

# THIS POINT... in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

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

**Vol. XXVI No. 3    November/December/January, 2007/2008    \$3.00**



*31 Washington Avenue—Built 1901*

Now Available!

# “THIS POINT in time”

## “A Historic View of Point Richmond, California”

*By Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin*

Written in 1980 and published by the Point Richmond History Association. This book contains stories of early Point Richmond, detailed descriptions of historic homes and commercial buildings and is illustrated throughout with drawings and maps by the talented Donna Roselius.

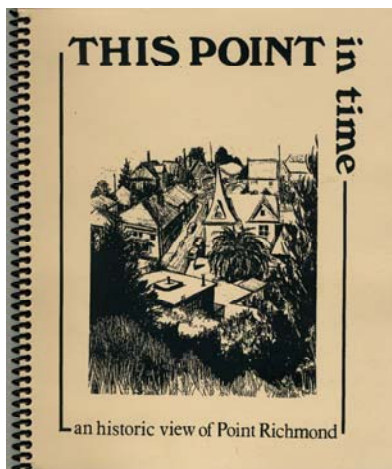
**This is a must have book!**  
**A Wonderful Gift!**

**Get your copy at the PRHA Museum on Thursdays or Saturdays between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm, the cost is \$15.00**

**Or if you are unable to get by, we will be happy to send it to you by UPS Ground. Send your check made out to the PRHA for \$15.00 for each book. Please add \$6.50 for shipping and send to:**

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

**Include your name, address and phone number please.**



*87 Pages*

*More than 100 of Donna  
Roselius line drawings of  
historic Point Richmond  
Structures*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

The preservation and moving of the historic 1903 Trainmaster's Reading Room to Point Richmond adds another asset to the Point Richmond Historic District. The 2,079-square-foot building is one of the few remnants from the days when railroads were key to commerce. When the railroad company considered tearing it down, consultants deemed the structure was historically significant and amid much controversy the building was saved.

In 2004 the city passed ownership of the building to the non-profit Point Richmond Gateway Foundation. In 2005, crews moved the 80-ton railway building from the foot of Macdonald avenue to the new site across from the Plunge. Restoration came from time, materials and money from private individuals and companies.

Mechanics Bank signed a 10-year lease with the Gateway Foundation who owns the building. Initial rent payments will be used to cover restoration costs. The Foundation plans to funnel subsequent payments, up to \$15,000 a year, into community projects. This year \$9,000 in grants were given to Point groups. The Point Richmond History Association was recipient of \$500 toward a new cabinet for our Museum. (see other grant awards elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Most of the people who come into the Point come by this intersection. The lush landscaping, benches, and inviting atmosphere is truly a beautiful Gateway to the Point.

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*Thank you members for your renewal:*

**David Dolberg Family**  
**Ed Gindrich**  
**Jeff & Barbara Ward**  
**Gloria Groff**  
**Janet & Michael Heckmann Family**  
**Sonny Jackson\*\***  
**Jack Mormon**  
**Don & Carole Woodrow Family**  
**Gilda Markarian\*\***  
**John Helfrich\*\***  
**Dee Rosier**  
**Betty Menzie**  
**Simeon J. Burtner**  
**Fred, Diane & Hannah Frye Family**  
**Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza Family**  
**Kenneth & Kay Madison Family**  
**Melba Farley & Judith Buhlis Family**  
**Henry Gondola**  
**Emile & Edwyna Pleau Family**  
**Thomas Kenny**  
**Dennis Amantite**  
**Marion Kent**  
**Evelyn Meville Macdonald**  
**Steve Wyrick**  
**Alice Jordan & Artrese Morrison**  
**Family**  
**James Patrick Kenny**  
**Dody Perry**  
**Pat Pearson**  
**Donna Hood**  
**Sonja Darling**

**Pat Dornan\*\***  
**Ellen Schaefer**  
**Joan Gatten**  
**Richard & Charlene Smith**  
**Paul & Zoe Mukavtz\*\***  
**Penny & John Canario Family**  
**Bruce & Sandra Beyaert**

*And a warm welcome to these new members*

**James L Ellis**  
**Harry Thomsen**  
**Bryan Smith**  
**Don Lewis**

**\*Gift membership**  
**\*\*Special Supporter**

*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*

## Last Issue's Kozy Kove Cover

Sheila Fostiak points out that her late husband Ted built all of the pictured kayaks. In fact he is in the picture along with his son Peter and daughter Marie, the three people on shore. Also in the picture are Jonathan Hammond, Timothy Hammond, Janie Reynolds and Susan Cherniak. Another interesting fact that Sheila pointed out is the photograph itself was taken with a camera on a kite. She said that was a common practice then to get pictures from overhead.

# *EDITOR'S NOTES*

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

Here is your Winter issue of TPIT.

It is four pages longer than usual because it covers the holiday season, had no trouble filling it up with good information and pictures. Thanks to members for adding material to our photo archives that are becoming more and more impressive. I am working on publishing a new photo album to the website that will contain all of our images. If you have any interesting historical (maybe 1960 and before) photos of the area please loan them to me for scanning. You will receive eternal credit for them and allow others to enjoy your pictures.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue, February/March is January 18, 2008.

The September/October newsletter assembly crew, thanks to you all:

Jerry Cerkanowicz  
Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Pat Pearson  
Sonja Darling  
Mary Highfill  
Bruce Bartram  
Ann Bartram  
Tom Piazza  
Marcelina Smith

## **The Cover**

**31 Washington Avenue was built by James Shaw in 1901 for the Lang Drug Company and the Brown-Sugrue Bootery. It later became Bob Hartynyk's Clothing Store, The Bull Book Shop, Whitney's delicatessen and is now Armor Locksmith Services owned by Alan Baer.**

## *Thank You!* *Our Special Supporters!*

### *History Makers*

Sherri Mertle  
Doug & Rosemary Corbin  
Kathe Kiehn  
Elizabeth M. McDonald  
Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc  
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
Sonny Jackson

### *Corporate Sponsor*

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company  
Stephanie, Patti & Stephen Kowalski  
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  
David & Anne Roth  
Catherine Burchell  
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee  
John Helfrich  
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack  
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence  
John & Nancy Mengshol  
Donna Wilson  
Erica & Barry Goode  
Pat Dornan  
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz



# A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: What is the total length of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge?

ANSWER at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

If it is November, can Christmas and a new year be far behind

\*\*\*

One generation plants the trees, another gets the shade.

- Chinese proverb

\*\*\*

At last, our great Point Community Center has been painted, cleaned, decorated and is OPEN! Vincent Seymour , a City staff person and Amy Aldridge, West Contra Costa Adult School , are there to greet you and find what interests you have so we can utilize this facility again. Did you know HOME DEPOT is providing a new kitchen and the paint for the Center as a Community Service.

\*\*\*

Watch for 'Earnest', the local police officer who will be walking the Point beat Mondays through Thursdays. Welcome and introduce yourself to him. How fortunate are we to have him here!

\*\*\*

Watch for the Library to open by December of THIS YEAR!! Our City Manager, Bill Lindsay, is doing a great job.

\*\*\*

A woman who was not feeling too well went to see her Doctor. After he had finished examining her she asked, "Have I got the Hong Kong Flu, Doctor?" He replied, "No you don't have the Hong Kong Flu, you have the Egyptian Flu---you are about to become a mummy".

\*\*\*

From 1975 -1995 there were only four states that did not have any earthquakes: Florida, Iowa, North Dakota and Wisconsin. There is no such thing as 'earthquake weather'. Statistically, there is

an equal distribution of earthquake in cold weather, rainy weather, etc.

\*\*\*

The first canine nursing home for dogs has been established in the city of Tochigi, Japan. For \$800 per month, aged and sickly dogs live at the Soladi Care Home for Pets, where they get 24-hour veterinary care.

\*\*\*

Need help getting to sleep? Melatonin, a chemical present in some of the foods we eat, "is an anti stress agent and a good sleep promoter". Its sedative effect helps relieve stress without making you groggy. Two excellent food sources of melatonin are tart dried cherries and walnuts. Consider taking a melatonin supplement 20 to 30 minutes before going to bed. It should help you get to sleep.

\*\*\*

Good Samaritans do a good deed without needing praise. One such Good Samaritan in the Point not only assured her tenant she wouldn't put her out on the street if her rent wasn't on time because the tenant had undergone cancer surgery and couldn't get a doctor's clearance to go back to work so was without funds. Not only did this property owner work with the tenant regarding the rent, she also went to Costco, purchased her food and even cooked a meal to go with it. Point people are compassionate.

\*\*\*

Al Frosini spent rehab time in a local facility after falling and cracking his hip . All he did was wave to a neighbor from his garage and he blames a new pair of shoes because he turned and shoes didn't!

You can believe the nursing home was happy to see 'restless' Al heal so he could go home!

\*\*\*

If you've missed Doug Corbin for a few weeks, it was because he took time out for a hip

*(Continued on page 5)*

replacement. He has been spotted on the golf course since, a good sign.

\*\*\*

Browsing through Greeting cards last week, it appears writers need a few more grammar lessons when they confuse YOUR for YOU'RE or YOU ARE.

\*\*\*

At a recent shoe store the lady customer asked the clerk for "Airport Shoes". Puzzled, the clerk asked what kind were they? The lady replied, "You know, the kind you can slip in and out of in Security!"

\*\*\*

THANK YOU Dave Shank for repairing the Museum chair.

\*\*\*

Some people would have known since there are "Airport Sox" - socks you wear after you remove shoes at security so you don't have to walk on the hard, bare, cold surfaces.

\*\*\*

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Homes are priced starting in the low one millions.!

\*\*\*

Admirer: "How do you grow old so gracefully?"

I give all my time to it!

\*\*\*

Thank you to David Vincent for the beautiful poinsettia that decorates our museum and to Mary Highfill for planting the museum flower box.

\*\*\*

As we wish Teresa Menegheilli a HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, we also wish her a speedy recovery from hip surgery Not a great way to begin that 90th celebration!

\*\*\*

Ray Pitsker, who Pastor Dan Damon credits for his spiritual direction, arrived from Colorado to be with him when Dan's latest book of 33 new hymns, "Fields of Mercy", was dedicated with a book signing in September. This is Dan's fourth book of hymns to be published. All are bound together and in the pews at the Point United

Methodist Church.

\*\*\*

Recent visitors tin the Point and our Museum were Jim Ellis and his brother, Bob, and their wives. They are sons of the late Bob Ellis . Jim is Vice-pres of Willamette Valley Vineyards , Oregon's landmark winery in Turner, Oregon. Pat Pearson was very disappointed in not being able to see them. as she had original stock in the winery.

\*\*\*

Jane and Michael Carnall traveled to Carmel to help his mother celebrate her 90th birthday in October. After which they entertained 17 guests here in the Point before Jane flew to Missouri to visit her son and grandson.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Washington Elementary School in the Point who was one of 39 schools nationwide to receive a \$500 national PTA grant to promote the PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Month. Nationwide schools had to detail plans to promote health at their school.

\*\*\*

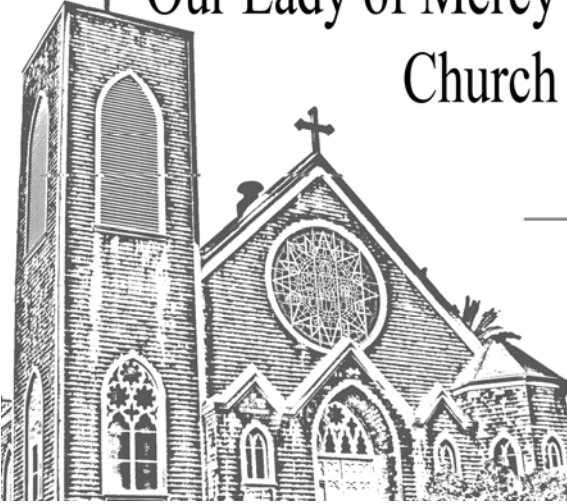
Watch out for a motorized scooter whether it is zipping up or down Washington Avenue, around the triangle or other Point streets. What a surprise to see the handsome driver is none other than Dan Doellstedt. Dan's youthful, positive aura is an inspiration and he credits his recovering to his loving parents and family and friends. You are a 'hero', Dan!

\*\*\*

ANSWER: Total length is 5 1/2 miles and the main structure is 4.04 miles. Maximum height of towers above the water is 325 feet and the horizontal clearances at navigation channels is 1,000 feet. There are 53,700 tons of structural steel and 8,500 tons of reinforcing steel. And, 53,000 feet of concrete piling, 268,200 feet of timber piling and 592,700 feet of steel piling and the first painting was with 65,000 gallons. (more than you wished to know?)

# CHURCH NEWS

## † Our Lady of Mercy Church



By Dee Rosier  
510-232-1387

Welcome fall – welcome the endless job of raking leaves! We also fell back.

On the first Sunday of each month a second collection is taken for church maintenance. The roof fund is the major recipient of the income. We are getting there, but have yet to achieve our goal.

Thirty years ago, Father organized a support group for a children's home outside of Tijuana, Mexico. Monthly dinners are held to raise funds for the support of the school. He recently hosted a dinner in the church hall and 60 people attended. Since he prepared more food than was eaten, parishioners were invited to enjoy the leftovers after a Saturday Mass.

Before coming to California, Father O'Rourke lived in France for two years. It was only fitting that he return to his previous residence. Leaving his laptop behind, he spent three weeks living in a 240-year old stone farmhouse which was converted into rental apartments and located among the vineyards and olive trees. With the beauty surrounding him, it was natural that he resumes his interest in watercolor

painting. In his absence, we welcomed Father Ray Brenton, Father Nick Reina and Father Bruno Gibson. Father Bruno Gibson was dubbed "The Singing Priest."

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, the parishioners honored Father in commemoration of his 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Dominican. It was a grand celebration and he was surrounded by many friends and parishioners. A collage of family pictures and some of his paintings were on display. Father is the sole survivor of a family of five sons. His delight was visibly evident as he spoke of his family. Katherine and Michael Workman chaired the event which was elegantly done. Katherine and Michael are fairly new to our parish and we commend them for a superb performance. We are blessed to have them as members of our Christian Community.

The bronze plaque marking Our Lady of Mercy as a historic building was recently installed on the side of the stairway into the church.

The last of the year pancake breakfast was held on October 21, 2007. Thanks to Chairperson, Susan Brooks and her crew for the delicious, plentiful servings. Breakfasts will resume in the spring.

Our parish was fortunate to receive a \$500 grant from the Gateway Foundation. The grant will be used to erect a new classic-looking redwood sign. The previous one served it's time and we have been making use of a make shift one.

The Small Christian Communities continue to meet in the evening and day group. All are welcome to attend.

To honor the anniversary of his death, the Sindicich family donated three beautiful floral arrangements which adorned the altar.

The world does get smaller and smaller. My cousin was recently hospitalized in Mt. Diablo Hospital, Concord for emergency surgery. Her roommate was Rose Bozzo who fractured her hip

Condolences to the Reiter family in the recent death of Randy's mother, Anne Perry Reiter.

The after-Mass Starbuck's group was less two



while Tom Boone traveled to Italy and Chano Forner to Hawaii.

It is a welcome sight to see Jean Stark up and walking again. Jean is a member of the Pt. Richmond Walking Group. Several months ago she was hit by a car while crossing E. Richmond Avenue.

They must be seeing clearer and brighter; both Robert Drake and Betty Sindich recently underwent cataract surgery.

On Sundays we always remember our ill. Anna Schwarz' name was mentioned, so I called to see how she was doing. Anna said that she was not really sick, only that she had fallen three times in the past 10 days, but not seriously injured. She said that at her age (95) she would take all the prayers that are offered for her.

Idaho Street is a very special street and is becoming tree lined. Neighborhood watch signs were recently installed. The neighborhood watch group is called PROWL (Pt. Richmond Official Watch League). For Halloween 250 pumpkins were donated and on the Saturday before, we enjoyed a potluck and carved pumpkins. The pumpkins were then distributed to residents in the area. Our street was illuminated with pumpkins and we look forward to it becoming an annual event.

There was a recent event where a stray dog roamed the neighborhood. Neighbors fed and kept

an eye on him. They finally decided to set a trap for him at his residence - the Trainmaster's building. It turned out the dog had a tag with a San Leandro phone number. He had been missing since January and somehow made his way to Pt. Richmond. He jumped out of the car window at Kaiser, Oakland. The owners had given up hope, but within 30 minutes of the call, the family held a tearful reunion.

The Siti's recently held an art show to promote a friend's art. There were several Pt. Richmond landscapes, as well as a beautiful oil of Our Lady of Mercy and the Methodist Church.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Kathleen Genovese, Frankie Mello, Charlie Rosier, Theresa Meneghelli, Bill and Loren Smith and Al Frosini.

It was a unique performance at the Church of the Redeemer Kid's Church (Episcopal), San Rafael. My grandson and a group of youngsters performed songs from the Beatles. They were accompanied by some of the parents; son-in-law, Kevin was on the keyboard.

The holidays are upon us. Enjoy them in the company of your loved ones.

## SEE YOU IN CHURCH



*Cigar Store (0569-Kenny from Kenny Collection)*

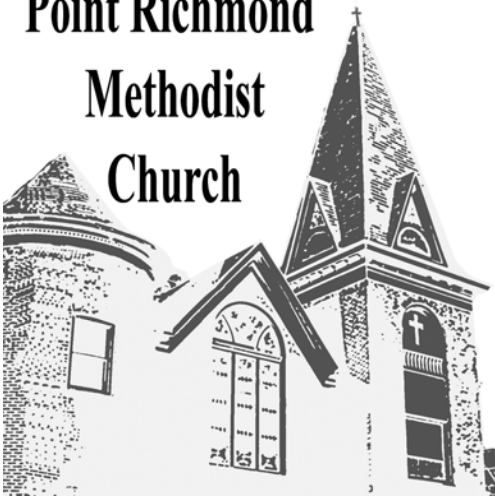
## HYDRANGEA

Stop by and say 'hello' to the new owners of HYDRANGEA, 145 W. Richmond Avenue in the Point. Geave Abolghaseum and his mother, Thea Kynthia, have made extensive changes to the flower, gift and chocolate shop. Enjoy the fresh new exterior paint and signage.

If you are looking for clever greeting cards, check here. Their Halloween Pumpkin Patch was innovative and fun. Support your local merchants.

*Mid*

# Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

510-235-2988

*jeanormr@pacbell.net*

Pastor Dan Damon had another collection of hymns published this fall. Worship on September 16 featured hymns from the new publication "Fields of Mercy," and a signing party after worship included a lavish Methodist potluck, with the best whipped cream ever. Pat Dornan had all of the pew copies of Dan's four hymn books bound together so one volume neatly includes all four books. Our lives and attitudes are shaped by the music, message, harmony and theology expressed in Pastor Dan's hymns.

Kurt Ribak and his trio celebrated the release of their new CD at 5:00 p.m., September 30. Sheliani Alix joined the band with her velvet vocals for several numbers. Kurt played string bass, Greg Sankovich was on keyboards, with Rob Hart on drums. The band exudes a pure joy in performing together, and is a pleasure to hear and watch.

We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on October 13, Indian Statue Day, with a South of the Border luncheon. We served chicken mole or cheese enchiladas with rice, refried beans, salad, drinks and dessert. The decorating crew transformed Friendship

Hall into a Mexican cantina, and volunteers set the tables, made enchiladas, steamed tortillas, served, and cleaned up. It was fun to do a different kind of meal for our October fun-raiser.

The 9:00 a.m. worship service of Morning Prayer and Praise meets every Sunday. The worship follows the format in the United Methodist Hymnal, and includes music, prayer, responsive reading, and silent meditation. The 9:00 service is fragrance free, candle free, and sermon free, and ends before 9:50 a.m., perfect for those who want more time for another activity on Sunday.

New member Stephan Shank joined the church on November 11, and was honored with a cake at coffee hour after worship. Steve lives in Pt. Richmond now after moving here several months ago from Arizona. He is an active member of the Monday Book Group. We bid adieu in the last few months to May and Dan Cotton who move to Spokane, Washington, for a new job opportunity, and Juanita Hoffman, who now resides in Dayton, Washington. We know Washington is a better place now that our friends have moved there!

## On the Calendar:

**Dan Paul**, singer-songwriter, and guitarist performs in **concert 5:00 p.m., November 18**. Suggested donation: \$10.

A Thanksgiving Feast, turkey with all the trimmings, provided by Point Richmond businesses, church members and friends: free to all. Dinner will be served **12 noon to 2:15 p.m. Thanksgiving Day**. An interfaith **service of thanks** begins at **11:30 a.m.**

**December 2**, the **11:00 a.m.** worship features a **jazz trio** with Pastor Dan on keyboard, both choirs, and other surprises. After the service, we will have a potluck luncheon and All Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Renae Extrum-Fernandez.

**The Masquers'** generously present **"Songs of the Season,"** a concert, on **December 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.** for your holiday pleasure. Suggested donation of \$10 benefits the church.

Three choirs concert: **Carols Around the World**, Sunday, **December 15, 5:00 p.m.** El Sobrante UMC Choir, First UMC Angel Choir and Joyful Noise Choir, directed by Eileen Johnson and Pastor Dan Damon, will sing carols from many lands.

**Interactive Resources**, 117 Park Place, Point Richmond, hosts the church **holiday bake sale on December 22, 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (if the baked goods do not sell out before then!) Come early for the best selection of cakes, pies, cookies and candy just like (or better) than Mom used to make!

**Jazz Christmas Eve: December 24, 7:00 p.m.** Hear the Christmas story and sing carols with the Dan Damon Quartet. The Angel Choir, Paula Helene and others will join the quartet with songs of peace, joy, and love. Enjoy the festive lights, flowers and bright décor in the sanctuary. Seating for this event always overflows into Friendship Hall: the sanctuary fills to capacity. Come early to get a good seat!



*John Moyle, Richmond's first shoe store (0161-DC from Don Church)*

## 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, This is the 77th installment.

MAY 1, 1928

The Social League met in M.E. parlors with Mesdames Stander and Givens as hostesses. The meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Schmidt followed by prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved.

A motion made, seconded and carried that the Laundry bill of \$2.60 to Mrs. Prince be paid. A motion made, seconded and carried that \$1.95 be paid to G. Perault. A motion made, seconded and carried that \$10 be put in organ fund. And being the 1st of the month, \$10 be paid to church treasurer.

\$ 2.60 - laundry bill  
1.95 - G Perault  
10.00 - organ fund  
10.00 church treas  
\$24.55 - expenses

\$55.32 - old balance  
24.55 - expenses  
30.77  
.60 - Dues Mrs. Doney  
2.20 - Plate offering  
\$33.57 - new balance

Date of tea was set for May 29th. Following committees were selected: Refreshment: Chairman, Mrs. Redman. Mesdames Griffin, Glennie, Gray, Dingle and Alexander. Table: Mesdames Shaw, Hill and Burdick.

Mrs. Scofield has charge of programs.



# WWIC, EST. 1908

*Norma Wallace*  
510-236-6968

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

WWIC met on the first Tuesday of the month, October 2, 2007. Hostesses for the day were **Mid Dornan, Pat Pearson, Betty Dornan and Dody Perry.**

President **Margaret Morkowski** introduced guests including **Marg Harmon**, her guest PRNC president **Robin Carpenter**, and new member **Martha Vealowski**. After taking care of the business of minutes and treasurer's report – with a reminder that dues are due! – **Margaret** led an update of Centennial activities. Due to the abundance of special events, our club's fundraiser luncheons in October and March will feature a Green Salad Bar instead of the regular Quiche and Lasagna menus.

**Margaret** reported on the status of the distribution of funds for projects other than special Centennial activities. Last year club funds went to the Indian Statue Rose Garden, Washington School "Books for the Library," Many Hands Project, and Point Richmond Street Directory Project. These and other projects will be voted on by the members for distribution later in the year

**Margaret** introduced October birthday celebrants **Liz McDonald** and **Marion Voight**.

###

WWIC met on our regular first Tuesday of the month, November 6, 2007. We all fell right into the fall harvest theme as we appreciated the décor reflecting classic shades of fall foliage.

After non-stop socializing and catching up during our brown-bag lunch, the hostesses **Linda Duste, Connie Lompa, Sonia Malaga and Evelyn Thill** provided yummy desserts including pumpkin pie, homemade cookies and a cinnamon swirl cake. Unfortunately, **Sonja** was feeling under the weather and unable to attend (hope it's not that nasty flu going around); fortunately, her supervisor Bob Connelly, manager of the Point Richmond Office of The Mechanics Bank was gracious and delivered Sonja's cookies for the ladies to enjoy. Thanks to

both Sonja and Bob for their special efforts.

President **Margaret Morkowski** introduced **Altha Humphrey** who introduced speaker **Nancy Burns of Body Wisdom**, a fitness studio just opening in Brickyard Cove. **Nancy** proceeded to discuss themes in the key of maintaining or improving our health. She is scheduling many different types of classes for folks of varying abilities, everything from Pilates to Qi Gong to Seated Exercises sponsored by the National Arthritis Foundation. Another innovative class includes hikes at Mt. Tamalpais and on Nicholl Knob. Classes are priced at \$12-15.

**Margaret** thanked **Nancy** for her presentation. Judging by the questions, **Nancy's** presentation was clearly enjoyed by all.

**Susan Brooks**, Club Secretary, read the September 11, 2007 minutes which were AAR (accepted as read). Treasurer **Sonja Darling** updated us on financial matters. The current checking account balance available is approximately \$828.56, excluding allocated funds for special projects, including the WWIC Centennial.

Vice President **Linda Newton** encouraged members to fill the few remaining opportunities for hostess between now and June 2007, including two people for May. Each member offers to join two others as hostesses to serve once a year at one of the monthly meetings. As **Linda** reminded us, there are at least 3 board members helping the hostesses so it's more a question of – when do you want to have extra fun with the group?!!

**Margaret** announced the awarding by the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation of \$1,200 to WWIC to cover the cost of a vine-covered wooden arch over the planned Street Directory Map. The Foundation also awarded the Point Richmond Landscape Advisory Committee \$2,500 for the Beautification of Triangle Park in Point Richmond. Fresh from a meeting with City landscape staff, committee Landscape Advisory Committee co-chair **Connie Lompa** provided up-to-the-minute details of



discussions. At this point, plans include sprucing up of the big tree by the Indian Statue and restringing new holiday lights before the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at starting at 5:30 am on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Margaret's** announcement of November birthday ladies **Betty Dornan, Dextra Christensen, Alice Zeier, Norma Reiter** and **Altha Humphrey** was met with a warm round of applause.

The annual Christmas luncheon will be held at the United Methodist Church; the cost is \$15 per person. Call **Margaret** with additional RSVPs and

menu selection (chicken, pork or veg); guests are welcome!

Exciting details of the WWIC Progressive Dinner, Gala Event and Fund Raiser were announced. The event is planned for Friday, December 7, with 3 locations: appetizers with **Marsha Tomassi** on Water Street, dinner **Bonnie** and **Rod Satre** on Santa Fe Avenue; and champagne with dessert **Connie** and **Richard Lompa's** on Sanderling Island! Diners should anticipate a gourmet event; festive dressy attire is suggested. **Everyone in the community is invited. Please call Margaret at 234-4219 for details.**

~~~~~  
Come and Take Part in Point Richmond's Tree Lighting Ceremony  
~~~~~  
~~~~~  
Saturday November 24th at dusk  
~~~~~  
~~~~~  
There will be Caroling on the Triangle amongst the Luminaries  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

## *Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

*by Mid Dornan*

Do you ever find yourself waking up in the middle of the night and then, not being able to get right back to sleep? Did you know there is a pharmaceutical company right here in the Point working on a solution to help you?

TRANSCPT Pharmaceuticals, Inc., located at 1003 W. Cutting Blvd., are researching a way to solve a sleep disorder problem and are about two years off the market. The pill will be called INTERMEZZO and will be identifiable with little "zz's".

Transcept offices and walls showplace many large historical Point Richmond photos from the Point Richmond History Association photo archives. A photo of Mr. Stairley in the old Bank of Richmond is appropriately in the Finance office.

Of special interest to me is a photo of Bob Dornan, Sr. in his solid rubber tired Richmond Supply Company truck.

All of their offices are state-of-the-art and the lunch room is a perk every company should boast!

How lucky we are to have them in our community.



*PRHA archive photo 0504-Mid\_Dornan\_TMH*



# OUT AND ABOUT TOWN

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Wow, what fun we all had at the **Indian Statue Day**. There were more than 20 arts and crafts booths and community group info tables. We had live music with the "Blue Hand Band" and the Point's own "The Crunchy Frog" band. The highlight of the day was the "Dog Contests." First prize ribbon and treats in the "Best Dressed Category" went to Daisy with her multi-colored gossamer collar. First prize in the "Musical Chairs" contest (better described as "Musical Sit") was Sofia who, in the final round, graciously sat the third time her owner said "SIT." The First Prize in the "Look-a-Like" contest went to Wiley and his owner Kent Kitchingman with their "fashionable" matching green scarves. The dog contests were a fund raiser for PRAM with prizes provided by BARKSTIX. A special thanks to Pam DeWitt of DeWitt Gallery for organizing the "Call to Artists" and to all the other generous volunteers who worked to make the day so much fun. "Hats Off" to the Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) for putting together another fun event in Point Richmond. Please call Marsha Tomassi at 215-6133 for information.



As many of you know, 10 years ago the **Save the Plunge Trust** was established with the goal to renovate and restore (and now, reopen) the Richmond Municipal Natatorium, better known as "The Plunge." The Plunge will look essentially the same as it did when it opened in 1925, but will be updated to meet all of the current health, safety and building codes including all of the ADA requirements. The Trust has helped the City of Richmond to secure more than \$4.5 million toward the goal of \$6 million. The \$4.5 million is enough to get started and the City plans in November to open bidding on the project. Work on the structure should begin in February or March of 2008. Look for updates, including plans for a celebration event on our website [RichmondPlunge.org](http://RichmondPlunge.org) or call

Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779 for information.



The **Many Hands Project** held its annual fundraiser for Washington School on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Bonnie and Rod Satre's home. Washington School's principal, teachers, and PTA members joined about 50 supporters at the gala, fun filled event. As you may know, a group of Point Richmond business owners and residents formed the Many Hands Project in 1992 to provide extra funds to the teachers for classroom activities and funds for the "Spirit of Leadership Program." You can "Adopt-a-Class" with a donation of \$225. This "adoption" lets you select one of the classes at Washington School to support. You'll get a student made "apple" poster to acknowledge your participation in the program and a thank you note from the children in the class you have adopted. We sincerely thank everyone who contributes to this worthwhile program and encourage others to join in our efforts. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please E-mail Sallie DeWitt at [Sallie@jimdedewitt.com](mailto:Sallie@jimdedewitt.com) or call her at 368-0792.



The PRBA invites you to join them on Thanksgiving morning, **November 22<sup>nd</sup>** for the annual **"Point Richmond Turkey Shoot."** Bring your family, children, friends, your Thanksgiving Day guests plus your dogs, goats or other four legged friends. (Please make sure they all "play" well with others.) You may never have heard of this 30 "odd" year tradition in the Point, but as you will note, this is just one of those "events" that makes the Point unique. We'll meet in front of the Plunge between 10 and 10:15 am and then "parade/stroll" the short distance to the other end of town to The Spot. There we will order "A Shot of Wild Turkey" or other beverage of your choice. Then we'll gather out front and listen to this year's verse and a few

prior years' verses of the "Point Richmond Turkey Shoot" poem. The whole "event" takes about 1 hour. Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration of our life in the Point. I've been informed by Marsha Tomassi (215-6133,) President of the PRBA, that participants will need to purchase their own shots of Wild Turkey as the PRBA will NOT be treating the entire village!



The Point Richmond Business Association along with the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council will be sponsoring the **Annual Tree Lighting** event on Saturday, **November 24<sup>th</sup>**. We'll gather by the Indian Statue for carols at 5:30 pm with the Tree Lighting set for 6:00 pm followed by refreshments and fun. The "Tree" is having a "Trim" just for the event and big look for a big surprise to start "Holiday in the Point" events and activities. Call Marsha Tomassi, President of the PRBA for more information.



Point Richmond **Community Center** is now reopened, remodeled, repainted and refurnished. When you walk in there you will be awestruck. This is all due to the hard work of Vincent Seymour, the City's new Recreation Leader. Vincent had a vision of how the Center should look, contacted the Home Depot in Hercules (who donated all of the materials) and it all came together. Thank you Vincent... it is awesome. Make sure to stop by and ask Vincent about the new programs he has planed and scheduled. The Center is open Monday thorough Fridays and after the new year some events may be programmed for Saturdays. Call Vincent at 706-8932 for more information.



As you may know, the **Women's Westside Improvement Club** (WWIC) will be celebrating their Centennial in 2008. During the year we will be conducting some community wide fund raising activities to fund various projects as a way to

"Improve" the quality of life here in the Point. Over our entire history, the WWIC has consistently developed and implemented our own projects and we've contributed to other community projects. On goal for our Centennial year is to contribute more. Our first community- wide fund raising event will be on **Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a **Progressive Dinner**. The evening will begin with appetizers and wine at Marsha Tomassi's "Tuscan Villa" on Water Street. A sit down dinner which includes the main course with wine will be at the "semi Victorian" home of Bonnie and Rod Satre's on Santa Fe Avenue. Connie and Richard Lompa will host our final stop for a dessert buffet with champagne "over the water" at their home on Sanderling Island. Everyone is invited. Tickets are \$70. Please call Margaret Morkowski at 234-4219 for information



On Saturday, November 10, the **East Brothers Lighthouse** held one of its "Wickie Workdays." Maintaining a lighthouse is a never-ending task. The keepers of old were nicknamed "wickies" because of all of the time they spent trimming the wicks of the oil lamp in order to keep the light strong and bright. While the old oil lamps are now history, the work at the lighthouse remains constant. Normally the possible tasks on a Wickie Workday at East Brothers might include installing a new dock ladder, working on the new filter for the desalinization system, continuing the restoration and preservation work on the main staircase, gardening, cleaning and general maintenance and lunch. On November 10<sup>th</sup> this year, "cleaning" took on a different meaning as a result of the Container Ship hitting the bumper of the Bay Bridge on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.and spilling thousands of gallons of bunker fuel into the Bay. For more information on future "Wickie Workdays" at the lighthouse please call Mikael Blaisdell at 865-4515.



# ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

*Historical Photo Restorations by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.*

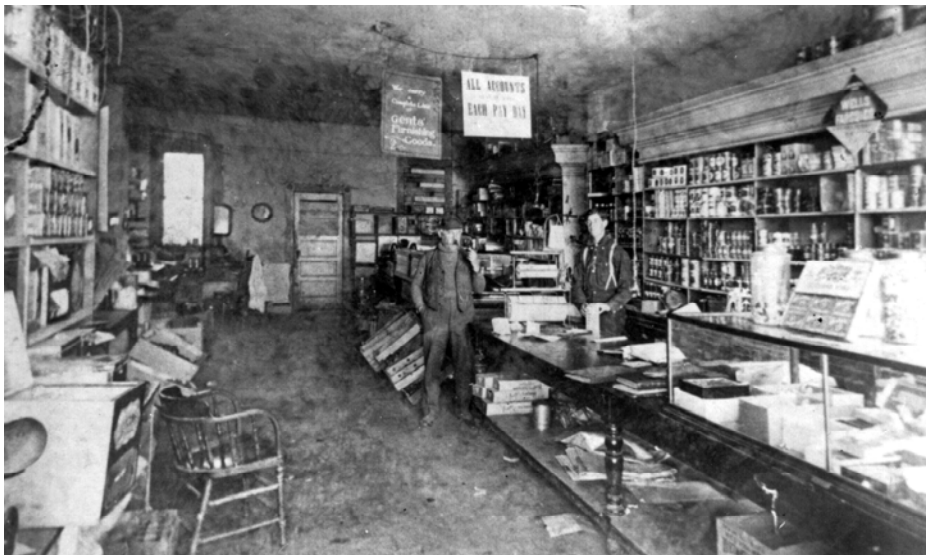


*Left : 31 Washington (0680-M\_Dronan from Mid Dornan).*

*Right: Lang's Drugs (0159-DC from Don Church)*

*Below: Richmond's first grocery, located at "Old Twon" opposite the Sante Fe yards on A Street (0160-DC from Don Church)*

*Below Right: Candy shop? (0435-Stone from Stone Collection)*







# LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE

## *at the Masquers*

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

*Little Mary Sunshine* looks like a tribute to musical entertainment from the past, starting with a pretty damsel lighting the gas footlights which illuminate the stage. This was a time before television, perhaps even before radio, when men were men, ladies were girls, good and bad were easily distinguished, and virtue always triumphed—a time when the hero went off to save the world (or at least Colorado) leaving the heroine behind. Problems arose, trouble ensued, but it all came right in the end.

I'm not absolutely certain of author Rick Besoyan's intent, but I can tell you the outcome when the wise old hands of Director Robert Love and his crew were done with it.

It's a joke. *Little Mary Sunshine* is a romantic farce. A hootingly funny, tongue-in-cheek story.

How that effect is achieved seems very subtle: an infinitesimal pause before the magnificent hero and heroine speak. Captain "Big" Jim Warrington (**Tom Accettola**) is the handsome baritone hero and "Little" Mary Sunshine (**Sue Claire Jones**) is the gorgeous soprano heroine and is, naturally, fully bedecked in frills and lace (*Photo by Jerry Telfer*). Those extra pauses keep their speech from being sappy and movements from being trite. We are immersed in a play within a play, waiting on tender hooks for something ludicrous to happen. It promptly occurs, but that it is full of *double entendre* amplifies our enjoyment.

Act One opens on an old Indian (**D.C. Scarpelli**) who steals the show. There hasn't been any show yet, but he's stolen it anyway: Chief Brown Bear is both regal and ferocious. The Chief's magnificent hair and his musical maraca are appreciated trifles tacked onto yet another of D.C.'s superlative characterizations.

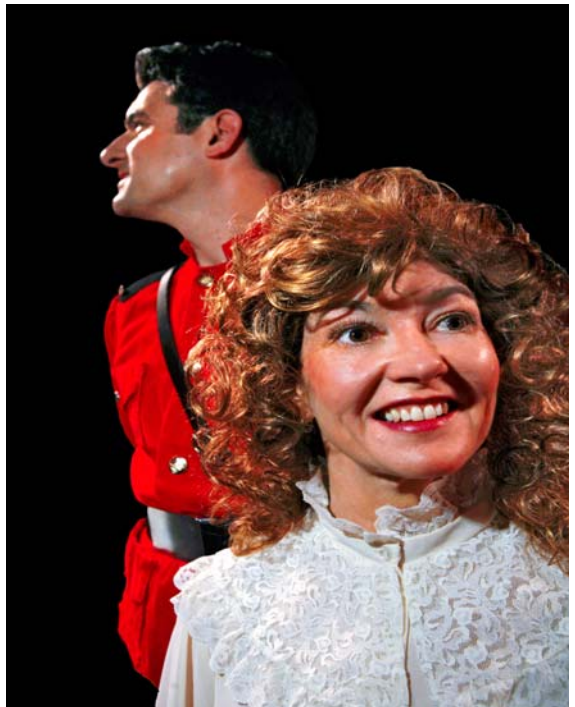
The young ladies from the Easchester Finishing School are so well turned out, they're convinced their immensely rich fathers would be quite proud of them. Cora (**Anne Collins**) is the girls' nominal chaperone and brightly admonishes them to keep up

appearances and keep out of trouble, though she doesn't quite keep out of it herself. Henrietta (**Heather Morrison**) is the agitator and the school's naughtiest girl, a role which Heather evidently *fully* enjoys. Gwendolyn (**Katie Swango**) and Maud (**Linda Woody-Wood**) are two other young ladies who do a fine job swooning, squawking and looking adorable.

The young gentlemen of the United States Forest Rangers (for some reason dressed vaguely like Canadian Mounties) are a cheerful lot and break into song at the drop of a.... The Forest Ranger chorus consists of Pete (**Douglas Braak**), Slim (**Chris Schwartz**), Buster (**Frederick Lein**), and Tex (**Larry Schrupp**).

They're manly men, perennially prepared (like Boy Scouts) to brave fearful tasks, including failure to return alive. The men face the future with chirpy fortitude. It's really quite ridiculous.

Forest Rangers, though clean in soul and mind, fall for the ladies. How Larry manages to look like a lovesick teenage boy ogling the ladies is a delight!





The central love affair occurs between Nancy Twinkle (**Michelle Pond**) as Miss Mary's maid and Corporal Billy Jester (**Coley Grundman**). Nancy makes sin sound like such fun. To Nancy, devilishness is so much more interesting than behaving properly. Nancy is a role fit for a ham artist and Michelle handles the histrionics adeptly. As lovely as the young ladies are in their pyjamas, Nancy is even more delectable in hers.

Corporal Billy disapproves of Nancy's behaviour, particularly with regard to other men, though she pleads and promises to reform. Billy wavers—we can see he is torn—will he yield?

Corporal Billy goes off to meet Chief Brown Bear to the delight of the audience. Corporal Billy's spectacular dance is so fluid one wondered how he remembers all those steps. Choreographer Kris Bell was brilliant (even without hats in the scene).

Fleet Foot (**John Wilson**) is a hoot!

General Oscar Fairfax (**John Hull**) gave me shivers—his voice quivers with his thrill at having so many delicate young ladies to whom he can play "Uncle." Really, I would not let the General near any niece of mine. He is saved by circumstance and metamorphoses into a stodgy aristocrat. Moments later, he is full of anguish and falls in love. Why anyone ever let a man with this range of talent retire from the stage is beyond me. Let's see him again!

The general falls into the arms of Madame Ernestine Von Liebedich (**Ann Homrighausen**) who makes being royalty look easy. Ann is another rarity who puts a lie to my claim that people should not fake accents they don't own; my Swiss audience companion was impressed. As a *grande dame* Ann is magnificent. Her voice is strong and rich and I could listen forever. Ann told me she had planned on retiring before now. Let's convince her of "just one more" show again!

In the time I've been reviewing Masquers plays, I have learned a few things. Audience participation (i.e. laughter) is usually welcome, the cheering keeps the mood festive. The only drawback oc-

curs when one misses dialogue because the laughter has not yet died down. I've been impressed how Masquers performers manage their delivery so that the audience can howl and still hear the next line of dialogue.

Along with laughter, another theatre axiom is to



**The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**  
PRESENTS

**Little Mary Sunshine**

**Book, Music and Lyrics by Rick Besoyan**

**Directed by Robert Love**

24-hour reservations  
**510/232-4031**  
or order online at  
**masquers.org**

All tickets must be prepaid. All sales final.  
We accept VISA & MASTERCARD.

**All seats \$18**  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00  
Sundays at 2:30 on Nov. 11, 25; Dec. 2, 9  
Box office opens half hour before curtain.

**November 2 through December 15**

**The Masquers Playhouse**  
106 Park Place  
in Point Richmond

**Special Masquers Benefit Performance**  
Dinner at the Hotel Mass and  
Little Mary Sunshine  
Thursday, December 13  
Only \$45!  
Call 510/232-4031

have so many events onstage that the poor audience can't possibly keep up. We beleaguered audience members are so busy trying to follow the action, the actors and the songs to bother with remembering any pesky issues in one's own life.

This play delivers delightfully.

Theresa de Valencé publishes reviews of Masquers and other community theatre performances. Subscription to the electronic list is FREE, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to TdeV@bstw.com.

# *The Mechanics Bank Point Richmond Office Moves Into the Historic Santa Fe Reading Room/Trainmaster's Building*

*Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219*

In case you haven't heard, on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007, The Mechanics Bank Point Richmond Office moved into the restored Santa Fe Reading Room/Trainmaster's Building at 4 West Cutting Boulevard. The ribbon cutting ceremony was a gala event with Martin McNair as Master of Ceremonies and Steven K. Buster, President and CEO of the Bank welcoming more than 150 guests.

Those from the bank included members of the Downer and Daiss Families plus various managers and bank staff. Representatives from the City included City Council Members, the City Manager and members of City staff and many Department Heads.

Among the many Point Richmond residents and guests attending the ceremony were members of the Point Richmond Gateway LLC and Foundation. The Foundation owns the Reading Room/Trainmaster's building and is responsible for its exterior restoration and the lovely park in front of the building. The Foundation has also established a grant program funded from the proceeds of the lease with the bank, for various Point Richmond community projects which beautify or otherwise improve the "quality of life" in the Point.

During the ceremony the Foundation announced the first annual award of grant funds to the following recipients. The award funds will partially fund these projects:

1. Point Richmond History Association, a larger cabinet for museum archives and displays.
2. Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, establish a council website with archives.
3. Point Richmond Methodist Church, restoration of the church historic brickwork.
4. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, a hand

carved wooden sign for front of the historic church

5. Linda Newton & Committee, explore possibility for the Point of "The Village" concept, based on Boston's Beacon Hill project, to establish a clearing house for services for seniors and the disabled to allow them to stay in their homes longer.
6. Judy Rattner, a children's mural at Washington School on "physical activity" to compliment the previous mural on "healthy eating" in the School's multi-purpose room.
7. Point Richmond Business Association, crime prevention activities such as signage, security lighting, outreach and education.
8. Point Richmond Landscape Advisory Committee, plants and trees for the Indian Statue/Fire Station/Community Center triangle area.
9. Parents Resources and More (PRAM), operational costs for pre-school children's activities at the Washington Field House.
10. Women's Westside Improvement Club wooden protective arch and plants for the Point's Street Directory Map.



*Point Richmond Gateway and Mechanics Bank  
Photo by Gary Shows*

## Point Richmond Clock



Thank you to the Kowalski owned Timeworks Clock Company for donating this 22" wall clock to the PRHA.

The clock was previously displayed on the Trainmaster Building at the Point Richmond Gateway.

It will now be on prominent display in our museum.

Mr. Kowalski has more of them and is selling them for \$139. Place your order for one at the PRHA Museum and part of the funds will benefit the Point Richmond History Association.

**CORRECTION:** In the Summer Issue of TPIT, the class picture from Les Hathaway, the names are Judy Boyham , EILEEN Lucas and Diane Schwergfeger.

## *SOUVENIR for THE WORLD*

(courtesy of Dody Perry)

At the Golden Gate where the sun goes down,  
Where they load coal oil by the cargo,  
There's a town of great renown,  
On the placid Bay of San Francisco.  
"Get rich in Richmond," is the common cry.  
"Get rich in Richmond," (In the sweet by and by).

The old Standard Oil is unrolling her coil,  
And spreading out for plenty of room:  
When things being (sic) to boil,  
There's going to be a boom  
Thoughts that are expressed in rhyme  
Nor words inscribed with pen,  
Can ne'er foretell the time  
When they'll be working 2000 men.

Go look from yonder hill across the glassy bay  
See the Golden Gate, then look the other way,  
To the south, to the east and all around;  
See the new buildings going up that will make  
Richmond a big town.

Uncle Sam is a nice old man,  
His whiskers long and gray, and he  
Can see what is going on just across the bay.  
With a slogan for an inner harbor,

Prosperity and progress, the commerce  
Of the world will surely do the rest,  
When the Panama Canal is done  
And the people all over the earth begin to come  
To hear the sentiment of every one.

"Get rich in Richmond," there isn't a reason why  
You can't get "Rich in Richmond" and  
Leave a legacy to your children when you die.  
Where there is general prosperity  
You can find a haven of rest  
And all in sincerity, Richmond will be  
The Pittsburg of the Golden West.

- L.M. Smith

# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *More Memories of Old Point*

### *Richmond-East Richmond Avenue*



*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!*

#### **Part Five**

Another pioneer Point Richmond resident that I recall was Judge John Roth. He was justice of the peace and lived on Crest Avenue. He was about 70 years of age and I recall him as an elderly white haired man who was greatly respected. Just above the Roth home on Crest Avenue was the home of the Collins family, Charles Collins was a painter and his daughter, Hazel, was a classmate and good friend of my older sister.

Further up Crest Avenue and just below the old Santa Fe reservoir was the home of the Ceridoni family. Lena Ceridoni was a classmate of mine thru Washington School and Richmond High School. I understand that she became a school teacher. She was a quiet, studious girl and I am sure that she would have made an excellent teacher.

There are many other families that I should mention. Among Them was the Pearson family who lived on Nichol Avenue just below the old Topping house on Scenic Avenue. I recall the daughter, Mayron, who was a good friend of my sister. She became a nurse and for many years was an excellent nurse at the Richmond Hospital.. The Fisher family lived on Tunnel Avenue just above Richmond Avenue. Mr. Fisher was a welding boss at the SOCO and I worked under him one summer as a

welders helper. The Fishers had 4 children, two boys and two girls. The older boy, Bill, started grammar school with me and we were together thru grammar school and high school. They were a fine family and some of them still reside in the Richmond Area.

Another rather odd memory has just occurred to me. When I was a small child, about the time I started to school they were constructing the roadway tunnel parallel to the Santa Fe tunnel. At one time during this excavation there was a great explosion and a great piece of sheet metal was blown into the air to a sufficient height that it wailed down and was embedded in the north face of Nichol Nob about 200 yards above my family home. It was a large sheet of very heavy metal 5 or 6 feet across and about ½ inch thick. It was much deformed from the explosion and one edge buried a foot or more into the ground.

I do not know the mechanism of this explosion. It had to have been outside of the tunnel and possibly occurred where excavation was being made along the base of the hill to make the roadway now know as Dornan Drive. It certainly was more than the usual blast to have thrown that huge piece of metal for that distance. I recall no other damage from the blast. There was a old semi-subterranean powder storage facility dug in the hillside but I



don't recall that this had exploded. I recall no injuries or other damage associated with the incident.

The metal sheet remained in place on the hillside for many months possibly a year or more. I remember climbing up the hill past it several times. Later it was removed by someone possibly for scrap metal.

I am sorry that there were many people that I recall but cannot remember their names I have consulted with my brother on this. Also I know rather little about the families living north of Washington Avenue. There was little means of travel in those days. At first there were no automobiles and people had to visit my walking

consequently they know people in their own region. My memory of others comes mostly from meeting schoolmates and business people

People in those days were solid, hardworking citizens. They had to earn their own way and prepare for their own retirement. There was so social security and pensions were rare. The SOCo had one of the earliest pension systems for employees of long duration so people stayed on the job. Also few local people had been educated past the 6<sup>th</sup> grade but many continued their education on their own. There were few that I do not recall with respect. They have left a solid and splendid heritage.



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***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>.***

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*Charlie Neidecker's drug store on Washington Ave. in 1912 (0164-DC from Don Church Collection).*



# Richmond Plunge Update

*From Ellie Strauss*

The Richmond Plunge, closed since 2001, is poised to take a significant step in November 2007. Plans for the building and the pool are near completion and going out to bid.

In the 10 years since we have started this massive undertaking we have met many obstacles and delays and have managed to overcome them.

The Save the Richmond Plunge Trust (STRPT) has helped the City of Richmond to secure over \$4.5 millions dollars in funding for the renovation and retrofit of the venerable old Natatorium. With a goal of \$6 million we still have funds to find but feel strongly that when the project is started much interest will be generated by both funders and the larger community of West County. Seed money to start the project rolling was funded by the many donations from the citizens of Richmond. Funds have been garnered from State of California, Historic Preservation grants, recreational facility grants, private and corporate entities and the City of Richmond.

The STRPT has been instrumental in developing and monitoring the progress of the project. Working in a unique partnership with the City of Richmond has enabled the STRPT group to help the City move forward with the common goal of restoring this much loved and needed recreational and therapeutic facility.

A dynamic team of architects, engineers, project managers and fund developers is making

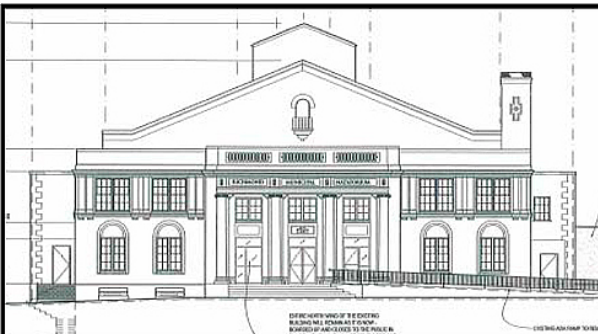


the dream of saving the pool a reality. The requirements of the historic integrity of the shell and the pool have been met and the site will look much as it did when in opened in 1926.

While the Plunge will look essentially the same it will be totally updated to meet all current health and safety codes and include all ADA requirements. The monitor on the roof will be restored allowing for better air circulation and venting.

The current plan is to start work on the shell (building) and the pool once the bids are in and the contract let. Working on the pool will enable the contractors to work in inclement weather which means winter weather will not be a major deterrent. The bidding process is due to begin in November of 2007. Barring any unforeseen events the actual work could begin in January-February 2008.

The renovation will take place in two phases unless the last funding is secured. If all the dollars are in place the entire project will take place at one time. If the project has to be done in two (2) phases, then phase one (1) will include the shell and the pool and the mechanical components.. Phase two (2) will include the new dressing areas, bathrooms, showers, and updated offices and staff rooms (the north wing). Visit our **website** **RichmondPlunge.org** to donate or for additional information on our progress and future fundraisers.



## *Things to do in Point Richmond*

### ***Take a Hike on the Bay Trail***

Mon., Dec. 17, 11 am to 1:30 pm: Miller/Knox Two-and-a-Quarter Mile. On a short but strenuous hike, we'll go from shoreline to ridgeline. Enjoy 360 degree views from Nicholl Knob and learn its history. Bring lunch, layers, and hiking poles. EBRPD Ranger Meg Platt  
For information, call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757), option 3, x4564.

### ***Annual Holiday Tree Lighting in the Point***

Saturday- November 24th  
5:30 - 7:00at the Indian Statue  
Tree lighting at 6:00 p.m.  
Santa, Music, Carol Singing, Fun for Kids!

### ***Visit the Model Railroad Museum***

To celebrate the holidays the Golden State Model Railroad Museum will be open with trains running on both Saturdays and Sundays during the usual hours of noon to 5 pm. Admission will be charged for these special holiday shows on both days of the week. They have also been informed that from

December 15 through the weekend before Christmas Day, jolly Santa Claus will be present to entertain the young ones.

### ***Fantastic Free for all Fridays! At the Point Richmond Community Center***

10:00: Chat, Jokes & Free Coffee  
10:30: Stretch & Get Moving, Storytelling w/  
Roberta Koski

Noon: Brown Bag Lunch Discussion  
1:00pm: General Topics

November Fridays:

9th George Coles "Indigenous Peoples of Point Richmond"  
16th "Excellent Environmental Stewardship" with Lana Skeptic  
23rd Sally Clark "Seasonal Floral Wonders/Fun with Flowers"  
30th "Will Work for Food or Money" author Bruce Moody  
And it is all FREE!!!

## EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Jerome Vloeberghs - 91
- Madeline Bellando Albright
- Teresa Meneghelli

Mark Gebhart 93  
Anna Schwarz 95  
Jim Patrick Kenny 94  
Bena Bowles 93  
Lee Christian  
Alice Helseth 97  
Jean Moyle Spiersch 95

Rena Cairo Gonsalves 98  
Dulcie Johnson 95  
Lupe Padilla Lopez 92  
Louise Hammond 94  
Laura Kurtz 95  
Anita Brougham 94  
Goldie Mobley 95  
Oretta Eaton 92  
Otto Barni 93  
Maxine Stoddard 93  
Reva Ward 94  
Steve Wyrick 92  
Bernard Dietz 93  
Gordon Miller 99

Avis Blanchette 93  
Rose Grosso 92  
Ruth Mallette 95  
Thelma Mae Harvey 93  
Eunice Ruth Hursh 91  
Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger

### **100 Year Club**

Ruth Wood Mullen 101 on  
January 8

*Remember that Age is not  
a number, it's an attitude.*

# DEATHS.....

**Thomas Claude Carson**, on September 17, 2007 at his home in the Point. Tom received the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award in 2005 for his work as a volunteer for the West Contra Costa Unified School District. He was a key contributor to and president of the Washington School Many Hands Project and founded and owned a business involved in smart homes and security cameras. Tom was a dedicated and enthusiastic contributor to the Point community. A community memorial was held to celebrate Tom's life on Sunday, October 7th at the Richmond Yacht Club.

**Ronald 'Rosy' Roselius** passed away in Port Orford, Oregon. After graduating in Chemical Engineering with honors from University of Texas, he married his Minnesota sweetheart, Donna Boie. They moved to Point Richmond where he was employed by Chevron, working in Research and Development and later in San Francisco as an advisor in econometrics for the Secretary of Chevron. He had two daughters, Roni (who preceded him in death) and Jodi. After thirty years, he took an early retirement, moving to Port Orford, Oregon in 1988 as his journeys led him here to be the ideal place to live. Many Point friends visited the Roselius remembering the Whale Cove Restaurant. Rosy became interested in glass fusing and made art glass into earrings and pendants. Rosy is survived by his wife, Donna, (founder of the Point Richmond History Association), daughter, Jodi Bagley, Grandchildren Eric and Kyli Turner and Alissa and Jillian Bagley; brothers Roland and Donald Roselius. A small informal service to commemorate the life of Rosy Roselius was held at the Roselius home, 40 Highway 101 South, Port Orford, on Sunday, November 11, from 2 to 5 p.m. Friends shared the afternoon. Geneva and Lachlan Miller and Crystal Landucci provided music. Curtis Hempt was host for the afternoon, which was patterned after the Open Houses that had been conducted by the Roselius's for many years. Anyone wishing to add to the Dahlia and Heather plantings in Rosy's memory may do so through gift certificates from God's Green Earth Nursery in Port Orford. Further information may be obtained by calling Donna Roselius, at 541.332-4444.

**Jean C. Williams** passed away on October 16, 2007 at her home. Born in Richmond, on March 5, 1925, Jean was married to her husband, George, for 64 years. A graduate of Richmond High, she worked at Richmond Hospital and retired as Personnel Director of Brookside Hospital. She is survived by her husband, George, Son Gary Williams; daughter Deborah Lindner, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. No services were held.

**William F. Jenkins** passed away October 29, 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer. "Bill" was born in Forth Smith, Arkansas on March 2, 1940 and came to Point Richmond in 1942 as his father was employed in the Richmond shipyards. They lived in Esmerald Court and he attended Washington School and joined Boy Scout Troop 111. As an Explorer Scout he earned scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout award. In 1967 he married Ruth Davis at the historic Point Methodist Church. He continued

his education receiving a BA and MA from San Francisco State University after completing his Army service. They later moved to Napa. Bill is survived by his wife, Ruth, a son William, daughter, Ginger Auxier, 8 grand children and 5 great-grandchildren. Also, a brother, Carl Jenkins, of Tucson, AZ and Uncle Kendall Condry., Arkansas. Memorial services were held in Napa. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Firrst United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 625 Ranbdolph St., Napa, CA.

**Martha Baptie** died August 20, 2007 in Maryland. She was bon November 13, 1921 in Richmond. Graduating from Richmond Union High in 1939, Martha earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1943 from University of California. She worked for the City of Richmond Health Department and later as a microbiologist at Kaiser Hospital. She married the late Charles Jack Baptie and they had three daughters. Martha moved to various naval ports around the nation and world finding time to volunteer at a variety of civic organizations at each site. In 2005 Martha moved to Asbury, Maryland and continued to be active in volunteer activities. She is survived by daughters, Carol Kindsfather, Sandra Valdez and Lauri McCommon, one grandson, James Campbell; and her brother, John Papadakis. Services were h eld October 20, 2007 in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**Rose Marie Bozzo** died November 7, 2007. Rose “Ronie” was 92 and a lifelong resident of Point Richmond. A graduate of Richmond High school, she worked at several family businesses including the Liberty Market and the Food Bowl. Born to Mario and Elsie Grosso, she was predeceased by her husband Mario Bozzo. Rose passed on Italian family cooking ‘secrets’ to anyone interested. Her family extends their appreciation for the kindnesses shown to Rose throughout the years by her good friends and neighbors. Services were held November 14th at Wilson and Kratzer with a reception following at Hotel Mac. Rose is survived by Robert Conaty, John and Ann Conaty and children Allison, Joe, Katie & Tony; Mat and Karen Nethercut and children Megan and Will’ Johnny and Lalurie Ambroino an children Mike and Terry; and Frank Moglia.

**Rhoda Plymack** died on September 23, 2007 as the curtain came down on one of the Bay Area’s longest playing members of the Community Theater. She took her final how at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. The reviews of her life are still coming in, but early readings mention enduring friendships, unbridled honesty, theatrical vision and a lifetime of civil service. Long-playing members of her cast include son Ted Cohn, daughters Judy Kornbluth and Debbie Bardon, son-in-law Dan Bardon, and grandson James Fanning. Supporting players include her friends from the Masquers Playhouse, from Baywood Retirement Community, as well as many other friends and family who will miss her.





# *CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL*

Dear Mid,

The "Ellis" cousins, all met at the Point on the weekend of September 23 and had a great reunion at the Hotel Mac. It brought back great memories of living at the Point on Western Drive and the great gatherings

Jim Ellis

Dear Mid:

Gary Shows has been a tremendous support to our company in providing the historical images we've used to decorate our facility.

I's like to give the PRHA this modest check in recognition of Gary's efforts on our behalf.

Warm personal regards. Come visit soon!

Sincerely,  
Michael L. Gill  
Senior Manager, Operations  
Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Dear Pam,

Received the latest "Point in time". Thank you!

I don't know Donna Wilson, but would like to thank her for giving me a year's subscription to the above. How very nice of her. Would love to get her address so that I could write her a thank you note. Could you sent it to me?

Now I know that dues are \$15.00 a year, and I will take care of it from now on.

Charlotte Kermabon Bersinger  
San Rafael, CA

*This note is thanks enough, my mother Donna Wilson will read this, Thanks, Pam Wilson*



## *Your Point Richmond Community Center has Reopened!*

Use it or Lose it!

### **Sophisticated Women's Honor Society**

Monday & Wednesday  
10:30 am - 11:30 am

### **Baby & Me**

Monday & Wednesday  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

### **Adult Fitness (lunch hour fitness)**

Tuesday & Thursday  
12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

#### **After School Program**

Monday & Friday  
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### **Distinguished Gentlemen Honor Society**

Tuesday & Thursday  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Ages: 35 and up

Cost: \$10.00 per month

Register at City of Richmond-Recreation

Dept. Main Office

3230 MacDonald-2nd floor, Richmond

Or call:

510-233-6881 or 510-620-6788

# *BIRTHDAYS*

## *November*

LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Heinz Lankford  
Ann Greiner  
Paul Cort  
Jason McGill  
Lynn Rendler  
Betty Dornan  
Mary Ann Gaspard  
Shirley Butt  
Chris Bradshaw  
David T. McCarthy

Clare Doherty  
K. Patrick O'Higgins  
Jason D. Crowson  
Bob Larsen  
Dennis Dornan  
Kenny Paasch  
Lance Rotting  
Joe Savile  
Shane Thomas  
Liam Thompson  
Hal Marshall

Linda Feyder  
Nicole Vargo  
Spiro Cakos  
Bethany Reynolds  
Kathryn Pinkerton  
James Cheshareck, Sr.  
Aubyn Eakles  
James Cheshareck, Jr.  
Audrey Edwards  
Ida Giacomelli  
Bobbies Boziki

Linda Cheshareck  
Claudia LeGue  
Katrina MacDiarmid  
Albert Kollar  
Viola Kennedy  
David Dolberg  
Mohamed Warith  
Charlotte Birsinger

## *December*

Jean Allyn  
Seth Fenton  
Hazel Paasch  
Cris Creed  
Edna Hathaway  
Donald Smith  
Debbie Seaburg

Fred Frye  
Christine Hayes  
Marian Hawkins  
Jeff Corbin  
Mike Turner  
Lauren Nason  
Marilyn Darling

Linda Mertle  
Michael Cheshareck  
Eric Turner  
Teresa Meneghelli  
Richard Barnes  
Jean Eakle  
Christina Nagatani

Thomas Mercer-Hursh  
Jerry Feagley  
Ilana Dolberg  
Kayla Dolberg  
Bob Burdick

## *January*

Henry Allyn  
Donna Buhler  
Cindy Rosier  
Tom Brennan  
Sonja Darling  
Linda Marshal  
Bryan Smith  
Doug Greiner

Jeff Quist  
Ed Paasch  
Jan Burdick  
Jim Wilson  
Robert McIntosh  
Mary Highfill  
Lupe Morris  
Ann Bartram

John Cutler  
Diana Kaffan  
Marilu Fox  
Elaine Harris  
Kristina Hollbrook  
Louis Cunan  
Les Hathaway  
Richard Palfini

Sena Bowles  
Diana Mertle McHenry  
Brad Feagley  
Marian Sauer  
Sparta Chiozza  
Frank Kenny  
Les Hathaway

### **Ragtime Point Richmond**



Great Piano Rag performed and recorded in Point Richmond  
by George Peter Tingley

Like good ragtime piano music? Looking for a unique gift idea? Drop by our museum and listen to "Ragtime in Point Richmond". We have this CD for sale for only \$10. It contains classic ragtime music including Scott Joplin hits that are beautifully played by Point resident George Peter Tingley. Purchase of this CD benefits the PRHA.

# CALENDAR

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

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum will be open for holiday enjoyment. see page 23 for details 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 Field house). 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 February/March issue of TPIT is Friday January 18, 2008.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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

## **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

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

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

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

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

*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*

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

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

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

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

Type of membership (check one):

|                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single            | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+)      | 15.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History Preserver | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate Sponsor | 75.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History Maker     | 100.00  |

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.

### Main Contributors to this Issue:

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gary Shows                 | Editor                     |
| Mid Dornan                 | Various Articles           |
| Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D. | Design/Photos/<br>Printing |
| Don Church/Allan Smith     | Historic Photos            |
| Jerry Cerkowicz            | Proof/Information          |
| Pam Wilson                 | Membership Info            |
| Jean Reynolds              | Article                    |
| Dee Rosier                 | Article                    |
| William Thompson, M.D.     | Article                    |
| Theresa de Valence         | Article                    |
| Margaret Morkowski         | Articles                   |
| Norma Wallace              | Article                    |
| Donna Roselius             | Lang Drug Info             |
| Doug Edginton              | GSRM info                  |
| Ellie Strauss              | Article                    |

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  
**fax 510-965-0335**

or  
**email: gary@alkos.com**

"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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**Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Newsletter**  
**Bonnie Jo Cullison, Archives, Museum Manager**  
**Margaret Morkowski, Museum Staff Coordinator**  
**Elizabeth McDonald, Collating Coordinator**

### Phone Numbers

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Mid Dornan | 510-234-5334 |
| Gary Shows | 510-235-1336 |
| Fax        | 510-965-0335 |

Visit our website  
**PointRichmondHistory.org**

*Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site*

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



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