



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

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Many thanks to all of our wonderful donors from 11/21/2017 to 11/9/2018. We could only list a few of you here, but we thank everyone who has helped to build this unique national park.

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### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The cauldron of World War II—when people in the United States came together as a nation to overcome the enormity of a global war—taught the value of American strength, ingenuity, dedication and struggle. None of it was perfect. Very little would have happened without pain and sacrifice. Along the way, we made many mistakes (the unjust internment of many of our best citizens) and learned many lessons. People took risks and undertook new, challenging tasks, but as people learned to work together, new alliances and friendships

formed and people worked together in transformative ways. Eventually, we recognized some of our tragic mistakes and as a result, grew new dimensions and strengths.

At Rosie, we teach youngsters about the challenges and opportunities of that time. We convey the importance of working for the good of all people and dialogue in a democracy. These simple lessons are at the root of the American experience. Our national park is unique in its ability to highlight the many cultures that came together in a time of crisis to produce what we are today.

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

## Health Hazards and Innovations in the Shipyards

The World War II Richmond shipyards achieved many historic distinctions—super-productive manufacturing methods, breakthrough employment opportunities for women and minorities, employment-linked childcare, and creation of the Kaiser Permanente health care system. Among the less known historic contributions were achievements in medical research, treatment, and exceptional level of care for workers.

Shipbuilding was notoriously dangerous work among wartime industries, more so than manufacturing tanks, aircraft, and explosives. Between 1941 and 1943, there were over seven million casualties, significantly comprised of women workers, among home front industrial workers, compared to fewer than 50,000 in the armed services. Various studies report that women experienced higher rates of disabling injuries than men. In welding and burning operations, injuries among women were almost 50 percent greater than male injuries.

Robin Baker, a former researcher at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health and past guest speaker at the Visitor Center, believes “the true death toll” for home front industrial workers is underreported since reports fail to include casualties related to asbestos used in shipbuilding.

Richmond implemented the first job placement process to determine which workers could meet the physical demands of various jobs since union rules prohibited pre-employment physical exams. Physical data on Kaiser’s workers and analyses of job requirements resulted in a report called the *Physical Demands and Capacities Analysis*, which the U.S. War Manpower Commission adopted for job placement of returning servicemen. As a result, many women welders lost positions because they were physically unable to do the work. In response, a shipyard gynecologist developed a strength-training course for women involving lifting heavy loads while climbing a structure.

Hernias were common injuries among men and women due to heavy lifting requirements. Between 1942 and 1944, 632 hernioplasty procedures were performed on 483 patients, including just 13 women, thanks in part to the job placement program. But 50% of 130 patients treated for calcifications in the rotator cuff tendons were women.

Lobar pneumonia was among the most common and fatal shipyard illnesses due to frequently inclement weather. One in six of 2,176 patients treated for pneumonia was a woman worker, though their fatality rate was half of their less healthy male counterparts.

Dr. Morris Collen, a founder of the Permanente Medical Group and physician in charge of the Richmond shipyard field hospital, first came to national prominence through his experimental treatments for pneumonia.

As a result of his work, the shipyard’s Permanente

doctors acquired the first doses of the new wonder drug, penicillin, which had previously been reserved for servicemen overseas. Dr. Collen used it to treat an extremely ill young worker, who would normally have died but instead fully recovered. “To this day, I keep saying it was a miracle,” said Dr. Collen. It was a medical breakthrough that is still celebrated in medical histories.

Data cited from *The Permanente Journal*, Summer 2008.



Three Johnson sisters in head scarves and face masks look on as a fourth sister uses micrometer [...]. Courtesy of the NPS, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front NHP, RORI 2370\_C.

## Rosie Rally Update

### Diversity Is Our History!

This year, we celebrated the diverse people of many ethnicities and backgrounds who contributed to WWII victory on the American Home Front.

This year’s theme underscored the diversity of women who broke down barriers during the war. Women, people of color, and those with disabilities stepped up and filled the shoes of men gone overseas. Remembering this ground-breaking time that advanced women’s equality is particularly important as women continue seeking equity and skilled work in non-traditional fields for women. The *We Can Do It* poster inspires women to this day, conveying strength and courage. This year’s Rally focused on ensuring that all women can see themselves as a Rosie—empowered by the true history of racially diverse, brave people.

Nearly 3000 people (original Rosies in their 90’s and as old as 103!) attended the 2018 Rosie Rally to enjoy a day of family-friendly activities. Outdoor exhibits included 1940’s military vehicles, the One Tam nature van, East Bay Regional Parks’ ranger naturalists, and a mobile fish tank of East

CONTINUED ON BACK





Rosie Rally contest winners. Rosie the Riveter Trust, 2018.



FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



With Holidays fast approaching, 2019 will soon be here with another year to share important park history and stories. As most of you know, Ranger Betty Reid Soskin is not only sharing stories throughout the week at the Visitor Center, but is also *Glamour* magazine's "Woman of the Year"! Betty continues to inspire those she encounters, including a recent park visitor, nationally recognized journalist, activist, and feminist figure, Gloria Steinem. After lunch with Betty, Gloria declared, "Betty, you are a life changing experience." Those who work with Betty know this to be true and it brings great pleasure that others can relate. In 2019, we anticipate Betty continuing great work and hope to capitalize on the new Richmond ferry to attract people to the park. The terminal, located by the Visitor Center, opens January 10, 2019, and connects Richmond to San Francisco's Ferry Building via a short 35-minute trip. With free parking, we hope people will take advantage of the service and visit the park during their commutes. Hopefully this evolves into an alternative way for people to see what Richmond has to offer, including the Visitor Center and Betty.

— Tom Leatherman

**Richmond Ferry Service Launches January 10, 2019!** Round-trip service between Ford Point, located by the Visitor Center, and the San Francisco Ferry building. For more info, visit [sanfranciscobayferry.com/richmond](http://sanfranciscobayferry.com/richmond).

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Bay watershed fish. Festival-goers enjoyed hands-on activities including a chance to try a Virtual Welder, courtesy of the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, and simulated climbs to the top of the Golden Gate Bridge towers! East Bay Center for the Performing Arts coordinated a terrific array of entertainment throughout the day including a variety of Bay Area artists. Prize wheels, a kazoo-making table, ship rigging lessons, a caricature artist, and yummy food truck fare with bayside picnic tables added to the day's delight.

The hit of the day was the Costume Contest including festival-goers dressed in authentic and inventive Home Front outfits. Winners included a 40's themed couple, woman welder, Victory Garden, WWII nurse, mother-daughter Rosie combo, and a Rosie with a dog! Many thanks to our sponsors, the City of Richmond, Mechanics Bank, Republic Services, and to our wonderful partners for making this a memorable event. Stay tuned for fantastic fun next year.

We Can Do It... Today!



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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  
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# THE RIVETER

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## december 2018 – february 2019

Events and dates are subject to change. Visit the RORI homepage at [nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm](http://nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm) for up-to-date event and tour schedules. 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**  
 12/2, 1/6, 2/3 Drop-in @ 11:30 am (1 hour; Rain cancels)  
 Visit Marina Bay Park (Melville Square), site of the Rosie the Riveter Memorial—a very thoughtful public art sculpture of a World War II cargo ship under construction along a 450-foot timeline. A docent will be available for one hour to answer questions and introduce the memorial.

**Manufacturing Pride through Perseverance: Ford Assembly Plant**  
 12/2 @ 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.

**Bay Trail Walk**  
 12/9, 1/3, 2/10 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour; Rain cancels)  
 Take a leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home front history.

MONDAYS

**The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath**  
 12/3 @ 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"**  
 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)  
 Park Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

WEDNESDAYS

**Warbling through the War Years**  
 12/5, 1/9, 2/13 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)  
 Dancing the jitterbug, laughing to silly tunes—and mending broken hearts: music during World War II helped us get through fearful times. We'll see and hear how we listened through samples from radio, records, and the movies.

**Games and Toys for Girls and Boys**  
 12/19 @ 2:00 pm (45 minutes)  
 Wartime was deadly serious for grown-ups, but for kids, it was a time for adventure. Let's explore how children had fun during the war years: costumes, riding toys, board games, ships and planes and trains, the comics, and more!

**What We Wore During the War**  
 1/30, 2/27 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)  
 The war changed everything including fashions which changed to meet new needs: leather, wool, and nylon were needed by our fighting forces, so we made do on the Home Front. We'll have a look at the clothing worn by working men and women, children, and even Hollywood stars!

THURSDAYS

**"Of Lost Conversations"**  
 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 @ 11:00 am (1 hour)  
 See Tuesdays for description.

**Blossoms and Thorns**  
 12/6, 12/13, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 @ 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**  
 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 @ 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:15 pm (45 minutes)  
 Most Fridays, a group of civilian WWII docents share their stories at the Visitor Center. 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"**  
 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)  
 See Tuesdays for description.

**ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST**  
 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](http://nps.gov/rori)



Drop by the Visitor Center Gift Shop to pick up a signed copy of Ranger Betty Reid Soskin's book, *Sign My Name to Freedom*, (\$24.99) and a beautiful hand-painted ornament (\$12) for that special someone!



Drop by the Visitor Center during your holiday shopping for more great gift items!