Vol. 37, No. 1

March 2009

THE LANDMARK

A quarterly publication of the Landmarks Society

Landmarks Society Celebrates 50 Years of its Own History

By JEANNE PRICE

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On a day in March, 1958, Beverly Bastian and Suzanna Dakin gathered together an unofficial group of local citizens to save an old deconsecrated church on a knoll overlooking the Tiburon railroad yards.

They jokingly called it "The Protestant Protective Society for the Preservation of Old St. Hilary's Catholic Church". The following year on June 22 the state made it official and the Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society (LMS) became a California non-profit charitable 501c3 organization.

The small Carpenter Gothic building was the former mission church of St Raphael's parish built in 1888. Mrs. Dakin donated the \$10,000 needed to buy the building from the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Restoration included replacing the buttresses and the broken windows, restoring the bell tower and the installation of utilities for water, heat, electric lighting and creating an indoor toilet facility. In 1961 it was necessary to secure the land around Old St. Hilary's to protect it from development and ensure the safety of its rare wildflowers. The Society made a down payment of \$10,000. Over a ten year period, with some financing from the county and the Federal Government Open Space Program, the Society acquired the land which it cares for and leases from Marin County for a dollar a year.

The building was first envisioned and functioned as a museum and but it also became a place to store the memorabilia which people began to contribute. Devoid of furniture it was also a community use place. It was only when the people asked to have weddings there that it became such a popular venue for brides and grooms and a good source of revenue for LMS. The state has recognized the site as a Historic Point of Interest.



This was just the beginning of a series of ambitious moves over the last half century which has culminated in three additional sites and a local archival history collection of thousands of documents, artifacts, photographs, maps, fine art and family stories. The first guardian of

Inside:

- President's Corner
- **Board Changes**
- Walk Your History event
- **Making History**

continued...

President's Corner

By Jim Allen, President

Last weekend I acted as docent for the China Cabin. Before things got busy for the afternoon, I noticed the roster of original supporters of the China Cabin Restoration posted on the wall. I read over it carefully and I was struck by how many people and organizations



donated directly to that project. Some of the people are now deceased. Many are familiar people still active in the community. All of them worked to save a piece of history that could easily have disappeared without their efforts. The China Cabin was over 100 years old when the restoration started so there was an immense job to do. When I look at the before and after photos of the China Cabin I am in awe of the transformation. It is now truly a jewel on the Bay—open to visitors and Landmarks members to savor and enjoy.

At the beginning of 2009, the Board pledged to making the changes necessary to keeping the China Cabin and the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum open both Saturdays and Sundays from now on. After many adjustments we are now open both Saturdays and Sundays at both sites. Many more visitors now enter those two sites than ever before. We are doing a better job of meeting our Mission of keeping our sites available to the public.

The Landmarks Society's first job was to save Old St. Hilary's. When that was completed the Landmarks went on to saving the China Cabin, the Railroad & Ferry Depot, the Brick Kiln Cottage at the Art & Garden Center, and to preserving a huge collection of photos, artifacts, paintings, maps, books, oral histories and records of the area. So much wonderful work has been done by the Landmarks over the past 50 years.

The Landmarks Society is now 50 Years Old. We are going to have a great party the evening of October 9, to celebrate our own successes and history. We have Sam's Restaurant reserved for our own private party. The deck will be tented and made into a gambling hall. The

restaurant will be turned back into a Prohibition Era Speak Easy complete with dancing, music, food, drink, rum running boats, classic cars, bootleggers and police raids. It will be an amazingly fun time and you will regret it if you are not there.

All the activities of the Landmarks are carried out by volunteers and a few part time staff members. Regular ongoing activities done by volunteers include running the Thrift Shop, keeping our sites open, preservation work at the History Collections, fund raising, public events like Walk Your History, building maintenance and garden maintenance.

Thank you to everyone who has participated and worked so effectively to make the Landmarks thrive for the past 50 years.

Landmarks Society 2009 Board of Directors

Jim Allen, President Jack Fiorito, Vice President Barbara Wilson, Treasurer Kourosh Baradaran, Secretary

Board Members

Ida Mae Berg, Piper Berger, Phil Cassou, Helen Lindqvist, Alan Perper, George Rodericks

Andrew Allen, Legal Counsel

Staff

Alan Brune, *Executive Director* Leslie Doyle, *Executive Director* Mary Jane Wentz, *Office Manager* Barbara Carlson, *Rental Manager* Dave Gotz, *Archivist*

Landmarks Office: 435-1853 Archive Office: 435-5490 Email: lmsoffice@sbcglobal.net Website: www.landmarks-society.org Landmarks News: www.telli.com, type Landmarks in search window

Landmarks Society Celebrates 50 Years of its Own History continued...

these treasures was Carol Ericson who was simultaneously serving as LMS Executive Director. She was followed by photographer, Phil Molten, and artist, Artelle Farley, who each cataloged in their respective fields. About 1990 Pat Locke ran the archives until Piper Berger was recruited by Beverly in 1994. She was the first professionally trained archivist and served in that capacity until February,

2008. The current archivist is Jim Davenport. The History Collections has been a moving feast from Old St. Hilary's to interior decorator Charles Durrie's office, to space behind the post office ,to the upstairs of the Depot and finally to its present location on the Boardwalk, where today the community's collective memories are cared for, protected and cataloged for retrieval for researchers, students and former and current residents of the Tiburon peninsula. from the ship before she was burned for scrap metal in Tiburon Cove, the saloon was used for many years as a summer or weekend home. The last residents of the China Cabin, as it is now called, were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Zelinsky. In 1978 it was destined for demolition to create an open waterfront along Beach Road, but in 1979 the Belvedere City Council cleared the way for the China Cabin to remain on the waterfront and be acquired and restored by the Society. Eight years and \$600,000 later the building was opened to the public. Money was raised by setting up donor groups to fund specific projects. There was a Pile Drivers Club, a Stanchion Society and a Capital Club among others.

Authentic restoration was a challenge. Needed skills were hunted out of obscurity and revitalized under apprenticeship programs. Seventy-five percent of the building is original, but walnut woodwork,



It wasn't until the 1970's that the Society stepped forward to save another historic building. This was the first class passenger saloon from the steamship China that transported cargo, mail and passengers between San Francisco and the Orient from 1867-1879. Separated





cut glass window panes and 30 different decorative patterns in wood, gesso and Victorian plastic campo had to be researched and installed. In addition four ounces of 22 karat gold was applied to the decorative patterns. Today this elegant cabin and its surrounding deck are available for intimate parties, meetings and community gatherings.



The acquisition of the old railway and ferry depot, aka the Donahue Building, was on the Society's wish list for more than 30 years. Built in 1884, it served as the telegraph, ticket and freight office for the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad. The railroad ceased operations in Tiburon in1969 and leased the Donahue Building for office use until the whole property was sold to the Innisfree Company, the developers of Point Tiburon.

Walk Your History

The City of Belvedere, Town of Tiburon, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, Belvedere Community Foundation, Belvedere-Tiburon Joint Recreation, and the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society have joined forces to present, Walk

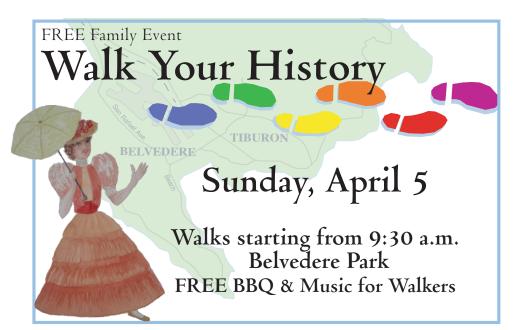
have joined forces to present, Walk Your History.

Walk Your History is a **FREE**, community event to get the community out walking on Sunday, April 5th, to learn about the fascinating Belvedere and Tiburon history. There will be three walking loops on the Peninsula dotted with Living History docents at "historic hotspots".

Belvedere Loop = Stairways and Historic Homes and Gardens

Lagoon Loop = Garden on the Lagoon, Historic Richardson Bay, Hilarita, and Reed Dairy

Downtown Loop = China Cabin, Ark Row, Main Street and the Railroad & Ferry Museum



The new Belvedere historic plaques "Looking Back at Belvedere" and the new Tiburon "Then & Now" plaques will also be included in the walks. All the self-guided walking loops will start and end at Belvedere's Community Park for the Walk Your History FREE BBQ Lunch! The lunch is FREE to those with a stamped "Passport" from a historic walk. The Walk Your History Passport will be available to guide walkers through our local history for years to come. Don't miss this historic event!



💋 Master Gardener Lectures

There was a great turn out for the Sowing Seeds for Vegetables and Flowers by **Susan Lukens**, Master Gardener lecture at the Landmarks Art & Garden Center last month. Over 20 people gathered in the cottage to learn the best methods and benefits from planting with seeds from Susan Lukens.

Starting from seed offers many rewards for the gardener. It's exciting to see the seedlings emerge, it's economical and it gives you access to hundreds of varieties of plants not available at your local nursery. With a few hints, you can improve your chances for success.

1. Planting with seeds offers a greater selection of flower varieties.

2. Organic seeds produce better plants as studies of nutrient content of organically grown fruits and vegetables have shown that they contain higher levels of anti-oxidants, vitamins and minerals.

3. Cost savings when buying seeds vs. one or five gallon potted plants. For a few dollars for one seed packet full of seeds, you can yield over one hundred tomatoes or a wall of sweet peas.

4. Planting with seed gives you stronger and healthier seedlings without the chance of introducing foreign soil borne diseases, weeds, and insects.

5. Working in the garden and planting vegetables and flowers from seed offers great daily inspiration for cooking from what you can harvest in your garden.

6. Connection with the earth and seasons through planting and harvesting your seasonal crops.

7. Enjoyment and exercise. You will feel so proud of yourself as your garden grows each day and provides you and your family with tasty home grown treats.

Don't Miss the Next Master Gardener Lecture -Art & Garden Center WATER WISE GARDENING Wed., April 8th, 10-11

Landmarks Society Celebrates 50 Years of its Own History continued...

In 1985 it became the sales office for the new development. In 1988, when it no longer needed the building, Innisfree deeded the land on the waterfront to the town of Tiburon after failing to have the depot removed from its waterside location. In 1976 the town had already designated the building as a Tiburon Historical Landmark.



Circa 1970

The Society kept constant pressure on the Town Council to let Landmarks renovate it as a railroad and ferry museum. In July of 1979 a letter to the town expressed Landmarks's willingness to protect and renovate the depot reminding council members, "This interest is not new but has been expressed publically and repeatedly for 20 years." In 1990 the Society formally proposed that Tiburon turn over the structure to it as Belvedere had with the China Cabin and lease it to Landmarks for a dollar a year. With great support from the community and after the town decided not to move the building, a 99-year lease was signed in 1995. After extensive repairs the Railroad and Ferry Museum was opened to the public in 1999.

In December of that year Landmarks received the Governor's



Phil Cassou explaining the train signal sign to the students.

Historic Preservation award for its work. The town's refusal to move the depot from the waterfront enabled it to rank as the only surviving railroad and ferry depot west of the Mississippi River to be on its original site. In 1995 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Railroad and Ferry Museum and the China Cabin are both class field trips for local school children. 1995 was a big year for Lanmarks, not only did it acquire the depot, but also



Mary Eklund with students in the Station Masters' quarters on the second floor of the Railroad and Ferry Depot Museum.

received a bequest of property from Helen and William Newman. But work on this project had to wait until renovation of the Depot was done and Landmarks established clear title to the Newman property.



Inside the Newman's cottage

So the little, old cottage and its garden at 841 Tiburon Boulevard languished until 1999. The house is thought to be the oldest extant building on the Tiburon Peninsula, a portion of which dates back to about 1870. It was originally a one room bunkhouse for brick kiln workers on John Reed's 1834 Mexican land grant, Rancho Corte de Madera Del Presidio. Also known as the Brick Kiln Cottage it is now the Landmarks Art and Garden Center. The Newmans bought it from the Reed estate in 1944. Mrs. Newman bequeathed the property to the Landmarks Society to ensure it would never be sub-divided and developed. The Newmans lived in the cottage without heat except from two cast-iron stoves.

They created and worked in their country garden guided by a 1946 plan of Leland Noel, noted landscape architect and botanist.

When the Society took over

Landmarks Society Celebrates 50 Years of its Own History continued...

the property, the house had no foundation, the floor levels were uneven to fit the slope of the land and rain was coming through the roof. The task of the Landmarks was to restore the cottage incorporating modern codes of safety and comfort while retaining the historic character of the house, typical of the Tiburon Peninsula before World War II.



The Landmarks Art & Garden Center today

The over grown and neglected garden was restored by preserving the mature trees, shrubs and plants which had survived and introducing new ones. Modifications were made to accommodate public use and current conservation practices. Master gardeners and other avid volunteers have achieved the recreation of the terraced acre with colorful garden beds and restful vista points.

Besides being an increasingly popular venue for weddings, receptions, parties and community gatherings, it is also a place to learn. It has offered art and gardening classes and serves as a spring and summer gallery for local artists.





These are only the highlights of the first fifty years of the Landmarks Society. Each new project advanced interest in the organization, attracted funds and built the trust of donors to give their historical treasures to the History Collections. So be it for the next fifty years.

Thank



Join the Fun! Opportunities at the Landmarks: Event Committees - Golf Open 9/8/09 - Fall Event 10/10/09 Volunteer Docents (its easy and fun!) History Collections (learn to archive!) Contact the Landmarks office to learn more 435-1853 www.landmarks-society.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday September 8

Belvedere-Tiburon Open

Golf Tournament

proceeds to benefit the Landmarks Society





MARIE WHITERMORE

cell: 415 608-7800 mwhitermor@aol.com



1660 Tiburon Blvd. Tiburon, CA 94920 Phone: 415-789-7720 Fax: 415-454-2503

Belvedere-Tiburon Thrift Shop

With a bright new coat of paint and fresh new carpeting, the Thrift Shop is open for business! Located on the Lower Ark Row, The Belvedere-Tiburon Thirft Shop is staffed by a professional manager and volunteers represnting five local organizations:

> St. Hilary's Catholic Church St. Stephens Episcopal Church Community Congregational Churdh Westminister Presbyterian Church The Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society

Each of these five organizations are responsible for staffing the Thrift Shop one day each week. The Landmarks Society is responsible for Fridays' volunteers. If you would like to "help out while shopping" - join us! **Leslie Doyle** found a beautiful floral procelain pin from England. **Mary Jane Wentz** found a light cashmere sweater - perfect for spring.

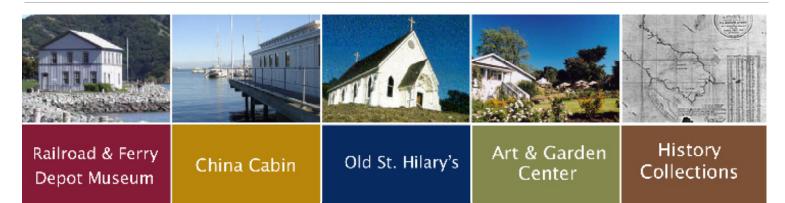
If you would like to volunteer, please call the Landmarks office or **Margaret May** at the Thrift Shop at 435-7605.

Shop proceeds are divided among the five groups to support such diverse concerns as Senior Companions, Seeds of Learning, San Rafael Canal Ministry, Peace Planet Camp, Manzanita Center, St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room and Thanksgiving and Christmans baskets, and the rent for the **Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society's History Collections.**

All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.



Margaret May, Dorothy Abrahamson and a customer



New Board Members



Piper Berger, Jack Fiorito, and Leslie Lava The Board of Directors began this year without **Anne Kasanin** and **Mimi Clarke**, both of whom retired after many years of dedicated service. Anne has been a generous supporter of the Landmarks Society for decades, her tenure on the Board was only her latest contribution. Recently Anne spent many hours on the Corinthian Island and West Shore house tours, both of which would not have happened without her energy and commitment, and she continues to be part of the Master Gardener team that keeps the Art & Garden Center blooming. Mimi also committed many hours of her time to help our organization, by helping to bring our accounting practices up to today's complex stan-

dards. We could always rely on Mimi for precise and accurate insight into whatever issues confronted the board and also count on her help in supporting every event and activity. We thank both of these fine ladies for their selfless commitment and look forward to their continued support of the Landmarks Society. Judy Wilson, Janice Anderson Gram, Abbi Fox, and Anne



Barbara Wilson

Lacey have resigned. Bringing new energy to the Board is **Barbara Wilson**, who joined us last fall. Barbara has already jumped in with both feet, bringing her considerable business skills to bear on our finances and organization. Returning to the shorthanded board is **Jack Fiorito**. Jack continues to be the "Captain" of the China Cabin and brings a wealth of business experience to the Board. Long time volunteer, former Archivist and perhaps Landmarks most knowledgeable person, **Piper Berger** finally gets a chance to help us run the organization by joining the Board. We are looking forward to her positive energy and great ideas in the years to come. Finally we welcome **Leslie Lava** to the Board. A knowledgeable attorney, with experience on non-profit boards, Leslie should prove to be an extremely valuable addition to the Board as our organization faces new and more complex challenges.

Introduction to Landmarks on DVD

WELCOME TO THE BELVEDERE-TIBURON LANDMARKS SOCIETY



Dave Gotz has produced a 17 minute DVD profiling the history and development of the Landmarks sites. It is now available for \$3 (to cover our costs) at the Landmarks office in the Boardwalk Shopping Center. This informative video is narrated by the site managers and features photos past and present of our treasured landmarks. Please pick-up a copy and play it for your friends and neighbors and invite them to become members of the Landmarks!



Landmarks Publications Sale

All Landmarks publications will be on sale for up to 50% off. These include Both Sides of the Track, A Collection of Oral Histories, A Pictorial of Belvedere, and the Images of America Series (Marin County, Maritime Marin, Ferries of San Francisco Bay, and Angel Island). In an effort to reduce our rented storage space, we need to reduce our large inventory of publications! Please contact the office for more information 435-1853.

Making History

Phil Cassou does it again! The annual school field trips are under way. Six classes of third graders from **Bel Aire School** toured the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum in February. Phil and **Mary Eklund** kept the students riveted during their trip back into history. Mary puzzeled the kids with questions about the kitchen appliances in the early 1900's. Who could guess what the butter churner looks like? Is this really a toaster? Come see for yourself!



The students also visited the China Cabin, with **Captain Jack (Fiorito)** at the helm. "This kids love this, they are so quiet and still !" says **Mrs. Heilman** of her third grade class.



Dave Gotz spoke to the students in the Bel Aire School libraray about the history of Richardson Bay and showed his documentary, *Turning the Tides*.



The sixth grade class from **St. Hilarys School** brought their lunches and picniced among the first wildflowers

of spring to find thier inspiration for their class project. Each student has been assigned a page in a book to fill with peoms, photography, architectural history or drawings that reflect Old St. Hilarys Landmark. **Helen Lindqvist** will host another St. Hilarys class for a wildflower walk later this month.



Bayside Garden Center

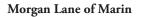
Tiburon Mail Services

Diana's of Tiburon Stationary & Gifts

The Christian Science Reading Room

Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society

Holscher Architecture



The Boardwalk



Butcher & Deli The ARK Newspaper Ming's Chinese Restautant Harry's Hair Design Jeanie's Java & Juice Hearts & Flowers Florist Salon di Bacio

Boardwalk Market

Wells Fargo

Ask Alan

By Alan Brune, Co-Executive Director

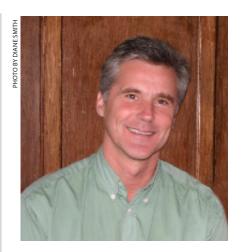
Tough Times for Non Profits

I thought I would dedicate this column to the efforts that Landmarks is making to be fiscally responsible with your money. As supporting members of Landmarks you have a vested interest in knowing that we are making the best use of the money you have trusted us to use.

Times are tough. Over the years we have been making every effort to build up our capital funds to use in case of major renovations (new roof at Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, replace the pillars under the China Cabin). With our investments and fiscally responsible business practices we were able to see nice growth in the value of these capital funds. But like yours and my portfolios, the investment funds have taken a significant drop in value due to the collapse in the stocks and bond markets. Nonetheless, I want you to know that our balance sheet remains strong as have the four main Landmarks properties and the investment portfolio – all with no debt.

The dividends and interest income off of those funds are used to help run the current operations. With a reduced portfolio, lower expected dividend rates and interest rates below 1% we are projecting up to 50% less financial income than before.

Therefore, we are actively exploring new ideas on how to bridge the revenue shortfall and in the future you will be seeing information about



our partnering in this years Belvedere/Tiburon Open Golf tournament, increased efforts to support our local Thrift Shop, expanded offerings at the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair, developing a sponsorship drive to complete the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, and of course special events and concerts to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

At the same time we are tightening our belts wherever we can. Some of the areas being worked on are: reducing credit card fees by requiring checks for all property rentals, putting our outside insurance and project work to competitive bid to reduce costs, cutting back on our rented space for the History Collections and Archives; moving to online printing for the newsletter and other brochures; and monitoring as closely as possible our property maintenance costs to keep them as low as we can while always being careful not to harm our local treasures.

These are tough times but we are grateful for you're past support, your current membership and your continued support in the future.

New Members

Archaeological Resource Service Marie Whittermore - Frank Howard Allen, Realtor Dave and Joyce Albert David and Mimi Ogden Robert Walley Katherine Bradstreet Karen Steiner Katherine Fresch Leslie Lava Deborah Loeb



Call Laurie Nilsen to schedule a group of friends or neighbors for a Get Ready class 435-7386

Laurie K. Nilsen Emergency Services Coordinator City of Belvedere & Town of Tiburon (415) 435-7386

Landmarks Donations – SEPTEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009

Joe Lavigne

Officejet 7680 printer for LMS office

Bob Crockett

Railroad/Ferry Museum records binder, exhibit model and diorama blocks for Tiburon railroad yard

Hilda Davis

Muriel Hudson framed pencil drawing of Corinthian Island and Belvedere Cove

Chris Morrison

Dairy bottle, whisky bottle, beer can, ink bottle, fork, and spoon from Ark Row

Mary Roddy

City of Belvedere planning maps from 1936-39 and Tam High award pins belonging to Barbara Kircher, c. 1935

Branwell Fanning

Commemorative sweatshirts from Tiburon Triple Anniversary, 1984

Don & Joan Bekins

Marin IJ newspapers covering 1989 earthquake and Dickey (Lyford) House mini-mansion model kit from 1969

Joy Kuhn Town of Tiburon records 1988-95

Robert Smith

Marin County Assessor's maps of Rancho Corte de Madera del Presidio, 1955-57

Joan Bergsund Phil Molten photos from 1990-2005

General Donations

Gabrielle D. Keil - Docent Party

William and Gretchen Kimball Fund

Jean Airola

Jennifer P. Barker

Carol Sheft

Mrs. Stephanie Mendel

Sylvan and Donna Kline

General Donations Continued

Betsy S. Youngdahl

Winifred and Howard B. Allen Foundation

Joe Lavigne

Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Davis

John and Betsy Scarborough Fund

Lorene Allen

Pinecrest Fund

Richard Champe

Phil Cassou

In Memory of Donations

Jean Chute – in memory of Beverly Bastian

Sydney White – in memory of Beverly Bastian

Wray Family – in memory of Patricia Elliot

Gee and Lisa Kampmeyer – in memory of Patricia Elliot

Hill Haven Property Owner's Association – in memory of Arnie Pearce

Hill Haven Property Owner's Association – in memory of Casey Hannahs



Terry Hennessy, Dave Benoit and Alexis Berger at the 2008 Holiday Art & Crafts Sale.

Peter and Mimi Clarke – in memory of Frank Dumm

Jeanne Price – in memory of Gertrude Schleiger

Gee and Lisa Kampmeyer – in memory of Gertrude Schleiger

In memory of Dick Griffith

Gabrielle D. Keil Peter and Coulie Phillips Anne S. and W. Lawrence Drew

Gabrielle D. Keil – in memory of Kathy Ford (former Landmark Bookkeeper)

In Memory of Dorothy Flint

Donald W. Davis Kathleen Kirrane Katherine F. McKenzie Donald and Barbara Moulin Barbara Temby Gabrielle D. Keil Rosemary G. Royer Louis and Barbara Przetak Elmo and Ann De Martini Joyce Wells Marilyn C. Steinau Dorothy Newberry



ON THE CALENDAR

April 5, 9:30 - Free Lunch	Walk Your History	Walks Begin from Belvedere Park
April 5, 1 to 4 p.m.	Landmarks sites Open for a New Season	
April 8, 10 to 11:00	Water Wise Gardening, Master Gardener	Art & Garden Center
April 24, 8 p.m.	Anna Maria Mendieta, Harpist	Old St. Hilary's
Sept. 8, 2009	Belvedere-Tiburon Open Golf Tournament	Stone Tree Golf Course
October 10, 2009	Save The Date: 10/10 Landmark Event	

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

THE LANDMARKS SOCIETY 1550 Tiburon Boulevard, suite M Belvedere-Tiburon, CA 94920



Boy rowing on lagoon (now Main Street Parking lot) Photo from the Landmarks History Collections

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