



A bridge foursome on the porch of the Belvedere Golf Clubhouse c. 1925

The Belvedere Golf and Country Club

Excerpts from the
Pictorial History of Belvedere
by Hillary Don

Nearly a century after its founding, it's hard to believe that a golf course existed on Belvedere Island. But exist it did, flourishing for almost 20 years. A news item in 1925 testified: "Belvedere links have a reputation for being desirable because they're not too strenuous. Climate and scenery are especial assets."

The Belvedere Golf and Country Club was located on the northern end of the island. The nine-hole course with tennis court and clubhouse

occupied a quarter of a square mile of land north of Oak Avenue, stretching from San Rafael Avenue and the Lagoon on the east, to Richardson Bay on the west. The course was thought of as "sporty."

Britton, Tamalpais, North Point, Marin, Buckeye, lower Golden Gate and lower Bayview avenues, which came into being later, probably all have lost golf balls buried beneath their asphalt.



The earliest aerial of the peninsula from c. 1916 clearly shows the nine-hole course of the Belvedere Golf Club on the northwest end of the island. In the center is the huge lagoon, extending from San Rafael Avenue (just out of the picture on right) to the back of Tiburon's Main Street on the far left, and Red Hill in the foreground. And of course in the distance in the Golden Gate before the bridge.

Inside:

Celebrating the China Cabin

Wakamatsu Japanese exhibit

Walk Your History 2011

Making History

Spring Events

President's Corner

By Jim Allen, President

I am happy to report that our organization is stronger and healthier than it has ever been thanks to the concerted efforts of our volunteers, our Board and our Staff. Old St. Hilary's continues to be a very popular wedding



spot with over 70 weddings held in 2010. Reservations for 2011 are even better. Both the China Cabin and the Art and Garden Center are being used in new ways and are also ahead of plan for the number of rentals.

We are calling 2011 The Year of the China. Jack Fiorito and LMS staff have put together an incredible set of exhibits and events to help celebrate the China Cabin and its magnificent restoration 25 years ago.

During the month of April we are honoring the first Japanese immigrants who came to California on the paddle ship CHINA in 1869. The 69 people were a group of Samurai families from the Tokugawa dynasty. They purchased 156 acres of land in Gold Hill, CA, and established a tea and silk plantation. Those people formed the core of early Japanese settlers in California. Presently a project is underway to repurchase the original property and establish a Japanese garden and museum. This story will be displayed on panels that are part of an exhibit that will be open to the public every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at the China Cabin.

On May 7th, LMS will again co-sponsor Walk Your History. The Beach

Road-Lagoon loop will feature the China Cabin. We will have a history exhibit re-living a departure day on the China from 1870.

In June LMS will feature the restoration work done on the China 25 years ago. The work was detailed and extensive, eventually employing specialists from all over the country to replicate the lost decorative work and gold leaf after the building was moved to a new foundation and completely rebuilt and preserved.

In September LMS will hold its annual gala event on the street in front of the China to re-enact A Nights in Venice as it was in the 1890's.

In September and October we will feature the Chinese Immigrants who came to California aboard the China and other Pacific Mail Steamships. Much of that display is being developed by the Board and Staff of the Chinese History Museum in San Francisco.

LMS now has an accurate date for the China's arrival in Tiburon. During the past year my uncle Howard Allen gave me a bag of old family photos and letters from the misty past. I got interested in a set of letters from my great grandfather Frederick Bridge to his intended May Howard written between 1884 and 1888. While

reading them I found that he was living part time in Tiburon, was a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club and frequently took his mother to Church on Sundays by rowing or sailing to Sausalito and back. In a letter written March 18, 1886 he reported on a rough trip back from Sausalito and went on to say "After dinner we sailed from the grocery round to Anderson's and saw the China towed round."

In addition to the China Cabin events we are still successfully running all the other enterprises LMS is involved in like the Thrift Shop, Old St. Hilary's, the Railroad and Ferry Depot Museum, the Art and Garden Center, the Archives, fundraising and maintenance activities, a web-site and the office. There are always new and interesting items coming into the Archives. The office is always busy supporting the LMS activities. Since the LMS Board decided to stretch into the unknown territory of hiring professional staff three years ago our organization has steadily grown stronger and healthier. It has proven to be a very worthwhile investment for LMS.

We are prepared for another year of successful activities. Please join in by attending, by volunteering and by bringing your friends. Call the office at 435-1853 today to find out how you can help.

Landmarks Society 2011 Board of Directors

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Belvedere Golf Club *Continued*

Initially there were 127 active and 4 junior members in the Golf Club. Initiation fees were \$15 and rose to \$50, except during WWI when they were lowered to \$25. Dues were \$3.50 per month for men, \$2 for women and 75 cents for juniors.



Lady golfers: Mrs. George T. Davis, Mrs. J.E. Johnson and Mrs. Jack Valentine.

A typically understated notice to the membership read, "As practically all the members of the club are actively interested in playing golf, we face an unpleasant if not serious congestion on the links...Players are asked to more carefully observe the etiquette of golf, especially, 'Do not play before the players ahead are out of range.'"

House Rule XV gave "gentlemen" the right of way on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Dogs never had the right of way and children were not allowed in the clubhouse but could be brought onto the front porch as long as a parent or guardian was along. Local residents were allowed as visitors, provided they were "suitable persons," living in Belvedere or within five miles, and came no oftener than four times a year.

Boys from the area worked as caddies, and the use of caddies was encouraged. For nine holes "A" caddies made 30 cents per hour and "B" caddies, 25 cents. Golf balls were property of the club.

Golf activities were popular and well-attended, and competition with other Marin County clubs was energetic. A 1925 news

clipping reported that 20 men from the Belvedere Club were handily beaten by the same number at the Mill Valley Club.

In 1921, triangular matches between teams of men players from Belvedere, Mill Valley and Marin golf and country clubs were instituted. The final tally at the end of the year was Marin 2042, Mill Valley 2089, and Belvedere 2126. It should be noted with regret that the winning tally in golf is the lowest. The club boasted no Bobby Joneses but the players had fun.

Such was the enthusiasm for golf in Belvedere that it was once proposed that the course be increased to 18

holes. On June 12, 1926, the Sausalito News, reporting on the proposed move of the San Francisco Yacht Club from Sausalito to Belvedere, commented, "The million dollar project to make Belvedere Cove the finest yacht harbor in the world...includes filling in the slough (the lagoon) with the mud dredged out to make a yacht harbor for the two clubs (San Francisco and Corinthian). This will make a vast space of valuable land...The Belvedere Country Club will be enlarged by another nine holes in the newly made space and the ground surrounding it." The plan to double the number of holes at the Belvedere Golf Club was never realized, but filling in the lagoon was.



A striking view of Mt. Tam from the 6th green.



The uphill tee shot of the 6th hole named "Matterhorn"

Continued on page 4

Belvedere Golf Club *Continued*

Through the 1920s the Golf and Country Club seemed to be an established, thriving, successful and happy organization. Under the surface, however, its financial health was grave. The long shadow of the depression was cooling the good times in Belvedere.

On October 18, 1933, an announcement was made: the Belvedere Land Company would take over the clubhouse and install a caretaker. Four months later the

Land Company voted to sell the personal property for the golf club to cover the

\$7,950 in back rent.

The Belvedere Golf and Country Club had perished. Born on May 23rd, 1914, deceased on October 18, 1933, it had survived five days and seven months short of 20 years. The clubhouse was used for social events during the next few months and was eventually converted into a residence and rented for several years. The links were developed into homesites.

Just Imagine....



The picturesque 3rd hole, featured in the Fairway Magazine.



When not working, the caddies often played eight holes, avoiding the one closest to the clubhouse. Francis Hilton remembers the Gibson boys who lived on Laurel Avenue and worked at the club. "One day they watered down 50 people lunching on the porch, claiming it was an accident while testing the fire hose." All of the golf photos from 1925 by Arthur D. Mills.

Mark Your Calendars!

Family Event
Walk Your History

TIBURON
BELVEDERE

"Meet Me at Belvedere Park"



Free Family Walks
~
Saturday, May 7
Walks Starting from
9:30 a.m.
Belvedere Park
BBQ Lunch & Music

Bring the kids...
Bring the dog...Enjoy the day!

This is a LOCAL OPEN event

Proud Sponsors



Walk Your History, a special biennial community celebration, is a FREE event designed to educate the community about the fascinating history of Belvedere and Tiburon. Over 1,000 people attended the 2009 Walk Your History and this year the event is expected to bring out even more!

This year's event will feature over 100 volunteer and Living History docents who will bring history to life on two, 2-mile walking loops. The loops, different from the 2009 event, will be dotted with costumed characters from the early 1900s and feature the Belvedere Golf Club & Course, Belvedere Land Company Barn and special China Cabin festivities. Walkers will enter the homes and gardens of historic houses along the walks, enjoying astounding views along the way.

The self-guided walking loops begin and end at Belvedere Community Park. Delicious BBQ lunches will be available while participants listen to a fabulous jazzy band and browse through local community group featured booths.

Polish up your walking shoes and save the date! Bring the kids. Bring the dog!

This year's Landmarks fall fundraising event will be *A Night in Venice*, celebrating the sparkle of Italy along our own waterfront on Beach Road.

A Night In Venice, first celebrated by our community in 1894, was described as a magical celebration with song and lights.

Mark Your Calendars
for an ethereal evening with a full moon
on our Beach Road Canal
October 8, 2011



A Landmarks Event

A Night In Venice



HONORING THE 1st JAPANESE COLONY TO ARRIVE IN AMERICA

The Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society will be displaying an exhibit that tells the story of the first Japanese colony that sailed to America on the paddle steamer China in 1869. Gold had been discovered only 20 years earlier, and California was now the new frontier of opportunity. The original colony of eight farmers, craftsmen and Samurai came from Japan's Aizu-Wakamatsu colony. At that time, Japan's greatest export was tea and silk, and the plan was to start an agricultural colony. They gathered thousands of tea and mulberry trees to feed the silk worms, escaped the ongoing Civil War in Japan, and sailed to San Francisco on the China. Moving up to the Gold Country, they developed the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony from 1869 to 1871, recognized by the State of California as the first Japanese settlement in the U.S. Despite the short history of the colony, it was an important milestone that helped bridge Japanese and American cultures and pave the way for large-scale emigration of Japanese settlers to the United States.

The exhibit will be presented at the restored China Cabin, once the elegant social hall of the paddle steamer China that sailed between San Francisco and the Far East starting in the 1860s. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the restoration and opening of the China Cabin to the public. This year's open season to the public starts with the recognition of the first Japanese immigrants.

The China Cabin will be open to the general public every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4pm throughout April. The China Cabin is located at 52 Beach Road in Belvedere, California.



The display contains five panels that explain why the Wakamatsu Colony left Japan, how they arrived in California on the S.S. China and how they settled in Gold Hill, CA. All of these immigrants were of Samurai families and supported the Tokugawa Dynasty which was overthrown. There is also a display of the Japanese Samurai swords from the Edo period (1603 - 1867).

Make sure to see this fantastic exhibit organized by Jack Fiorito.



Steamships in Yokohama
新たな人生、新
ブロシア人
リー・シュネル
年日本にやっ
松平容保に新

The China Cabin



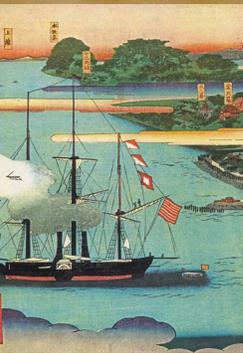
Restoration Reunion

In July the Cabin will host a reunion of artists and craftsmen who worked on the restoration of the Cabin in the years 1979 to 1986. This event will feature numerous photos of the restoration process as well as demonstrations of some of the techniques used, including gold leafing.



Chinese Month

Recognition of the many thousands of Chinese immigrants who came to America aboard the China will be held during the month of September with displays provided by Chinese cultural organizations from San Francisco.



Ships in Yokohama Bay, circa 1861, Hiroshige II

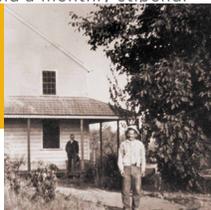
新たな人生、新たな国
プロシア人(ドイツ人)であるジョン・ヘン
・シュネルは銃の販売業者として1861
日本にやってきた。シヨウボウは金儲け
平谷保に銃を売ってお

wakamatsu
TEA & SILK FARM COLONY 1869-1871

NEW LIVES, NEW COUNTRY



John Henry Schnell, a German/Prussian, came to Japan in 1861 as a weapons dealer. He sold weapons to the Tokugawa daimyo of Aizu, Katamori Matsudaira, and soon became his confidant. The depth of their friendship and mutual respect was demonstrated when Lord Matsudaira allowed Schnell to marry a Japanese girl, Jou, from an Aizu samurai family. He was given samurai status, a samurai name Hiramatsu, a house in Wakamatsu and a monthly stipend.



Hiramatsu and family lived in the Wakamatsu house. Courtesy: Sally Thayer and Hiramatsu family

未来への道のり
一行は、よりよい生活を求め、日本を立ち、太平洋を越え、カリフォルニアへ行くことを選んだ人々だった。カリフォルニアではその20年前に金が発掘され、土地が豊かで、勤勉な人を快く受け入れていた。一行は金を求めていたわけではなく、自らの能力と

Art Exhibit

The Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission will host an exhibit of fine art and photographs of the China and China Cabin from the Landmarks History Collections in the Town Hall during November and December. The Landmarks annual meeting will be held in the Tiburon Council Chambers in November, and will feature a book release party for the first of a two volume history about the ship and cabin by Dr. Hillary Don.



wakamatsu
TEA & SILK FARM COLONY 1869-1871

STRUGGLE FOR A FUTURE



This small group of Japanese chose to leave their country for a better life across the Pacific Ocean in California, where gold had been discovered twenty years earlier, where the land was fertile and where hardworking people would be welcome. They did not seek gold, but used their abilities

Making History

Many happy faces at the 2010 Holiday Art & Craft Sale. **TJ Lucas & Piper Berger** spread the cheer - and the Homemade Pear Brandy while **Ava and Sue Lindstrom** sold their wonderful soaps. **Alexis Berger** sold beautiful glass necklaces and crochet neckware with her new hand blown glass ornaments. **Jenny Schwager** sold her hand knit animals while **Frank Ordaz** painted an oil painting for all to see. **Dave Benoit** sold many silver-smithed trinkets made from found and historic objects, but his stories are the real show stopper!



Phil Maslin and **Phil Cassou** welcome another year of 3rd grade field trips from Bel Aire School. **Jeanne Price** was the docent for the Art & Garden Center and **Dave Gotz** was the docent for Old St. Hilary's, and of course, **Captain Jack** welcomed passengers aboard the China Cabin.



Hot Time in the Railyard!

Hot time in the Railyard Tonight was the theme of last fall's fundraising event set in the Tiburon Fire House. The "Hot Time Gang" Co-executive Directors, Leslie Doyle and Alan Brune, Cathleen Andreucci, Office Manager, Pam Wight, Dana and Ed Thor, Peggy and Tom O'Neill, Kimberly and Peter Brooks threw a great party for the Landmarks. Below from left to right: Jim and Lynda Allen, Barbara Elliott, KT Butler and Tom Bechard, Michael & Bonnie Rose, Paige & Dave Petrini, Kourosh & Nazi Baradaran, Dana & Ed Thor swing the night away in the Tiburon Fire House!



Ask Alan

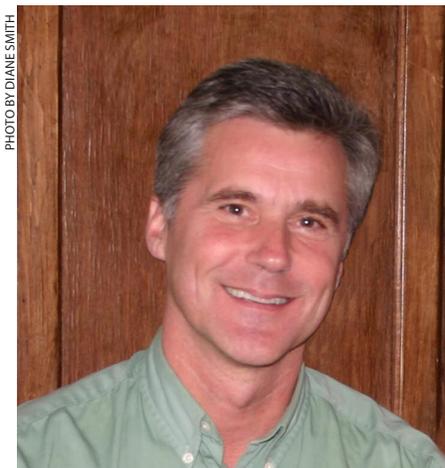
By Alan Brune, Co-Executive Director

GO GREEN !

Every Friday morning, I pull out the recycle bin as well as the garbage can and set them by the curb. I am always amazed that the recycling bin is constantly full while there seems to be less and less garbage. Reflecting on that I tell myself I should consider the issue of excess packaging when I shop. At the same time, I think about how, little by little, my family has moved down the path of "going green."

Going green doesn't necessarily mean wearing fig leaves or going au natural. But there are a lot of things that we all can do to move in that direction. You don't have to buy a Prius, but you can change the way you accelerate and save gas. You don't have to add solar panels, but you can make sure unnecessary lights are out when you leave your house or office. Taken to another level going green can even be as simple as patronizing your local thrift shop.

When you buy clothes from a thrift shop, it's just like recycling. I periodically go down to Lower Ark Row to the Tiburon Thrift Shop to check if one of the 100 sweatshirts that my boys have lost has finally turned up. While I have not a lot of success finding their missing items I always find something of interest or useful for me to bring home. But you can take recycling at The Thrift Shop one step further and take your old clothes and items with you. The Tiburon Thrift Shop is a great place for the community to recycle and instead of throwing away those lightly used items or small furniture in your house that you no longer need -



donate them so that someone else can use them!

The Tiburon Thrift Shop was created as a vehicle to raise funds to support local non-profits and it needs your support! All of the profits are distributed back to the local community and one of the beneficiaries is the Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society. I would like to take a moment to thank all the incredible Landmark volunteers who help staff the Thrift Shop because the Shop would not be able to be open without them.

So as you make your own move to Go Green, think creatively about recycling and drop in at the Thrift Shop as one of your new initiatives!

Alan

(A happy Prius owner who lives in a solar paneled house.....)

New Members

Alta Cuisine
Kristi Berg
Branching Out
Lauren Burke
Michelle Caballero
California Rose Catering
Jerry and Pam (Wight) Coletta
Matthew Colley

New Members^{continued}

Georgeann Economy
Anthony and Martha Eason
Mason Foster
Frank Gaglione
Dawn Green
Bob Harrison
Anne Hayes and Thomas Underdown
Patty Hobel
Ryan Hutfless
Marcel Houtzager
Richard and Mary Jencks
Jersey Tomatoes
Allen and Catherine Johnson
Tim Kaldewey
Paul Kochis
Doris Krausse
Krumbs Cakes
Cathy Larson
Tiffany Lee
Kathryn MacDonald
Tina Mayfield
Bryce McGovern
Vasco Morais
Azita Mujica
Michael O'Brien
Zack Onisko
John and Dawn Owen
Preston Petty
Corbet Ramsey
Kimberly Rieli
Sausalito Limousine
Meghan Schartow
Michelle Sell
Alice Shelton
Nancy Sirianni
Rebecca Sullivan
Heidi Tan
Joseph Tillman
Briget Walsh
Rachel Welch
William Whitson
Jeri Wilgus
Rachel Winningham
Leslie Ziegler
Marty Zwick (Zwick Architects)

Landmarks Donations – AUGUST 20, 2010-MARCH 21, 2011

Hot Time Donations

Bradley and Sandra Alderson
 Miles and Piper Berger
 Gus and Karie Boosalis
 Henry and Mary Jo Broderick
 Robert and Betty Conner
 Andrew Frankl and Suzanne Lewis-Frankl
 Albert Haussener
 Gabriella and Edward Glenn Isaacson
 Barbara Lelich
 Dick Leonards
 Claire McAuliffe
 Bruce and Lois Moody
 Rosaleen O'Neill
 Eugene and Eloise Rauscher
 Nancy Van Ravenswaay
 Jeanne Price
 Bob and Wendy Walley
 Waypoint Pizza
 Zelinsky Properties

Hot Time Sponsors

Belvedere Land Company

Gabrielle D. Keil

Tiburon Fire Protection District

Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission

Thank You for attending and participating in the Landmarks fundraising events ~ we can't do it without you!

In Memory of Frank Buscher

Lawrence and Anne Drew

In Memory of Carol Monpere

Dave Becker

In Honor of Mary Eklund

Thomas and Susan Young

In Honor of Mary Rice

Hill Haven Property Owner's Assoc.

General Donations

Coleman & Betsy Youngdahl

Jewish Community Endowment Fund

The San Francisco Foundation

BOS Foundation

Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program, thanks to Joe Lavigne and Georgeann Economy

History Collections Donations

Bran Fanning- Used printer

Uri Rosenberg - Switch Frame for RR Topographic Map

Duane Beeson – The Coni Beeson collection of photos and negatives

Marcia Felton – Reed School cookbook; Sierra National Bank books

Richardson Bay Audubon Center – Oil painting of the "Goat Lady" by Naomi Hardy

Paul Peterson – Class photo: 1920 Belvedere School

Bette Wallace – Photo of Christian Science Church, 1954

Mogens Bach – 2 videos of the Pelican Players

Broadway Market – 3 blueprints from Embee Market

Pat Bertrand – Chinese robe c. 1930's

Lee Humphrey – Landscape plans signed by Lawrence Halprin

Charles Prusser – Photo album of Belvedere Golf Club, 1925

Madeleine Wood – Framed photos of OSH open space campaign

Margaret May – Several framed prints from Lyford's Hygeia; Lyford's Cove Prop. Owners sign

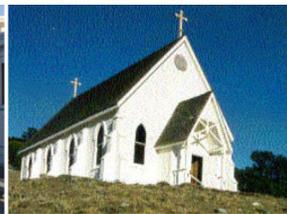
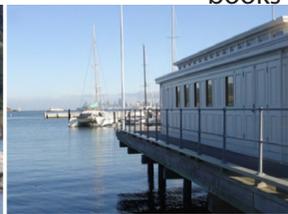
David Imrie – 4 etchings by Herbert Imrie; S.F. Chron. Aug. 22, 1926

Cathy Dawson Benediktsson – Bottles from 2352 Mar East

Anonymous – Silver match case with J.R. initials; Obsidian arrow head; stone fishing weight

Phil Maslin - Digital train switcher

**Volunteer to be a Docent
We need you!**



Railroad & Ferry
Depot Museum

China Cabin

Old St. Hilary's

Art & Garden
Center

History
Collections

THE LANDMARKS SOCIETY
 1550 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite M
 Belvedere-Tiburon, CA 94920
 www.landmarks-society.org
 415-435-1853

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Landmarks Open April-October 1-4 p.m.
 The China Cabin and the Railroad & Ferry Museum will be open
 Wed - Sun May 4th-8th for visiting sailors and their families.
 All are welcome!



China Cabin
 52 Beach Road, Belvedere



Railroad & Ferry Museum
 1920 Paradise Drive, Tiburon

ON THE CALENDAR

March 27, 9 - 11 a.m. March 24, 4-5 p.m. March 29, 10-11 a.m. March 30, 4-5 p.m.	Docent Training	Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum China Cabin Art & Garden Center Old St. Hilary's
April through October We Need Your Help! Shadow a Docent to see if you'll like it!	Landmarks OPEN to Public	Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum Thurs (April only), Sat & Sun 1-4 p.m. China Cabin Sat & Sun 1-4 p.m. Old St. Hilary's Sun 1-4 p.m. Art & Garden Center Sun 1-4 p.m.
May 7, 2010, 1 - 4 p.m.	Walk Your History	9:30 - 2:00 Belvedere Park
Stay tuned!	Landmarks Fall Event	A Night In Venice Beach Road Canal

Please visit our Web site at www.landmarks-society.org for up-to-date information.