Rosies Forever: 2017 Annual Benefit Dinner

Good food, fine wine, wonderful people, spectacular bay views from way up in the Richmond hills, uniquely entertaining entertainment, short speeches about big accomplishments. And did we mention the wonderful people?

That sums up the 10th Annual Benefit Dinner for the Rosie the Riveter Trust on April 8th, held at the grand Miraflo Country Club (which, according to Kaiser historian Lincoln Cushing almost became a temporary shiplay workers' hospital back in 1942).

As usual, the no-host bar was doing a booming business as guests crowded up to the bar, then drifted off to bid on a vast and enticing assortment of culinary, gustatory, and artistic products and services at the silent auction next door. Representatives from Napa’s Trefethen Winery, which provided the evenings’ fine wines, poured free tastings for those who weren’t too busy shooting “We Can Do It” selfies with World War II Rosie, and chatting with NPS staffers.

As dinner was served, the Trust’s president, Diane Hedler, welcomed the full house of some 225 guests and staff, reeling off an impressive list of the Trust’s accomplishments. Other speakers included Park Superintendent, Tom Leatherman; Alize Martinez, a graduate of the Rosie’s Girls Summer Camp; and Marsha Mather-Thrift, Executive Director of the Trust, who underscored the ongoing need for financial and other forms of support for the Trust’s “massive undertaking” for Every Kid In A Park (EKIP) and other programs.

By the time the custard and cake made its appearance, the sun had sunk far below the Golden Gate on a memorable evening that commemorated another year of the hard work, and the spirit of the many people who keep the Rosie’s Can-Do promise alive.

2017 Benefit Dinner attendees include (left to right): Marian Wynn, Santana; Diane Hedler, Park Superintendent; Tom Leatherman, Mimi Gatts, Rosie Martinez, Michael Baldini, Mayor Tom Butt, and Shirley Butt.

2015, aims to make our 400 national parks accessible to all fourth graders and their families every year, thereby seeding a next generation of National Park users, supporters and advocates. Each school year the program provides (via a website) all fourth graders with a free pass for themselves and their entire family on all national parks. To overcome accessibility issues, the Rosie the Riveter Trust is working with the West Contra Costa School District and providing funding for school bus transportation to classrooms that could not otherwise afford to visit.*

* EKIP is our best hope for introducing a whole new generation to the treasures of our national parks,” says Tucker. “It’s getting our kids out from the classroom, away from the computer and TV screens, into the great outdoors and exposing them to the living history of their own communities. We have local kids come here on visits who have never even seen the bay they live on.”

And did we mention the wonderful people?

Amanda Olsen, a student at Murphy’s Elementary School, also discovered to her astonishment and delight, that her own great grandmother and great aunt had been welders in these very shipyards during the war. “So she wore a mask and clothes just like those,” she told her classmates, pointing at an exhibit of welders’ protective wear.

The EKIP free pass to parks for fourth graders can be downloaded, along with other information about the program from www.everykidinapark.gov.

Special thanks to our 2017 Annual Dinner Sponsors

Women’s History Month in March holds special meaning at Rosie the Riveter, but March this year held even more meaning than usual as we celebrated National Rosie the Riveter Day. Thanks to a bipartisan, bicameral resolution introduced by Representatives Jared Huffman, Mark DeSaulnier, and Jackie Speier, and Senator Bob Casey, among many others, the Senate officially recognized March 21st as “Rosie the Riveter Day” to honor the 16 million women who worked in a wide variety of war-related jobs during World War II, ably filling the shoes of men overseas.

At our National Park, dedicated as the site for the program provides (via a website) all fourth graders with a free pass for themselves and their entire family on all national parks. To overcome accessibility issues, the Rosie the Riveter Trust is working with the West Contra Costa School District and providing funding for school bus transportation to classrooms that could not otherwise afford to visit.*

* EKIP is our best hope for introducing a whole new generation to the treasures of our national parks,” says Tucker. “It’s getting our kids out from the classroom, away from the computer and TV screens, into the great outdoors and exposing them to the living history of their own communities. We have local kids come here on visits who have never even seen the bay they live on.”

Amanda Olsen, a student at Murphy’s Elementary School, also discovered to her astonishment and delight, that her own great grandmother and great aunt had been welders in these very shipyards during the war. “So she wore a mask and clothes just like those,” she told her classmates, pointing at an exhibit of welders’ protective wear.

The EKIP free pass to parks for fourth graders can be downloaded, along with other information about the program from www.everykidinapark.gov.

Special thanks to our 2017 Annual Dinner Sponsors

ROSIES THE RIVETER - $10,000
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths Forgers and Helpers, AFL-CIO

WENDY THE WELDER - $5,000
Kaiser Permanente East Bay
Kaiser Permanente Legal Department
Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council
The Peninsula Federation of Western States Boilermakers Industry Fund

ELLIE THE ELECTRICIAN - $3,000
Electrical Industry Advancement Program - IBEW 302
Republic Services
Wells Fargo

BELLE THE BURNER - $2,000
Chevron
Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council
Holland and Knight, LLP
IBEW Local Union 332
Levin Richmond Terminal Corp
Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigration Fitters UA 393

NELLIE THE NURSE - $1,000
Ron Bachman, M.D. and Sue Bachman
Jane and Richard Banker
Carpenters, Ironworkers, and Soft Tile Workers Local 12
Alide Chase
Roosemeyer and Douglas Corbin
Donna and Edward Decker
Warren R. and Cheryl Harber
Clara M. Holter
IBEW Local Union 595
Interactive Resources
Mechano Bank
Miller Star Regalia
Sweet Metal Workers Local 104
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
Travis Credit Union
United Building Bank
Mr. Philip B. Young

Very special thanks to Trefethen Family Vineyards for their contribution of outstanding wines.

IN THEIR HONOR
for their contribution of outstanding wines.

Very special thanks to Trefethen Family Vineyards

Mr. Philip B. Young
United Business Bank
Travis Credit Union
State Building and Construction Trades Council of Sheet Metal Workers Local 104
Mechanics Bank
Interactive Resources
Diane M. Hedler
Warren R. and Cheryl Harber
Rosemary and Douglas Corbin
Carpet, Linoleum, and Soft Tile Workers Local 12
NELLIE THE NURSE - $1,000
Holland and Knight, LLP
Wells Fargo
Electrical Industry Advancement Program - IBEW 302
Republic Services
Wells Fargo

BELLE THE BURNER - $2,000
Chevron
Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council
Holland and Knight, LLP
IBEW Local Union 332
Levin Richmond Terminal Corp
Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigration Fitters UA 393

NELLIE THE NURSE - $1,000
Ron Bachman, M.D. and Sue Bachman
Jane and Richard Banker
Carpenters, Ironworkers, and Soft Tile Workers Local 12
Alide Chase
Roosemeyer and Douglas Corbin
Donna and Edward Decker
Warren R. and Cheryl Harber
Clara M. Holter
IBEW Local Union 595
Interactive Resources
Mechano Bank
Miller Star Regalia
Sweet Metal Workers Local 104
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
Travis Credit Union
United Building Bank
Mr. Philip B. Young

Very special thanks to Trefethen Family Vineyards for their contribution of outstanding wines.
We Can Do It...Today!

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park
2017

We Can Do It...Today!

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

What: Home Front Festival & Rosie Rally Aug. 12, 2017

When: Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Where: Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park - Craneway Pavilion

Attn: Dress as the iconic Rosie the Riveter!

RSVP: www.rosietheriveter.org/roserally2017 to sign up for email alerts.

Participants will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for “The Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Rosie the Riveter.” The record now stands at 3,229 Rosies.

Help us to make history (again)!

FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT

2017

Home Front Festival & Rosie Rally
August 12, 2017

Planning is well underway for the 2017 Rosie Rally and Home Front Festival in August. We will again be trying to break the world record for the most people dressed as Rosie the Riveter in one place, so we need your help to do it. Mark your calendars: For August 12, tell your friends and family, and come join the fun.

We will start with the Rally at 10:00 a.m. in the Craneway and then proceed to Lucretia Edwards Park for the Festival, where there will be live music, food and fun activities for all ages. We are working with partners around the Bay Area to provide many unique opportunities that day, including coming to the event on the Tidelines water taxi, getting discounts at Mountain Hardwear Employee store, and visiting the Red Oak Victory Ship in Historic Shipyard no. 3. Please check out our event website at www.rosietheriveter.org/roserally2017 and stay connected with the most recent information. Hope to see you all there.

—Tom Leatherman