# THIS POINT...in time

NEWSLETTER

# The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXXVIII No. 4

February/March, 2020

\$3.00



Mildred "Mid" Dornan

1921 - 2019

# Mid Dornan died at the age of 98.

She was born on a Nebraska farm and grew up in Norfolk, NE. Her father died when she was 6, Mid remained close to her sister and two brothers throughout their lives. After high school, she moved to Southern California and worked as a governess. She later returned to Norfolk, attended business school, and returned to Southern California in 1941 to work for the Army Air Forces as part of the war effort. She corresponded by letter to Robert (Bob) Dornan during WWII, married him in August 1946 and moved to the Point. Mid was an active volunteer in her community. She belonged to the YMCA Young Marrieds, leader for Camp Fire Girls & Brownies, West Side Improvement Club, Washington School PTA, and Boy Scouts. Her husband Bob was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 111 and for 30 years, Mid hosted adult scout leaders for Monday night coffee & dessert.

Mid was a charter member of the Point Richmond History Association, holding virtually all offices and most notable, wrote her "A-Mid Trivia," column starting in 1968 with "Point Counterpoint", followed by "This Point in Time." Her columns can be read online at pointrichmondhistory.org. She volunteered as a docent in the Point Richmond History Museum.

Mid was an active member of the First United Methodist Church for 74 years. She was honored as Sweetheart of the Year in 1999 and wrote "Point Faithful, A 100-year History of the First United Methodist Church in Point Richmond". She served as Sunday School teacher, Superintendent of Christian Education, Administrative Board Secretary, Administrative Board President, and United Methodist Women

Mid worked at UC Berkeley in the Radiology Department and later the Preschool Dept of the Richmond Unified School District. In retirement, she volunteered with elementary students and enjoyed extensive independent travel.

Mid is lovingly remembered by her daughters, Patricia Dornan, Kathleen Barnes, Roberta Palfini (Richard) and her grandchildren, Clay Barnes, Emileigh Barnes (Mike Kern), Molly Barnes, Rachel Palfini, Robert Palfini. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob(1981).

# From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

Welcome to 2020 everyone.

The PRHA Museum is stepping into the new year with style. Thanks to the skill and hard work of Manfred and our Museum Manager, Heinz Lankford, our Museum has a handsome, sturdy new roof. And the planter boxes in front are positively lush thanks to the green thumbs of Doreen Leighton. The bright splash of red in the window is the thriving poinsettia which is our annual gift from David Vincent. Thanks to all of you for keeping us dry and colorful!

We are pleased to welcome Karen Buchanan back to the ranks of our docents. Our Museum hours are still Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:30 to 2:00. Occasionally, you may see us open on a another weekday if Virginia Mooney can squeeze the extra day into her schedule.

On a personal note, I am feeling the loss of Mid who was my friend and mentor. She encouraged me to become a part of the PRHA many years ago as a docent and over the years nudged me (okay, maybe more than nudged!) to take on some projects that had either been on the back burner for awhile or that arose as a result of the widening sphere of the PRHA in the Richmond community and beyond. She was the captain (and rudder) of our history ship for a very long time. It will take many of us to keep the ship on course now. I do miss her.

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Mid continued doing her museum docent duties even after her 98th birthday.



## Thank you members for your renewal:

Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow\* John & Nellie Larson\* Jim & Nilda Gozzi-Reed\* Floria & Bob Jones\* Gloria Crim\* Kin & Nancy Comer-Reed\* Les Crim Tim & Roberta Montgomery\*\* Mitzi Kruse Kathy Dornan Barnes\*\* The Bartram Owens Family\*\* Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Perrett Family Patricia Jackson Kierce **Connie Tritt Richard Giordano Family** Joanne Pike\*\* Virginia W. Smith Ila Mav Dein Fran Smith David Janes\*\*

Welcome to new members:

Jeff Rubin Robert S. Mclean Tony Ramirez\* Janette Warner\* Richard Lompa\*\*

\*Gift Membership

\*\*Special Supporter, Thank You!

Thank you to Les Crim for his generous donation to the Point Richmond History Association.

Thank You!

# Santa Fe Market

For distributing

"THIS POINT.....in time"

Support our local retailers

Visit our little museum and view our 1000 picture slide show of historic Point Richmond photos.

Open Thursdays and Saturdays

And the first and second Tuesday of

each month

11:30 am-2:00 pm

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

Mid Dornan Linda Andrew-Marshall Heinz Lankford Gary Shows Lori Kauth Virginia Mooney Bonnie Jo Cullison Karen Buchanan

## The Cover:

Mildred "Mid" Dornan RIP

# Editor's Notes

## Gary Shows

## garyshows@gmail.com

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our former president Mid Dornan. Mid was involved with the founding of the PRHA and served many offices including that of president for 28 years. She faithfully e-mailed her column "A-Mid Trivia" to me and almost always on time. We are going to miss "A-Mid Trivia" and I would love for one of you writers out there to join us at TPIT and write an article to replace it. An article that reports on all of the current Point Richmond "goings on" with a splash of trivia here and there...

Thank you to all of those who sent me Mid Memories, especially the family. We are grateful to daughters Kathy, Roberta and Pat for allowing us to temporarily continue to use Mid's house for PRHA business. We sure do miss her when we are there though.

Hey Manfred and Heinz, the new roof on our little museum sure does look nice, good job. Thank you both!

The deadline for our next TPIT April/ May issue is Friday, March 20, 2020.

Thanks to those who helped fold, staple and address the last issue:

> Gary Shows Kathe Kiehn Pam Wilson Mary Crosby Tom Piazza Caitlin Hibma

# Thank You to Our Special Supporters!

# History Makers

Donna Wilson Rosemary Corbin Kathe Kiehn John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza Roberta & Richard Palfini Patricia Dornan Les Crim Norm and Jean Reynolds David B. Janes The Bartram-Owens Family **Burl Willes** Garry & Maryn Hurlbut Bob Armstrong Diane Hirano Steve Birnbaum Don & Carole Woodrow Ron Vandergrift Lynn Maack The Up & Under Bar and Grill

New Leaf Salon (Guadalupe Torres) Erica & Barry Goode Aaron Góode Ellen Pechman Mark J. Kornmann Victor J. Westman

# History Preservers

Rovce Ong Kevin, Renéé & Griffin Knee Maurice & Margaret Doherty Linda Newton Tom & Shirley Butt The David Dolberg Family Bernie McIntosh Don & Ingrid Lindemann Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza Normá Wallace Gloria & Mark Maltagliati Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth James J. Cheshareck Tony Lizarraga Bobbie Swérdfeger Lizarraga Linda Hudock Joanne Pike Jeanne Pritchard Joe Pritchard Jim & Olivia Jacobs Caitlin & Michael Hibma David N. McCuan Dee Rosier Alison Alderdice & Alexi Erenkov Elizabeth Kellas & George Tomberlin Jessie West Kathy Dornan Barnes

Tim & Roberta Montgomery Richard Lompa

# Vintage A-Mid Trivia

# Taken From 1970's Point Counterpoint by Mid Dornan

May Day - - a day for the delivering of little May Baskets filled with popcorn, tiny bits of corn candies and decorated with real flowers. A Midwest custom, these flowers often were newly sprouted dandelions. For several days prior, you worked making the small three-by-three inch baskets from colored construction paper. Often they were made a school, on the given day, you went around placing the little baskets on the porch or steps beside the front or back door of special friends, and quickly hid so as not to be detected. The identity of the giver was to remain a mystery until the basket was emptied, and your name was found written on the bottom of the basket. A happy memory!

Man showing doctor his wife's hand. "She did it preparing dinner," he said. "It's frostbite."

If Trannie Dornan is smiling a lot lately it may be because she heard that "smiling makes you look thinner"!

\*\*\*

The Good Lord obviously intended us to listen more than we talk, otherwise He would have given us two mouths and one ear.

\*\*\*

A favorite spot in the Point is the "Rest a Second" bench surrounded by red flowering geraniums at the corner of Washington Ave. and Washington Court. One can relax under the branches of the shade tree, be overwhelmed by the breathtaking view of the S.F. skyline towering between two bridges across the Bay with only the chirping of birds to interrupt your thoughts.

Eggs measured in a cup before you measure shortening will help the shortening slide out easily. If your recipe calls for molasses or syrup, use the same cup again and your molasses or syrup will also slide out easily.

\*\*\*

Sign on locker room door:

Rule #1: The coach is always right.

Rule #2: If the coach is wrong, use Rule #1

Previously it was reported that when taking a trip, gasoline was cheaper than LSD. Not so, sez A. Reeder.....Gasoline is much harder on your kidneys.

A doctor says he can cure a woman of just about any complaint by telling her it's a sign of old age.

Drivers who go fastest past a school are probably the same ones who took the longest to get through it.

\*\*\*

Who can pass a lilac blossom without pausing to sniff its delicate fragrance?

I have just made myself a hot dog sandwich with catsup," said Apollo 13 mission Commander James Lovell somewhere between earth and its moon. This fact will doubtless be lost in the morass of scientific data assembled on this third and troubled lunar landing, but it was the first hot dog with catsup eaten in space.

It takes more brains to make out the income tax return than it does to make the income!

Why is the first of April called April Fool's Day? Well...the story goes that April 1st was the first day of the year in France; but in 1654 the country adopted the reformed calendar and made January 1st New Year's Day. Many French citizens refused to go along with the change and continued to celebrate New Year's day on April 1st. These people were called "April Fools". Tricks were played on the "April Fools" and mock greeting and gifts were sent to them on this day...the beginning of April Fools gifts and jokes.

# Point Richmond History Association



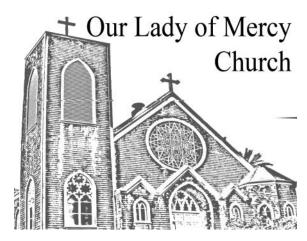








# Church News



By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387 drosier@sbcglobal.net

Welcome to 2020, or as Barbara Walters said, "This is 2020." In the Lunar Cycle, it is the Year of the Rat, which is the first of the cycle. One of the fables regarding his being in first place follows: Competition for the lunar cycle took place with the selection of 12 animals. Before completion, the cat asked the rat to waken her for the competition, but he failed, consequently she missed the competition and the rat placed first. Therefore, the cat became a ratter and mouser. The rat would then play the flute while on the back of an ox. The Emperor was so impressed he put the rat in first place and the ox in second for being so generous. Because there were only 11 animals, they found a pig and added him to the cycle.

The scaffolding is now gone and the tower painting complete. The aim was to recall the original gothic lines of the church, which are visible from the early church picture at the entrance to the church. The best and costly paint was used (Benjamin Moore) in hopes it would be quality protection. The church now is completely in unison paint-wise. May she continue to shine in her beauty.

The Parish Council continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the church hall at 7PM. If you have a grand idea for our parish or wish to express doubt, feel free to attend.

Donation envelopes were delayed in delivery and recently arrived. Until their arrival, we all chose individual ways to deliver our donations.

Our church bell swings back/forth and moved by a rope located off of the church entrance. It is not an easy chore. At one time we had an electronic bell that wore out so the decision was made to retain the manual one. A visiting mechanical friend and suggested a way so that it swung freely, which he did and the bells are now easier to maneuver. On Veteran's Day, Father rings the bells at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month.

In November we honored our dead by remembering them on All Souls Day. The names of the deceased loved ones are placed in envelopes and placed on the altar where they are remembered daily during the month.

During the Advent Season, Martin Lopez hung Christmas trees on the walls near the Stations of the Cross. The trees were decorated with purple ornaments and after advent the ornaments were replaced with red ornaments. Beautiful Christmas tradition thanks to Martin.

Another Christmas tradition is the Giving Tree. It is a branch with paper stars requesting items for donation to Children's Hospital. Previous parishioners Nancy and Stanley Toledo inaugurated this tradition and it has become our annual tradition. At one time we had a beautiful piece of manzanita which disappeared. We now use a branch from an unknown tree.

We continue to collect food and clothing for those in need. You can always leave bagged clothes outside the downstairs door to the church hall. They will be picked up and given to St. Vincent de Paul and/or the Richmond Rescue Mission.

Please contact Father if you are interested in your children receiving the Sacraments (Holy Communion and Confirmation.

It was a very special day when Cheyenne Viviani was baptized. Cheyenne is the great granddaughter of Brenda McKinley. She lives in Boise, Idaho and was here for her special day. Am sure Brenda's spirit was also present. The unhappiness thereafter was the death of grandfather Michael McKinley.

Michael's services will be held at Stewart's Rose Manor. In his youth, Michael was an altar boy.

Believe there was a movie, "Around the World in 80 days," our former parishioners, Nancy and Stan Toledo did it in 113 days. I don't think that leaves them many more places to visit. May they continue to enjoy travel.

Those of us who are animal parents know the pain of losing a loyal companion. Noodle lived up the street from me and was one of the most loyal stops at my front door for a dog treat. His animal parents were Howard Lacheen and June Hight.

We also lost a beloved neighbor on Idaho Street – Pepsi Bernes. Her real name was Shelia, but everyone knew her as Pepsi. She was a teacher in Ross and a vivacious Hawaiian lady who will be missed by many.

Condolences to her husband, Greg.

Mid Dornan was a Pt. Richmond icon and her loss will be felt by many. Condolences to her family. Mid/I spent more than 10 years working on the Election Board at the Methodist Church. Mid was the inspector and Sonja Darling and I were her helpers. It was a social endeavor since between the three of us, we knew everyone and were treated to goodies by many. The three of us worked as a team, but when Mid resigned, we chose to as well.

Former parishioner, Joanne Magda sends regards from her new home in Aurora, Idaho. She is presently snowed in and misses California sunshine.

A bit of trivia – the dial wall phone at "Incurable Collector" is the original Our Lady of Mercy phone – Beacon 2-1843.

The Huggers Group of friends recently enjoyed dinner at a local Italian restaurant. The food delicious, the wine plentiful and enough for the group to join in singing Italian songs.

Remember in your prayers: Jim and Linda Chezareck, Fred Siegmund, Mike Lambert, and Bill Guiterrez.

Also remember Biscuit, Michael Fitzgerald's pup, who walked off a cliff and is now recovering

Happy Birthday favorite grandson (one and only) Griffin. Ama will always love you.

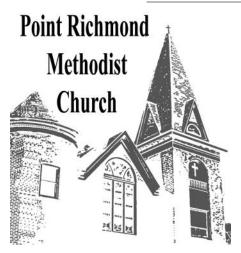
Happy New Year

Welcome to Flight 2020. As we are prepared to take off into the New Year, please make sure your attitude and blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by faith. Once your faith is activated, you can assist other passengers. There will be no baggage allowed on this flight. The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff destination - greatness. Book your flight. Yes. I have already purchased my ticket. I'm buckled up and ready for takeoff.

## SEE YOU IN CHURCH



Dee Rosier



**Jean Reynolds** 510-734-3942 sweetheart05@mac.com

Arryn James Harkness was baptized on November 10; Arryn's papa, retired Rev. Paul Harkness, officiated. Pastor Paul preached on "The Journey of a Lifetime Begins." He presented Malcolm (Arryn's father) with a walking stick to assist them on their journey, and for Malcolm to present to Arryn when he embarks on his own separate journey.

We celebrated the life of Mid Dornan on November 17. As a member of the church for most of her adult life. Mid dedicated herself to it. Over the years, Mid taught Sunday school, chaired the Administrative Board, presided over United Methodist Women, and served in other leadership positions. Mid served as Church Historian and wrote "Point Faithful," a history of the first century of the church, 1900 to 2000. Back in the day, if I wanted to catch Mid on the phone, I knew to call early, but not too early. Often, her phone was busy. If I waited until after 10 am to call, she would be out of the house. She maintained contact with many former church members who had moved away. Mid asked me to write the First United Methodist Church news for "This Point in Time" for the March issue in 1990. Throughout the three decades I have written articles since then. I learned to value the love and community of our church congregation as I recall the ways we bring change through action, faith, and commitment. I'm thankful for the impact Mid had on our community and for the ways her faithful service kept the church intact during the lean years. We remember all the ways Mid loved and served the church and will miss her tales of church and Point Richmond history.

The Rev. Cornel Barnett preached on November 24 about resurrection after tragedy. He used the ways people responded to the earthquake in Christchurch in 2011 and the mass shooting in 2019 in two mosques as examples of how eternal life begins during life – it does not start only after death. Hope brings new life. George Peter Tingley played his composition "Psalm 23" for the offertory and dedicated it in memory of Mid Dornan.

We sponsored free community a Thanksgiving Dinner. Local businesses who donated food or funds for dinner include: Little Louie's, Santa Fe Market, Spot Liquors, Starbucks, Hotel Mac, and Point Richmond Market. Aky, Deborah Doctor, Francisco Lopez and Bryan Harris worked in the kitchen. Nancy Aguirre, Katharine Hemphill, Scott McLean, Melodie Smith, Yulia Solovieva, Billie Blanchard, and Doreen Leighton did prep. Matt Foster got the turkeys. Susie and Charlotte Ashworth Bader decorated and set the tables. Sofia, Blair, and Catalina came early from Albany to help set up. Laurence Tietz, Yulia Solovieva, and Heinz Lankford washed dishes. Michael Lee sorted trash. Doreen organized all dinner preparation and made sure we had an industrial-grade refrigerator to keep the food safe. Heather Damon, Brett Wagner, Vann Ferber, Cathy O'Brien and others served food, coordinated by Kristi Johnson. Pat Dornan, Doreen Leighton, Jennifer Metz Foster, Melodie Smith, Barbara Haley, and Jean Reynolds baked or bought pies for dessert. Pastor Dan Damon, piano; Eileen Johnson, bass; and Tom Belton, drums; entertained with live jazz from the sanctuary. Diners who stayed shared stories and cranberry sauce. The take-out window supplied packaged meals for those at home. We all had much to be thankful for.

Rob, Susie, Jackson, and Susannah Ashworth Bader became members on December 8. Jackson, Susannah, and Charlotte Bader were baptized. Jennifer Ashworth, Susie's sister, sang a soprano solo to mark the occasion. The Ashworth Bader's have been key volunteers for Junktique, United Methodist Woman projects, dinners at Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, liturgist, and grounds improvements made by Jackson's Eagle Scout project. Tanya Cothran was slated to preach that day, but her illness postponed her talk a week. Retired Rev. Ben Silva-Netto attended worship in advance of presiding at our church conference afterward. He agreed to share the delightful story of his call to ministry and early years as a pastor. After worship, Toula Siacotos brought carved olive wood. intricately embroidered fabric articles, and other handcrafted items made by Palestinians who are part of an art collective in Bethlehem. Sales in Bethlehem are low, due to walls built by the Israeli government to isolate Palestinian neighborhoods. Claire Anastas, who usually markets the items, was unable to come to the US to sell them this year because she could not get her visa renewed. Toula stepped in to help Claire and her artisan co-op.

December 14, Executive Director Tanya Cothran shared new stories about Spirit in Action partners. In Uganda, there are child-led households because so many parents have died from war, AIDS, and other diseases. Tanya told about two people who received SIA grants who are able to support orphaned children in their communities, including the cost of their schooling, with income from the businesses they started with the grants. She explained the Ugandan perspective that we are all rights holders or duty bearers. Those with power bear the duty to insure the rights of those without power. We need to see elimination of poverty as social and economic justice with God at the center.

The church held a Holiday Bake Sale on December 21, hosted by Shirley Butt at Interactive Resources. Fran Smith, Barbara Haley, and Doreen Leighton sold home-baked pies, plates of cookies, candy, fudge, muffins, cakes and more. Pat Dornan elegantly wrapped cookie assortments and more.

Pastor Dan presided as concert master of the Christmas Eve Jazz service, his last before he retires at the end of June. The Dan Damon Quartet was Kurt Ribak, bass; Lincoln Adler, sax; and Rob Hart, drums. In the future, Kurt may be able to book instrumental musicians for

Christmas Eve. The service featured vocalists Dave Tattershall, Paula Helene, Sheilani Alix, Bethany Hayter, Gill Stanfield, Heather Damon, and Pastor Dan. Heather Damon and Brett Wagner read the children an illustrated Christmas story from a graphic version of the Bible. Sadie Crosby read the Christmas story from Luke 2. Heather and Bethany sang the first verse of Silent Night.

On December 29, 2019, members of the Iranian American community gathered with us to remember the anti-regime protesters killed in November 2019 in Iran. Hamid Azimi shared that 1500 people were killed, 4000 injured, and 12,000 imprisoned and presumed to be tortured. Families of the dead were being imprisoned if they tried to grieve together. As we gathered to worship that morning, we became family to those whose lives were lost and we mourned their unjust deaths. After the US assassinated Iranian General Soleimani in early January, Hamid said many Iranians hope the paramilitary forces previously led by Soleimani will lose their motivation to quash the uprisings of protesters who want democracy. The Iranian American community and Iranians always oppose US military intervention in Iran. They wish Western governments would not appease the ruling Ayatollahs, but would pressure them to uphold human rights.

Two resolutions now in the House of Representatives can help to support Human Rights in Iran. If this is a cause you support, please contact your representative and tell them to support and advocate in favor of these two resolutions.

H.Res.374 - Condemning Iranian statesponsored terrorism and expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran. https:// www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/houseresolution/374

H.Res.752 - Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes. https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/752

Linda Andrew Marshall and Gill Stanfield (Continued on page 11)

# WWIC Est. 1908

## News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Carla Bowman

WWIC's last two meetings of 2019 were November 5 and December 3. I begin by covering the November meeting. As were many of you, I was stricken with the severe respiratory virus so prevalent this fall and winter and could not attend the meeting. Therefore, I used the meticulous notes of Juleann Klotz, our secretary as the backbone of the November meeting's report. Thank you, Jules!

After President Diane Diani called the meeting to order, she thanked Linda Newton, Margaret Jordan, Cathy O'Brien and Jules Klotz for the gorgeous fall-themed table decorations. She then introduced three new members: Saru Cownan, Anita Aaron, and Gail Sinclair. All are recent retirees who want to find a place in our community. First VP Marion Kent presented them with the traditional WWIC teacups and saucers. Saru and Anita learned about WWIC from Lynn Clifford, our Welcome Chair. Gail was invited to



Marion Kent Altha Humphrey Barbara Robertson from left to right facing camera, Gail Sinclair in profile. Photo by Carla Bowman

our October meeting by Carla Bowman.

The November "Birthday Girls" were serenaded with "Happy Birthday." They are Doreen Leighton, the 2nd, Margaret Jordan the 18th, Diane Hedler, the 19th, and Leslie Hicks, the 21st. A moment of silence was observed for member Beverly Bastian, who passed away recently. Beverly had moved to The Point in the past year or so.

Thanks to Karen Buchanan, who led the History Hike for the third time, it was a success despite power outages and smoky air. Many announcements of now past happenings were made. Mid Dornan was in the Stanford Medical Center. She passed away at age 98. What a unique, intelligent, amusing person she was! She enriched all who met her. This issue of TPIT is dedicated to our dear Mid.

Our speakers were Executive Director Matt



Pastor Dan Damon

Photo by Dan Damon

Holmes and Director Lorena Castillo Groundwork Richmond. It is an environmental Altha presented Pat with a lap robe, which Altha organization which changes "trashed", barren had knitted for Pat's 90th! places and lives of local youth by developing their skills and providing leadership opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, real winner, originally suggested by Marion Kent. Art, and Math (STEAM), which has produced All of us loved our meals of chicken Florentine. many projects. Probably identifiable is the Greenway Path and its artwork salad, rolls, and tiramisu were delicious. The tables and plants. Kudos to the youth for the stellar job were resplendent, thanks to R & J and to Diane they've done! Please the see www.groundworkrichmond.org. This concludes the November report.

After coming together, we raised our voices on Greetings. high in holiday songs. Pastor Dan Damon accompanist anymore. How we will miss his a totally giving person. We will miss her! She wonderful musicality! Thanks so much for all these leaves behind her husband Mike Parker, daughter years, Pastor Dan! We were blessed to have you.

We sang "Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in December: Pat Pearson - the 17th, Annie Engelbrecht – the 19th, and Karen Buchanan

of the 22nd; and to Altha Humphrey – January 9.

We then feasted on a scrumptious luncheon learning provided by R & J's catering. This company is a the most easily mushrooms portobello, or salmon. The Caesar website Diani, who put poinsettias at each table.

We concluded by making announcements and stating that the next meeting is Our December 3 meeting was quite festive! February 4 and wishing everyone Season's

On a sad note, Margaret Jordan passed away accompanied us beautifully on the piano. As noted in early January. She was an invaluable member of in earlier report, he is retiring and won't be our WWIC, was President of PRNC for two terms, and Johanna, and her standard poodle Alfie.

Happy Groundhog and Valentines Days!

(Continued from page 9) Point Richmond Methodist Church News

sang "O Holy Night" as an addition to the worship on January 5. Pastor Dan preached on "The Work of Christmas" based on a poem by Howard Thurman. George Peter Tingley read the text of the sermon in the email news and composed an arrangement to the words of the poem. The Joyful Noise Choir sang George's anthem on January 19. It was the perfect message to acompany the Lay Leader's annual summary of church activities.

Brooke Aird performed a violin recital on January 19. He played less than an hour of pieces by J.S. Bach and Eugene Ysaye, but he played a record number of notes! The music was composed to demonstrate the versatility of the instrument and to challenge the violinist. All who attended appreciated Brooke's expertise and the intricacies of the music.

On the Calendar:

Pop-up Jazz Concert: Howard Alden and Kit Eakle duo, Friday, February 7. Tickets available at prjazz.org or at the door.

Ash Wednesday is February 26. We are hosting the service at 7:30 p.m.

March 20, Friday, Pastor Dan's Retirement Dinner Celebration. Pastor Dan retires June 30. 2020. We plan a dinner party to celebrate in style his long years of service and impending exit. Check the church website for details later in February.

Good Friday service is April 10: it will be at Pinole United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, we plan an early 8:00 a.m. worship in the garden that faces West Richmond Ave., hot breakfast for all at 9:00 in Friendship Hall, Sunday school at 10:00, worship at 11:00 in the sanctuary, and an Easter Egg hunt for children in the yard at noon. All are invited to take part in any and all parts of the day's celebration.

Point Richmond Jazz: Friday, March 6: Tim Kliphuis with Jimmy Grant. Always a discount if vou buy tickets in advance. See prjazz.org for details and tickets.

For updates, see the church website: pointrichmondmethodist.org



From Rita Gardner

Current and upcoming exhibitions and events sponsored by Arts of Point Richmond:



January 28 to March
23: Art exhibition at El
Sol Restaurant, 101 Park
Place, Point Richmond,
featuring watercolor
paintings by Jean Brady.
Her work has won
awards, including the
"People's Choice
Award" at Point
Richmond's Art in the

Park Exhibition for this image of the Point Richmond tunnel.

**Through March 3 at Post Office,** 104 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond.



New works (acrylic paintings) by Denise Vejby. Previously Denise worked for years with pastels but is now expanding her options with series of bright images in acrylics and other media featuring a diverse use of textures and shapes. For info: denise.s.vejby@gmail.com

March 2 through April 30 at Kaleidoscope Coffee, 109 Park Place, Point Richmond. Art exhibition featuring the paintings of distinguished artist Jim DeWitt. It is also a celebration of his 90th birthday!

January 15 through April 30: Lara's Fine Dining Restaurant (formerly Salute) 1900 Esplanade Drive, Richmond (Marina Bay). Inaugural exhibition features artists Caitlin Hibma, Mary Lee Cole, Rita Gardner, Bonnie Leonard, Virginia Rigney, Betsy Kellas, George Tomberlin, Marilyn Hertzberg, Louise Williams, Jean Brady, Jan Chleboun, Nancy Whitley, Nancy Noble, Dee Bell, Bob Colin, and Jim DeWitt.



Arts of Point Richmond is a community association established to enrich our community by providing support, appreciation, and exposure for the arts. For more information:

www.artsofpointrichmond.com

# "Virtual Murrell:

## From Richmond, CA to Washington, DC"



On February 27, 2020, Virtual Murrell will speak about his early life in Richmond, the Black Panther Party and the Justice System, and how these experiences influence his work today as a lobbyist for the Pegasus Group in Washington DC.



Richmond Museum of History and Culture 400 Nevin Ave Richmond, CA 94802 (510) 235-7387 www.richmondmuseum.org

" A program honoring Black History Month" Lecture begins at: 6:00pm Reception 7:00

\*\$5 Advanced registration required\*

Please RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-murrell-from-richmond ca-to-washington-dc-tickets-90059780227





Harbor Gate School 1950

"The program made possible in part by the ClaraBelle Hamilton Fund at the San Francisco Foundation"

## Note from Richmond Museum Director Melinda McCrary

A former Black Panther leader who now is a lobbyist in Washington, D.C, will describe the evolution of his life beginning in 1944 in Richmond, CA.

Virtual Murrell, 76, will be a featured speaker at the Richmond Museum of History and Culture on Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 PM with a reception to follow. The museum is housed in a Carnegie Library building at 400 Nevin Ave. in the Iron Triangle neighborhood Richmond.

For almost the first decade of his life, Murrell lives in the Harbor Gate neighborhood and attended Harbor Gate Elementary School. "It was wonderful," he says of his life in Richmond. The school and the neighbor were integrated and his first girlfriend was white. Then he moved to Oakland, where he experienced racism at Oakland and McClymonds High Schools. And the lynching of Emmet Till, a 14-year old African American boy in Mississippi in 1955 was another eye-opener.

"I didn't get radicalized by the Black Panthers," he says, "My politics developed by

events going on in America."

When he was distribution manager of the Black Panthers, Murrell received a draft notice and held a fiery press conference to explain why he wouldn't report. "I was just a guy who didn't support the military, didn't support racism at home and fighting for the country – and I still don't," he said, adding that in the end, nothing changed in his life. "I didn't go to Canada, I didn't go into the army and I didn't go to jail."

"We are delighted that Mr. Murrell is coming home to Richmond to share his story," says Museum Director Melinda McCrary.

Murrell is very committed to what he calls the "American Dream." "Today people care about issues that relate to human dignity, to the rights of the Constitution, and the future. Yesterday serves as a reminder of what life has been like for my ancestors and what it's like today. Every generation of African Americans has a responsibility to advance the ball a little further toward that dream. "

# **Point Richmond History Association Presidents**

Bonnie Jo Cullison 2018 - present
Mildred "Mid" Dornan 1990 - 2018
Jerry Cerkanowicz 1988 - 1990
Donna Roselius 1979 - 1988

# We Have Standards!

# Episode 5: Preserving Distinctive Materials & Craftmanship

by Caitlin Hibma

Here we are, half-way through the 10 Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Sometimes, I think maybe there should only be 9. I suspect the Secretary is a fan of round numbers. You see, Standard 5 is prescribed as follows: "Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved." Sounds a lot like Standard 2, doesn't it? ("The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.") Even as a professional, I struggle with this one; historic character (embodied in historic features) shall be preserved vs. historic features shall be preserved. Huh? It begs for copy/pasting any analysis from the section on Standard 2 into that for Standard 5. For the sake of the Secretary and his obsession with round numbers though, I try to appreciate the nuances and have come to treat it as a matter of intangible vs. tangible character. Standard 2 seems to speak to the concept of "character" and how elements of a property contribute to a feeling or sense of history. Meanwhile, Standard 5, talks about the literal features, finishes, construction techniques, materials, and spatial arrangements that make a property historic.

In my article on Standard 2, I talked about character defining features; those physical elements of a building that exemplify its historic materials and determine its structural and aesthetic identity, which, if removed would destroy the building's ability to represent its age and important historic associations. Standard 5 goes deeper, past

the concept of history, to the actual historic fabric. If a building has a cornice that is character-defining – made up of a paneled frieze, modillions, egg-and-dart moldings, and crown molding – it gains its Classical Revival stylistic character and its expression of late 19th century aesthetics from that cornice (concepts that Standard 2 is concerned with). But under Standard 5, consider what the cornice itself is made of and how it was constructed and applied to the building. Historically, it would likely have

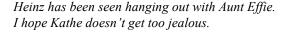


Foam Cornice

been made of wood (or maybe pressed metal or brick), hand cut, with each band of molding pieced together, applied to the roofline with nails. At some point, someone might decide to replace the cornice though (or worse, remove it, which would also not meet this Standard). In the 21st century, it might then be easier to buy a length of pre-formed foam cornice and glue it to the building with construction adhesive. Foam building parts are not uncommon these days and are seen as an amazing modern convenience for adding character to your building. One company I found online illustrates the full cornice - frieze, modillions, and all - made of a single block EPS (Expanded PolyStyrene) foam, encased fiberglass mesh, and covered with a polymer/ cement coating. No need to even stucco or paint! While this might mean durability and minimal maintenance down the line, the cornice has lost the hand-built charm somehow inherent in a feature made of individual wood pieces, assembled in parts, and installed by a man with a hammer.

The idea of replacing original features with

similar features of modern materials also will be episode regarding addressed in our next replacement-in-kind, but for now, the concept of preserving as much original physical fabric and its method of craftsmanship and application is key. Point Richmond is a town with a lot of cornices, so the next time you are out and about, take a look up and think of the example I've used here. Notice how the materiality of a cornice gives the building character. Notice how construction and installation methods give a sense of age. Can you tell the cornice is made of wood? Are there small gaps between moldings or warping of the material that give it away? Can you see nail holes or evidence of how individual pieces were pieced together to form the entire feature? Some of this might belie condition problems, but aren't these qualities also suggestive of historical patina and craftsmanship that isn't common today? And just as each of those wood moldings and each of those nails contributes to an intact cornice, doesn't each cornice contribute to a historically intact town? One that isn't made of machine-extruded polystyrene and slapped together with glue...







Blonde Man Joke
A blonde man spots a letter on his
doormat. It says on the envelope "DO
NOT BEND". He spends the next 2 hours
trying to figure out how to pick it up.



# Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

It's amazing what's in the WWIC minutes! They date back to July 1908 when the Club started. The ladies met weekly. In the first six months they set projects in motion that we enjoy to this day: a statue a Washington and Park Place, a large drinking fountain, a park next to the Baptist Church, and the establishment of a reading room where the city hall had been in Mr. Crichett's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history. -Linda Newton, Past President

## Point Richmond California Jan. 19, 1910

The Womans West Side Improvement Club met at the Reading Room.

Roll call of officers resulted in 6 being present Total \$3.05. and 7 being absent.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read the meeting closed. and approved.

Communications: A letter from Harry Adkinson Secty of Carnagie Library Trustees accepting the offer of the reading room as proposed by the club.

Bills presented: Hattie Casselman services 20.00, Herald for advertising 1.85. Committee reported favorable on bills. Moved by Mrs. Eaton seconded by Mrs. Trautvetter warrants be and 7 being absent. drawn to pay bills, carried.

Unfinished business: Mrs. Schram called up on approved. the phone and stated she would come over and tell Federation.

the social on Wednesday the 26.

Adams and Mrs. Coleman, refreshments for social carried. day. Mrs. Coleman stated she had met a young lady that gives entertainments and would like to give one 15.00, Daily Leader printing tickets 5.50. for the club but would write and state terms.

Mrs. Adams stated Mrs. Hudson is ready to warrants be drawn to pay bills. stake for the trees.

tickets 2.25 for 500 or 3.50 for 1000. It was decided we join the Federation. carried. to give Leader programs and tickets and to give Record some advertising.

Asher, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Trautvetter, Mrs. Adams,

Mrs. Whitecomb, Mrs. Dimick, Mrs. Eaton.

Mrs. Whitecomb 1.50, Mrs. Receipts: Adams .50, Mrs. Topping 1.00, dues library fine .05.

No further business appearing before the club

Mrs. Marsten, Vice Pres.

Ella Dimick, Secty

## Point Richmond California Feb. 7, 1910

The Womans West Side Improvement Club bet in the Reading Room.

Meeeting called to order by Vice President Mrs. Finance Marsten.

Roll call of officers resulted in 5 being present

Minutes of previous meeting were read and

Communications: A letter from Miss Mason in what she could in regard to federation. And had regard to a reading. Also a letter from H.Z Zimmer called up Mrs. Jones to see if she would come over of Los Medanas Nursery and agreement made with and explain to us the benefits derived from Committee on Trees was read. Moved by Mrs. Adams sec by Mrs. Dimick we notify Miss Mason New business: Mrs. Curtain will donate hall for we will take up reading at some other time.

Moved by Mrs. Dimick sec by Mrs. Younglove Mrs. Topping appointed on music & Mrs. we accept agreement adopted by the committee.

Bills presented: Bill of Mr. Critchett Hall Rent

Moved by Mrs. Adams sec by Mrs. Trautvetter

New business: The Federation was discussed. Mrs. Whitecomb stated the Record would print Moved by Mrs. McRacken sec by Mrs. Whitecomb

The nomination of Delegates to Convention Mrs. Younglove, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Marsten elected Committee for the dance: Floor Manager J.C. delegate and Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Eaton Alternates.

The Secretary read the semi annual report.

Amount in bank 1131.61

Amt Deposited 456.73

1588.36

Amt Disbursed 1383.38

Total amt on hand Jan 1 - 1910 205.98

Ushers for entertainment: Mrs. Luce, Mrs. Cramer, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Spiersch

To take tickets: Mrs. Curtain, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Adams to sell tickets.

Dues paid: Mrs. Racken .75, Mrs. Younglove 1.50, Mrs. Brooks .50, Mrs. Sickles .75, Mrs. Cramer .75. Total 4.55.

No further business appearing before the club the meeting adjourned.

# Mrs. Marsten, Vice Pres Ella Dimick, Secty *Point Richmond California Feb 15, 1910*

The Womans West Side Improvement Club bet in the Reading Room. Meeting called to order by Vice President Mrs. Marsten.

Roll call of officers resulted in 6 being present and 7 being absent.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Application for membership: Mrs. J. Hyman. Investigation Committee, Mrs. Trautvetter, Mrs. Younglove, Mrs. Walker.

Communications: A card from Mrs. Jones also a program in regard to the Convention.

Bills presented: H.Z Zimmer for trees \$45.00, Mrs. Trautvetter supplies .50, J.A. Neil labels .55, A. Tufverson rent for dance, Chas. Erfurth services 15.00. All bills OK by Finance Committee except bill of Erfurth bill was laid over. carried.

Moved by Mrs. Adams seconded by Mrs. Whitecomb a note of thanks be given Pioneer Club and Daily Leader. carried

Moved by Mrs. Walker seconded by Mrs. Adams Percapta Tax of 12.00 be drawn. carried.

Mrs. Whitcomb stated that Mrs. Gibson extended an invitation to all to be present on the afternoon of the 22 to social meeting.

Mrs. Adams read the report of the Entertainment Womans West Side Improvement part of proceeds \$114.80, Mrs. Collins part \$139.80.

Moved by Mrs. Walker sec by Mrs. Dimick we extend a rising note of thanks to Committee. carried.

No further business the meeting adjourned to meet Mar 1.

Ella Dimick, Secty

## Point Richmond California March 1, 1910

The Womans West Side Improvement Club met in the Reading Room.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Mrs. Marsten.

Roll call of officers resulted in 5 being present and 7 being absent.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved after correction.

Report of the Investigating Committee on application of Mrs. Hyman reported favorable. Ballots were prepared and found favorable. Mrs. Hyman was admitted a member. Mrs. Curry came after Roll Call.

Communications: A letter from Trinity Temple in regard to picnic at park on July 4. A receipt from Los Medaros Nursery for \$45.00 for trees, also Cal. Fed. of Womans Club for tax \$12.00. Members discussed in regard to having Booth on 4th of July, it was laid over until someone saw the committee in regard to what booths were spoken for.

Bills presented: Bill of Mr. Critchett for rent 21.00, Mrs. Coleman for refreshments & material 2.00, Erfourtt bill laid over. Mrs. Adams stated that Mr. Lamore would settle bill for \$15 more than what we had allowed but thought we should not give away more than what we allowed him.

Bills of Mr. Critchett and Mrs. Coleman were O.K. and ordered paid.

New business: Mrs. Curry stated that in regard to playground for children if someone would see Mr. Nichols perhaps he would let us have ground.

Moved Mrs. Younglove sec by Mrs. Trautvetter a committee be appointed to see Mr. Nichols. carried. Mrs. Younglove, Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Marsten to act on committee.

Mrs. Younglove stated that the Mothers meeting would be held next Tuesday afternoon at Baptist Church basement and wished all to attend as the subject was playground.

The delegates report will be laid over until next meeting.

Receipts: Mrs. Runyun 1.50, Mrs. Hendricks .75, Mrs. Niedecker .75, Mrs. Delph 1.00, Mrs. Heyman 1.00, int fee 1.00, Mrs. Hopkins 1.00, Mrs. Coleman .75. Total dues and fees 7.75, Opera 12.20. Total 19.95.

No other business appearing before club the meeting adjourned.

Ella Dimick, Secty

# **MEMORIES OF MID**

Mid Dornan loved the Methodist church in Point Richmond. On every visit we had for twenty-five years, we talked about the church. She, more than any other single person, kept this church alive during some very lean years. She said, "This town needs a Methodist church." During her times of deep grief, she found comfort in gardening, in singing, and in the church. She saw many ministers come and go from Richmond First. She was glad to see some of them go. She was glad I stayed a long time. She was glad we got a grand piano in the sanctuary. She was happy when we developed the lower garden with the labyrinth and the red bricks with the names of the pastors and community members and their messages. She supported the creation of the flagstone patio. She supported the creation of our permanent Endowment Fund. Mid served this church in many ways. She served as Ad Board chair for ten years or so, and then passed the role on to Jennifer Metz Foster with grace and gratitude. She always supported Jennifer, and was grateful to see a new generation of leadership coming into the church.

I had many visits with Mid over the years. Twenty years ago she said, "You do a good funeral. I hope you will do mine." Last Sunday after church I drove out to John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek to see Mid. She said, "It's time. I have had a good life." Through her tears she said, "I'm not sad. I'm not sad." We talked about letting go of this life in faith. I said, "We may as well continue to trust God's grace. There is no benefit in letting go of our faith at the last minute. We will remember you with love and a lot of singing." We prayed together and I drove home with my thoughts. I will miss Mid Dornan, a woman who loved this church. She was a blessing to me and to all of us.

We sang this hymn as we celebrated the centennial year of our church, way back in the year 2000:

Make of us a healing garden planted in the cobblestone, warmed and watered with compassion, growing where your love has sown.

Words: Dan Damon © 2000 Hope Publishing Company; used by permission. Dan Damon, pastor of Richmond First United Methodist, 201 Martina Street

Mid was a dear friend, a fellow member of the Womens Westside Improvement Club, and one of the first people I met in Point Richmond. In fact, on December 6, 2014, one month before I moved to the Point on January 1, 2015, I had come to town to view the apartment I was going to move into at 149 West Richmond, and I happened upon the Point Richmond History Association museum and plucked a membership brochure out of the little box by the front door. I went home that night, filled out the membership application, wrote a check for \$50 and sent it along with a short note

explaining that, even though I hadn't yet officially moved to Point Richmond, I was such a history buff that I couldn't wait to join the PRHA. I also said I couldn't wait to start leading Point Richmond History Hikes as soon as I recovered from leg surgery. Well, Mid was so tickled by my note, that she mentioned me in her "A-Mid Trivia" column and printed the note in its entirety in the Correspondence section of the next January/ February 2015 issue of the TPIT. So, imagine my surprise when I moved in and went downstairs to the Santa Fe Market to buy some groceries, and

bought a copy of the TPIT, opened it to the first page and saw my name in print! Then a few weeks later when I joined the WWIC, I got to meet Mid in person and she was so pleased to meet the person who'd written the note, and made me feel so welcome.

Karen Buchannan, Point Richmond

Mildred (Mid) Dornan, my very good friend, was the product of a long ago age and a small town in Nebraska where ladies were taught to be lady like, when people lived by the golden rule, and we were our brothers keepers. She was pillar of the Point Richmond Methodist Church, one of the founding members of the local chapter of United Methodist Women (UMW) and an inspiration to those of us who were new comers. She was also very generous.

Sometime in the late 60's the UMW members decided to hold a flower tea –named the Fleur Tea – as a fund raiser for the group. Bessie

Squires and Jean Allen learned to make crepe paper and tissue paper flowers and invited others to spend an afternoon at Jean's home creating bouquets to sell at the tea. Mid arrived dressed in a lovely pale green dress wearing matching new 3 inch high heels. Sometime during the flower making session she slipped her feet out of the shoes. When it was time to go she found just one shoe. It turned out that the family dog had carried one shoe into another room and chewed it to pieces. Jean Allen was very upset and insisted she would replace the pair. But Mid assured Jean that replacing the shoes was not necessary. following December Mid sent the other shoe to the dog as a Christmas present.

Fran Smith

Below Mid is presiding over a PRHA Annual Meeting.



Every summer Grandma Mid would have a tea party with special foods and hot chocolate for just the two of us. In the last few years, I made the special foods and hot chocolate for us to share on the deck at the cabin.

Molly Barnes

Our Mom believed you should always be learning. Mid did not learn to swim as a child, but once she was married and started going to the river, she knew she needed to learn. Although afraid of the water, she took lessons at the Plunge and continued until she passed with lifeguard certification. She enjoyed swimming so much she joined an adult synchronized swim class at the Plunge. She was often paired with Virginia Cherniack 'because their legs were the same length.' In her 60s, she bought her first computer and used it to write and submit her "A-Mid Trivia" column. When she had to give up driving in her 90s, she got a SMART phone and learned to take LYFT to the hairdresser and her doctor's appointments. One night at the dinner table I had to ask her to put her phone away while we were eating. She said, "I am just checking my email." I pointed out that was what my kids said.

Kathy Dornan Barnes

When I was 15, I was looking for an easy win in arm-wrestling, so I challenged her, believing that there was no way my elderly grandmother could beat a puberty-powered teenager like me. She taught me an important lesson about hubris that day when she decisively

beat me. She also taught me about the value of choosing your battles by refusing to ever accept a rematch, preserving her perfect record against me in arm wrestling.

I remember how Mid was always "hip" in her sleep schedule, staying up late, sleeping late, and never giving in to the schedule expected for her age. When I was a kid and endangered her leisurely morning dozing by pressing my icy feet against her, she piled quarters on her bedside table and bribed me with one every day to put on socks before climbing into her bed for a nap.

Robert Clayton Barnes

Grandma Mid visited my family often in Mississippi. Growing up, I looked forward to her visits and dreaded her leaving. She was attentive and interested, playing with me in the backyard for so long that my mother often tried to intervene.

"I think Grandma needs a break," Mom would say.

"But we're having so much fun," I said. And Grandma always agreed with me.

At the end of one visit, when I was especially sad to see Grandma go home, I decided I would get on the plane with her and go live in California. I told Grandma my plan, and then I packed a bag of everything I thought I'd need for my new life— as it happens, that was just a suitcase of stuffed animals.

I put my suitcase in the car when my parents drove her to the airport, and I carried it all the way to her departing gate before I finally chickened out and decided I couldn't move to Pt Richmond after all.

Of course, Grandma knew I wouldn't come, but she let me make the decision for myself. And for the rest of her life, she delighted in telling the story of how I almost followed her home with only a suitcase of stuffed animals.

Emileigh Barnes

My earliest memories of Mid go back to Washington School in the 1950's. She was in the



PTA and so was my mom, so anytime there was something involving the PTA, chances are she was there. Washington School was a fun place to be in the '50's. We didn't have a school lunch program, but we had hot dog day once a month, and the PTA made it happen. There were Christmas pageants and other programs in the auditorium and the school yard and Halloween parades and carnivals. The Glee Club even made a record. The PTA was involved in it all. Around 1956 or 1957, the Washington School buses stopped running in Point Richmond, so we all had to walk or be picked up by a parent or neighbor. Most of the time, we walked. My sisters and I have fond memories of walking up West Richmond with all the neighborhood kids including the Dornan girls.

My Aunt Helen, Uncle Ed, and cousins, Gloria, Floria, and Les were members of the Methodist Church, so we would hear about the Dornan family from them. I got to know Mid better when, in the 1970's, three of the Point Richmond churches (Baptist, Catholic, and Methodist) rotated churches for our Sunday services, due to our small congregations during the summer. It gave us wonderful memories, an opportunity to see and visit our neighbors in their churches, and experience ecumenical services. Later, for several years, the Methodists and Baptists joined together for Christmas programs, alternating churches each year, with Mid always part of the planning committee. We enjoyed planning the program and the fellowship refreshments afterward. Over the years, we've attended various functions at the Methodist church, i.e. teas, lunches, parties, funerals, weddings, Sunday services, the Christmas Jazz Service, etc. Mid was present at almost all of them. She was one of the pillars of the First United Methodist Church Point Richmond, for

Another memory of Mid is how civicminded she was. I think she really enjoyed being part of the election process. My mom and I, at different times, worked with Mid on election boards. It was always a long day, about 6:00 a.m. to sometimes around 10:00 p.m. if you were one of the drivers or riders delivering the ballots to the county building. We would have a great time visiting, in between waiting on voters, but we'd also get to see and visit friends and neighbors as they came in, and very often, they'd bring food for everyone to share. Most of the time the polling place was at the Methodist Church and Washington School, but if it was a big election, there might be polling places at the Baptist Church and the Masonic Hall.

In 1983, Mid gave me a call and invited me to join the Point Richmond History Association Board as the Membership Chair. Rosemary Corbin held the position, but she was moving on to the Richmond City Council and later the Mayor of Richmond. I said ok. The Board has changed over the years, but Mid was always a constant. When our founder, Donna Roselius, moved to Oregon, Mid became the PRHA President. know she loved being the president and a big part of the glue holding things together and making things work. The PRHA Board works together to keep our history alive through the museum and the newsletter. From the beginning, Mid was instrumental in that effort because she loved history and Point Richmond. A-Mid Trivia was a favorite for many of us, as well as Mid's personal notes to those of us who forgot to renew (yes, I'm one of them). I'm not sure if it was her idea or her daughters, but she and/or they continue to be a blessing to the Point Richmond History Association by allowing us to continue our meetings at Mid's house for a while. Thank you! Rest in peace, Mid. You are missed.

Pam Wilson

Seems like Mid has always been a part of my life - our friendship must've began when I was on the Indian Statue Committee in the early 1980s, my first civic involvement since I arrived in the Point in 1970. Many meetings with Point Richmond Neighborhood Council (PRNC), Planning Commission & City Council followed, and Mid and Lucretia Edwards were always in attendance. They became mentors to me for which I'm forever grateful. They taught me the importance of listening and being prepared.

When I started attending First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in 1995, I shortly realized Mid was the matriarch of the church.

Everyone looked to her for answers. She was also the most gracious and comforting person to go to with problems. She proved she could also be silly and oh so much fun too - during a fundraiser event for the church's new roof in the late 90s, Mid and her best friend Helen Valentine (the pie lady) donned wigs, blue hot pants with white boots and did a dance to either an Elvis song or maybe it was Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made For Walking!" They both showed off their great legs and everyone howled along with them with laughter!

After I retired 2 years ago, I was happy to spend more time with Mid - we shared rides and lunches, where I learned she loved chocolate. When I brought her a Starbucks chocolate cake pop, her face lit up and her eyes twinkled - she loved it but resolved to only enjoy 1 bite a day as she was watching her calories. I loved seeing her enjoy nature's beauty at the family summer cabin on Russian River living in the treetops with the huge deck for a perfect spot to relax - and of course, with all things watermelon inside!

Now as a docent at the Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) Museum, I feel her love for the people of the Point as I sit in her chair. She was the one we went to for answers to people's questions about Point history. Thankfully, she left a lasting legacy with much information in the PRHA Archives and with her book "Point Faithful," a history of FUMC.



On a visit with Mid at the Orinda Care Center, she described her fall leading to her broken hip and said to me "Other than that, Life is still good!" Even with pancreatic cancer and the hip injury at age 98, she still had a positive attitude, and I knew she was thankful she had proceeded with the hip surgery. One of the aides at the care center said to Mid with a big grin: "When I grow up, I want to grow young like you!" The care center staff was surprised by how strong But her family and friends weren't she was. surprised - we knew she was strong and determined to her very core. Using her walker and sometimes with the help of someone's arm, Mid was determined to walk up to the church altar for Holy Communion each month until she broke her hip.

Mid's 98th Birthday Party was such a happy occasion attended by nearly everyone in the Point and Mid's family and friends who came from afar to Celebrate her! It was a loving tribute to a woman who touched so many lives for the good, and improved her community and the world by her presence. Thank You Darling Mid - you'll stay in my heart forever.

Linda Andrew-Marshall

Mid Dornan was my grandmother and I was so lucky to live in the Bay Area the last three years of her life. We went on countless adventures together from going to her first KBBQ lunch to driving around Brickyard searching for Marshawn Lynch's house. She was always up for an adventure (as long as it was after 10 am). My grandmother loved children and it's because she always was one. My first year of college she mailed me a trick plastic ring to squirt water at unsuspecting admirers - it was an instant hit with my roommates. What I will remember most about my grandmother though, is how much she cared about what was going on in my life. When she asked what I was up to - even when it was countless stories about trapping and fostering feral cats and kittens - she wanted to know about each cat and would ask me about them the next time I saw her. She knew what mattered to me, so she made it matter to her. She had a wonderfully rich and full life but I do miss her terribly. I'm looking forward to the spring when my Muscari bloom to remind me of her.

Rachel Palfini

I am writing this as I head towards the only continent Mom did not visit, Antarctica. When I decided to go she and I would look at maps and share this trip as it would have been her last continent. I wish I had brought a small amount of her to sprinkle making her part of my journey, but I feel she is traveling with me on this adventure.

I so admire Mom's sense of adventure. She visited so many unique locations. She did independent travel as she wished to visit many different countries. She was fortunate to have a main travel partner, a friend from Russian River who wanted to travel but wanted someone else to plan, something Mom adored as she got to see exactly what she wished to see. All this planning before the internet! India, Patagonia, Australia, New Zealand, all around the world.

When Mom was turning 80 we wanted to throw her a birthday party with family and friends but she said she would rather go on a trip, specifically to Alaska. She wanted to visit the most northern city in America and also complete a life long goal to visit all fifty states in America. Her adventure included a trip to Barrow where the sun never set and visiting the Alaskan Lodge inside Denali as well as walking through the wilderness with a grizzly mom and her cubs.

Another family trip happened when her sonin-law, Rich, was teaching in England. She got to visit with Kathy, Emileigh, and Clay before setting out on an extended voyage allowing her to travel through the Baltic Region and places in Eastern Europe that few visited at that time as they were behind the Iron Curtain.

Each trip was special and when you visited her home you could see one special memento from each country. There was a doll from Turkey where she met the family or the icon from USSR where she actually unknowingly smuggled it out as it turned out to be an antique and should not have been removed from the nation.

While Mom traveled she always called home once as she felt that was an adventure she wanted to experience. She had a large collection of photos which included various toilet flushing plungers. Another aspect of Mom's traveling was the cards

and surprises I would pack away in her suitcases. Usually one would contain some extra money to buy something she would not normally purchase. By and far my biggest surprise was the large amethyst from Brazil that she eventually had made into a ring with the diamonds from her wedding band. She wore it often. She always showed me how she spent the money, from a lovely silk top from Poland to small ceramic pieces from Central America. She called them her Pat souvenirs.

Her love of travel never waned, her final major adventure being a visit to the beaches of Normandy and a special river cruise on the Danube with Roberta and Richard. Before moving to Bishop Alley she maintained a world map with each trip marked and chronicled.

The thing I take away from her traveling is my sense of travel. While we have very different bucket lists, we do want the world to be safe so that exploration by family and friends is possible. When you travel to Yosemite, her favorite National Park, another country, or just to another state, take her sense of confidence and curiosity and go explore in her memory.

We had talked about my sharing penguins with her when I returned, so here you go Mom.

Pat Dornan



In the grand scheme of things, I have not been involved with Point Richmond History Association for very long. But throughout that time, Mid was the gracious host of all our newsletter assembly gatherings and board meetings. I always loved that her house was unfailingly decorated for whatever holiday might be upcoming. It was always warm, there was tea or coffee on offer to go with some scrumptious treat, and she often left the TV on for those keeping score on the latest basketball game. It was always enjoyable to gather around her dining room table to fold and staple newsletters and she always seemed so pleased to have everyone there. My own grandparents lived in Southern California, so a visit to Mid's house, just up the street, was always reminiscent of a visit to grandma's that I couldn't easily make.

I remember one particular meeting at Mid's, shortly after I got engaged in 2016. I had my ring on, but hadn't mentioned the big news yet. I noticed Mid looking at my hand and whispering to Bonnie Jo, then she pointed it out to everyone and made me tell the story of how it all happened. She was delighted with my happiness and later put an article about it in the newsletter; an official announcement. An engagement is always happy news, but it struck me as special that Mid was almost as excited about it as I was. She was a lovely lady, full of generosity, kind words, good humor, and unerring leadership for our group. A true piece of Point Richmond history that will be missed.

Caitlin Hibma

I was blessed to have Mid Dornan as a friend and influence for over 50 years, beginning from the time that her daughter, Kathy, and I became friends in college. Over the years, as I shared many times at the Dornan's home in Point Richmond and at Russian River, being in Mid's presence was always a gift. In so many ways, she modeled for me the woman I wanted to become -

a person who met life with honesty, humor, hope and love. Her warm wisdom, her generous heart, her capacity to emerge from tragedy and to still fully embrace life were a powerful example of the human spirit at its best. One of the last times I saw Mid, during her final illness, I saw how she

remained undaunted. "Look at this beautiful view I can still enjoy every day," she said, gazing at the Bay. "I'm still enjoying life!." She picked up a red rubber clown nose that was sitting next to her and popped it on! "Let's have tea and cookies," she said with a huge smile, making me laugh. That was Mid - once again an inspiration in meeting life's challenges. I will always be grateful for Mid Dornan having been a part of my life.

Cathleen Cox

OMG....I feel like my mother.

Whenever the Trivia column was due, she always commented on the due date but knew that didn't apply to her, that she had a few more days after the deadline. Here's my contribution, via short vignettes, a la A-Mid-Trivia style.

Mom took pride in keeping up with technology. She bought her first Macintosh in the mid-1980s, followed by an iMac then a Mac mini. She had my son install Grammarly last year so she could use it to check her email. Email helped



Mom keep in touch with the world. She was an ATM user, as well as mobile banking on her smartphone. When she stopped driving, she used Lyft to her Doctor appointments. Mom's podiatrist even asked her for a 'lesson' in how to use Lyft.

Anyone who went to her house, knew she loved holidays. Growing up, every month had a seasonal table centerpiece, as well as wreaths, garland and doo-dads. She used any excuse for a party. When I was young, my parents hosted an annual Lunar New Year party and during this past year, her friends keep her active with Party of the Month...be it a Pajama Party for breakfast, Easter ham with guests wearing bunny ears or St Patty's Day corned beef. Party girl to the end.

Roberta Dornan Palfini

Mid was a wonderful member of the Point Richmond community, and definitely of the Womens Westside Improvement Club. Her memory was excellent, and she shared historical events casually. She was always positive and helpful and fun. In the last few years when she couldn't walk much or drive, she volunteered to be the Sunshine Chairperson and sent cards that she created for our birthdays and when we were sick. I feel fortunate to have known her.

Linda Newton

Mid sent me an email with a note regarding tours by Betty Soskin and she added an additional sentence:

"HOW MANY KINDERGARTEN KIDS DO YOU HAVE? I WANTED TO BE A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER ONCE, TOOK NIGHT CLASSES, BUT A THIRD CHILD DIDN'T LEAVE TIME TO PURSUE." MID

After Mid had her third daughter and thereafter I had my second, she invited me to join the Pt. Richmond mothers of three daughters. I chose to remain at two.

Dee Rosier



Yes, this is our Mid.

Picture taken during WWII.



Thank you to PRHA member Tony Ramirez for giving a gift to the History Association in memory of Mid Dornan.

Thank you to Les and Sandi Hathaway for their generous donation to the Point Richmond History Association, given in memory of Mildred (Mid) Dornan

# Birthdays

# February

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA Karen Shaw Mark Gebhart Sarah Wilson Steven Mertle Billy Bob Karl Chris Rotting Walter MacMillan

Connie Healy Marcos Rotting Jim Allgaier Thomas R Williams Landow Howe Rowene MacMillan Ethel MacMillan Art Gagnier Mitzi Kruse Hilda Gozzi-Reed Kim Ward Anne Brussok-Roth Jared Bigard Lupe Padilla Lopez Allegra Fenton Kay Mayfield Madison Artrese Morrison Anne Roth

Kiley Brougham
Brenda McKinley
Frank Smith
Leonard Smith
Mark Mallagliatse
Anne Brussok-Roth
Gretchen Van Tassel
Shaw
Maryn Hurlbut

## March

GIRL SCOUTS
CAMP FIRE GIRLS
Rachel Palfini
Damon Kiehn
Kathe Kiehn
Sophia Frame Rice
Isabella Frame Rice
Karolyn Macdiarmid
Carol Paasch
JoAnn Bray
Carol Darling

Claire E. Crowson Ben Bray Ken Madison Jean Knox Lavinia Karl Darlene A. Wright Brian Richardson Susan Berman Mary Valenzano Isobel Folson Myron Pestana Delphina Franco
Tawney
Mike Smith
Michael Lambton
Lucile Cottingham
Meyer
Henry Marchitiello
Evan Jahromi
Kenneth Madison
Kara Piantidosi
Michael Smith

Tom Butt
Harlan Butt
Ryland Thomas Butt
Frank West
Mark Kornmann
Roy Javellana
Susan Reynolds Prine
Garry Hurlbut

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

# Cards, Letters & E-Mails

I would like to send my condolences to the family and friends of George Hall. I remember George as a fun loving humorous guy to be around.

thank you and God bless.

p.r.h.a. member Michael Pippin

Please accept this donation to the organization that our dear friend, Mildred Dornan, loved so much and worked at so diligently..

Mid and her late husband Bob were close friends of my family, and Bob was my Scoutmaster in Troop111, we will miss Mid very much.

Les & Sandi Hathaway Galt, CA Dear Kathe.

PRHA has given me the highest complement I have ever received. I have spent a few hours considering how I could begin to do justice to Mid-Trivia and realize I just can't do it. I am very involved in justice for older adults and people with disabilities, primarily with the California Alliance for Retired Americans, the California Aging and Disability Alliance and Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance so I spend many hours up and down I 80 going to meetings in Sacramento. I do not have the time to gather the clever quips and quotes Mid included in her columns....and I just don't have her style.

Thank you very much for asking me. Sincerely, Fran Smith

# Memorials.....

Margaret Shaper Jordan known for both her commitment to social justice and her great warmth and caring for others. She leaves behind a remarkably broad set of colleagues, family, and friends. Margaret grew up in Berkeley, California. Her parents, Hans and Lore Shaper, were immigrants who fled Nazi Germany. She attended college at UC Riverside and then Berkeley and became a public school teacher in Richmond, California. Margaret's life -long commitment to social justice, as well as her lasting partnership with Mike Parker, started in the late 60's. In the mid-1990s, Margaret developed cancer, but after some misdiagnoses and scares she beat it back and remained cancer-free until 2017. In the last year she was a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and was particularly encouraged to see young people becoming active. Margaret made time to improve her community in many ways. She served two terms as President of her Neighborhood Council, and was an officer of the Richmond Neighborhood Council Coordinating Committee. She served on the board of Weigh of Life, an organization dedicated to improving health in low-income communities. She volunteered at Saffron Strand, which trained homeless people for jobs. She was an active supporter of the Committee to Save Point Molate and efforts to fully clean up the toxic wastes on the shoreline, and most recently was a canvasser for the Schools and Community First California initiative which would shift the tax burden to big corporations. She also spent a few hours a week caring for cats awaiting adoption at the local humane society. Although her cancer had returned and she was on medication, Margaret was active until six weeks before her death. Around Thanksgiving she came

down with a respiratory illness that grew progressively worse until she died peacefully on January 3rd. As a woman who fought for social justice throughout her adult life and built loving personal relationships in many arenas, Margaret is remembered by a large circle of comrades and friends. Margaret is survived by her partner and husband, Mike Parker; their daughter, Johanna Parker; Johanna's partner, Matthew Sylvester; Margaret's brother, Andrew Shaper; nieces and greatnieces; and several friends she came to regard as family.

Madeline Albright was a California native born in Jackson, California. She graduated from Richmond Union High School in June of 1937. She later met Nebraska native Ernest Albright to whom she was married for 54 years. During her 101 years, Madeline lived an interesting life. She was a firefighter for Standard Oil Refinery and made missile parts at Systron Donner Inertial. She and her husband not only brought the Chinese Shar Pei dogs to America but were also founding members of the Chinese Shar Pei Club of America, Inc. She enjoyed gambling in many forms; Bingo, Scratchers and especially playing slots at Cache Creek. She was a long time member of the Point Richmond History Association and a member of our "Century Club".

Madeline lived a full life and remained as independent as possible throughout her life. With Darlene's loving care and assistance, she was able to fulfill her wish to remain in her home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother and husband. She is survived by her devoted daughter, Darlene, and grandson, Jamie Wright.

# EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 95 Muriel Clausen - 94 Mary Bianchini Highfill - 95 Tom Kenny - 94 Loretta Stevens Johromi - 93 Billie Bonham Shaw - 97 June Beesley Sosabal - 95 Morris Simpson - 96 Victor Morales - 90 Alphonso Diaz - 95

Please send additions corrections or updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club" to Gary Shows, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801 or email to editor@pointrichmondhistory.org

# CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Meets at 139 Washington Avenue. Contact: Irene Hightower, irene1328@comcast.net More info: http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com/index.html

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM 114 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 510-223-0487

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

900-A Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Adults \$5, children under 11 and seniors \$3, family \$10. Trains run on Sunday and Wednesday 11-3, Saturday 12-5 viewing only. 510-234-4884 for details or www.gsmrm.org

#### MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

The Masquers remains closed for building repairs. For more information see the website, http://www.masquers.org

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

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

> PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION Joanna Mina, Contact, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION Contact: Andrew Butt. 510-236-7445

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER Info: 510-620-6905

#### POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 1391/4 Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00. See the Editors Notes on page 3 for next TPIT deadline. For information call President Bonnie Jo Cullison at 510-412-2202.

#### POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday of each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M. Contact: Peter Thelin at 510-326-8108

#### POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY Information call 510-620-6567

#### **RED OAK VICTORY SHIP**

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

#### RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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

#### RICHMOND SWIMS

The Children and teens "Sail Fish" and Masters swim teams at the Richmond Plunge. Contact: Coach John Schonder, 510-504-0330 - September 25, 2011 open water bay swim raises money for coaching, equipment, pool fees and swimming scholarships for inner-city youth throughout Richmond. More info at http://www.richmondswims.org/ or call 415-892-0771

## ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway. For more information call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori. GREAT movies all

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

#### WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Diane Diani, President. Email: italiandiane@gmail.com

Additions/Corrections to this Directory/Calendar? Email Gary Shows, garyshows@gmail.com

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Name:		
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Phone:		
E Mail:		
Type of membership (check one):		
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Family \ '	25.00	
History Preserver	50.00	
l <del></del>	100.00	
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## Pam Wilson 521 Western Drive Point Richmond, CA 94801

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## Main Contributors to this Issue:

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Information

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

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Pat Dornan

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