



Robert Targ

A Special Thank You

We here at Rosie the Riveter Trust recognize that our world is going through a very uncertain and difficult time as this issue goes to press. Your support of our mission to promote the *We Can Do It!* spirit of innovation and common purpose that helped transform our country as we know it today remains vital. And at the same time, we know it can be hard to think about supporting anything beyond the well-being of your family, friends, neighbors, and first responders. This is incredibly important, and we hope you are staying safe and taking care of you and yours as a priority.

We ask that, when the time feels right to you, you consider supporting Rosie the Riveter Trust to continue upholding the *We Can Do It!* spirit that is backed by innovation, equality, and positivity for our society as a whole. We look forward to when we can safely gather again in person and celebrate the power of working together for the common good.

Thank you for your generosity in these uncertain times.

Sincerely,
Rosie the Riveter Board and Staff

To buy tickets to our August 30 annual dinner or make a contribution, please go to our website, rosietheriveter.org, or you can send a contribution by mail to PO Box 71126, Richmond CA 94807-1126. Thank you.

Annual Rosie Rally

Saturday, August 15

The 2020 Rosie Rally and Home Front Festival, Saturday, August 15, will be celebrated online! Come together—while staying safely apart—to applaud the *We Can Do It!* spirit. Details coming soon on the Trust's and Park's websites.

In Their Honor

Tribute gifts are a generous and lovely way to honor, or memorialize, a special person while supporting the Rosie the Riveter Trust.

Ms. Diane M. Hedler: *In memory of Helen Wysham*

Ms. Diane M. Hedler: *In memory of Lorraine Bivalec*

Ms. Diane M. Hedler: *In memory of Simon Cohn, MD*

Dan and Sharon May: *In honor of "Rosie"*

Susan Rose: *In honor of Recarda Moore*

Dear Friends of the Trust, we wrote this issue of *The Riveter* the 3rd week of April, with shelter-in-place orders still in effect in many states. Because the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures change rapidly, please understand if any of the contents seem out of date when you read this. Enjoy, and thank you for your support!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How Are Our Rosies Doing During These Challenging and Uncertain Days?

I hope that you have found rhythm to your days and are taking comfort in knowing we are all in this together as we stay connected, but apart. I can see why the Rosie image is so captivating, being widely shared and used as a rally call in the news and social media right now. It is a reminder that we all have the power to do something to help our country and the world.

If you have visited the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center or gone online to the Park's or the Trust's websites, you will find history told through rich and compelling stories of how Americans answered the call to action. And of course, the path of history laid includes the iconic Rosie the Riveter image and phrase *We Can Do It!*

We are very fortunate to have Rosie docents who, when the Visitor Center doors are open, come weekly to share their stories and meet with visitors. I called a few of them up last week to introduce myself as the new Rosie the Riveter Trust Executive Director.

"How are you doing during this time of sheltering in place, is there anything you need, and how are you feeling?" I asked. Agnes Moore (100), Mary Torres (97 next month), Marian Sousa (94), Phyllis Gould (98), and Marian Wynn (93) were so lovely to give me the time of day. All said they were doing well, they were not for want, and if anything, they missed being able to go to the Visitor Center, spend time together and engage with Park visitors.

Agnes said she goes on trips with her motorized scooter around her neighborhood to say hello to friends—at a distance. She said this time of COVID-19 is nothing like the WWII home front years. Back then, things were open 24 hours a day. Besides things being rationed, it was not much different from normal times... "We went to the movies, to Golden Gate Park and played tennis..." She laughed when I said "sounds like you worked hard and played hard!"

Phyllis, who is a power-house when it comes to advocating for the recognition of Rosies, said she is thankful for this time. She is usually so busy, caught up in her work and her community, that this is an opportunity to focus on organizing her apartment of 20 years and getting rid of things! The independent home facility where she lives will be renovating her place when the shelter in place order is lifted.

Mary told me a funny story about renewing her driver's license last year and how she is still visiting a few of her long-time customers that she has been seeing for over 50 years to wash, cut, perm and/or color their hair! At the end of each visit, she likes to sing *America the Beautiful* with her friends. Mary knows the power of her positivity and how she leads by example. About being almost 97 and still driving—it was more than once that she said to me—"there is nothing I cannot do when I put my mind to it!"

Marian Sousa misses her friends and community. Even though she talks with her daughter and friends daily on the phone, she feels isolated and really misses getting together with her other Rosie friends who, "at our age, understand each other very well." When we talked about how strange this whole sheltering in place feels, Marian said it is similar to going through a war and that we need to all do what we can and be patient. She ended by saying that she is contributing by..."staying out of trouble!"

Marian Wynn had just been working in the garden when I called. The beautiful weather and acre and a half of land to be tended was calling. She doesn't mind at all. Her neighbors are taking good care and shopping for whatever she needs—it has been four weeks since she left her house for a trip to the post office. You can tell she is listening to the news and connecting the similarities of WWII home front and today. She is pleased to see people referring to the Rosie Spirit: people making masks, donating goods, and doing their part to end this. She hopes an outcome from this is that people will be kinder to each other.

In all, it was a sincere treat to get to talk with our Rosies. They lifted my spirit and reminded me of how having a positive attitude is (yes) infectious and how important it is to take lessons from history. In many ways, history repeats itself and in the Rosie the Riveter and Home Front story, we have wonderful and monumental examples of what we can accomplish when we work together for a common purpose.

— Sarah Pritchard



Left to right: Marian Wynn, Kay Morrison, Agnes Moore, Marian Sousa, Mary Torres, and Margaret Archie.

Hospitals Then and Now

In early April, the Craneway Pavilion, located in the Rosie the Riveter/WWII National Historical Park next to the Visitor Center, was readied as an overflow hospital for COVID-19 patients. Warren Harber, Trust Board member and Vice President, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, inspired by an article from Kaiser Archivist Lincoln Cushing, said, "I am reminded how important it is that we take health care to the communities in need. Before Kaiser Permanente was established in 1945, the Permanente Field Hospital in Richmond was opened in 1942 for a different national need. In KP's 75th year, we are once again responding by helping to establish Field Hospitals for our communities in need. It is truly great to be part of this terrific organization."

To read Lincoln Cushing's full story on Kaiser's Richmond Field Hospital online, go to kp.org/history and search for Richmond Field Hospital. It's a fascinating read!



Clockwise from top left: Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County, at the Craneway Pavilion set up as a hospital (Rick Hurd, courtesy of Bay Area News Group); The Craneway Pavilion (Billy Hustace); Kaiser Field Hospital (Kaiser Permanente).



We Can Do It... Today!



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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 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
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WWII Home Front National Historical Park

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THE RIVETER

News from Rosie the Riveter Trust supporting the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park • June 2020

Events

All public events at the Visitor Education Center were cancelled at the start of the COVID-19 order to shelter in place. As this issue of *The Riveter* goes to print, we do not know when the Center will reopen and events will resume. Please see From the Park Superintendent (right) for ways to enjoy the Park in the meantime, and check the Trust website for updates at nps.gov/rori or rosietheriveter.org.

FROM THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT



We had a springtime full of events and programs planned at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park this year, including our *Every Kid Outdoors* programming and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the park with the Trust at their annual dinner. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had other plans for us, and our visitor center had to close on March 17, with most events and programs being cancelled or postponed until a later date. The park staff are all doing well. Most are working remotely from the security of their own homes, and we continue to make sure the exhibits and Visitor Center space is maintained and ready when we return to work.

At the time of this writing, the Visitor Center is closed under the shelter-in-place order, but hiking along the bay trail is still possible—as long as social distancing protocols are followed. I would encourage you to stay safe and come for a hike along the historic Richmond waterfront, but remember that if you see a large number of people, please come back another day. An audio tour from the visitor center to the Rosie memorial is available on your cell phone, accessed through the Vizzit app. We are optimistic that if we work together to maintain social distancing and stop the spread of the virus, we will be able to open back up soon. We will be working with the Trust to provide more information on our website and through social media, so check them out to see what's going on...and stay safe.

— Tom Leatherman

Note: Tom tells us that he has spoken with Betty Reid Soskin, who is doing well and staying at home while the shelter-in-place order is in effect.