

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXXVII No. 2

September/October, 2018

\$3.00



*Downtown Point Richmond's
Indian Statue & Triangle*

Volunteer Initial Application for SS Red Oak Victory

Name _____ Date _____

City _____ Email _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ Best time to call _____

Please indicate your areas of interest:

Air Conditioning / HVAC	Fund Raising	Plumbing ? Pipe Fitting
Archives	Gallery	Procurement
Boiler—Steam Engineering	General Labor	Radio Club
Carpentry	Greeter	Recruiting
Community Outreach	Living History	Rigging
Computers / Networks	Machine Shop	Security
Clerical	Marketing / Public Relations	Ship Fitting
Custodial	Medical	Ship's Store / Merchandise
Docent	Museum	Shipboard Events Prep / Help
Documentation	Newsletter	Signage
Electrical / Mechanical	Overnight Programs	Website
Environmental Health & Safety	Painting	Welding / Cutting / Fabricating

Other (Please indicate: _____

How did you learn about our volunteer opportunities? _____

If you heard about the *Red Oak* from a volunteer, please provide his/her name: _____

[] Please check this box if you would prefer NOT to receive emails from the *Red Oak Victory*.

SS Red Oak Victory
1337 Canal Blvd.
Berth 5
Richmond, CA 94804
510-237-2933

From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

The Point Richmond History Association website, (PointRichmondHistory.org) just keeps growing, thanks to Gary Shows, our scanning maniac. One of his latest uploads is a collection of 250 photos taken near the beginning of the process to qualify Point Richmond for the National Register of Historic Places. The photos were taken in 1978 and 1979 and include many houses, streets and parts of the downtown area. If you are curious about what your house and downtown Point Richmond looked like 40 years ago go to the website and scroll down past all of the scanned newsletters to *Point Richmond 1979 Historic District Study*.

Thanks to the Arts of Point Richmond for their donation of notecards featuring a photo of our History Museum on the front. The photo was taken by Sharon Taylor-Ward.

Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
Westside Womens Improvement Club	10
Early WWIC Minutes	12
A Harbor with History	14
Bricks Repaired	16
Arts of Point Richmond	17
History of the Masquers	18
Louie Mighetti	22
Stop Sign Trivia	23
Items of Interest	24
Birthdays	25
Memorials & 90's Club	26
Cards, Letters & E-Mails	27
Calendar/Directory	28



*PRHA archive photo #1084
from "Richmond
California", issued by
Richmond Industrial
Commission, 1911*

Thank you members for your renewal:

Sandy Hawkins
Graham Parrett Family
Muriel Clausen
Betsy Kellas
Lynn Maack
Don Amantite
Linda Newton**
William Keller & Paige Tashner
Family
Billie Bonham Shaw
Diane (Frosini) Diani
Florence Wilson
Barbara & Jeff Ward Family
Henry & Eva Marchitiello Family
Ken & Kay Madison Family
Royce Ong**
Thomas R. Williams Family
Tony Lizarraga**
Bobbie Swerdfegor Lizarraga**
Debra & Michael Jackson Family
Lori A. Kauth
Altha Humphrey
Richard Beesley
Virginia Mooney
Morris Simpson*
Kathe Kiehn**
Marianne Takeda & Frank Craig
Family*
Erin Frame & Steve Rice Family*
Carol Kiehn*
Karen & Art Gagnier Family*
Ingrid Lindermann*
Alexis Lane Jensen*
Welcome to new members:
Carrie Dong**
Hap & Diana Turner*
Guadalupe Torres**
Doreen Leighton

*Gift Membership

**Special Supporter, *Thank You!*

Thank You! To **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
Pat Pearson
Heinz Lankford
Gary Shows
Lori Kauth
Virginia Mooney
Bonnie Jo Cullison

The Cover:

Indian Statue Park and the downtown triangle.

Photo by Gary Shows

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

garyshows@gmail.com

Welcome to the September/October issue of TPIT. My usual thank you's to our contributors.

I thoroughly enjoy producing this little newsletter, am grateful for community support and encourage your participation. If you have information that you think would be interesting to our readers, please send it to me, garyshows@gmail.com.

There are several improvements to the website, PointRichmondHistory.org. In my quest to offer all Google searchable issues of "This Point.....in time", I have scanned through volume 19 with only 20, 21 and 22 to go. Volumes 23 through the present, volume 37 are already available. Also thanks to PRHA Treasurer Kathe Kiehn, there is Joel Beck's portfolio of drawings "Visions and Dreams". I have also added a booklet celebrating Richmond's 50th birthday in 1955. After I finish the TPIT newsletters I hope to begin offering old "Point Counterpoint" journals that were published back in the 1960's.

The deadline for our next TPIT November/December/January issue is November 9, 2018.

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

Mid Dornan
Gary Shows
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Tom Piazza
Jerry Cerkanowicz



Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Donna Wilson
Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Roberta & Richard Palfini
Patricia Dornan
Les Crim
Norm and Jean Reynolds
Fernando & Becky Garcia
David B. Janes
The Bartram-Owens Family
Burl Willes
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Bob Armstrong
Abigail Bok & David Gottlieb
Diane Hirano
Steve Birnbaum
Jan Palarczyk
Don & Carole Woodrow
Ron Vandergrift
Carrie Dong
Lynn Maack

Corporate Sponsors

New Leaf Salon (Guadalupe Torres)

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Linda Newton
Tom & Shirley Butt
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Bernie McIntosh
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Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza
Karen Buchanan
Norma Wallace
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Gloria & Mark Maltagliati
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Bobbie Swerdfefer Lizzarraga
Linda Hudock
Joanne Pike
Mark J. Kornmann
Jeanne Pritchard
Joe Pritchard
Jim & Olivia Jacobs

A-Mid Trivia

TPIT
Exclusive
since 1984

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334) (middornan@gmail.com)

Question: Where are the three smallest bones in the human body? Ears – eyes- nose - toes.

Answer: at end of Trivia

Which letter is silent in the word SCENT – the S or the C?

If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tizer wrote the lyrics and music to “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” in 1908. They had never been to a game and didn’t see their first game until 32 and 20 years later, respectively. What crunchy snack got a big boost by the song? Why Cracker Jack, of course

Stadiums are enjoying new snacks to eat. Pittsburgh Pirates fans gobble up beef patties topped with French fries and coleslaw on white bread. Detroit Tigers fans scarf down egg rolls stuffed with apple pie filling or Nutella.

Do twins realize one of them is unplanned?

Pat Pearson injured her kneecap early summer while in Sacramento with her daughter, Julie. Sadly, the injury recovery and other issues mean Pat will not return to live in the Point. Pat is one of the rare natives, born 85 years ago and living most of her life here. She married and raised a son and daughter here. More on our retired PRHA Vice President later.

With China’s decision to stop importing recycled materials, the U.S. is in danger of running out of space for its trash. America has been forced to dispose of 676,000 metric tons of waste this year that would otherwise been sent to China. By 2036, country landfills will be at

capacity.

If you have had chicken pox and are over 60, be sure to have a shingles shot. If you have had one in the past few years check with your doctor as you are being advised to get the new stronger dose

All women are invited to Women’s Westside Improvement Club, meeting the first Tuesday of the month, except on holidays, at the Methodist Church, Point Richmond, 11:30, a.m. brown bag lunch, 12:00 Meeting. Call WWIC President, Diane Diani for more information, 510-685-3762

Dr Judy Forbes, native Point resident now living in New Zealand,, has been working for a month with Doctors Without Borders, in Gaza, Palestine

Doreen Leighton recently retired, had a road trip on her bucket list this past summer. She then met up with Fran Smith to join her for a tour of South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Washington. After returning home to Point Richmond, they are sharing favorite memories with friends.

Kathy Barnes and daughter Molly, Carbondale, Illinois, arrived in June to enjoy Summer at Odd Fellow’s Park on the Russian River. Around 28 guests, including Pastor Dan Damon, Point Methodist Church, came for the 97th Birthday Brunch. for her Mom, Mid Dornan in August.

Connie Healy is enjoying her daughter Dr. Michele’s visit. from southern California. Michele took her mother, Florence Wilson and Frances Smith to lunch at El Sol. Connie lives next door to Doellsted’s spectacular landscaped garden overlooking the Bay, so they took a

guided tour..

A two week trip to Ireland was on Roberta and Richard Palfini's bucket list and Roberta was able to tour the area with Irish Dornan relatives, some still there from when Roberta's folks had visited in 1972.

Toys R Us was the "Magic Kingdom" for anyone growing up in the '70s or 80s. Sadly the chains are having an untimely demise because of bankruptcy.

Don't miss the Fairy Houses on your



walk up Washington Avenue.

Give a smile and 'hello' or Hi to a stranger each day.

A new generation will be crippled with cursives and stick shift cars.

Preserving the historic 1915 Point Methodist Parsonage, a new foundation was completed this past summer. Updating the inside is on the to-do-list of the Board.

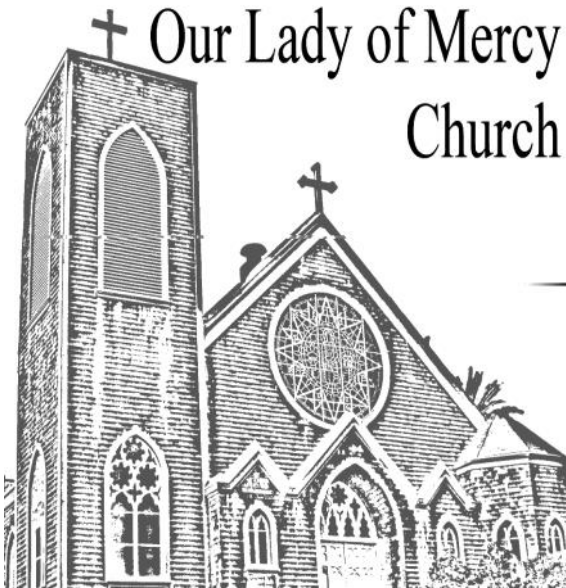
After spending many summers watching the Brown Bear Cameras (www.explore.org-Katmai Brown Bears) Pat Dornan got to experience a lifetime achievement spending a week in this Alaska National Park as a docent. While visiting the park, she was able to observe over 35 ID'ed bears and a plethora of subadult bears who were just released from their mothers in May. They were learning to fish as they saw the big bears only eating the skin, roe and brains and tossing off all the red sockeye meat. It was a lifetime experience.

Pat is a faithful docent at the Rosie the Riveter, World War II Homefront National Park in Richmond.

ANSWER: The three smallest bones in the human body are located in the middle ear. These bones are individually known as the malleus, incus, and stapes. All three of these tiny bones would fit comfortably on your finger nail!



Church News



By Dee Rosier

510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Summer is vacation time and that is exactly what summer did – it took a vacation since we did not enjoy many summer days. Looking toward fall which may bring us some pleasurable days. They year is passing quickly.

We were recently honored to welcome Fr. Peter Rogers celebrate the liturgies. He is the president of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Most of us signed up to receive his emails.

St. Vincent de Paul sponsored a bundle Sunday which gave us the opportunity to clear out some of what we accumulate. A van located in the church parking lot gratefully accepted all.

Our local firemen have been spending a lot of time responding to false fire alarms. The present system is antiquated and needs replacement which will be costly. The Council has suggested a digital system,

At this time, estimates we're seeking and setting money aside.

All are welcome to attend Mass as well as other sponsored events. Registration forms are located at the entrance of the church.

It was a delight to see a 1979 photo of Father David and Mike Sommers on the bulletin cover. Father officiated at the wedding in Berkeley when Mike married Lorie. They are both devout members of our parish.

It was Vacation Bible School at the Methodist Church and how the memories arose. My granddaughter attended every summer. Under the guidance of Jean Reynolds she enjoyed a week of fun events. Bless Jean for still running the summer event. Going back many years, my daughters attended vacation Bible School at the Baptist Church located at 304 Washington Street. The address is now residential. The Episcopal Church was also located on the corner of Washington and Nichol. We would join all the faiths and spend a particular Sunday jointly at one of the churches.

The son of Veronica and Jose Angel Rojero was recently baptized. Also, Rosalind, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Abruzzi. We welcome them both as they join our Christian community.

Pancake breakfasts are becoming a regular event and drawing loyal attendees. The next breakfast on September 9. Hope to see you there.

Our usual coffee/donuts on the first Sunday of the month and all are invited to attend.

It was graduation month and congratulations are sent to Antonio Dias who graduated from Salesian High School, as well as my grandson, Griffin Knee who graduated from San Rafael High School. Wishing them both success and happiness in life.

It was birthday time for Tom Kenny. Tom is a loyal Point Richmonder who resides in Pinole. Both he and his brother were altar boys at Our Lady of Mercy. Recently an antique stool was resurrected and am sure Tom and his brother spent time sitting on it. Before the freeway there was a

park located along Tewsbury, it was, Kenny Park. The rock depicting it now sits in front of the Plunge.

Preparation classes for First Communion will start shortly. They are open to parish families.

If you are a regular donor of food to the food bank, the most needed items are: plastic jars of peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken, beans, soups, fruits, pasta, rice. The food barrel is located in the entry way of the church. Thank you for your generosity and giving.

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM in the church hall.

St. Vincent de Paul meets on a Tuesday at 7PM in the church hall.

Ignatian Prayer Series for Women Only meets every other Monday 6:30-7:30PM in the church hall.

Contact: Wendy Hallett – 925-817-7741

Bible Study is every other Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 PM in the church hall.

Contact: Anne Brussok 510-517-9905

Nothing makes a grandmother prouder than having her grandchildren attend Mass with her – such is the delightful smile on the face of Maragaret Doherty when her grandchildren visiting from Washington, DC accompanied her.

How lucky can one person be?? Judy Spencer attended Mass in the company of her five sisters visiting from Michigan and Ohio. They spent a week enjoying local Bay Area events, including the wine train.

Our kindergarten group is half way through the year celebrating birthdays – the beauty of the group is all being the same age.

Cynthia Young accompanied her grandson, Gideon on a trip to the Virgin Islands.

Condolences are sent to the family of Joe Meneghelli. Joe was a long time resident of Richmond and well known throughout the community. At one time, his family owned a local grocery store .

Michael Fitzgerald journeyed to upstate New York in a small travel trailer to spend the summer writing his novel.

Continue to remember in your prayers: The Chezarecks, Mike Lambert, Fred Siegmund,

Dixie Mello, Veronica Arkin, Bill Gutierrez and Conde Chavez.

Treading on A-Mid Trivia, enjoyed this article and wanted to share:

When Julius Caesar “stole” a day from February to make July, the month named after him longer, Augustus Caesar followed suit with August, leaving poor little February with only 28 days. So February was the obvious candidate to receive the extra day Julius Caesar decided to add every four years, in order to put the calendar in sync with the actual length of the solar year – 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 second.

There is a triangular area behind the Great America which was unattended. It is grandfathered into the property owners’ real estate. A group of neighbors took the time to paint a wall as well as landscape the area, thus taking a distressed area and making it appealing. Thank you good neighbors for caring for your neighborhood.

It was Happy Birthday time for daughter, Renee and son-in-law Kevin – wishing you many more.

YOU ARE LOVED WHEN YOU ARE BORN

YOU WILL BE LOVED WHEN YOU DIE
IN BETWEEN, YOU HAVE TO MANAGE

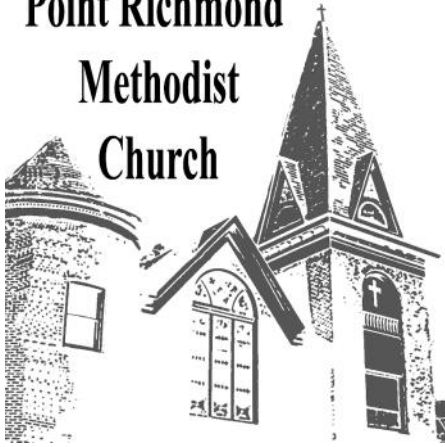
SEE YOU IN CHURCH



Dee Rosier



Point Richmond Methodist Church



Jean Reynolds

510-734-3942

sweetheart05@mac.com

The Masquers' Theater sponsored Point Richmond All-City Garage Sale provided a backdrop for Junktique II, our second May garage sale, on Memorial Day, May 28. Fran Smith organized volunteers, and fretted that not enough helpers were available. Rob Bader and Susie Ashworth Bader changed their family holiday plans to work at the sale. Susie, Susannah and Charlotte sold jewelry and Rob worked in the basement and yard. Amy and Sean Mefford brought their team to pitch in: Jaylyn, Juliana and young Jordan. Angie Watson agreed to cashier. Alice Thompson vended books; Gill Stanfield sold electronics. Bill Thompson worked in the yard and on the sidewalk. Pastor Dan played jazz in Friendship Hall, but alternated with a recording of him playing the same piano pieces – was it actually Dan or was it Memorex? – we had to look to see which. The Pancake Breakfast went smoothly. Rachel Herrin, Matt Foster, Norm Reynolds, Nick Hayter, and Jean Reynolds worked in the kitchen and Friendship Hall to serve up famous recipe Chicago Worlds Fair Pancakes, sausage links, juice and coffee. Norm found the sweet spot for the griddle temperature, and the cakes achieved the perfect degree of fluffy center and browned exterior. Matt provided breakfast-break relief for Norm before a business crisis took

him away. Rachel and Nick anticipated what we needed next so every diner got personal service. At the end of the day, most volunteers stayed past closing to assist with cleanup, so no one had to work overtime. Charlotte and Susannah filled and hauled boxes of unsold goods inside. Days after the sale, Fran borrowed her granddaughter's truck, enlisted great-grandson Manuel Navidad, and took a load of unsold items to the Salvation Army where a staff member admired the truck, saying, "It's beautiful. Someone must take very good care of it." When Manuel told him Fran was his great-grandma, nearly eighty-four, he replied, "Someone must take very good care of her."

Summer supply for the pulpit: Pastor Dan was absent from the pulpit several Sundays during the summer while he and Eileen Johnson shared their musical talents and took a bit of vacation elsewhere. Sunday, June 10, Jean Reynolds preached "Learning to Act" as a follow up to Pastor Dan's sermon the previous week "Learning to Listen." June 24, the Rev. Cornell Barnett preached as a courtesy since Pastor Dan just returned from Annual Conference. His topic, "Faith and Work: Where the Rubber Hits the Road" explored ways we are able to act in our daily lives and vocations to reflect our faith values. The Rev. Marty Murdock, retired United Methodist pastor from Santa Rosa, preached on July 8; he acknowledged the process of achieving wholeness in our lives can seem like we spend a long time stuck in the mud before we reach the cool waters of healing. George Peter Tingley played his exquisite musical setting of The Beatitudes for our special music. Lara Choe shared her faith journey on July 15. On August 19, Jacqueline Corl-Seidel, certified lay speaker from El Sobrante United Methodist, shared her faith and compared our evolving life stories to the Flax in a Hans Christian Andersen tale of the same name. Alice Thompson, piano; Jennifer Metz Foster, cello; and Matt Foster, guitar, accompanied our service. Pastor Dan led a Saturday program and Sunday worship at Auburn UCC that weekend.

Other special music: Soloist Olesia Gordynsky sang "Woman in the Night" and "Balm in Gilead" on June 3. For the Fathers Day Jazz service: The morning message was conveyed by the Dan Damon quartet, featuring Dan Damon, piano; Kurt Ribak, bass; Lincoln Adler, sax; and

Randy Odell, drums. Heather Damon, Gill Stanfield, and Sheilani Alix took vocal solos with the band. It was a treat for dads and everyone!

On July 29, Richard Davis sang "Just a Closer Walk". On August 12, our worship musicians included Lawrence Tietz, mandolin; Laura Sutton, viola; Matt Foster, guitar; Jackson Bader, trumpet; Jennifer Metz Foster, cello; Bill Thompson, drum; Alice Thompson, piano/organ; Pastor Dan Damon, piano.

GRIP dinners: We volunteer to provide dinner once a month for families at the GRIP family shelter in Richmond. Susie Ashworth Bader shopped for the June dinner. The usual chef from GRIP was on vacation, but GRIP staff Fessa and Rose stepped in to help cook. Doreen Leighton led the preparation, assisted by Debbie Benko and Yulia Solovieva. Debbie reported they all had fun and the food was hot and ready at the appointed time. In July, Linda Andrew-Marshall did the shopping; she, Shirley Butt, and Barbara Haley prepared and served the meal. On August 16, Lara Choe, Debbie Benko, and Linda Andrew-Marshall shopped, prepared, and served dinner.

Lily Chu was baptized and joined the church on August 5, with most of her adult children and extended family on hand to bear witness. We are blessed for Lily to officially join the church even though she and spouse David Tung just moved to a retirement community in Sacramento. Lily and David helped organize our Junktique sales, made arrangements for the Chinese Tea, and have participated as vital members of the church for several years. We will miss having them live nearby and plan to stay connected with them as they settle in their new neighborhood.

A baker's dozen of children met for Vacation Bible School the week of August 6. The theme was "Dreams and Dreamers"; our stories were ones featuring bible characters who used the insights they gleaned from their dreams to guide their actions and attitudes. Harlan Butt brought his cousins visiting from Arkansas, and cousin Caralina Martin taught us a new game: four corners. The children discovered new rocks in the labyrinth garden and its beautiful bits of sea glass. Bill Thompson, Rachel Herrin, Karen Bianchini, and Jean Reynolds led the activities daily and provided a loving, secure presence. Pastor Dan

Damon accompanied our singing every day, even on his day off. Mia Sassi shared her light and outgoing persona two days she did not have cross-country practice. Linda Andrew-Marshall, Kristi Johnson, Annie Ao, Lara Choe, Nikki Villa, and Sara Knight provided refreshments. Nate Trivers sent freshly picked corn for the shucking relay and subsequent luncheon. Bethany Reynolds led songs and games on Friday. Nick Hayter and Norm Reynolds cooked lunch for kids and families to celebrate the last day. I celebrate our community of children, families, and volunteers who join together to make Vacation Bible School my favorite week of the year!

The Trustees have been active this summer in their quest to maintain the church property. After a truck backed into a section of the picket fence, Betty Graham custom made some pickets to match, since ones with the original dimensions are no longer available. Bill Thompson and Jonathan Swett installed and painted the replacements. We enlisted the expertise of Clausen Engineering to build a concrete and steel foundation under the parsonage. The original brick one had begun to dissolve from contact with an underground spring. With a bit of luck, the work will be complete before the rainy season.

Ben Bray passed away in his home in Bodega Bay on June 9. He and wife Jo Ann were long-time members of the church, and had moved from El Cerrito to Bodega Bay twenty-six years ago when they retired. Ben was father to Alice Thompson and David Bray; father-in-law to Bill Thompson; and grandfather to Sarah Thompson, Melanie Taylor, and Nate Taylor. Ben's grandson Liam Thompson and stepson Cris Rucker predeceased him. Before the Brays moved to Bodega, Ben served in church leadership and seldom missed a board meeting. After they moved, Ben and Jo Ann remained faithful to our congregation: they hosted beach picnics and helped with fundraisers. Ben arranged for a harpist to perform here and share her faith story. We value the ways Ben remained committed to our congregation, and we cherish our memories of him. His legacy includes a bequest he made to the church to help with costs to rebuild the parsonage foundation.

(Continued on page 11)

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Norma Wallace

WWIC's last meeting of the year took place June 5, in Fellowship Hall, First United Methodist Church. Approximately 20 members were present by the start of the meeting, drawn both by interest in the day's annual theme, Hat Day, and by the new annual tradition of the installation of officers.

President Linda Newton greeted members, and offered thanks to the officers for hostessing, to Diane Hirano and Norma Wallace for setting up and decorating the luncheon tables, and to all members for bringing salads and desserts to this year-end salad potluck. Linda made special effort to invite members to calendar 2018-19 meeting dates "today!"

Linda made special announcements on the health status and/or whereabouts of several members: Alyce Williamson - while not leaving home, invites visits. Barbara Robertson is feeling better, and able to attend, however, her friend, neighbor and driver, Altha Humphrey, is not feeling so well. Marion Kent and Mary Lee are traveling. A couple other members are volunteering related to today's election. Mid Dorman noted to whom she'll be sending greeting cards on behalf of the Club.

Summer birthday announcements followed, with appropriate applause for Mary Lee Cole (June 2), Carol Mohalley (June 23), Alyce Williamson (July 10), Doris Mitchell (July 20), Fran Smith (July 21), Martha Bielawski (July 23), Mid Dorman (August 5), Cathy O'Brien (August 15), Barbara Robertson (August 18), Jessie West (August 23), Marion Kent (August 31).

Linda welcomed guests: Beverly Bastian invited by former member Jane Diokas, and Anne, invited by Leslie Hicks. Secretary Margaret Jordan announced correspondence received from FUMC thanking WWIC for our donations to their kitchen fund and for our meeting space; and from Richmond Swims in gratitude for our donation which covers one year's scholarship, per (swimmer) Carla Bowman.

Margaret Jordan accepted corrections for the April 2018 meeting minutes, no minutes being taken or approved during the May Bunco event. Cathy O'Brien presented the Treasurer's Report for absent Marion Kent, highlighting the \$530 received in donations for Bunco. Linda took this moment to thank Diane Diani for leading

WWIC in this most successful event.

Additional Club business, though brief, included Linda's announcement of gardening days over the summer, with details to come via email and Nextdoor announcements. The Club's October fundraiser needs a chair. A meeting of the old and new boards will occur on Wednesday, June 20, to facilitate information transfer (another new, sensible and hopefully annual tradition).

Member announcements included: Karen Buchanan announced a Downtown hike to start at Harbor/MacDonald. Diane Hirano shared that David Moore took a picture of the gardening group one morning, and by early afternoon had posted it to the website! Related to that particular gardening day, Patricia Farrell of Outback offered all the volunteer gardeners that day a pair of socks to thank them for their efforts to beautify the neighborhood. Thanks, Patricia!

The installation of officers was preceded by personalized offers of appreciation on behalf of the Club, by Norma to Linda, and by Karen to Norma in the form of a very clever limerick. Following applause and grins, Mid Dorman and Margaret Jordan led the Installation of Officers including Fran Smith as Second Vice President, Diane Diani as President and Carla Bowman as This Point in Time Correspondent. Margaret presented each incoming officer with a red rose while Mid recited a Commitment to the Club to which each agreed.

And then, Hat Day! Those in attendance heard Hat Stories from Beverly, Fran, Mid, Carla, The Diane's (D., H., and M.), Lara, Karen, Ann and Anne, Leslie, Cathy, Linda, Lynn, Doris, Margaret and Norma. A few of the fondly shared memories related to hats which featured: general themes including scuba, a clown, mouse ears, "several weddings and a funeral," (matching) a black and white outfit; holiday themes including an old-fashioned Russian River July 4th celebration and Christmas; and, places including a 50th high school reunion of South Korea classmates, the Australian Outback, and Santa Fe. To say more might reveal secrets.

WWIC welcomes you to our meetings. Look for the announcement on Nextdoor. We request RSVPs to plan seating, beverages, and desserts. You'll meet neighbors, learn about our little village, help raise money, and decide how to spend it. Member responsibilities

include paying annual dues, attending meetings, hostessing once per year (Sept-June, a “bye” in January), making friends and pitching in on projects. Our Bunco pop-up is an Invitation Only event, so please join to be included in next year’s fun and frivolity. Please see our web presence, graciously created and updated by local artist and webmaster David Moore, Sincere Design. <http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/> or look for meeting announcements on Nextdoor.

See you around town!

“Hat Day” Group Photo



Back row (from left): Diane Diani, Linda Newton, Lynn Clifford, Carla Bowman, Diane Hedler, Cathy O'Brien, Karen Buchanan, Lara Choe, Ann Langel, Norma Wallace

Middle row: Beverly Bastian, Diane Marie, Doris Mitchell, Fran Smith, Anne Buchanan

Front row: Diane Hirano, Mid Dornan, Margaret Jordan

(Continued from page 9) Point Richmond Methodist Church

On the Calendar:

Tenth Annual Jean Eakle Gala Art and Jewelry Sale: Saturday, September 29, 4 – 6 p.m., Point San Pablo Yacht Club, 700 W. Cutting Blvd., Richmond. Suggested donation \$5: includes a free ticket for the door prize, live music, hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar, and sweeping Bay views. To donate items for the sale, contact Doreen 510-316-9238. All proceeds benefit the programs of the church.

Point Richmond Jazz concerts start with Mads Tolling, Friday, October 26, 7:30 pm.

Mads' performance will be a tribute to his mentor, Svend Asmussen, who died last year just short of his one-hundred-first birthday.

On November 23, Jazz piano legend Larry Vuckovich and violinist Eric Golub perform in concert. 7:30 pm. Tickets may be available at the door starting at 7:00 pm the night of the concert. Point Richmond Jazz season tickets, discounted tickets for individual concerts, and the entire schedule are all available online at PRJazz.org

In Concert: Natural Rhythms with Terry Garthwaite, Becky Reardon, and Elise Witt November 9, Friday, 7:30 pm Tickets will be available through Brown Paper Tickets and at the door.



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. Crichtett's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history.

-Linda Newton, Past President

Pt. Richmond Feb. 16, 1909

The Women's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met in the Reading Room.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of officers resulted in all being present but Treas. Mrs. Lucas, Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Jones, Executive Com. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Windrew & Mrs. Dimmick.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Communications were read from Ford Samuells.

Bills were read from Geo. W. Topping, material for lights \$5.00, Richmond Supply Co. \$1.85, Richmond Terminal \$3.00, Richmond Leader \$3.25. The Finance approved of bills & a motion was made and carried that a warrant be drawn on the treasury for the amount of the bills. Mr. Spierich's bill for putting up stove was laid over till next meeting for correction.

The Committee of Fountain were asked to be present at the next meeting to discuss the subject of securing the drinking fountain.

The club decided to give a Minstrell show in the near future and Mrs. Whitcomb was appointed chairman of com. with Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Trautvetter, Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Moyle, Mrs. Lukas and Mrs. Jenkins to assist.

The Carnegie Library was discussed.

Moved & carried that we petition the Board of Trustees so support our Reading Room.

Mrs. Marston & Mrs. Adams were appointed a committee to collect the monthly donations for the support of the Reading Room.

Bill from Lang Drug Co. for paper .40 was

allowed.

Receipts

\$3.75

Disbursements

\$13.50

Mrs. Geo. W. Topping (Sec.)

Pt. Richmond, Mar. 2, 1909

The Women's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met in the Reading Room.

The meeting was called to order by President Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of officers resulted in all being present except Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard & Mrs. Lang, Executive Com. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Windrew, Mrs. Niedecker & Mrs. Drinick.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & approved.

Bills were presented: Frank Crichtett rent \$15.00, Lillian Parks salary \$20.00, Mrs. Neil 1.00, Mrs. Whitcomb, music \$5.65. Total \$41.65.

It was moved and carried that a warrant be drawn on the treasury for the amount of the bills.

The Committee on Fountain were given more time to get prices etc. on fountains.

Mrs. Adams & Mrs. Marston collected \$33.00 for monthly donations toward Free Reading Room.

Moved & carried that the petition to the Board of Trustees to support the Library be laid aside for the present.

Mrs. Curry reported that the little park was nearly ready and that the papers would have to be fixed up between the City & the Baptist Church people.

Moved & carried that the sec. write a letter of thanks to Mrs. W.S. Rehen for her donation of \$30.00 to the Reading Room.

(Continued from page 12)

The planting of trees on the streets was discussed.

Mrs. Whitcomb reported on the progress of the Minstrell show.

Miss Lillian Parks sent in the following report for the month the Library; Money deposited on books \$8.00. Money refunded 1.00. Balance on hand \$7.00.

The rules for the Library and Reading Room were read.

Moved and carried that \$5.00 be left with the Librarian for change.

Receipts	\$45.75
----------	---------

Disbursements	\$41.65
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There being no further business to come before the club the meeting adjourned to meet Mar. 16, 1909

Mrs. Geo. W. Topping,
Sec.

Pt. Richmond, Mar. 16, 1909

The Women's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met in the Reading Room.

The meeting was called to order by President Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of officers resulted in all being present except Finance Sec. Mrs. Trautvetter, Treas. Mrs. Lucas, Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Jones, Executive Com. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Windrew & Mrs. Niedecker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication from the Women's Improvement Club of Richmond offering some books to this Reading Room was read.

Moved & carried that the books be accepted.

Bills from the Richmond Daily Leader & Spierch Bros. were laid over till next meeting.

Mrs. Whitecomb reported that this club would give a vaudeville entertainment on April 22 instead of a minstrell.

Mrs. Topping reported that the fountain committee had decided upon the style of fountain they wanted and had written for prices on same.

Mrs. Curry reported that the Park was already to be layed out & they were waiting on

the Baptist people to get the papers fixed up.

Receipts \$36.50

There being no further business to come before the club the meeting adjourned to meet April 6, 1909.

Mrs. Geo. W. Topping (Sec.)

Pt. Richmond, April 6, 1909

The Women's West Side Improvement Club of Richmond met at the Reading Room.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of officers resulted in all being present except Financial Sec. Mrs. Trautvetter, Treas. Mrs. Lucas, Finance Com. Mrs. Garrard, Mrs. Jones & Mrs. Lang, Executive Com. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Windrew & Mrs. Niedecker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Communications were read from the Pithian Sisters, Elizabeth Town, Mrs. Cassleman & J.L Mott Iron Co.

Moved & carried that we accept the offer of Pithian Sisters concerning 4th of July celebration.

Mrs. Coleman & Mrs. Topping were appointed on committee to confer with the com from the Woman's Improvement Club regarding which booth we should have at the picnic.

Bills from Lillian Parks, Librarian \$20.00, Elec. Light Co. Feb. \$1.44, Mar. \$2.64, Crichton Rent \$15.00, Mrs. Adams book .25, Mrs. Curry expense \$150. Total \$40.83.

Moved & carried that a warrant be drawn on the treasury for the amount of the bills.

Mrs. McHenry spoke to the club about a woman who was in need of assistance and invited those who could to come to her house and sew for her.

Mrs. Whitcomb reported progress on entertainment.

Mrs. Curry reported on park.

Receipts dues \$2.25 library \$19.00

Disbursements \$40.83

There being no further business to come before the club the meeting adjourned to meet April, 20 1909.

Mrs. Geo. W. Topping (Sec.)

A Harbor with History

By Caitlin Hibma

Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor has been around since 1939, but it was recently given a new lease on life. A hidden gem at the end of a rugged road, it was known as a good honest fishing spot. Now it's a houseboat community and an event space with a "finer diner," but it still has a killer view and plenty of history...

Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor was established by Captain Raymond H. Clarke, a ferry skipper for the Richmond-San Rafael Transportation Company, a pre-bridge ferry service. A sailor by profession, Clarke was also an avid recreational boater and a founding member of the Richmond Yacht Club (now at 700 Cutting Blvd.). He knew that San Pablo Bay was a popular sport fishing spot and, nearing the end of his days working the ferry line, he purchased the Point San Pablo harbor property from the ferry company. All of the land around it was owned by Standard Oil and another landowner.

Clarke's son, Alan, oversaw building the harbor, which was primarily the work of he and a team of four or five former oil workers. Initially, Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor was accessible only by boat and a winding footpath over the hill. Harbor construction began with grading of an access road and dredging the harbor basin; first one half then the other due to expense. The spoils were deposited as fill on what was then a marshy shore to create the current parking area. As a cost-saving measure, defunct boat cabins, including the wheelhouse of an old ferry, were pulled ashore to serve as a club house and other "buildings", while derelict wooden lumber schooners were acquired from the Oakland estuary, towed into place, and sunk to form the breakwaters that shelter the harbor. The water was so shallow, however, that the majority of the ships' hulls rose above the water line. Eventually, they began to deteriorate and break apart.

Raymond Clarke retired from ferry piloting in 1941 and devoted the rest of his career to operating the harbor. Alan Clarke was involved in the daily (and often nightly) operations, and even Mrs. Clarke visited each day, often running the East Brother Lighthouse keeper's children to school and back, as they were delivered to the harbor on a launch from East Brother island. Prior to World War II, the Clarkes rented out a fleet of 65 rowboats and 15 to 20 party boats. Rowboats cost two dollars per day and had to be reserved in advance. The harbor tow boat would pull a string of row boats out into the bay about three miles, where they would drop anchor and fish. The tow boat then made rounds every two hours to pick up any boat that wanted to come back in. An old Key System ferry boat from Oakland, stripped to its deck and fitted with railings and benches was moored at the mouth of the harbor to serve as a floating fishing platform; just a dollar per adult for its use. Clarke also built a number of duck blinds on the property for hunting waterfowl.



*ca.1940 from the Richmond Museum of History collection,
accession #P3646-12*

In addition to renters, some harbor patrons owned their own boats. With a reputation as a “working man's marina,” most were modest sailboats and junkyard hulls rigged up with old car engines. A jovial community developed at the harbor and social life was supported by a restaurant and bar called the Galley Cafe. It had a three-room apartment upstairs occupied by the restaurant proprietors. The harbor also employed additional workers, a couple of whom lived in small cabins on the premises.

Alan Clarke joined the Army during World War II and the harbor fell into decline during his absence. This was exacerbated by restrictions on fishing to daylight hours only; the harbor, previously had been busy twenty hours a day.”Harbor patrons became employed in local wartime industry, leaving little time for recreation, and gasoline shortages and a decline in fish populations (due to water contamination seeping out of the nearby Standard Oil settling tanks) contributed to an overall slump at the yacht harbor.

Things picked up a little after the war. The San Pablo Yacht Club formed and used the harbor as its home port, with membership including many Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel. Local Sea Scouts also met there; the two groups sharing a clubhouse. However, with the boat rental business suffering from poor fishing and the harbor in need of constant maintenance, Clarke sold it in 1949.

A moment of fame came to the harbor in 1955, when the movie *Blood Alley* was filmed there. It starred John Wayne and Lauren Bacall. The old breakwater ships and nearby whaling station were used as sets; standing in for the movie's more exotic setting of Chiku Shan, China.

In the late 1950s or early 1960s, the Galley Cafe was remodeled into the larger building it is today, but otherwise the harbor experienced little additional growth or commercial success in the later twentieth century. In 1964, new owners burned the hulls of the breakwater ships down to the waterline to remedy the problem of flotsam breaking free and creating navigational hazards in the bay.

By the mid-1990s, cabin cruiser and

sport fishing boats were most common at Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor and there were about 40 permanent residents living on houseboats. Most residents were retirees and professionals, who appreciated the harbor's peace and did not mind a long bumpy commute to jobs in other East Bay communities. The Galley Cafe was still in operation and San Pablo Bay Sportsman's Club was also present.

In 2001, the harbor came under new ownership when business partners Jim Hearn and Eric Johnson purchased the property. At the time, the houseboat population had come to include a sordid demographic attracted by the harbor's isolation, but the Hearn and Johnsons are credited with removing transients and drug-users. They built the harbor back up. Around 2009, neighboring Chevron began making overtures to purchase the harbor property, prompting harbor residents and patrons to form the Point San Pablo Preservation Society. With luck on the harbor's side, however; it was instead purchased by owners with a vision, and a new chapter has begun for the old yacht harbor.

Author's Note: An extensive oral history interview with Alan Clarke has plenty more anecdotal information and can be found online through U.C. Berkeley's Bancroft Library. Search: Judith K. Dunning, “On the Waterfront: An Oral History of Richmond, California.”



from the Richmond Independent, 13 January 1973

Bricks Repaired *THANK YOU!*



Some of the bricks at the base of the Indian Statue had shifted creating a tripping hazard for many months. The first remedy for the situation was to place orange cones at the hazardous locations. To my surprise, I recently came upon three local businessmen, **Daniel Butt, Scott Harris and Billy Zeier**, who were working to determine the cause of the problem, remove that cause (tree roots), level the area, and then replace the bricks. Thanks to their hard work the area is back to normal: safe and level.

-Heinz Lankford



Hooray, no more ugly plastic cones!



*From Rita Gardner, AOPR Communications
Director*

August 1 – October 15, 2018: Arts of Point Richmond is showcasing artworks by Cherie Carter and Virginia Rigney at El Sol Restaurant, 101 Park Place, Point Richmond.

Cherie Carter's work is a study in bold, colorful and complex portraits. She is fascinated in discovering the inner truth in her subjects. Carter refers to her work as portrait biographies that symbolically reveal and document a person's life-altering experiences.

Virginia Rigney, a ceramic artist, a jeweler and printmaker, works with charcoal, pen and ink. This exhibit features her work with clay monoprints, using the responsiveness of clay and combining it with rich painted color. The finished painting is transferred from the clay to a canvas-like material. *Photos by Sharon Taylor-Ward.*

September 1 – October 31: Arts of Point Richmond exhibition: Fall 2018 Members' Exhibition at Kaleidoscope Coffee, 109 Park Place, Point Richmond. Artists featured: Nelly Anstruther, Jean Brady, Suzanne Cerny, Jim DeWitt, Caitlin Hibma, Irene Hightower, Steve Hurst, Betsy Kellas, Nora Lee, Carol Lettko, Gail Morrison, Heli Perrett, Judy Rattner, Virginia Rigney, George Tomberlin, Nancy Whitley, Joseph Wurcher.

Saturday, September 8, 4:00-6:00p: Artists Reception at Kaleidoscope Coffee. All welcome.

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



Virginia Rigney Exhibit


ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND
FALL 2018
MEMBERS'
EXHIBITION
Sept. 1-Oct. 31

Reception
Saturday, Sept. 8
4pm-6pm

Kaleidoscope Coffee
109 Park Place
Pt. Richmond, CA

www.artsofpointrichmond.com

Like us on Facebook



FIRST 50 YEARS OF MASQUERS HISTORY

*Over half a century of first-rate community theater in
Richmond, CA!*

Comedy, Drama, Music On & Offstage 1965-1974

The second decade finds the Masquers happily producing four shows per season: one musical or a melodrama with olgios, one drama or suspense/thriller, and two comedies. Reasonably secure that they would be able to renew their lease every three years, they scheduled each show to run for five weekends with tickets priced at \$1.50. Ten years later, each show ran six weekends, or seven by popular demand, and ticket price was now \$2.50.

*Andrea
Moye, Bruce
Danska and
Estelle
Novello in
"Take Me
Along" (1971
)*



The shows attracted patrons who wanted to be entertained but not shocked or confronted by gratuitous vulgarity. Masquers comedies were often risqué but never obscene. According to the critics, dramas were riveting, musicals sparkled, and "mellerdramas" — well, they were just plain corny.

Resident Director Jo Camp continued as Resident Director, keeping the company's energy flowing, running a tight ship fiscally and organizationally, and always welcoming newcomers.

She acted in very few plays but when she did she was "a complete delight" as one reviewer said of her performance as the former wife

*Jim
Bradeson and
Vern Silva in
"Passion, or
Positively
without
Passion"
(1974)*



in *Pleasure of His Company*. As director of 27 of the 40 shows this decade, Jo received solid accolades: "directed with sensitivity and charm," "skillful," "intelligently low-key."

Musical direction was most often in the

*Virginia
Cherniak in
"Tenderloin"
(1965)*



talented hands of Virginia Cherniak, who also directed four shows this decade and served as Business Manager. She chose pianists Victoria Kellogg, Janice Jones, and Joanne Gabel to provide the accompaniment. One pleased reporter said the piano was so effective that full orchestration was hardly missed.

The first musical Masquers presented at the theater was *Tenderloin* in 1965, a large cast musical set in the 1890s. Ticket price increased to \$2.00 for their second musical, *Tovarich*, set at the other end of the social spectrum. With lavish

“Tovarich”
(1966)
*Tuxedos
courtesy of
Selix
Formal
Wear*



costumes, multiple set changes, a large cast and chorus, the Masquers demonstrated that the small size of their stage and narrow backstage area would not prevent them from mounting big productions. Oakland Tribune reviewer Herb Michelson wrote, “I simply can’t get over the effectiveness of this singing ensemble during production numbers. You can shut your eyes and pretend you’re at the Curran, the work is that stylish.”

Resident Stage Manager

While Jo Camp was in charge of what happened onstage, backstage was the domain of

“Don’t Drink
the Water”
*rehearsal
(1970). Dorth
is top left
(behind Marie
Wedell)*



Dorth Hadley, who took this position with the Masquers’ very first production. Greatly respected by all cast members, her word was LAW, Jo declared to each fresh cast.

When not on stage, actors were to be quiet and in their designated areas. “Off my stage!” trained wanderers quickly. Her well thought out backstage techniques ensured that the many complicated set and costume changes occurred swiftly and smoothly in a theatre with minimal wing space. Shirley Hickman remembers Dorth as a commanding stage manager who did not allow anyone back stage until just before their entrance, and would even cue entrances with a countdown: “10 ...9 ...8 ...7 ...6 ...5 ...4 ...3 ...2 ...1 ...

Go!” Despite her strict control of all things back stage, Dorth was not adverse to hijinx and amazed everyone by playing the Great Pumpkin when members of the group dressed as the Peanuts gang one Halloween.

*Vern Silva,
Connie
Wheeler and
Dick Shore in
“Everybody
Loves Opal”
(1971)*



According to Masquers lore, Dorth’s presence continued to be felt even after her death. Was it time to replace the lights in the auditorium? The vote was decidedly Yes for right in the middle of discussing the topic, the light fixture over where Dorth customarily sat ... suddenly crashed to the floor! (The replacement for that light was dedicated to Dorth.) When she died suddenly in 1971, the night before the fall show was to open, cast and crew agreed she would want the show to go on and so it did — on schedule. *Everybody Loves Opal* was both a hit and a highlight of the decade.

Guest Directors

*Scott Camp-
bell, Step-
hanie Cherniak
and Charles
Schlaudi in
“Redhead”
(1968)*



Although Jo Camp and Virginia Cherniak enjoyed much success in their directorial capacities, guest directors produced successful shows too. Other actors in the company who were lucky enough to get to try their hand at directing included Ivan Paulsen, Kaye Parisho, Chris Christian, Rhoda Plymack, Scott Campbell, Sue Daily, Jim Bradeson, Daphne Haacker, and

(Continued on page 20)

Charles Schlaudt. Ivan Paulsen starred in Peter Shaffer's drama *Five Finger Exercise*, directed by his loving partner, Kaye Parisho, and was hailed as "splendid" in the role of the affection-starved German tutor.

Theater critics were surprised to learn that *Plaza Suite* was Rhoda (Plymack) Ellenbogen's first stint as a director. "Her blocking is excellent, her characters well-etched, and the pacing is ideal." Rhoda credited her New York Jewish background for her special understanding of Neil Simon's humor. Scott Campbell directed a "fun production" of Ira Wallach's *Absence of a Cello*, despite only modest success on Broadway. Critics noted that *Masquers* more than once achieved success with plays that had a similar history. Ticket price was raised to \$2.50 with the show *Ten Little Indians*, directed by Daphne Haaeker. Keith Reagan wrote, "Believe it or not, Agatha Christie's mystery is so well done here that a [nearby patron] was screaming in alarm on Opening Night."

Press Coverage

*Jerry Larue
and Chas.
Tisher in
"Visit to a
Small Planet"
(1965)*



Although press coverage for amateur theater seemed to diminish during this decade, the *Masquers* still enjoyed articles in the major newspapers, thanks to the Publicity Manager and to the relatively few organizations vying for space.

Headlined two-inch articles described upcoming tryouts, the opening of shows, and humorous asides, such as the story of Ginger the calico cat who won an audition by not delivering a monologue. Even *Masquers* social events were covered. When 20 *Masquers* traveled to the

Stanislaus River in Amador County for the annual summer outing, a four-inch article declared. "Masquers Go Picnicking!"

*Thomas
Johnson and
Jane Mosburg
in "Wait
Until Dark"
(1974)*



Upon seeing Jo's "hilarious" production of George Kaufman's beloved chestnut *You Can't Take It With You*, one critic added this endorsement of amateur theater: "Unlike going to the Geary or Curran in San Francisco, one doesn't have to pay for parking, the ticket takers and ushers are polite and eager to please, there's good coffee and cookies in the lobby, and one pays much less for a far better seat a lot closer to the action on stage." To augment the major press, small circulation publications such as *Keith Reagan Theater News* arose, devoted to promoting high quality amateur theater.

The *Masquers* were popular because they loved to do what their audiences loved to see: goofy comedies, glamorous musicals, suspense thrillers, and touching plays. They produced frothy fare, cherished thoughtful drama, riveting plays that explored family relationships, ethical choices, and the challenges of life and death. Press deemed *The Highest Tree* a "must see" and reported that Ralph Miller did "an outstanding job" in his portrayal of a dying nuclear physicist.

The press may have yearned for edgier plays, but *Masquers* stayed well within the boundaries of good taste. Jo would never advocate the alteration of a play's themes or characters in order to be acceptable to the audience and would rather not select a show than to do that. But she did feel that *Masquers* should protect its patrons from profanity and therefore did remove or make substitutions for strong language. Further, she did not want to hear swearing from her actors whether in or out of character (so of course they teased her..."What did you say?!" She would ask the

actors rehearsing their lines, “Nothing, Jo.”)

Cast and Crew

The Masquers enjoyed theatrical, creative, and social camaraderie during production and throughout the year. After a performance, Masquers and friends usually headed over to a nearby restaurant bar, particularly The Point, The Hotel Mac, or the Baltic. With little or no encouragement needed to break into song, Masquers caroused long into the evening. More than once, Bernie Johnson played piano for them way past the 2:00 am closing time. Our own Brown Derby, the Point displayed framed and autographed Masquer head shots above the bar.

Every year Masquers in small or large numbers went on outings together — a bonfire on the beach, a tour of a new winery, a trip to the Sierras, a visit to Carmel. In addition, there were many parties. The Cherniaks and the Wedells were frequent hosts who invited Masquers and friends to their homes for food, drink, singing, and storytelling.

The Playhouse

*Charles
Schlaudt, Estelle
Novello, Ivan
Paulsen and
Chuck Haacker
in “Sunday in
New York”
(1969)*



In this decade an opportunity arose to purchase the playhouse for well under \$30,000. Though several Masquers dreamed of buying the building, the Board was not yet ready to take this step. They continued to channel their energies into putting on shows and did not attempt to raise extra funds, considering themselves a non-profit in the truest sense of the word. They maintained and improved the theater on a shoestring, updating the seats, improving the wiring, and decorating the

lobby. Lighting the stage was effective and highly praised in spite of the rudimentary equipment. Dimmers were shielded with 2 lb. coffee cans, changing a special light cue might require two hands and a foot, and box office personnel had to be trained in how to replace a blown fuse.

The increasing number of costumes needed

*Vern Silva,
Arlene
(Getz)
Cozano The
“Man Who
Came to
Dinner”
(1974)*



more and better storage facilities. Mary Jo Campbell and the other costumers had been using a dank underground basement near the theater until John Wedell arranged to use a vacant room above the Point bar across the street and installed three-tiered shelves for the costumes. Now they needed a ladder in order to hang up a blouse, but this was much better than stooping through a “bend or bump” doorway and not being able to stand up to full height once inside.

Masquers was clearly thriving, welcoming newcomers whether experienced or novices, tackling each season’s ambitious slate of shows with energy and enthusiasm, and benefiting from the stability of a long-term lease. Sure, plastic sheeting blew off the leaky Playhouse roof and landed all over town. Okay, someone was always opening the stage door just when you took off your pants, and yes, the passing railroad train drowned out your best lines, but hey! everyone was having an absolute whee of a time! Masquers were sustaining their vibrant organization with hard work, devotion, and good cheer. With such spirit, they attracted many talented people to the group. What would the next decade hold?

In the next issue of TPIT, history of the Masquers, 1975-1984.

LOUIE MIGHETTI, P. A.

BOX 187, POINT STATION
114 RAILROAD AVENUE
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

BEACON 4-1773

By James Cheshareck

When Oddone Mighetti and his wife Clementina Stradella Mighetti immigrated to America from Piedmont, Italy in 1906 they settled in Point Richmond. They opened the Piedmonte Hotel at 112 Railroad Avenue housing boarders primarily from Italy, but also Mexican and American laborers. The couple had two sons, Mario born March 8, 1907, and Luigi "Louie" born March 22, 1910. Mario died on January 4, 1928 at only 20 years of age, and Louie lost both of his parents one day apart. Oddone died on Christmas Eve 1936 at age 60, and his mother died on Christmas day 1936 at age 54. Louie would remain on the family property for the rest of his life, but ceased taking in boarders and the hotel was eventually torn down. He became a public accountant and opened his office at 130

Standard Avenue. When most of the Standard Avenue business district was gutted for the approach to the San Rafael Bridge, he began working from his home. He prepared tax returns for Point Richmond and Richmond residents well into the late 1970's. I remember Louie taking his daily walks along Railroad Avenue with a makeshift Billy club rotating in his right hand. His asbestos-shingled house dwarfed the large plot of real estate it sat upon which was sought after by developers. He looked menacing with his nightstick in hand, but I found him to be an affable man. He died on April 3, 1997 at age 87, and his house at 114 Railroad Avenue still stands alongside two buildings constructed after his death.



Ad from 1968 Point Counterpoint





Seeing deer in your neighborhood?
We are having regular visits from this
buck and several others at our house on
Golden Gate Avenue. Took these
pictures from my deck.



1934 Stop Sign

The new stop sign on Park Place has inspired me to do a brief history of traffic signage. The majority of Northern California's traffic signs were once produced by the California State Automobile Association, beginning in 1908. Between 1932-1956 signs made of porcelain enamel coated steel containing cats-eye reflectors were the standard. These signs bore the CSAA logo, (the Auto Club of Southern California logo was used on S. Cal signs) and had a serial number and date code on the back. Glass reflectors were used until 1941 and plastic thereafter. Competitors accused AAA of getting free advertising and decades-long lawsuits and legislation ultimately resulted in the prohibition of AAA signs being posted on state highways in 1947. The new signs used on highways were identical, but contained a California Division of Highways logo, and by the early 60's aluminum signs would supersede steel. The sign in the photo is from 1934.

-James Cheshareck

Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

-Will Rogers

This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond. It was compiled by Don Church from the "Richmond Independent", "Point Richmond News", "The Leader" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of many historical items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, early 1900's *The Record and The Leader*

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 03-10-1915 | Large grass and building fires at Giant threatens the Powder Works, arson is suspected. |
| 03-20-1915 | Girls of tender age being admitted to rooming houses with men. No questions asked. City investigating. |
| 03-23-1915 | Mrs. C.M Arnold robbed at her home 109 West Richmond. |
| 03-30-1915 | Plans were made to have a Mt. Vesivous fireworks on Nicholl Knob but ground was too hard for pick and shovel. |
| 04-07-1915 | Tong War in SF may spread to Richmond area. |
| 04-08-1915 | 248 autos listed in Richmond |
| 04-13-1915 | Preachers ask closing of the Grand Canyon Chateau.
City passes law regulating Jitney Busses. |
| 04-14-1915 | Woman robs room at Colorado Rooms (Critchett Hotel) May Fox Evans. |
| 04-15-1915 | Demise of Shrimp Camp. |
| 04-16-1915 | Gus Keller to sue city for damage to his lots by tunnel construction. |
| 04-20-1915 | New Board of Directors for Bank of Richmond. Stairley and Lee quit.
1st trip up the new Cutting Canal (now inner harbor). |
| 04-21-1915 | Plans for new bank: Nicholl, Stairley, Lee together with Central National Bank of Oakland. |
| 05-01-1915 | S.R. Ferry will make 1st trip today (I was there) |
| 05-05-1915 | Ben Brignone sold the Colombo Hotel to two men, both Italians. Ben ran the hotel for 12 years. |
| 05-07-1915 | Kozy Kove sold at Public Auction. Paid off 15 cents on the dollar. |
| 05-08-1915 | Richmond Daily News headlines expose against J.P. Arnold accusing him of accepting bribes from Red Light section. |

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.



**Congratulations to
Little China Restaurant
on their remodel!
Same great food and nice
people in a beautiful new
setting.**

Birthdays

September

Donna Roselius
Pam Durrow Horn
Carol Kiehn
Marie Peckham
Ivar Elle
Daniel Butt
Don Diani
Emileigh Barnes
Greg Brougham
Frank Christopher

Linda Newton
Roberta Wilson
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Ingvar Elle
Simeon J. Burtner
Gayle Kaufman
John Hadreas
David Reynolds
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Kenneth Dolan

Theresa Daniel
Jan Feagley
Lorin Buhler
Isobel Shaw
Audrey Lee Rentfro
Stephen Kowalski
Stephenie Kowalski
Gene Smith
Diane Frosini Diani
Margaret Morkowski

Sonja Gandola
John Bailo
Alice Jordan
Elisa Delatorre
Jackie Lizarraga
Craig Healy
Bobbie Swerdfeger
Lizarraga
Ken Comer

October

Terry Wynne
Ingrid Lindemann
Kate Lord
Florence Wilson
Maria Shaw
Timothy Doherty
David Vincent
Jan Burdick

Jody Bagley
Jeff Ward
McKinley Bradshaw
Tim Montgomery
Brian Tedrick
Rich Weirick
Marc Bisio
Chris Ward

Helen Frosini
Tony Peter Bernabic
Chad Feagley
Isabel 'Boo' Shaw
Jerry Daniel
Otto Barni
Maria Inchauspe
Smith

Abigal Munoz Rivera
Toni Cannizzaro
Frank Craig
Leo Matteucci
Carolyn Dutrow

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

Memorials.....

Sharon Hardwick age 75, born in Seattle, Washington, died on June 22, 2018. She spent her early childhood in Alaska. Along with her husband Harry Hardwick, Sharon spent much time dedicated to the youth at the First Methodist Church in Point Richmond. Her dedication to youth continued as she encouraged young women to enjoy service by becoming involved in Rainbow Girls. After retirement, she lived with her husband at Odd Fellows Recreation Park along the Russian River. Sharon leaves behind her 5 children, Debbie Willis, Don Hardwick, Wendy Jones, Sandy Hardwick, and Sharry Carranza, 12 grandchildren and 14 Great-grand children.

Ben George Bray passed away June 9th, 2018, at age 85, after a short illness. He spent 26 retirement years at his beloved Bodega Bay. He enjoyed golf, volunteered at the Elementary School, helping young children learn to read. On fogless, windless, moonless nights, Ben could be found on the porch with his 'monster' telescope. Born in Michigan, after graduation from University of Michigan with a PhD in Chemical Engineering, Ben moved to the Bay Area and was employed by Chevron for 32 years. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Jo Ann, his daughter, Alice Thompson (William 'Bill' Thompson), El Cerrito, Son David Bray, Colorado, 2 granddaughters, and one great grandson. Anyone wishing to make a memorial gift might consider Ben's 'home' church, First Methodist Church of Point Richmond Historic Building Preservation Fund, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond 94801.

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 95
Muriel Clausen - 94
Mary Bianchini Highfill - 94
Tom Kenny - 93
Loretta Stevens Johromi - 92
Billie Bonham Shaw - 96
June Beesley Sosabal - 95
Alice Williamson - 93
Mid Dornan - 97

Morris Simpson - 95
Brenda McKinley - 91
Victor Morales - 90
Doug Corbin - 90

Please send corrections and additions
To Middornan@gmail.com or call
510.234-5334 and leave a message.

Age is merely the number of years the World has been able to enjoy time with you.

CENTURY CLUB

Madeline Bellando Albright - 101
Delphina Franco Tawney - 100

Please send additions and updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club"
to Mid Dornan, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

THE PLUNGE TEMPORARILY CLOSES

Address

1 East Richmond Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801
510-620-6820

Contact

Community Services Department
510-620-6793
registration@ci.richmond.ca.us

-or-

Paula Cooper-Tipton, Aquatics Coordinator
paula_cooper-tipton@ci.richmond.ca.us



POOL SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

***NOTICE: The Plunge will be closed for construction Sept 1- Dec 31.
This is an estimated time frame, so please check back for updates.***

Cards, Letters & E-Mails

I'm Sorry for the late renewal of my membership. My renewal has been bounced around the U.S. Post Office because I forgot to place your street number. Also, you have the wrong zip code for my address, the right zip code is 95714, all of the rest of the address is correct.

I found a little Richmond history here. Harry Ells first wife is buried in the Dutch Flat Mason Lodge Cemetery. If you want more information on Harry Ells wife, write to me.

My birthday is February 23, 1944. I was born in Albany, Calif but I grew up in Richmond. After I retired from the Post Office I moved up to Dutch Flats to my family home.

I hope you have a good year.

Thomas K. Williams
Dutch Flat, CA

Thanks for writing Thomas! I have corrected your address zip code, hope you have been getting your newsletters okay. I you have more information on Harry Ells wife that you think our readers would like to know please send it and I will print it.

Gary Shows, editor

From Facebook-

The Red Oak Victory is back at her berth in Richmond after spending a month at the dock at the California Maritime Academy and starting her engines for the first time in fifty years. NOW, the PANCAKE BREAKFASTS aboard the ship starts up. Next one 9/9. It's great to sit at the family-style tables out on the deck enjoying the views and meeting your breakfast shipmates. The ship does draw interesting people, also you can tour the ship up and below deck.

Steve Gilford
SS Red Oak Victory



CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

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.gsrmr.org

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

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 139½ 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 Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday of each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M.

Contact: Margaret Jordon at 510-412-3673

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 the Richmond Museum of History at 510-235-7387 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.

See page 22 for programs. GREAT movies all day

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? Email Gary Shows, garyshows@gmail.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____

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.

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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

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

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Pam Wilson, Membership
Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor

Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor/Uncredited Photos
Bonnie Jo Cullison	Various Articles and Information
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Mid Dornan	Articles
Jerry Cerkawicz	Information
Mark Kornmann	Proof Read
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Donna Roselius	Line Drawings/article
Norma Wallace	Article
James Cheshareck	Articles
Rita Gardner	Article
Caitlin Hibma	Article
Heinz Lankford	Article

Contacts

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middornan@gmail.com

Visit our website
PointRichmondHistory.org
Join our Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

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

The Point Richmond History Association is registered with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions to the PRHA are deductible under section 170 of the code.

Point Richmond History Association
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Point Richmond, CA 94801



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