



Tammy Brumley

(Left to right) Phyllis Gould, Mae Krier of Pennsylvania, Marian Wynn, Marian Sousa, and Agnes Moore. Marian Wynn's brother, Donald Parsons, was killed in the invasion, and she visited his grave for the first time on this trip. "No one in my family had ever been able to visit there before."

The Rosies Go to Normandy

Four Rosies who share their stories at the Visitor Center on most Fridays, Phyllis Gould, Marian Sousa, Marian Wynn, and Agnes Moore, traveled to Normandy for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day. "To be walking on the same beach where those young men waded right into the battle, thinking of the steps they took, coming out of the water soaking wet, cold, trying to dodge the bullets," recalled Agnes Moore. "It was very humbling."

They participated in the official ceremonies at the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, a tribute at the Signal Monument on Omaha Beach, and rode in the lead car of big parade. Rosie docent Tammy Brumley supported the trip throughout. Thanks to everyone who helped raise money to make the trip happen.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



During and after the government shut-down in 2013, Betty Reid Soskin, the nation's oldest national park ranger, became a sought-after national figure. Suddenly, everyone—from Anderson Cooper to Arsenio Hall—wanted to interview her. Betty's legendary skill in articulating an authentic African American experience, from WWII to the present, resonated loudly across the U.S., ultimately landing her an unusual cover on *Glamour* magazine last year.

This fall, after nearly five years of collaboration with Digital Story Company, and support from

so many of you, the Trust is releasing the long-awaited documentary film about Betty, *No Time to Waste*. This 50-minute portrait of an iron-willed American woman, who became a park ranger at age 85, captures the urgency of Betty's quest to build a more perfect union. The Trust also owns a complete film version of Betty's weekly interpretive program to be presented periodically in our national park Visitor Center.

Screenings are being scheduled from September through January. Don't miss this important new film! Go to rosietheriveter.org for details.

— Marsha Mather-Thrift

New Online Exhibits Feature WWII Home Front Artifacts



Ed and Saryl Von der Porten spent decades building a collection of Home Front memorabilia that includes books, war bond and ration materials, toys, models and model kits, newspapers and magazines, household and decorative items, posters, and military souvenirs. Their passion and appreciation resulted in an incredible collection of nearly 2000 artifacts that can now be shared with the public. The generosity of Rosie the Riveter Trust enabled the Trust to purchase the collection for the park museum in 2014 through a multi-year agreement (payments are still in progress and donations welcome).

Over the past five years, National Park Service museum staff have worked to rehouse and catalog the collection with the help of then-graduate student Shauna Mundt. Drawn to the uniqueness and diversity of the Von der Porten collection, Shauna decided to research the collection as part of her Master's Degree in Applied Anthropology and additionally created two online exhibits through a collaboration of the National Park Service and the Google Arts and Culture forum. The online exhibits allow highlights of the collection to be easily enjoyed from anywhere.

The Home Front Households: The Playroom online exhibit examines how during WWII, images of war permeated almost every aspect of children's lives, from toys, puzzles, comic books, and cartoons, to film and radio. By playing with a toy that reflected the war effort, children participated in something that otherwise would have excluded them, therefore claiming a valid place in the country's collective identity as patriots.

America's participation in the war produced substantial transformations to gender roles, as the war created a need for women to step out of their kitchens and into the work force. The objects featured in the *Home Front Households: Patriotism, Women and Domesticity* online exhibit showcase how patriotism manifested in the home through everyday items, with an emphasis on the role of women as domestic soldiers on the American home front.

Enjoy these fascinating online exhibits by visiting artsandculture.google.com and searching for Rosie the Riveter. To learn more about the Rosie the Riveter/ WWII Home Front NHP museum collection, please visit nps.gov/rori.

— Isabel Ziegler, Acting Chief of Resource Management and Planning (Supervisory Museum Curator), Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park



Rosie's Girls Learn New Skills

In June, a new group of middle school girls and former camper-mentors signed on for a learning-packed summer camp aimed at teaching the skills of their foremothers, who worked at WWII home front industry sites across the U.S. To set the stage, campers visited the national park to understand the challenges the U.S. faced, and how ordinary citizens stepped up to new roles and work opportunities. They explored the Visitor Center, took part in team activities with rangers, and toured the Red Oak Victory ship to see what women's efforts had accomplished.

Next, they dove into learning how to weld and build woodworking projects, taught by skilled instructors. By the second week, they were designing, learning equipment and safety practices, and gaining new mastery. Welding took place in the state-of-the-art shop at Kennedy High. Carpentry

CONTINUED ON BACK

Worth Considering: Gifts from Retirement Assets

"My involvement with the Trust is fueled by a desire that young people be in the park, that we expand the scholarships for the summer camp and for school groups to be able to come to the park," said Trust supporter and Finance Committee member Alide Chase, who recently made a contribution from her IRA to Rosie the Riveter Trust. This giving option enables donors over 70 ½ years old to make contributions from an IRA instead of receiving the funds as income – and likely owing tax as a result. "Making a gift this way works well for the Trust because they get to apply the full amount to their programs, and it works well for me, too, because I fulfilled my required minimum distribution without incurring income tax on the distribution. Plus, it was easy to set up, and in the future, I can just call up the plan administrator and do all of my annual gifts with one phone call."

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

september – december 2019

Events and dates are subject to change. Visit the RORI homepage at 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.

*Reservations for seats, including the wait list, must be made in advance by calling 510-232-5050 x0. For groups over 24, special arrangements are required.

SUNDAYS

Women's Herstory: The Legacy of Inclusion and Exclusion During WWII

9/22 @ 2:00pm (1 hour)

What jobs became available to women during WWII, in the military, the factories, and beyond? Why did this matter for women historically? How does the legacy of women's work impact our society today? Join Park Ranger Catherine Orland for a spirited discussion.

Rosie the Riveter Memorial: A Closer Look

10/6, 11/3, 12/1 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.

Bay Trail Walk

10/13, 11/10, 12/8 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour; Rain cancels)

Take a leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home front history.

A Second Gold Rush: Migration to California, 1940–45

10/27, 11/24, 12/22 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Join UC Berkeley Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Metcalf for a presentation about how the Great Migration during WWII created the California we know today.

MONDAYS

Tickets Over the Rainbow

9/23, 9/30 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Before going over the rainbow with the bluebirds, many gay service members received notorious blue discharges during and after WWII. The implicit association with homosexuality created difficulties acquiring jobs and veteran's benefits. This led to some of the earliest community organizing and activism among gay people, and a major piece of the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement finds roots here. Together we'll explore legacies more broadly.

TUESDAYS

"Of Lost Conversations"*

9/24 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Park Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

WEDNESDAYS

Wartime Romance: WWII's Influence on Dating and Marriage

10/2 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Old social patterns altered dramatically because of the war. Dating, marriage, moral behavior—all responded to the drastic changes wrought by the war. We'll consider how and why Americans in uniform and on the home front created new ways of living.

Tune in Tomorrow! A Wartime Radio Day

10/9 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Put away your handheld device and come listen to wartime

radio! News, comedy, drama, sports: everyone listened to the same wonderful programs. And so will we!

Time Out! Sports During World War II

10/23 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

War took the best of America's athletes out of one kind of uniform and put them in another! We'll consider what happened to sports in our country during the war and how the armed services used sports to boost morale.

Days of Crisis During WWII

11/6 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

"Crisis" means "turning point." We'll explore many turning points that occurred on the home front as a consequence of the war.

Lonely and Far from Home: The USO During World War II

11/20 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Millions of young Americans left their homes for the first time during the war, leaving behind their friends, their families, and their familiar social lives. The USO's mission way to offer them safe, wholesome activities—and donuts. Let's see how it happened!

Games and Toys for Girls and Boys

12/11, 12/18 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

Kids need and deserved the thrill of opening presents, whether for birthdays or for holidays. Even the war didn't change that! We'll open a whole bunch of toys together, all dating back to the war years.

THURSDAYS

And the Oscar Goes to... Oscar-winning WWII Films Aboard the Red Oak Victory

Boarding begins at 6:30 pm. For info and directions, call 510-237-2933. Free admission, but a \$10 donation is suggested to help preserve and maintain the ship.

Mrs. Miniver (1942)

9/19 @ 7 pm

The winner of six Academy Awards, and starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, this is a moving story from the English WWII Home Front. Winston Churchill famously said, "This film has done more for the war effort than a flotilla of destroyers."

"Of Lost Conversations"*

9/26 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

See Tuesdays for description.

Blossoms and Thorns

9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 12/12 @ 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

9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27 @ 10:30 am and 11:30 am (45 minutes)

A group of civilian WWII docents share their stories. Ask the experts about life and work in the Richmond Shipyards. Please watch the orientation film, *Home Front Heroes*, at 10:00 am or 11:00 am before seeing the Rosies!

Tickets Over the Rainbow

9/27, 9/30 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

See Mondays for description.

Rationing on the Home Front

10/11, 11/8, 12/6 @ 12:30 pm (30 minutes)

During WWII, Americans were asked to sacrifice in support of the troops, and this was evident daily at the dinner table. Listen to stories about the Federal Government's rationing program and how it affected families on the Home Front.

SATURDAYS

"Of Lost Conversations"*

9/21, 9/28 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)

See Tuesdays for description.

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

9/21, 10/26, 11/23, 12/28 @ 3:15 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.

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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

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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

News from Rosie the Riveter Trust supporting the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park • **september 2019**

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

included visits to the Fab Lab for laser cutting. Field trips tested courage on the Ropes Course at Fort Miley. A trip to the Mission Science Center exposed girls to archeology, natural history, and scientific careers. On another day, they sailed the historic schooner Alma on the Bay, learned to raise and lower sails, and understand wind and currents.

The highlight of camp is always Career Day, which offers girls a chance to think about the wide universe of jobs they might choose to pursue. Many women, a few men, and one National Park Service police horse took part in interactive demonstrations. Female role models

included construction teams, welders and pipefitters, electricians, rocket and water monitoring drone design groups, lawyers and journalists, health professionals, police, fire, and national park staff—and even a bear management specialist.

At the end of camp, they trekked to Yosemite for four days of unparalleled outdoor experience that forged a new vision of their capabilities, and bonds to support high school success. Thanks to our sponsors and individual supporters, the Trust offers this life-changing camp with full scholarships for all thirty-four girls, who come from under-resourced families.

FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



I want to thank everyone who attended the 2019 Rosie Rally and Home Front Festival for helping us to celebrate and honor the contributions of the WWII Rosies and Home Front workers this year. During the Rosie roll call, we recognized Rosies ranging in age from 91 to 103! It was inspiring to see the *We Can Do It!* spirit they still demonstrate all these years later.

As we look ahead to 2020, we are excited about the opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the park, commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, and rally around another chance to take back the Guinness World Record for the most people dressed as Rosie the Riveter. We hope to mobilize people from across the country to join us on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Save the date now!

— Tom Leatherman

We now have metal water bottles on the shelves in the Visitor Center! The bottles are made in the USA and are perfect for walking the Bay Trail. Pick one up and stay hydrated.



Check it out at the Visitor Center Gift Shop!

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