



Rosie Rally, by Luther Bailey, NPS.

Thank you!

We are grateful for all the volunteers, exhibitors, and entertainers who helped make this year's Rosie Rally Home Front Festival a tremendous success!

The Craneway Pavilion was filled with Rosies and costumed interpreters of Home Front Themes. More than 2,100 people turned out to enjoy a day filled with festivities. All the generations took part in parading before the judges for our first-ever costume contest. The Victory Garden and the Rockford Peach costumes were huge crowd favorites as were the English sheepdog and owner dressed as Parent and Child Rosies!

In addition to touring the East Bay Parks' mobile fish tank, various nature education activities, a WWII military jeep and a 1940's bus, families enjoyed testing out virtual goggles, welding gear, and other hands-on activities, while others took WWII quizzes to win prizes, explored the Red Oak Victory ship's educational world, learned rope making from the San Francisco Maritime Museum, and more.

The big stage featured a stellar line up of entertainment choreographed by the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, including Tiffany Austin, Laurie Lewis, Son de la Tierra and Lindy Hop dance lessons to 1940's Big Band music.

Spread the word to all your friends and family and bring everyone you know to next year's Rally. We look forward to seeing all you Rosies next year!

Thank you to our Rosie's Girls Sponsors!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Recently, I was lucky enough to sit down with our Rosie docents who come to the park every week to share their war-time experiences with visitors. Our celebrated Rosies are Agnes Moore, Kay Morrison, Marian Souze, Mary Torres, and Marian Wynn. Others who have served and still come to events are Margaret Archie and Phyllis Gould. On Rally day, approximately 30 Rosies from all over also came to be honored, including Josephine Lico, a lively 103 years old, and Rosella Jackson, who still does line dancing at 97. These women have important stories of determination, hardships overcome

and the tragedy of war, but also of friendships and fun they carved out for themselves, far from home, and in the middle of round-the-clock work shifts.

One important part of our educational effort is to create stronger awareness in younger generations. These amazing women opened a window of opportunity for succeeding generations to step up to jobs they might never have held before the war. Today's women owe their skilled jobs to the brave souls who took big chances, courageously stepped up to serve the public good, and simultaneously, seized an opportunity—unparalleled in our history—to climb the ladder of independence and equality.

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

When Victory Gardens Fed the Homefront

Among the most widely shared memories of daily life on the World War II Homefront (ask any of our Rosie volunteers) was that nothing was simple about the simple act of putting healthy food on the table, day in day out.

Food, like so much else during the war, quickly became a weapon in a battle to ensure that our fighting troops and those of our allies were kept healthy and strong. More than 20 essential commodities, including everyday food products like sugar, flour and butter, were strictly rationed, and the Office of War Information flooded the nation with posters declaring “Our Food is Fighting” and other patriotic slogans urging and requiring sacrifice at the dinner table. For virtually everyone on the homefront, that meant finding ways to stay healthy using less proteins, fats, and carbohydrates—and more nutritious fruits and vegetables.

A big part of the answer was the Victory Garden, a massive campaign promoted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who planted the first-ever vegetable garden on the White House lawn. Urging Americans to “Grow Your Own, Can Your Own” in backyard and community gardens, the campaign resulted in an estimated 18 million Victory Gardens by 1943, mostly in urban areas. By the end of the war, total Victory Garden output was estimated at more than 9 million tons of produce, equal to all U.S. commercial production of fresh produce, including more than 4 billion jars of canned food.

The program, says Therese Ambrosi Smith, a recent docent at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, “was very structured. Government advisors came to the community with recommended garden plans and free seeds. The goal was nutrition, not what people liked. They had a recommended mix of vegetables per person that would provide the daily requirement of nutrients. The idea was to keep everyone strong to support the war effort.”

In Richmond, home of the massive Kaiser shipyards, the workers' newsletter, *Fore 'n Aft*, ran regular articles on how to plant a garden and where to get free seeds and fertilizers. San Francisco, meanwhile, despite its fog, cold summers, and sandy soils, became a national model for Victory Gardens, with every local newspaper participating in the campaign. The city's Victory Garden Council, based at City College's horticulture department, developed large community gardens, divided into 20-by-20-foot plots for individual families, throughout the city, including the plaza in front of City Hall. In all, the city boasted more than 70,000 garden plots by the end of the war.

Not only did the Victory Garden campaign succeed beyond all expectations in uniting homefront families behind a patriotic effort that mitigated the impacts of commercial food rationing, it also

helped an overweight nation slim down by an estimated average of seven pounds per person. The typical Victory Garden diet closely resembled the Mediterranean-style diet promoted by nutritionists today to fight America's current obesity epidemic.

As Rosie docents are fond of telling visitors today, the World War II Victory Gardens offered a memorable lesson in how a stronger and healthier nation could emerge from the struggles and hardships of the war years.



Rosie's Girls, courtesy of NPS.

Rosie's Girls Rock!

Every summer, *Rosie's Girls* immerses 30 or more middle school girls in history, skilled trade learning, inner confidence exercises, STEM activities, and outdoor experience during a four-day trip to Yosemite. The camp is meant to inspire new generations with the courage and values of the WWII Home Front. Thanks to major supporters, like Wells Fargo and Chevron, we've produced this camp for nine years, and it just gets better!

Our goal is to show vulnerable girls that a very broad future, full of opportunities, awaits each of them. During an eventful six weeks this year, eager 6th through 8th graders learned to use power tools, craft wood projects, and shape ceramics stamped with personal artistic expressions. Among field trip experiences, even timid girls balanced on high ropes at the Pacific Leadership Institute, silk-screened their own camp t-shirts, and took a tour of the fascinating Pipe Trades Training Center where they did hands-on welding, pipe soldering, electronic circuitry and more. Other trips included

CONTINUED ON BACK



calendar

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park september/october 2018

Visit the RORI homepage for up-to-date event and tour schedules at nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm.
Call the Visitor Education Center to confirm for special programs at 510-232-5050 x0.

*** NEW for all Betty Reid Soskin programs: Reservations for seats—including the wait list—must be made in advance by phone. Please call 510-232-5050 x0. For groups larger than 24, special arrangements are required.**
**** Space is limited. Reservations required. Call 510-232-5050 x0.**

SUNDAYS

Rosie the Riveter Memorial: A Closer Look
9/2, 10/7 Drop-in @ 11:30 am (1 hour) (Rain Cancels)
Visit Marina Bay Park (Melville Square), site of the Rosie the Riveter Memorial. A docent will answer questions and introduce the memorial.

Women's Herstory: The Legacy of Inclusion & Exclusion During WWII
9/2 @ 11:00 am and 9/23 @ 1:00 pm (1 hour)
Join Park Ranger Catherine Orland for a spirited discussion in the Visitor Center Theater.

Bay Trail Walk
9/9, 10/14 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour) (Rain Cancels)
Take a leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home front history.

Bicycle Tour of the Bay Trail: WWII Opportunities for Women
9/16 @ 10:30 am (2 hours)
Reservations suggested; please call for groups larger than 5 people. This will be a slow-paced ride with frequent stops and plenty of opportunities to observe and discuss points of interest.

Bay Trail Walk: Home Front History and Beyond!
9/30 @ 11:00 am, 10/28 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour) (Rain Cancels)
Take a leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore questions about the home front history landscape.

A Second Gold Rush: Migration to California, 1940-45
9/30 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
Join UC Berkeley Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Metcalf for a presentation about how the unprecedented migration during WWII created the California we know today.

Manufacturing Pride through Perseverance: Ford Assembly Plant
10/7, 10/21 @ 2:00 pm (45 minutes) (Rain Cancels)
Take a short walk with a park ranger and explore the history of the Ford Assembly Plant and its enduring effects on the people of the City of Richmond.

MONDAYS

Women's Herstory: The Legacy of Inclusion & Exclusion During WWII
9/3 @ 11:00 am (1 hour)
Join Park Ranger Catherine Orland for a spirited discussion in the Visitor Center Theater.

The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath
9/17, 10/8 @ 2:00 pm (30 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"
9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
Park Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

WEDNESDAYS

Richmond Bus Tour with a Park Ranger**
9/26 @ 10:30 am (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 Child Development Center is included.

Warbling through the War Years
9/12, 10/10 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
See and hear how we listened through samples from radio, records, and the movies.

What We Wore During the War
9/26, 10/24 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
Have a look at the clothing worn by working men and women, children, and even Hollywood stars!

THURSDAYS

"Of Lost Conversations"
9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 @ 11:00 am (1 hour)
See Tuesdays for description.

Blossoms and Thorns
9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
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 from their experiences in a WWII incarceration camp.

FRIDAYS

Rosie Meet and Greet
9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26 @ 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:15 pm (45 minutes)
Ask the experts about life and work in the Richmond Shipyards. Please watch the orientation film, *Home Front Heroes*, at 10:00 am, 11:00 am or 1:00 pm before seeing the Rosies!

SATURDAYS

"Of Lost Conversations"
9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
See Tuesdays for description.

Bicycle Tour of the Bay Trail: WWII Opportunities for Women
9/1 @ 10:30 am (2 hours)
See Sundays for description.

Bay Trail Walk: Home Front History and Beyond!
9/8, 10/6 @ 3:30 pm (1 hour)
See Sundays for description.

"Dr. Mom Chung and her Fair-Haired Bastards: The First Chinese American Female Physician and her Wartime Family"
9/15 @ 11:00 am (1 1/2 hours)
Join us for a multi-media presentation by Prof. Judy Tzu-Chun Wu to learn about this fascinating historic figure.

Henry J. Kaiser: "Build 'Em by the Mile and Cut 'Em off by the Yard"
9/29, 10/27 @ 3:30 pm (1 hour)
Join author Steve Gilford for a presentation about the extraordinary life of ship builder Henry J. Kaiser, an industrialist who was a loyal friend to (organized) labor.

From Executive Order 9066 to Executive Orders Today: Our Rights, Our Democracy, Our Humanity**
10/6 @ 11:00 am (1 1/2 hours)
Our program will include a screening of the documentary film *For the Sake of the Children*.

Manufacturing Pride through Perseverance: Ford Assembly Plant
9/15 @ 3:30 pm (45 minutes) (Rain Cancels)
See Sundays for description.

We Can Do It... Today!

ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST



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info@rosietheriveter.org • 510-507-2276
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RORI National Park Visitor Education Center
Open EVERY DAY 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
(Closed Thanksgiving, December 25, & 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 Memorial
Marina Bay Park, Richmond, CA 94804

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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 • 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.



ROSIE THE RIVETER



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 ext 0
nps.gov/rori

WWII Home Front National Historical Park

Back to school! We have an excellent collection of children's and Young Adult books available at the Visitor Center. *The No-No Boys*, *Dancing in Combat Boots*, and *Rosie Revere, Engineer* are a few that will entertain, educate, and pass on the We Can Do It spirit.



Come check out these great books, and many others, at the Visitor Center Gift Shop!

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 • fall 2018

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a financial literacy workshop for teens exploring the basics of money management, a vital skill in a country where single mothers with children represent the nation's largest poverty group.

Every year, the Camp's central highlight is our annual Career Day when a stellar group of women show up, bringing their individual careers to life as they interact with each girl to answer questions, explore aspirations, and engage in some hands-on learning about what it means to do that job. This year girls explored sheet metal and welding work, carpentry, high-rise construction, environmental restoration, ship rigging, firefighting, police, air force, journalism and more. As part of our leadership track, four girls who had been previous campers served as mentors, supporting the younger girls' as each faced fears handling tools or on trails at Yosemite.

For *Rosie's Girls*, this camp is a transition from childhood to high school and a stepping stone to keeping their sights set on an adulthood filled with worthwhile work. But more importantly, it is a stepping stone to the joys of self-confidence, determination, and independence, virtues they learn from real WWII-era Rosies on the first day of camp at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



We are reveling in the success of our annual Rosie Rally and Home Front Festival. More than 2,000 people attended the event and we weren't even trying to break the record this year. Taking a break from the Guinness World Record allowed us to rethink the Rally and Festival. As it turned out, people really enjoyed the entertainment, stayed longer, and enjoyed picnics from food trucks and tables overlooking the bay. Exhibitors included WETA who will be operating the new ferry service to San Francisco starting in November. East Bay Regional Parks brought their mobile visitor center and their fish tank to show off local freshwater fish and delight families and children. Niantic, creators of Pokemon Go, orchestrated a game on the Bay Trail and the list goes on. I want to thank the Trust for helping to plan and coordinate the Festival as well as the Mayor's office, Richmond Parks and Recreation, and the Police Department. For those who didn't make it this year, we hope to see you in the years to come when we all join together again to break the record. We will need all of you, and I know WE CAN DO IT!!

— Tom Leatherman