

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXIX No. 2

September/October, 2010

\$3.00



Castro Point Railway

THE PLUNGE'S ORIGINAL 1926 CLOCK IS RE-HUNG TODAY

September 1, 2010

Meeting outside the locked Plunge this morning at 10 am were "The Clockman" Steve Kowalski, "Pony-tail Bruce" Audrestech, and David Vincent. A city employee happened to arrive at the same time, allowing entry to the building.

The old clock was reinforced on the back by Steve with a new wooden cover. A ½ inch wooden frame on the back, with a steel top cross bar had been added. This allows the electric cord to hide in its recesses as the new plug outlet was flush with the new wall. The old clock originally was a key wind-up, but was long-ago converted to electricity. The little sticker on the face of the clock for the clock repair service has an Oakland address, without a zone number or zip code; the telephone has Highgate as the prefix to the number.

Finding two more extension ladders was easier than expected, and two quick trips to Whale Point Marine Supply supplied the final requirements. Steve then added two lag bolts with large fender-washers to the studs in the wall. Returning to the floor all then signed their names to the new frame and dated the event.

With three 20 foot extension ladders, side by side, Bruce and Steve walked the clock up the ladder. David's feet rested on the bottom of the ladders to stabilize the climb, and with his free hand, taking photos of the installation. At the top, the clock was briefly rested on the top of the middle ladder, before moving to the wall. The metal bar rested on the bolt-washer hangers.

Now the hard part, with Bruce holding the weight of the clock, Steve slid his hand behind to plug the cord into the wall. Minutes went by laced with tension. Finally, the plug was in, and the clock re-hung on the wall!

The clock was then set to the correct time: 12:12 pm.

The clock looks great against the great north wall. The Plunge is now complete.

David Vincent

From the President

By Mid Dornan

We salute a Century of Boy Scouts of America as they celebrate the impact Scouting has had on lives of millions. For 100 years, the Boys Scouts of America has created a strong foundation of leadership, service and community for millions of America's youth. The core components of Scouting are Achievement, Leadership, Outdoor Appreciation, Community Service and Character. Quite simply while achieving this the boys are having fun.

In August 1915, the Westside Boy Scouts met in the parlors of First M.E. Church in the Point being the first Boy Scout Troop in Richmond, Troop 1. Rev. P.E. Peterson was the scoutmaster. In 1932, when the Richmond and Berkeley scout councils merged, Richmond had to take a three digit designation, so they chose Troop 111 which scoutmaster Bill Dennis said were better than just one, one. In 1950 the troop was without a leader so several young men in the troop, including Duke Nissen, Bob Craig, Ed Morrison and Carl Jenkins, paid a visit to Bob Dornan and asked him to become their Scoutmaster even though Bob only had girls. He served as SM for over 32 years until his death. Troop 111 served a delicious fund-raising, prize winning pancake recipe, breakfast for more 30 years. There were too many scouts for Friendship Hall for several years so they moved for a short period to Washington School. Monday night was Scout Night.

It is my wish for former Scouts to send us scouting memories to help celebrate the Centennial. Do you have any older Scout Handbooks, Boy's Life magazines, patrol badges , photos, etc. Help us set up a display in our Museum in tribute to Scouting. Let me know at 510-234-5334, or midornan@sbcglobal.net or send it to me at 139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Then plan to visit our Museum.

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USS Red Oak Victory christened on September 20, 1944 in Richmond ,California

Thank you members for your renewal:

Michael Lambton

Linda Newton

Mr. & Mrs. J. Cerkanowicz

Linda Andrew-Marshall**

Edward McGarvey

Joan Gatten

Paul and Zoe Mukavtz**

Joan Gatten

Eunice Hursh

June Albonico

June S. Solosabal

Tim & Roberta Montgomery Family

Edwina Murray

Les Hathaway

Martha Bielawski

Rita (MacDonald) Hansen

**Henry & Eva (Petta) Marchitiello
Family**

Velma Healy

Diane & Gordon Hirano**

Greg Brougham Family

Patrice Verhines

Rose Gehn

Altha Humphrey

Dody Perry

Howard & Jan Arnold Family

Barbara & Lee Gcuyn*

Donna (Bill) Hood*

And a warm welcome to these new members

Malcom P. Bury

Mitzi Kruse

Mary E. Fregulia

Arne K. Lang

*Gift Membership

**Special Member, *Thank You!*

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

and
Point Richmond Market

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

For us

Museum Hours:

Wednesday 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday 11:30 - 2:00 pm

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

- **Betty Dornan**
- **Bruce and Ann Bartram**
- **Pat Pearson**
- **Mid Dornan**
- **Bonnie Jo Cullison**
- **Susan Brooks**
- **Sonja Darling**
- **Margaret Morkowski**

The Cover:

*Castro Point Railway #2 leaving the Rod
& Gun Club, photo by Tom Moungovan
reprinted with the permission of the
Pacific Locomotive Association.
Photo enhanced for TPIT by Thomas
Mercer-Hursh*

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

I was happy to help Arne Lang of Las Vegas, NV with pictures and information. Arne is writing about the 45 round Nelson/Wolgast lightweight world championship that was held in Point Richmond in 1910. He visited the Point on August 19th just to get a feel for the setting.

I had some trouble getting this issue out as my soul mate Jerry is in the hospital after a major operation. I have spent a lot of my time with him. Please forgive a possible few more typos than usual.

The next issue will be our Winter issue that will cover November/December/January and its deadline is October 29, 2010.



Whoops!

I credited a photo to Thomas Mercer-Hursh on pages 12 and 15 of the last issue, both were “filling of the new pool”. Those excellent photos were actually from Todd Jersey.

Thank You! *Our Special Supporters!*

History Makers

Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn

Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Christopher Spencer
Diane & Gordon Hirano

Corporate Sponsor

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company
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Jean & John Knox
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valencé
John & Nancy Mengshol
Donna Wilson
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Margaret Morkowski
Patricia Dornan
Bob & Ellie Strauss
Norm Hantzsche
Maurice A. Doherty
Michelle Healy
Paul and Zoe Mukavtz

A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: In 2009, what was the average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker
Answer at end of Trivia.

Performing a good deed for someone makes him or her more likely to do something nice for someone else.

Tolls went up in July on seven state-owned bridges. On the Bay Bridge only, tolls will vary according to the day and time. Bay Bridge tolls will be \$6 during the week-day peak commute times, \$4 during weekday off-peak and \$5 all day Saturday and Sundays. Tolls are going up to \$5 on the other six state owned bridges, the Bay, Antioch, Benicia, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo bridges. Carpoolers now will pay \$2.50 on all bridges during peak hours. which are 5-10 a.m and 3-7 p.m. week days. If you are in the carpool lane or drive a motorcycle, you will need a transponder.

By the time this goes to press, it is hoped Jerry Cerkanowicz' cancer surgery will have proved successful and he is on a road to recovery. Keep him in your prayers.

Watch for a special fun activity being planned by the newly formed Women's Group in October at the Point Methodist Church to raise funds for the community.

Bruce and Ann Bartram traveled in August to the Russian River for a luncheon at the Dornan cabin attended by Dick Hegeman, Santa Barbara, and Bill Blake, Vallejo. The three men had worked together at the Vallejo Maritime Academy and it had been 55 years since they had seen each other. The memories went on for several hours.

In the November election, the City of Richmond will elect a Mayor (3 candidates), three council people (ten candidates), vote on a marijuana tax and an advisory whether a Casino should be built at Point Molate.

Five seeds and nuts that claim to lower cholesterol: Sunflower seed, Pistachio nut, Pumpkin seed, Pine Nuts and Whole Flaxseed.

According to proud Dad, David King, his daughter Whitney Hedges just earned her B. S. Degree in Garden Design while at age 33 she is a mother of three, and working too. Her grades were the highest possible and her drawings are on exhibit at Greenwich, England, one of the highest honors in Garden Design in England.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- Small wax coke-shaped bottles filled with colored sugar water?
- Candy cigarettes?
- Machines that dispensed soda pop in glass bottles for a nickel?
- Dagwood and Blondie?
- A newsreel before the movie?
- Pea shooters?
- "Little Orphan Annie" on the radio?
- 45rpm records?
- S & H green stamps?
- Metal ice cube trays with a lever?

(thanks to William Sager, Fairfax Historical Society)

Don't discard or flush your prescriptions drugs down the toilet as they almost invariably flow into the ocean.

The average credit card debt in 2009 among householders with a balance on their cards was \$15,788.

Just 10 seconds of idling your car's engine uses as much gas as restarting it. Two minutes uses enough fuel to drive six miles. So, turn your engine OFF.

Next January it will cost a few more cents for a first-class stamp, or 46¢. The post office, though part of the government, does not receive a tax subsidy for its operations. Forever stamps, at the current 44¢ or lower priced will still be good. Buy Forever Stamps now!

On Saturday August 14, City Councilmember Jim Rogers and Kristin Rosekrans were married at Keller's Beach in Point Richmond. The ceremony was followed by a celebration at their new home nearby. They are off to Alaska for a Honeymoon and will return in September. Congratulations to the happy couple and Welcome to Point Richmond.

Terry Wynn's sister, Carla, is visiting from

Iowa. Terry spent several weeks in Europe earlier this summer.

Jackson Bradshaw, son of Chris and David Bradshaw, has been accepted and will be attending Cal State Maritime Academy in Vallejo in September. Jack, a recent Eagle Scout and San Rafael high school graduate, is the grandson of Joe and Sonja Darling and earned scholarships to attend.

Body art has become so part of culture it has its own fashion trends. Women's still change more often than men's. Those popular tattoos on the small of their backs now have bad connotations, called tramp stamps. And, ankle tattoos are now considered trashy. Who doesn't cringe at just the thought of all those needles decorating flesh? Removing tattoos with a laser treatment is a lengthy and costly process.

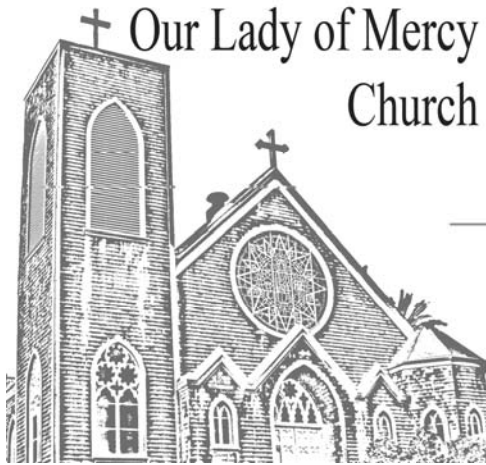
Sorry to have missed noting Tom Kenny in the June birthday list!

ANSWER: In 2009, the average retired worker received \$1153 a month in Social Security benefits.



Richmond Municipal Auditorium grand re-opening

Church News



By Dee Rosier

510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Labor Day is considered the end of summer and at one time the start of school. Times have changed and school now commences in August. Be assured that our summer weather will also begin.

Preferring the mountains to the beach, Father made a wise choice and spent time in the Swiss Alps.

First Communion preparation classes continue and in September several families will focus on celebrating.

Consideration is being given to a "little kids" religious instruction during Sunday Mass at least one Sunday a month. It is presently just a thought, but if interested, please contact Father.

The bids for the shingles are in and, as expected, costly. It was presented and accepted by the diocesan building officer. In order not to empty our savings account, it will be necessary to raise some funds. We must maintain a cushion for emergencies. A letter was recently sent to all parishioners advising of the shingling project as well as requesting donations in order to achieve this goal.

On the 17th of July, Father celebrated his 77th

birthday, and he has been with us for 7 years – is "7" his lucky number. The Parish Council presented him with a gift certificate for German food at the Baltic.

The beautiful rose garden has been upgraded with a new drip system. As part of the garden work, the memorial circle around the flag pole is being restored. The memorial recognizes parishioners who served in the Military. The flag pole will be painted and a parishioner has donated a new commemorative 9/11 flag.

The parish support to the local Souper Kitchen continues, as well as volunteers who assist in serving. On the first Sunday of the month, after Mass, coffee and donuts are served. The third Sunday of the month is pancake breakfast Sunday. Thanks are extended to Marie Peckham who certainly added to the wealth of prizes.

Speaking of Marie Peckham, it is with heavy hearts that we said goodbye to one of our favorite people, as she relocates to El Grove. We wish her many happy days in her new surroundings.

We also say goodbye to Margarita Portuondo, who has left us to reside in Zurich.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Al Forsini (the dancer), Frankie Mello, John Gerk, Dody Perry, Anna Schwarz, Bill Smith, and Father Jim Pickett..

After a long time of watching the Plunge renovation, it was a joyous day to finally see the doors reopen. Welcome back June Albonico – the Plunge would not be the Plunge without her. Both of my daughters worked at the Plunge during their teen years.

A congratulatory note to parishioner, Linda Drake, who has served on the Pt. Richmond Art Association and done a wonderful job of filling local windows with bright works of art.

What a grand surprise to see Cynthia Young at Sunday Mass. A lot of hug and kisses were exchanged. Cynthia presently resides in Alaska.

The Knee family recently spent a week at Stinson Beach. It was my pleasure to spend a day on the beach with them.

A generous parishioner has donated some very outstanding clothing with famous name labels.

They will be donated to an agency which clothes lower-income women seeking employment.

The Friday night summer fest music draws many and recently you may have seen Al Frosini and partner dancing away to the music. Recently I spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting with Al – he is OUTSTANDING!

Off to see the world – Tom and Nana Boone to Puerto Vallarta; Javier and Christine Lopez off to France.

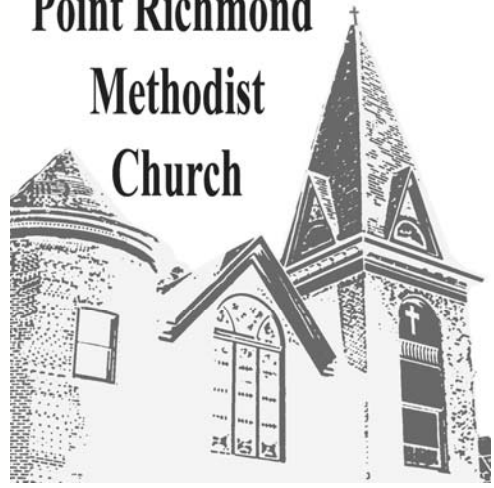
We all witnessed the renewal of vows as Katherine and Michael Workman celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

See you in church.

LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS
LIKE AN UNSHARPENED PENCIL –
IT HAS NO POINT



Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds
510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Our Vacation Bible School theme this summer was “Sensing God’s Love.” For five days we experienced our world through our senses. Twenty students met and considered: how reaching out to **touch** and connect with others can make us feel more complete; how **taste** can remind us of our claim to freedom and our past stories; how we need to **listen** for the truth; how we might **see** the world like someone newly aware; how a **smell** can help us recognize the uniqueness of a friend, a place, or a favorite meal. We felted soap with wool, baked bread, hammered nails to make our own rain-stick, made a kaleidoscope, and drew a still life. Lauren McLeod led some awareness-through-movement exercises and we learned ways to sense ourselves without using touch. Games led by Bethany with help from Sarah, Leslie, Billy, David, Mélanie, and Bill were interesting, varied, and no one was a loser. Students were thoughtful, diligent, and caring. Our stellar staff included Bethany Reynolds, Sarah Thompson, Bill Thompson, Leslie Gortemiller, Dan Damon, Valerie Kleinfeld, Pamella Hall, Billy, Deby McFadyen, David Reynolds, Mélanie Tiberghien, Norm Reynolds, Jean Womack, Terri Fewins-Pittman, Linda Andrew-Marshall, and Jean

Reynolds. The week was “sense-sational!”

Our new church E-newsletter edited by Sarah Weems debuted on July 1. Send subscription requests to Sarah at semsttheta@yahoo.com.

Terri Fewins-Pittman started a Portrait Wall in Friendship Hall to help us all get to know one another better. It includes a photo, name, and a one-word description for each person featured. Find Terri after worship to be included on the Portrait Wall.

Several people from our church community attended all or part of the California Nevada Annual Conference in Sacramento in June. Dan Damon, Eileen Johnson, Norm Reynolds, Fran Smith, Jennifer Metz-Foster, Linda Andrew-Marshall, Bethany Reynolds and Jean Reynolds were all on hand to be part of the house band, vote on or monitor legislation, attend a special dinner or worship service, and/or speak at a luncheon. Jennifer Metz-Foster is our lay member to annual conference. She and Pastor Dan have voting privileges. At Conference, Pastor Dan was appointed to his sixteenth appointment year at our church: a reason for celebration!

On July 17, friends and family of Helen Valentine met for a picnic in Benicia. The date was originally meant to be a grand reunion to celebrate Helen’s eighty-fifth birthday, but instead was a time to reminisce about Helen and spend an afternoon with people she loved. A caravan of relatives from Kentucky converged to attend the fête. Helen had looked forward to everyone being on hand to party, and everyone did their best to enjoy the day!

Pastor Dan and Eileen Johnson were in Montgomery, Alabama in July to attend the Hymn Society Conference. We benefitted from his scholarly participation at the conference, too. When he returned, Dan preached three sermons July 18 - August 1 based on his presentation for conferees: how Christians sing about “justice” in hymns. Tracy Barnowe was our guest preacher while Dan was away.

The Jazz service on Fathers’ Day, June 20, featured the Dan Damon Quartet: Kurt Ribak, bass, Brian Bowman, drums, Lincoln Adler, sax,

Dan Damon, piano. Vocalists Sheilani Alix, Gill Stanfield, and Bethany Reynolds added to the mix. The rest of us got to sing along a few times. The jazz services are always a highlight, and leave me with toes tapping and spirits soaring!

The summer offering of the Acoustic Music Concert Series was June 25: we featured “Dan Navarro” and “Sabrina and Craig.” The sanctuary is the perfect sound setting, and concerts there are a blissful experience.

The barbershop quartet “Serendipity” sang during worship on August 15. Serendipity is Norm Reynolds, tenor, Fred Merrick, lead, Jon Goerke, baritone, and Dale Steinmann, bass. They won their division for senior quartets this summer, and enjoy having a chance to perform their craft. The air buzzed with their ringing chords!

Russ and Kristi Johnson hosted a garden party at their Martinez home July 18 to honor birthday celebrants Pastor Dan Damon and Fran Smith. It was a comfortable day in the beauty of the garden, and a chance to visit a warm place during the Point Richmond cooler summer!

In June, we hosted two memorial gatherings for Point Richmond residents: A reception following a memorial service for Point Richmond resident Laura Salina was June 9. The Rev. Randall Smith from Good Shepherd UMC officiated in Dan Damon’s absence. Family, friends and neighbors shared refreshments and memories of Laura. Her daughters are Marcia Waldbillig of Houston, Texas, and Ginny Ostrander of Richmond.

Anita Christiansen’s memorial was Monday, June 28. Anita was a member of the Christian Science Church, but had many connections to the First United Methodist Church, where she wed husband Bernard. Pastor Dan Damon and Karen Aasand, C.S., officiated. Anita’s son Steven and granddaughters Katerina and Meghan shared their memories of her. Anita’s past neighbors Debra and Umesh Kurpad and their son Kedar traveled from the east coast to attend the service.

During the summer months three quilts by artist Nina Shortridge graced the sanctuary. They are perfect subjects for contemplation. Nina dyes

her own quilt pieces and designs her own patterns. Her work has been shown around the U.S.A. and she was featured in a 2007 documentary “Women’s Work: Making Quilts ~ Creating Art!”

On the Calendar:

Sunday School for all ages resumes September 12 at 10:00 a.m. **Breakfast at 9:30** will give students and their families a chance to meet and visit after the summer. Call Jean Reynolds (510) 235-2988 if you plan to attend.

Angel Choir resumes September 11. Youth who like to sing meet at the church Saturday mornings from **10:00 to 10:45**. The Angel Choir usually sings one Sunday a month, and may perform a concert in the spring. Pastor Dan and Christine Silva-Netto direct.

Joyful Noise Choir resumes rehearsal on Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. We are glad to include singers for all vocal parts. The choir sings most Sundays at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Concerts:

Amphion: Sunday, September 19, 2 p.m. Free classical music concert performed by members of the Amphion club.

Vera Breheda Trio: Sunday, September 26, 5 p.m. Classical Music \$10 suggested admission

Saturday, October 9, 9:00 a.m., The 24th Annual **GRIP Harmony Walk to End Hunger** presented by Chevron gives us a chance to contribute to help the hungry and homeless in our community. Walkers ask for pledges and join with others at the Civic Center Plaza to rally and walk to support GRIP programs like the **Family Shelter** and the **Super Center**. Businesses are invited to sponsor the walk and include their business logo on the event shirts. Homelessness and hunger are still a serious problem for families in Richmond, and the numbers served by GRIP continue to grow in these economic times. Call the GRIP office (510) 233-2141 if you can help as a donor or volunteer.

Visit the church website at: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist> to see the current calendar listings.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

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

March 5, 1929

The Social League met in Church Parlors with Mrs. Long and Mrs. Campbell as hostesses. The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord’s Prayer led by the new president, Mrs. Ida Mae Jones. There were 3 members present. The minutes of previous meeting was read and approved. Motions were made and seconded and carried that the following bills be paid.

Laundry bill	\$2.66
Church treas	10.00
Linoleum on floor	24.50
	\$37.16

(b) Motion made seconded & carried that Mrs. Burdick buy 2 doz cups for Social League.

DUES FROM

MRS. OEHNE	.60s
“ OSBORNE	.60
\ “ C.B. JONES	.60
“ BURDICK	.60
DUES PAID	\$2.40

The following ones turned in their ??? they had made:

Mrs. Dicely	\$1.00
Adams	1.00
“ Vloeberghs	1.00
‘ Brothers	1.00
“ Gray	1.00
“ Scofield	1.00
‘ Burdick	1.00
“ C. B. Jones	1.00
“ Osborne	1.00
“ Oehne	1.00

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

" Prince	1.00
" Long`	1.00
" E. Jenkins	1.00
" Meece 1.00	
	\$14.00
dues	2.40
offering	1.30
proceeds from luncheon	18.64
candy	16.20
	\$52.52
Old balance	12.62
	\$65.14
expenses	37.16
new balance	27.98

Mrs. Meece & Mrs. Prince were appointed as a committee to arrange programs for each meeting.

Mrs. Kitto & Daisie Jenkins will be the hostesses for the next meeting.

Mrs. J.J. Meece
Sec Protom



WWIC, Est.

Jane Vandenburg

*Womens Westside Improvement Club
Established 1908*

WWIC does not meet in the summer.

Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Wow the summer went by quickly.... the cooler weather sure limited the sunny days... here is hoping September and October brings us lots of sunshine.

A sunny day would be ideal for the **Sunday, September 19th the Arts of Point Richmond first Art in the Park** event. It will take place from 11 am – 6 pm in the little Gateway Park across from the street from the Plunge on the corner of Garrard and West Richmond Avenue. In addition to the Artists' exhibits, there will be activities for the kids, a poster contest and entertainment on the stage all day long. Please call Linda Drake at 672-0793 for more information. By the Way, the Arts of Point Richmond meets the **third Wednesday** of the month from 7 pm - 9pm at the Community Center. The program always includes a guest artist as the speaker.

The Point Richmond's historic **Our Lady of Mercy Church's Pancake Breakfast** fund raisers take place on the third Sunday of the month.. If you enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausages, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea and juice stop by the Church Hall. The donation is \$8.00 and we serve breakfast from **8:30 am to 12 Noon**. Come and join us on **Sundays - September 19 and October 17**. Call 232-1843 for information.

The Point Richmond Farmers' Market takes place on Park Place every Wednesday from 4 pm - 8 pm through October 27th. The Market's farmers, gardeners, cooks, artists, and our local businesses all welcome you to the Point. The first Wednesday of each month is "Kids Day" with special activities for the young ones. There is live music every week, BBQ, Baked Potatoes and Kettle Corn too. Stop by the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association table and pick up some **great recipe sheets**. Say "Hi" to the folks at the Point Richmond Business Association

table. They have lots of information on local businesses and what to do in the Point. Remember to stop by the **Point Richmond History Association Museum** too. It is open from 4:30 pm to 7 pm. Please call Margi Cellucci at 237-0101 for more information.

There are still two more concerts left in the **Point Richmond Summer Concert Series**. The Point Richmond Music committee will host the Friday-Night Concerts from **5:30 pm – 8:00 pm** on Park Place. Come and join in the fun **Friday Evenings, September 10 and September 24**. Set aside some time before and after each concert to visit the stores and restaurants in town. Make sure and stop by the **Arts of Point Richmond Exhibit** adjacent to the Community Center. Bring all your friends and enjoy the art and music. Call Andrew Butt at 236-7435 for more details.

School has started and students at **Washington Elementary School** all look so nice in their uniforms. **The Point Richmond Business Association** hosted a picnic on August 28th to benefit the PTA's project of bringing music lessons to all of the classes. Thanks to the Business Association for their donation and for this fun event. You may call the school at 231-1417 for more details on all of the PTA activities.

The **Many Hands Project of Point Richmond** was established by residents and businesses in the Point more than 15 years ago to support the students and teachers of Washington School. The Many Hands will be having their annual fund raising event in October. In addition the **Adopt-a-Class Program** which provides a small grant to each of the teachers for class room supplies and materials, Many Hands also organizes the **Spirit of Leadership Program**. The Leadership Program invites every student in grades 1-6 to participate in the 4 month, theme based project. Last year more than 110 children completed the series of assignments on their Botany themed project. Rewards for their efforts

include a pizza party, a field trip and an educational "toy" such as bug habitats, microscopes and DNA kits, each presented on the last day of school in an awards presentation. Our newest program consists of a **Grant Program** for special projects or programs at the school. If you would like to participate or make a donation to the Many Hands Project for Washington School please call me at 234-4219.

Altha Humphrey organizes the **Knit-and-Such** group which meets at the Point Richmond Community Center from **1:45 pm to 3:45 pm the first Wednesday** of the month. All are welcome to join this "creative time." Please call 233-6881 for more information.

Remember to thank David Moore's **PointRichmond.com** for more up-to-date information on "What's Out and About" in Point Richmond.

Thanks to Ida Abelson of "[Brickyardreality.com/Point Richmond Gazette](http://Brickyardreality.com/PointRichmondGazette)." Her online "Point Richmond Gazette" includes additional events you don't want to miss.



On This Date in KP History

Steve Gilford

At precisely 3:26 on the afternoon of November 12, 1942 the Liberty ship, S.S. Robert E. Perry, Hull # 440, slid down a shipway at Kaiser Shipyard Two in Richmond, California into San Francisco Bay. The enthusiastic cheers of the thousands of spectators were nearly drowned out by band music and blasts from every shipyard horn and whistle.

The celebration was for an extraordinary event. Kaiser shipyard workers had assembled this entire ship in just four and a half days.



Midnight 11/08/42 work begins. The keel of the Peary is carefully lowered onto the shipway.

Only a year before, the US Maritime Commission, the “client” for the Liberty ships, had estimated that on a speeded up schedule it should take 250 days to build a ship like this. By late ‘42, there were eighteen shipyards building Liberties and the average construction time for most of the yards was down to sixty days. The Kaiser “Build them by the mile, cut them off by the yard” approach to mass production, had cut the average I their yards further back, to a very impressive 35 days per ship. Furthermore, the Kaiser vessels were built well, something much appreciated by their officers and crews. The nearly 200,000 people working for Kaiser were fiercely proud of their

achievements in shipbuilding.

The story of “The Wonder Ship” had begun several months before launching. In late summer of ‘42, Edgar Kaiser, Henry Kaiser’s son and the General Manager of the Kaiser shipyards in the Vancouver-Portland area, had called on the workers there to set a new speed record, far surpassing anything done before. The workers had responded with great energy and enthusiasm. The result was that on September 23, they’d managed to launch the S.S. Joseph Teal in just ten days, a new world’s record, smashing the previous one which incidentally had been held by the Kaiser Richmond yards. It was such a significant achievement that President Roosevelt made a secret trip across country and attended the launching. And it was his daughter, Anna Boettiger who broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow.

When Edgar Kaiser’s counterpart, Clay Bedford, General Manager of Kaiser’s Richmond Yards, had returned from the Teal launching in Portland, he was determined to reclaim for Richmond the title of “TheWorld’s Fastest Shipbuilders” and the bragging rights that went with it. He set his staff on the problem of how to organize the building of a ship to have it completed in significantly less than ten days. A sense of competition, a spirit highly valued in the Kaiser organization, spurred them on. Before long, Bedford had the elements of a plan that benefitted from the experience and imagination of literally thousands of workers. Details were checked, refined and checked again. The progress of every one of the 250,000 parts that went into a Liberty Ship, 14,000,000 pounds of them, was laid out in precise order. It started to become clear that the record-breaking ship would not only set a new record, it would be a real-world laboratory for new techniques which, if they worked, would become standard operating procedure

During the weeks leading up to the assembly of Hull 440, huge prefabricated sections including the bow, the stern, and deck sections, began to take shape around the shipyard. The pieces reminded some of the workers of a giant jigsaw puzzle scattered through the Yard.

Alyce Kramer, in "Story of the Richmond Shipyards" describes the start of construction of the Wonder Ship. *"Yard Two became hushed in the silent awe that precedes the critical engagement. Her people had publicly promised America a second home front in the form of the fastest*



Early on first day, the hull is already rising up off the shipway

shipbuilding job in history. At the stroke of twelve (midnight), Way One exploded into life. Crews of workers, like a championship football team, swarmed to their places in the line.

Within 60-seconds, the keel was swinging into position. . . . The speed was unbelievable. At midnight Saturday, an empty way -at midnight Sunday, a full-grown hull met the eyes of graveyard (shift) workers as they came on shift. . . . Feverish, yet sure and methodical, was the march against time. Orders were explicit, work was controlled, muscles were strained, hearts were bursting with hope and pride . . ." The huge bow section, one of the first prefabricated pieces to be put in place, was so completely prefabricated that it even had the ship's name painted on it before being lifted into place.

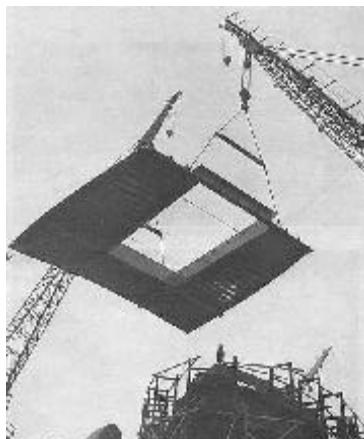
The deckhouse a 250-ton section of the ship

was totally assembled before the building of the ship began. The 26,000 feet of welding, all five miles of it, needed to complete the deckhouse had been done and it already contained all the necessary electric appliances, floorings, plumbing and fixtures Crews quarters in the deckhouse were fitted out with bunks, chests of drawers, sinks and toilets, even mirrors. However, at 250 tons, the preassembled deckhouse was too heavy even for the brawny Whirley cranes to lift so the shipyard planners had decided on an ingenious plan. Once assembled, they cut the deckhouse into four roughly equal parts. Shipyard cranes could lift the more manageable 60-70 ton pieces aboard the ship where they were joined back together with just 600 feet of additional welding. The time saved on the ways was enormous.

Illustration from Mast Magazine showing the Peary, under fire, offloading ammunition to soldiers on Japanese-held island in South Pacific.

Just ten days after the ship slid down the ways, she had completed her sea trials, taken on a crew, and taken aboard the equivalent of three hundred railroad cars of vital war materiel. On November 22, the ship that hadn't existed two weeks before, steamed out through the Golden Gate carrying a cargo of food and war supplies to the South Pacific. It was a phenomenal achievement.

Of course there were detractors. Some said it



One of seven huge deck sections lifted into place by two precisely teamed "Whirleys"

(Continued on page 24)

Photo Gallery

*Castro Point Railway
Photos by Don Hansen*

Reprinted with the permission of the Pacific Locomotive Association.



The Castro Point Railway collection is now a part of the Pacific Locomotive Association's collection which is located in Niles Canyon. Trains run on most Sundays. Go to their website www.ncry.org for details.

These photos have been enhanced for TPIT by our own Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.



Other People's Money

at the Masquers

A review by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

Oh, for the good old days! It's been some years since I've needed to see Masquers productions in rehearsal in order to meet the deadline for TPIT magazine. I'd forgotten how rehearsals change one's perception of a play; although less tidy, in some ways they're a much richer experience.

Other People's Money, written in 1989 by **Jerry Sterner**, is directed by **Robert Estes** and plays until October 2. The show takes place in a small manufacturing town where New England Wire & Cable, a publicly traded firm, employs most of the town's inhabitants. The factory has been in the same building (with nearly the same paint job) for well-nigh four score years. For almost half that time, Andrew Jorgenson (**Keith Jefferds**) has been the Chairman with Bea Sullivan (**RoyAnne Florence**) as his loyal assistant. William Coles (**Frederick Lein**), President, is a relative newcomer with a mere

dozen years history with the firm.

Into this quiescent kingdom strolls Lawrence Garfinkle (**Will Maier**), dressed oxymoronically like an untidy banker, who is a takeover hotshot. The firm's future begins to look dim. In self defense, the firm hires Bea's daughter, Kate (**Bonnie Antonini**), to prevent a hostile takeover.

Dignified mayhem ensues.

The set, designed by **Rob Bradshaw** very cleverly sets up the worlds of the two offices: the grubby factory with an old wooden floor (well done that!) and Garfinkle's New York den which is antiseptic and featureless, except for the banks of modern [sic] computers.

Donuts gain new life as stage props, though the manufactured donut item is a flop—unless its goal was to illustrate how an old fashioned company would construct an improbable toy (i.e. poorly).

One particularly nice aspect of this play is the frequency with which the actors take up conversing directly with the audience. The performance also portrays well the undemonstrable actions of characters on the telephone or performing soliloquies.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this show

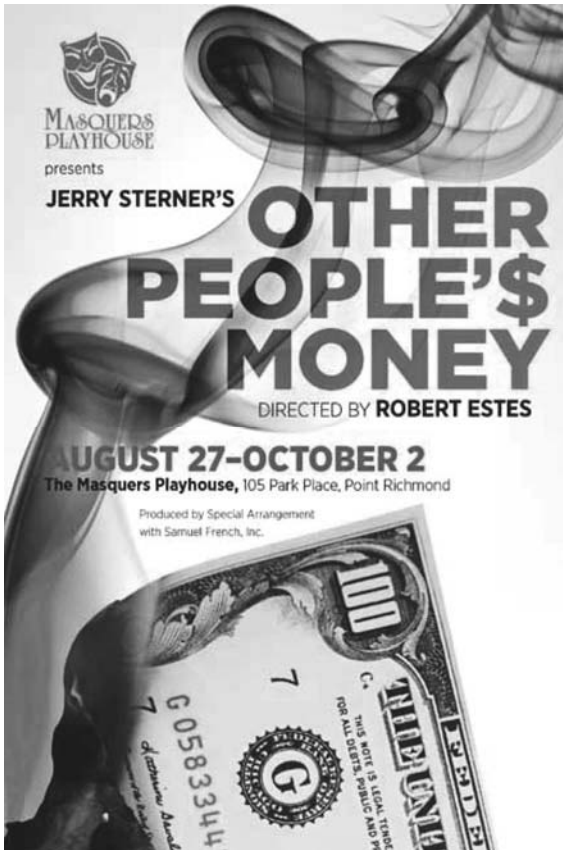
is how true to life it is. The math almost makes sense. The audience doesn't really need to suspend disbelief; the performance perfectly portrays an experience in my past—probably in yours too.

When Lawrence Garfinkle (**Will Maier**) appears, he's soft spoken and unpretentious. Moments later he sheds his camouflage shell and unveils his plans to consume New England Wire & Cable. Garfinkle dominates the show. He is fascinating and horrible, rather like watching a spider eat its prey. At every turn he gets slimier, fatter and uglier. Somewhere in there he gets sexier.

I know, it makes no sense. I was thoroughly repulsed by



*From L to R: Bonnie Antonini, RoyAnne Florence, Keith Jefferds and Will Maier (seated) in **Other People's Money***



Garfinkle, and yet . . . I found him enticing. In between watching rehearsed vignettes and the full rehearsal, I had an opportunity to talk with Will. He's a handsome and engaging young man. In my mind's eye, I remembered the powerful attractive/repulsive pull from the play, but Will himself is pleasant. Later I saw the full play, and there it was again, stronger than ever.

So, my vote is that Will Maier bears watching.

Kate Sullivan (**Bonnie Antonini**) is hot, hot, hot! And she knows it, which is part of the fun. I was easily persuaded to identify with her. She travels through a range of emotions convincingly, but her most fun exploits are when sets out to do battle with the sexists. The idea of that Neanderthal's being upstaged by a girl who's wet behind the ears is delightful.

Meanwhile, Andrew Jorgenson (**Keith Jefferds**)

reminisces aloud. In spite of his pleasant words, he's evidently an autocratic tyrant. But Jorgy lives in an ordered world where things have always been and will continue to be done explicitly and with care. His speech was so passionate, I could not imagine how anyone, anywhere could say anything to match it.

Bea Sullivan (**RoyAnne Florence**) reminds me of my first factory job where the beauties therein dressed to a different drummer—styled for a former era, they presented themselves as perfect representations of a perfect past. Could it be the air in the factory? Bea, looking like June Cleaver, seems feminine and fragile but she conceals a strong will.

William Coles (**Frederick Lein**) looks perfect and behaves like many good accountants by hiding his character in plain sight. He tells the truth, but it's a truth many don't want to hear. He feels like a traitor, but he's not, he's a realist.

It's the age old swindle — er, battle — between the old and the new. Or, it's about money, the great leveller.

Definitely a show to see.

This is the 7th season Theresa de Valencé has reviewed Masquers performances. All her reviews can be read at www.ReviewsByTdeV.com. Subscription to the electronic list is free, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to Theresa@ReviewsByTdeV.com.



Castro Point Memories

By Warren Smith

Reprinted from "The Club Car" with permission of the Pacific Locomotive Association

I joined the PLA in 1970. I have many fond memories of the years that I was really active on the Castro Point Railway before I moved. Most can't be printed, but I would like to share two stories with you that stand out in my mind.

We had a Great Northern boiler maker that volunteered at the CPRy, by the name of P.H. (Pete) Rogers. He kept our engines in running condition. We both worked for Chevron. Pete was

and part of the decking in front of the boiler backhead had also been removed. Pete got it to the point where it was ready for a steam test and short shakedown run. Remember, the tanks, cab and decking hadn't been reinstalled yet, so what Pete did was temporarily mount 55 gallon drums on each side of the engine for water and fuel. This worked well. Pete had a lot of help that day, but nobody was formally firing for him because he was

just going to run the engine a little in the yard. When he stepped up on the back of the engine for the shakedown he was the only one on the engine. He opened the throttle and the engine lurched forward, knocking him off on to the rail, while the engine went merrily on its way down the track. We were finally able to run the engine down and get it stopped. The only thing hurt was Pete's pride. We all stayed away from Pete for the rest of the day, we wanted to live into our old age.

The other memory that stands out in my mind of the CPRy is the day I got to fire for Pete Rogers on the



Photo by Don Hansen

a crusty old man from the old school. If he liked you, he would teach you a lot about boiler work, but if he didn't he ran you off. He was in the process of getting the #3 (the 0-4-0T Porter from McGill, Nevada) back in to running condition. The tanks and cab had been removed for the project

Quincy #2 with a four car train for the Chevron Employee's Picnic of 1977. The picnic was held at the Rod & Gun Club, which was located at the north end of the Refinery. In order for the CPRy to get to the Rod & Gun, we needed to run through the Navy fuel depot. We passed Wine Haven (an

old winery before the Navy took it over for a fuel depot during WWII), around the point, through the Richmond Marina to Chevron property. The rail we ran over was the old Richmond belt line. The consist was the RPO, the All Day Lunch and two coaches. The #2 is about 60 tons, develops 21,400 T.E. It took all she had to pull those four heavyweight cars. Pete was a good boiler man, but he was a rough handler and hard to fire for. At that time when you worked the #2 hard, the firebox would drum and fire would shoot out around the firebox door and peep hole. She was also a hard steamer. I was a new fireman and I had trouble keeping up steam. Pete kept me hopping that day. He would saw the throttle open and closed and never hooked up much. There were times during the runs that day I would have the firing valve almost wide open, atomizer cranked up with the gun on and still couldn't keep up. Pete separated the men from the boys. I never regretted that day because I learned a lot about firing a steam locomotive. That was the first and only time we ran a train for the Chevron picnic. At that time the Richmond Belt was operated by the SP and Santa Fe, SP would run it for five years and then Santa Fe would run it for five years. The SP had it at the time. For some reason, we neglected to get

permission to run over their rails. When SP found out what we did, they had a batch of small kittens. Neither railroad would ever let us run on their rails again.

That was the Castro Point Railway back in the day. It is history now, but I'm proud to say that I was part of that history and was able to live it.



Photo by Ken Rattene

Festivities Greet Restored Richmond Plunge

Steven Finacom

*Reprinted with permission from the **Berkeley Daily Planet**, Tuesday August 17, 2010 edition.*

Edited to fit.

The Richmond Plunge—one of the East Bay’s historic indoor swimming facilities—was formally reopened Saturday, August 14, 2010 with speeches by dignitaries and community leaders and eager enthusiasm from a large crowd that had come both to celebrate and to swim.

“This is a great day, a great event,” Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay told the crowd.

“This is amazing,” said Elinor Strauss, one of the volunteer leaders of the Richmond Plunge Trust that worked for several years to raise public and private funds for the complete renovation of the building. “I want to start off with having all of you congratulate yourselves,” she told the crowd. “You guys were terrific, and this is what you get for it.”

The stately eighty-four year-old Plunge stands in Point Richmond, on a level plot of land at the base of a ridge, adjacent to automobile and train tunnels that lead out to Brickyard Landing and the Richmond shoreline.

It had fallen into disrepair by the 1980s and needed major upgrades including a seismic retrofit. The building was shuttered in 2001, while both



Former Mayor Rosemary Corbin

Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

municipal leaders and community members worked to find funds to repair and reopen it.

The Richmond Plunge Trust was formed as a focus for fundraising and restoration planning and ultimately attracted hundreds of donors and supporters.

Money was painstakingly secured from private gifts, from government grants, and from special causes such as a \$75,000 “Partners in Preservation” grant from American Express that was awarded after a public beauty contest, with Plunge supporters voting on-line. The renovation cost some \$7.5 million.

Well over 500 people (by my estimate) crowded the newly re-landscaped grounds in front of the building and the adjacent sidewalks to hear several speakers praise the renovation project before the building was reopened.

It was an eclectic crowd, racially and ethnically diverse, and ranging in age from one senior who had been at the Plunge on its opening day in 1926 to little kids with swimsuits and towels, impatiently awaiting the completion of the speeches and the opportunity to get inside and



Elinor Strauss of Save the Plunge Trust

Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

swim.

Strauss praised Lindsay's involvement and support. "We got a city manager who really 'got' swimming. Not many of them do."

The Plunge Trust Board "was tenacious, scrappy, opinionated, and always faithful to the cause," Strauss said.

Lindsay also congratulated the Richmond City Council for support of the project.



Architect Todd Jersey

Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

"Where there's a significant civic project such as this, there's a lot of political decision making and political courage that goes into it", he said. "You really do have to have that political courage, political leadership. And Richmond does have that on its City Council."

"We've waited so long for this big day, and what a day it is!" Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin said, calling the Plunge "this well loved, grand place." "This is a magical place. So many dreams have come true at the Plunge."

She presented a proclamation to honor Ellie Strauss and her husband Bob Strauss, whom she called "the key people behind this project."

Other councilmembers spoke. One noted that her grandmother was at the Plunge on opening day in 1926, and she, in turn, was now present with her grandchild at the re-opening.

"We'll continue to make Richmond a model for the Bay Area and the world," said

Councilmember Nathaniel Bates. "Bless you, and let's go for a swim!"

"It's a symbol of what Richmond is when everyone helps", said Councilmember Ludmyrna Lopez. "We can, yes we can, that's our new model in Richmond. If our heart and our time isn't in it, we can't make anything happen."

"This is an example of a perfect public/private partnership...I hope it is one that can be copied many times," said Trust leader and former Richmond Mayor Rosemary Corbin.

"This building has contributions in it from people far and wide...Never give up," she concluded.

"It's a legacy project," Berkeley-based project architect Todd Jersey told the crowd during the dedication. "The systems are designed to last 50 years."

"This is the healthiest and greenest pool in the country," he added. The water is cleaned by ultraviolet light, rather than chlorine. A solar heating system warms the water, and photovoltaic panels on the roof produce electricity. "About 50% of our power generation is from solar technology."

"This is a fresh air pool", he added, noting there are 200 operable windows, rather than a mechanical system, to dehumidify and circulate air. Efficient space heaters strategically positioned above the pool edges will warm the zones where people stand, rather than trying to raise the



Photo by Steven Finacom

temperature of the entire interior.

Jersey named and praised a long list of project workers, subcontractors, and suppliers—including Berkeley's Sun Light and Power—who had participated in the renovation. Some made in-kind labor and materials donations to the project totaling half a million dollars.

"The project does really sell itself," Jersey said. "After people were introduced to it, it was just a natural."

After the ceremony was finished, the crowd poured into the building. There was a viewing period when visitors could wander through all parts of the building, including the locker rooms with recycled glass shower stalls, and custom-made aquatic mosaics.

Then the pool area was cleared for the



Photo by Steven Finacom

beginning of the first official swim period, while those not swimming could watch from the balcony.

June Albonico made the first dive into the pool. She taught swimming there for more than four decades. A painting of her, in blue one-piece swimsuit, was included in the mural at the end of the pool room.

Others quickly plunged in, from toddlers with their parents in the shallow end to teenagers splashing about mid-way, and adult lap swimmers quartering the deep end. Within ½ of hour of the swim start there were nearly 100 people in the pool itself and a line out the door of those waiting to swim.

The Plunge—officially the Richmond Municipal Natatorium—opened in 1926. For decades swimmers came from all over the east side of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties—and even across the Bay, from Marin—to use the grand indoor pool.

Some swimming facilities in the Bay Area were bigger—particularly the privately-built, Victorian era, Sutro Baths in San Francisco—and other indoor municipal pools still survive, including the Hayward Plunge (opened in 1936), but the Richmond Plunge is a special survivor from an era when cities across the country invested heavily in public recreational facilities and programs, particularly for children.

The Plunge stands at the edge of Point Richmond's small business district, behind a columned neoclassical façade decorated with small, gilded, seahorses.

The two-story north front of the building contains the main entrance and check in area, locker and shower rooms, with the spacious pool area beyond. The pool extends 160 feet and is 60 feet wide, replacing a different pool arrangement with separate children's swimming areas. A popular water spouting "mushroom" that once stood in one of the children's pools was relocated and installed outside the building as a fountain.

White-painted metal trusses and a vaulted wooden roof topped by a light monitor span the enormous pool. The interior—aside from the water—reminded me of the large multipurpose piers at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

A "U" shaped mezzanine gallery rings three sides of the pool and provides a spectator area.

At the far, south, end the wall is covered with a huge mural by John Wehrle of the Richmond shoreline along the Bay, complete with lawns, ponds, and egrets.

The Plunge is operated by the Richmond Recreation Department. It offers recreational swimming, lap swimming, and swimming and water fitness classes, as well as instruction in canoe and kayak handling.

Non-Richmond residents can swim for \$6 / adult, \$4 / child.

Purple Tree Collard

by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

The Purple Tree Collard has been designated as the official green of the City of Richmond by a unanimous vote from City Council.

It turns out the Purple Tree Collard is easy to propagate. Friendly Richmond resident Reynaldo Cortez, fellow member of the Richmond Garden Club (richmond_garden_club@yahoo.com), kindly gave me a 4 foot cutting from his plant. I harvested 6-8 leaves. Then I cut out all the growing buds, dusted them in rooting powder, planted them in dirt, and gave each a healthy drink of water. Simple as pie! They've started growing nice healthy leaves and it looks like I'll have a bumper crop. I may end up with too many plants, so I'll offer them also to members of the Point Richmond Garden Society (point-richmond-garden-society@google.com). If you'd like to join either of these two garden groups, send me an email.

With my harvest, I looked around for a good recipe. In the end, this is what I concocted:

Moira's Purple Tree Collard & Beans

INGREDIENTS

- 5-6 cups purple tree collard or kale. Remove and discard main rib from centre of leaf. Slice into 1/4 - 3/8" strips.
- 1 cup black-eyed peas
- 4 slices thick bacon (purchase from butcher), cut into 1/4" slices. Can substitute 8-10 slices of ordinary supermarket bacon.
- 1 Tbsp onion flakes, or 1/4 cup fresh onion
- 1 tsp dried garlic or 4 cloves fresh garlic, crushed
- 2 cobs corn, kernels removed. (Can substitute frozen corn which won't taste as good!)
- 2 bell peppers, cut into medium dice (1/2"). Red is good for colour.
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup cider syrup (boiled cider) or 1/8 cup

maple syrup

1/4 cup bouillon or concentrate and water

Tbsp = tablespoon, tsp = teaspoon

METHOD

1. Here is my standard bean recipe: Pick over beans and rinse, cover with cool water to second knuckle. Put beans on high heat until water reaches boiling. Cook beans for 2 minutes. Take off heat and cover tightly. Do not disturb them for at least 2 hours (overnight won't hurt them). Some people think the bean water is very nutritious, others think that discarding this first bean water minimizes flatulence. We have no use for the bean water in this recipe. The standard recipe then says: cook beans until done, but in this recipe we have other plans.
2. In frying pan, cook bacon until crisp and fat is rendered. If desired one can pour off some of the fat until 2-3 Tbsp remain in pan, but it tastes better if you don't.
3. If using fresh, add onion and cook until soft. Add fresh garlic and cook until fragrant.
4. Put all ingredients from frying pan into a pot, making sure to scrape the tasty bits from the bottom of the pan.
5. Toss all ingredients to cover.
6. If using a slow cooker or crockpot, set on high for 2 hours, followed by low for 2-4 hours, or set on low for 6-8 hours.
7. If using a dutch oven, heat oven to 220° F or 250° F. Bake for several hours.
8. If using stovetop, make sure the pot has a tight fitting. If not, you may have to add water or juice during the cooking, as there's not a lot of liquid in this recipe. (It's possible to create a hermetically sealed pot by pasting a mixture of flour and water between the pot and lid, but this also means you will not be able to check the contents). Cook on low heat for 1 hour.
9. Enjoy! Leftovers are fabulous reheated with a egg (or two) steamed on top.

Like recipes? Let us know!

had been nothing more than a publicity stunt. After all, the ship had been almost totally preassembled. Clay Bedford was quick to point out that had been the whole purpose, to see how much more ship construction could be done in timesaving preassembly.

Other people claimed the ship had been thrown together for speed, without regard for the quality of construction. However, a War Shipping Administration report has since silenced those critics.

“In her first year of war cargo transport,” the report read, “the Robert E. Peary voyaged more than 42,000 miles. Master’s and Engineer’s Reports show that her mechanical and navigational efficiency equals that of sister ships much longer on the ways.”

On her first voyage, the Peary saved American soldiers trapped near the beach of a Japanese-held Pacific island. While under enemy fire, the Peary maneuvered close in to shore. The sailors rigged a line to the beach which they used to ferry food and ammunition to the troops until they were able to beat back the Japanese attack. The Peary also participated in the D-day invasion on the other side of the world, shuttling back and forth between England and the Allied beachhead



Illustration from Mast Magazine showing the Perry under fire, offloading ammunition to soldiers on a Japanese island in the South Pacific

in Normandy, often under heavy air attack.

The Kaiser company kept the workers informed of the achievements of their ship and they never had reason to be anything but proud of “The Wonder Ship” they had built in just one hundred eleven and a half hours.

After 21 years of service, the SS Robert E. Peary was scrapped in in Baltimore, Maryland June 1963.



A deckhouse section is moved into position to be lifted by Whirley cranes onto ship. Fully furnished, it has look of a cutaway stage set. To best judge scale, note the two figures in corner, lower right.



Only moments after Peary launching, keel for next ship (inside highlighted circle) is lowered into position.



ART IN THE PARK 2010

Artful Costumes Encouraged

*An outdoor Art Festival featuring local artists, performance
artists and music*

*in the beautiful garden park at the gateway to Historic Point
Richmond*

SUNDAY, September 19, 2010

11 am to 6 pm ~ FREE Admission

Award Winning "Art in the Park 2010" Poster
Presented

GATEWAY FOUNDATION PARK

4 West Richmond Ave. Point Richmond

Across from "The Plunge" ~ Adjacent to the Mechanics
Bank

*The festival will include activities for children,
entertainment; bring your own chair, box lunch from
local restaurants, beverage vendor, exhibits, crafts,
children's books and art to purchase!*

*Thank you Gateway Foundation for sharing this beautiful
venue*



www.artsofpointrichmond.com

<http://artsofpointrichmondca.blogspot.com>

Cards, Letters & E-Mails

Dear Pam,

Victor and I much enjoy reading "This Point", but I did not particularly enjoy reading our recent membership renewal described at that of the "Victor Morales Family". We are the Victor Morales and Sharon Halpern Family! I would much appreciate a correction in the next issue so that I will not be in danger of loss of identity!

Thank you,
Sharon Halpern
Point Richmond

*I report the thank you list from the way that the
renewal form is filled out. Our "official"
membership list and label does list both you and
Victor's names. If I did not copy your membership
renewal form correctly, I apologize and will pay
closer attention in the future. Gary*



Birthdays

September

Joan Gatten	Al Frosini	Peter Minkwitz	Kenneth Dolan
Sofia Warith	Frank Christopher	Gayle Kaufman	Theresa Daniel
Susan Armstrong	Linda Newton	Roxanne Trudeau	Jan Feagley
Marie Peckham	Roberta Wilson	John Hadreas	June Kunkle Blackburn
Ivar Elle	Nadia Warith	David Reynolds	Lorin Buhler
Daniel Butt	Bernard Dietz	Donna Roselius	Isosbel Shaw
Sara Warren Smith	Stephen Berman	John T. Knox	Aubrey Lee Rentfro
Emily Anne Barnes	Ingvar Elle	Jerry Cerkowicz	

October

Terry Wynne	Jodi Bagley	Helen Frosini	Toni Cannizzaro
Kate Lord	Jeff Ward	Chad Feagley	Jan Burdick
Florence Wilson	Todd Cort	Isobel 'Boo' Shaw	Leo Mattuecci
Liz McDonald	McKinley Bradshaw	Jerry Daniel	Ray Smith
Jean Moyle Spiersch	Tim Montgomery	Grace Cerkowicz	Tony Peter Bernabich
Maria Shaw	Brian Tedrick	Otto Barni	Bill Vallivero
Marguerite Clutts	Rich Weirick	Betty Glass Marshall	
Linda Pereira	Marc Bisio	Maria Inchauspe Smith	
Timothy Doherty	Chris Ward	Abigail Munoz Rivera	

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw - 92
Ed Squires - 93
Anna Schwarz - 98
Viola Lala Kennedy
Al Frosini - 93
Lee Christian
Shoney Gustafson - 93
Jean Moyle Spiersch 95
Madelilne Bellando Albright- 92
Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger-94

Lupe Padilla Lopez 96 -
Goldie Mobley - 97
Delphina Franco Tawney - 93
Reva Ward - 97
Steve Wyrick - 95
Bernard Dietz - 96
Avis Blanchette - 96
Roger Wiese - 95
Thelma Mae Harvey - 93
Eunice Ruth Hursh - 94
Dody Perry - 93
Betty Dornan - 91

Edna Hathaway - 91
Jerry Cerkowicz, Sr. - 90
Tom Kenny - 9?
Mark Gebhart - 96
Romilda Burress - 90

100 Year Club
Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 101

Please send corrections and additions to "Over 90 Club" to midornan@sbcglobal.net

Deaths.....

Anita Christiansen was born in Point Richmond to Theresa and Edoardo Barra, on April 16, 1924, and passed away at her home on June 11, 2010. Anita was raised, married, and lived her life within the 2 square miles of her beloved Point Richmond. She was a devoted mother, grandmother neighbor and friend. Anita was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist of Richmond, for more than sixty years. She served her community as a 30 year member and three time president of the Women's West Side Improvement Club, a 45 year member of the Richmond Galileo Club Women's Auxiliary. She served as a docent for 11 years for the Point Richmond History Association where Anita was known for her detailed memory for names, places, dates, relationships, and events. She was proud of her services as a U S O Hostess for three years during World War II dancing with the troops alongside her life-long friend Mary Highfill.

Some of her most enjoyable times were spent with her husband, Bernard, while members of the Saturday Nites Dance Club where she and Bernard danced and also served as co presidents for many years. She is survived by her son, Stephen and daughter in law Dextra, of Danville granddaughters, Katerina Christiansen of Norfolk VA, and Meaghan Christiansen Cohen and grand son in law Guy Cohen of Los Angeles.

Memorial services were held at the First United Methodist Church of Point Richmond on Monday, June 28, 2010. Memorial gifts are suggested to the Bay Area Rescue Mission, P. O. Box 1112, Richmond CA 94802.

Jerome "Jerry" Vloeberghs passed away from an ischemic stroke on July 24, 2010, a few days before his 94th birthday on August 10. Jerry was born in Louisiana to Viola and John Vloeberghs but grew up on Martina Street in Point Richmond when his parents moved here. He attended local schools. He was a teacher and commercial artist with unlimited talents. He studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and the Art Center College of design in Pasadena. Self employed, Jerry did line drawings for the Mineralog published by the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society and later was only one of twelve members in their 75 year history to receive both Elementary and Advanced Certificates in Lapidary Art. His hobbies included movie making, sculpturing, etching, computers, and lapidary work and was a member of the Westwood Movie Club. Jerry is survived by his sister Ann Bartram, a niece Suzanne Wilson, and grand niece, Sarah Wilson. as well as many dear friends.



CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Meets third Wednesday of each month 7-9 at the Pt. Community Center, Contact: Linda Drake, 510672-0793

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. 510-234-4884 for details.

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$50. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

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

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Becky Jonas, President, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac, 12-1:30, Contact: Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open winter, Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00 and Summer, Wednesday 4:30 to 7:00 and Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday October 29, 2010. Info call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Peter Minkwitz, President, 510-232-3663

POINT RICHMOND VILLAGE

"Helping You Help Yourself" Contact: Linda Newton, Chairman 510-235-0081

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 3pm. \$5 donation for adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children. Sunday Breakfast September 10th and October 12th, 9 am - 1 pm, \$6 adults children FREE

SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST

Contact: Rosemary Corbin, 510-235-5779

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President. 510-234-4219.

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

Name: _____

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Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
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<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
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Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (five issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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 the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801
or
email: gary@alkos.com

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Visit our website
PointRichmondHistory.org

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