

# THIS POINT... in time

## NEWSLETTER

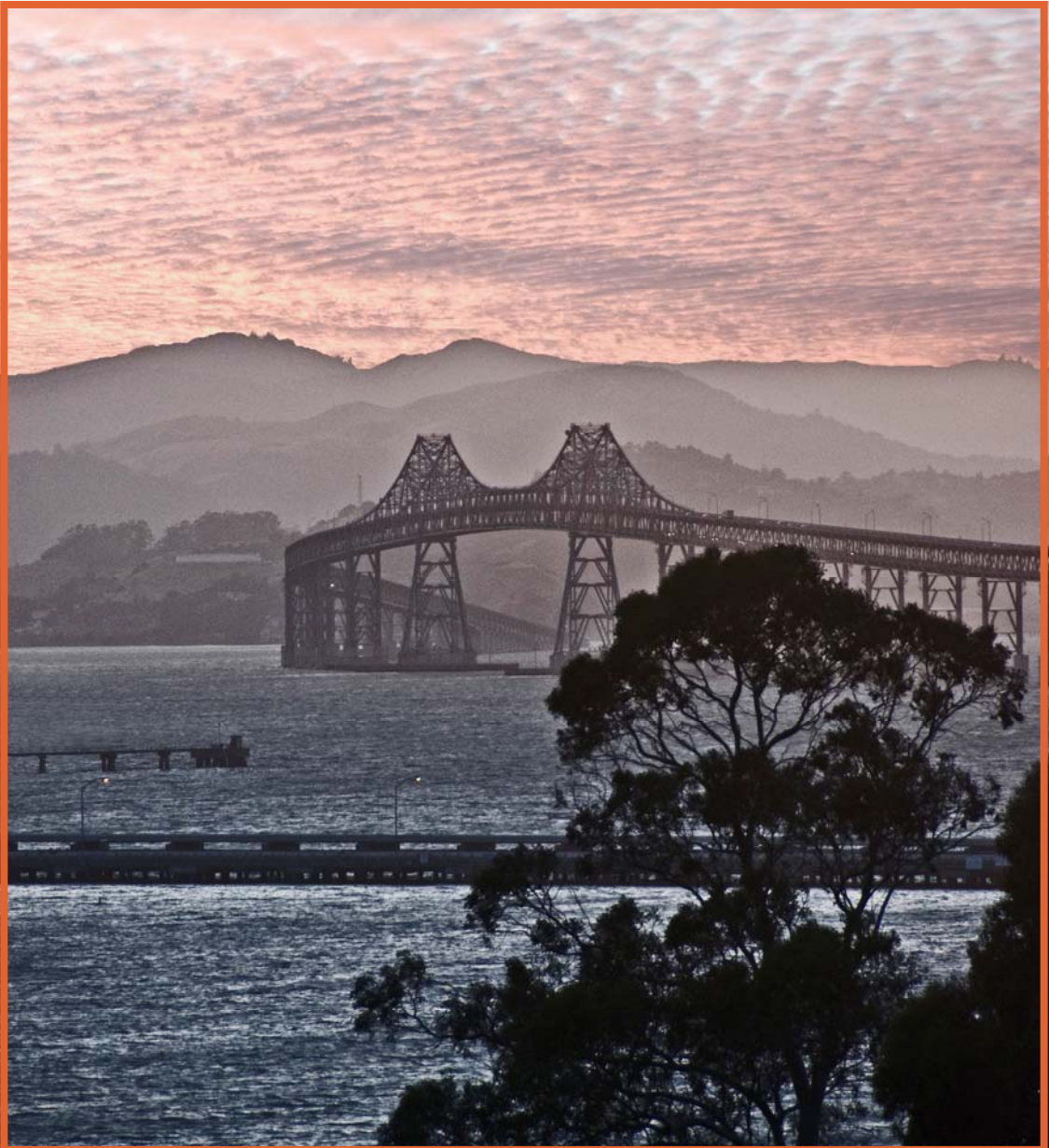
The Point Richmond History Association

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

Vol. XXVII No. 1

June/July/August, 2008

\$3.00



## **Point Richmond History Association Meeting, May 18, 2008 at the Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue.**

### **Historical Plaques Report**

The Frosini Plaque was dedicated in June of 2007, with a party and speeches. The Catholic Church Plaque was installed on Thanksgiving Day of 2007 and blessed by Father O'Rourke.

The Richmond Supply Company/Point Richmond History Association Plaque was not ready for this meeting. It should be finished this month.

A plaque in honor of the Wig Wags is in the design stage.

A plaque to honor the Trainmaster Building is also being designed.

The Historical Plaque Program is ongoing. Anyone interested in designing a plaque or having one designed for their building, please call Pat Pearson at 510-234-2532 for details of the program.

### **The Slate of Officers**

The slate of officers was presented and elected unanimously. The Officers are Mildred Dornan, President, Patricia Pearson 1st Vice President, Jerry Cerkowicz, 2nd Vice President, Tom Piazza, Secretary, Sonja Darling Treasurer, Mary Highfill Corresponding Secretary.

### **Board Members**

Pamela Wilson, Membership, Gary Shows, TPIT Editor, Bonnie Jo Cullison, Archives, Margaret Morkowski, Staff Coordinator, Thomas Mercer-Hursh, TPIT Photos and Design.

Mrs. Pearson announced that Donna Roselius, founder of the Point Richmond History Association, was honored with a trophy at the City of Richmond's Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on May 12th, at the Richmond Museum of History. Also honored from Point Richmond were the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation for restoration of the Santa Fe Reading Room and the designer of the Point Richmond Walking Tour Brochure.

The Point Richmond History Association presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Women's West Side Improvement Club in honor of its 100th Anniversary. The award was accepted by President Margaret Morkowski on behalf of the members, many of whom were present.

### **The Program "Growing Up in the Point"**

The Program, was titled "Growing Up in the Point. The panel consisted of Betty Dornan, Bruce Bartram, George (LeRoy) Williams and Mary Bianchini Highfill, moderator was Patricia Bill Pearson.

Please read Margaret Morkowski's report on the program on page 18 and log onto our website [www.pointrichmondhistory.com](http://www.pointrichmondhistory.com) to listen to an audio of the program.

The wonderful presentation was followed by refreshments and visiting time.

*Reported by Patricia Bill Pearson*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

At last, after twenty-seven years, Donna Roselius, founder of our Point Richmond History Association, has been recognized and honored. Richmond's Historic Preservations Advisory Committee presented awards to recipients on Monday, May 12th, at the Richmond Museum of History. The Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of preserving many areas of Richmond's rich history. Donna came down from Port Orford, Oregon, where she now resides, to accept the large glass R-Shaped award at the gala reception. Her first book, "THIS POINT...in time an historic view of Point Richmond", is in its second printing and available at our museum or by mail.

Also honored were the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and the Richmond City Council for preservation support. The National Park Service presented a special honor to Donna Graves for her work establishing the Rosie the Riveter Memorial and other areas of Richmond History.

The Point Richmond History Association is delighted to see action by this committee which was organized eight years ago when Rosemary Corbin was Mayor. Rosemary is a charter member of the PRHA.



*Little China dinner celebration of Donna Roselius' award. From left around the table, Gary Shows, Pat Pearson, Mid Dornan, Donna Roselius, Doug Corbin, Rosemary Corbin, Arlene Hartman, Barbara Coles, the empty chair of photographer George Coles and Jerry Cerknowicz.*

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*Thank you members for your renewal:*

**Bob Larsen**  
**Seth Fenton Family**  
**Margaret Morkowski\*\***  
**Pam Wilson**  
**Viola Kennedy**  
**John Papadakis**  
**Regina Cunan Girard**  
**Edward K. McGarvey\*\***  
**The Knee Family\*\***  
**Nellie C. Pasquini**  
**Lynne Erskine**  
**Werner & Jeanne Doellstedt Family**  
**Tony Peter Bernabich Family**  
**Herbert J. Hunn**  
**Reva Ward**  
**Myrna Wishart**  
**Mary Highfill**  
**Anita & Greg Brougham Family**  
**George Coles Family**  
**Ann Hathaway-Kissling**  
**Al & Helene Frosini**  
**Madeline Albright**  
**Muriel Clausen**  
**George L. Williams**  
**Jeff Lee & Janice Cook Family**  
**LaVerne Rentfro Woolman**  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist\*\***  
**Marc Bisio**  
**Linda Andrew-Marshall\*\***  
**Howard & Jan Arnold Family**

*And a warm welcome to these new members*

**Beverly Bartram**  
**Altha M. Humphrey**  
**\*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*

*And Thanks to the Volunteers who open  
and close our history museum on Thurs-  
day and Saturday:*

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



### **The Cover**

**“This is Where We Live”**

**Image of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge  
by Thomas Mercer-Hursh.**

## *EDITOR'S NOTES*

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

First glance tells you that the theme of this issue is the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Thanks to Thomas Mercer-Hursh for assembling and enhancing our historic bridge photos.

Once again I want to encourage you to share your old pictures of Point Richmond with us. We have built an impressive collection of historic Point photos. If you have pictures that you would like to share please call me or drop them by the museum. I will scan them, make them a permanent part of our growing collection and return the originals over to you. Not only will you share your photos but your name will be attached to your photos for posterity to see. You can see hundreds of them at our website [www.pointrichmondhistory.org](http://www.pointrichmondhistory.org). I hope to add more over the summer.

Thank you to Sonny Jackson for historic Point Richmond postcards and photos also to the family of Forrest J. Simoni for a collection of Mr. Simoni's items of interest while he was Assessor, Tax Collector and City Manager. I will have them ready for display soon.

Well, see you again in September, everyone have a great summer!

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is August 29, 2008.

The April/May issue newsletter assembly crew, thanks to you all:

Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Pat Pearson  
Bruce Bartram  
Ann Bartram  
Tom Piazza  
Marcelina Smith  
Margaret Morkowski

## *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  
John Helfrich  
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack  
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence  
John & Nancy Mengshol  
Donna Wilson  
Erica & Barry Goode  
Linda Andrew-Marshall  
Margaret Morkowski  
Pat Dornan  
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz



# A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: If you were to spell out numbers , how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

Answer: At the end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

Getting an early start on vacations, Pam Wilson, her mother, Donna Wilson, and friends cruised the Inland Passage of Alaska in May.

\*\*\*

Barbara Martin , proud grandmother, was seen checking out baby bargains at the Methodist Church Junktique Sale for Gwillyam and Michelle Martin's 16-month-old Cassens.

\*\*\*

Kilely Wynne, daughter of Terry Wynne, longtime resident of Point Richmond, was married to Samuel Efron on Sunday the 25th of May at the Claremont Resort in Berkeley, California. They were joined by 200 friends and family. Kiley attended Washington School, later graduating from College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland. Sam is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York. They will live in Jacksonville, Florida where they plan on opening their own restaurant and wine bar. The newlyweds honeymooned in Puerto Valarta, Mexico.

\*\*\*

The Hymn Society in the US & Canada Conference is being held this year in Berkeley, July 13 to July 17. Among the Hymn Festival Leaders are the gifted Hymn Writer Pastor Dan Damon and his also gifted wife, Eileen Johnson presenting "Way Out West: A Festival of California Hymn writers"

\*\*\*

An optimist is a person who expects that seeds will flower exactly as pictured in the catalog.

\*\*\*

The Point Richmond Neighborhood Council is a non-partisan, non-commercial organization that provides a place where ideas and information can be exchanged, problems studied and actions planned

with a goal for spirit of neighborliness.

Their recent membership was announced at 263 members. Do you attend their meetings the last Wednesday of each month at the Point Community Center?

\*\*\*

Emileigh Barnes, Junior at Iowa University, has won third place in the Spot News Writing competition of the National William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards Foundation. 108 accredited schools of undergraduate journalism are eligible to participate in the program. Emileigh has been selected to be Editor of the Daily Iowan newspaper in the coming year and is the daughter of Kathy Dornan Barnes and granddaughter of Mid.

\*\*\*

Wouldn't it be refreshing if TV and film writers discovered a house has more than a bedroom for a storyline?

\*\*\*

Are you one of the estimated 130 million people collecting the 50 State Quarters? This is the last year of release of the highly demanded quarters, the most successful coins collected in U.S. History. If you have saved plain old state coins as they come across in pocket change, "this collection has virtually little chance of ever increasing in value", according to official U.S. Red Book Guide to American Coins.

\*\*\*

College students Liam Thompson, Davis, and Michael and Aaron Marshall, Cal Poly, were home to add muscle to the popular Junktique fundraiser of their church on May 3rd.. The Marshall boys also had a birthday party later that same day.

\*\*\*

Members of the Methodist Church thank everyone who supported their annual Junktique Sale either by donations or purchases. Did you know one member baked 17 different pies for the luncheon?

\*\*\*

For those who care, a Great Falls, Montana, 4th

grader created a handy way to remember the eleven planets with this phrase: My Very Exciting Magic Carpet Just Sailed Under Nine Palace Elephants. (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Eris)

\*\*\*

Self-control: To have all the ailments the other person is describing and not mention it.

\*\*\*

Dody Perry, that amazing 90-year-old, is home again after more battles with broken bones!

\*\*\*

AAA notes that 93% of people in the United States fasten their seat belts!

\*\*\*

Neighborly Kindness. A woman talking with the apartment manager mentioned that the tenants in the apartment above her were noisy. "Most nights," she says, "they stomp around as if they're doing a tribal dance and it goes on until about midnight."

"I'll have a little talk with them," says the manager. "Oh, don't do that," replies the woman. "It doesn't keep me up. I'm usually up practicing my trumpet until that time anyway."

\*\*\*

Did you know that honey is the only food that doesn't spoil?

\*\*\*

When Clay Barnes received Bachelor degrees in Linguistics and Computer Science on May 17th from University of Arizona, his proud aunt and grandmother, Pat and Mid Dornan were there to congratulate him.

\*\*\*

TIP: IF your cell phone takes a spin in the wash cycle, remove the battery, and blow-dry all parts (on a cool setting). Then, dry them out some more by placing in a bowl of uncooked rice for three days.

\*\*\*

Have you tried the new convenient product, Batter Blaster? It is a pressurized can filled with batter with a nozzle similar to a whipped cream can. (It may be convenient but will never replace those great Boy Scout Buttermilk Pancakes)

\*\*\*

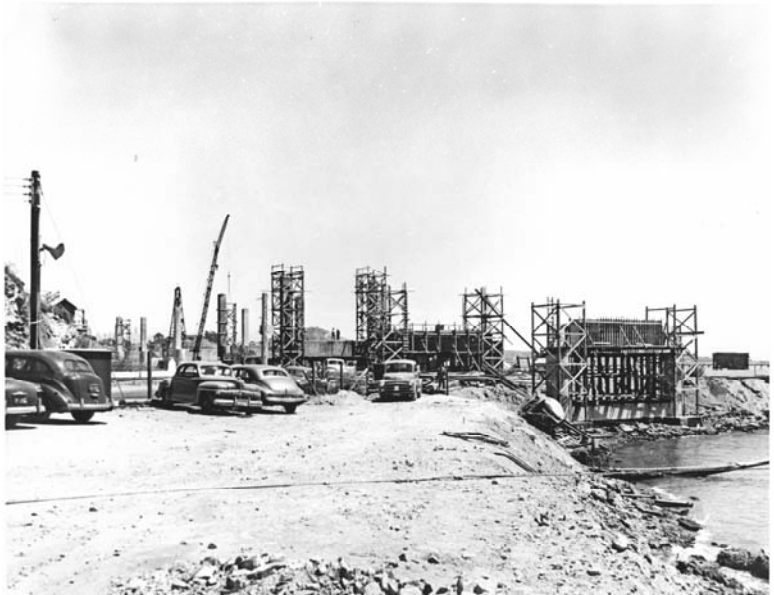
Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

\*\*\*

Answer: One thousand. (thanks to Linda Newton for question)

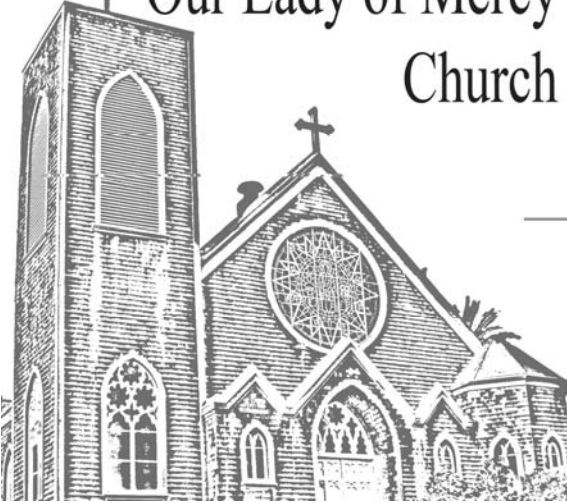
*Early phase of Bridge Construction.*

*PRHA Archive Photo #377-OO  
Enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*



# CHURCH NEWS

## † Our Lady of Mercy Church



By Dee Rosier  
510-232-1387

[drosier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drosier@sbcglobal.net)

We're going green! A local Federally-sponsored group, working with PG&E, has come up with a grant/proposal to provide us with energy-efficient light bulbs. Plans for the change are forthcoming. Also conserving energy, instead of using the dryer, Father now has a clothesline. When he arrived here five years ago, there were bars on the rectory windows and the gardens were overgrown. Through his efforts, the bars came down, and the garden cleaned up, allowing the roses to become the focal point.

All parishioners received an easy-to-understand copy of the parish financial report with the diocese receiving the more detailed copy. For those interested in viewing the diocese copy, it is posted in the church entryway.

Father found time for a little R&R in Hawaii. He has a trip to Sicily planned in the fall. He had considered driving to visit his Santa Barbara family, but the price of gas kept him here. He never ceases to amaze us with his culinary skills, which always

result in a parish potluck. Phone service at the rectory was recently out due to faulty wiring. It took several AT&T technicians to complete the repair.

Many parishioners and family members paid tribute to Diane Siegmund's retirement as church secretary. Diane was a very substantial part of the glue that held the parish together, to say nothing of making all the parts work. They went from keeping the books, to organizing the annual parish barbecues, decorating the church for the holidays and the rest of the year. She was instrumental in offering crucial information to Father, as a newcomer, and she showed him the way. Diane was presented with a weekend for two at Meadowood. We wish Diane the best as she puts on a new hat as caregiver for her grandchildren. Joining in Diane's retirement, husband, Fred has retired after 32 years with Chevron. Fred – you don't know what a tremendous time you are in for, except that time will pass more rapidly during retirement.

We welcome Patti Callahan, who will take over for Diane. Thanks are extended to Katherine and Michael Workman for staging Diane's event.

Our Lady of Mercy occupied a spot in Pt. Richmond's annual stroll. A special mass was offered on Mother's Day and three youngsters received their First Holy Communion.

It was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mother's Day, which was started by a woman who was not a mother. The Bishop has announced that the sacrament of Confirmation will be held at the new cathedral. Many adults have not been confirmed. If you are interested, please contact Father.

The heat wave we endured bent the altar candles into "J's" – could that be J for Jesus?

We welcome Tom Boone as a new acolyte. If you are interested in joining the "working for God" group, we are always looking for new members. Don't be shy – volunteer! Our support of the Souper Kitchen is also looking for additional volunteers.

Both of the Small Christian Communities continue to meet. The day group meets once a month



and the evening group meets on Wednesday evenings. All are invited to attend. It is a worthwhile learning experience.

The parish continues to host its pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month. For \$8 you get pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, fruit and beverage, as well as a raffle

A standing ovation for those who handle the kitchen detail.

Dody Perry fell and broke her leg, putting her in a care facility for a while. She is due to return home soon. The Workman family enjoyed an Alaskan cruise taken to celebrate Michael's retirement from Chevron.

Les Lawrence and his wife are house guests of Jim and Florence Wilson. Les is a former Pt. Richmond neighbor now residing in Oregon.

A basket for hotel/motel samples has been placed in the entryway to the church. They will be distributed to those in temporary residence in the Souper Kitchen facility.

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

Don't forget to vote on June 3 – see you at the polls.

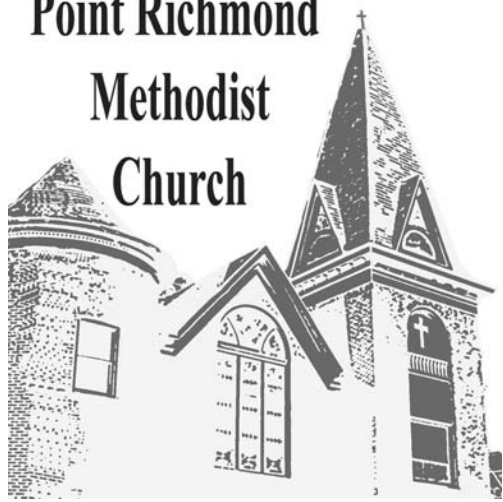
EACH DAY COMES BEARING ITS OWN GIFTS –

UNTIE THE RIBBONS

See you in church.



## Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Two fabulous concerts occurred in April: April 6 the **Kingston Players String Quartet** performed works by Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Byrd and Jenkins. Quartet members Sue Nelson, viola; Fran Tannenbaum Kaye, violin; Adelaide Tolberg, violin; and Tom Fattaruso, cello, rented the house, took advantage of the great acoustics, and gave us a treat. April 20, **Dancers Circle** presented "**Sole to Soul,**" by Genia Simpson, Artistic Director & Choreographer; Jacqueline Corl-Seidel, Assistant Choreographer. The Dancers Circle was founded in 1974 and presents workshops, concerts and worship services in sacred dance throughout the Bay Area. They dance to a variety of sacred music from various faith traditions, and project energy, light and love through their dance.

**Matthew Foster** was baptized and joyfully accepted into membership on April 27. Matthew has a Richmond-based moving business, Foster Van Lines, and lives in Rodeo. This summer he steps in to the office of church treasurer, long held by Helen Valentine. Helen will have a welcome rest from writing checks and worrying about the bottom line. Our next-to-newest member, **Jennifer Metz** shared

her faith story as part of the service on April 27. Jennifer is a PhD student of History at UC Davis and an accomplished cello player. We are a better congregation due to our enthusiastic new members!

The Junktique Sale on May 3 was a great success due to the efforts of more than thirty volunteers, many generous donors, and satisfied buyers. Delicious homemade lunch items were a big hit: late-comers missed out on JoAnn Bray's chili, Florence Wilson's minestrone soup, Mid Dornan's hotdogs, and Helen Valentine's pie by the slice. Betty Graham and Fran Smith chaired this year's event. Betty Graham, Bill Thompson, Diane Frye, Linda Andrew-Marshall and others worked in advance to make the event successful. Luckily, some of our college set returned to help: Aaron and Michael Marshall and Liam Thompson were welcome faces! The sales at Junktique and "Junktique II," the Masquers' Memorial Day yard sale, really help keep the doors open at our church. The Memorial Day sale will feature Boy Scout Recipe pancake breakfast from 8:00 until 10:30 or when the batter is gone.

If you missed Pastor Dan's concert of gospel songs, hymns and spirituals on May 18, a CD recording will be available soon titled ***Come Away to the Skies***. More than sixty people reveled in the sound of Dan's rendition of old hymns, many from the *Southern Harmony* early American hymnal. The audience breathed and swallowed quietly, so the quality of the recording should be superb. Many who attended requested a future event with a similar

selection of songs in a sing-along format, but all were pleased to have had a chance to really listen.

The church had a table at the **Point Richmond Stroll** on May 15. We gave away cookies, brownies, and fliers; had a poster for Pastor Dan's concert; and offered a drawing for free pies. Five bakers volunteered to give away pies to seven winners! Record heat the day of the stroll may have discouraged people from attending, but a gentle breeze and the welcome shade of the trees on the Triangle made the setting more comfortable than home.

Our board voted to endorse the **Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act**, written to ensure animals raised for meat in California are not treated cruelly. The Act will appear on the ballot in November 2008, and requires a "yes" vote to support it. Norma Wallace provided the impetus to sign us on as endorsers.

The mission committee, chaired by Helen Wysham, collected dry cereal for residents at the **GRIP Family Shelter** on Mothers' Day, and plans to recruit walkers and donors for the "**Harmony Walk to End Hunger and Homelessness**" scheduled for October 11. GRIP's goal is to collect \$100,000 from the walk.

Christine Silva-Netto adds a new dimension to the Angel Choir: she meets with them weekly to choreograph the songs they sing. Angel Choir members suggest ways to best convey the message of the music through movement, and a dance evolves. The result has been to better connect the choir and congregation to the spirit of the music. It is clear to see Christine and the Angel Choir are happy with the new format.

Diane Frye meets with six young women on Mondays at the church for a sewing class. Students have learned to use a sewing machine; select patterns, fabric and notions; and sew their own projects. They enjoy the time to learn and practice a new skill and the time together to chat. What a gift Diane has given to them!

**More landscaping improvements:** Patrick McMahon, artist of *Rocksolid Landscaping*, replaced the steps with a concrete ramp next to Friendship Hall and installed a flagstone and

decomposed granite surface in front of the parsonage. These improvements, coupled with the new courtyard, have really added a fresh look to the yard.

Summer Calendar 2008:

**Sunday mornings:**

9:00 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.: Service of music, prayer and meditation. Fragrance free, candle free, and sermon free.

10:00 a.m.: Adult Sunday School (Children's classes take a break in the summer). 11:00 a.m.: Service of worship with music, prayer, children's time, and sermon.

**June 8, classical pianist Peggy Salkind** performs at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception to dedicate the Ross Parmer Memorial Courtyard.

**June 15: Fathers' Day Jazz service, 11:00 a.m.** This service will be all music (no sermon, honest!) and features the Dan Damon quartet, both choirs, and several soloists.

**August 4-8: Vacation Bible School, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Kids ages three through sixth grade will enjoy the music, art, food, stories, games and activities of this popular summer event. Call Jean Reynolds, (510) 235-2988 to sign up or if you have questions.

Keep track of concerts and other late-breaking activities on the website: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist/>



## 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 72nd installment.

AUG 14, 1928

The Social League met in M.E. parlors. A luncheon was given to the Winning side from a recent contest before we closed league for vacation.

A short business meeting followed. The following new offices were elected.

Pres. Helen Burdick, 1st Vice Pres. Ida Mae Jones. Second Vice Pres. Mrs. Bess Hill. Sec. Mrs. Gerald Shaw. Tres. Mrs. Lulu Prince. Mrs. Schofield was made chairman of organ fund. Mesdames E. Jenkins and Robin will be hostesses for meeting Sept

Motion made seconded carried that all bills be paid.

\$1.05 - Mrs. Jones

1.80 - Veg. for luncheon

5.80 - Whitesides

10.00 - church

\$18.60 - expenses

Dues -Mrs. Griffin .60

Mrs. Ownes 1.20

Plate offering 2.00

\$3.80

\$29.68 - old balance

18.60 - exp

\$14.83 - new balance

Mrs. J.J. Meece, Sec

Audited Oct 2nd-found O.K.

Mrs. J.C.Hill

Mrs. C.B.Jones

# WWIC, EST. 1908

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

Womens Westside Improvement Club members enjoyed their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Fellowship Hall at the Methodist Church was colorfully decorated and lunch was graciously supported by our hostesses Peggy Fowler, Arpha MacIntyre and Alice Zeier.

Following lively banter at lunch, the President, Margaret Morkowski called the business meeting to order, welcoming members and guests to the group. There were no minutes to approve, so the membership proceeded to listen attentively to the very positive report from Treasurer Sonja Darling, who has methodically tracked WWIC expenses, separating the routine items from Centennial budget items. As an explanation of Centennial expenses, Margaret displayed items available for sale as fundraisers. They include WWIC Key Chains (\$5), Shopping Bags (\$8), and Teacups (\$15). Many members purchased their WWIC items immediately.

Under old business, Margaret provided a reminder announcement about our table at the Point Richmond Stroll on Thursday, May 15, and asked members to fill the sign-up slots for the event. Centennial Committee reports were received, updating us on activities related to Teacup/Souvenirs (see samples, and buy some!!), the Cookbook (recipes are being typed up), Tours & Shows (a May event for 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Washington Elementary featuring the history of The Point...and WWIC right along with it!).

At last, the hotly anticipated election of officers for the 2008-2009 year commenced. After some questions from members, a unanimous vote confirmed the nomination slate to much applause.

The regular acknowledgment of birthdays

proceeded, for May including: Norma Wallace (20th), Lauren Mcleod (21st), Linda Duste (25th), and Marge Miller (26th).

The next WWIC meeting is the much-anticipated "Hat Day" on Tuesday, June 10 (again, the crossover of polling location with our lunch location, and the key volunteers require pushback of the meeting from the regular first Tuesday schedule). Members either bring either a Pot Luck item (salad or dessert) and \$5 donation, or contribute a \$10 donation to this fundraising event.

Announcements included: Monday, May 12, the City of Richmond Historic Preservation Awards will feature Donna Roselius and the (saving of the) Trainmaster's Station, now home to The Mechanics Bank. Thursday, May 15, PRBA sponsors the Stroll! Be seen strolling, or ....there is no other option! Saturday, May 17, The Mechanics Bank celebrates the opening of its new branch with a Community Open House featuring a live Dixieland band and refreshments. (NB: For those who attended, the vast amounts of hot dogs, ice cream and other treats offered created a wonderful opportunity to sit on the beautiful lawn with neighbors or make new friends. Rumor as it at least one Neighborhood Watch group is forming as a result....)

And a very busy day in the Point, Sunday, May 18: Our Lady of Mercy hosts a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser from 9 – noon, followed by the Point Richmond History Association Annual Meeting at the Community Center 2-4pm, followed by Pastor Dan's solo piano concert at the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church at 5pm.

Have a great summer, stay safe and ... "see you, in September."

# MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN THE POINT

*Notes from the PRHA Annual Meeting Program, Sunday May 18, 2008*

*Text by Margaret Morkowski • Photos by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*



*Patricia (Bill) Pearson, Moderator*

*After our business meeting four speakers told of their early life in Point Richmond. Betty Dornan, Mary Bianchini Highfill, Bruce Bartram and LeRoy Williams were the speakers and Patricia Pearson was the moderator for the panel.*

*Their program was interesting and informative, I think all attendees were glad they had come.*

**Betty Dornan** and her family moved to the Point in 1932. Betty was already familiar with everything in the Point because her family often visited her grand-parents on her Mother's side, since they lived here in the Point. Betty and her family lived on Montana Avenue and then moved to 205 Cottage Avenue. Betty remembers the kids going over to the Santa Fe Railroad and sliding down the water slide. Then they would walk over to the beach and turn over the rocks looking for baby crabs and to see what they could find. Then the kids would walk through the tunnel to go swimming at the "Bath House" (the Plunge.) The Bath House was free for girls on Wednesdays for 2 hours and on Thursdays the boys got in free for 2 hours. When you paid to get in to the Bath House, you could stay from 2 pm until 10 pm. Besides swimming, you



*Betty Dornan, Panel  
(Continued on page 18)*





# OUT AND ABOUT TOWN

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

The May 15<sup>th</sup> **Point Richmond 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Stroll** was a great success. One of the highlights was the **Richmond Police Activities League (PAL)** fund raising event called "Get-Out-of-Jail." Fifteen "notorious citizens" of the city, including the Chief of Police, Chris Magnus and Marsha Tomassi, President of the Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) "dressed accordingly," went to jail and raised funds for the completion of the PAL Gym complex on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The entire crowd had lots of fun with bailing prisoners out of the **Jail, dancing to the six bands and visiting with folks from the 35 businesses and 25 non-profit organizations who participated.** Thanks to all who joined in the fun. See you next year. For info, please call Marsha Tomassi, President of the PRBA at 215-6133.



Next up in the Summer Fun is the **Point Richmond Summer Concert Series.** This year the committee will be hosting **5 Friday-Night Concerts** from **5:30 pm – 8:00 pm.** Each concert will highlight a different type of music. **June 13<sup>th</sup>** is Blues and Blues Rock, **July 11<sup>th</sup>** is Jazz Night, **August 8<sup>th</sup>** is Americana Night, **September 12<sup>th</sup>** is Blues Night and **September 26<sup>th</sup>** is Latin Night. Set aside some time before and after each concert to **visit the stores and restaurants in town.** Invite all your friends and come enjoy the music. Call Andrew Butt at 236-7435 for more info.



Also mark your calendars this summer for the **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council - National Night Out on August 5<sup>th</sup>** and the **PRBA's Indian Statue Day on September 20<sup>th</sup>.** As always, it's going to be a great summer in the Point.

As part of the **Womens Westside Improvement Club's (WWIC)** Centennial Celebration activities, Pat Pearson and Margaret Morkowski provided a walking tour of Historic Point Richmond to Mrs. Roosevelt's and Mrs. Goldwyn's Fourth Graders from **Washington School** on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Along with many historic events and sites, the children learned about some of the projects the WWIC have been involved with since it was established in July of 1908. The projects include the Indian Statue drinking fountain (1909), the Natatorium (Plunge) opening ceremonies (1925) and dedication of its flag pole (1937). Various other projects include a playground, now called the Janice Playlot (1909), the Street Directory (mid-1980s with its "restoration" coming soon,) the Reading Room now called the Westside Branch Library (1908) and the restoration and improvement of Indian Statue Rose Garden (2006 and currently.) But the **highlight of the day was the tour of old city jail at 145 Park Place.** Did you know that the old cells still have their **old clanging doors in place?** The doors are solid steel with bars covering a 10" by 14" opening so the guards could look into the cell. The old drunk tank is still in place too. You can't miss the old building. It has two massive arched doorways where the old horse drawn fire trucks stood in-the-ready. The front of the brick building reads "1910" and "RFD No.1." It was used as the city's firehouse, court room and police station from 1910 until the late-1940s and early 1950s. Today "The Art Lounge," an accountant and several lawyers call the "old jail and fire house" their home. Thanks to Richard and Connie Lompa for making the arrangements to tour their building.



This year **more than 80 children in Grades 1-6 at Washington School** finished the 5 assignments for the Many Hands - Spirit of Leadership Program. Their theme for the year was "Science" and many of the projects were used as entries for the District's Science Fair competition. The May 23<sup>rd</sup> **"theme**

**related study trip**” was a visit to the Lawrence Hall of Science. We climbed on the DNA molecules, visited the dinosaur bones and explored the “Forces-That-Shape-The- Bay Exhibit.” We had great time and came back tired but happy. For more information about Many Hands please call 234-4219.



**Point Richmond’s Historic Our Lady of Mercy Church** will be continuing their monthly **Pancake Breakfast** fund raisers during the summer. 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 9:00 am to Noon** on the third Sunday of the Month. Come and join us on **Sundays - June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>.** Call 232-1843 for info.



Don’t forget to call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library at 620-6567** and the **Point Richmond Community Center at 233-6881** for an update on what’s new.



*Arial photo of Point Richmond as the construction of the Bridge was just beginning*

*PRHA Archive Photo #0010-DC  
Enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

# ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

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



*Right, Early construction of  
Richmond-San Rafael Bridge*

*PRHA Archive Photo #0376-00*

*Aerial view of the new Richmond  
-San Rafael Bridge and  
surrounding area, 1957.*



*PRHA Archive Photo #0529-DC*





Panorama of Point  
Richmond before  
the Bridge

PRHA Archive  
Photo #0711-  
Bartram



*Workers building  
the bridge*

*PHRA Archive  
Photo #0378-OO*

# The Full Monty

## at the Masquers

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

Masquers Theatre cautions that there is nudity and explicit language in *The Full Monty*, directed by John Maio. You've been warned. So buy tickets.

Perhaps because the show opens with a handsome nearly naked man, or perhaps because the women's hooting wolf-whistles got my juices going, but I tended to focus on the acres of tantalizing male flesh, so I had trouble paying attention to the staging, the costumes, the storyline, et cetera.

Six unemployed steelworkers facing the daunting prospect of getting a job in a city with no jobs end up deciding to make some cash as male strippers. *Photo by Jerry Telfer.*



Jerry Lukowski (**Todd Carver**) is the ring-leader with best friend Dave as cohort. They are longtime friends, able to throw sharp (honest) remarks to each other, but are separated by the enormous difference in the people they have become. In real life, Jerry would be quite unlikable. He's unemployed, behind in child support payments, and doesn't seem to be looking for a job. He's full of bravado and has big plans, none of which work out. Truthfully, he's very confused about being unemployed and is secretly insecure. But in this story, he's one of the heroes. He loves his kid—in fact, his son is more important than just about anything.

Moreover, Jerry has a great arse.

Dave Bukatinsky (**Tucker Matthews**) is a good sidekick (nearly totally obedient despite his qualms), reminding me of friends from my Great Lakes area high school years. His rare assertions of his own opinions pop up in amusing ways. Dave has troubles of his own, though he's a good man—he's the only character who goes out of his way to help his wife manage the house. Dave starts out lukewarm and ends up an attractive character (inside and out).

Noah "Horse" Simmonds (**Wendell H. Wilson**) gave a stunning performance, funny and touching. Horse's body language was eloquent, especially when he began removing his clothes. You've heard about black men? There's even a song about black men and, under his clothes, this body builder gives promise of everything you could wish for.

**Kyle Johnson** as Malcolm MacGregor was both funnier and sadder than recent performances—showing Kyle's increasing dramatic range. Malcolm is a sheltered, unhappy fellow with no friends until he meets up with this like-minded gang of frustrated men bent on turning their lives around.

Ethan Girard (**Greg Milholland**) adds a little mania to the story as the resident loon (a rôle Greg looks like he particularly enjoys). While others express shyness, he is willing to take his clothes off anytime anywhere. Ethan is awkward, clumsy, and socially inept but eventually he does develop purpose in the play. Surprisingly, I found him most deliciously sexy standing in the rain fully dressed.

Harold Nichols (**Chaz. Simonds**) is a man cut from a different cloth—he's a white collar guy, with more education, and (once) with more money. He's the only man who finds humour in their predicament though he too hides his personal fears. As the other men's former supervisor, he's used to being in charge but he does a poor job at getting the men's chorus line together. And this is but one of his failures.

These six unemployed men are goaded on their way by the proximity of a professional stripper, the gorgeous Buddy "Keno" Walsh (**Casey Bair**). This model stripper gives a flash of what these boys can aspire to (when he isn't being sarcastic).



Nathan (**Lucas Haley Masch**) is Jerry Lukowski's ten year old son. Nath is sweet, sincere, loving and conflicted—quite a mature and exemplary performance!

Georgie Bukatinsky (**Sara Breindel**) is the fullest, most realized female character. She's a blue collar wife, getting a little racy on Girls Night Out. Georgie is pretty frustrated with her life—she's tried several remedies but nothing much helps—until her husband hands the solution to her in a thong, er, song.

Pam Lukowski (**Steph Peek**) is the ex-wife of our leading man. With long purposeful strides and elegant model-like poses, she takes command of the stage. Though incredibly gorgeous, she's brittle and chilly. In reality, we would probably agree with her position as Nath's mother, but she seems too hard. Eventually, though, she's every bit as supportive as the other wives.

Vicki Nichols (**Lisa Lindsley**) begins as a foolish bimchette enjoying her rôle as a Lady Who Lunches, offering a dazzling performance in the song Life With Harold. When tragedy later unfolds, she returns to earth and becomes a more tolerable person.

Estelle Genovese (**Patty Penrod**) is a coarse, in-your-face kinda girl. And she's bold—vamping all the men within sight. When I first caught sight of Estelle, I marvelled at the luck of the casting director in finding such a perfect person for the rôle, but I now realize Estelle is the pinnacle of theatre arts: the culmination of the actress's skill, her costumer and director.

Jeanette Burmeister (**Anna Albanese**) is my vote for Best Actress. She's a droll, crazy old dame with no compunction in reminding us of her past showbiz glories. Though she's a little tattered around the edges, we know that she still knows how to bring an audience (and a man) to its knees.

Chorus members, Susan Hershey (**Linda Woody-Wood**) and Joanie Lisb (**Marisa Barley** or **Sue Claire Jones**) are dressed with an extra soupçon of provocativeness for Girls Night Out. **George Doerr** plays Reg Willoughby & Tony Giordano. As Tony, the nightclub owner, he is flamboyant and foolish. A sight to behold! Teddy

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE  
PRESENTS

Adult Themes  
Nudity?  
Strong Language

# The Full MONTY

**Book by Terrence McNally**  
**Music by David Yazbek**

Directed by John Maio  
Music Direction by Pat King  
Choreography by Katie Kimball

**May 23-July 5**

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 \$20**  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00  
Sundays at 2:30 on June 1, 8, 22, 29  
Box office opens half hour before curtain.

**SPECIAL MASQUERS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE**  
Dinner at the Hotel Mac and The Full Monty  
Thursday, July 3  
Only \$45! Call 510/232-4031

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

Slaughter (**Bob Galagaran**) is the new boyfriend of Todd's ex-wife (and potential new custodian of Todd's son), a man we're destined to dislike. **John Wilson** flits across the stage in a flutter of minor persons: Gary, the Repo man, the minister and the Sergeant .

The main men start off on the sorry side of a family squabble: unemployed, depressed and struggling for their dignity. None of the men is supported by his family; the wives, mother and child want them to get a job. Each man must challenge his fears. Which he does. In amusing ways. Triumphantly. And for voyeuristic connoisseurs of male pulchritude, it's just the ticket!

*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.*

(Continued from page 11)

would up to the “second balcony” and watch the people swim. This period was during the depression and no one could imagine why people wanted to build homes out on Cypress Point... but they did. For fun, Betty’s brother would get cardboard boxes and use them to slide down the hills.

At the Firehouse/Jail on Park Place, the firemen had trained their dog to climb the fire ladder. And when the Police arrested someone, all-of-a-sudden the kids “appeared” just to watch the action. The barber gave the kids a nickel after they got their hair cut. There was one man who looked a lot like Santa Claus who stood in front of the grocery store. He had a curl in the middle of his forehead and people would take pictures of him.



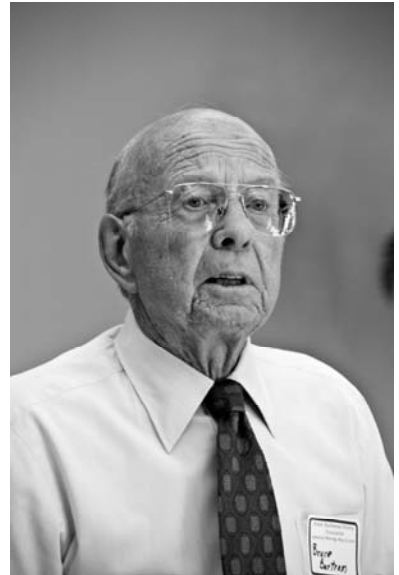
*Mary (Bianchini) Highfill, Panel*

**Mary Bianchini Highfill** and her family came to the Point in 1924. Her family had lived in Fort Bragg but they needed to move because of her brother’s ill health. The family lived in San Francisco, then moved to Crocket and then to the Point. Their first house was over where the Sewerage Plant is now. Richfield Oil owned the property and 1928 the family had to move, so they bought a house on Casey Avenue. It cost \$1,000. With the depression, her Dad was without a job and at the age of 13, it was the only time Mary ever say her Dad cry. It was hard on her. Her Dad looked hard for a job. For about a year, he would walk to Oakland everyday to see if he could find a work.

There were few homes in the Point, Mary said it was like a “play-land.” The kids could rent a boat from Bonno and go out

into the Bay. One time Mary’s Brother took a sheet, climbed up to Water Street to see if he could “fly.” Mary told her Mother “The only reason I’m here is to watch my Brother.” There weren’t many trees around the Point... they would planted later. Fall was wine-making time, so Mary and her family would go from house to house to help make the wine. Mary said... “I wouldn’t trade my childhood for anything they have today.”

**Bruce Bartram** said that in addition to the Plunge, there were 6 places to go swimming around the Point. They included the Brickyard area beach near where Ship Yard 3 and the Brickyard Cove Condos were later built. That was a great



*Bruce Bartram, Panel*



*The Guest Panel*

place if you had a bike. There was Keller Beach and then at low-tide you could walk over to Kozy-Kove. Then there was “Cappy’s Beach” down by the Long Wharf. And about half-mile farther, near the Blake Brothers, was a great beach. Finally there was a beach at Shrimp Camp at Point Molate, near the site where the Whaling Station was later built. It smelled a lot at that beach.

Bruce said there were 3 Ferries while he was growing up. The Santa Fe Rail Road sent their rail cars to San Francisco on barges from Ferry Point. The Southern Pacific ran a passenger and car ferry from the foot of Garrard (now Dornan Drive) to San Francisco that operated until the Bay Bridge was built. Then there was the

Richmond/San Rafael Auto and Passenger Ferry that kids could sneak onto and ride back and forth all day long for free. That Ferry closed down in 1956.

All the kids used to roller-skate up and down the streets. And Bruce met a lot of people since he delivered the “Post Inquirer” newspaper. He delivered the paper to the spacious hospital on Standard Avenue where a nurse was in residence and a Doctor was on call. There was a horse stable across the street from the hospital. Bruce also mentioned that the Chinese fishermen spread out their shrimp dry on the flats near Cutting Avenue.

**George LeRoy Williams** moved to the Point in 1923 when he was a year old. He and his family lived on Washington Ave. and then move over to the “Mud Flats” by Garrard and Cutting Avenues. From there they moved to the old Lee house on Montana Avenue where LeRoy remembers killing sparrows with a bee-bee gun.

LeRoy remembers the Principal at Washington School was Mr. Peterson and that the boys would play baseball, football and basketball after school. During the summer they would do all kinds of things with the Parks and Recreation Department. LeRoy’s best friends were Bob Dornan, Ross and Kenny. One of the boys was hit by a car while sliding down the Washington Avenue Hill and his head landed six inches from the fire hydrant. Dr. Lucas said how lucky the boy was not to hit his head. After a while LeRoy and his family moved to El Cerrito and that whole summer he peddled his bike back to the Point to play with his friends. LeRoy said that the Point was a great place to raise kids. Even after all of these years he still likes to come back and visit old friends.



*George LeRoy Williams, Panel*

# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *Memories of the Second World War in the Richmond Area*



*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 Three**

Nursing service was poor, not because of incompetence but because of a shortage of nurses. Those working did heroic work. The government was partly responsible for this. All salaries were set by government orders and the lowest salary scale of all were nurses. The cleaning women in the hospitals got more. The reason for this was to try and force them into the service. Women were not drafted so they could not force them in. The low salary method did not work. They usually left the hospital and went to work in the shipyards at more than twice the pay, usually for less work. One nurse employed in our office for 150 dollars a month, the allowed wage, quit and went to the shipyards for 450 dollars a month. All she had to do there was to walk around wearing a metal hat and look for unsafe things.

During the war most of us had to do work usually done by specialists such as neuron-surgery and orthopedics. More specialists than general men were taken into the army. At the Richmond Hospital we had only one nurse anesthetist so we had to do much of our surgery under local or spinal anesthesia. Even so the anesthetist was badly overworked being on call for all emergencies day and night. At times a few of us would get together and give anesthesia for a day so she could get a day off.

Laboratory technicians were also in short supply. My future wife was a technician at the Richmond Hospital and at one time for several weeks she was the only technician in the lab. In addition to heavy day load of lab work she had to do all night and week and emergency work. It was quite a strain.

Black outs made some trouble especially for maternity cases. During a black out one could not drive to the hospital when called. Often if a woman was in labor at night we would stay at the hospital. Dr. Boomer lived only a few blocks from the hospital and solved the problem by walking over. He would come when needed for any doctor on the staff that was unable to come. Fortunately blackouts were few and not of long duration. On one occasion I was caught in a black out only a few blocks from my office. I turned out my lights and crept along to the office. There I could enter an X-ray dark room where I could turn on the lights. I read until the "all clear" sounded.

Maternity work was heavy at Richmond Hospital. We were delivering 150 to 200 cases a month. Hospital stay had to be correspondingly short. There was only one delivery room and one minor surgery which could be used so deliveries often had to be completed in labor rooms or other rooms. I recall delivering a baby on a cot in the hall



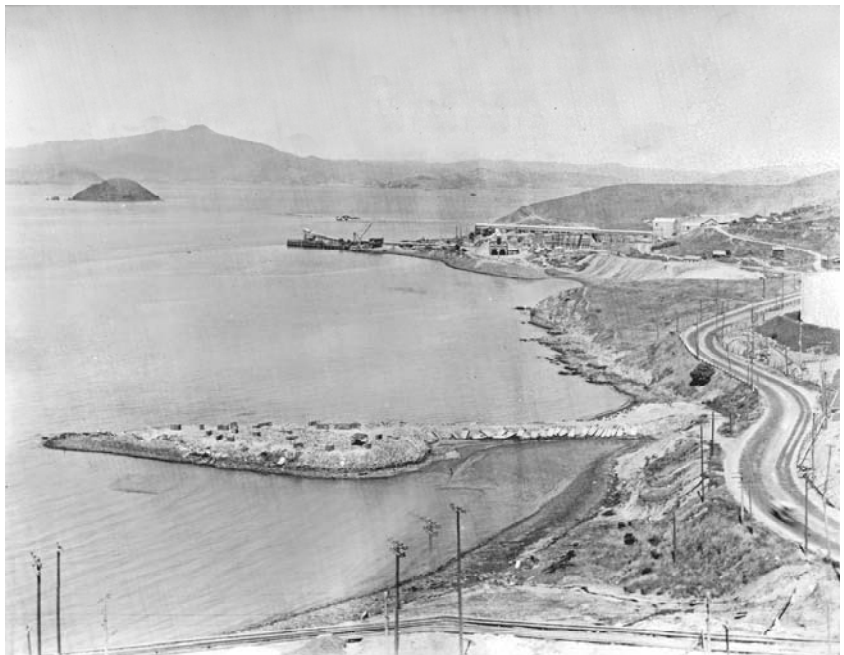
before the elevator during visiting hours with only some screens around. However we had few complications.

Traffic at peak hours was terrible especially at times of shift changes at the shipyards and in spite of gas rationing. When I was living in Point Richmond I was called one morning for a delivery at Albany Hospital right at the time of the morning shift change. Going out Cutting Blvd. I met the traffic head on and was stalled in what is now called a gridlock. It took me over an hour to get to the Albany Hospital and by the time the baby had long been born. Fortunately Dr. McNerny had been there and took care of the delivery. We often had to take one another's work when one of us was tied up.

I recall another stupid traffic snarl in Point Richmond during the late afternoon shift change at the Standard Oil Company. A Santa Fe freight train was switching back and forth completely obstructing traffic on both Standard and Richmond Avenues. There were two lanes in each direction all of which were obstructed. This would have been no problem except that impatient drivers from both directions pulled into the opposite lanes. When the crossing was eventually cleared there were 4 lanes of traffic each head on with lanes from the opposite direction. It took an hour or more to straighten out the tangle. The 4 to 12 shift at the Standard Oil Company must have been in deep trouble that day.

*Don Church, "The shoreline north of the SOCo. wharf when Blake Brothers Quarry was at his peak. Note the lack of homes on the Marin Hills."*

PRHA Archive Photo #0648-DC



Point Richmond was less affected by the crowding than was the Cutting Blvd. area. In the Point there was little room for efficient government housing except for Esmeralda Village and the canal area. The canal apartments were built in the triangle between Cutting Blvd. and Garrard Blvd. I noted on several occasions during black outs that these apartments remained brilliantly lighted.

Unbeknown to many people the army had lookout stations and antiaircraft batteries on the ridge south of Nichol Nob. Evidences of these structures can still be seen. There were underground dugouts and concrete gun emplacements. The present road to the top of this ridge from East Richmond Avenue was made at that time to make and serve these emplacements. These evidently were to protect the shipyards should need arrive. Some similar facilities were also located in the Berkeley Hills. After the war these were all destroyed but traces still remain.

The inner harbor was a busy place during the ship building years. About one ship a day was being launched. These were constructed in parts in



# Evan Griffins' 1938 Memoirs

*Thanks to Bruce Beyaert for getting this to us and to Suzanne Loosen for recommending it.*

*Mr. Griffins' memoirs go beyond the scope of Point Richmond and much is before the Point was populated but it is nevertheless an interesting account of the history of our region. We will publish it in several parts.*

The adjoining property was owned by my father Owen Griffins. He sold one-half to Chas. Mayborn who later sold it to C.L. Watrous, who married my sister, Betsy. This section is known as the Griffins-Watrous tract. The next placed was purchased by L.D. Reynolds who later sold it to John R. Nystrom who married my sister, Mary. The Nystrom holdings were among the first subdivisions of the San Pablo Rancho. The above three parcels of land was the first Tewksbury sale conveyed to W. Fleming by a specified bargain and sale meets and bounds deed which guaranteed to the purchaser that described land at the specified area.

The Nicholl Ranch was divided into two parts by Macdonald Avenue, the northern portion extending from Macdonald Avenue to a point just north of Ohio Street and from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> Streets, in which Metropolitan square, the Nicholl home reservation and Nicholl Park are located. The northern section south to Grant west to 30<sup>th</sup>, then south to Macdonald Avenue. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was the west line of both sections. This tract is now the Nicholl Macdonald tract. 30<sup>th</sup> Street was a road leading from Macdonald Avenue to Grant, branching at 34<sup>th</sup> and Grant, one of which continued into the Boyd Ranch, the other going 34<sup>th</sup> and after various turns finally connected with San Pablo Avenue at the old San Pablo School site.

East of 30<sup>th</sup> Street between Macdonald Avenue and Grant Street, extending east to include Mira Vista was the John Davis Ranch. The Mira Vista section was considered worthless, used only for pasture.

There was a four hundred acre tract between the Wood and Seaver holding and the Stege ranch facing on the present site of Macdonald Avenue and extending to the bay in possession of John

Nicholl, but claimed by Dr. Tewksbury, know as the Morgan Ranch. The house was on Potrero Avenue near the Southern Pacific tracks and was kept tenanted by Nicholl. This resulted in a long and famous lawsuit which was concluded by Tewksbury winning the case. The south eastern part of the Stege Ranch was sold in 1868 or 1869 to H.H. Rockfellow. It was acquired by George W. Haight in 1886, who was an attorney at law in San Francisco. He was also a nephew of ex-Governor Haight, who served in the early days of California statehood.

The town of Gallagher derived its name from the Right Reverend Father Galagher; a very influential priest in San Francisco who owned the property on the north side of Fairmont Avenue facing San Pablo Avenue and extended eastward to include part of what is now Sunset View Cemetery. On this ranch, his sister, Mrs. McAvoy, raised here large family. The house still stands to the left of Fairmont Avenue near the cemetery lines.

Rancho San Pablo at the county line was the home of Victor Castro in my day. He was the brother of Mrs. Juan B. Alvarado.

The property north of Fink Lane was owned by John and William Galvin, Captain James Gill and Meyew. Mrs. Gill was Meyhew's daughter.

The land north of Mira Vista to the San Pablo Dam road was all in possession of Tewksbury. My readers may think from the frequent mention of the name Tewksbury that he was the largest owner in the San Pablo Rancho. This, however, was not the case. He acquired the Joaquin Y. Castro interest which, according to deed of partition, was one-eighth of the said rancho. In the final settlement this one-eighth was reduced to one-twenty-seconds.

What is not the Richmond Farm Creamery or the Skow place was owned by Colonel May whose

house was far above the present Skow dairy house. The road leading to it is still in evidence. I was brought up in the belief that he was a Colonel in the confederate army, consequently a southern sympathizer, hence the isolation.

Across the San Pablo Creek from the Tewksbury holding, were the homes of Weber, Wolf, Franks and Herman, now the J.J. Jerome intended amusement park site. On the left had of San Pablo Avenue, going toward Pinole were the Quaylis, Machado, White Rumrill, Reposa, Goodale and Herny Benson ranches. The most important of all these places was the Rumrill home, as it was there; people were in the habit of going, seeking Mr. Rumrill's advice and to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of himself and his admirable wife. I recall many happy visits as a young man with his congenial family.

The Andrade tract was owned by men whom I know as Manuel Garcia, Antonio P. Silva and Manuel Aguair. The section north of the Barrett home place was owned by McGon, Porero and Lucas. John Perez bought the Porero property. Mrs. Lucas was a daughter of Porero. Most of these holdings are now in the Turpin addition. North Richmond was known as the Charles Shimmons place. Another holding in this locality was the Guitierrez Ranch. (I cannot vouch for the spelling of this name.)

The Moeker tract on the south side of town was originally owned by Tewksbury, as also the property on which the Santa Fe shops now stand. The city of Richmond tract west of 10<sup>th</sup> Street was the George Barrett place. The home stood where the Elks Building is now. East of 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was occupied by Job Whipple, afterward purchased by Barrett. His house was at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Barrett.

Joseph Emeric was the possessor of the tract that bears his name. His house and gardens were another show place in the vicinity. He was a great

traveler and his gardens were filled with birds and animals of many species. The peacocks and deer created the most excitement. The Alvarado home is still in existence in the rear of the Bolding store, in the town of San Pablo. I have a very vivid memory of this estimable family. One of the sons, the late Honorable Judge Henry V. Alvarado was governor of California from 1832-1836. In connection with this family, I wish to express my appreciation and feeling for the late Judge. I regarded him during my early school days as a good, true and just friend, always ready to protect the younger scholars from the bullying of the older ones, who seemed to me to delight in seeing me become enraged and finally reduced to utter despair. My judgment was correct. Throughout his entire life he was in sympathy with the oppressed and a defender of right and just in his dealings with the world at large. He possessed the qualifications of which real judges are made. The word justice was not an unmeaning word to his lips, but the sentiment of his heart and the practice of his life.

Among other residents of San Pablo was T.J. Wright, who had a general merchandise store. Another, the Chevcsich family whose oldest girl, Anita is the widow of the late Judge H.V. Alvarado. Mrs. Masterson (nee Antonio) ran the San Pablo Hotel. Bouquot ran the blacksmith shop, as did A.F. Dyer, who for many years was justice of the peace. Lizzie Bouquot married the late E.M. Downer. There was an old building at the junction of the San Pablo dam road and San Pablo Avenue called the Borkshire house. The Protestant Church was about half way between the Wild Cat Creek and the Alvarado home in the rear of which was the Protestant cemetery. My father and four brothers were among the many interred there. This cemetery was abandoned in the early 90's. In 1905, the church on the present site was erected.



## *YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

- Held Annual Meeting - Elected officers
- Dedicating an historical plaque on our Museum which originally was the Richmond Supply Company
- Volunteers staffed the Museum for more than 110 days.
- Published 6 TPIT newsletters
- Began plaques on Historical Homes, 411 Contra Costa - Frosini Home, plaque by Patricia Bill Pearson.
- Received grant for new cabinet at Museum from Gateway Foundation
- Received gift from Women's Westside Improvement Club
- Represented at Point Business Association, Point Neighborhood Council
- Led historic walks in Point
- Updated website added about 100 new historic photos to our web album for all to view.
- Provided historical photos and added about 150 new ones to our collection.
- Researched numerous requests
- Provided speakers for meetings
- Answered e-mails/requests/information via internet-and land phones

Mid



## *MUSEUM VISITORS*

A thank you to Margaret Morkowski, museum staff coordinator, for seeing our small but informative museum is open every week all year. When reviewing the guest book at our History Museum, it is rewarding to see from where visitors come.

This past year visitors that signed our book were from: El Salvadore, Central America, from the states of Wisconsin, Ohio, North Carolina, Oregon, New York, Virginia and Washington D.C..

Mr. Rust brought 80 students from Ford Elementary School who stopped in on their nature walk. Fourth graders from Washington School stopped on their historic tour of the Point. Again, more of our Point residents continue to enjoy our museum and services. . Visitors from other parts of California: Albany, Alameda, Antioch, Berkeley, Burlingame, Concord, Daly City, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Lafayette, Mount Shasta, Morgan Hill, Oakland, Orinda, Pacific Grove, Pinole, Redding, Redwood City, San Francisco, Sausalito, San Jose, San Mateo, San Rafael, San Pabao, San Ramon, Tiberon, Vacaville, and Weed.

Mid

# DEATHS.....

**Lourn Phelps** former Police Chief in Richmond , died May 22, 2008 in Florence Oregon .. Lourn was born in Rio Linda, near Sacramento , in 1924. He attended Grant Union High School and after graduation, during WWII, he joined the U S Army Air Corp. He served in Italy as a tail gunner on B 17's. After the war he attended U C Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor and a Masters Degrees in Criminal Justice. He joined the Richmond Police Department and served with Pt. Richmonders Bob Woods, Faye Hawkins, Bill Williamson, Jack Mangan, and Bob Peckham.

While working his way up in the department, he and my late husband, Frank Pearson worked in Pt. Richmond in their off shift hours pouring many slabs of concrete at local homes. They had many stories to tell about their adventures in Pt. Richmond. The one story I remember was the incident of an overturned concrete truck at the Tedrick house. He was known and liked by many people in Pt. Richmond during the 1960's and early 70's.

Lourn was lavish in his praise of Lucretia Edwards, who served on the Police Personnel Board during Lourn's tenure as chief. He considered her a very fair person during some difficult times in Richmond . Lucretia told me she also had great respect for him. He had to retire as chief after he a suffered a major heart attack. He went on to teach at Delta College in Stockton , where he met his wife, Nancy. He retired from teaching and they moved to Florence Oregon in 1990. He is survived by his wife Nancy and daughter Destiny in Oregon and by his children Erick Brian Chris and Linda, and Nancy 's children Wade, Karen and Lance.

**Melba Farley**, 91, after a brief illness, passed away peacefully at her Ocean Avenue home in Point Richmond on May 25, 2008. Melba lived in Richmond for 70 years. She was an active member of the historic Point Methodist Church, a member of the Craft Group and Book Club. Melba was also a member of the Point Richmond History Association. Her beloved husband, Lloyd, preceded her in death. Melba is survived by a daughter, Judith Buhlis, of Point Richmond and a son Arthur Farley of Newport Beach CA. She also is survived by 3 grandchildren and her pride and joy, 2 great grandsons. Memorial services will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 2:00 pm. at the Point United Methodist Church followed by a reception at the Ocean Avenue home of her daughter, Judith.



# CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

## *Memories from Erica (Sweeting) Goode*

Dear Point Richmond People,

I really wanted to have come on Sunday (5/18 Annual Meeting) but Barry, my husband, is a judge, and was marrying our former pediatrician and his wife in Berkeley, I had to be there!

But I am in the stage of my life (winding down a 28 year career in medicine) where I am very interested in hearing other's stories about the Point. I would love to know if any old buddies are still around. I remember a lot (tendency from my father), who built our house and lived to 99½. After widowed, he lived with us in the Cypress Point Road home that he had built in 1941. He was such an early member of Kaiser that his number was 000000872!

We have long video recordings of his recollections of the Point and the Bay Area. He was in Architecture and UC Berkeley; graduated in 1930, when nobody was building anything. His first job; (the only one in his class who got a job at all) was doing store displays and dressing windows at Capwell's in San Francisco. He took the ferry, and remembered how lovely it smelled as he debarked, Maxwell House was roasting each morning and the aroma reached the Ferry Building in the wind. He was able to eat a one dish meal, with ample rice and tea for 19¢ in Chinatown. But because of the depression, he didn't marry my mother until 1939, and was able to build our house in 1941. The war necessitated some skimpy materials, even though Pear Harbor was yet to be bombed, the interior walls were plywood and yet the outside is heartwood redwood.

I attended Nystrom pre-school, surrounded by shipyard workers' kids, before kindergarten at Washington. I recall learning some racy words; having the art project ladies helping with watercolors on easels, having nap time, and the day that Roosevelt died, I heard the teachers discussing it, and I burst into tears, since I had, with my sister

Shari, been urged to be very quiet during his Fireside Chats on the radio. We both received stars on charts when we got through his whole speech without talking. I loved his voice, and I think the head teacher noticed my distress, because I recall her carrying me around until my mother came to get me.

Kids in the neighborhood when I was 4 or 5 were pretty limited; a boy named Garth lived across from Shaw Beach (Kozy Kove), as we called it. My closer buddies were Nicky and Steve Vaughan, and I spent a good amount of free time climbing our fence to visit with them and their mom, Adele. They had rabbits, chickens, wonderful songfests at night with various UC Berkeley friends. We did wonderful things in the yard, including clipping a long boxwood hedge into a train. Each of them did an end (locomotive and caboose), we kids did boxcars (not hard to mess up a boxcar).

Mostly the empty fields of grass, the trees, and the beaches were our playground. We helped with herring runs, managed not to fall off cliffs, and gradually several girls and boys emerged as playmates.

But I am so sorry not to have heard other stories, and to have a chance to ask if others have kept up with children I remember; Linda Moore, Sydney Miller, and others. One friend, Charlene Brown, from the 4th grad on, did move to Pasadena where I lived in high school (although she didn't arrive until well into the '60's, with her family). She and I were in contact through the early '90's, and I am afraid she may have died of viral cardiomyopathy, which had severely limited her last years. None of my recent cards or notes have come back, or been answered.

Please let me know when the next gathering will occur (I hope you will do this again). I will be there!

Thank you,  
Erica (Sweeting) Goode  
Point Richmond



# *BIRTHDAYS*

## *June*

Alissa Bagley  
Phyllis Downey  
William Shey  
Emeric H. Baxter  
Anita Brougham  
Andrew Butt  
Jean Eakle  
Joanne Lansing

Cathe Brazil  
Brian Rotting  
Stacey Spinola  
Gill Stanfield  
John H. Knox  
Alice Baxter  
Rosemary Giacomelli  
Daniel Buhler

Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.  
Dianne Primavera  
Suzanne Unser  
Aaron/Michael Marshall-twins  
Thomas Kenny  
Marcelina Smith  
Maurice Doherty  
Gerry Higuera

Judy Travis  
Lee Christioan  
Lillian Karl  
Luke Karl  
Steve Wyrick  
June Solosbal  
Phyllis Bogue

## *July*

Francis Smith  
Amy Rotting  
Mrs. Chas Baldwin  
Julius Matteucci  
Bea Read  
Mary L. Knox  
Diedre Cerkanowicz

Jean Creed  
Allen Anderson  
Madison Bradshaw  
Ed Squires  
Roger Elle  
Alice McMahon  
Betty Conception

Hilary Lord  
Clifford (Lou) MacMillan  
Loretta 'Mertle' Lease  
Madeline Bellando Albright  
Jean Reynolds  
Ann Bisio  
Regan Bradshaw

Jon Healy  
Golda Pettycord Howard  
Stella Anellini Giovannini  
Alyce Williamson  
Martha Bielawski  
Dixie L. Mello  
Frank Matteucci

## *August*

Donna Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Joe Darling  
Bernie Bisio  
Barbara Ward  
Connee Fisher  
Alice Thompson

Zoanna Kille  
Mary Knox  
Karla Peterson  
Alia Smyke  
Terrence Doherty  
Lisa Smith  
Kelly von York

Romilda Burress  
Bonnie Ritzenthaler Wilson  
Dean Beesley  
R. Clayton Barnes  
Tony Bernabich  
Thelma Hecker Harvey  
Michael Shaw

Roy Henry Gover  
Beatrice Beesley Casey  
Jerome Vloeberghs  
Jim Healy

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## *EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB*

*An impressive list that grows  
each month.*

Mark Gebhart - 94  
Madeline Bellando Albright - 91  
Anna Schwarz - 96  
Jim Patrick Kenny - 95  
Bena Bowles - 94-  
Lee Christian  
Shoney Gustafson - 92  
Alice Helseth - 98  
Jean Moyle Spiersch - 95  
Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 98  
Lupe Padilla Lopez - 93

Laura Kurtz - 95  
Anita Brougham - 94  
Goldie Mobley - 95  
Maxine Stoddard - 93  
Reva Ward - 95  
Steve Wyrick - 92  
Charlottte Kernabon  
Birsinger - 91  
Bernard Dietz - 93  
Avis Blanchette - 94  
Romilda Burris  
Ruth Mallette - 96  
Ann Hanzlik - 95

Eunice Ruth Hurst - 91  
Jerome Vloebergh - 91  
Dody Perry - welcome!  
Viola Lala Kennedy (90)  
**100 Year Club**

Ruth Wood Mullen - 101  
Gordon Miller - 100

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

# CALENDAR

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

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. Also special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for over 65 and under 12, maximum family admission \$9.00, call 510-234-4884 for details.

## **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.  
Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$45. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

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

Parents, Resources and More (PRAM) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization serving families with children ages 0-5 in the greater Richmond area. The group offers playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, and a community center for infant and preschool enrichment. For more information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734 or call Courtney Coolidge at 510-234-3445.

## **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 next issue of TPIT is Friday August 29, 2008. For more information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Robin Carpenter, President, 510-232-8175.

## **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](mailto: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:

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Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Information
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Dee Rosier	Article
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Theresa de Valence	Article
Margaret Morkowski	Articles
Pat Pearson	Articles
Evan Griffins	Article
Bruce Beyaert	Material
Norma Wallace	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:

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**229 Golden Gate Avenue**  
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or  
**fax 510-965-0335**

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**139 ½ Washington Avenue**  
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**Margaret Morkowski, Museum Staff Coordinator**  
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Visit our website  
**PointRichmondHistory.org**

*Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site*

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387  
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