Don’t miss this year’s Rosie Rally Home Front Festival!

Once again, on August 11th, we will gather to celebrate the legacy of Rosie the Riveter, an icon for women across the world.

Join us from 11 am to 4 pm at this free and family-friendly event for fun, festivities, great food, costume contests, dancing and more at the Craneway Pavilion.

This year, instead of breaking the Guinness world record, we encourage everyone to update Rosie in creative ways or to come in traditional garb to join the largest Rosie celebration and festival yet! This year’s event will honor original WWII Rosies and home front workers and celebrate the ordinary people from many backgrounds, ethnicities, and communities across the U.S. who stepped up to extraordinary challenges during WWII.

To keep abreast of the latest news about the event, sign up now!

resoriveter.org/events/robbie-rally

Thanks to Our 2018 Dinner Sponsors

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Our continued gratitude to Edward von der Porten, the renowned maritime scholar, archeologist, and collector, whose WWII Home Front artifact collection of more than 2,000 unique items was acquired by the Rosie the Riveter Trust and given as a gift to the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

Mr. von der Porten passed away April 9, 2018.

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The Continuing Adventures of Betty Reid Soskin

For Betty Reid Soskin, the 96-year-old Ranger at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, life just seems to get “richer and more abundantly lyrical” by the day, as she noted in a recent posting in her widely-read blog (at bettysoskin.blogspot.com). “I’ve grown into someone I’d like to know—were I not me already,” she adds.

Thousands of friends of the Rosie National Park are already familiar with Soskin’s story and her sharp historical insights from her regular talks at the park’s Visitor Center, which are filled each week with visitors from all over the country and around the world. She speaks regularly about her personal experience with racial segregation on the World War II Home Front and why she nonetheless became an early and important advocate for the creation of the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park. In Betty’s view—which is now widely shared—the struggles for racial justice waged by minorities on the Home Front provided the necessary foundation for the civil rights movement of the 1960s, as well as for ongoing struggles for racial equality ever since.

In recent years, Soskin has been the center of a nonstop whirlwind of awards, talks, and interviews. Her appearances in just the last year have included the Commonwealth Club, Google, the Makers Conference in Los Angeles, Salesforce, and NPR. Most recently she was honored by the National Parks Conservation Association in Washington, DC with the Robin W. Winks award. This prestigious award is given annually to an individual or organization which has effectively communicated the values of the National Park System to the American public.

To capture Soskin’s unique contributions to the National Park Service and to our understanding of National Park values, Rosie the Riveter Trust has been working with Soskin and a team of filmmakers on a 30-minute broadcast-quality film, focusing on Betty’s remarkable ability to share crucial historical perspectives on civil rights and racial equality with audiences. The film is scheduled to premiere in late June of 2018.

As if all this impact wasn’t enough, Soskin’s widely-praised memoir Sign My Name to Freedom was published earlier this year. The book, compiled largely from Soskin’s blog postings over the last 15 years, chronicles her remarkable journey of nearly a century as an acute observer and an active member of the social and political upheavals of her time.

Unfortunately, the demands of her current celebrity status required Soskin to temporarily suspend her talks at the park to keep up with a hectic but rewarding schedule of interviews and book-signing events. The good news is: Betty is now back in the theater at the Visitor Center, sharing her wisdom with audiences once again. Yet she is still contemplating an audio version of her book, collaborating with a well-known jazz musician to bring songwriting and music from her early career to young musicians, and more.

For this remarkable great-granddaughter of a slave, it seems there’s always something new and wonderful just around the corner.

We Did It! 2018 Dinner Recap

rowing a Rosie Future” says it all. The Trust’s annual benefit gala this year raised $118,000 for youth and public education programs and brought special honors to our WWII docents (now in their 90’s) and to those we have recently lost. These women and men (fondly called “Rosies” and “Rogers”) have shaped our unique national park with their many contributions—volunteering their time and their first-person stories to help forge a legacy for generations to come.

Guests enjoyed meeting our honored docents in the “Rosie Lounge” and perusing a commemorative booklet to learn more about their wartime work. Docents received 40’s-style orchid wrist corsages, and Trust board member Cathy Durfee and NPS Acting Superintendent, Sue Fritizek presented a toast to recognize those who were present and those who were not.

Our Sponsors—including “Shirley the Shipbuilder” sponsor, the International Brotherhood of Shipbuilders, Iron Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Fergers and Helpers AFL-CIO and “Rosie the Riveter” sponsor Kaiser Permanente—have deep roots in the WWII war production effort and a strong interest in continuing our work.
in teaching youth to overcome difficulties and work for the common good.

Jerry Di Vecchio, who served as Food and Wine Editor for Sunset magazine for more than 20 years, was keynote speaker. Ms. Di Vecchio has written and edited more than 30 cookbooks; taught, traveled, and lectured widely; and served as co-foundering president of Les Dames du Escoffier, an international society of prestigious women in the food and wine industry.

A pre-event reception enabled sponsors to meet Ms. Di Vecchio one-on-one.

While guests dined and enjoyed fine wines donated by Trefethen Family Vineyards, Ms. Di Vecchio presented a wide-ranging journey through the food world from wartime to the present. The talk chronicled Ms. Di Vecchio’s own wartime experiences as a child growing a victory garden with her family, our 1950’s cultural infatuation with processed foods, and today’s wide-ranging international cooking influences. As she explored changing food trends stimulated by war and its aftermath, Ms. Di Vecchio traced a perfect arc to today’s trend toward healthy and sustainable foods, once again utilizing small gardens and WWII’s pre-chemical farming methods.

Dinner guests mingled to enjoy gorgeous hilltop views from the Berkeley Country Club, browsed the auction, finding special getaways and even a signed Kevin Durant jersey among the treasures to take home. Rosies Margaret Archie, Agnes Moore, Kay Morrison, Marian Sousa, Mary Torres, and Marian Wynn sat on sponsor tables to chat with guests. Families with roots in wartime industries and home front work—including 103-year-old Josephine Lico—also enjoyed the occasion.

Best of all, the event raised important funds to support our work to “Grow a Rosie Future,” enhancing park youth education programs that build character, awareness of democratic values, and an emotional bridge between the world inhabited by our 90-year-old Rosies in their youth and the world inhabited by youngsters and teenagers today.

The National Park Service was well represented by Park Ranger Betty Soskin sharing her experience as a young girl during the war and to provide for their enjoyment by future generations.

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

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