Spring 2017 In Their Honor ★★★

John Allen - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Sarah Rossenbrock - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Mercedes Bryant-Williams - In honor of Gladys Samuels
Margaret Chase Stockwell - In memory of Aunt Millie Ron and Janna Coverton - In memory of William J. Little
Ethan Coven - In honor of Ida Pollack
Martha Crusius - In honor of Mary Crusius & Patricia Lent
Dale Dunham - In honor of Sara Dunham
Pamela Eguchi - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Margaret Elizan - In memory of J.V. (Jack) Rittenberg, Kaiser Shipyard No. 3 1942-1943
Brian Fay - In honor of Maria Avila
Julie Fry - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Barbara Ganitch - In honor of Pearl Harbor Survivor USN DMCS RET.
Cathy Gardner - In honor of my grandmother Miriam Macdonald
Gretchen Gize Olihrib - In memory of Margaret Richter and Ruth Eicheberger
Jeffrey L. Grice, MD - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Loyal Martin Griffin, Jr. - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Diane Heden - In memory of Dr. Edgar Scheen
Karen Huppert - In honor of Genevra Smith Bell
Margaret E. Knaat - In honor of Ruth Eppard
Karen Louis - In memory of Margaret Louis
Steve & Linda Lustig - In honor of Betty Reid Soskin
Timothy Luna - In honor of Aguelina Luca
Patricia McAdoo - In honor of Michael McAdoo
Norman Milstein - In honor of Alex Milstein
Rosie the Riveter Trust - Honoring Howard Levitt in retirement after 40 years with NPS.
Jack & Cea Soares - In honor of Santana & Jonathan Curtis
Nancy Street - In memory of Frances Prachaska
Susan Vaillant - In honor of Max Vaillant
Karen VanZandt - In honor of Betty VanZandt
Lydia White - In honor of Agent Peggy Carter

Annual Benefit Dinner Rosie forever - April 8

Join us to honor WWII Rosie’s & the Rosie spirit! Where: Alta Vista Country Club, El Cerrito When: 6:00 pm Cocktails, 7:00 pm Dinner Attire: Business casual - all-weather encouraged Tickets: www.rosethe riveter.org or (510) 582-2725 Email: info@rosietheriveter.org Enjoy gorgeous views of the San Francisco Bay, choose from delicious menu items, a huge silent auction and more!

A BIG Thank you to everyone who helped us to meet and exceed our challenge grant goal! A generous donor has matched funds from all gifts received before December 31st, 2016, and we are very proud to say that we exceeded our $50,000 goal days before the deadline. The matched funds will support Rosie Trust/Park programs including Every Kid in a Park and our Ranger Betty Reid Soskin Legacy Film.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last year, the Trust and its partners provided funding for schools transportation that brought 38 underserved schools and more than 1100 students from Richmond and San Pablo to learn crucial history lessons at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park. Now, in 2017, the National Park Service has made the Every Kid in a Park program a five-year initiative. Thanks to our generous supporters, we are already paying for buses that will bring classes unable to afford transportation to visit the park.

RICHMOND SHIPYARD UNIONS

One of the most remarkable achievements regarding the Bay Area’s World War II labor front was the almost total absence of any serious disruptions in labor relations. Imagine: In Richmond alone, approximately 90,000 newly employed workers in Henry Kaiser’s four massive shipyards, all carrying union cards from 29 or more labor unions, and not a single major labor disruption between 1940 and the war’s end in 1945.

How was it possible? Labor historians offer no simple answer; rather, lots of complex ones. Certainly, the celebrated “unity of purpose” that prevailed across the American home front — the patriotic determination of workers to win the war at all costs — elevated the cause of national interests above narrower personal or organizational interests in the minds of most workers, including many union leaders and employers. But while unity of purpose was real at one level, it masked continued racial, sexist, and class disparity.

In effect, labor entered into a grand bargain with federal wartime manpower agencies in which they agreed to “labor stabilization” (meaning no strikes) among war-related industries like shipbuilding in exchange for the coveted closed shops (meaning all workers must join a union). For the shipyard unions, dominated by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, which represented up to 70 percent of all West Coast shipyard workers, that meant tens of thousands of new dues-paying members to fill its coffers. Its national ranks swelled from 28,609 in 1938 to 352,000 in 1943, including more than 35,000 members at Richmond’s Local 513, which had not even existed before the war.

For the new workers, the vast majority of whom had never belonged to a union or held an industrial job, the benefits of the bargain (a job and decent pay) were mixed. The new jobs meant more stability, but gains for women and minorities were slow in coming. The Boilermakers opened its ranks to women in 1942 but other large unions denied membership and jobs to women and people of color until growing shortages, lawsuits, and federal government pressure forced them to open their ranks. Initially women and black workers were consigned to the lowest-paying jobs. And unions like the Boilermakers were separate and unequal “auxiliary” unions for blacks, extending the Jim Crow attitudes of the era.

As UC Berkeley sociologist and author Katherine Archibald, who worked as a shop steward at Oakland’s Moore Shipyard during the war, has written, “With very few exceptions or qualifications, the account of the actual practices of the trade unions in the shipyard is a tale of narrowness and prejudice…” It was until after the war, in 1946 and 1947, at the result of women seeking equal rights battles, government pressure, efforts like the Double V Campaign, and evolving awareness of the roles women and blacks had played in wartime workplaces, that unions, and our larger society, began to change such practices. Although progress has been slow, Boilermakers’ ranks now include a female President of Local 693 at the Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagouda, Mississippi, among others.

Unfortunately, according to Archibald, most of the tens of thousands of black shipyard workers, including semi-skilled white workers, had little interest or regard for their unions and fewer than 1 in 8 members bothered to vote in annual union elections, thus unions had no clear incentive to reform, despite the fact that in at least three of the trades in the Kaiser Shipyards — welders, sheet metal workers and more — organized black shipyard workers for three years after the war.

See Times of Unity/Times of Division on back page

New Traveling Exhibit Unveiled

At Rosie, we are dedicated to preserving the many diverse stories and artifacts associated with civilian American life and efforts to support our country during WWII. Many of those stories are invisible in mainstream history, but the National Park Service works to uncover stories that paint a full picture of the many dedicated Americans who made, and still make, our country unique.

In December a three-year effort to uncover the stories of the LGBTQ community during the war, resulted in a new exhibit at the Visitor Education Center: LGBTQ Histories from the WWII Home Front. Donna Graves, a well-known public historian, one of the architects of the original Rosie the Riveter Memorial project, worked with lead designer Elizabeth Tucker to produce the exhibit. Despite obstacles, they were able to find a remarkable array of photos and source material. Three exhibit panels reveal this hidden history and provide an unusual look into the fears and silence of LGBTQ people, during WWII and after.

The exhibit provides fascinating detail about the underground life of San Francisco and the Bay Area in the 1930s and 1940s, along with photos and drawings illustrating nightlife life at venues like Mona’s 440 and the Black Cat Cafe. It also includes details about the lives of women and men who served their country in armed service, and those who left home to travel across the U.S., both to support the war effort and to find a more tolerant social world. Special thanks to those who contributed to this exhibit, including UC Berkeley’s Bancroft Library and Therese Ambrosi Smith.

Jeffrey Dickmann Farm Cadet Victory Corps badge. Collection of RONP/NPS
We Can Do It…Today!

Generations.

In 1916 to preserve America’s natural, OUR PUBLIC AGENCY PARTNER…

Some of the most profound social changes in our history. Rosie the Riveter Memorial

1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

1014 Florida Ave, Richmond, CA 94804

Maritime Child Development Center

RORI National Park Visitor Education Center

Printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper.

Rosie Forever photo from Rosie Rally 2016 courtesy of Jack Soares.

Rachel Torrey, Philip B. Young, Lynne Horiuchi, Secretary

Warren R. Harber, Treasurer

Mark Cameron

Diane M. Hedler, President.

510-232-5050

2000 as the flagship Park to tell the

to honor the women and men of all

dedicated to building a community

Wartime was deadly serious for

grown-ups, but for kids, it was a
time for adventure. Let’s explore how

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Rosie the Riveter Trust

P.O. Box 71128

Richmond, CA 94804-1127

Address Service Requested

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

march/april 2017

We are needed, the war

No such benefits came from most

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Home Front Festival – again trying to break the world

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SUMMARIZING THE WARS

Wartime! A riveting tale of the war

and this was evident daily at the

dinner table. Listen to stories about the

Federal Government’s vacation program

and how it affected families on the Home Front.

THURSDAYS

“Of Lost Conversations” (First Come – First Served Seating)

3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 @ 11:00 AM (1 Hour)

On Sunday, March 5th, a film crew from the documentary, Blossoms and Thorns, asked Richmond residents to share stories of their wartime experiences.

A short tour of the Maritime Child

Development Center is included.

A docent from the Japanese American

Park Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

Rosie and the Riveter Trust

supporting the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park • spring 2017

Times of Unity/Times of Division

Continued from Inside page

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