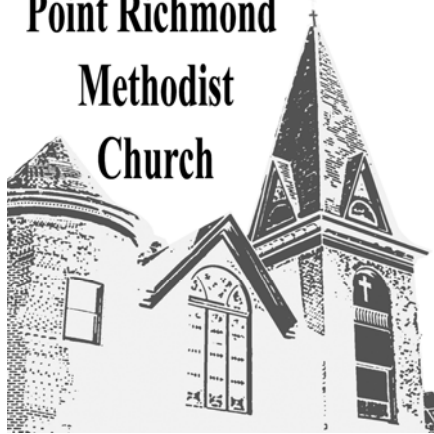
Henry Allyn was on Idaho Street the other day and he again reminded me of the past. Hank drove an old panel truck and on a hot summer evening, invited the mothers and kids on the street to Fenton's. In those days, safety belts were not required. The neighborhood families piled into the back of the panel truck: the Eggers, Petersons, Wyricks, Rosiers, and Wilsons. When we arrived at Fenton's, we caught the eye of many as Henry held the panel doors open and moms and kids walked out – the icing on the cake was the last to exit, Florence Wilson, who at that time was pregnant. We left a lot of people scratching their heads. Thanks for contributing the happy memories, Hank.

Irish Superstition: Cutting a cross in the top of a loaf of soda bread before baking let's the devil out.

May your troubles be less, your blessing more, and nothing but happiness come through your doors.

See you in church.

## Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

510-235-2988

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

We celebrated the life of Once-a-Sweetheart-Always-a-Sweetheart Fay Hawkins (11-13-1922 to 1-22-2006) on February 4. Fay was retired from the Richmond Police Department, and many of his former co-workers came to tell how much they appreciated him as a friend and a man of integrity. As a member of the church, Fay was the one we relied on to construct and repair: most notably the back stairs to the parsonage. Once rickety and awkwardly designed, they were sturdy and provided easy access to the side garden and back yard after Fay worked his magic. Fay led the potato-peeling parties that preceded our feasts, and made them more interesting by offering a prize to whoever found the specially-marked potatoes. He peeled more vegetables than any of us, and transported the raw ones to the Baltic Restaurant, bringing them back cooked and ready to serve on the day of the feast. He and wife Marian inventoried the consumable goods at the church and replaced any that ran low: we basked in abundance due to Fay's diligence! He always stepped forward to help deliver a donation to the Rescue Mission or to help provide a meal at the GRIP emergency winter shelter. He knew how to cut to the essence of an

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issue; we will miss his ability to get things done and instill a sense of cooperation.

On February 9, Alice, Bill, Liam and Sarah Thompson were honored at the ninth annual **Sweetheart Dinner** at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club. Surprise guest Roxanne (Elle) Trudeau came to help reminisce about early days at the church playing guitar with Alice for the Sunday school gathering time, and about how special Alice treats her friends. Roxanne pressed Alice into service and asked her to accompany some songs to get us all in the spirit of the evening. Fran Smith, 2004 Sweetheart, was back at the helm to organize the event. She told about how Sarah kept dancing even when she lost her shoe, without missing a beat. Pat Dornan spoke about Liam and how he willingly helps her decorate the sanctuary when a ladder is needed. Mid Dornan, Sweetheart of 1999 and church and community historian, served as the “roaster”, and proud dad and grandpa Ben Bray shared his stories about the honorees that harkened back to Alice’s first week of life. Tom Butt emceed the program, and pointed out that it was more efficient to induct four people as sweethearts than to just pick one a year. He predicts we might have nine or ten sweethearts next year! First-and-Best Sweetheart Bob Peckham relayed his joy at being part of our community. The Angel Choir sang “Sanctuary”, since Liam, Sarah, and Alice are key members. I got to present the “thwacker” or scepter: it has been part of the tradition since Virginia Cherniak was Sweetheart. Several of us mentioned how Bill is a role model for children in the church: he teaches Vacation Bible School and Sunday school, and small children enjoy coming to church if they can sit by him. It was hard to tell all of the ways we appreciate the four of them, but we hope they felt our love! Members of the Joyful Noise Choir sang the traditional closing: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”.

The Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Concert rocked the sanctuary on February 19, for their sixth annual gathering here. Our Joyful Noise Choir was pretty much knocked out with colds and coughs of the season, but Gill Stanfield held up our honor with a moving solo piece during the concert. Singers

came from Oakland, Vallejo, Fulton, Pittsburg, Richmond, and North Richmond. Dorothy Morrison and the Combs Family were there to help us get our “O Happy Day” fix for the year. We are thankful to Pamela and Bobby Hall for bringing a different style of worship and praise to share with our community every year.

The Joyful Noise Choir sang in the GRIP concert on March 5 at the Unitarian Church in Kensington. More than twenty choirs participated, and the mass choir numbers allowed us to sing with about two hundred voices instead of our usual six to twenty. It was fun to hear other choirs, bell choirs, and see dancers of various GRIP congregations: we hardly minded staying for three hours, or the driving rain as we arrived and departed. GRIP is celebrating their fortieth anniversary with an event every month this year. In February they had a chili cookoff and western dance. The new GRIP shelter and souper center will open in June, ahead of schedule and under budget.

#### **ON THE CALENDAR;**

April 9, Sunday, **Palm Sunday Feast** 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. after 11:00 worship. Join us for ham, scalloped potatoes, other delicious food and good company! Do you want to help or donate food? Call Christina de Leon, 234-8052.

April 16, **Easter Sunday**, Join us for any or all of the morning events; Worship in the garden at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Traditional worship in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m., and Easter Egg Hunt afterward. Something for everyone!

**Heads Up!** The **Annual Junktique Sale will be Saturday, April 29**, this year. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you wait until the first Saturday in May, you will miss it. The church basement will be open some hours on Saturdays and Thursday evenings to accept donations. During April, call Juanita Hoffman (234-8052) to arrange pick-up of good usable items. Find that perfect item at the right price! Have lunch while you shop!

Monday, May 29, Masquers’ Community Yard Sale **Pancake Breakfast**. Plan to eat at the church the day of the community-wide yard sale.

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# Point Methodist Church

## History

Mid Dornan

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 96th installment.*

Jan 3rd 1928

The regular meeting of the Social League was held in the church parlors with Mrs. Doney and Mrs. Vloebergh as hostesses. After repeating the Lord's Prayer, 10 members responded to the roll call. Minutes of the meeting of No 15th read and approved. The Treasurer reported that a bill of \$43 to Zeb Knott was paid. Moved and Sec. to leave discussion of luncheon until next meeting. No further business the meeting adjourned.

\$8.82 old balance

\$1.15 plate collection

\$9.97 new balance

## MORE A-MID TRIVIA

Speaking of 'cheap' check out the Annual Junktique Sale at the Methodist Church on Saturday, April 29!! Donate your 'junk' and buy someone else's 'treasures'. If you can't find a bargain, their lunch of homemade Minestrone Soup or Chili and homemade pies is!

\*\*\*

Social Security is the sole income for 24% of people over 65 and the principal source for two-thirds.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: YES, In 1919 when the first class letter rate went from 3 cents to 2 cents. It had been raised in 1917 to help fund World War I.



*Sculpture in the Crest  
Vine Street Garden.*

*All sculpture, plants,  
water and effort are  
provided by volunteers.  
Thanks for improving  
our view!*

## Masquers May Madness

The Masquers community theatre depends heavily on community support. Every Memorial Day weekend, many residents have "signed up" to conduct their own garage sale, agreeing to donate 10% of the proceeds to the Masquers. Over 100 residents have participated each year. Last year Masquers paid for advertisements in 34 newspapers and put a flyer in every mailbox in the Point. Maps are available from Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Market for 25 cents which goes directly to the Masquers.

Early on Memorial Day, Masquers and others set up tables in front of the theatre setting out articles for sale. "There are 5-6 volunteers 'on duty' all day to assist in selling," said Bob Goshay, President of the Board of Directors for Masquers. "Much haggling goes on, but the event is festive!"

How can you help? Have a look through your closets for articles that are no longer fun for you but still have useful life (please no computers, TVs, etc.). Call Masquers at (510) 232-4031 for pickup or drop off information.

Plan a Memorial Day picnic for some friends who like garage sales and invite them to tour the Point. Who knows, you might even find something that you just can't do without!

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# WWIC ACTIVITIES

Alyce Williamson

510-234-4219

## *The Women's Westside Improvement Club Meets at the Point Richmond Methodist Church.*

The WWIC met at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church for our first meeting of the year 2006. Fatome Al-Wareeth from the Point Richmond Market was our guest speaker. Her presentation concerned their arriving and opening the Point Richmond market and their renovations plans for the store. A question and answer period followed during which Fatome discussed many aspects of life and culture in her native country of Yemen. Thank you Fatome for bringing us your very interesting story. There were 22 members present and our Fatome Al-Wareeth became a new member.

Distribution of funds was discussed and approved by membership present: Rental of Friendship Hall for meeting for Feb-June 2006 Additional reserve for WWIC 2008 Centennial Celebration. Point Richmond Library and PRAM for Children's Reading Program Point Richmond History Association for its plaque project. Reserve for WWIC Street Directory Project, these funds to come from proceeds of March fundraiser. These funds to be matched by Janice Cook and Reality World. Thank you Janice. Reimburse Connie Lompa for the purchase of bulbs for the WWIC project to improve and maintain the garden area around the Indian Statue. Lastly, WWIC's Project to provide books for the Washington School Library.

Happy Birthday to...December: Pat Pearson, Susan Brooks and Dorothy Hernandez. January: Mary Highfil, Altha Humphrey, Sonja Darling February: Peggy Fowler and Dody Perry. Members signed a get well card to Dulcie Johnson who fell in December and a condolence card to Alyce Williamson for her loss of her Mother, Bonnie Kirkman. Bonnie was 103 and was long time honorary member of our club.

Announcements: April's Easter Egg Decorating and hunt may be cancelled per David Vincent because of the difficulty with the City getting access to the Community Center. Lori Noiva may open her studio for Easter Egg decorating if her schedule permits. Thank you, Lori!

The WWIC met on March 7, 2006 at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church for its second "Fund Raiser Luncheon" attended by 27. The theme was St Patrick's Day. Anita Christiansen did the flower arrangements and her son, Steven, helped set up tables. Everything was so festive one felt like dancing an Irish Jig!! The luncheon was a great success. Thank you hostesses, Marion Kent, Dorothy Hernandez, Lynn Clifford and especially Altha Humphrey for her extraordinary effort, even with a broken wrist. After a leisurely lunch Guest Speaker, Lori Holmes of "Goody-Goody" gave an interesting talk about how she started out making children's shoes in her home. "Goody-Goody" is now located on 23rd St. in Richmond. She brought many original and beautiful samples, shoes infant size to adult slippers. She also makes other accessories. Everyone was enjoying her talk so much and had so many questions that we all agreed to forgo a formal meeting. Happy Birthday Carol Paasch, Avis Blanchette, Marilyn Brite, Anna Schwartz, and Rosemary Corbin.

Announcements: This spring and summer, the ladies of WWIC will continue to work on their two major projects of maintaining the garden area adjacent to the Indian Statue and the refurbishing of the Street Directory Sign adjacent to the Fire Station. The WWIC's newest project is to collect funds to provide books for the new Washington School Library. The school currently has 7-9 books per child and various child literary studies recommend that a school library should have 17-20 books per child. The District has allotted each elementary school library the total of \$1,000 for books and supplies. The Washington School Library would need at least \$6,000. The Club has designated \$100 toward the purchase of books. Linda Newton volunteered to take the lead for this WWIC project and will distribute jars to businesses for the additional contributions. If you would like to help please call Margaret Mokowski, 510-234-4219. Next meeting will be April 4, 2006.

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# Relative Values at the Masquers

*A Review by Theresa de Valence, TdeV@bstw.com*

This rehearsal proved conclusively that I should stop going to rehearsals. Watching this play before it was ready for Opening Night (in order to write this review for you), I can no longer have a pristine reaction to the play when it is ready for prime time. It's a shame because I bet, in a few days, the play will be even better.

This is going to be an extremely funny play. A play one wants to see many times. Book a seat early in the play's schedule, so you too can see it again.

The set, an English manor house in the early 1950s, centred around the couch, a masterpiece of opulence and the efficacy of a staple gun. Other delectable details provided by Albert Meyers, Set Designer, included enviable hand-painted wallpaper and the wildest worst fireplace mantel you'd ever want to own. Of course, if I hadn't gone to the rehearsal, I would never have heard all those piquant stories of life in the Masquers from Albert and Jerry Telfer (*photographer for photo at right*).

Nigel, the Earl of Marshwood (played by Brian Jones), had announced he would bring home his glamorous movie starlet fiancée Miss Miranda Frayle (played by Emily Cannon-Brown) to the shock of this rural English village.

The butler, Frederick Crestwell (played by Robert Taylor who also happens to be the Director), was far too handsome (and well-dressed) for a mere butler, but as a socialist, he deigned to condescend to serve the household. One of the few members of the household too well-bred to disclose his opinion of the engaged couple, Crestwell's attitude was gradually revealed as he effortlessly manipulated other characters, despite his apparent insouciance.

Alice Baxter, the young maid, is played by Jennifer Carrier who also happens to be Stage Manager. In several incidents, Baxter was called upon to prove her youthful foolishness to the audience and does so with alacrity.

Mrs. Dori Moxton (played by Marilyn Hughes),

was the darkest horse of the production, a character whose hidden secrets and repressed personality unfolded in astonishing ways throughout the play. Marilyn's performance is outstanding. If telling you about Moxie's captivating escapades could be done without infringing on the play's right to secrecy, I would do it in a shot, really, but I tell you, it can't be done, and the neighbourhood would never stand for it. Harumpf!

Moxie is proof positive that life creates art. Moxie was written for Marilyn Hughes' body shape and her antics built for Hughes' mobile face. Moxie existed to be dressed by the costumer. Moxie is the magic of theatre at its very best.



I admit I was expecting Felicity, the Dowager Countess of Marshwood (played by Lorelee Windsor), to be a perfect sour apple (as who wouldn't be), but she surprised me by employing traits for which the English are so well known: the ability to be polite to a fault in serious matters, to be positively caustic over trivialities, and to intermingle these parts with great humour and a sly wit, thereby allowing the English person to be telling the absolute truth under the guise of pleasant nonsense conversation. As the play developed, I found myself liking the Dowager more and more. This was proof that art creates life; in Lorelee Windsor's last Masquers character, it took me a long time to warm up to her.

To me, the lazy dissipated nephew, Peter Ingleton (played by Simon Patton), looked too good to be true, his flexible smile covertly revealing passionate lips. At

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a break in the rehearsal, I asked him if he owned his shoes or whether they were another marvelous adornment by costumer Tammara Plankers (She has many tantalizing visual treats in this production). *Why do we notice his shoes, you ask? All the more reason to see the play, my dear.* It turned out he owned his shoes, though they were purchased at a rummage sale for 50 cents, thereby lending credence to Simon's ability for dissembling. Peter spent much of the play making asides which were snide, slightly rude, and screamingly funny. One can't imagine a more perfect portrayal of this character who must have seen himself as a mixture of Peter O'Toole, Sean Connery and Bertie Wooster.

Neighbours Lady Cynthia Hayling (played by Linda Ellinwood) and Admiral Hayling (played by Walter Phelps) manifested all the traits one has come to expect from rural county spots. Lady Cynthia, frequently in fanciful dress, showed great presence as a nosy opinionated gossip and the Admiral harumpf, harumpf-ed his way through speeches sounding like he was blowing his nose. Sumptuous!

The last time I saw Brian Jones, he portrayed a stuffed gentlemanly Englishman, obviously a character with which he feels comfortable. As Nigel, he was stiffer and slightly more stupid, although definitely a character with whom we, as expected, felt some camaraderie. As the play developed and the truth unfolded, Nigel's surprisingly provocative expressions were highly enjoyable.

Emily Cannon-Brown is a very beautiful young woman who played the part of another beautiful young woman of shallow character and gorgeous outfits. Kudos to the costumer. With flamboyant gestures, Miranda drifted across the stage looking partly like a model giving the audience several inviting portraits of her outfits, and partly like an actress on display as she framed delectable glimpses of her figure moving beneath the fabric. Miranda was not intended as a character with whom we would empathize, though her antics were amusing. Her tragedies are histrionically well-delivered.

The famous American actor and male heart-throb, Don Lucas (played by Kevin Hazelton), predictably stole hearts from the moment he set foot on the stage, starting with the maid, Baxter, whose

performance as a star-struck fish was superb. Hazelton is a gorgeous young man who played the part of an attractive and famous young man, "young" in this sense including the exaggerations of youthful temperament. Lucas began as a tough guy, soon crowded out by ardor, then fawning, then followed by a soupçon of viciousness before randomly repeating his repertoire. He displayed a Very American manner in his respect for elders and had no difficulty with the familiarity of addressing the Dowager by her first name (unlike the Very English Moxie), an exchange he and the Dowager accomplished with a substantial amount of both humour and wistfulness.

This play is fun. Spring has begun and we can smell its freshness in the air. "Relative Values" is a heavenly addition to the season and worth seeing at least once!

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE presents  
105 Park Place, Point Richmond

a light comedy by NOËL COWARD

# RELATIVE VALUES

**MARCH 31 TO MAY 6**  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00  
Sunday matinees at 2:30  
on April 9, 23 and 30

Box office opens half hour before curtain

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

**Directed by ROBERT TAYLOR**  
All seats \$15  
24-hour reservations:  
**510-232-4031**  
or buy online at:  
**MASQUERS.ORG**

**SPECIAL MASQUERS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE:**  
Dinner at the Hotel Man and Relative Values  
on Thursday, May 6 for only \$45! Call 510-232-4031

Emily Cannon-Brown • Jennifer Carrier • Linda Ellinwood  
Kevin Hazelton • Marilyn Hughes • Brian Jones • Robert Taylor  
Simon Patten • Walter Phelps • Loralee Windsor

*This Point.....in time*

# UNIQUE POINT RICHMOND

## Homes and Gardens and more

Story by Theresa de Valence, TdeV@bstw.com;

Photos by Theresa de Valence (A), Tom Butt (B), all photos enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh PhD.

Point Richmond gardeners, like others in the SF Bay Area, are urged to plant with a respect for water, and to select plants which flourish in a climate defined by moderate winter rainfall and cool dry summers, often known as a mediterranean climate.

Bringing Back The Natives Garden Tour is a self-guided tour of 60 fabulous gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 30% or more native plants.

Right is a photo from last year's tour (B). The gardens will be open on Sunday May 7, 2006 from 10 am - 5 pm.

Although the tour is free, registration is required, and **closes April 25th**. The tour is expected to fill completely, so please register early at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net).

In 2006, only one Point Richmond garden will be open for the tour. Next year we hope for more participation from residents of the Point, see the website for details.

### Bringing Back The Natives Garden Tour in Point Richmond

The Point entry for the 2006 Tour, the garden of Shirley and Tom Butt, occupies more than  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres on the east face of Nicholl's Knob, the highest peak in the Miller Knox Regional Park. Photo left (A) is taken at the northerly edge of the property. This is an old narrow street in the Point, East Scenic, just past the intersection with Buena Vista which will be the entrance to the garden on the day of the tour. To the east a promontory of land creates a convex shape where the photo above

right (A) was taken into the sunrise. Photo lower right (A) involved a minor twist in a southerly direction. Early efforts in the garden concerned eradicating poison oak, noxious Pampas grass and various broom. Not surprisingly, this effort led to the discovery of the perfect method for removal of excessive vegetation and fire risk abatement: the goats in the photo left (B).



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## Great Paths For Perambulating

In the original map of the area, Buena Vista continued uphill from its current end, east to a hairpin turn, through the middle of the property, then through to an exit onto the fire trail.



This paper street has since been vacated, but was graded by Tom and Shirley in order to build their house. For persons enjoying a leisurely walk down wide and level paths, it couldn't be more perfect!

In the photo far right lower (A), the bricks used in the patio were



All paths are westward views, far left *Coast Redwood* (B) and *Western Redbud* left (B) and *flowering peach* above (A).

salvaged from a wall of the Interactive Resources building over on Park Place and from the chimney of a building on Scenic Ave. Most



likely the bricks came from the original Richmond brickworks factory.

The trellis work left (A), is built with rot-resistant wood, and follows the curving edge of the pathway. In summer the



trellis will be covered with *Vitus californica* (wild grape) vine, right (B).



## Native Plants

From the beginning, Shirley and Tom Butt frequented the annual Native Plant Sale at Merit College to the discomfort of the monthly budget. "We would spend all the cash in our pockets on natives," said Tom smiling wryly. "We'd return home, plant 'em all and two thirds would die. Then we would do it all again the next year."



"When we started, California fescue was the only plant on the property worth saving," recalled Shirley, photos on left and right (A). *Festuca*

*californica* *Vasey* (*California fescue*) is an evergreen bunch grass. It makes a good groundcover for slopes in sun or part shade, is quite drought tolerant and is good under native oaks.



All plants on the following two pages are native to California.

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## All California Native Plants

*Carpenteria californica*  
(tree anemone)  
(B)

For an  
explanation of  
(A) and (B)  
picture  
attributions  
see the top of  
page 12



*Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud) above and below (A)



*Rosa californica* (California wild rose) above (A) is a  
single bloom and is the wild rose for many coast ranges in  
California and Oregon



*Iris douglasiana*  
(Douglas iris)  
providing  
architectural interest  
right (A) and  
flowering left



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*Ceanothus (wild lilac)* above left and right (A) is a northern west coast native, perfect for casual gardeners as it thrives with some neglect!



*Fremontadendron 'Californian Glory'* left (B)

*Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng (Calla Lily) and *Ceanothus*. right (A)



*Ribes* (Gooseberry, Black Currant) below (B)



*Clematis ligusticifolia* Nutt. (western white clematis)(A)



*Mimulus aurantiacus* (Sticky Monkey Flower)(A)

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Treats still to come



On left (A), *Sequoia Sempervirens* (coast redwood) frames an enticing entrance to the garden. On far right (A), an *Acer* (Japanese maple) starts the season against a backdrop of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir).



Right (A) *Santolina Rosmarinifolia* is beginning its annual burst of growth and colour.



On far right (A) a flowering plum borders the path.

Not shown, because we have run out of room, are the extensive and attractive vegetable beds. At this time of year, every two weeks, the beds are planted with seedlings which have been grown in the conservatory attached to the house.



The garden will be planted with several kinds of radicchio, lettuce and tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, arugula, squash and sunflowers. There will be plants available for sale on the day of the Garden Tour.

One weekend several years ago, Shirley had to leave town. When she returned, she discovered that Tom had dug a immense hole in the hillside, dragged a huge pile of rocks up the hill (somehow), laid rubber, installed a pump and filled it with water to make the water feature on left (A), with a close-up of the ferns on right(B).

“It was a very romantic present, “ Shirley said with a sweet smile.



## DESIGN CHALLENGE

Point Richmond is filled with beautiful views. Some of the skyline. Many more delights are found looking into our town, our homes and gardens. Do you have some favorite lookouts? Drop me a line and help me record all of the great views we have.

First, Second and Third Prize winners will be announced.

Contact Theresa de Valence, TdeV@bstw.com or c/o PRHA Museum

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# CREST VINE STREET GARDEN

## A lot growing in a small space

At the intersections of Crest and Vine streets a small park has been created by neighbors and well-wishers. Can you name the plants or donors responsible for these additions to the park? Please contact the photographer: Theresa de Valence, TdeV@bstw.com (Photos enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.)



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# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *More Memories of Early Point Richmond*



*Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in the Point, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School in 1926, attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the UCSF Medical School. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series. Thank you Dr. Thompson! Enjoy!*

There were several other mounds in the Point Richmond area. One small one was on the hillside above the road half way between ferry point and the old police pistol range. It also had a buckeye tree growing on it. People used to use some of the mound material as fertilizer.

I suspect that these sites were occupied during the winter and spring months due to lack of fresh water during the dry months. However there was one good spring on the hill above the old Schmidt place on the inside of the ridge not far from Bulldog Point that ran well into the summer and in the past when there probably was greater rainfall may have lasted longer.

I often wonder about the toxicity of red water during the summer months. Shell fish become poisonous often during the summer months due to consuming the tiny toxic creatures that come from the red water. Now days we are warned not to eat shellfish during the summer months, (the months with an "R") because of this toxicity. Did the Indians suffer from this? Possibly lack of fresh water made them leave the region during the warm months and so they were protected.

I once found an obsidian arrow point on the slopes of Nichol Nob. It was of the microlithic type from the late horizon Indians. Also I found a

fragment of fossil ivory on the old hillside. This was no doubt a fragment of mammoth tusk. At one time, back in the 1920's when the Standard Oil Company was dredging out channels off of San Pablo Bay they dredged out parts of a mammoth skeleton. The end of a femur (thigh bone) of this skeleton was on display in the main office there at one time and may still be there. My father brought me a fragment of ivory from this find.

After the dredgers from the inner harbor had laid down dirt for Cutting Boulevard they laid ridges of bay silt in squares to be the bases for streets forming city blocks. This section was known as the canal section and it was years before any further development was done. Later some pavement was laid down and two homes were built in the area. This is the region between Cutting Boulevard and Garrard Boulevard and is mostly industrial. Before this was developed, the square blocks were low marshy areas that filled with water in the rainy season. These ponds were playgrounds for children who floated rafts and other objects in the water. They also were landing places for waterfowl and no doubt contributed to the mosquito population of the region. In some there were stickleback fish which controlled the mosquito larva.

There were many beaches along the Point

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Richmond waterfront in those days, many more than at present. They made excellent recreation sites and then, at least, they were clean, Keller's Beach was one of the most popular because it was easily accessible. Many people, including my family, built shacks for changing into bathing suits. This beach was at least partly destroyed when the Santa Fe filled in the depression east of the tracks with dredged silt which badly silted up the beach.

Another favorite beach was over by the quarry near the San Rafael Ferry. This also was accessible by road and street car. Further north and just south of Winehaven was the shrimp camp beach where the early Chinese had had a shrimp fishing settlement. This was a fine, rather shallow sandy beach. It was especially used after people became affluent enough to own cars. There was a similar beach that we called Long Beach on the bay side of the hills beyond where Brickyard Cove is situated. This was a fine clean, shallow sandy beach and when we were children our families used to walk out there for picnics. Also there was a small rather thin shell mound there. This region was later taken over for a tank farm and was destroyed. Less prominent beaches along the shore north of Washington Point were convenient for people who lived in the area.

When I was a boy Washington Point was barren and unoccupied by houses and we used it as a fishing location. It was fairly good fishing for pogies (black perch), rock cod and blue cod. Occasionally we caught small bass, skates and sting rays. The rocks along the entire shore at low tide were covered with rock oysters. These and many other farms of life have been exterminated by pollution.

I recall the circuses that occasionally came to town. They usually located on the open area west of first street and south of Macdonald where Atchison Village now stands. Sells Floto and Barnum and Bailey were the ones I remember mostly. They stayed only one day and arrived by circus train at the 16th street station at night and by daylight they

were actively engaged in setting up their tents. From our home on the Point Richmond hills we could see them especially if we used my father's telescope. We got up early on circus days. We could see the elephants being used to haul equipment and pull ropes to raise the tents.

By late in the morning they were thru and started their circus parade. The usual route was down Garrard Blvd. to the Point then turn right on Standard Ave. to Washington and Park Place, left on Richmond Ave. and back out Garrard Blvd. From there they went out Macdonald Ave. to 16th Street and back to the circus site. Being very smart we watched these parades at the junction of Garrard and Standard. In that way we saw the parade twice, coming and going. There were cages of animals and wagons with bands all drawn by beautifully decorated horses. In addition there were elephants, camels and horsemen and women. Once there was an old wagon with a primitive trampoline with a man leaping and cavorting in the air. These parades drew people to the shows. There were two presentations, afternoon and evening. There was the main show, a three ringed affair, and one could walk thru the animal tent and view the animals. There was usually a side show with performing dwarfs, fire eaters, India rubber men and often a flea circus.

I think it was the Barnum and Bailey Circus that usually followed the main show with a wild west show called the Buffalo Bill Show. People dressed as cowboys and indians rode wildly around shooting off blank cartridges. There was usually someone dressed like Buffalo Bill and it is possible that in some of the early shows it may have been him. One circus impressed us with a balloon ascension. It was all exciting, especially for kids, but by next morning it was all gone and the only trace of the show were people walking around the site hoping to find coins dropped by the customers.

*To be continued...*

***Dr. Thompson's Son in law Gab Togner wrote a touching eulogy to Dr. Thompson at his memorial in 1998, you can read it at <http://www.alkos.com/prha/thompson.html>.***

# *THE PRAM REPORT*

By Diane Anderson

## **PRAM needs your financial help and it doesn't cost you a cent!**

PRAM has now become qualified for e-scrip. This is an electronic donation system whereby a percentage of your sales at Albertson's are donated to PRAM. All you have to do is choose PRAM as your recipient. Every time you shop there, a donation is made to PRAM. This program costs you absolutely nothing.

Here's all you have to do:

Go Online to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com)

Click on the "In The Community" (it's at the bottom of the page)

Click on the Community Partners logo link. (it's in red on the right)

Log in

Click on Sign Me Up

Once in, you can choose to "find a partner" and search for PRAM in California

Add PRAM to your account.

PRAM's ID# is 49001011035 (but you won't likely need this)

And that's it! Please take the time to choose PRAM as your community partner. PRAM will continue to apply for other similar programs. Stay tuned for future similar requests for you to register PRAM. Every little bit makes a difference and this one requires virtually no effort, time or management! Gotta' love that!

## **PRAM would like to invite our community members to several upcoming events.**

**SAVE THE DATE!!** All families are invited to an easter egg hunt and brunch on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 1:00 (egg hunt will start around 10:30) at the Fieldhouse (110 E. Richmond Ave.) Please bring a food dish to share with 6-8 people. Please remember to bring a basket or bag for your little one to collect eggs for the hunt. If you're interested in volunteering (set up, clean up, picking up supplies beforehand), or if you need more information, please contact Catherine Collen at [ccollen@tides.org](mailto:ccollen@tides.org). Looking forward to seeing you there!

**SAVE THE DATE!!** On April 29, PRAM is hosting a community building event supporting Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies. Supported by a grant from First Five California, this event is targeted at families with children under age 5. From 11:00 – 1:00, please join us at the FieldHouse while we engage in activities such as



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planting seeds, preparing healthy snacks, learning about recycling and much more. For more information, please contact Diane Anderson at [jollysox@earthlink.net](mailto:jollysox@earthlink.net). Look forward to seeing you there!

## General PRAM news

Rent the PRAM Fieldhouse for your next event!! This is a reminder that the Fieldhouse is available for rental to both members and non-members. The rates are extremely reasonable (\$50 for 4 hours blocks). It is the ideal place for birthday parties, book club meetings, community meetings and events, family socials, etc. Renting out the Fieldhouse is an ideal way to offset some of the cost that PRAM pays to the City of Richmond for rent. Please help spread the word! For more information on renting the Fieldhouse, please contact Lizzie Duff at [esduff@mac.com](mailto:esduff@mac.com).

PRAM is always looking for new children's programs. If you have a class that you might be willing to teach to children under 9 years old,

please let us know. You can volunteer or your time or set a fee. This can be a one time class or an ongoing series. Maybe you would like to teach knitting to children or engage them in some interesting art projects. How about some simple cooking projects that don't require a stove? How about etiquette!? We'd love someone to run a "Prince and Princess Training" Class. PRAM can help advertise your class and we're successful and filling them up! Please contact Diane Anderson at 234-3333 or [jollysox@earthlink.net](mailto:jollysox@earthlink.net) to share your ideas and leads.

And finally, a big thank you for all our community members who responded to our community drive. We raised over \$1500 (a little short of our \$5000 goal, but we're still smiling)! Those funds help keep our doors open and assist in subsidizing programs for young children. If you helped support us this year, thank you! And, please, help spread the word to others that we're doing some great things and would love their support as well!



## RIBBON CUTTING AT THE NEW WASHINGTON SCHOOL

*Pat Pearson*

MAY 25, 2006, 5:00 P M is the time planned for the ribbon cutting at the newly renovated Washington School. Many parts of the old school were skillfully incorporated into the new sections. A tour of the school will be conducted after the ribbon cutting. The children will present a program. Dignitaries and former students and parents will attend and all those interested are invited to join in the festivities. The program is still in the planning stage, but we needed to let you know about it in this issue of ***THIS POINT in time*** so you can save the day.

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# **May 25, 2006 Annual Meeting - Will Tour the Historic Santa Fe Reading Room/Trainmaster's Building!**

*Margaret S. Morkowski*

The Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) will be having it's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21st at the Point Community Center, 197 Washington Avenue. Following the meeting everyone is invited to tour, inside and outside, the historic c1903, Santa Fe Employee's Reading Room/Trainmaster's Office now located across the street from the Plunge.

As background for the tour you may want to know that the *Richmond Independent* newspaper, printed in 1905, stated that the Santa Fe Reading Room had "... about 500 books, all current magazines, pool and billiard tables, and bath rooms at Richmond reading room of which Mrs. Ida B. Baker is librarian." The motto of the department was "Give a man a bath, a book and an entertainment that appeals to his mind ... and as he becomes more faithful to himself, he is more valuable to the company." "...the high mental and moral tone of the Santa Fe employees is due to the reading room system. The people of Richmond have no argument to offer on that score...."

The building actually had two careers and railroad records show that in 1944 the Reading Room was moved, remodeled and probably converted into office space for use by the Trainmaster. One employee said that being called to the Trainmaster's Office was like being called to the Principal's Office as a child. Since 1992 the building, by then located near the foot of South Macdonald

Avenue, had been left unused and unoccupied until it was move to its present location. This historic building, built in Richmond, at the railroad's western terminus, is the only known surviving yard building associated with the railroad from the earliest days of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Facility. The building was listed on the Contra Costa County Historic Resources Inventory in 1976. Its *Period of Significance* is 1903-1944.

On January 15, 1999 the San Francisco based Carey & Co. Inc, Architecture firm issued a Report to the City of Richmond, which included an assessment of this historic, c 1903 building. The Carey report describes the building as "... a single story 28'-2" x 78'-2" wood frame structure..." with the measurement from the mud-sill at the bottom of the building to the top of the double ridged roof of approximately 20 feet. The exterior cladding is 7/8" lapped redwood with beveled edges and an exposed surface of 6 & 7/8". Each of the long walls of the building has three, 7 foot redwood doors plus transoms with window openings on each side of the doors. The short exterior walls have three 7 foot windows. Almost all of the double-hung redwood framed windows remain (some with much of their original glass) and are being lovingly restored. None of the original top glazed/bottom panel doors remain. The roof includes four foot wide eave overhangs with soffits. The original roof material was listed on an early railroad survey of the building as shingle.



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The interior of the building has greatly deteriorated from ongoing water intrusion. "All surviving, turn of the century, interior finishes have deteriorated. These include a small quantity of original plaster and tongue and groove wood on wall and ceiling surfaces." Portions of the two original brick chimneys for the pot-belly stoves also remained.

In March of 2005, the non-profit 501.3c, Point Richmond Gateway Foundation was incorporated

with the purpose to relocate and restore this historic building. Plans include transforming much of the area between the Plunge and the Trainmaster's building to a park like setting.

If you would like more information on the Foundation, on ways you may assist in the restoration project or would like to make a tax deductible donation, please call Margaret Morkowski at (510) 234-4219.



## *Miss Hunn & The First Washington School*

We called it the "new" Washington School. Several of us are still around from the sixth grade that left the "old" school and marched, carrying our books, to the new school. We marched because our school principal, Dorothy Hunn, asked us to. Miss Hunn was the principal, 6th grade teacher, secretary, and nurse for the school. She wore as many hats as necessary. We moved about November 19, 1941. The new school was built because the old one was considered not safe in an earthquake. We had no idea that in a few weeks our country would be at war and Richmond was in for a siege on the home front.

I remember on Monday, December 8, 1941, sitting in Miss Hunn's class and listening to the class radio as President Franklin Roosevelt talked about "The Day that will live in Infamy" and declared War on Germany and Japan. Miss Hunn did become Mrs Wilkinson (sic) but I never thought of her by any other name than Miss Hunn. She was an accomplished teacher, golfer, and even substitute mother for some of us. She walked into class one Monday morning beaming. She had hit a "Hole-in-One" and proudly showed us her trophy. Some of us understood what it meant. I did because my Uncle George Bill, was a bar tender at the Richmond Golf club, knew Miss Hunn, and always talked golf at family dinners. Miss Hunn emphasized "Citizenship", not in a nationalistic sense but in a responsibility sense. She never criticized your behavior. She would just say, "You must be a good citizen". And she defined that as treating others with respect, truthfulness and kindness. When my children were growing up, I frequently told them they were to be good citizens as my 6th grade teacher had told me. Such a simple philosophy is relevant at any time and any place. I have never forgotten Miss Hunn, not only for her philosophy but for her enthusiasm, and genuine concern for others. She treated her students with respect and never talked down to us, she just made sure that we knew what it meant to be good citizens Miss Hunn came from a family of educators. Herbert Hunn retired as principal of Ells High School and lived on Crest Avenue for many years. Other members of the next generation of Hunns were also teachers.

Two weeks after we left the "unsafe" school, the Army stationed a large group of soldiers there.

*Pat (Bill) Pearson,  
Washington School Class of '42*

## ***'SIEMPRE AQUI'***

This is the title of a book about the Hispanics in Richmond being done by Don Bastin, Director of the Richmond Museum of History. The book will accompany a display of the Hispanic cultural contributions and influence in the City of Richmond. Don wants to talk to as many people who remember the early years in the areas of the city with an Hispanic population. We had many Hispanics in the Point so think about this! If you are unable to take the time to talk to Don and have your story recorded, any photographs and letters you may have would be greatly appreciated. The items would be scanned and returned to the donor. If you are interested, please call Don Bastin, 510-235-7387 at the Museum or Pat Pearson 510-234-2532 for more information



*Rose trellis in the  
garden of Shirley  
and Tom Butt  
(Photo by Tom Butt;  
enhanced by Thomas  
Mercer-Hursh)*

### **Notice**

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

Mid

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# CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

To whom it may concern:

Somewhere between 1939 and the 1940s, my father, Fong Wan, used to take the family for a drive to a shrimp company by the water's edge north of Oakland. I remember the dusty drive along the railroad tracks and finally crossing over the tracks towards the wharf to the shrimp company.

What I didn't know until recently was that my father owned that shrimp company; Fong Wan Shrimp Co., that was located on Cutting Blvd. and Market St. in Richmond, Ca. While visiting old friends in Oakland a year ago, I accidentally found on microfilm at the Oakland Public Library, the February 15, 1939 issue of the Oakland Tribune, a full page ad put in by my father that showed a picture of the shrimp company at the end of a wharf.

I do not believe that Market St. exists anymore. Is there any way of pinpointing the location as it is today? I would like to visit the area on my next trip into the Bay Area from Colorado.

Any help anyone can give me would be much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Willard Fong

6419 La Plata Peak Dr.

Colorado Springs, Co 80922

I will accept collect calls at (719) 596-5148.

[katzenjammers@webtv.net](mailto:katzenjammers@webtv.net)

Hi Pam,

I enjoy the colorful and informative newsletter! I remember the Dornan Grocery store in the 40's! Also Anita Christiansen did my grandma's (Elizabeth Gnaga) hair weekly and cut my hair frequently. Anita Christiansen, would you please give me your address or email? I remember your home on Crest Avenue very well.

Thank you,  
Penny McGee Canario  
San Jose, California  
[johnncanaria@comcast.net](mailto:johnncanaria@comcast.net)



## PICTURES OF THE PLUNGE

One of the architects working on the restoration of the plunge, Todd Jersey, is looking for pictures of the interior and exterior. The Richmond Museum of History contributed what pictures they had. The more pictures to work from the truer the restoration will be. Do some of you have pictures taken while you were learning to swim under the mushroom, or maybe a swim race from a school class or a picture taken while you or your children participated in many of the swim classes offered at the Plunge? The pictures will be scanned and returned to you.

Please call Todd Jersey at 510-524-5666 or Pat Pearson 510-234-2532 if you can help.

# DEATHS.....

**Joanne Fewins Busby** on January 22, 2006. Age 77. Joanne was a Graduate from Richmond Union High class of 1946. member of Mission Bell OES, past president of Salesian High Parents Club, past president of Washington PTA, ten year veteran of Contra Costa County Sheriffs Office SAVES Program. She is survived by her son, Douglas, and his wife Mary; brother John Fewins and two nephews. A standing-room only Memorial was held at Bay Hills Community Church in El Sobrante

**Sarah Bonita Amantite** on February 10, 2006. Age 67. She married Don Amantite on December 3, 1955 and just celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Bo worked for Galen Pharmacy for 10 years. After retirement she loved to travel and enjoyed family gatherings. She was an avid Giants fan. Bo is survived by her husband Don; daughters Shelly Pessagno, Sharron Steib, and Susan Fogerty; five grandchildren; sisters Barbara Robertson, Carolyn King, Susie Hix, and brothers, Thomas Merritt, and John Merritt. Services were at Wilson and Kratzer Civic Center Chapel and a reception for the many friends was held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

**Inez A. Pestana** on January 11, 2005 in a nursinghome in Modesto, California. Age 84. Inez was born in San Francisco on December 7, 1920 but grew up in Point Richmond. She was a member of the Point Richmond History Association.

**Otto Renoto Barni** on March 12, 2006, age 92. Otto was born in Point Richmond on October 8, 1913 and was raised in Old North Richmond. He was a 1931 graduate of Richmond High. He worked at Felice & Perrilli Canning Company and retired from Chevron in 1978. Otto was a member of the Richmond Rod and Gun Club and the Point Richmond History Association. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Charlene; a daughter, Linda Riley of Vacaville; a son, Michael of Richmond; two grandsons and one great-grandson. He is also survived by a sister, Pauline Traverso of El Cerrito. Private services were held with internment at Rolling Hills Cemetery.



*A donation was made to the Point Richmond History Association by Pat Houck, Laura Nicali and Aldo Forner in memory of Vic Highfill. Thank you.*

*This Point.....in time*



# BIRTHDAYS

## April

LOOF LIRPA	Don Amantite	John Maxwell	Roberta Jenkins Smith
Kathy Barnes	Joel Peterson	Sherri Mertle	Charline Barni
Roberta Palfini	Lori Meister	Taylor Bradshaw	Cynthia Wilson Quist
Bruce Bartram	Charlotte Knox	Carol MacDiarmid	Joni Loux Emerson
Karilu Crain	Anna Schwartz	Gordon Miller	Donna Diaz
Dori Freitas	Louie Barra	Rosemary Corbin	David Roth
Tara Kaufman	Monica Doherty	Darian Peckham	Theresa de Valence
Ruth Wilson	Eric Hoiland	Robert J. Palfini	
Paula Israeli	Melissa Allyln Delio	Terry Downey	
Pam Wilson	Alison Lord	David Bradshaw	

## May

Douglas Corbin	Lyle Fisher	Shoney Gustafson	Dale Huffstetter
Patricia Dornan	Sandra Loux Fuller	Winifred Boziki	Mary L. Roth
Bob Peckham	Maurice Doherty	David MacDiarmid	John Granado
Diana Corbin	Muriel Clausen	Jackson Bradshaw	Sophia Dolberg
Diana Spinola	Ruth Beardsley	Gene Bielawski	Tonita Avila Granado
Richard Mattuecci	Varsie Lometti	Norm Reynolds	Mark Healy
Becky Horn	Wini Jones	Charles Palenchar	Michelle Healy
Jon Doellstedt	Julian Smith	Adolph Higuera	Norma Wallace
Sara Eeles	Anne-Catherine Hadreas	Jack Murray	Ann Hathaway Kissling
Vern Doellstedt	Marg Miller	John Knox, Jr.	
Rena Gonsalves	Ann Hanzlik	Diana McIntosh	

## Exclusive - Over 90 Club

<i>An impressive list!</i>	<b>Lupe Padilla Lopez</b>	<b>Louise Hammond (91)</b>
<b>Ruth Wood Mullen (98)</b>	<b>Anita Brougham</b>	<b>Goldie Mobley (91)</b>
<b>Anna Schwarz (93)</b>	<b>Reva Ward (91)</b>	<b>Maxine Stoddard (90)</b>
<b>Jim Kenny</b>	<b>Lloyd Farley (90)</b>	<b>Dorothy Ruthnick (92)</b>
<b>Ruth Mallette (93)</b>	<b>Oretta Eaton (90_in August)</b>	<b>Steve Wyrick (90)</b>
<b>Alice Helseth (94)</b>	<b>Avis Blanchette (91)</b>	<i>An even more exclusive club!</i>
<b>Jean Moyle Spiersch</b>	<b>Mark Gebhart</b>	<i>Our 100 YEAR CLUB:</i>
<b>Rena Cairo Gonsalves (97)</b>	<b>Bena Bowles (91)</b>	<b>Bonnie Kirkman (102)</b>
<b>Anne Hanzlik (94)</b>	<b>Laura Kurtz (90)</b>	<i>Have we missed anyone?</i>
	<b>Dulcie Johnson (91)</b>	

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# CALENDAR

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

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays and July 4th and Labor Day noon to 5 pm. Business Meetings and Workshop on Fridays 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

## **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$13, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$28. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

## **PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)**

Regular meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9.110 East Richmond Avenue (The Fieldhouse). For more information call President Diane Anderson at 620-6843.

## **POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11.

Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

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

Info: 233-6881

## **POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00

The deadline for the June/July/August issue of TPIT is Friday May 26, 2006.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Don Woodrow, President, 234-3107.

## **RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

The REDF is a non-profit corporation dedicated to ensuring that future development here is well-planned, sensitive to the environment and in compliance with city, state and federal laws. Citizen support is encouraged. Information, call 510-215-6100. General membership public meetings are held monthly. Details are available by calling 510-232-0405.

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 510-232-1436.

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

Contact: Margaret Morkowski , President. 510-234-4219

*To update or add your organization or event to our calendar, please contact Gary Shows, 510-235-1336, or email him, gary@alkos.com, or send your request to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801*

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

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

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

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

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
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**Pam Wilson**  
**521 Western Drive**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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

### Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos/ Printing
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Alyce Williamson	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article/Photos
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Pat Pearson	Article/Information
Bruce Beyaert	Information
Diane Anderson	Article/Photo

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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or  
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"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:  
**139 ½ Washington Avenue**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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**PointRichmondHistory.org**

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**Richmond Museum of History** 510-235-7387  
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