In Their Honor

Verna Teeters Rapp, 1921-2009
Patricia Thompson. Walter Smith.
In honor of Seville M. Smith.
For Patricia Mary Gates.
Pauline M. Sloan.
David J & Debbie Jo Shapiro.

Langley, my parents, who were steel mill workers.
In honor of Rich and Anne
In honor of “Rosie” Mary Blair
Cindy Mewhorter.
Therapy Class of 1970

“Rosie” Jeannette Lycan
In honor of my mother,
Viola Confer Kirlich
In honor of Olive
In memory of Clara O. Law
Toby Kerch.
grandmother Ella C. Myers
Patsy M. Kennedy.
In honor of my
Arnold Hubick.
In honor of Gloria Braun Hubick
‘Rosie’ Ruth Helena Mazzie Sharappa
(Cattaneo) Manty  - Aunt Jeana
In honor of Theresa Jean
“Rosie” Clarine Riordan Jonson.
Teresa Funke and Company.
In honor of
Myra Silverman.
In honor of my mom,

Special Thanks!
Thank you to our generous Rosie’s Girls sponsors for another great year.
• Anonymous Fund of the East Bay Community Foundation
• Chevron
• City of Richmond
• Donors to The George Miller Outdoor Fund for Rosie’s Girls
• Kaiser Permanente East Bay
• Mechanics Bank
• NatureBridge
• Pacific Gas And Electric Company
• Wells Fargo
• West Contra Costa County Unified School District

Rosie’s Riverfest 2015
R
oosite the Riveter/WWII National Historical Park embodies the spirit of people coming together to achieve great visions. In that same spirit, many people from different backgrounds came together 15 years ago to establish the park (October 24th 2000). Then others, seeing the vision of what this park could become, began to join in supporting us to build toward creation of the public treasure our park is today.

We are delighted to thank you, our supporters, by offering an exclusive “first in line” opportunity for you to purchase tickets for a Director’s screening of The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter, including a Q & A with talented director, Connie Field. The event will be held at the charming historic Rialto Theater in El Cerrito on October 20th. You can purchase tickets on our website at www.rosietheriveter.org or via emails we will be sending. You can also call our office at 510-507-2276.

But don’t wait! Members and supporters have an opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public, and at a special discounted member price. To be assured of a seat, you must respond by September 20. We hope to see you all there!

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

Richmond’s Historic Maritime Child Care Center
W
ith the new school year beginning, the daughter of Richmond youngsters fills the classrooms and playground of the schoolhouse on Florida Street—just as when the building was constructed 72 years ago to care for children of the thousands of working women at the nearby Kaiser Shipyards. Then called the Maritime Child Development Center, the original school and more than 30 other wartime child care centers were established by industrialist Henry Kaiser with federal grants available to WWII boom towns, like Richmond, which had suddenly grown from a population of 23,000 to over 100,000.

The Maritime Center featured a highly progressive curriculum for its young students, including art, music, and outdoor play. It offered nutritious meals, comfy beds for naptime, childcare, and plenty of individual attention (including daily doses of castor oil) for its 180 daily students. Like many preschools in Richmond, it outlasted the war and operated until 2004, when the building was described in an official assessment as “threatened and endangered, vacant and abandoned, with water damage, not seismically safe, with mold, asbestos, and lead-based paint to remove, and not compliant” with federal school standards.

For seven years, the building sank into further disrepair, emblematic of the deteriorating post-war neighborhoods. Then, serendipity struck. Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park planners envisioned the restoration of the building as part of the multi-site park, even as civic leaders such as then-City Council member Tom Butt, with other leaders of the nonprofit Rosie the Riveter Trust and supported by a variety of partners, including the Northern California Community Loan Fund, the Richmond Community Foundation and an NPS award. The building, owned and operated on behalf of the National Park by the Trust, houses offices for the Richmond Community Foundation and an NPS historical exhibit featuring original children’s art work and furnishings (open on a scheduled tour). Best of all, the classrooms and playground are once again humming with children’s voices. Children from mostly low income families again enjoy educational excellence at Richmond College Prep School, dedicated to “closing the achievement gap.” The neighborhood shows other signs of cultural and economic turnaround, too – solid proof that the can-do spirit of the wartime Rosies is alive and well in Richmond.

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Rolie from Rosie the Riveter Trust supporting the Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park

FALL 2015
In Their Honor

Mitchell I. Bonner. In honor of “Rosie” Edith B. Bonner
Byron and Jan Brown. In honor of Don and Betty Hardison and their Richmond Shipyard 3 years.
Ann Mare Cannavino. In honor of my mother, Antonette (Boue) Cardino, who was a Rosie in Terry Town, New York, General Motors Plant
Dori Coleman & Mariliane Jorgenson. In honor of my mother, age 94, Dolores Durando
Victoria K. Croston. In honor of my mom, “Rosie” Rose Will Monroe
Doris Duzyl. In honor of Olga Nachowschat
Alex and Paula Eugenides. In celebration of Jerry Steele’s 50th birthday.
Teresa Funke and Company. In honor of “Rosie” Charlette Rooraid Jenson
Olivia Giantz. In honor of Theresa Jean (Cattaneo) Marty - Aunt Jean
Lucille Griswold. In honor of my mother, Rosie Ruth Helena Mazze Sharappa
Arnold Hubick. In honor of Gloria Braun Hubick
Margaret E. Kaatz. In honor of Ruth Eppard, a Rosie in Toledo, OH.
Patsy M. Kennedy. In honor of my grandmother Ella C. Myers
Tory Kerch. In memory of Clara O. Law
Nancy Kirich. In honor of my mother Olive Viola Center Kirich
Penny S. Lynch-Grey. In honor of my mother, “Rosie” Carol Lee Hennessey
Ms. Patricia McCaa. In honor of the US Army Medical Field Service School Physical Therapy Class of 1970
Cindy Mewhorter. In honor of “Rosie” Mary Blair
Margaret A. Raddille. In honor of Rich and Anne Leitig, my parents, who were steel mill workers.
David J & Debbie Jo Shapiro. In memory of Orena Kathleen (Johnson) Shapiro
Pauline M. Sloan. For Patricia Mary Gates.
William Smith. In honor of Seville M. Smith.
Patricia Thompson. In honor of my mom, Verna Teethers Rapp, 1921-2008
Patricia Wong. In honor of Rena Pearl Chung.

Rosie’s Girls Rise to the Occasion

Pride radiated from 28 young faces as Rosie’s Girls’ 2015 graduates accepted their program certificates and “We Can Do It” gifts. These local girls soared to new personal heights while exploring welding, carpentry, and other trades and careers considered non-traditional for girls. Families admired camp projects, from metal ornaments to handicrafted wooden chairs. Campers danced, performed the “Rosie’s Girls Song” with heartfelt original verses, and spoke about how camp helped them move past “peer pressure” as they described “feel pretty” and “discover the true definition of [inner] beauty.” Throughout the summer, campers took inspiration from the stories of the Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter, including a Q & A with a talented director, Connie Field. The event will be held at the charming historic Rialto Theater in El Cerrito on October 20th. You can purchase tickets on our website at www.rosietheriveter.org or via email we will be sending. You can also call our office at 510-507-2276. But don’t wait! Members and supporters have an opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public, and at a special discounted member price. To be assured of a seat, you must respond by September 20. We hope to see you all there!

—Marsha Mather-Thrift
We have been in transition this summer with some temporary staffing changes. Tom Leatherman has been detailed to the Pacific West Regional Office as acting Deputy Regional Director while Martha Lee takes time off to spend with her new granddaughter. I have filled in behind Tom as acting General Superintendent of the four national parks in Contra Costa County, and Ralph Bell, our Facility Manager, is filling in as acting Deputy Superintendent. Kelli English, Chief of Interpretation and Education, has been on maternity leave but will be coming back full time August 24th. Paul Scolari, Chief of Resource Management, is on a detail to the Washington Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. Isabel Ziegler, Supervisory Museum Curator, has stepped up to guide the RM division while Paul goes on vacation. Susan has moved into new responsibilities at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park across the Bay, and Amanita Cornejo stepped up to help with the Rosie’s Girls program this summer. Elizabeth Tucker continues at the helm as the Lead Park Ranger at the park, with Raphael, Matt, Amanita, Armand, Jess, Craig, Jay, Betty, the Roses and a dedicated group of volunteers keeping the Visitor Center and outreach programs going. We’re looking at getting back to “normal,” staffing-wise, by the end of the year.

By the time you read this, we will have set a new Guinness world record for the greatest gathering of people dressed up as Rosies in one place since World War II. This was a team effort of National Park Service staff, Rosie the Riveter Trust, the City of Richmond, and the Richmond Congregation and Visitors Bureau. Regardless of the outcome, this event truly shows the “We Can Do It” spirit and true partnership that exists in this park.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the park this fall as we gear up for our year-long celebration of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

—Susan Fritzke