

FATHOM THIS!

The monthly newsletter from San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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IN THIS ISSUE:

FAREWELL TO SUPERINTENDENT KATE RICHARDSON
WELCOME INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT HOWARD LEVITT
WELCOME MUSEUM TECHNICIAN DIANE COOPER
HERCULES RETURNS!
NEW IN THE MARITIME LIBRARY
KLEBINGAT LECTURE SERIES
NEW IN HISTORIC DOCUMENTS
LINKS

Welcome to the January issue of the monthly e-letter from San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront. This is a time of transition as we bid fair winds to Superintendent Kate Richardson after seven years at the helm, and welcome our new interim Superintendent, Howard Levitt.

Visit Hyde Street Pier and discover your maritime heritage through ship tours and programs. View exhibits in the Visitor Center, and tour the WPA-era architecture and artwork in the magnificent Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building. For locations, hours of operation, admission fees for the historic vessels, and to discover all the programs the park has to offer, visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr/> and the website of the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at <http://www.maritime.org>.

Feel free to forward this newsletter, and enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. You may subscribe to or cancel receiving Fathom This! at any time by emailing the editor at peter_kasin@nps.gov. Your name and email address is never loaned or sold to any outside organization or individual.

FAREWELL TO SUPERINTENDENT KATE RICHARDSON

Kate Richardson accepted a newly-created job with the Washington, DC office of the National Park Service after seven years as Superintendent of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. She has joined the Office of the Assistant Director, Workforce Management, to serve as the first Workplace Enrichment Program Manager for the National Park Service. In this role, she will provide leadership in a joint effort with the National Parks Conservation Association in working with NPS employee enrichment, training, work/life balance and diversity nationwide. She began her new job on January 3, working out of her new office here in her beloved adopted home of San Francisco.

A surprise going-away breakfast, organized by park staff, was held for her in December in the Maritime Library. Those present spoke of her leadership in guiding through the various park restoration projects, her commitment to building relations between the park and its partners, and the park's exemplary safety program instituted under her leadership. We wish her success in this exciting new chapter of her 29-year career.

WELCOME INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT HOWARD LEVITT

Howard Levitt, Chief of Interpretation and Education at our neighboring Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), has taken a temporary leave of that position to become Interim Superintendent of San Francisco Maritime NHP for the next several months. Howard brings a long and varied career with the National Park Service, and a wealth of life experiences to his work. Born in Los Angeles, he has lived in the Bay Area since undergraduate days in the 1960's, and has been a San Francisco resident since 1977. He holds an A.B. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and has completed coursework for a Master of Education degree from San Francisco State University.

He has served in several capacities with GGNRA since 1986, including Chief of Interpretation and Education since 1991, and Interim Superintendent at Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park. He was an Air Quality Planner for the Environmental Protection Agency, 1971-74, and an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the NPS Western Regional office, 1978-86.

Mr. Levitt also serves as President, Board of Directors, Environmental Traveling Companions (1985-present), a non-governmental organization providing rafting, kayaking, and skiing opportunities for people with physical disabilities and for disadvantaged youth. Activities and interests have taken him to study and travel in Europe, Southeast and Western Asia, Central America, and Africa. He enjoys whitewater rafting, of which he is a certified guide, sea kayaking, scuba, road cycling, camping, running, music and theater.

WELCOME MUSEUM TECHNICIAN DIANE COOPER

Diane Cooper holds a degree in Maritime History and Underwater Archeology from East Carolina University. During the last twenty years she has worked for and with the park on numerous and varied contracts obtained through the park and through its partner, the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. In addition, she has also held positions at the Treasure Island Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Museum, the San Diego Maritime Museum, and at the USS *Pampanito* World War II submarine. As a maritime historian she has a long list of papers, presentations, and publications, including articles in *Mains'l Haul* and *Sea Letter*. She has also been a guest lecturer at East Carolina University and Sonoma State University. She has recently joined the National Park Service family and can be found working with the artifact collection in Lower Fort Mason, Building E.

HERCULES RETURNS!

Hours of visitation based on tide conditions. Please call 415-447-5000 to enquire about daily hours. Ships admission fees apply: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes.

Sounds like the title of a 1960's B-movie, but actually it means that the 1907 steam tugboat *Hercules* has returned from the dry dock newly painted, and is now open to board. Come to Hyde Street Pier and visit this historic landmark vessel, looking as good as new!

NEW IN THE MARITIME LIBRARY

Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. The library is open 3rd Saturday of every month, 10am-5pm. Also by appointment, M-F afternoons. Immediate appointments usually available: 415-561-7030.

Here is a book to peruse from new acquisitions to the library's collection:

Southern Pacific Water Lines, by David F. Myrick.

This well-known railroad author, a former employee of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company has got his feet wet! Many pages are devoted to the SF Bay Area: the ferries, the Sacramento river boats, and a good look at the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

KLEBINGAT LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, January 23, 6:00pm. In the Maritime Library, Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Wheelchair accessible by elevator. Donation: \$5 general, \$4 Maritime Library Friends members. Information and reservations: 415-561-7040.

The maritime history of the West Coast would have been unrecognizably different were it not for the large-scale migration of Asians to North America. Bob Barde, author of *Immigration at the Golden Gate*, traces how Asian immigration helped determine the nature of the ships that crossed the Pacific, the crews that manned them, the facilities for handling cargo, and the methods for regulating the arrival of those ships and their passengers.

NEW IN HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Historic Documents department located in the upper wing of the Maritime Library, Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E. Appointments: 415-561-7030.

The Gracie S. / Wanderer pilot vessel, built in 1893, plans and title records (HDC 1585) collection is now open for viewing. The vessel was built in San Francisco and was once owned by the actor Sterling Hayden, who wrote a memoir of his sailing adventures, entitled *Wanderer*.

LINKS

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/>

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

<http://www.maritime.org>

San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the

park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org>

The park library's nonprofit member-

supported cooperating association.

<http://hydestreetlivinghistory.org>

The park Living History Program's volunteer

created and managed website.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org>

The San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park's neighboring

partner in Aquatic Park.