



Rosie the Riveter Trust Annual Dinner 2015 at the Galileo Club

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## SUMMER 2015 IN THEIR HONOR ★ ★ ★

**Sharon Alvarez.** Happy birthday to Mildred Vollmer.

**Mary Breunig.** In honor of "Rosie" Patricia Wilson.

**Louise Crooks.** In memory of Gene Trepagnier.

**Sue Doro.** In honor of Verona Guinn, laborer at the Milwaukee Road Railroad during WWII.

**Lisa Halperin.** In memory of my parents who both served in WWII.

**Mary Harper.** In honor of James R. Moore.

**Joy Hildebrandt.** In honor of the Sunset Dance and Auxiliary Cadet leaders.

**Timothy Luca.** In memory of Angelina Luca.

**Linda Needham.** To my mother Leona Frombach Bishop & grandmother Esther Belzer Frombach.

**Connie Stanley.** In honor of "Rosie" Elizabeth Stanley.

**Kevin Thompson.** In honor of my mom, Glee (Holbrook) Thompson, a welder in these shipyards in WWII.

**Irene Tsoanakis.** In honor of the Rosie in all of us.

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Think cozy vintage bar stools, unforgettable forties songs, exciting prizes, and people enjoying a festive relaxing evening, and you might be thinking of this year's sold-out Trust Annual Dinner, "You've Come a Long Way, Rosie!" which took place on April 11th.

The evening was a tremendous success with more than 200 people, many wearing inspired vintage hats and garb, joining us at the historic Galileo Club. In addition to marvelous decorations, dinner guests enjoyed signature forties cocktails and a huge silent auction, as well as the opportunity to meet and talk with eight former Rosies and Home-Front workers (one of them profiled in this issue), and two wonderful

young women who have attended the Rosie's Girls Summer Camp. The evening's program highlighted 15 years of park milestones and honored retiring Congressman George Miller, who was truly a father for this park, with a special Rosie's Girls Outdoor Challenge Fund named in his honor. Appropriately, Richmond's Mayor Tom Butt, who was also a founding father of the park, introduced Diane Hedler, Board President, who made the presentation.

Thanks to our incredible supporters and sponsors, this year's dinner raised more than \$100,000 to support park programs, and more than \$1,200 for the new Outdoor Challenge Fund. You truly HAVE come a long way, Rosie!

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

## Richmond to Pilot New Urban Strategy for NPS's Second Century

The City of Richmond, host city to the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, has been selected by the National Park Service as one of 10 communities in the nation to serve as a pilot for an exciting new NPS strategic initiative known as the Urban Agenda. The initiative represents a transformative departure for the park service, aimed at making its vast resources more relevant, inclusive, and collaborative for the increasingly diverse populations of urban America in the 21st century.

"This is a major development" for the NPS, says Tom Leatherman, Superintendent at the East Bay's four national historic sites. "The central goal of the strategy is to connect and engage with what will be the next generation of stewards and advocates for our parks and to ensure that they represent the full range of cultural perspectives and interests of our urban populations."

When the park service was founded in 1916, the country was about 50 percent urban, compared to more than 80 percent today. Furthermore, the population was close to 90 percent non-Hispanic white in those days, whereas today nonwhite minorities constitute majorities in California and at least three other states. Yet despite the park service's outreach efforts to underserved urban populations and the expansion of the park system into 40 of the 50 most populated metropolitan areas, a disproportionate number of National Park visitors are still non-Hispanic whites. What's more, the NPS workforce itself remains disproportionately white.

In other words, the cultural complexion of America has undergone rapid and dramatic change, and the NPS, despite many efforts, has struggled to keep pace.

The Urban Agenda, developed over the past several years in a "deep dive" series of meetings and consultations involving hundreds of park advocates and community organizations, addresses this disconnect directly, starting with the urban Model Area pilot programs. The strategy involves three bedrock principles:

- Relevancy to all Americans, including promotion of greater diversity and cultural competency in the NPS workforce, engagement of the millennial generation in determining the future of the park system, and connecting to the historically underserved populations through new and existing partnerships and programs in the urban NPS sites, such as the Rosie the Riveter NHP.

- One NPS, meaning a coherent, unified strategy across all of the NPS's more than 400 parks and programs to demonstrate how a coherent system can operate in an urban landscape.

- Creating a culture of collaboration among all NPS divisions, sites, programs, and partners to promote shared priorities and resources as the foundation for the "One NPS" objective.

To implement this bold transformation, Superintendent Leatherman will be joined by a newly appointed Urban Fellow for the Richmond Model Area, Kieron Slaughter, currently a city planner with the City of Richmond. In this new two-year assignment, Slaughter will reach out to parts of the under-represented community and facilitate a series of community and partnership meetings and workshops over the next six months. The goal, says Leatherman, will be "to figure out our common priorities and strategies for accomplishing them – basically, a more strategic approach to identify programs that benefit multiple partners."



### Secretary of the Interior honors Rosie with a Visit.

Pictured from Left: John Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service, Tom Leatherman, Superintendent, Trust board members Cathy Durfee and Lynne Horiuchi, Secretary Sally Jewell, board President Diane Hedler, Executive Director Marsha Mather-Thrift, Trust board member Mark Cameron, newly-appointed GGNRA Superintendent Chris Lehnertz

# ROSIE THE RIVETER

## Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park summer • may/june 2015

**RUN FOR ROSIE** on Sunday, June 21! You won't want to miss *The Riveter*, a unique 5K and Half Marathon along the beautiful Marina Bay in Richmond. Last year's race was a smash success- so join us for *The Riveter's* second anniversary! See details at [www.rosietheriveter.org/news-events/events](http://www.rosietheriveter.org/news-events/events), or call 510-507-2276.

### SUNDAYS

#### Women, Get a War Job!

5/10, 5/31, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28 at 2 PM (45 min) Learn about the WWII media campaign that called women to "do their part." Which women were addressed? Which women answered?

#### Port Chicago Disaster & Aftermath

5/10, 5/31, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28 at 3 PM (45 min) What kinds of questions were sailors and civilians asking after one million pounds of explosives blew up in Concord in 1944?

### TUESDAYS

#### "Of Lost Conversations"

5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30 at 2 PM (45 min) Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African-American woman during WWII.

#### "Women on the Home Front... And Beyond" Film Series: The Josephine Baker Story (1991)

5/12 at 7 PM Ingénue and expatriate Josephine Baker stays in France during

WWII and helps Jews escape the Nazis. This film is rated R; no one under 17 will be admitted without a parent. Film will be shown aboard the historic SS Red Oak Victory. Boarding begins at 6:30 PM. For info and directions to the ship, please call 510-237-2933.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Richmond Bus Tour with Ranger Betty Soskin (RESERVATION ONLY) (2.5 hrs)

6/3 Board the bus with Ranger Betty Soskin to visit key park sites while reflecting on African-American home-front experiences. Space is limited, reservations are required: call 510-232-5050 x0 for start time and location.

#### Richmond Bus Tour with Ranger Armand Johnson (RESERVATION ONLY) (2.5 hrs)

6/17 Hop aboard with Ranger Armand Johnson for an overview of the park sites located throughout the City of Richmond. Space is limited, reservations are required: call 510-232-5050 x0 for start time and location.

### Bay Trail Walk

6/17 at 11 AM (1 hr) Take a one-hour leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home-front history with a park ranger.

### THURSDAY

#### "Of Lost Conversations"

5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25 at 11 AM (45 min) See TUESDAY description.

#### Blossoms and Thorns

5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25 at 2 PM (1 hr) A docent from the Japanese-American Citizens' League screens the documentary Blossoms and Thorns, about Richmond's pre- and post-war community of flower growers and nursery owners, and shares their experiences from a WWII internment camp.

#### 7th Annual Home Front Film Festival

6/11 and 6/25 at 7 PM On June 11th, James Cagney stars in the 1940 film, *The Fighting 69th*. Invisible Agent is the 1942 Peter Lorre film showing

on June 25th. All films will be shown aboard the historic SS Red Oak Victory. Boarding begins at 6:30 PM. For info and directions to the ship, please call 510-237-2933.

### FRIDAY

#### Rosie Meet and Greet

5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26 from 10 AM to 12 PM; 1 PM to 2 PM Most Fridays, a group of civilian WWII docents share their stories in an informal setting at the Visitor Center. Here is your chance to ask the experts about life and work in the Richmond Shipyards.

#### Rationing on the Home Front

5/15 at 12:30 PM (45 min) During WWII, Americans were asked to sacrifice in support of the troops, and this was evident daily at the dinner table. Learn about food rationing and share a sweet treat invented by wartime bakers.

#### Rails through Richmond

5/22, 5/29 at 2 PM (45 min) Railroads opened the West, including the City of

Richmond, western terminus of the Santa Fe. Join a ranger to explore the railroad's impact on WWII, and vice versa.

#### Warbling through the War Years

5/29 at 10 AM (45 min) 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.

### SATURDAY

#### Bay Trail Walk

5/16, 5/30 at 11AM (1 hr) See WEDNESDAY description.

#### "Of Lost Conversations"

5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27 at 2 PM (45 min). See TUESDAY description.

#### Chinese-American Women on the Home Front During WWII: By Judy Yung

Saturday 5/16, 3 PM (1.5 hrs) Moved by both Chinese nationalism and American patriotism, Chinese-American women during WWII responded with an outpouring of activities in defense work,

fund-raising, and Red Cross work on the home front. While some enlisted in the armed services, many others went to work outside Chinatown for the first time. These women had unprecedented opportunities to improve their socioeconomic status, broaden their public role, and fall in step with Chinese men and fellow Americans during a time of national crisis. Space is limited and reservations are required for this slideshow and discussion, presented by professor emerita Judy Yung from UC Santa Cruz. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 to reserve your seat today.

#### Henry J. Kaiser: "Build Em' by the Mile and Cut Em' off by the Yard"

5/23, 6/27 at 3 PM (45 min) 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.

#### Junior Ranger Fun!

5/30 at 3 PM (1 hr) Play some games based on the history of the WWII home front and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

## We Can Do It... Today!

**ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST**



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Annual Dinner photos courtesy of Ellen Gailing Photography; Marian Sousa photo as young girl courtesy of Marian Sousa; detail photo from 2014 by Jane Tyska of Bay Area News Group; All other photos by NPS. Newsletter Design by Spokewise. Printing by Autumn Press. Printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper.

### 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  
P.O. Box 71126  
Richmond, CA 94807-1126

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# THE RIVETER

News from Rosie the Riveter Trust supporting the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park • Summer 2015



*Rosie the Riveter Trust is the nonprofit membership organization dedicated to building a community to preserve Park historic sites and to honor the women and men of all backgrounds who labored on the Home Front, inspiring some of the most profound social changes in our history.*

510-507-2276 [www.rosietheriveter.org](http://www.rosietheriveter.org)

### OUR PUBLIC AGENCY PARTNER...

The National Park Service was created in 1916 to preserve America's natural, cultural and scenic treasures and to provide for their enjoyment by future generations.



The Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park was established in 2000 as the flagship Park to tell the World War II Home Front story.

510-232-5050 | [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori)

WWII Home Front National Historical Park



## ROSIE SPOTLIGHT: MARIAN SOUSA

Marian Sousa comes from a whole family of Rosies, including two sisters, Phyllis and Marge, and her mother, Mildred McKey, wife of a WWI vet. "It was the patriotic thing to do, and I was so glad I had a talent that was needed," she recalls.

Marian's talent was

art, which got her into a six-week course in engineering draftsmanship at U.C. Berkeley after she graduated from Richmond High School at age 17 in 1943. She was immediately hired into the Engineering Department at Kaiser Shipyard #3. Marian and a few other young women drew up revisions to the blueprints for the constant improvements being made to the shipyard's troop transports.

She fondly recalls sharing box lunches with her Rosie colleagues, "and especially the smell of that substitute butter we used, which I vividly remember to this day."

Marian served for a full year before "at eight months pregnant I could no longer step up onto the Key System buses." After her six children grew up, she worked as a school bus driver for 16 years before deciding to go to college.

She spent her first semester at Contra Costa Community College's program in London, then finished her Associate's Degree in San Pablo. Subsequent travels have taken her all over the world, but her best memories, she insists, are those of her days as a Rosie, which she continues to enjoy as a Friday volunteer Rosie at the Visitor Center, right back where she served 72 years ago.

## FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



The launch of the National Park Service Urban Agenda is the beginning of a brand new chapter in the way we engage and support communities across the country. As you all know, many of these principles are part of what we have been doing here for the last 15 years, so it is great that we can share and learn from others doing the same things, with similar challenges and opportunities. Every two years, the City Parks Alliance hosts a conference to bring urban park leaders together from around the world. This year the conference was titled

Greater and Greener, and it took place in San Francisco. The National Park Service used this forum of national and international park leaders to launch the NPS Urban Agenda and to bring the 10 urban fellows together to meet and strategize on how the NPS, and the communities we serve, can work together on shared values. Kieron Slaughter, the urban fellow in our City of Richmond, will help us to explore the possibilities and connect with all of the urban leaders around the county. I know that the Rosie Trust and all of its members will be involved as we chart a shared vision for the future. To learn more about the agenda please go to [www.nps.gov/urban](http://www.nps.gov/urban).

—Tom Leatherman