



Rosie the Riveter Trust Annual Dinner 2016 at the Galileo Club
photos : Lisa Foote

Special thanks to our 2016 Annual Dinner Donors

Our 2016 Annual Benefit Dinner, *Discover Rosie Everywhere*, was a huge success thanks to supporters like you!
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Alicia Weeks. *In memory of Ninfa R. Calderon.*
Chyna E Wright Bernarding. *In honor of Ed Boggs.*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In celebrating the National Park Service Centennial this year, we are honoring the human spirit that built a U.S. national park system that is a global and national treasure. Such spirit was on display throughout the Trust's Annual Dinner event on April 9th, *Discover Rosie Everywhere*.

More than 200 people joined the celebration and supported the Trust's work to expand public education programs for our own "We Can Do It!" national park. Betty Reid Soskin, now 94, who was born not long after the National Park Service was founded, gave an elegant keynote speech, underscoring American struggles that continue to move us toward a greater inclusiveness,



JOIN THE ROSIE THE RIVETER LEGACY CIRCLE

"Inspiring the next generation and preserving the fast-disappearing stories of the dedicated women and men who worked on the Home Front is a big task. As a board member for Rosie the Riveter Trust, I've worked to ensure we can accomplish this. I am proud to have included the Trust in my Estate Plan and I hope others will join me as a member of the Rosie the Riveter/Home Front Legacy Circle." —Diane Hedler

For more information on becoming a member of the Rosie the Riveter/Home Front Legacy Circle, contact Marsha Mather-Thrift, Executive Director at mmather@rosietheriveter.org or by phone at 510-507-2276.

How Rosie Survived the Peacetime Layoff

As much as the American industrial needs of World War II ushered in revolutionary changes for women's employment prospects, with millions of women filling previously male jobs, the end of war threatened to send those same millions back to the kitchen and the nursery. A 1943 New York Times article asked, "16,000,000 Women: What Will Happen After?" A Women's Home Companion article in the same year answered: "Give Back the Jobs!" The men were coming home from overseas, and everyone agreed they had first claim on the dwindling industrial employment line.

Well, not everyone agreed. With the end of the war, opinion surveys showed that as many as two-thirds of wartime women workers wanted to keep working, and not as waitresses, domestics, or unmarried school teachers (the work was denied to married women). As early as 1943, Susan B. Anthony II (a great-niece of the 19th century civil rights champion) asked, "What assurance have the women of America that maximum exertion of their energies now will give them not only a place in the war today, but a place in the world tomorrow?" Nonetheless, within nine months of VE Day, four million women workers lost their jobs as the female workforce declined from 36 percent of all workers to just 28 percent.

Kay Morrison, who worked in the wartime Kaiser shipyards as a welder (and continues working there today as a docent Rosie at the Park's Visitor Center), recalls wanting "to keep



and toward honoring the rights of all as part of our democratic pledge to protect the public trust.

Fittingly, the evening's program included previews from a film-in-progress that will eventually provide historical perspective for park visitors from all over the world. Among other clips was the historic moment when Betty, now a celebrated African-American national park ranger, introduced President Barack Obama, our first black President, at the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the White House in Washington, DC.

The program also included special recognition onstage for four outstanding organizations whose support has significantly expanded public education and youth programs at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park – Kaiser Permanente, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, Chevron Richmond and Wells Fargo.

Throughout the evening, the crowd celebrated the history of parks and the history of Rosie, enjoying the historic Galileo Club's 1940's ambience, a huge silent auction, special cocktails, and a chance to don a bandana for Rosie "selfies." The dinner raised \$102,000 for park education programs and more than \$2000 to help bring Richmond fourth graders to learn about the legacy and importance of national parks!

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

working as a welder after the war because I really loved welding, but the jobs were primarily for veterans, which was only fair." After the war, an employment office offered her work as a waitress. "I said, no, I'm a journeyman welder. Why would I want to work as a waitress?"

Like many laid-off Rosies, Morrison went home and raised two children for the next 10 years before getting a job as an entry-level bookkeeper at a bank. Over the next 30 years she held "every conceivable job in banking" before retiring as branch manager at a large Bank of America branch in Oakland.

Rosie Marian Wynn (another Rosie docent at the Visitor Center) was able to parlay her pipe welding skills into a post-war career at various assembly-type jobs over the subsequent decades, including soldering parts for the Minuteman missile system and the Blackhawk helicopter.

Their experience, and that of millions of other women, was symptomatic of the changes taking place in the post-war economy, which was transforming from a manufacturing base to a service base, with explosive growth in jobs then considered suitable for women: bookkeeping, bank telling, office work, retail, and education. For example, more than 20,000 women joined the ranks of the Tupperware sales force by 1950, by which time the national employment participation rate of married women aged 35 to 44 virtually doubled from the 1940 rate.

As historian Doris Weatherford states in *American Women and World War II*, "Rosie the Riveter did not vanish with victory; she simply transformed herself into Wendy the White-Collar Worker."

Proud students from Peres Elementary show off their new National Park passes at the March 23rd launch of Every Kid in a Park – Richmond. This exciting new program will fund field trips for 1,200 Richmond fourth-graders to the Rosie the Riveter National Park this year. With your support, we can help the next generation of park advocates learn more about history, the planet, and facing big challenges.
photo: California Outdoor Engagement Coalition

calendar

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park may/june 2016

Mondays

Women, Get a War Job!

5/23 at 2:00 PM (45 minutes)
Learn about the WWII media campaign that called women to "do their part." Which women were addressed? Which women answered?

D-Day on the Home Front

6/6 at 2:00 PM (1 hour)
On the 72nd anniversary of D-Day, we'll explore through news broadcasts, film clips, and newspaper headlines what happened at home as our military forces invaded Normandy on that fateful June 6, 1944.

The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath

6/20 at 1:00 PM (45 minutes)
What kinds of questions were sailors and civilians asking after ten million pounds of explosives blew up in Concord in 1944?

Tuesdays

"Of Lost Conversations": Ranger Talk by Betty Soskin with First-Come, First-Served Seating*

5/17, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28 at 2 PM (1 hour)
Ranger Betty Soskin her experience as a young African American woman

during WWII. *Limited Seating for this popular program— Starting 1 hour prior to program seat numbers are issued at the front desk. Those without a number cannot be admitted due to fire code regulations.

Help Us Design the New Wellness Trail!

6/7 at 2 PM (1 hour)
Join National Park Service Urban Fellow Kieron Slaughter for a presentation about the new Richmond Wellness Trail which will connect downtown Richmond with the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center on the SF Bay. Your input is needed to create a safe, inviting bicycle and pedestrian trail.

Wednesdays

Richmond Bus Tour with a Park Ranger (RESERVATION ONLY)

6/15 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM (2 hours)
Hop aboard with a Park Ranger for an overview of the park sites located throughout the City of Richmond. A short tour of the Maritime Childcare Development Center is included. Space is limited, reservations are required: call 510-232-5050 x0 for start time and location.

More than War Ships: Kaiser's Legacies in Healthcare, Childcare, Housing, and Environment

5/25, 6/29 at 2 PM (1 hour)
Kaiser Permanente historian Lincoln Cushing will discuss Henry J. Kaiser's innovative support systems for his shipyard workers, including child care centers, housing, transportation, and health care.

Warbling through the War Years

6/22 at 2 PM (45 minutes)
World War II produced popular music from jitterbug to broken hearts, which we'll see and hear through samples from radio, records, and the movies.

Thursdays

"Of Lost Conversations": Ranger Talk by Betty Soskin (First Come - First Served Seating*)

6/16, 6/23, 6/30 at 11:00 AM (1 hour)
Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during WWII. *Limited Seating for this popular program— Starting 1 hour prior to program seat numbers are issued at the front desk. Those without a number cannot be admitted due to fire code regulations.

Blossoms and Thorns

5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30 at 2:00 PM (45 minutes)
A docent from the Japanese American Citizens' League screens the documentary film "Blossoms and Thorns" and shares from their experiences in a WWII internment camp.

Fridays

Rosie Meet and Greet!

5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM; 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Most Fridays, a group of civilian WWII docents share their stories in an informal setting at the Visitor Center. Here is your chance ask the experts- real Rosies from the Kaiser shipyards- about life and work on the WWII American Home Front!

Rationing on the Home Front

5/27 at 12:30 PM (45 minutes)
During WWII, Americans were asked to sacrifice in support of the troops, and this was evident daily at the dinner table. Learn about rationing and share a sweet treat invented by wartime cooks.

Saturdays

"Of Lost Conversations": Ranger Talk by Betty Soskin (First Come - First Served Seating*)

5/21, 6/18, 6/25 at 2:00 PM (1 hour)
Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American

woman during WWII. *Limited Seating for this popular program— Starting 1 hour prior to program seat numbers are issued at the front desk. Those without a number cannot be admitted due to fire code regulations.

Henry Kaiser: "Build 'Em By the Mile and Cut 'Em Off by the Yard"

5/28, 6/25 at 3:30 PM (45 minutes)
Join author Steve Gilford for a 45 minute presentation about the extraordinary life of ship builder Henry J. Kaiser, an industrialist who was a loyal friend to (organized) labor.

Sara's Song: Taking the bridge between War and Opportunity

6/18 at 11:00 AM (1 ½ hours)
Tina Williams, author and Human Resources Executive in the high tech industry will discuss her new fictional book, "Sara's Song". The story was inspired by her mother's journey of moving with a young family from Chicago to take a job as a welder in the Richmond Shipyards, and the opportunities this opened up for her. Williams highlights the story of Sara's journey with songs inspired by the struggles and joys of her new life. Space is limited and reservations are required for this film and discussion. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 to reserve your seat today.

Sundays

The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath

6/5 at 2:00 PM (45 minutes)
What kinds of questions were sailors and civilians asking after 1 million pounds of explosives blew up in Concord in 1944?

Junior Ranger Fun!

5/15, 6/12 at 2:00 PM (30 minutes)
Kids of all ages, we want your opinion! Help a ranger test brand-new junior ranger ideas and activities, and earn a junior ranger badge.

Bay Trail Walk

5/29 at 2:00 PM (1 hour)
Take a one-hour leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home front history with a park ranger.



We are proud to announce that our *Richmond Rosie's Girls Summer Camp Program* received an *Outstanding Public Engagement Award* from the Public Lands Alliance this spring! Learn more about Rosie's Girls at rosietheriveter.org/our-work/youth-programs/!

We Can Do It...Today!

**ROSIE
THE
RIVETER
TRUST**



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To sign up for our e-news, email info@rosietheriveter.org or go to our website at www.rosietheriveter.org. For more information, call 510-507-2276
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National Park Visitor Center

Hours are EVERY DAY, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
(Closed Thanksgiving, December 25th, & New Years Day)
1414 Harbour Way South, Ste. 3000 (Oil House)
Richmond CA 94804 • 510-232-5050

Maritime Child Development Center

1014 Florida Ave, Richmond, CA 94804

Craneway Pavilion

1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

Rosie the Riveter Trust
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THE RIVETER

News from Rosie the Riveter Trust supporting the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park • Summer 2016

FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



Our centennial activities and celebrations are well underway and we are excited to be working so closely with our partners in helping to highlight the National Park Service during this special year. In March we launched our Every Kid in a Park program, bringing all fourth graders in Richmond to the visitor center and waterfront to learn about and enjoy the amazing history and opportunities in their own backyard. The day after, in collaboration with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, we swore in 50 new citizens from 21 countries – connecting those citizens to the amazing legacy of the National Park system in a very tangible way. April was a chance for the Trust to highlight the park at the annual

fundraising dinner with Betty Reid Soskin, our 94-year-old park ranger, there to inspire us all. In May the National Park Service will be the lead sponsor for the Bay Area Open Space Conference at the Craneway Pavilion, another chance for a centennial highlight of our work in National Park sites around the Bay Area. Plans are well underway for another Rosie Rally in August to demonstrate the "We Can Do It!" attitude that put Richmond on the map – and take the world record back from the folks at Willow Run. This friendly competition is helping to raise awareness about the efforts of the Rosies and the contributions of home front workers across the county. We hope you can join us on August 13 (dressed in your polka dot bandana, blue slacks and shirt, red socks and boots) to help us celebrate the centennial and show everyone We Can Do It, again!!

—Tom Leatherman

ROSIE SPOTLIGHT: MARIAN WYNN



When Marian's Wynn's father left the family's Minnesota home for the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond in 1942, 16-year-old Marian begged to go with him. One of 11 children living in a one-room house, where she slept on the floor and worked summers tending cows, she dreamed of a better life. When her father insisted she stay and finish school, she counted the days and saved up her meager earnings until she graduated the following

year. Then, after a summer job to earn bus fare, she boarded a Greyhound bus and headed for Richmond. Hired as pipe welder in Shipyard #3, she earned what then seemed like a whopping \$1 an hour, plus overtime pay on weekends.

Housing for shipyard workers was so scarce, Marian had to share a small trailer with her father, who refused to allow her to date the mostly older fellow shipyard workers. Undeterred, she struck up a friendship with a sailor at the nearby Treasure

Island Naval Base, the son of the owner of the trailer park, and they were soon married – a union that lasted for 60 years, until his death in 2005.

Marian stayed on at the shipyard until July 1945, when widespread layoffs threatened her job. For the next four decades, she parlayed her shipyard work experience into numerous jobs in cannery operations and assembly work in the East Bay. Having retired in 1984, Marian now is a regular docent at the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center.