Thanks to our 2019 Dinner Sponsors!

Shingelay the Shipbuilder
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, and the International Brotherhood of boilermakers Local 693

Rose the Riveter
Kaiser Permanente

Wendy the Welder
California State Pipe Trades Council

Dr. Erica Goode and the Hon. Barry Goode
Kaiser Permanente Care Technology Services

North Carolina Carpenters Regional Council

Permanent Federation

Ellie the Electrician
IBEW Local 302

Regulatory Services

Wells Fargo Bank

Belle the Burner
Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Workers Local 12

Chemistry

Holland & Knight LLP

IBEW Local 302

Levin Richardson Terminal

Jim and Eileen Vohs

Funder spotlight

One of the primary original unions in Henry Kaiser’s Shipyards, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, AFL-CIO, contributed mightily to build the ships that won the war. Decades later they are dedicated to a mission of inclusiveness and efforts to build a better life for skilled workers from all backgrounds. We thank them for being our 2019 Premier Sponsor!

In their honor

Carolyn S. Bedford: In honor of Mary B. Parkhurst, Clay B. Bedford III, Thomas A. Bedford

David C. and Joan S. Arceen: In honor of Betty Reid Soskin

Diane Hedler: In honor of Margaret (Peggy) & Hannah Mitchell Bunner

In honor of Donna Jerome Bunner

Sheila Higgins: In honor of Marie Davies’s birthday

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you read this newsletter, several of our Rosie docents, now in their 90’s, will be in France for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. One of them lost a brother in that battle and she will see his grave for the first time. The Rosies’ efforts to get to this celebration are being supported by the Trust and by many individuals, but most importantly, by grateful French citizens, thanks to a wonderful French woman who visited our park. This fact speaks to ties created out of moments of crisis by acts of kindness, dedication, and global commitment. People helping people. People who care about peace and working together for the common good. Ordinary people who did extraordinary things, motivated by the need to help others. Some of our docents are unable to travel due to health, but they are no less extraordinary or less honored. We hope our efforts to capture all the facts and struggles of that era will illuminate the good and the bad moments Americans have lived in, and found a way to pass on the Rosie story to support all who keep working toward greater unity and greater good in the world.

—Marsha Mather-Thrift

World War II opens the door to women Boilermakers

If you wanted to join the Boilermakers union in 1893, you had to be a “white, freeborn male, citizen of some civilized country.” Such language of the organization’s constitution at the time was clear—and it wasn’t unusual.

To say that times have changed is, thankfully, an understatement. Women from all races, religions and manner of makeup are members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, AFL-CIO. As with many industrial and manufacturing trades, World War II was a major catalyst to officially opening the Boilermakers’ membership door to women—and shipbuilding was the key. Before World War II, there were about 3,000 union Boilermakers working in California’s Bay Area. By 1941, there were more than 150,000 in the Bay Area and over 300,000 on the West Coast in total. Around 20 percent of them were Rosies.

Though women had unofficially affiliated with the union for years, it was the growing number of women working in shipyards and other Boilermaker industries that finally turned the issue of admitting women members into a formal amendment proposal. In 1942, the Boilermakers’ Executive Council passed the amendment, which went into effect.

According to the Boilermakers’ history book Grace Under Pressure: “Local lodges immediately began admitting women. In fact, evidence suggests that some lodges may have been admitting women prior to the resolution of 1942, despite the constitutional ban.”

There were, of course, still many challenges.

“Women and people of color faced a hostile work environment and were victims of discrimination and prejudice,” said Boilermakers International Vice President-Western Section J. Tom Baca during a recent Rosie the Riveter annual fundraiser. “Boilermakers resisted change as much as any other union; and despite the Rosies being a big factor in the U.S. winning World War II, as soon as the men returned, women were laid off.”

“But the Boilermakers have never forgotten our history, thanks to great women leaders like Ranger Betty Reid Soskin.”

It’s also why the Boilermakers commissioned a film about Betty Soskin (visit vimeo.com/203342642). The film captures her story as a woman of color who worked in a segregated Boilermakers “auxiliary local” at the Kaiser Shipyards.

“Where we are now is a far cry from where we were in 1942,” Soskin says in the film. While men still far outnumber women in the Boilermakers union, women are ascending into more leadership roles.

For more information, visit boilermakers.org.

Stories to Inspire Annual Dinner

The best event ever! No one wanted to go home! These words sum up our 2019 benefit event, Stories to Inspire, which raised more than $140,000 for youth programs. In a swirl of wonderful 40’s-inspired costumes and Rosie the Riveter outfits, guests mingled at the Berkeley Country Club, enjoying breath-taking views of the Bay, and talking with WWII era Rosie, skilled in welding, drafting, and other essential wartime work.

Jon Jarvis, former National Parks Director, captivated all with a fascinating look at the multiple national park sites established to tell long-overlooked stories. Since Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park is devoted to telling the many diverse stories of the Home Front, it is one of these important national park heritage sites. One consistent theme was the importance of inspiring young women to take on unfamiliar roles. The Northern California Carpenters brought their
Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park

june – August 2019

We Can Do It…Today!

Check them out at the Visitor Center Gift Shop!

We Can Do It…Today!

and to provide for their enjoyment by natural, cultural and scenic treasures.

and worked to help build the park from the ground up.

The Cartoon War
7/17 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
Cartoons are for kids! Cartoons are for grown-ups! Cartoons are funny! Cartoons are serious. Share an hour viewing tourist brochures and see WWII through the eyes of the troops. War is waged with many kinds of weapons. Some motivate positive action. Others crush hope. We’ll track the range of propaganda used during WWII.

TUESDAYS

“Of Lost Conversations”*
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 @ 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 their experiences in a WWII incarceration camp.

Anniversary Home Front Film Festival
7/11, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15 @ 7:00 pm
Films shown aboard the historic SS Red Oak Victory. Boarding begins at 6:30 pm. For info and donations—510-232-5050. Free admissions, but a $5 donation is suggested to help preserve and maintain the ship.

FRIDAYS

Rosie Meet and Greet
6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/30 @ 11:00 am (1 hour)
Join our staff to learn about the historical and production aspects of the 2019 Rosie Rally, and each comes with a complementary bandana. And coming soon for the 2019 Rosie Rally!

Packs are only $8 ($10 on Rally day), and each comes with a pair of red socks and a red and white polka dot bandana. Available now just in time for the Rally.

“Be A Rosie” Costume Kits!

Get your Rally Pack for the 2019 Rosie Rally! Packs are only $8 ($10 on Day of Rally), and each comes with a pair of red socks and a red and white polka dot bandana. Available now just in time for the Rally.

“Be A Rosie” Costume Kits!

Rosie the Riveter Memorial: A Closer Look
6/23 @ 2:00 pm (1 hour)
A tour of the Rosie the Riveter Memorial—a very thoughtful public art installation dedicated to building a community of pride, remembrance, and gratitude for the women and men of all backgrounds who worked at the Rosie the Riveter Home Front, inspiring some of the most profound social changes in our history.

510-522-0500 or NPS website

Event and tour schedules. Call the Visitor Education Center to confirm for special programs at nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm

Events and dates are subject to change. Visit the RORI homepage at nps.gov/rori/

510-232-5050 ext 0

Rosie the Riveter Trust
P.O. Box 71126
Richmond, CA 94807-1126
Address Service Requested

Northern California Cartwrights with WWII Rosies.

Continued from front

younger generation of women. Accepting the Premiere Sponsor award, the Boilermakers’ Tom Baca highlighted the young women and men of color who are actively recruited by the union. For the Trust, the focus was on Rosie’s Girls—our national park trade-skills and life-skills summer camp that gives girls a chance to check out non-traditional career options.

From the Park Superintendent

T

the beginning of 2019 has been a time of transitions for Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park. When the year started, the Park was closed due to the lapse in appropriations...at a time when people would normally be visiting over the holidays. We hope that those who were not able to visit then will still come to experience the important history shared at the Visitor Center every day.

At the same time that the park was closed, we got word that our long-time lead ranger at the park, Elizabeth Tucker, had accepted another job. Elizabeth was hired in 2003 as the third employee at the park, and worked to help build the park from the ground up. She was instrumental in developing resources before we even had a visitor center, including creation of the way-sides exhibits along the Bay Trail and helping to build awareness of the park both in and out of the community. As the park grew, she was a crucial part of our team in developing exhibits and the films, helping to launch our new Visitor Education Center in 2012. Elizabeth worked tirelessly to make sure that the park shone, capturing and sharing many untold experiences that are now a core to the inclusive stories we tell at the park today. She built a world-class docent program, allowing us to effectively operate our visitor center 7 days a week; 362 days a year...which we could not do without our docents. The list of Elizabeth's contributions is lengthy, and we will miss her smiling face and dedication to this park. Please join me in thanking Elizabeth for her years of service, and wishing her the best of luck in her new adventures. — Tom Leatham