

"Historic Sleepover," from p. 3

service of the steward's department, the cozy captain's quarters, and the incredible views from the ship. They are anxious to return in November 2009 when the community will celebrate the 65th anniversary of the ship's launch.

—Lois Boyle

Richmond Museum of History Association

"Baby Duck," from p. 7



Lucille Price was a Richmond shipyard worker during WWII. Photos: Virginia McPartland

threaten her safety. She was grateful for the protection she got from Charlie Ryder, her crew leader. Ryder identified each of his workers by the yellow paint handprints on the backsides of their workpants. "He could always see us at work, even from a distance," she said. "I loved that man. He called me 'Baby Duck.'"

In 1944, she left the shipyards to teach dancing, her first love. In later years, she became an artist, a talent that emerged in 1943 when she sketched the laying of a C-4 keel on her lunch break.

—Virginia McPartland, Kaiser Permanente

NPS is moving!

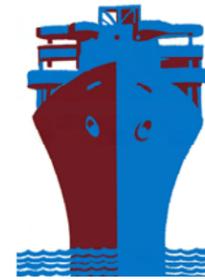
NPS can be reached at the mailing address listed below, and will be moving our offices in July. Visit our website for the most up-to-date information or call 510-232-5050.



**ROSIE THE RIVETER /
WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT**
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Station A
P.O. Box 336
Richmond, California 94808-0336
Phone: 510-232-5050 Fax: 520-232-5504

**Do you or a family member
have a home front story?
Submit it to the NPS collection!
Call 510-232-5050.**



Partnering for the Home Front



PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



News about National Park Service (NPS) Partnerships

SUMMER - FALL 2009

Hollywood on the Home Front

DURING WORLD WAR II, Americans confronted a whole host of challenges on the home front, from rationing to the absence – or loss – of loved ones serving abroad. The war effort surrounded every aspect of their lives, even at the movies. This summer's Home Front Film Festival provides an opportunity to see some of Hollywood's best-loved films, representing important aspects of life on the home front. The Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park and the Richmond Museum of History Association will present six nights of home front drama and comedy on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of June, July and August. The festival will take place on board the historic *Red Oak Victory* ship, built in Richmond's Kaiser shipyards during WWII

and currently berthed in historic Shipyard No. 3. With the exception of the first film, *Casablanca*, the films will be shown in historical order.

National Park Service staff selected seven movies from over 2400 made by the major motion picture studios during the war years. These films communicated important messages about life on the home front – including a hearty dose of propaganda – to Americans in ways only Hollywood could. The films cover the period just before the United States entered WWII to the period immediately following the war. Major themes include: preparing a reluctant country for war (*Sergeant York*), sacrifice and courage for the greater good

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Scenes from *The Best Years of Our Lives* (L) and *Casablanca* (R). Film stills: Encyclopedia Britannica (L); CSWAP (R).

Author Receives Historic Preservation Award

On May 18, Thomas Bottomley received an award from the city of Richmond and the National Park Service for his book, *The Story of a Lone Survivor — SS Red Oak Victory*. Bottomley, a longtime volunteer on the ship, researched archives and other sources to write the book. At the same awards ceremony, several others were also honored for their roles in historic preservation, with many notable achievements related to the World War II home front. The Richmond Historic Preservation Advisory Committee selected the award winners.



Thomas Bottomley received an NPS award in May for his book about the S.S. Red Oak Victory. Photo: Sabrina Key

Unique Glimpse of Black Life during Wartime

EMMANUEL F. JOSEPH'S PHOTOGRAPHS, taken from 1929 until his death in 1979, are a unique and rich source of information about black life and culture in the Bay Area and California. Joseph's photos from the World War II period are especially important, as he was granted clearance by the War Department to photograph on restricted sites. Much of Joseph's work appeared in the *Pittsburg Courier* and the *Chicago Defender*. African American families in California subscribed to the *Courier* and the *Defender* prior to the 1950s, as news of the black community was not printed in the local white newspapers.

In 1980 I (Careth Bomar Reid), purchased his entire collection of negatives, personal papers and other artifacts from his widow. I stored this collection until my retirement as director of the Whitney Young Child Development Center in 2001. In 2003 I traveled to St. Lucia where Mr. Joseph was

born and raised, hoping to find remnants of his family. There must have been a large Joseph plantation on the island, as almost everyone I met shared the Joseph surname. However, I was able to locate his sister, 90 year-old Catherine, who was still living in the family home. She allowed me to interview her and photograph her and her home, and all of the old family pictures.



Undated self-portrait by Emmanuel Joseph.

Since August 2007 I have been cleaning negatives and placing them in proper storage. Working with the collection is like working in a gold mine. I have found photos of the establishment

of the United Nations at the S.F. Opera House; world champion boxer Joe Louis visiting hospitalized service personnel; black sailors picketing at the Port Chicago mutiny trials; Dr. Martin Luther King arriving at Oakland's 16th Street Southern Pacific Station to give a speech at the Oakland Auditorium; Assemblyman Byron Rumford (responsible for the passage of Fair

Housing legislation); union organizer Ray Thompson, who led union-breaking efforts against the racially segregated Boilermakers International, resulting in a California Supreme Court decision that led to a "Fair Employment" ruling during the war years; and photos of Berkeley's Walter Gordon, named by Governor Pat Brown as Chief Parole Officer for the State and, later, appointed governor of the Virgin Islands. Eventually I hope to give this rich collection to the San Francisco State University Archives and Research Center.

—Careth Bomar Reid

HOME FRONT STORIES

"Baby Duck" - One Woman's Shipyard Story

PAY WAS GOOD for a woman electrician in Richmond Shipyard No. 3 in 1943, recalls Lucille "Penny" Price. She started at Yard 3 October 1, 1942, when she was barely 18. A fun-loving Oakland girl, she saw work in the wartime shipyards as a great opportunity.

She started at \$1.05 per hour as a helper, and before long was making \$1.15 as an electrician trainee. When she made journeyman, her wage was raised to \$1.32. "That was like 'Va va vooom!'" It seemed to be a lot of money to me." Of course, the expense of savings bonds, taxes, union dues, and 50 cents a week for health care took some of the thrill out of the "big" paychecks.

Penny contrasts her view of her shipyard job with that of a southern transplant named "Buzz." He was a helper who seemed to never take a shower and always looked scruffy. One day he came to the shipyard and told the boss his wife had lost her job so he had to leave and find a job. As it turned out, Buzz received paychecks regularly but, illiterate, mistook them for certificates of achievement in the war effort. "No wonder he was so unkempt. He was living in his car," Penny recalls.

Penny worked wiring C-4 troop transports and landing ship tanks (LSTs). As a woman, she sometimes felt vulnerable in the rough and tumble shipyard environment. Often, men would tease and harass her and even

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Join our Team and Become a VIP!

VOLUNTEERING is an important American tradition that helped our country succeed during World War II, and continues today in the many ways volunteers give back to their community. At Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, volunteers are an integral part of the National Park Service staff. That's why we call them "VIPs" – Very Important People who are also part of the National Park Service Volunteer-in-Park (VIP) team. Volunteers assist with visitor service operations, participate in park-sponsored events, and help with the museum collection.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer team, we have a variety of opportunities, from short-term event help to docent opportunities that require a longer commitment. As a volunteer you will be eligible for field trips to local parks and museums and other training.

Please contact volunteer coordinator Elizabeth Tucker for more information at (510) 232-1542.

—Elizabeth Tucker, NPS

From top to bottom: Volunteers and NPS staff on a field trip to Angel Island (2007). Home Front Story Corps volunteers collect stories during the Richmond Home Front Festival (2008). Volunteers Sally Green, Marian Wynn, Nel Benningshof, and Marian Sousa at the Marin Headlands (2009). Volunteer Sally Green holding her father's ID Badge from the Alameda Naval Shipyard (2009). Photos: NPS





Upcoming Events



Park Ranger Programs

July - August 2009

Rosie the Riveter Memorial Marina Bay Park - FREE!

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM, SATURDAYS
7/4, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22

1:30 - 2:15 PM, THURSDAYS
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/30, 8/13, 8/20

STORIES FROM THE HOME FRONT. Meet park ranger at memorial by main parking lot.

SPANISH TOURS AT THE MEMORIAL - FREE! PROGRAMAS EN ESPAÑOL - ¡¡GRATIS!!

2:30 - 3:00 PM, SÁBADOS: 7/4, 8/8, 8/15

HÉROES DE HOME FRONT

Encuentra un guardaparques, Miguel Dimas, cerca del estacionamiento para una programa de treinta minutos.

JUNIOR RANGERS AT THE MEMORIAL - FREE!

10:30 - 11:30 AM, SATURDAYS
7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/15

FUN ON THE HOME FRONT for ages 8 to 12: Meet a park ranger at the memorial for a one-hour program of games and activities.

Historic Shipyard No. 3 - FREE!

1:00 - 1:45 PM, TUESDAYS
7/14, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25

ALL HANDS ON DECK: BUILDING THE SHIPS THAT KEPT DEMOCRACY AFLOAT!

Meet park ranger at the Whirley Crane. Park outside gate for Red Oak Victory ship.

Home Front Film Festival

June - August 2009

Red Oak Victory ship, 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS. Showtime: 7 pm. Boarding: 6:30 PM. \$5 donation to board ship. Free program.

- 6/11 Casablanca
- 6/25 Sergeant York
- 7/9 Mrs. Miniver
- 7/23 Action in the North Atlantic
- 8/13 Nothing but Trouble & Air Raid Wardens
- 8/27 Best Years of Our Lives

Special Events

July 2009 and beyond

Port Chicago Memorial Anniversary

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2009, IN CONCORD

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Information: www.nps.gov/poch

Home Front Festival

OCTOBER 2-3, 2009

"WE GROW WHEN WE COME TOGETHER"

Help showcase Richmond's fertile community life, including WWII victory gardens and community gardens, at this year's festival.

Join us at planning meetings! Contact Sadia Altaf, sadia@rcoc.com, 510-234-3512. Festival info: www.homefrontfestival.com



For more information, directions, or to receive notices by email, contact 510-232-5050, rori_gen_info@nps.gov, or visit www.nps.gov/rori.

Cut here and save!

Building Survey Reveals Local Gems

THE CITY OF RICHMOND'S Project PRISM historic survey, reported on in the last NPS newsletter, is now nearing completion. Over the past several months, historians from the preservation firm Page & Turnbull have documented nearly 1,350 buildings located in the Iron Triangle, Santa Fe, and Coronado neighborhoods. These structures include everything from small cottages built before the 1906 earthquake to churches, schools, warehouses, and large downtown commercial buildings.

According to survey project manager, Jonathan Lammers, there have been some surprises along the way. "We've found at least five houses that still have wood water towers on their lot, dating back to the early days of Richmond when people still had wells in their backyard," he says. "It's amazing they've survived all this time."

Funded in part by a Preserve America Grant from the National Park Service, the PRISM survey is also focused on identifying buildings with ties to

Richmond's historic World War II home front effort. "Richmond's population growth during World War II was twice as big as what happened in San Francisco during the Gold Rush," says Lammers. "This is a story that's important not just for Richmond, but for the whole country." Many of Richmond's wartime facilities were torn down in the 1950s, but others remain, even though they may not be obvious at first glance. "One of our favorite buildings is the former office of the United States Maritime Commission," Lammers says, referring to the government agency that con-



Kenbella's restaurant on Cutting Avenue occupies the building that housed the U.S. Maritime Commission offices during World War II. Photo: Page & Turnbull

structed thousands of public housing units in Richmond during the war. "It's currently used as a restaurant called Kenbella's on Cutting Avenue. We went there many times during the survey and ate their great sweet potato pie."

When completed, it's envisioned that Project PRISM will help identify areas that can be interpreted as part of the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, which, in turn, will encourage heritage tourism and ongoing revitalization efforts in Richmond.

—Jonathan Lammers, Page & Turnbull

A Historic Sleepover

ON APRIL 21 the Honorable Mayor James Johnson, Retired, of Red Oak, Iowa, and his wife Alice arrived in Richmond to spend three days on board the SS Red Oak Victory, the ship named for their hometown. It was a special occasion! The Johnsons were the first to stay overnight in the captain's quarters with the benefit of new plumbing. A major part of a \$1 million grant from Caltrans funded the improvements, which connected the "house" plumbing to the new sanitation holding tank installed in the lower No. 4

hold—making the ship's sanitation system operational. The Red Oak engineering crew did all of the work.

Mayor and Mrs. Johnson were on board the ship in 1998 when the ship made its historic move to Richmond from the reserve fleet. They were on board again for the 60th anniversary of the ship's launch in November of 2004, and now for the initiation of the ship's Coast Guard-approved plumbing system.

The Johnsons were delighted with the

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The mayor of Red Oak, Iowa, and his wife enjoy the newly restored captain's quarters on board the Red Oak Victory. Photo: Lois Boyle

The Sky (the Sea, and the Soil...) Are the Limit!

This summer, Richmond youth are involved in three new programs that will get them gardening, hiking, biking, climbing, camping, and cruising the Bay! Not to mention that they're also getting a taste of welding, firefighting, self defense, tree-trimming, and carpentry.

Did we mention that they'll get hands-on lessons in history too?!

The National Park Service is partnering with the city of Richmond and several community partners to bring these exciting new programs to Richmond youth.

Check it out!

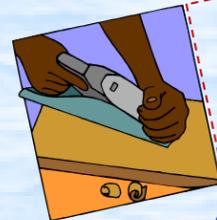
"Ship's Ahoy!" Say the Red Oak Campers

Twelve entering 8th-grade students from Adams and Lavonya Dejean Middle Schools will have the nautical experiences of their young lives as they initiate the Red Oak Campers program this summer. The one-week overnight camp on board the historic SS Red Oak Victory in Shipyard No. 3 will be held twice, the 2nd and 4th weeks in July. Campers will learn about the awesome accomplishments of the folks who built the ship (and 746 other ships in Richmond during WWII) that they'll call home for the week. In addition they'll be treated to four excursions: a south bay cruise on board the Mazapeta WWII tug/fireboat; a San Pablo Bay cruise on the USS Northland (a sea scout training ship); a bus tour of the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park (of which Shipyard No. 3 and the Red Oak Victory are parts) led by park rangers Craig

Riordan and Betty Soskin; and, finally, a walking excursion to the George Miller/John Knox Regional Park, including a swim at Richmond's historic Keller's Beach.

Campers will also learn about history in a very personal way. They'll bed down in the newly restored gunners' quarters in the afterhouse on the "aft" or back of the ship. They'll also share in the stewards' department responsibilities and shadow the volunteer crew in deck operations, cargo handling, and engine room maintenance. By the end of their camp, the youth will be old ship hands, but they'll also have a new job. When they return as students in the fall, they will act as goodwill ambassadors as the Adams and DeJean junior high school campuses merge.

—Lois Boyle
Richmond Museum of History Association



"Rosie's Girls" Explore Nontraditional Jobs & Take Strides toward their Future

Twenty-four girls will challenge themselves in new ways, and do things they may never have thought of doing, at a new summer camp being offered by the National Park Service in partnership with the YMCA of the East Bay, city of Richmond, Rosie the Riveter Trust, and West Contra Costa Unified School District. "Rosie's Girls," a national program begun in Vermont, is being offered to middle school girls in Richmond starting in July. The program is designed to build self-esteem, leadership, and physical confidence through an exploration of trades and non-traditional activities. During a three-week camp, girls learn about and apply skills in carpentry, welding, firefighting, horticulture and other technical trades. The curriculum includes creative expression such as mask-making and journaling. Participants engage in self-defense, a ropes course, and other fun physical challenges. "A Girl's World" activities allow the girls to explore issues such as gender roles, body image, and social pressure. Because Richmond is the site of the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, the girls learn about that legacy first-hand by meeting with local "sheroes," and working in historic settings. All the girls work together on a community service project for a local organization. The girls will also travel to local sites for special workshops and field trips.



"The Richmond Rosie Girl's program will offer a bright future for young women interested in the building trades. As a father of two young girls I am proud to support such a life changing program."
—Tariq Norris, Program Director
YMCA of the East Bay



Victory Garden Youth Corps Cultivate History & Community in a Richmond School Garden

By planting a vegetable garden on the White House lawn, Michelle Obama is providing the first family with fresh, locally grown produce. She is also reviving the important legacy of another first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, who grew a victory garden there during World War II as part of a nationwide effort to grow food locally. Victory gardens in backyards, vacant lots, and schools produced an incredible 40% of the fruits and vegetables consumed by Americans on the WWII home front. This summer, eight Richmond high school students will have the chance to learn about this important history and contribute to their local foodshed by building their own victory garden at Verde Elementary School in North Richmond. The youth will build raised beds, sell produce to the community, learn about nutrition and history, and create a community-based cookbook. Partners on this project include the National Park Service, Student Conservation Association, Verde Partnership Garden, West Contra Costa School District, and city of Richmond Youthworks.



Hollywood, from p. 1

(Casablanca, Mrs. Miniver, and Action in the North Atlantic), a comical view of the daily difficulties on the home front (Nothing but Trouble and Air Raid Wardens), and the challenges and adjustments Americans faced immediately following the war (The Best Years of Our Lives). All of these films were box office successes, several were multiple Academy Award winners, and two are on the American Film Institute's list of top ten movies of all time.

Showtime begins at 7 pm, and boarding starts at 6:30 pm. There is no fee for the movies, but there is a suggested donation of \$5 (\$4 for seniors) to board the ship and view museum exhibits. Refreshments will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Richmond Museum of History Association and the Red Oak Victory. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/rori/upload/film%20festival.pdf>, call (510) 232-5050 or contact rori_gen_info@nps.gov. For directions to Shipyard No. 3 and the Red Oak Victory, call (510) 237-2933 or visit <http://www.ssredoakvictory.com/contact.htm>.

—Craig Riordan, NPS