

# THIS POINT....in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

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

Vol. XXXIV No. 5

April/May 2016

\$3.00



You are Invited to  
The Point Richmond History Association's  
Annual General Meeting  
May 15, 2016 at 2:00 pm  
Point Richmond Community Center  
139 Washington Avenue

After a short meeting to nominate and elect officers we  
will be treated to a presentation by  
Caitlin Harvey that she calls:

***Live - Work: Point Richmond's  
Company Cottages***

Caitlin has spent considerable time studying our turn of  
the century "Smokey Row" houses as well as some of the  
other vernacular cottage groupings around town that  
were probably associated with the railroad or the  
refinery. Will be very interesting.

***Refreshments will be served.***

# From the President

By Mid Dornan

Point Richmond History’s Annual meeting on Sunday, May 15th, 2:00 p.m. is at the Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Ave. Everyone is invited and if you are interested in being on or a part of the board, it is the day we elect officers for a year. We especially invite you to come if you were you born in the Point? Have lived here 30-40-50 years? Have a special memory, were a former Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Camp Fire Girl? Are you a relative of a pioneer? Come hear and share why the volunteer PRHA keeps active. Have any old pictures of the Point or stories? Bring them as well.

You will be treated to an interesting presentation by Caitlin Harvey about the interesting “company” cottages that are scattered throughout Point Richmond.

See you there!

*Keller Beach in March*



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Thank you members for your renewal:

**Frank & Kristine Lazaro Family**  
**Bill & Arduina Smith Family**  
**Karen Kittle/Point Realty**  
**Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn**  
**Maack\*\***  
**Dixie Mello**  
**Darlene Wright**  
**Ken & Kay Madison Family**  
**Richard & Roberta Palfini\*\***  
**Rosemary & Doug Corbin\*\***  
**Dee Rosier**  
**Patricia Dornan\*\***  
**Ken Blonski & Louise Fender\*\***  
**Eric Munkres**  
**Lydia & Evan Jahromi Family**  
**Karen Buchanan\*\***  
**Pat Pearson**  
**Bob Armstrong\*\***  
**Connie Healy**  
**Thomas R. Williams**  
**Marc E. Bisio**  
**Mrs. Grace Cerkowicz**  
**Velma Healy**  
**Brenda McKinley**

A warm welcome to new member:

**Virginia Moonney Family**

\*Gift Membership

\*\*Special Supporter, *Thank You!*

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

Mid Dornan  
Pat Pearson  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Heinz Lankford  
Gary Shows  
Lori Kauth  
Caitlin Harvey  
Virginia Mooney  
Jean Rose

*Thank You! To*

# **Santa Fe Market**

*For distributing*

***“THIS POINT.....in time”***

*Support our local retailers*

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

*Open Thursdays and Saturdays*

*11:30 am - 2:00 pm*



***The Cover:***

***First sunny day after many days  
of rain in downtown Point  
Richmond.***

***“Sunning the Fire Trucks”***



# Editor's Notes

**Gary Shows**

***garyshows@gmail.com***

How about this beautiful weather! Spring is my favorite time of the year, had to go out and “find” my water meter in the lush undergrowth! I seems that the nasturtiums and golden poppies are especially hardy this year.

I have done some work on our website, [www.pointrichmondhistory.org](http://www.pointrichmondhistory.org). The newsletter PDF's are up to date and have made a separate audio/visual page that contains some old videos of “Indian Statue Day”, the moving of our little museum, an old Doug McConnel “Back Roads” and the 1910 lightweight championship fight that brought over 15,000 people to the Point. Audio from our last several May general meetings are also there.

**The deadline for the next issue is May 27, 2016.**

Thanks to the volunteers at our last mailing party at Mid's home: And thank you Mid for allowing us to use your home for our staple/folding/labeling party and meeting.

Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Caitlin Harvey  
Mid Dornan  
Marcelina Smith  
Karen Buchanan  
Heinz Lankford  
Kathe Kiehn



## *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 Janes  
The Bartram-Owens Family  
Erica & Barry Goode  
Burl Willes  
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut  
Jeanne Pritchard  
Joe Pritchard  
Bob Armstrong

### *History Preservers*

Royce Ong  
Kevin, Renée & Griffin Knee  
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack  
Margaret Morkowski  
Maurice & Margaret Doherty  
Zoe Egger  
Linda Newton  
H. Abigail Bok & David Gotlieb  
Tom & Shirley Butt  
The Dolberg Family  
Bernie McIntosh  
Don & Ingrid Lindemann  
Roberta & Tim Montgomery  
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza  
Karen Buchanan  
Norma Wallace  
Patti, Stephanie & Stephen Kowalski  
Don & Carole Woodrow  
Marilyn Darling  
Richmond Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Linda Andrew-Marshall  
Gloria & Mark Maltagliati  
Anne Brussok-Roth  
Ken Blonski & Louise Fender

# A-Mid Trivia

**TPIT**  
**Exclusive**  
**since 1984**

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

QUESTION: What percentage of U.S. homes only have a landline and do not rely on cellphones?

Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

It is hard to believe our country was founded to avoid taxation!

\*\*\*

Check and Mark your calendar NOW for our Annual Point Richmond History Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15th at the Community Center. Learn more history of where you live or once did. Watch for your invitation in May.

\*\*\*

Plan to donate your acceptable items to the Methodist Annual Junktique Sale before Saturday, May 5th.

\*\*\*

The Methodist Church WILL be serving the famous 'Boy Scout Troop 111' Buttermilk Pancakes on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 7th. Kids used to have sleepovers coming to the church for this special pancake breakfast.

\*\*\*

If adorable five-year-old 'Valerie', accompanied by her mother and energized younger little brother selling Girl Scout cookies, didn't stop by your place, you missed a joy of childhood. When the cookies were delivered, Valerie even included a lovely, signed Thank You note. (Priceless training for such a young child)

\*\*\*

This unseasonal warm February weather provided the Bay Trail an ideal and welcome site to engage yourself on foot or on wheels. (thanks to Bruce Beycart for his huge contribution to the Trail) Do whatever your legs will let you as long and as often.

\*\*\*

The world's largest light sculpture turned on

for good on the Bay Bridge before Super Bowl 50. The 25,000 LED lights fastened to cables on the western span of the bridge originally were planned as a temporary public arts project. However Illuminate the Arts, a non-profit group, raised \$4 million to restore them. The largest chunk of money, \$2 million, came from Peninsula philanthropist Tad Taube. Artist Leo Villareal created the sculpture by programming the lights to flicker and dim at night in patterns he likens to a music composition.

\*\*\*

California's state flower, the Golden Poppy, bursts in color in appreciation of a little rain. A State flower since 1903, April 6th is California Poppy Day.

\*\*\*

Do Veteran's still sell Poppies that Commemorate World War I? Flanders Field is a common English name for World War I and the war poem, written by a Canadian, begins "In Flanders Field the Poppies Grow, between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place, and in the sky....."

\*\*\*

The average dog sleeps 12-14 hours. Most spend another 30% of their day lying around awake.

\*\*\*

In a span of 66 years we went from taking flight to landing on the moon.

\*\*\*

Swimming vs golfing and calisthenics may be the best exercise to lower the risk of falls. This may be because swimming develops strong and stable core muscles, which help with balance.

\*\*\*

The Richmond Museum of History honored retiring volunteer, Marsha Tomassi, for the hundreds or thousands of hours spent organizing and completing the Museum's financial, accounting records. Because of her work, it was

reported “the most accurate as it has ever been in the 61-year history of the RMA. Congratulations Marsha!

\*\*\*

Put a wooden spoon over the top of your pot to prevent spills when things boil. It pops the steam bubbles.

\*\*\*

Aging seems to be the only available way to a longer life.

\*\*\*

Fashion is what someone else tells you what to wear. Style is about your personal expression.

\*\*\*

The hardest thing in life to learn is which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn.

\*\*\*

The flowering plum trees in February were a spectacular public show of color lining our Point streets. Many of the trees were a service project of the Richmond’s Junior Women’s Club, ‘Plant a Tree in ’53’.

\*\*\*

Point Richmond Composer George Peter Tingley’s smile couldn’t be wider with joy when he listened as his compositions, “The Great Conversations” and “Tuesday Tango”, being played by the San Francisco Munich Trio, Rebecca Rust, Cello, Friedrich Edelman, bassoon, and Chris Salocks, piano, during their Classical Concert at the Methodist Church. They are in the repertoire in their International Concerts.

\*\*\*

If you were a student at Harry Ells a number years ago, you may remember being

*Mid Dornan and Lara Choe on Easter Day  
at the Point Richmond Methodist Church.*

*Photo is from Lara Choe*

very happy, at the end of the day reading the school paper (Published by the students) which read “No School Tomorrow, Friday, April 1st.”. The next day, when parents were called asking why their child was not in school they replied, “The school, paper read ‘no school’”. Proving people often never read to the end of an article. Bottom line of the school paper read “April Fool”

\*\*\*

Mothers Day card:

A good mother will let you lick the beaters.  
A better Mother will turn them off first.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: Only 8% of homes rely entirely on landlines, (Wall Street Journal)



# Church News



*By Dee Rosier*

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Moving right along, we celebrated Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's and an early Easter, as well as adjusting to a change in time. The much needed rain came and stayed a while.

The stage of readiness for a new parish directory approaches reality. Many different sources were reviewed and incorporated prior to the final proofing, which will soon be in the hands of the printer.

Thanks are extended to Anne Brussok, Diane Siegmund, Beth Lewin and Dee Rosier, as well as the parishioners who readily responded to be included.

The Parish Council welcomed new member Mike Sommers. The position of Secretary remains vacant. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM in the church hall. Should you have an item for discussion, you are welcome to attend. The next meeting will require a change of hats in order to finalize the budget. They will then be known as the Finance Committee.

Bible Study classes are also held in the church hall every other Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 PM. Upcoming dates are included in the church website. The group recently went on an "in-

between" meeting excursion and Lenten activity to see the movie "Risen." It was an enjoyable outing which resulted in conversation around the events seen in the movie. Attendance and participation is increasing. Anne Brussok is the facilitator and the meetings are open to the neighborhood/community.

New roses have been planted and before long will welcome everyone with their splash of color. Someone recently asked Father if they could donate a rose in memory of a loved one and his reply was extremely positive. What a grand idea.

The electrical upgrade of lights for the Sanctuary has commenced. Thirteen new energy efficient LED lights were installed overhead. Two new beam lights will illuminate the statues of The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. Also included are new switches and electrical outlets placed and spaced along the entire length of the Communion rail. Much of the work will be done as dollars become available.

The stabilization and restoration of the Rose Window facing West Richmond Avenue has taken place. The deteriorated woodwork has been replaced as well as the exterior façade trim painted which captures a distinctive look from previous decades. The broken window on the town facing side has been repaired, as well as the crumbling steps and step tread leading up to the Sacristy. The final two repairs were done by a competent handyman recommended by a parishioner.

We are fortunate to have been given a wonderful parish community, a living faith that continues to be of support to many and a beautiful church which we are always in the process of renewing.

The Sacrament of First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, May 15. My long-time kindergarten friends and I all received our First Holy Communion on the same day. We celebrated the first birthday of our group at my Pt. Richmond home.

The Diocesan Annual Chrism Mass was held at Christ the Light Cathedral. All parishes were invited and encouraged to participate in the Mass where the Sacramental oils are blessed and



distributed.

Our present Pope is unique and into modern day technology. Join him on Instagram – “Francisco”, who has a million followers.

Get well wishes and prayers continue for: Dean Smith, Jim Cheshareck, Frankie and Dixie Mello.

Condolences to the family of Elvira Garcia. Known as “Vee”, she was a loyal, long-time member of the parish. Many years ago, she worked at C&H Sugar in Crockett along with some of my family.

Condolences are also extended to the entire Siegmund family in the death of the Matriarch of our Parish, Angie Kirkpatrick. Angie and a group of other women were always present in the church hall serving her delicious beans at our annual BBQ’s. Her hands were always there to help. Services are pending.

Thanks to Spring Break we are able to visit with the students who have moved away – good to see Sean Diaz back for a few.

The Wong family was all smiles as their latest

grandchild was baptized. How lucky can one be?

The Jensen boys, our favorite gift servers, have moved to Fairfax. Their angelic smiles will be missed.

Florence Wilson can now see forever and in living color since her cataract surgeries.

The rumor from Italy is that Elizabeth Hertzberg, our Soprano, is engaged to an Italian Attorney.

Wishes of happiness are sent their way.

Cynthia Young has been nominated as Teacher of the Year in the Mt. Diablo School District. We send our votes.

Diane Diani celebrated Easter in Hawaii along with family members.

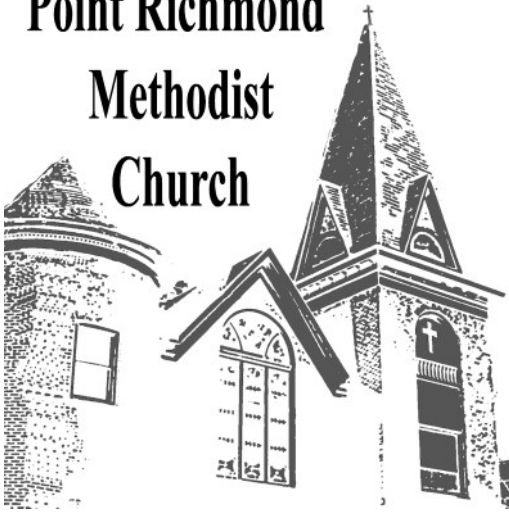
See you in Church

EVERY DAY MAY NOT BE GOOD,  
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING GOOD  
IN EVERY DAY



*Brickyard Cove just prior to development PRHA Archive picture #1004-Charles Smith*

# Point Richmond Methodist Church



**Jean Reynolds**

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Sweetheart Dinner: Russ and Kristi Johnson were decreed Sweethearts for 2016 at the Nineteenth Annual Sweetheart Dinner on February 20, at Point San Pablo Yacht Club. The celebration included Tom Butt as Master of Ceremonies. Kristi's youngest sister, Kay Mink shared about Russ and Kristi's first meeting. She introduced them, but it took a while for sparks to fly. Carol Honas, Kristi's other sister sent a video message since she was keynote speaker at another event that night. Al Garrotto and wife Esther shared about Russ and Kristi's wedding adventures. Kristi's school principals Pam Neudecker and Samantha Hobbs told about Kristi's signature words and actions as a teacher. They mimicked her to a "tee". Pastor Dan Damon shared all the things he learned from Russ – the location of every bar in Marin where Dan might be hired to play the piano. Dan said he plans to charge Kristi a dollar for every word she says during announcements at worship, but that he can count on less time for the sermon when she shares. Heinz Lankford and Kathe Kiehn grandly passed the Scepter to the new reigning Sweethearts, although we know the saying is true: "once a sweetheart, always a sweetheart."

On March 19, Vickie Zabarte shared her talent and love for jazz standards in an intimate concert accompanied by Dan Damon on piano. Many of us had heard Vickie sing as various characters in musicals at the Masquers Theater, but this time she got to offer us the music she likes best. Dan's inspired solo licks on the piano went way beyond how he plays at the Hotel Mac or Sunday worship. It was clear they both loved the chance to perform. Attendees donated to support Saffron Strand, a non-profit agency designed to give people who are homeless the various tools and life skills they need to change their circumstances. CEO Yvonne Nair shared how Saffron Strand's dedicated staff and volunteers help members succeed when other programs have failed. Their office is located next to the Santa Fe Market at 147 W. Richmond Ave. Stop in to witness firsthand the life-changing work they do.

On Easter, March 27, the weather was especially beautiful for the early worship service in the garden. The birds sang along with the congregation, and the flowers danced along as the people sang and moved to "Christ is Risen from the Dead, Glory! Halleluia!" Rachel Herrin, Linda Andrew-Marshall, Norm and Jean Reynolds made breakfast: Cheesy Amish Eggs this time instead of Methodist Eggs. After Sunday school, worship followed in the sanctuary. The choir sang "The Lord is My Shepherd" ala the theme song of "The Vicar of Dibley". Children hunted for Easter Eggs in the back yard with baskets already loaded with treats before the hunt. Debbie and Bill Benko and Manuel Navidad hid eggs and made sure everyone found enough to feel loved.

In February and March we collected coins and cash in memory of Helen Valentine to support families served by Heifer International. Heifer International, which provides animals and training to change the nutrition and earning power of families, was dear to Helen's heart, and we remember her and her baking prowess by using a ceramic pie plate to collect the donations. The Sunday school class will decide which animals to "buy" with the funds.

During Lent, we collected new, huggable, stuffed animals for children served by the Richmond Family Justice Center. Families who experience disruption from domestic violence and other ills get assistance at the Center. Their

children are comforted with a stuffed toy as they face new challenges.

**On the Calendar:**

**Tingley Day:** Sunday, May 1, 11:00 AM Celebrate the creativity of our Composer in Residence, George Peter Tingley. Our morning worship will allow some of George's compositions to relay the eternal messages of love, struggle and hope.

**Junktique:** Bring items to donate in April: Wednesdays and Saturdays 10:00 AM to Noon, Thursdays 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. (Please, no clothing, shoes, hide-a-beds, exercise equipment, metal frame recliners, or particleboard furniture.) For items too large to deliver, contact Jonathan, [jnscons@comcast.net](mailto:jnscons@comcast.net); Betty, [BettyGracham@gmail.com](mailto:BettyGracham@gmail.com); or phone Bill (510) 232-4155. Got muscles? Email Jonathan or Betty to help with pickups.

**Junktique Sale Day:** Saturday, May 7, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Huge yard and basement sale featuring housewares, furniture, books, toys, electronics, glassware, and numerous one-of-a-kind items. Lunch served from 11:00 AM: Minestrone, chili, meat or vegi hotdogs, and pie by the slice. It is the bargain seeker's paradise! □

This is our largest fund-raiser of the year. We know with your help it will be the best ever!

**Junktique 2:** Monday, May 30, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Real Buttermilk Pancake Breakfast at 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM We are having a basement sale and Pancake Breakfast even though the Masquers' All Point Richmond Yard Sale is cancelled, and hope that many of you in the neighborhood will also have yard sales that day. It is too much fun for the tradition to end. Agreed?

June 4, 2:00 PM: **Dennis Johnson, Classical Piano Recital.** Dennis Johnson returns for another of his fabulous recitals. Suggested donation: \$15. No one turned away for lack of funds. All proceeds to benefit "Spirit In Action", a non-profit which awards business grants to individuals, families and communities in several countries in Africa. See more at [www.spiritinaction.org](http://www.spiritinaction.org)

June 5, Sunday, 6:00 PM: **Potluck and Program with Katherine Parker.** Katherine is currently a missionary to Nepal and is back on the continent to report on her efforts to improve sanitation, water quality, and healthcare for the Nepalese. Bring a dish to share and hear her stories.



*At Brickyard Cove just prior to development PRHA Archive picture #1013-Charles Smith*

# WWIC Est. 1908

## *News from the Womens Westside Improvement Club by Norma Wallace*

The first regular meeting of 2016 was celebrated with red in honor of the month's heart-centered theme inspired by Valentine's Day. The tables were set with red tablecloths. Colorful centerpieces included heart-shaped table toppers centered on heart-themed mats covered by lace doilies. (The layered decor creates a bigger impact.) Heart-themed luncheon napkins completed the "heart-felt" decor. Separately, a side serving table holding contributions of homemade desserts, coffee, and tea featured a lace cloth draped over a bright red cloth.

President **Linda Newton** called the meeting to order shortly after twelve noon, welcoming the room full of members. She offered thanks on behalf of the group to hostesses for the month **Margaret Jordan** (head), **Gay Timmons** and **Doris Mitchell**. WWIC hostesses prepare the room for the luncheon, serve coffee and tea to members, and provide and serve dessert, a responsibility which rotates through the membership. For the luscious decor, we thanked **Diane Hirano** and **Kathe Kiehn**. **Linda** announced member birthdays, including: **Lori Kauth** (6th), **Peggy Thow** (14th), and **Gail Eierweiss** (18th).

A highlight of the meeting was **Anne Buchanan's** report on the field trip to Rosie the Riveter held in January. The group enjoyed their good fortune and **Anne's** good planning in hearing National Park Ranger and local hero **Betty Reid Soskin** tell a story about her trip to the White House. Can we say? Medal of Honor!! It was explained that presidents have the option of anointing individuals with said medal, and that the traditional manner is via a "slip of the hand," which is just how it happened for Richmond's **Betty**. We could not be more proud.

Moving to announcements singular to WWIC, members were taken aback to hear our dear sister member **Alyce Williamson** had taken a spill so bad it had prevented her from attending

the meeting. The book group meets February 23, reading either *M Train* or *Just Kids*. Routine announcements proceeded by **Altha Humphrey** (Knit 'n Such), **Karen Buchanan** (Storytelling at Kaleidoscope), **Kathe Kiehn** (Masquers), **Anne Brussock** (Bible Study), **Margaret Jordan** (PRNC). One important development shared is an expected increased police presence, including walking through the Point. [As TPIT correspondent, I am regularly amazed at the breadth of issues touched by WWIC members overall.]

Contrasting with February's theme in red, March tables turned green in honor of that other (secularly popular) saint, Patrick. Green tablecloths, clovers strewn atop, napkins with multi-colored leaves of clover were complimented with green plastic cutlery, (lucky) gold (covered chocolate) coins, giant white and yellow daisies, finished off with a variety of table toppers. A good many members remembered to dress accordingly and were sporting various shades of bright green.

President **Linda Newton** opened the meeting and thanked hostesses **Pat Pearson** (head), **Deborah Wilkinson** and **Lynn Clifford**; and another round of applause was offered to **Diane Hirano** for getting the chairs and large tables moved, set up and ready for lunch. March birthday honorees include **Deborah Haley** (3rd), **Betty Ann Barnett** (10th) and **Kathe Kiehn** (12th). February celebrant **Anne Brussock-Roth** (2nd) was honored, having been overlooked at the February meeting.

There was a full house to hear guest speaker Nancy Burns of Body Wisdom talk about how to keep on moving. After much pressing business was discussed, the meeting adjourned with reminders of the election in April, and fundraiser in May.





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

*-Linda Newton, President*

August 11, 1908

The Womens Westside Improvement Club met at Curry's Hall.

The meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Nellie Adams.

The roll call of officers resulted in all being present except the Finance Com. Mrs. Geo. Garrard, Mrs. Lang & Mrs. Jones and Executive Com. Mrs. Windrum, Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Niedecker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The petitions of membership of Mrs. Geo. Olds and Mrs. L.D. Dirruad were read and Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Cowan were appointed on the investigating committee.

Mrs. Hopkins reported she had the tickets and the window cards for the Ball.

Mrs. Eaton was appointed on the refreshment committee in place of Mrs. Gibbons.

It was moved and carried that the Ball last until the hour of 1 o'clock.

Mrs. Delp and Mrs. Dimick were appointed to assist in the distribution of the tickets.

It was moved and carried the we petition the Water Co. to blow a whistle at least 30 minutes before the water is turned off. Mrs. McHenry,

Mrs. Cowan and Mrs. Peard were appointed a committee to interview the Water Co.

The same committee were appointed to see Mr. Futter about placing a fountain at the intersection of Washington Ave. and Park Place.

It was moved and carried that a committee be appointed to interview the people of the M. E. Church about placing a drinking fountain at the corner of the M. E. Church. Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Goode and Mrs. Gibbons were appointed on that committee.

It was moved and carried that the club send a petition to the town Board of Trustees asking them to pass and ordinance making it a misdemeanor for a person to pick flowers or in any way molest the yards of the people of Richmond.

Receipts \$9.00

There being no further business to come before the club adjourned to meet Tues. August 18, 1908.

Mrs. Geo. W. Topping, Sec.

***When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.  
When the government fears the people, there is liberty.***

***~~ Thomas Jefferson***

*Mid*

# Masquers Playhouse Suspends Operations to Make Major Repairs

*Peter Budinger (510) 712-0291 or [peter@tremendo.org](mailto:peter@tremendo.org)*

On Tuesday, March 8, facilities supervisors at historic Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond, CA, discovered major damage to the theater's primary interior support structure. An immediate investigation determined that the theater should not be reopened to the general public until its structural integrity is restored. By all current indications, this process will take months on end.

With audience safety in mind, a tandem meeting of the Masquers Playhouse Board of Directors and Administrative Staff decided that the best course of action was to cancel all productions for the remainder of the 2016 season and shutter the theater until repairs are complete.

The extent of the damage should be known within a month, once structural engineers have had a chance to inspect and report on it, as well as what measures — monetary and otherwise — will be required to fix it. It will be no small task.

The Masquers was established in 1955 to

produce affordable plays and other live theatrical events for the entertainment and cultural enhancement of the greater Bay Area. For its entire history, the group has been staffed and run completely on a volunteer basis.

In 1959, The Masquers moved into the Village Playhouse at 105 Park Place in Point Richmond. Their first production went up there in 1960, and in 1961, the theater was officially renamed Masquers Playhouse. In the ensuing 57 years, Masquers has tackled nearly 400 productions, large and tiny, musical and nonmusical, dramatic and light. They've been recognized by Congress, and they've won accolades and awards for the quality of their work and for the longevity of the organization.

In recent years, the work produced by the Masquers has continued to garner praise and awards. Like many small theaters throughout the Bay Area, it has weathered financial challenges. "We're not a facility with a lot of wealthy backers or an endowment, like some of the larger theaters in this area," said Masquers Managing Director Robert Love. "We're an 88-seat community theater and an all-volunteer organization. Our total annual operating budget is equal to one tenth of a single show budget at the Berkeley Rep."

This highlights the seriousness of the current situation. As Masquers mounts its rebuilding effort, any and all help is sought and appreciated. Tax-deductible donations are being accepted at [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org), and benefactors who wish to do more are encouraged to email [rebuild@masquers.org](mailto:rebuild@masquers.org).



## **There will be a Show in Town!**

At the Masquers, with the temporary closing for remedial building work, some shows do go on, like clock-work, every year. On May 30, 2016, Memorial Day, the Annual (count'em: 25 years) Point Richmond-Masquers Playhouse Town Garage Sale will happen, once again. Not on stage, but on the street.

Each year over 100 houses in the Point participate in this neighborhood-wide event. Participants donate 10% of their sales to the Masquers. This year especially, with the unforeseen costs of cancelling this year's season, extra funds are needed. Some of which just pay the standard costs, like property taxes, insurance and PGE. Other fundraising efforts are in the works for the theater's remedial costs.

Local neighbors, businesses and residence, enjoy one of the hugest gatherings of eager bargain seekers from all over Northern California. An estimate of attendees is in the 1000's and garage sale participants generally donate \$3 - \$4,000 to the Masquers (at 10% that is \$30 - \$40,000). The local retailers also do well. It also helps the Methodist Church for a follow-up sale to their Junktique Sale earlier in May, generating more income for them. The event introduces the Point area to many that wouldn't visit otherwise.

Also, across from the Masquers, in Indian Statue Park, is the 10<sup>th</sup> Fine Fiddle Festival, with music in the Park from 8am-2pm. This popular addition to the day is sponsored by the Masquers.

The Masquers can accept donations (primarily books, costume jewelry, decorative/collectors' items) for our sale in front of the theater by calling the Masquers (510-232-3888).

Like to make a cash donation to the Masquer's Building Fund? Send to The Masquers, P.O. Box 71037, Richmond, CA. 94807. The Masquers is a 501(c) not-for-profit organization. Or visit us on line for more information:  
**MASQUERS.ORG**

I look forward to seeing you on Memorial Day.  
David Vincent for the Masquers Playhouse  
Celebrating 62 years, the Masquers is an all-volunteer community theater.

# Royce Ong Point Richmond Resident for 82 years

*Interviewed by Tania Mantua*

"I went on and on and never looked backwards," said Royce Ong, who has lived in Point Richmond for 82 of his 85 years. He was kind enough to look backwards for a few hours and share his memories of Point Richmond for the period of World War II to present. He has hearing only in his left ear and has to wear a hearing aid, which only seems to help a little. He lost his hearing from working on a printing press for 25 years. They didn't wear hearing protection in the old days. His grandparents, the Haings, were one of the first Chinese families to move to the Point. His grandfather was a bartender and dishwasher at the Pioneer Club in Point Richmond. His grandmother opened and ran the Republic Cafe in downtown Richmond, and, during World War I, her cafe was open 24 hours a day. The Cafe was near the courthouse and his grandmother became friendly with a lot of lawyers and judges of the day. The Cafe was successful and she was able to make a lot of money. Royce's mother was born here in 1903. Royce was born in San Francisco in 1930 and moved to Point Richmond in 1934.



*Royce and Tania in our little museum.*

Royce's grandparents had built a house in Point Richmond in 1904 or 1905 on Golden Gate Avenue. There were 10 people living there during the 1906 earthquake and the house and residents survived. Royce's grandparents had planned to live there until they made enough money in California to return to China to buy a big farm. Royce's mom first worked as a housekeeper and a caregiver, she had some trouble finding work until the war broke out, then, she got a job in the purchasing department for Standard Oil. She worked there from 1942-45 as a purchasing agent for the oil tankers. His father worked for the WPA for a time and his parents eventually divorced. His mother may have been the first Asian woman to get a divorce in Contra Costa County.

Royce grew up in a Cantonese speaking household, his mother only spoke Cantonese to him even though she spoke English. He fondly remembers Ruby Simmons, his first grade teacher at Washington Elementary, who taught him to speak, read and write English. He went to Washington Elementary School from 1937 to the Spring of 1942. He remembers hearing music coming from Shipyard 3 when he was a kid in school, it was in the days that Big Bands were popular and the Shipyards provided entertainment to their workers. In 1940, there was already shipbuilding going on for England, he and the other kids got tickets to watch the launch of the first Liberty ship.

In 1941, the Army was training in Richmond and they took over the Washington School, some of the units billeted there. He remembers that same year there was a Bofors 40 mm antiaircraft gun put near the reservoir on Water Street. The Coast Artillery was in charge and they also put 50 caliber machine guns on High Street and Pacific Avenue and antiaircraft guns on the flat roof buildings at Standard Oil Refinery. They closed Water Street, High Street and Pacific Avenue for a time, but did allow the kids to go up and play there. The military was afraid that the Japanese would invade California by flying over the Golden Gate Bridge. In front of his house they put an air raid siren on top of a post. Royce said it was really loud when it went off. The post has been there all these years and then, last week, fell and took out his power for a time. His house also had blackout curtains, which



he still has, and he remembers that his neighbor was the Warden and his family was yelled at to close the curtains to block out the light during an air raid drill.

He says that old timers treated people better than people these days. As an example he told the story of attending his rather prominent (partly because he spoke good English) grandfather's funeral (on his father's side) in San Francisco. His mother had divorced his father so she did not want to go to the funeral. Royce was just 13 years old and his mother wanted him to attend, even though she was worried that Royce's father might try to kidnap him as he was angry about the divorce. So his mother went down to the Richmond Police Station where she knew a sergeant and asked if they could help. The sergeant asked the date of



*Royce, his cat "General" and his Camaro*

the funeral and said that he would take care of it. She asked how much it would cost and the sergeant said it would cost nothing. On the date of the funeral Chief Jones arranged for Royce to be picked up by a black 1939 two door Oldsmobile Hydromatic with police license plates and they were off to the City. The officer told his uncle at the funeral that it was his job to take care of Royce and keep him safe, uncle got a big kick out of that. Old time friendships like that just do not exist now. Media and political correctness just would not stand for it.

Royce said his favorite memories of Point Richmond are of Halloween, hanging out with his friends as a kid. He said the people in town were always friendly and you felt safe walking around. He hung out with Dick O'Connor (cousin of Donald O'Connor, the actor), Arthur Hudson and the Amantini family, and he had a paper route with Robert Chamberlain. Royce said that Pat Pearson is the only person left in Point Richmond with whom he went to school. He was always the smallest kid in the group. He went on to Roosevelt Junior High School and then Richmond Union High. He graduated from High School in June of 1948 and then worked as a stock boy.

He went to City College in San Francisco for a year and in 1951 was drafted. He was categorized as 4F because he was underweight. He took Civil Servant Exams and got a job at Camp Stoneman, in Pittsburg, as a Civil Servant and issued clothing until the end of the Korean War. He went on to the Benicia Arsenal in Benicia and worked as a parts keeper until 1961. He was then a warehouseman until 1963 when he learned to be a printer and went on to the Naval Weapons Station in Concord. He enjoyed his job as a printer the most even though he made more money as a mechanic. When asked why that was, he said it was because he worked with a lot of young pretty women when he was a printer. Royce also said that he thinks the government loved paper, they had them print 10 copies of everything, they printed paper like crazy. He was mostly printing manifests for shipping. He went on to become a mechanics helper in 1973 and then got to be a missile mechanic in 1974 by taking a test. He attended special classes in Indian Head,

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Continued from page 15)*

Maryland, which is the site of a naval base specializing in gun and rocket propellants since 1890. Royce loved his job building and packing Harpoon Missiles with a half a ton of TNT in the nose. It is ironic that Royce would end up working at the Port of Chicago complex in that when he was a teenager he witnessed the Port Chicago Disaster from Point Richmond. He was going to Junior High and on a Friday night he saw a flash, heard an explosion and then the sky lit up. He read about the disaster at Port Chicago, the next day in the newspaper.

General, the beautiful, large orange and white cat, who patrols Golden Gate Avenue, has claimed Royce as his owner. The General has been known to intimidate both dogs and dog walkers alike. Royce has left food out for his cat and the feral cats in his neighborhood for years. Royce also

loves cars, especially muscle cars. He didn't own a car until he was 30 and he wishes that his mom had had the opportunity to ride in a car with him. His first car was a '55 Chevy with a V8 engine, he said that the '55 Chevy was a really good car. Before he was 30, he either caught a ride to work or rode buses and trains. He is a transportation enthusiast and avid historian. At this time, he owns a 1971 Camaro that has V8 engine and is painted white with orange hugger stripes. Royce loves to drive and his neighbor reports that when Royce starts his car, his house shakes. He has volunteered for San Francisco MUNI for many years and has helped restore wooden MUNI cars that were over 100 years old. Many of those cars run on the F Line on Market. He is a yard manager there and carries an ID card that allows him to ride MUNI for free but he never uses the card, he'd rather drive.



***Royce loves his beautiful Camaro, keeps it in pristine, vintage condition.***

*For all you Moms out there, this poem is dedicated to you, because even though your child may not be saying it, somewhere down deep in their heart, they are thinking it.*

### *Thanks For Being There For Me*

*When I look back at all you've done over the years for me,  
there is no way to thank you, but I know you won't agree.  
When I think of all your sacrifices you made just because of me,  
there is no way to thank you, but I know you won't agree.*

*When I think of all the attention you were happy to give to me,  
there is no way to thank you, but I know you won't agree.  
When I think of all your patience and all that you have taught me,  
there is no way to thank you, but I know you won't agree.*

*When I think of all the times I needed you and you came to me,  
there is no way to thank you, but I know you won't agree.  
You did it all for love and to make me the best I could be,  
on this I know for certain, that we both can agree.*

*"I love you Mom", is all you need to hear from me,  
on this I know for certain, that too, we both agree.  
So, for the debt I can never repay, I am hoping you will see,  
just how much I love you Mom, for being there for me.*

*Thanks to all you Moms out there  
for making this world  
a better place for all of us.  
Happy Mother's Day.*

*Submitted by Mid*

# California County History and Boundaries

*Reprinted with permission from 1968 book "California's Emergent Counties" by Jane Gladfelder*

*I found this book quite interesting, hope you do too. If you want to read more of it, you will find it in our museum bookshelf.* Gary

## Counties Formed After 1871

In 1872 all of the previously enacted county boundary legislation was codified, with the purpose of bringing existing laws into harmony. However, a few significant changes were made. One of these affected the southern boundary of Tulare and Inyo. This was placed in such a way as to draw across The State a direct line which still forms the northern boundary of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties. The same session of the Legislature created Ventura County from the southeastern part of Santa Barbara.

Klamath County was abolished in 1874 because its originally large territory had been reduced by annexations to other counties, until there was little left besides rugged mountains whose diminishing material wealth would no longer support it. The Legislature ordered that the territory be annexed to Humboldt and Siskiyou.

During the same year Modoc and San Benito Counties were created. Modoc was formed from the eastern side of Siskiyou County, in the northeastern corner of the State. And San Benito was formed by territory taken from the northeastern part of Monterey County.

The second (and present) Constitution of the State of California, adopted in 1879, recognized the counties—of which there were then fifty-two—as legal subdivisions of the State. However, new counties continued to be created by the division of existing ones.

After a fight which lasted for nearly twenty years, the people living in the southeastern part of Los Angeles County were given their own county government, in 1889, under the name of Orange. The movement for such a county had begun in 1870, under the name of "Santa Ana" as well as of "Orange".

In 1891, years of effort to create Glenn

County came to fruition and the new county was formed from the northern portion of Colusa.

Three additional counties came to existence in 1893: Madera was formed from territory in the northeastern part of Fresno County. Kings was formed from the western part of Tulare County. And Riverside, after several attempts over a period of years, during which various combinations of territory as well as various names were proposed, was formed from San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

The creation in 1893 of Madera, Kings and Riverside Counties in rapid succession seemed to provide the impetus for the proposal and approval of a Constitutional amendment in 1894. This (Art. XI, Sec. 3) permitted the Legislature by general and uniform laws to provide for the formation of new counties, with the specification, however, that stated requirements as to population, financial liability etc., must be met. Thus, the Legislature was deprived of the right to create new counties by special acts, as it had done in every case up to that time.

The Constitutional amendment was finally implemented in 1907, when a general act, setting forth the procedure whereby new counties might be formed, was passed by the Legislature. This act not only increased the requirements stated in the amendment, but further required that 50 per cent of the voters of the district or districts concerned must petition for a separate county, and that the proposition must receive a 65 per cent favorable vote at the polls. Despite the seeming impossibility of meeting the requirements of this act, it did enable the citizens of Imperial County, the newest of California's fifty-eight counties, was created August 15, 1907.

A Constitutional amendment of 1910, which is still effective, requires that the Legislature provide for the alteration of county boundary lines, as well as for the formation of new counties, by general and uniform laws rather than by special act. The amendment also requires that a new county shall not be formed containing a population of less than 8,000., nor if the area of



any existing county be reduced to a population of less than 20,000. It continues the provision of the 1894 amendment that no boundary of a new county shall pass within five miles of the county seat of the existing county. It further creates a liability on the part of the new county for a just proportion of the debts and liabilities of the county from which it is divided.

The amendment has been implemented by statutes which today require that a new county shall not be formed containing a population of less than 10,000, nor if the area of any existing county from which territory is taken will be reduced to less than 1,200 square miles.

The Code provides that boundary lines between counties may be changed by agreement of the boards of supervisors of the counties concerned, provided that a line is not moved in excess of five miles, the area of a county is not reduced more than 5 per cent, and its population is not reduced more than 3 percent. With the consent of a four-fifths' majority of the board of each county, the boundary line of one county may pass within five miles of the county seat of another.

The Legislature in 1951, because of the lack of certainty of common boundary lines between counties, particularly the reference to the south boundary line of Kern County and the north boundary line of Ventura County, enacted statutes to resolve the problem. The law stipulated that every common boundary mutually used by adjacent counties for the assessment and collection of taxes, during the preceding fifteen years, was declared to be the legally established boundary.

Whenever a boundary change is desired, a petition must be filed with the board of supervisors of each county affected, signed by at least twenty-five qualified electors of that county, and accompanied by a statement of consent signed by at least 50 per cent of the landowners in the area proposed to be transferred.

Since passage of general and uniform laws governing county boundary changes there have been a few instances of the redefinition of boundaries for the purpose of clarification. The only real change, one-fourth square mile, were transferred from Contra Costa to Alameda County. The subdivisions bordered the city of Berkeley, which is in Alameda County.

Should the formation of a new county be

desired today, the petition presented to the board of supervisors must be signed by at least 65 per cent of the qualified electors (registered voters) in the proposed new county, as well as 50 per cent of those residing in the county or counties from which the new one would be carved. The board would then call an election, and an affirmative vote of 65 per cent of those cast in the separating district and 50 per cent of those cast in the county or counties affected would be necessary to ratify the creation of the new county. These requirements make it almost a certainty that no new counties will be created in California.

Another change made very unlikely by Constitutional and statutory law is in the location of a county seat (except temporarily in event of war or enemy-caused disaster). Such relocation requires the submission of a petition signed by a majority of the qualified electors of the county, and the calling of an election by the board of supervisors. Removal of the county seat to another location not only requires a two-thirds' vote in favor of removal, but also a two-thirds' in favor of removal to a particular place.

Such legislative restrictions to preserve county territorial integrity have helped to create the stability which makes California counties excellent vehicles for the administration of Federal and State programs.



## ***TPIT Reprint***

***Beginning in the summer of 1992 Muriel C. Clausen wrote an excellent series of articles about the old houses in Point Richmond. In the last twenty-two years we have many new owners of old houses that we treasure here in Point Richmond. For that reason we thought it would be appropriate to reprint her report. Thank you Muriel!***

# **This Old House**

***By Muriel C. Clausen***

***As you read this, keep in mind that it was originally written in 1992.***

### **Chapter Five**

#### **The California Bungalow: Point Richmond**

In previous chapters we have reviewed those simple single storey houses in Point Richmond that have a distinctive Western and Northern California quality about them. This chapter will explore simple single storey houses on the West Coast that have, by contrast, East Coast and English origins and influences. These are the California bungalows of which there are many in early Point Richmond's history.

Quite different from the previously described small house the distinctive California bungalow was a byproduct of simple, functional house designs which developed throughout the United States due to two early basic causes. The first was an indirect reaction against the excesses and bad design of English Victorianism and against the Industrial Revolution. The second was due to the need for housing for a rapidly growing new middle class in the United States.

The reaction against Victorianism and the Industrial Revolution in England began as the Victorian era gradually reached its most unforgettable and unforgivable state in the early

1850's. Previous to that the early Victorian period was exemplified by beautiful architecture and interiors such as to be copied in Europe and the United States with rapt respect. During this Victorian evolution the Industrial Revolution took place: a change from hand-made to mass, machine-made products. Objects and designs of formerly rare beauty were machine produced in abundance using poor materials. This resulted in poor quality product. By 1850 the Victorian style in England was weighted down with bad designs from the Industrial Revolution and with

dark, heavy, ornate, gloomy, over decorated buildings and over furnished interiors. Out of this rose a rebellion among designers. This rebellion was brought to a head with the London Exhibition of 1851 held in the Crystal Palace. The Crystal Place building itself brought a fresh, new concept of design inspiration. It was a building whose structure used the new material iron to make many glass filled window frames which were attached together to form the building roof. This allowed the Exposition Hall to be filled with natural light, and a with a clean, airy feeling; quite in contrast with the darkness of Victorian interiors. Such a contrast was thoroughly refreshing and brought a demand for an architectural change in design. Added to this the designers focused a protest against the tiredness of industrially made products.

John Ruskin (1819-1900) wrote against machine age design and heavy Victorian excesses. William Morris (1834- 1896) took a more active role; providing a bountiful supply of beautiful new designs in his design studio with an emphasis on simplicity, honest work and handcrafting of objects. They spoke basically the same language: change, simplicity, hand craftsmanship and beauty in design. Gradually, in the 1870's, under Morris' influence, grew what became known as the Art Movement; and, by some, the Aesthetic Movement. This was a design movement which promoted clean, simple furnishings and an art style that is noted as being more mildly decorative. Morris' style included designs in two dimension, stylized and with fresh line and muted, blended colors. This was in contrast to the Victorian florid and multi-dimensional design excesses. Oscar Wilde became a colorful and vocal proponent of the philosophy of this movement, travelling to the United States in 1882 to espouse 'art for art's sake' and the Aesthetic Movement. Gradually in Europe this movement took one direction and in the United States it took another. It developed in Europe in the 1880's and the 1890's into what is called the Art Nouveau style: a curvilinear, quiet, romantic style. In the United States the movement took a less esoteric and more practical direction becoming, under Gustav Stickley, the Craftsman's Movement; a more masculine, structural, utilitarian style. While the above is a rather simplistic description of the much more complicated process of this design rebellion; it does point out the direction of post Victorian design as it went one way in Europe and another way in the United States.



In America the Victorian excesses of the 1850's were less disliked than in England. Here architecture and design had not reached the really bad stage of design as it had in England and so it became here more of a change of direction of design. It was not so much a design rejection, but more of a design acceptance of William Morris' concept of honest, handcrafted work. There was great optimism and enthusiasm in the United

States for Morris' structural clarity of design and his handcrafted work. This had varied effects on both architecture and design. East Coast architecture, for the wealthy slowly, reacted. At first, there was a revival of Early American Colonial styles. This was then followed a little later by a revival or swing back to European and English styles. These architectural revivals and design swings continued back and forth, playing a strong part in East Coast architecture for the wealthy. This left little room for a small dedicated following to bring about an architectural housing design style change. This small group persisted, led by Gustav Stickley, and their work, we will see, later became the Craftsman movement. In conjunction with this small architectural movement; beginning in the 1850's and lasting until about 1925, there was a great need for workmen 's houses. There was a need for many, many individual, separate, small dwellings for the newly developing middle class in a rapidly developing suburbia. Also from 1890 to 1920 a great population movement from the East Coast to Southern California occurred bringing with it the same great demand for housing on the West Coast. In the East the elegant , high style revival homes of the wealthy with fresh, new, William

Morris designs in the interiors flourished. In the rest of the country and in Southern California, especially, a demand for simple, craftsmanlike, functional homes for the growing new middle class predominated. The elegant Eastern homes remained 'romantic' and European. The simple worker 's homes became

'utilitarian ' and American. With this demand for housing due to the population growth and population movement West the Craftsman's style house took hold. In time this was refined to become the bungalow. Meanwhile a stronger rebellion did develop against the design deterioration of the machine-made product. This helped to give stimulus in the United States, directed by designer Gustav Stickley, to the development of a Craftsman movement for handcraft work and honest design of product much as William Morris had done in England.

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front  
National Historical Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



2016 Third Thursday

# FILM SERIES

presents

## Challenges at Sea

Enjoy these 3 films in our new location. The SS Red Oak Victory ship has been successfully moved from its open-end berth adjacent to the Riggers Loft, 200 feet away to its new home next to the Whirley Crane in berth 5 of Shipyard 3.

### ■ **The Caine Mutiny (1954)** Staring Humphrey Bogart *April 14 at 7pm*

This film illustrates the challenges of leadership at sea during war. During World War II, a dilapidated vessel, the Caine, gets a new ensign, Willis Keith (Robert Francis), and a new captain, Commander Queeg (Humphrey Bogart). The crew sees Queeg's unconventional behavior as irrational. When a dire situation forces the executive officer (Van Johnson) to relieve Queeg of his duties, he and Ensign Keith are tried for mutiny.

### ■ **Operation Petticoat (1959)** Starring Cary Grant *May 19 at 7pm*

A submarine commander and crew face the unexpected! Lieutenant Commander Matt Sherman (Cary Grant) is in charge of the submarine "Sea Tiger," which was badly damaged at a Philippine shipyard by a Japanese air raid. Making sail before a Japanese invasion, Sherman evacuates a group of beautiful nurses, and civilian women and children, when the real adventure begins.

## Shipyard 3, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 5, Richmond, CA

For Info: 510-237-2933 • Boarding at 6:30 pm

#### Directions

Canal Blvd. exit off I-580 West. Left on Canal Blvd. Drive south to Shipyard 3, Berth 5 (Port of Richmond). Parking is in front of the ship.

*Gangplank entry to ship (40 feet of stairs with railings) and steep steps once aboard.*



*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" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of the many items left for us by Allan Smith.*

## Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1912

### ***Point Richmond News***

- 05-30-1912 Independent buys a new press; fastest in the county.
- 06-02-1912 Council meeting gets hot over paving streets at the Point.  
New Hydro-Splash boat will get you to SF in 5 minutes, so says Co. J.H. Pierce of Oakland, the inventor.
- 06-16-1912 5 fatally injured by explosion at Brooks Id. Quarry. Tampered dynamite with a crow bar.
- 06-16-1912 Second youngest soldier in Civil War visits here. How 63, 13 then.
- 06-18-1912 Galbraith Bros. get contract to haul 5000 years of dirt to build up Ashland Ave from Ohio to Cutting.  
Chief Arnold injured when motorbike hits car at 10th and McD.
- 06-17-1912 W.F. Falla to build a \$3,500 home at the Point.
- 07-02-1912 Elks have a parade and then burn their mortgage at the new building site. Jim Owens named Mayor and Lee Windrem City Atty.
- 07-03-1912 Road planned to Ferry Point. Santa Fe will give right of way along Side of RR tracks from the tunnel on out.
- 7-12-1912 Captain Thompson of SOCo going to Chile; wife to go along too.
- 07-17-1912 Players refuse to meet negroes; Richmond played the colored Giants at 1st St. last Sunday and won 7 to 2 but 3 players refused, Chas. Burns , pitcher, Keegan 2nd base and the catcher, ?????.
- 07-18-1912 SP issues warning to parents to keep boys away from Station. Have been leaping on on off trains; playing with baggage trucks and riding up and down platforms on bicycles.
- 07-20-1912 Gus Green to open new café adjoining the fire station at Point. Will move from present location at 517 Standard Avenue (Baltic).  
SP Electric road to be built up Cutting Blvd at once. It would come along the Panhandle Blvd. and down Cutting Blvd. to the SOCo Refinery, work by start in 30 days.  
John Nicholl and 2 others to visit the Blume Ranch at San Pablo, may drill for oil.
- 07-24-1912 SOCo orders 4,500,000 bricks from LAPB (Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company).
- 08-04-1912 Kate Reardon is 1st woman to take out papers for citizenship. New suffrage law.

# Cards, Letters & E-Mails

Hi Mid!

I am about to celebrate the 50th reunion of my class at the University of Florence in Italy. During my study abroad I wrote little bits of info to the then called "Point Counterpoint". I am wondering if you would like some "foreign correspondence" when I go back this Fall?

All the details are still pending so all I know for sure at this point is that the 50th Reunion will definitely take place...I can hardly believe it has been 50 years! I thought my 50-year high school reunion was a big deal; but a 50-year college reunion...who would have guessed?

Thank you and all your co-workers for the wonderful job you accomplish with each issue of "TPIT". I truly look forward to every issue!

I miei migliori auguri a tutti,  
Gloria



Friends and neighbors,

Richmond is a very special city! Richmond was incorporated in 1905, since that time Richmond has had a rich but troubling history.

Most residents know something about Richmond's role during WWII but little else. This is unfortunate because without understanding Richmond's unique history we can't appreciate how special Richmond is and how lucky we are to be living here. Nor can we focus on our future without the benefit of hindsight.

There have been a handful of books written about Richmond. All but one of the books about us was written by women. We also have our history on display at the Richmond History Museum, Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center, on the second floor of the Richmond Main Library and the Point Richmond Association Museum.

I've created a list of all the Richmond history books. You might enjoy reading some or all of these books. These books are available at the library or for sale on Amazon.

In my opinion, the best books about Richmond are; The Second Gold Rush, To Place Our Deeds, Busing & Backlash, and Two Weeks of Racial Crisis in Richmond, California (this book has to be special ordered by the Richmond or Berkeley public library).

These books are also important: Staging Migrations toward an American West, Richmond-Windows to the Past; History of Richmond California, This Point in Time (available at the Point Richmond History Museum) and Easter Hill Village.

Finally, there are two photo books that capture Richmond's past: Images of America, Richmond, and Photographing the Second Gold Rush Dorothea Lange and the Bay Area at War, 1941-1945.

To know Richmond is to love Richmond.

Charles Smith

*Thanks Charles, because of your recommendation we are acquiring a few of these books for our museum.*  
Gary



Pam,

Enclosed is my renewal check for a senior.

Just to let you know and the association, I have I believe a copy of every issue of "THIS POINT...in time".

If you know of anybody interested in the collection or a single copy, it's time to let go.

Thanks for a job well done!

P.S. My parents were Claude and Bernadette Bisio.

Marc E. Bisio  
Santa Rosa

# *Birthdays*

## *April*

LOOF LIRPA  
Kathy Dornan Barnes  
Billie Bonham Shaw  
Erin Frame  
Roberta Dornan Palfini  
Karilu Crain  
Charlene Smith  
Tara Kaufman  
Ruth Wilson

Paula Israeli  
Marjorie Roque Hill  
Pam Wilson  
Don Amantite  
Joel Peterson  
Lori Meister  
Charlotte Knox  
Monica Doherty  
Eric Hoiland

Melissa Allyn Delio  
Alison Lord  
John Maxwell  
Sherri Mertle  
Taylor Bradshaw  
Carol MacDiarmid  
Rosemary Corbin  
Gloria Smith  
Robert J. Palfini

Terry Downey  
David Bradshaw  
Sharon Mertle  
Charline Barni  
Louis Stockdale  
Joni Loux Emerson  
Donna Diaz  
David Roth

## *May*

Douglas Corbin  
Patricia Beth Dornan  
Diana Corbin  
Diana Spinola  
Eva Marchitello  
Richard Mattuecci  
Becky Horn  
Jon Doellstedt

Sara Eeles  
Vern Doellstedt  
Rena Gonsalves  
Sandra Loux Fuller  
Muriel Clausen  
Sophia Dolberg  
Nell Brooker  
Patricia Dornan

Julina Smith  
Anne-Catherine Hadreas  
Roger Glafke  
Henry Marchitello  
Shoney Gustafson  
Winifred Boziki  
Jackson Bradshaw  
Gene Bielawski

Norm Reynolds  
Charles Palenchar  
Patrice Verhines  
Mark Healy  
Karen Brougham  
Annabella Feese  
Lorenzo Feese

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



*How about those spiffy new restrooms at Miller/Knox Park!*

RICHMOND UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Variety Show Program

March 21, 1924

1. Music..... High School Orchestra
  - a. March: "Three Rings"..... Talbot
  - b. Overture: "Martha"..... F. Von Flotow
2. Jugglers..... Nathan Richaud, Willie Andresen
3. Topsy and Eve Act:
  - Topsy..... Everett Tittmore
  - Eve..... David Owens
4. Trial—"The Case Against Casey"
 

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| The Judge.....                         | Philip Windrem                  |
| Attorney Skin.....                     | Howard Nantz                    |
| Attorney Take-the-coin.....            | Ralph Lee                       |
| Dennis Casey.....                      | Lee Brown                       |
| Clark.....                             | Theodore Mallami                |
| Miss Doty Perkins.....                 | Lewis Albert                    |
| Ruben Louder, a witness.....           | Henry Mino                      |
| Claw Hammer, a witness.....            | Herbert Watson                  |
| I. C. Uno, a witness.....              | Leonard Hanney                  |
| I. M. White.....                       | Harold Shawl                    |
| One Lung.....                          | John Dalesi                     |
| Michael Mulcahy.....                   | John Dalton                     |
| Fritz Bumblesburgerhordorfenstein..... | Denzell McCracken               |
| Wear, Goodclothes.....                 | Donald Pryde                    |
| Hiram Heareasy.....                    | John Lansman                    |
| Icy Marks.....                         | Louie Trolese                   |
| Jonathan Judkins.....                  | John Chattleton                 |
| Jimmie Spikes.....                     | Russel King                     |
| Well-done Macaroni.....                | Justus Wyman                    |
| Count de Craterjaki.....               | Julius Strauss                  |
| Old Union.....                         | Paul Villalovos                 |
| Furious Fireworks.....                 | Donald Oswill, Stephen Pedrotti |
| Two Policemen.....                     |                                 |

5. Mama's Pets:
 

|                  |                  |               |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Domenic Bottini  | James Thornton   | Howard Hughes |
| William Hillier  | Clarence Johnson | John Cusak    |
| Robert McCrindle | David Owens      | Elmer Overna  |
6. R. U. H. S. Pipe Organ, a unique instrument:
 

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Organist.....   | John Toffoly    |
| The Organ:      |                 |
| Myo Lynch       | David Hutchison |
| Lyman Alexander | Carl Gehrhardt  |
| Angelo Fracchia | Vivien Cook     |
| Chester Pimm    | August Bernes   |
|                 | Glen Bowman     |
|                 | Charles Baker   |
|                 | Glenn Wilson    |
|                 | William Floyd   |
|                 | Howard Jameson  |

7. Music..... High School Orchestra
  - a. Scalp Dance, from Cherokee and Apache Melodies..... Lake
  - b. "Arcady," from Bombo..... Al. Jolson

Pub. by Leo Feist.
8. A One Act Play: "Borrowing Trouble"
 

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Borrow.....             | Vernon Siple   |
| Detective Spotem.....       | Ellsworth Hunt |
| Dr. Drench.....             | James Cryan    |
| Mrs. Borrow.....            | Nellie Coward  |
| Miss Sophy Borrow.....      | Anna Thompson  |
| Mrs. Mehitable March.....   | Eleanor Hurley |
| Mrs. Wiggins, landlady..... | Doris Adams    |
| Lina, colored maid.....     | Carmen Vestal  |

PART TWO

9. Music..... High School Orchestra
  - a. Carnival..... Gillet
  - b. "The Boys and The Birds"..... Hager
  - c. "A Smile Will Go a Long, Long Way"..... Davis and Alkst

Pub. by Berlin Snyder & Co.
10. "A Grecian Garden"..... (Arranged by Matilda Meyer)
 

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Solo—Anitra's Dance..... | Matilda Meyer     |
| Grecian Dancers:         |                   |
| Alice Maloney            | Bernice Mills     |
| Isabel Mino              | Alice Schroeder   |
| Ruth Weston              | Virginia Campbell |
|                          | Dorothy Vaslie    |
|                          | Phylis Carlson    |
11. "The Boss and the Wop"..... Charles Concannon, Carrol Pitchford
12. Solo—Buck & Wing Dance..... E. H. Stivers
13. Spark Plug.....
 

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Irwin Cassidy, Justus Wyman |
| Geo. Morris                 |
| Nellie Warner               |
| Wm. Neeley and Class        |
| Miss Woodman and Class      |
| Martin Salmi and Class      |

PRHA photo  
archive #1023



# EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Jim Wilson 92  
Mary Bianci Highfill - 92 mo?  
Delphina Franco Tawney 98  
Martha Bielawski 94 mo?  
Billie Bonham Shaw 94  
Shoney Gustafson 100  
Muriel Clausen 92  
Grace Cerkanowicz - 93  
June Beesley Sosabal 92  
Madeline Bellando Albright 98  
Mid Dornan 94  
Tom Kenny 92

Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger 99  
Viola Lola Kennedy 98  
Eunice Ruth Hursh 99  
Mark Gebhart 100  
John Knox - 91  
Helen Wysham 91  
Alice Williamson - 90  
Dalles Wilcox 90 mo?

Please send corrections and additions  
To [Middornan@gmail.com](mailto:Middornan@gmail.com) or call  
510.234-5334 and leave a message.



Thanks For Being There For Me

For this Mother's Day trivia and a tribute..

See how many of these trivia questions you can answer.

- 1 MOM, turned upside down (inverted) ... spells \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 There are \_\_\_\_\_ million moms in the U.S.
- 3 Average age of new moms is \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_ in 1970
- 4 Modern moms average \_\_\_\_\_ kids (1950s: \_\_\_\_\_ kids)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_% of moms with children over 1 yr. old work vs. \_\_\_\_\_% in 1976
- 6 Diaper Changes: \_\_\_\_\_ changes by the baby's 2nd birthday
- 7 Preschooler requires mom's attention once every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes
- 8 Oldest Mom to give birth: Rajo Devi Lohan - she was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- 9 Heaviest Newborn: Signora Fedeles gave birth to a \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ oz. boy
- 10 More \_\_\_\_\_ are made on Mother's Day than any other day
- 11 President \_\_\_\_\_ declared Mother's Day a National holiday
- 12 Most Kids: Mrs. Vassilyev of Russia gave birth to \_\_\_\_\_ children.

## ANSWERS

- |              |         |                 |                 |                    |          |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1. wow       | 2. 82.5 | 3. 25 vs 21     | 4. 2/3.5        | 5. 72% vs 39%      | 6. 7,300 |
| 7. 4 minutes | 8. 70   | 9. 22lbs. 8 oz. | 10. phone calls | 11. Woodrow Wilson |          |
| 12. 69       |         |                 |                 |                    |          |

# 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 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. 510-234-4884 for details.

## MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

## MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

The 2016 season has been cancelled.

Masquers will return to full production in 2017

## 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: 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 issue 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](http://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](http://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 oldest standing women's club. Contact: Linda Newton, President. (510) 235-0081

**Corrections? Email Gary Shows, [garyshows@gmail.com](mailto: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:

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**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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**Pat Pearson, 1st Vice President**

**Heinz Lankford, 2nd Vice President**

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**Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor**

**Bonnie Jo Cullison, Museum Manager/Staff Coordinator**

### **Main Contributors to this Issue:**

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gary Shows                     | Editor/Uncredited Photos         |
| Mid Dornan                     | Various Articles and Information |
| Don Church/Allan Smith         | Historic Photos                  |
| Jerry Cerkanowicz              | Proof/Information                |
| Pam Wilson                     | Membership Info                  |
| Jean Reynolds                  | Article                          |
| Dee Rosier                     | Article                          |
| Donna Roselius                 | Line Drawings/article            |
| Linda Newton                   | Article                          |
| Muriel C. Clausen              | Article                          |
| Tania Mantua                   | Article                          |
| Norma Wallace                  | Article                          |
| County Supervisors Assn. of CA | Article                          |
| Charles Smith                  | Archive Photos                   |
| David Vincent                  | Information                      |
| Kathe Kiehn                    | Information                      |

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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  
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