

THIS POINT.... in time *NEWSLETTER*

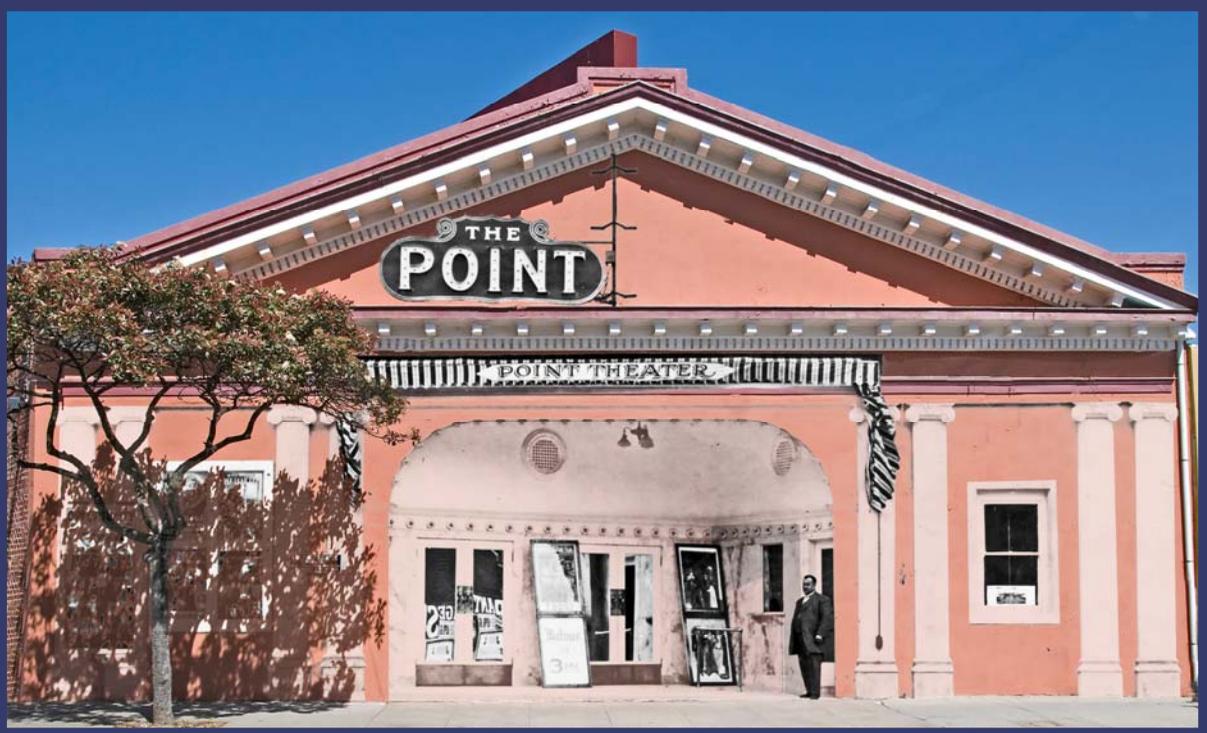
The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXVIII No. 1

June/July/August, 2009

\$3.00



**1913 Photo of The Point Theater
Superimposed
over a
2009 Photo of 199 Park Place
West Richmond Avenue Façade**

Contracts were signed up yesterday for the erection of a modern theatre to be erected on Richmond Avenue and Park Place. R. Tcherassy, of Fresno, is the owner and J. Cruickshank, of Richmond, is the contractor. The plans call for a brick structure with a seating capacity of 460. A mechanical system of ventilation will be installed. Every possible effort has been made for a most modern and convenient house.

The lobby will be lined with marble, with tiled floors. The interior will be decorated in the most artistic manner.

The plans have been executed by Architect C.O. Clausen, of San Francisco. Mr. Clausen also has a local branch office in the Pillow Building.

The theatre is expected to be ready for occupancy by the first of the year.

Mr. Clausen is also working on plans for a home for the theatre owner, Mr. Tcherassy, who has lately purchased a site for his future residence in Nicholl Terrace.

*Local newspaper article, November 15, 1912
They didn't waste any time, the theater opened on February 15, 1913.*

From the President

By Mid Dornan

The Point Richmond History Association has logged another year.

As a charter member twenty-eight years ago, I could only hope it to be so successful. Our all-volunteer organization continues to grow and thanks to our Editor and Design/Photo enhancer and our contributors our newsletter, THIS POINT....in time, we feel is the best in its class.

It is challenging to keep up with requests and research regarding the Point but rewarding with the results.

We are always looking for new writers, interviewers and volunteers. The Point is a unique part of Richmond and how fortunate the capable Board continues. Let us know how we can better serve you and thank you for supporting our efforts.

Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
Out and About Town	11
May 31st General Meeting	12
Mercer-Hursh Archive Photo Gallery	14
Masquer's Playhouse Review	16
William L. Thompson, MD <i>Professor Botts and His Airship</i>	18
Point Richmond Pioneers	20
Historical Plaque Report	21
Deaths	25
Cards, letters and emails	26
Birthdays/90's Club	27
Calendar	28

WHO VISITS OUR MUSEUM

A big thank you to our Museum Staff Coordinator, Margaret Morkowski, who makes sure our museum is available to the many visitors in the Point throughout the year.

Our faithful volunteers who staff our little museum have visitors from many places. Those, within California signing our register this past year were from: Alameda, Benecia, Berkeley, Danville, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Fort Bragg, Hercules, Idylwild, Kensington, Lake County, Lafayette, Martinez, Morrow Bay, Mill Valley, Napa, Novado, Oakland, Orinda, Pacifica, Point Richmond, Point Loma, Redwood City, Redding, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara, Senegal, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Anselmo, San Rafael San Diego, San Francisco, Wyatt, and Walnut Creek.

Out-of-state visitors were from: Gig Harbor, Washington; New Fairfield, Connecticut; New Hampshire; Kai, Hawaii; New York City, N.Y.; Statesboro, Georgia; Seattle, Washington; Ault, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah, Wisconsin, and New Haven, Connecticut.

Visitors from other Countries were from Perth, Australia; Chennan, India; DonDonald, Scotland; Brisbane, Australia; Queensland, Australia, and Belgium.

Mid

Thank you members for your renewal:

Mrs. Loren D. Smith
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Thomas L. Kenny
Herbert Hunn
Janet Heckmann Family
Muriel C. Clausen
First Church of Christ Scientist**
Linda Andrew-Marshall**
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee Family
Evan & Lydia Jahromi Family
Myrna Wishart
Lynne Erskine
Tony P. Bernabich
Hazel Tawney
Al & Helene Frosini
Kevin Renee & Griffin Knee**
George L. Williams
Joan Gatten
Howard & Jan Arnold Family
Sonny Jackson
Don & Diane (Frosini) Diani
Viola Kennedy
Beverly Bartram
John Papadakis
Bernadette Bisio
Bob Lee Family

And a warm welcome to these new members

David & Jeri Janes Family
Bob & Ellie Strauss**

* Gift Membership

**Special Member, *Thank You!*

Thank You!
Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

For selling
“THIS POINT.....in time”
For us

Museum Hours:
Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

*And Thanks to the Volunteers who open
and close our history museum on
Thursday and Saturday.*

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

The Cover:

*We would support an effort to create a mural of this wonderful scene
This mashup was created by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is your Summer issue of TPIT and I hope you are as fascinated by our cover as I am. I think this would make an awesome mural and hope someone pursues the idea. Thank you Thomas Mercer-Hursh for the idea and wonderful visual presentation.

Thanks to all for your various contributions to this newsletter. I wish you all a great Summer and once again encourage you to look through your old pictures and share them with others (both now and later) through the Point Richmond History Association.

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" is August 21st.

The April/May issue newsletter assembly crew:

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

Get Your Own "I Saved the Plunge" Magnet!

Send a tax deductible donation of \$10.00 or more to:

Save the Richmond Plunge Trust

P.O. Box 70443

Richmond, CA 94807-0443

And we will send your 3" x 5" magnet to you.

Thank You!

Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Doug & Rosemary Corbin

Kathe Kiehn

Elizabeth M. McDonald

Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc

Corporate Sponsor

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company

Stephanie, Patti & Stephen Kowalski

First Church of Christ, Scientist

History Preservers:

Royce Ong

Edward J. McGarvey

Gilda Markarian

Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee

Jean & John Knox

David & Anne Roth

John Helfrich

Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack

Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valencé

John & Nancy Mengshol

Donna Wilson

Linda Andrew-Marshall

Margaret Morkowski

Patricia Dornan

Paul & Zoe Mukavtz

Bob & Ellie Strauss

A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: It is baseball season. How many stitches are on a baseball?

Answer at end of Trivia.

She was never a father, but Mrs. John Bruce Dodd is the founder of the day honoring dads. It started in 1910 as a local celebration in Spokane, and four years later Congress made it apply to fathers nationwide.

More than 1 million people have applied for the first 140,000 jobs offered by the U.S. Census Bureau to help conduct the 2010 census. The Bureau said they are getting highly qualified applicants, people with college degrees, graduate degrees, lawyers, bankers, etc. The Jobs pay \$25 an hour. (*Note: When taking the census in the 50s, I was paid 3¢ a name!*)

SIGN OF THE TIMES! Because of the H1N1, Swine Flu threat, at many graduation ceremonies students are being required to use Hand Sanitizer before shaking hands with the presenter to receive their diploma.

No local schools were closed because of the H1N1, Swine Flu, which began in Mexico, and threatened to become pandemic.

Tom Piazza has been in Finland for both business and pleasure. He didn't escape being nominated for Secretary of our PRHA!

Mary Simmons (nee: Julie Davis) celebrated her retirement in March as the District Attorney Prosecutor for Sacramento County by taking a cruise to Egypt, where they visited the Pyramids, Turkey and Greece. Along with her husband, Roy, Julie treated her mom, Pat (Davis) Pearson to the cruise, an early December special birthday gift.

How luxurious can a Penthouse Suite on the cruise be!

After 34 years of teaching English as a Second Language Junior High Students at Adams and Juan Crespi, Pat Dornan is retiring in June and was honored at a dinner at the Richmond Country Club. Her Leadership Classes at Juan Crespi consistently won State Awards for their outstanding achievements and activities.

Donna Roselius joined Jean and Vern Doellstedt for lunch recently when the Doellstedts were in Port Orford, Oregon.

Belated Happy Birthday to long time member, Edna Hathaway, who celebrated her big 90 in December. Now living in Hanford, Edna is a former Camp Fire Leader, Choir director at the Methodist Church, piano teacher and more while growing up in the Point.

Congratulations to Michael Marshall who is on the Dean's list at San Luis Obispo.

Q: When do you stop at green and go at red?

A: When eating a watermelon!

On their honeymoon, the groom told his bride: "Now that we're married, I hope you won't mind if I mention a few little defects that I've noticed about you."

"Not at all," cooed the young lady, "it was those little defects that kept me from getting a better husband."

TRAC Steering Committee members celebrated both the 20th anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Trail and the 10th anniversary of TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action

Committee. The June 6 - 7 outings offered special opportunities to learn about the 26 miles of Bay Trail completed in Richmond, as well as how to help to close the remaining 15 miles of gaps. Participants in the June 6 - 7 outings received cool freebies such as Bay Trail bandanas, bicycle stickers & magnets and were amongst the first to receive a colorful new Bay Trail guide.

It was a busy trip for Kiley Wynne Efron, Jacksonville, FL., daughter of Terry Wynne, who arrived for Mothers Day stayed to hostess a shower for her friend and still took time to visit her many other friends.

"The Whales Are Calling," a children's book authored and illustrated by former Point Richmond resident Richard (Dick) Wisshack is Independently published and is available from Dick Wisshack, 310 NE Hyde Circle, Hillsboro, OR., 97124, \$25 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

Remember little Taylor Bay Bradshaw who was so anxious to get into this world she was born on the Bay Bridge? Well, Taylor is now graduating from High School in San Rafael. Daughter of Chris and David Bradshaw and granddaughter of proud Joe and Sonja Darling, Taylor has been accepted into the Integral Studies Program at St. Mary's College in Moraga. She received the Honors at Entrance Scholarship (Merit), the Presidential Scholarship and the St. Mary's Scholarship. Congratulations!

Wed. July 1, 7:30-9 p.m. - Rosalie Sorrels in Concert - Grammy-nominated and nationally-known Folk Singer and Storyteller Extraordinaire will present a concert at Point Richmond's First United Methodist Church. Rosalie will perform two sets and Jazz Pianist Pastor Dan Damon will entertain during the intermission. \$10 suggested

donation. Rosalie's CDs will be available for sale.

Also mark your calendar for:

SUN. JUNE 21, 11 a.m. - Father's Day Jazz Service - with Dan Damon Jazz Quartet - Come enjoy sermon in song!! First United Methodist Church in Point Richmond.

Point Richmond author, Jan Vandenburg, has donated her latest book, "A Pocket History of Sex in the Twentieth Century, a memoir" to the Point Richmond History Archives. Jane says most of the material was written here in the Point on Scenic Avenue.

She recently gave a Book Reading for the Point Richmond Village and her books are available at bookstores.

Congratulations to Charmaine Tyler, the winner of our History Museum Ornament at the Point Richmond Stroll in May.

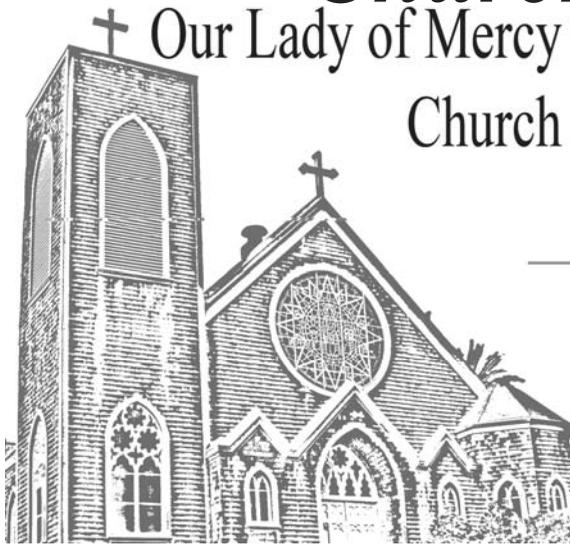
Do you ever wonder why a minister or judge says, "Now I pronounce you man and wife." And not, "husband and wife"!

School is out but the PTA at Washington Elementary School had a great year. Thanks to increased parent involvement, they were able to make many accomplishments for the school and children. The PTA officers are: President, Becky Jonas; Vice President, Isabel Vazquez, Treasurer, Erika Madsen, Secretary, Tess Landon, Fundraising, Susan Glendening, Newsletter, Gretchen Keith. They have published their first issue of DOLPHIN SCROLL. (*we look forward to more news when school reopens.*)

ANSWER: You are a true baseball fan if you knew there are 92 stitches on a baseball.



Church News



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Father continues to use his frequent flyer miles. He visited Hawaii and Switzerland. He has also made a few small side trips and is getting his fishing gear in shape.

The stained glass window repair is now complete. The Lexan was placed over them as well as a new coat of paint. They are now in the preserved mode.

While Father conducted a retreat in Santa Cruz, Father Kiernan Healy presided for him. Father Healy is quite familiar with Pt. Richmond, having learned to swim at the Plunge.

An additional 25 new chairs were ordered to compliment the round tables in the church hall. The fire extinguishers have also been renewed.

The roses have reached their peak season and a splash of color was on display in the yard. A new non-automatic drip irrigation line will be installed in order to preserve water.

Bad luck always comes in threes, and Father

had his share of them. First his sunglasses broke, followed by his readers and the ultimate was the right headlight of his car colliding with a post – naturally the post won.

We continue to collect and donate food and clothing to the needy, as well as support the Souper Kitchen. Edwina Murray is quite good at recruiting her family members. Interested in helping – call Edwin (233-7529).

Our new Bishop, Salvatore Cordilione, was recently installed at the Cathedral in Oakland. Jim Chesareck and Anne Brussock were in attendance.

During local festivities, the church parking lot is a choice place to park. The lot is private property and parking there presents legal and financial liabilities. The lot is for parishioner parking. Several of the slots are daily rentals.

Both of the Small Christian Community groups continue to meet. The evening group meets in the church hall on Wednesday evenings. The day group meets once a month at Dody Perry's home.

New officers for the Parish Council have not yet been seated. The Council extends its thanks to Diane Siegmund for replacing paper supplies.

Father hosted another parish dinner. He would like to encourage new comers to attend our social gatherings.

If you attended Mass on Mother's Day, you would have had the pleasure to see Isabella Utsch receive her First Holy Communion. Margaret Morkowski is in charge of preparing the youngsters for Holy Communion.

Get well wishes are extended to Helen Frosini (leg surgery), as well as Vera Garcia who was involved in a serious automobile accident.

Pancake breakfasts continue to draw a crowd. Recent guests were the district members of the Italian Catholic Federation. Seen assisting in the kitchen was Susan Brooks' family – The Zabriski's. We were also delighted to see Linda Duste and her grandson in attendance. Linda and Rick were active members of the parish before relocating to Rohnert

Park.

Anna Schwarz has made a request to her Christian Community in providing her with daily meals which she can no longer prepare. You may call Anna and make arrangements with her for day and time. She recently turned 97 on April 1st and claims to have felt in better shape at 95. Edwina Murrays' son recently did a few minor repairs for her and she was extremely grateful for his time.

Worked the election board for the special election and was completely caught off guard when I saw some of our younger parishioners voting. They do grow quickly.

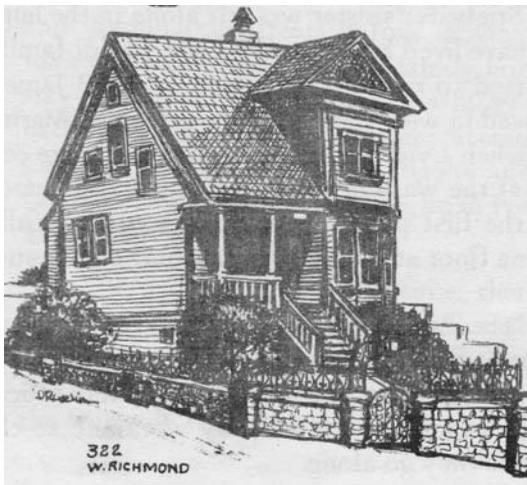
Condolences to the family of Jennie Gendrich. Jenny was one of the "Golden Girls" who we met and loved during Msgr. Kraus' time at our parish.

Remember in your prayers: Katherine Workman, Jack Healy, Dody Perry, Al Frosini, Anna Schwarz, Bill Smith, Shirley Gerk and Frankie Mello.

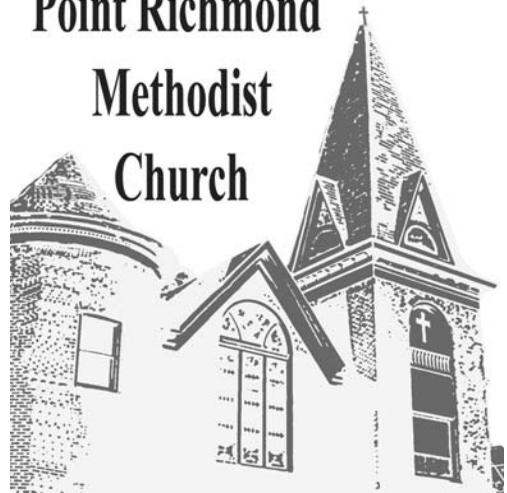
Marie Peckham enjoyed ten days in Japan and her next destination is Switzerland. Way to go Marie.

IF YOU HAVE A PULSE
YOU HAVE A PURPOSE

SEE YOU IN CHURCH



Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

On Easter, you could enjoy a full morning of activities at the church. It began with an early service in the garden with singing and line dancing, then into the cozy Friendship Hall for hot breakfast, next, Sunday School classes, a service with music by the Angel and Joyful Noise Choirs at 11 a.m., followed finally by an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

We celebrated the baptism of baby Aubrey on April 19. She is the daughter of Ginger Paasch and ??? Ed and Lawanna Paasch are Aubrey's maternal grandparents. Aubrey's extended family hosted a luncheon for all following the service. She is fortunate to have such a supportive family and we all love her, too!

The annual Junktique Sale was May 2, 2009. JoAnn Bray brought her prize chili. Florence Wilson let the kitchen crew pretend they had a hand in making the delicious minestrone (made sweeter with tears from Christine Silva-Netto who chopped the onion!) Hot dogs and homemade pie completed the food sales. Various furniture, kitchenware, books, toys, and electronics made sure there was something for every shopper. At

least thirty people helped some way before or during the sale: we do know how to work and have fun together! For the sequel, we followed with Junktique II, our Memorial Day Sale and Pancake Breakfast on May 25. The kitchen crew, Norm Reynolds, Helen Valentine and Bethany Reynolds, turned out “Boy Scout World’s Fair Recipe” Pancakes that had people drooling just to smell them! Pastor Dan, Kit Eakle, and Gill Stanfield played and sang to provide mood music, while a great team waited-table. Several other people sold items from the basement and made the most of all the shoppers perusing the Point Richmond yard sales.

Goldie’s Mobley celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday with a party and luncheon following the service on May 3, 2009. She wore an elegant peacock hat in the style of her youth. Goldie’s daughter Fran Smith, great-granddaughter Frances Brausch, and great-great-grandson Manuel Jesus de Navidad organized the party; friend Terry Cullen catered a fabulous lunch for all!

On Mothers’ Day, May 10, Pat Dornan and the children presented corsages for all the mothers: one great-great grandmother, two great grandmothers, numerous grandmothers and mothers. Pastor Dan reminded us that we might not all be mothers, but all of us have had a mother, so it really is a holiday for everyone.

On May 13, we had a table at the Point Richmond Stroll and Farmers’ Market. People signed up to win a pie, and enjoyed fresh brownies and cookies.

Helen Valentine, Steve Shank, Karen Merkle, Mid Dornan, Jean and Norm Reynolds took shifts at the table. Tyrah and Zaynah Weems drew the three pie winners on Sunday morning. Zaynah, age 1, thought it was funny that we would give a pie to a “stroller.” The Monday night book group finished reading *Walden*, watched “All in this Tea”, a documentary film by Les Blank and Gina Leibrecht, and plans to read *East of the Mountains* by David Guterson next.

On the Calendar:

August 3 – 7, Vacation Bible School: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Children ages three to grade six have a

week together to hear stories, sing songs, do amazing art, have snacks, and play games. On Friday everyone stays for lunch and then can’t wait until next year to do it again! To sign up, call Jean Reynolds, 510-235-2988.

June 21, Sunday, Fathers’ Jazz Day Special 11:00 a.m. features the Dan Damon quartet, the Angel Choir, the Joyful Noise Choir, and other music surprises. After the service, copies of the quartet’s live recording “Traveler Unknown” will be for sale. **SUMMER CONCERT EXTRA on July 1,** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Come hear **Rosalie Sorrels**, grammy-nominated singer and storyteller! She will perform two sets with an intermission. Suggested admission is \$10.

Sundays, Summer Months

10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship includes music, children’s time, scripture, sermon, and prayer

During the Summer Months, Children’s Sunday School, Angel Choir, and Joyful Noise Choir all take a break.

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



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920s was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvass covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written, This is the 70th installment.

Nov 6, 1928

The Social League met in the M.E. Church parlors with Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Oehne as hostesses. The meeting was opened by repeating the Lords prayer, led by the president, Mrs. Burdick.

There were 16 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The coming Bazaar (sic) was discussed and we decided to advertise it by putting it in the Richmond papers. Chairman of the booths are to see that wrapping material is furnished to wrap the articles bought by the people. Mrs. Dingle made a report on the kitchen Committee for the Luncheon. The Kitchen committee:

Mrs. Dingle, chairman.

- “ Alexander
- “ R.W. Jenkins
- “ Stender
- “ Burdick

The Table Committee:

Mrs. Schofield, chairman

- “ Oehne
- “ Owens
- “ Gray
- “ Osborne

All members are to help wait on tables. The next meeting will be a business meeting with no hostesses.

Moved and seconded that Laundry bill of \$1.54 be paid.

Dues	
Mrs. Holbrook	.60
“ Long	.60
“ Gray	.60
	1.80
Plate offering	1.80
Ladies Aid	1.00
	4.60
Food Sale	18.20
Mrs. Burdick	1.00
\$31.83 - old balance	
<u>4.60</u>	
36.43	
<u>1.54</u> - laundry	
34.89	
<u>1.00</u> - Mrs. Burdick	
33.89	
<u>10.</u> church fund	
23.89	
<u>18.20</u>	
42.09	
<u>3.80</u>	
\$ 38.29 - new bal	



President Mid Dornan with 1st Vice President Pat Pearson and Treasurer Sonja Darling at our May 31st meeting

WWIC, Est. 1908

Margaret Morkowski

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

As usual, the ladies of the Womens Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) are having fun. At the May 5th meeting, our hostesses Diane Hirano, Liz McDonald, Anita Christiansen and Mary Highfill brought flowers from their gardens, created "May-poles" for the tables and used rose colored table cloths to bring their Spring theme to life. They also brought delicious home-made desserts for all of us to enjoy.

As part of WWIC speaker series - women business owners in the Point - our speaker was Laura Hanson of The Watershed Nursery. The Nursery is located at 601 A Canal Blvd., adjacent to the City's water treatment plant. They are a bay area nursery offering a wide selection of site-specific and drought tolerant California native plants. They also provide services that will enhance the habitat for these plants in ways to improve the local watershed. Laura gave a little history on events which lead her and Diana Benner to begin their business on the tennis court of friend's house in Berkeley. She told us how, as they out-grew the "tennis court," they found their great new location our part of Richmond. As part of her presentation, Laura showed us some of her plants and taught us how to plant and care for them. After the meeting, the ladies were able to talk with Laura individually and to buy her "samples" at a discount. The nursery is open on Fridays and Saturdays and Laura and Diana plan to have a table at the Point Richmond Farmers' Market from time to time. But stop-by their Nursery and be inspired by their beautiful and drought tolerant plants. Their number is 234-2222.

Every May we elect the WWIC officers for the next year. The officers for September 2009 through June 2010 will be First Vice-president, Connie Lompa; Second Vice-President, Linda

Newton; Secretary, Susan Brooks; Treasurer, Sonja Darling; Correspondent to the This Point In Time Newsletter, Jane Vandenburg; and President, Margaret Morkowski. We would like to thank Altha Humphrey, out-going First Vice-President for her inspiration and continued hard work. Among other things, Altha makes the menus and kitchen organization for the "fund raising luncheons" and Holiday events all come together. We also want to thank Bernie Moore for writing the WWIC articles for TPIT. These articles let the community know what the ladies of the WWIC are "up-to." A special thanks go to Linda, Susan and Sonja for their all past service but their expression of loyalty to the WWIC shown by their continued willingness to serve on the board is awesome. Thank you. As for Connie and Jane, we welcome you to the new board. To everyone on the new board - "You "Go-Girls."

WWIC participated in the 20th Annual Stroll on May 13th and had lots of fun. We sold centennial flash lights/key rings, centennial tea cups and shopping totes. Thank you to the ladies who staffed the WWIC table and thanks to everyone who stopped by and said "Hello."

Our Tuesday, June 2nd meeting will be our annual "year end" salad pot-luck and "Hat Day." Wow what fun. Not only do we get to enjoy everyone's great salads and desserts but we each lady will tell us about their "Hat." Traditionally the "Hat" stories have been fun, touching and/or inspiring. We even allow "stretching the truth" as long as you fess-up to the truth at the end of the meeting.

Have a great summer everyone and please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, September 1st at the Point Richmond Methodist Church's Friendship Hall at 11:30 am.

Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Have you been to the Point Richmond Farmers' Market? It's great. The Market's farmers, cooks, bakers, artists, gardeners and businesses welcome you to the Point every Wednesday. The first Wednesday of each month is "Kids Day" with special activities for the young ones. There is live music every week and Kettle Corn too. **The Point Richmond Farmers' Market is located on Park Place every Wednesday from 4 pm - 8 pm.** The certified farmers' market is sponsored by the Point Richmond Business Association and managed by the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association. Please call Margi Cellucci at 237-0101 for more information.



Next up in the Summer Fun is the **Point Richmond Summer Concert Series**. This year the committee will be hosting 5 Friday-Night Concerts from **5:30 pm – 8:00 pm**. Come and join us on Park Place **Friday Nights June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th and September 25th**. Set aside some time before and after each concert to visit the stores and restaurants in town. Invite all your friends and come enjoy the music. Call Andrew Butt at 236-7435 for more details.



Members of the **Save the Plunge Trust** would like to invite you to dinner at the Hotel Mac and a play at The Masquers' Playhouse on **Thursday, June 25th**. The donation is \$50 with proceeds going to Save the Plunge. Please call Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779 for information.



Point Richmond's Historic **Our Lady of Mercy Church** will be continuing their monthly **Pancake Breakfast** fund raisers. If you enjoy

pancakes, eggs, sausages, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea and juice stop by the Church Hall. The donation is \$8.00 and we serve breakfast from **8:30am to 12 Noon** on the third Sunday of the Month. Come and join us on **Sundays - June 21st, July 19th, August 15th, September 20th, October 18th and November 15th**. Call 232-1843 for info.



This year more than 80 children in grades 1-6 at **Washington Elementary School** finished the 5 assignments for the **Many Hands Project-Spirit of Leadership Program**. Their theme for the year was "Ecology" and the projects included "how to recycle," "why trees help clean the air" and "the results of a beach clean-up." You may have seen some of their display boards at Interactive Resources, Smith Office Supplies, Armor Locksmith and the Atchison Village Auditorium. Part of their reward was the May 22nd field trip to the San Francisco Exploratorium. A grand time was had by all. For more information on Many Hands please call Margaret Morkowski at 234-4219



The May 13th **Point Richmond 20th Annual Stroll** was a great success. In addition to the Grand Opening of the Farmers' Market and Police Activities League (PAL) "Get-Out of Jail" fund raiser, more than 50 businesses and non-profit organizations participated. The Point Richmond Business Association organized the event would like to thank everyone for making the event such a great success.



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



Our Annual Meeting

May 31, 2009

More than 50 people crowded the Point Community Center on Sunday, May 31, 2009 to attend the 28th Annual Point Richmond History Association Meeting and Election of Officers.

The meeting program "Growing up in the Point" included panelists Tom Kenny, Patricia Bill Pearson, Pam Wilson and Sonny Jackson.

85 year old **Tom Kenny** was first and remembered his father buying the building that is currently The Spot on Washington and Railroad Avenues. It was two stories when he bought it and he added a third floor and siding. He remembered the soda fountain, the bar and the cigar and cigarette case. It was called Kenny's Inn and Richmond Hotel for many years. In 1905 his father and uncle signed the incorporation papers for the City of Richmond. He went to school in the old Washington School and Richmond High until he "shipped out" in 1941 and spent a major part of his life at sea. He remembered his "knee action"



Tom Kenny

bicycle, a bike with large springs in the front.

Next **Pat Pearson** said that her grandparents came to the Point as refugees from the San Francisco Earthquake in 1906. She told of her memories of the Mud Flats, her neighborhood of three houses that was very unique as the area was



Patricia Bill Pearson

planned for many houses with sidewalks and lights and empty lots. Great place to roller skate, her father made a full size baseball field complete with dugouts. She remembered the "Bonecrushers" baseball team. This area disappeared when war housing was built in its place. She remembered World

War Two and the air raid drills, blackouts, air raid wardens and rationing coupons.

The next two panelists are younger so that the stories and memories would be different.

Pam Wilson originally moved to a rental house at 56 Nichol Avenue in 1964. Later her family bought a house on Western Drive which is still her mother's house. Pam remembered Washington School in the 1950's. Lining up in school for polio vaccine on sugar cubes thinking about what a great way to take medicine! She remembered Hot Dog Days at school and what a special day that was. She

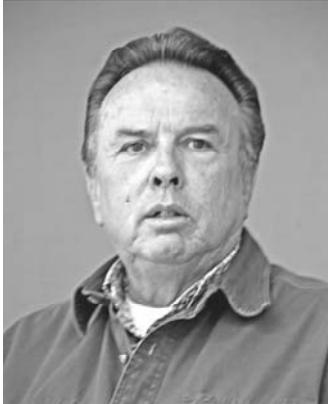
remembered having a really good time in the Summer and Fall sliding down the hillsides on big sheets of old cardboard boxes, rubbed down with candle wax to make them go faster. She remembered joining the Brownies and going on a field trip to the beach and finding a pearl in a shell. She has very fond memories of



Pam Wilson

Roy Jones and musical sing alongs at the Baptist Church which closed 1989. Pam reminded us things that we miss, Jumbo Burgers, Judges and Spares , Point Orient Restaurant, Sherry and Bobs, Shock's and The Baltic. She remembered the chlorine smell at the old Plunge and mused that even though it is reopening, that odor will not come along with it.

Next was **Sonny Jackson** who was born in Albany, CA. Went to school at Stege and moved to Esmerelda Court when young and then attended Washington School.



Sonny Jackson

He remembered a school remodel when old wooden desks with ink wells were thrown out. Being a collector, he wishes he had saved a few. Then memories of Roosevelt and Richmond High school steel skates, traffic patrol at Washington School. Hiking over the hill to see the Richmond Ramblers rifle range. As child venturing down a storm drain that began at Scenic Avenue and ended behind the Plunge. He remembers his paper route at Esmerelda Court and Cub Scout Pack 135. He has fun memories Boy Scout 111 in the mountains with Bob Dornan. Sonny collects antique bottles, postcards and billing heads. Sonny has given the PRHA some great Point Richmond postcards for our image collection.

After the program, two historical plaques were dedicated,

1. 214 Washington Avenue

**214 WASHINGTON AVENUE
WAS BUILT IN 1910 BY DR. LUCAS**

2. 138 1/2 Washington Avenue (Point Richmond History Museum).

**THE RICHMOND SUPPLY COMPANY
BUILDING
THIS BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1903 AT
139 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE BY J.Q.
BLACK WHO SUPPLIED THE AREA WITH
COAL, WOOD, HAY, AND GRAIN. ROBERT
DORNAN SR. BOUGHT THE BUILDING IN
1909 AND ADDED THE SERVICE OF
MOVING HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

**IN 1911 HE BOUGHT A TRUCK AND
BEGAN THE RICHMOND SUPPLY CO.,
THE OLDEST CONTINUING FAMILY
BUSINESS IN RICHMOND. LATER HIS
WIFE, TRANNIE FREEMAN BECAME
PART OF THE BUSINESS AND AFTER W.W.
II HIS SON, ROBERT DORNAN JR. JOINED
THEM. THE BUILDING WAS SOLD IN 1947
WHEN THE BUSINESS MOVED INTO 145
WEST RICHMOND AVENUE. THE
BUSINESS CONTINUED UNTIL 1987.**

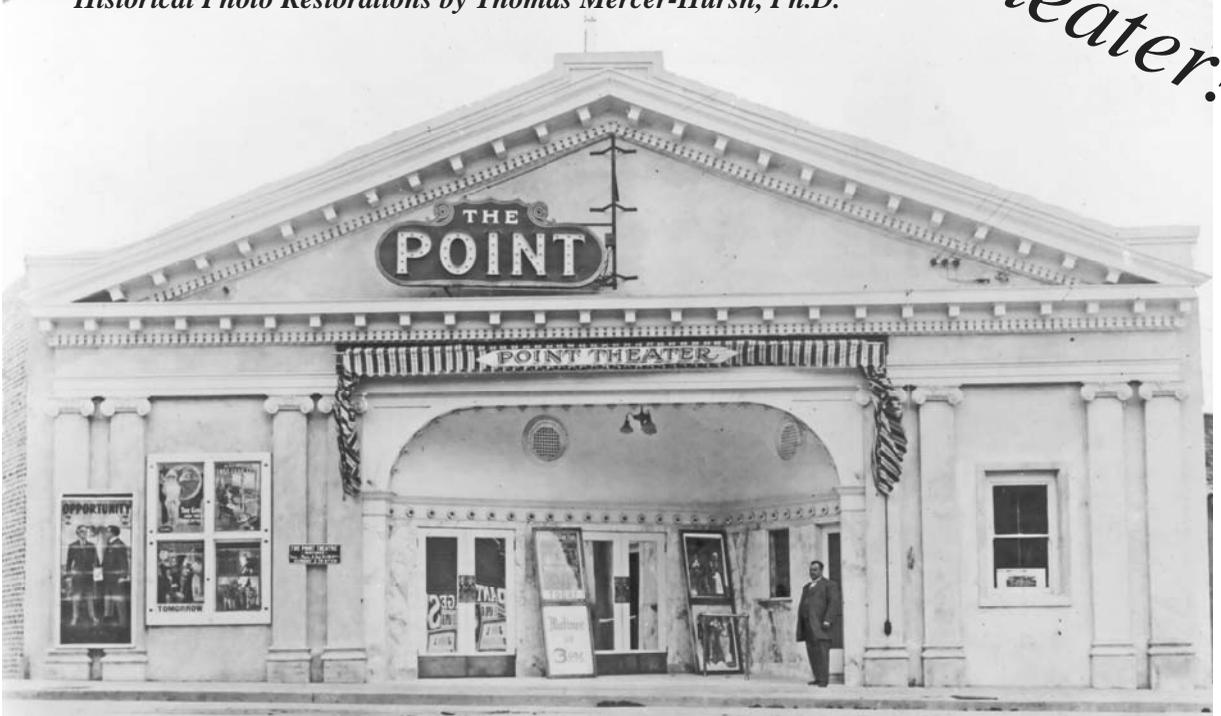
**IN MAY 1990, THE BUILDING WAS
SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION BY
COMMUNITY ACTION. IT WAS MOVED
TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION 139½
WASHINGTON AVENUE TO SERVE AS
AND INFORMATION CENTER FOR THE
POINT RICHMOND HISTORY
ASSOCIATION.**



Washington School Traffic Boys, circa 1934 were Bruce Bartram, Donald Bill, Tommy Kenny, Herbie Bill, Jimmy Wilson

Archive Photo Gallery Theater!

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



Above:
Richard Tscherassy
standing in front of
his Point Theater,
on April 16, 1913
#0126a-Don
Church



Left:
Point Theater
#0652-Don Church



Above:
Point Theater
#0127-Don
Church

Right:
Early theater
on Macdonald
Avenue
#0724-Sonny
Jackson



Lady Windermere's Fan at the Masquers

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

With **Oscar Wilde's** writing style as lure, I expected to completely enjoy *Lady Windermere's Fan* but my actual reaction was different.

In part, I had the incorrect assumption the play was a comedy, so my expectations were upset—though there are many funny aspects. More importantly, much dialogue was difficult—some nearly incomprehensible. Bay Area community theatre management (not limited to Masquers) would do well to reconsider having actors speak in accents which are not their own, as few community theatre actors perform accents well. I've discussed this at <http://tinyurl.com/pf8vzr>.

The original screenplay of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, written in 1892, was reset to the 1950s and is directed by **Patricia Inabnet**.

From my limited experience as a theatre enthusiast, I'm evolving a theory about community theatre actors specializing in one or more roles. It's more than just age or sex, rather the *style* of the character's temperament. In the evolution of a performance, it could be the actor adds what s/he knows about portraying a personality, using a personal expertise to improve the role's impact. Some actors interest us by performing a variety of roles, others give us enormous pleasure by



performing a familiar role expertly.

One undisputed queen of a well typecast role is **Lorelee Windsor** as a seemingly polite—though acid-tongued—grand dame. As the Duchess of Berwick, Lorelee is brilliant. A noble lady, with a commanding manner and clear, comprehensible speech.

The Duchess is a great scandalmonger, well-disguised under a layer of conventional politeness. She displays an uncanny ability to prolong her victim's anxiety with circumlocutions and is able to carry on entire conversations—single-handedly—by insinuation. In fact, the Duchess would likely protest that she had never said anything offensive about anyone—which would be true as long as one took her words literally.

Lorelee deserves to be the Actress Most Enjoying Herself, but as she's such a perfect Duchess, she would probably find the pleasure improper, and possibly scandalous.

Lady Agatha (**Laura Morgan**, also Assistant Director) is a compliantly submissive adolescent which has amusing aspects.

Lady Agatha has few lines. In previous roles, Laura has demonstrated an expertise in communication without speech, so I expected to see lots of action from her lucid eyebrows, which Makeup had thoughtfully darkened for this production. Alas, I was mostly disappointed, but Lady Agatha has one memorable mutinous action which produces shouts of laughter from the audience.

Lady Agatha's beau, Mr. Hopper (**Tom Accettola**), is a completely incomprehensible Australian. However, it didn't really matter—the Duchess of Berwick has enough commanding presence to complete all sides of the conversation for herself, Mr. Hopper and Lady Agatha.

Mr. Hopper often diverges from traditional male attire, possibly because he's a *demmed ferriner*, or possibly he is less bound by convention than other caricatures in this play. He is very handsome as he deftly parades Lady Agatha around on stage, intent on winning her admiration.

Lady Windermere (**Amy Boulanger**, photo, centre) and Lord Windermere (**Abhimanyu Katyal**,



photo, right) are both new to me, so my remarks are made with less understanding of their abilities. It took me some time to comprehend their speech (the accents didn't help), believe their characters' portrayal credible, and come to empathise with them—though both performances were ultimately successful. (*Photo by Jerry Telfer*).

Lady Windermere opens the play in a stunning dress and parades gracefully for our pleasure. She has just come of age, and has all the intolerance of the very young. She is quite outspoken about the areas on which she won't compromise. In a characteristically youthful way, she loses her composure in stark black and white: her life is the best, then it has become the worst. As the play progresses, Lady Windermere shows a nice range of emotion. She ends up learning that her opinions need some elasticity.

Lord Windermere's behaviour confused me—due somewhat to the storyline—wavering in and out of credible. I had trouble distinguishing between what he was doing voluntarily and what he was forced into doing. Was he taking his amusements in improper ways? Was he being blackmailed? Was there an act of benevolence? Why?

Some emotional scenes were done well—they were transparent—no longer watching a play, I became embroiled in Lord Windermere's story. By the middle of the story, I genuinely liked him.

This production sports a few souls with a grand sense of humour, including Costume Designer **Linda Woody-Wood**, by crafting the ladies of the play to look like what they truly are: insignificant social props—woodwork from which the more significant (male) characters emerge. Lady Stutfield (**Diana Godet**) and Lady Jedburgh (Linda Ellinwood) are identical in movement and form: gossipy, conventionally pretty, carefully coiffed, and shimmering in interchangeable, sapphire blue gowns.

Mrs. Cowper-Cowper (**Janette Higuera**), a lady with unconventional looks, has made the choice of distinguishing herself in unrelieved black but is nonetheless a nonentity with the other members of her sex.

Lady Plymdale (**Vicki Siegel**) is eager to make her mark and stands out in an atrocious, though thoroughly acceptable, manner. She has a few choice lines about the expectations of married life which she delivers with aplomb.

The ladies flit about the stage, but we don't understand anything they say, like chattering birds.

The gents, on the other hand, are all perfectly cultivated specimens, attired in identical three piece glossy black except for the two misfits: Mr. Hopper as the foreigner and Cecil Graham as the poisonous hot house flower he is.

Parker (**Walter E. Phelps**), the butler, moves with the doddering shuffle of a very old man, but all his movements are precise and proper. No doubt, he should have been pensioned off years ago but probably refused. Regardless of the commotion caused by others, he's imperturbable.

(Continued on page 23)

William L. Thompson, M.D.

Professor Botts and His Airship

Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in Point Richmond, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School. He attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the University of California School of Medicine. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series, then put it all together in a single publication. Thank you Dr. Thompson!



*Written April, 1981
Part two of two*

One of the most interesting features of this unusual aircraft was its engine. This was a very ingenious and compact steam engine. My father, who was a fine mechanic, a neighbor of Botts and knew him quite well said that in his estimation this engine was by far the most ingenious part of the entire Botts assembly. It was very small, constructed of aluminum and of very light weight. Except for the rise, at this time of the more efficient internal combustion engine, this may have become a very fine power source for small machinery and very practical. Mr. Botts had apparently been issued two patents from the U.S. Patent Office for this steam engine and its boiler. They are listed as U.S. patents #685,583 and #697,598. Botts claimed that his boiler was strong enough to hold pressures up to 400 pounds per square inch. My father disputed this and suggested a controlled test of the pressure in the boiler house of the local Standard Oil Company refinery. This test was never done. It is said that the engine, itself, was tested at the local Santa Fe shops. I do not know the results of this test if it was done. The engine, however, seems to have been an amazingly light and efficient little steam engine. How the power was delivered to the propellers and what device was used to shift the power from the vertical to the horizontal propellers is unclear to me.

Also the exact type of fuel and the facilities for carrying the fuel is unclear.

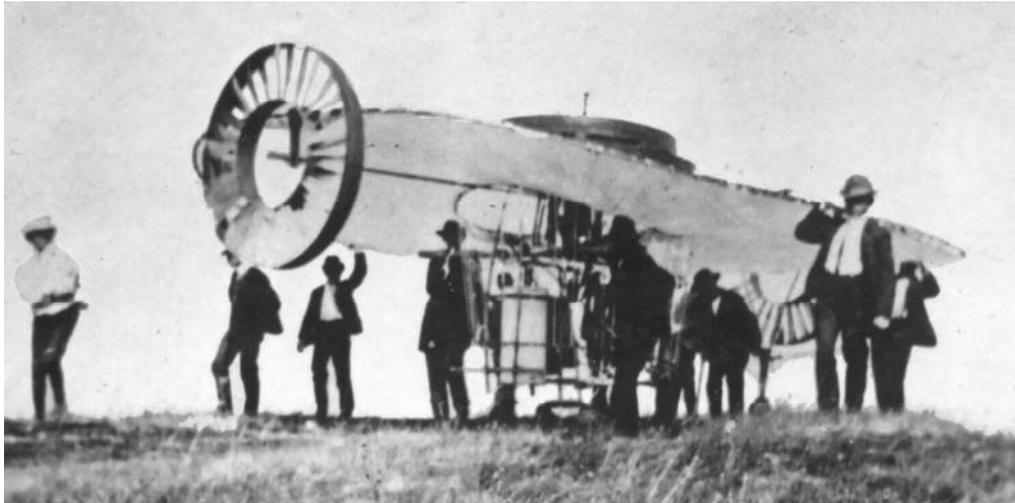
I suspect that the aircraft constructed in Richmond was meant as an experimental model to test its feasibility and if successful it was to be followed by larger, more powerful models. Mr. Botts had very grandiose ideas about his invention. He was to fly to the North Pole, to fly around the world and to form extensive airlines. The mechanism described above was far from able to perform these feats. There is little evidence that it could carry a fuel supply for any extended flight even without considering cargo and there was very little protection for the pilot. No doubt his dreams were much larger. He seems to have envisioned two planes each with a 4 man crew and with fuel supply and cargo. Also, there was mentioned the addition of a Marconi wireless apparatus then invented only a few years before.

The Botts plane was constructed but Botts' dreams came to an abrupt end. Probably sometime in 1903 a heavy windstorm swept the summit of his hill. This storm blew his airplane and other structures completely off the hill and far down the north east slope, destroying it utterly. Botts seemed to have been completely crushed mentally by this misfortune and he left Richmond and never returned. No further work was ever recorded on the inventions. According to Susan Cole, he returned to

his family in Paso Robles, California and lived out the rest of his life quietly. He died there on August 29, 1918. Apparently he did not attempt further mechanical inventions.

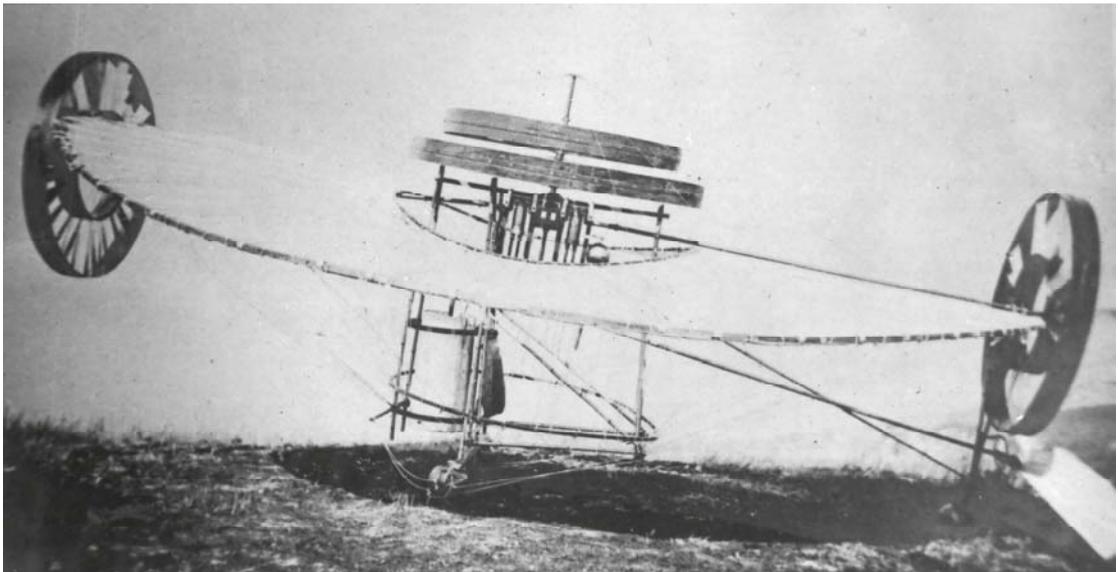
In spite of the impracticability of this aircraft, we feel that its history should be preserved along with that of the many other visionaries who were working on comparable schemes during those

early days of the dreams of flight. Some were less practical than his and his ideas were greatly different from most of the others. In the course of scientific investigation the recording of negative results are just as important as positive ones, since they prevent useless repetition. All were ingenious to a point and success blocked by technical ignorance.



above Bott's flying machine on Nichol Nob, PRHA archive #0184-DC

below Bott's flying machine, PRHA archive #0186-DC



Point Richmond Pioneers

1975 Interviews from Gary Darling

In 1974 and 1975 fifteen year old Gary Darling conducted seven biographical interviews with Point Richmond pioneers. He did these interviews to fulfill the requirement of a service project to the community for the highest rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 111 of Point Richmond. They were published in the old Point Counterpoint newspaper 39 years ago. We think they are good enough to publish again so we will be doing so with an interview in each issue of TPIT.

Uldine Adams Nickola was born in 1903 at 222 Martina Avenue and is at present 71 years later, still living there. She went to Standard Avenue School for three years and then to Washington School for the rest of her elementary schooling. She graduated from Vocational High School, now known as McClymonds High school in Oakland.

Her father, working for Northwestern Pacific Railroad, helped build the railroad from San Francisco north to Eureka. He then started working for Santa Fe Railroad in Fresno and helped build the railroad running from Fresno to Stockton, then to Richmond. He and his wife arrived here in Pt. Richmond in 1899 and had their home built at 222 Martina. All together Uldine's father worked for the railroad for 54 years and retired in the early 40s.

Uldine vividly remembers her life style as a child, being based around the school, church and home groups. One of the home groups in which she was involved was the first Camp Fire organization and is a sponsor for the group here in the Point.

Among the public recreation sites best remembered was Cozy Cove (At present a private beach next to Keller's Beach) where there was a dance pavilion and many of the social activities would take place there. Also there was a Nickelodeon (located near Richmond Supply Co.)

where many good shows were viewed by everyone. It cost a nickel to get in.

Uldine and her friends liked to go and dig clams (behind what now is Washington School on Vine St.) In those days there was water surrounding Pt. Richmond, which was filled in when World War II erupted and such great changes took place. A lot of the dirt used for fill was the dirt that came from the building of tunnel for the cars to go through.

A winery called Wine Haven was located where the housing at the Pt. Molate is now. It was the largest winery in the world. The buildings of the actual winery are still standing out there by the homes at Pt. Molate. Besides the winery there was a hotel, restaurant, post office, housing for the people that worked at the winery, etc. This winery was forced to close down in 1921 when Prohibition came.

Another point of interest mentioned by Uldine was that the land for all of the four churches - Methodist, Baptist, Catholic and Episcopal was donated by one of the first pioneers of Pt. Richmond, a Mr. Tewksbury. Those four churches are still located on the original property and only the Methodist church as been rebuilt.

Uldine's memories of Pt. Richmond, as a busy community of people, many hotels and businesses will be cherished by many residents of Point. Richmond



TWO NEW HISTORICAL PLAQUES

Patricia Pearson

The Home of Dr. William S. Lucas and family.

Sunday, May 31st, in addition to the dedication of the plaque on the History Building, a plaque was dedicated at 214-218 Washington Avenue, the original home of Dr. Lucas and his family that is now owned and occupied by Linda and Chris Newton. I found this article about Dr. Lucas written by Dr. William L. Thompson, in his "Memories of the Medical History of Point Richmond" published in the December/January 2007 issue of TPIT.. The following is a direct excerpt from the article.

"One of Richmond's most distinguished physicians was Doctor William S. Lucas, a graduate of Stanford University Medical School. He came here in 1903 and for many years had an office on the north side of Washington

*Above Linda
Newton, Below
Mid Dornan
Photos by
Thomas Mercer-
Hursh*



Avenue between West Richmond and Nichol Avenues. He was a rather small but energetic man with a wonderful personality. He probably served longer and treated more Point Richmond residents than any other doctor with offices in the Point.



As Far as I know his entire professional life was spent here in Point Richmond."

"As a child I remember his automobile. Autos were not common then but he drove an Old Stanley Steamer with its old slanted hood. It was recognizable where ever he went. He told me many tales of early Richmond medicine. On a wet winter night with a night call he would not hitch up his buggy and drive through the mud and slime but preferred to walk out the Santa Fe tracks to a call from the Point to North Richmond or San Pablo. Night calls were different then. There

were no telephones and a member of the family had to go and get the doctor. Thus there were fewer night calls."

"One of the saddest moments of my life was when I was called on one night to attend his death. His regular doctor was not available so I was called. Also I recall with equal horror the death of the wonderful little lady who was his wife. She was riding in an auto in San Francisco when it was struck from behind by another. The gas tank caught fire and she died in the flames. It was a most horrible event."

Note: After the death of Dr. Lucas most of his patients became patients of Dr. Thompson who cared for them with the same dedication as Dr. Lucas.

Thank you to Linda and Chris Newton for purchasing and installing a plaque on the Lucas home, now the Newton home. Dr. Lucas, his family, his life and his home on Washington Avenue will not be forgotten.

Caesar Frosini's Legacy

Patricia Pearson

Ceaser Frosini's daughter, Diane Frosini Diani, gave me her permission to share with you some of her father's journal which he entitled "Caesar Frosini's Legacy". These are several short stories that I will present in chronological order.

The Frosini family consisted of Mother, Rose Orsini, Father Quintillio Frosini(Pisa), Children: Sergio Caesar Frosini, b. 2/3/15, Alberto (Al) Frosini b. 9/10/17, Frieda Frosini Alonzo, b.7/27/19

The Frosini house, historically 433 Contra Costa Street, renumbered by the City to 411 Contra Costa Street has a historical Plaque that includes some reference to this first story.

Bootlegging at Goat Hollow

"Albert, Frieda, and I were all born at 433 Contra Costa Avenue in Point Richmond CA. Originally our home was 1½ story and later my father had the home raised and it became 2½ story. He built a deluxe wine cellar at the ground level.

Father had been employed by the Standard Oil Co. for four or five years when the depression came along and six or seven hundred people were laid off. Standard Oil was building an oil pipe line not far from Fresno. My father, along with others lived and worked there for one year, more or less. How I remember the ducks, rabbits, and doves that we received from him. We finally just got bored with all this wild game and traded it with other families.

Finally father came home and decided to bootleg wine and whiskey. Down at the wine cellar level was also a two bedroom apartment that he vacated and made it his alkey (whiskey) making room (with barrels – 55 gal. ea.). Little Caesar (me) was an accessory (6 years old). The barrels were electrically wired to a thermometer, whereby I would stay after an early dinner, by the barrels and watch the thermometer. When it is raised to a certain reading, I was to push a button which

would bring my father down in a hurry. Stills were known to blow if not properly cared for.

Next door to our home was an empty lot, all fenced in by my father, as he had rented it from Mr. Giovannetti. Whenever the Fed's were hot, being tipped off by the police, he would dig a hole and bury 4 or 5 gallons of whiskey on a moonless night. Always, I would be awakened as his watch dog. I had a flashlight that could signal him in event anybody was even 500 feet from him. At times or at least I can say once he buried two 5 gallon demijohns of booze about 11:00 p.m. Those holes were dug in not more than an hour. Believe it or not, when he did bury the hootch, he would always locate the burial site, as he would pace the steps from the fence and remember the steps he had taken. One time, doing an errand in the basement, I found a slate board and I turned it around and saw so many stash marks one way and so many the other.

On Halloween night, I always had to look out for young men who in those days would tear down the fence, break windows etc. Well, I tipped my Pa off that I saw two guys near his whiskey patch. Pa had very poor eyesight, but hearing someone running he would take off and could he run, even when he was 40 – 45. He chased these young men all to the beach (Bono's) he threatened to bust the door down. Finally Mr. Bono pleaded and said he would replace the damage and only then did Pa agree.

Note: 1. The beach mentioned was at the foot of Pacific Street at the intersection with Western Drive, now a pocket park.

2. Goat Hollow is the area bordered by Contra Costa Street, Tremont Street, and Western Drive.



Lady Windermere's Fan (Continued from page 17)

Mr. Dumby (**Michael Fay**) is a perfect specimen of the preferred sex of the privileged class in an English society to which literature has accustomed us: a blasé, dispassionate man who won't trouble himself to get angry or excited.

Mr. Dumby is a refined synthesis of contradictions: a substantial frame which moves with grace; a massive face with plenty of room for expression but whose emotional reaction is limited to raising his eyebrows. He has several intriguing lines which he delivers in cool deadpan. A deceptively delicious performance.

Lord Darlington (**Craig Eychner**) is a well-bred but dissatisfied man, who expresses his eccentricities by playing at being trivial-minded, and an outrageous rake. Perhaps Craig is becoming typecast as a man focused on inveigling women into sharing his ardour. In this play, though retaining an unsavory flavour, his manner is quite genteel and new permutations are uncovered.

In Act II, Lord Darlington metamorphoses into another man. He's still self-centred, but he's no longer toying with other people—he's tragic and in real pain. He becomes much more human as a defeated man-of-the-world. This is a powerful performance.

Cecil Graham (**Ted V. Bigornia**) is the ringer in the woodpile—though foreseeable—considering contemporary society and Oscar Wilde's predilection. Cecil is the identified misfit: a contrary cynic. Though properly dressed in the standard male uniform, Cecil's contrariness has him sporting a gold lamé waistcoat. Above all else, Cecil is *part* of this society—he is terrible—but acceptable.

I had great expectations of Ted, having seen him perform before. Cecil has great expectations from his aunt—he refers to her caustically, yet at her call, he *leaps* to her side, then dances his duty gymnastically.

Cecil is sharp and biting. He's an insecure, offensive little man masquerading as witty. My husband despised him. I found him wicked, often amusing—and brilliant. Bravo!

Lord Augustus (Joe Fitzgerald) is completely

Lady Windermere's Fan

at the Masquers Theatre

May 29—July 4, 2009

For reservations, call (510) 232-4031

<http://www.masquers.org>

beyond his depth. He's not a very clever man and becomes thoroughly confused by events. He flutters—ineffectually, though sometimes amusingly. How he transcends his difficulties is charming.

Lord Augustus is the one truly lovable character in the play. He's trusting, faithful and indestructibly hopeful. From Lord Augustus comes much of the play's underlying romantic optimism. This is a darling performance.

Mrs. Erlynne (Michele Delattre, *left, photo on page 16*) is the suspicious wicked outsider of whom we hear a great deal more than we witness. As we come to know her, contradictions abound—what's true becomes increasingly obscure. Why is she mysterious? Is she as depraved and promiscuous as the gossips say? Are there unknown reasons behind some persons' reactions to her?

Mrs. Erlynne is a lovely, bewitching woman—a little wicked, but you were expecting that. She is as good as it gets—proof that *no longer young* women need not fear the diminution of either their charms or their beauty. Jerry Telfer is in love with her. My husband is in love with her. Hell, even I'm in love with her!

This play says a thing or two about what poor hypocrites we all are, but in the end, it offers us what we most dearly need: hope.

A worthy adventure.

Reviews by Theresa de Valencé of SF Bay area community theatre performances are also published at <http://www.ReviewsByTdeV.com>. Join the mailing list by sending an email with "subscribe" in the subject to Theresa@ReviewsByTdeV.com.

OLDER THAN DIRT

Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside juke boxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines on the telephone
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P .F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (there were only

3 channels [if you were fortunate])

12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
- 14.. 45 RPM records
15. S& H greenstamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulbs
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young

If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older

If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,

If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!



EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

- Bena Bowles - 95
 Lee Christian - 93
 Eunice Ruth Hursh - 92
 Jean Moyle Spiersch - 95
 Mark Gebhart - 95
 Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw - 91
 Jim Patrick Kenny - 96
 Dody Perry - 92
 Lupe Padilla Lopez - 95
 Ruth Mallette - 97
 Avis Blanchette - 95
 Anna Schwarz - 97
 Viola Lala Kennedy

- Anita Brougham - 96
 Steve Wyrick - 94
 Ed Squires - 92
 Goldie Mobley-96
 Ann Hanzlik - 96
 Shoney Gustafson -93
 Madelilne Bellando Albright -92
 Roger Wiese - 92
 Jerome Vloebergh - 92
 Reva Ward - 96
 Bernard Dietz 94
 Al Frosini - 91
 Maxine Stoddard - 94
 Betty Dornan - 90
 Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger-92

- Otto Barni - 92
 Thelma Mae Harvey - 93
 Delphina Franco - 91

100 Year Club

- Ruth Wood Mullen - 102
 Gordon Miller - 100
 Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 100

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

Deaths.....

Maxine Stoddard passed away on May, 2, 2009. Age 94. She married her high school sweetheart, Jack Stoddard and raised 3 children. They moved to Point Richmond in 1962 where they lived until Jack's death in 1983. Maxine moved to Piedmont Gardens in 2002. She is survived by her daughter Sue Kahn of Montclair, Kim Stoddard, Point Richmond and Michael Stoddard of New Port Beach and 4 grandchildren. A Memorial Gathering will be at Noon, Saturday, June 27, 2009, at the Galileo Club, 371 South 23rd Street, Richmond.

James P. Kenny passed away in Richmond, the city of his birth and where he served as City Councilman and Mayor. He was 96 years old. James was born in the rooming house above his family's saloon and pool hall in Point Richmond (The Spot) and was the youngest of three children born to Irish immigrant John L. Kenny and his wife, Annie. John was one of the founders of Richmond in 1905. James joined the Conservation Corps (CCC) and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters. He married Helen Nugent in 1946 and had one child, John. They lived in Richmond for more than 50 years. James worked for the Oil Workers Union in 1948 during a yearlong strike and then entered politics as part of the progressive wing. He was elected Mayor in 1956 and in 1958 he won the District 1 seat on the County Board of Supervisors, being reelected four times. He is survived by his son, Jack, 2 grandsons and 2 great granddaughters. Services were held Wednesday, May 13th.

Murray Shen, owner of Suzhou Restaurant passed away early Tuesday morning, April 14th, 2009. He was diagnosed with bladder cancer less than a year ago. He passed away peacefully at home with his family, Lucy, sons Dennis and Dave (wife Maggie), and his two sisters and mother at his side. A memorial service was held Sunday April 19 at 1:00 pm.

HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER?

- Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.
- Ignition switches on the dashboard.
- Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall.
- Real ice boxes.
- Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards
- Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
- Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.
- How about a curling iron that you heated on a gas burner.

Mid

Cards, Letters & E-Mail

Dear Pam,

I'm enclosing a snapshot found in my Mother's things. I thought it was interesting. I just wish my Mother had dated it. I think it was during World War I (around 1915).

So glad they have retrofitted the "Plunge". In my day it was called the "Bath House."

We lived across the street at 19 Oregon Avenue and watched it being built. When the workers left after work, we would run across the street and play "hide and seek" in the vast building area. We loved it!

Oregon Avenue only had 4 houses, but there was a total of 23 kids. The Starks had 9, the Smiths had 7, the Kermabons (my family) had 5 and the Rumseys had 2 Not a bad total!

I remember (I'm 92) when John Nichol owned

that property where the Plunge is. He had a high fence all around his property and we were told he had his own well. He had tall trees growing on his land, and I remember a big thunder and lightning storm when a bolt of lightning cut one of his trees in half and it came crashing down before our eyes. That was real scary.

I have so many memories of Point Richmond.

Many Thanks,

Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger
San Rafael, CA

We thoroughly enjoy hearing your memories of Point Richmond, please share more. Thank you for the photo, it has become part of our photo archives.

Gary



Standard Oil Main Office in the Snow (year unknown) #0749-Charlotte Birsinger was enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Birthdays

June

Alissa Bagley
William Shea
Emeric Baxter
Anita Brougham
Andrew Butt
Joanne Lansing
Cathe Brazil
John H. Knox
Alice Baxter
Zachary Crowson
Rosemary Giacomelli

Luke Karl
Daniel Buhler
Thomas Kenny
Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.
June Solosbal
Marcellina Smith
Judy Travis
Maurice Doherty
Gerry Higuera
Lee Christian
Lillian Karl

Steve Wyick
Suzanne Unser
Dianne Primaver
Aaron Marshall
Michael Marshall
Vance Kaska
Judy Kaska
Phyllis Downey
Roberta Montgomery
Paul Mukavtz

July

Frances Smith
Amy Rotting
Deborah Stearns
Ed Squires
Julius Matteucci
Mary L. Knox
Doreen Minkwitz
Allen Anderson
Diedre Cerkianowicz
Roger Elle
Madison Bradshaw

Hilary Lord
Alice McMahon
Joan N. Glover
Lou MacMillan
Jean Reynolds
Loretta 'Mertle' Lease
Bea Read
Regan Bradshaw
Ann Bisio
Madeline Bellando
Albright

Jon Healy
Alyce Williamson
Golda Pettycord Howard
Martha Bielawski
Dixie L. Mello
Frank Matteucci
Isabella Ultsch
Richard M. Smith
Allen Anderson
Hilary Lord

August

Mid Dornan
Mary (Bruno) Fregulia
Donna Wilson
Joe Darlilng
Nicholas Ultsch
Linda Smith
Bernie Bisio
Connee Fisher
Barbara Ward
Alice Thompson
Reva Ward
Zoanna Kille

Karla Peterson
Alia Smyke
Terrence Doherty
Lisa Smith
Kelly Von York
Dean Beesley
Bonnie Ritzenhaler
Wilson
R. Clayton Barnes
Tony Bernabich
Jim Healy
Zoe Mukavtz

Michael Shaw
Roy Henry Gover
Jerome Vloebergh
Patti Kowalski
Eunice Ruth Hursh
Linda Smith Delatorre
Marlene Smith
Kent Kitchingman
Molly Kathleen Barnes
Sarah Thompson
Marian Kent
Diane Frye

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Contact: Linda Drake, 510672-0793

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4, \$2 over 65 & under 12, max. family admission is \$9.00, 510-234-4884 for details.

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

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

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

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

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Becky Jonas, President, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday August 21, 2009. Information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

POINT RICHMOND VILLAGE

Linda Newton, Chairman 510-236-7435

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY

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

SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST

Contact: Rosemary Corbin, 510-235-5779

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

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

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (five issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801

If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and months.

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or
fax 510-965-0335

or
email: gary@alkos.com

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

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

Board of Directors:

Mid Dornan, President
Pat Pearson, 1st Vice President
Jerry Cerkanowicz, 2nd Vice President
Tom Piazza, Secretary
Sonja Darling, Treasurer
Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary
Pam Wilson, Membership
Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Newsletter
Bonnie Jo Cullison, Archives, Museum Manager
Margaret Morkowski, Museum Staff Coordinator
Elizabeth McDonald, Collating Coordinator

Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photo Enhancement
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article/Photos
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Donna Roselius	Line Drawings
Pat Pearson	Articles
Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger	Photo
Gary Darling	Article

Phone Numbers

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

Visit our website
PointRichmondHistory.org

Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site

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

Point Richmond History Association
139 1/2 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE!**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHMOND, CA
PERMIT NO. 301**

