

Exclusion: The Presidio's Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration During World War II, the Presidio of San Francisco—the Army's Western Defense Command—played a pivotal role in the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, purportedly in the name of national security. This special exhibition invites visitors to investigate the choices—both personal and political—that led to this dark chapter in American history and to reflect on what this means in regard to present-day issues of mass incarceration, immigration reform and racial profiling. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., through spring 2019

Westside Mayoral Forum, Thursday, April 26: PAR will join the West of Twin Peaks Central Council in hosting a public forum for San Francisco mayoral candidates running for election in June. Residents are invited to hear firsthand what the candidates have to say about property crime, parcel taxes, transit-rich housing bonuses (SB 827), increasing service fees for water, garbage and transit, and other issues that affect the western side of the city. At the Hall of Flowers County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park; doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m.



Outdated water systems could put District in peril after earthquake

At PAR's January General Membership Meeting, we heard from Tom Doudiet, retired assistant chief of the San Francisco Fire Department, and Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer about the firefighting water systems in the Richmond and Sunset districts and, specifically, about our lack of access to the high-pressure auxiliary water supply system that has long served other parts of the city.

The auxiliary system was built after the 1906 earthquake and never expanded to the city's western and southern neighborhoods. Chief Doudiet explained that in the inevitable event of a major earthquake, the low-pressure hydrants and underground cisterns that serve the Richmond will not be enough. The low-pressure system is prone to water main breaks and each cistern requires two engines, limiting the

number of fires that can be fought at once.

In February, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission announced its recommendation for a new auxiliary system to provide a high-pressure water supply in the Richmond and Sunset. The water source for the new system would be a basin at the Sunset Reservoir at 24th Avenue and Ortega Street, which holds 90 million gallons of water. The system would carry potable water and could increase access to drinking water following an emergency.

Chief Doudiet does not believe this plan is sufficient. He notes that the proposal would only extend high-pressure hydrants as far north as Anza Street and would not cover much of the Richmond and Sea Cliff. Further, Chief Doudiet is

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Neighbors since 1776

The Presidio and the District—shared history

The Presidio is a huge part of life for Richmond residents. Our participation keeps us informed of significant events, issues and developments in our iconic neighbor and play a part in decisions that affect us.

Two board members, Sharon Gadberry and Paul Epstein, serve on several advocacy groups for Presidio neighborhoods as part of their PAR board responsibilities,

The Presidio is not governed or managed by the City of San Francisco because it was previously a US Army base and is the property of the United States government.

What we know as the Richmond has been linked with the Presidio for more than 250 years, starting in 1776. The famous Anza expedition of men,

women, children, Catholic clergy and livestock spent their first night camping on the shores of Mountain Lake Park. Soon after their arrival, the Presidio of San Francisco was built. The adobe buildings followed a blueprint created in Spain for all their forts and missions in the New World.

For more than 100 years thereafter, the area south of the Presidio, known now as the Richmond District, remained virtually uninhabited. Then, in 1898, because of the Spanish-American War, the Presidio became a staging area for thousands of army recruits who arrived by rail from all over the United States, and then later left from Fort Mason to fight in the Philippines. No housing was available on the grounds of the Presidio,

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Spring 2018 PAR Meeting

Election of PAR officers and board members

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Discussion of June ballot propositions

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Wednesday, April 18

7 to 9 p.m.

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement & California Streets)

Limited street parking is available.

Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary

Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,
My term as president of the board of PAR will end next month. I am delighted to report that Kate Lazarus, current PAR vice-president, has been nominated to become the next president. She will stand for election at PAR's April general membership meeting.

Kate is a longtime Richmond District resident whose family has been active in PAR for many years. She has my full support, and I will be standing for reelection to a seat on the board as a director in order to support her efforts. I believe that Kate will lead PAR in a manner that keeps it mission-focused, responsive to the membership and disentangled from politics and issues that are unrelated to the mission stated in PAR's by-laws.

The slate of board of director candidates that are running for election include two newcomers who have joined the board since the last election, Jean Barish and Natalia Kresich. They join with a well-qualified and steadfast board of directors in focusing on PAR's mission, which is to:

- Develop and implement policies and recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of the physical and social dimensions of life in the Richmond District,

- Stimulate formation of neighborhood organizations in those areas of the Richmond District presently unserved, and

- Support individual associations in pursuing issues relating to planning and the physical and social environment.

Our quality of life concerns here in the Richmond have often been subordinated by our civic leaders as they attended to matters they felt more important. In such instances PAR is your advocate. And now we have Sandra Fewer, a lifelong district resident, as our supervisor. She has strong feelings about many issues, and, while we may not always agree, her overarching concern is District One—the Richmond. And for that we are fortunate.

In an era when participation in community and civic organizations is on the decline, the years to come will be especially challenging ones for us. PAR has a strong membership base, committed volunteers and a great history. We will need to leverage its strength and lead on diverse issues, including, housing density, transportation and public infrastructure. Right now, I suggest you become familiar with State Senator Weiner's "Planning and zoning: transit-rich housing bonus" bill (SB 827).

In sum, my sense of good government informs that politicians and bureaucrats should focus and advance appropriate policies that people want, not the policies that these people, temporarily in positions of power, think we need. Let's work together to ensure that we have room in our neighborhoods for folks who want to live here, and we maintain the quality of life that draws them here. And we need to enact policies that make it so people can stay here, like Bobby and Jack, my own fifth-generation Richmond district sons.

To the political action committees—especially the ones with names that have no connection with their mission—I think it's time you better elucidate who are your principals, what are your sources of money and what agenda exists. As long as I am around, I will continue to remind folks that the Richmond district is not for sale to your special interests. Glad to talk, glad to work together, but not while you wear a mask.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank Laura Jacoby for all the work she does for PAR and seeing that our newsletter a high-quality and relevant publication.

It's been an honor serving as PAR's president for the last three years.

Thank you.

Richard Corriea
sfparpresident@gmail.com

Officers & Directors

Officers

Richard Corriea, President
Nicholas Belloni, Vice President
Kate Lazarus, Vice President
Mary Dee Beall, Secretary
Christopher Wright, Treasurer

Directors

Jean Barish	Margie Hom-Brown
Dan Baroni	Jason Jungreis
Julie Burns	Brian Larkin
Eliote Durham	Michael Murphy
Herb Elliott	Claire Myers
Paul Epstein	Zachary Nathan
Robert Fries	Marjan Philhour
Sharon Gadberry	Bill Shepard
Antonio White	Peter Winkelstein

Emeritus Directors

Fred Altshuler • Eugene Brodsky
Lynn Altshuler • Jim Lazarus • Ron Miguel
Paul Rosenberg • Michele Stratton

PAR Representatives in Other Organizations

Friends of Mountain Lake Park Playground:
Claire Myers
Housing Action Coalition: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadberry,
Ocean Beach Master Planning Committee:
Julie Burns
Richmond Community Coalition: Nick Belloni

Candidates for PAR Board

Officers

President: Kate Lazarus
Vice-President: Nicholas Belloni
Treasurer: Christopher Wright
Secretary: Mary Dee Beall

Board members

Jean Barish • Dan Baroni • Richard Corriea
Herb Elliott • Paul Epstein • Robert Fries
Sharon Gadberry • Margie Hom-Brown
Jason Jungreis • Natalie Kresick • Brian Larkin
Michael Murphy • Zachary Nathan
Marjan Philhour • Peter Winkelstein

PAR needs your email address

As part of ensuring that all our PAR members receive the best service possible, we are updating our membership list to be sure we have your email address.

If you're not sure that we have your

current email address, please send it to newsletter.par@gmail.com.

Make sure you include your full name in the body of the email.

Thank you for your help.

Future of the Richmond could depend on voters

The housing crisis in California has led to a raft of bills in this session of the legislature, some focused on minor matters, others on larger issues, but it is Senator's Scott Wiener's SB 827 that has gained by far the most attention and that would have the most profound impact on the Richmond District. The objective of SB 827 is in general alignment with one of the objectives of the San Francisco general plan: It seeks to promote housing in close proximity to major transit services.

But the bill has aroused fierce opposition by creating a sweeping mandate for local governments to grant "transit-rich housing

bonuses"—essentially a permit to build to five or eight stories, depending on the width of the street—to all developments near major transit routes.

These critical routes are defined broadly to embrace all streets with bus service at 15-minute intervals. The reach of the bill thus would cover all of the Richmond District and nearly the entire city. Opponents see a scenario of high-rise building popping up in a disorderly fashion throughout existing residential neighborhoods, including the Richmond District.

The bill has received mixed reviews from civic leaders, businesses, and advocacy organizations. Supporters note that the bill retains existing restrictions on demolitions and would retain most design standards, at least in many areas of the city. The bill also has fierce opposition. Most public officials across the state have taken positions against it. Opponents are concerned that this one-size-fits-all legislation will unfairly preempt all local zoning laws and could mandate replacing a single-family home with an 85-foot apartment, without any opportunity for neighborhood comment or opposition.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering a resolution submitted by Supervisor Aaron Peskin opposing this

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Westside Mayoral Forum

April 26, Thursday

County Fair Building Auditorium in Golden Gate Park
(near park entrance at Lincoln and 9th Avenues)

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. • Speeches begin at 7 p.m.

Light refreshments provided • No RSVP required

The Richmond and the Presidio: linked throughout history

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so the troops were encamped in the area south of the Presidio, which the army called Camp Merritt.

In *Defender Of The Gate: The Presidio Of San Francisco, A History From 1846 To 1995*, author Erwin N. Thompson describes the conditions.

"Meanwhile, large numbers of volunteer troops, nearly all infantry, poured into San Francisco beginning in May. The vast majority of these occupied a tent camp hastily set up immediately to the south of the Presidio, between it and Golden Gate Park and west of today's Arguello Boulevard, a locality called the 'Bay District Tract.' Part of the site apparently had once been a cemetery, and more recently a racetrack. First Avenue (Arguello Boulevard), Sixth Avenue, Fulton Street, and Balboa Street formed its boundaries. All things considered, this Camp Merritt was a thoroughly miserable location, vividly described by its occupants. . . .

"When the 1st Tennessee Infantry reached Camp Merritt in June they found a vacant block of sandy ground but no shelter or food. They remained almost two months in 'this unhealthy, ill-drained, wind-swept locality' before moving to the Presidio. Eleven men died from diseases while there. A soldier in the 1st Nebraska Infantry wrote that while his outfit enjoyed the amenities of Golden Gate Park and San Francisco, the camp was cold and dark most of the time. At one point the Army removed the straw bedding as a sanitary measure and the troops then slept on the hard ground. Lieutenant Martin E. Tew, 13th Minnesota Infantry, noted that Camp Merritt had almost 200 men on sick call one morning. He complained of the incessant, unending, and wearing drill the raw soldiers had to endure. . . .

"Meanwhile the Army set about improving the Presidio's Camp Merrille (sic) area for the return of the state volunteers. The Secretary of War directed the establishment of a 'model

camp' for the returnees capable of holding 4,000 troops at a time. In his annual report the secretary recorded that \$29,000 had been spent on the improved facilities. Between July and November 1899 nearly all these regiments disembarked at the San Francisco piers. Those who had known only Camp Merritt received a pleasant surprise when they first saw the Model Camp as it was now called."

The relationship between the Presidio and the Richmond continued to evolve for 200 more years. You can read more about it at nps.gov/prsf/learn/historyculture/upload/defendgate.pdf.



Photo courtesy of OpenSFhistory.org / wnp32.0190.jpg

Employees, kids, and a dog pose in front of the Geary Street Park & Ocean Railway car barn on today's northwest corner of Geary and Arguello boulevards. Small steam locomotive engines called "steam dummies" pulled larger trailers to deliver recreation-seekers to Golden Gate Park. This image is from about 1894. On the site today is the Office Depot store in the Larkins Building.

Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working, or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes! I/we want to support the Richmond District.

First name(s)		Last name	
Name of business (for business members)			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Primary phone		Cell/other phone	
E-Mail PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.			
Membership			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership, \$15.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above			

Please complete and cut out this form and mail it together with your check (payable to the *Planning Association of the Richmond*) to

PAR
5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356
San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

<p><i>Pay Your PAR dues online!</i></p> <p>sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html</p> <p><i>to join, contribute or pay your dues the easy, electronic way!</i></p>

Future of the District

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legislation. The Board may vote on this resolution as early as April 3, 2018.

PAR agrees this is an important piece of legislation that could significantly impact development in the Richmond District and is following this issue closely.

For now we suggest that you become familiar with SB 827 (leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB827) and that, before you cast your vote in the next election, you determine where the mayoral candidates stand on this issue.

Outdated water system possible peril

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concerned that the water in the Sunset Reservoir would not be enough following a severe earthquake, in light of the high number of potential fires that could occur in the many wooden buildings in our neighborhoods. Additionally, the pipes that supply the reservoir cross a number of fault lines, putting them at risk in an earthquake. Chief Doudiet continues to advocate for a system that would access our unlimited supply of ocean water.

PAR will continue to monitor this important public safety issue. For further information about the city's water system, PAR recommends the *Richmond ReView's* ongoing coverage.



The date code above your name on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

