

# The MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Summer 2018

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

## THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION WELL-REPRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Richmond Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the National Park Service held their annual Historic Preservation Awards ceremony on May 21 in the Richmond City Council Chambers. Among the honorees were two of the Richmond Museum Association's (RMA) own notable and most ardent supporters -- Museum Director Melinda McCrary and past RMA board member, the late Sandi Genser-Maack.

Melinda McCrary received the HPC's traditional, blue "R" trophy, engraved, "For Spearheading the Rescue of a Priceless Victor Arnautoff Mural and Fostering New Participatory, Community-Centered Programs at the Richmond Museum of History." The award was presented by HPC board member Jonathan Haerber.

We originally told the story of the Arnautoff mural in the Fall 2015 issue of *The MIRROR*. In that issue, we reported that the mural had hung in the Richmond Main Post Office until 1976 when it was taken down and subsequently forgotten. Ms. McCrary heard about the mural, learned of its significance and its disappearance and began a diligent and prodigious effort to find it and arrange for the Museum to take possession. And find it she did, after it had been in the Post Office basement in a cardboard tube for 40 years. The mural is now on 25-year loan to the RMA from the U.S. Postal Service, and restoration efforts are under way.

The participatory, community-centered programs Melinda initiated have been well-received events such as the "*Dia de los Muertos*" open houses, "*Family Free Day*" and free field trips to the Museum for school children.

Congratulations, Melinda! And thank you for your commitment to the RMA and the people of Richmond.

Sandi Genser-Maack received a posthumous "R" award "For her Relentless Preservation of Richmond History." Former Richmond Mayor Rosemary Corbin presented the award, recounting the many years that Sandi gave to Richmond's various history-centric organizations, such as the Richmond Museum Association, first as a volunteer in the Museum, then on staff as Volunteer Coordinator, then a board member and also a volunteer on the RMA's *SS Red Oak Victory* ship. Sandi served as a docent in the Visitor Center of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park. For many years, as a member and Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission which honored her this year, she organized and emceed the awards ceremonies such as the one at which she received this award. The award was accepted by Sandi's husband and RMA board member Lynn Maack.

"Relentless" is a perfect description of Sandi's dedication to preserving Richmond's history. And the Historic Preservation Award is a fitting tribute to her efforts.

Thank you to the Historic Preservation Commission for recognizing two of the RMA's valued leaders.

(See p. 6 for other HP Awardees and photos.)

### In This Issue:

Historic Preservation Awards pp. 1, 6  
President's Message p. 3  
Director's Message p. 2  
Jewish History in Richmond p. 2  
Jewish Exhibit Preview - Centerfold  
New Acquisitions p. 10  
Museum Free Field Trip Program p. 3  
Movies on the *Red Oak* p. 5  
*Red Oak* Report p. 4  
Upcoming Events pp. 5, 7  
Swing Dance on the *Red Oak* p. 8  
Join the RMA p. 11

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Come Support Your Museum!

The Richmond Museum of History cordially invites you to a fundraising dinner on Friday September 7, 2018, at the Richmond Country Club! The theme for the evening is *“A Rich Past for a Brighter Future”* and our featured speaker will be West Contra Costa Unified School District Superintendent Matthew Duffy. Tickets are \$100 each, and proceeds from the event will support the popular school field trip program that provides transportation scholarships to local classrooms to visit the Museum free of charge. With your help we can continue the scholarship program through the next school year and beyond. Please help us meet our fundraising goal of \$20,000 by purchasing tickets or donating an item or service for the silent auction.

Join us for the benefit dinner on September 7, 2018, and together we can make an investment in the future of Richmond! Countless studies demonstrate the importance of field trips to informal learning environments, such as museums, to cement the lessons learned in the classroom. Budget cuts in schools led to a dramatic decrease in the funds available to teachers for field trips and increases in transportation costs result in fewer out-of-classroom learning experiences for local students. You will be helping us continue a program at the core of our mission: to educate the public about the history of Richmond.

The Museum provided transportation scholarships to visit the Museum to over 1,000 2nd-11th grade students during the 2017/2018 academic year. Students enjoyed free admission, and facilitated activities led by a formal museum educator were included in the scholarship at no cost to the students. Please support our fundraising dinner and help us continue to provide scholarships for field trips to the Museum through the 2018/2019 academic year.

One of the many goals of our field trip program is to instill a sense of pride into local youth about the many extraordinary feats that have taken place in Richmond throughout its history. Young people who feel pride in where they live have an increased sense of self-worth that can lead them to achieve their educational goals.

Tickets for *“A Rich Past for a Brighter Future”* are \$100 per person or \$800 for a table of eight. Please consider purchasing a table of eight and inviting your friends and family to join you! Contact Melinda at (510)235-7387 for information about sponsorship opportunities. Local history is important because it demonstrates that ordinary people have achieved extraordinary feats and it inspires people to reach for the same in their own lives.

Thank you for your continued support, and we’ll see you in September!

Melinda McCrary  
Museum Director

## SEEKING JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY IN RICHMOND

In addition to the September event announced in the Director’s message, the Richmond Museum of History is planning an exciting exhibition called *“Pioneers to Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County”* to open in November 2018 honoring the contributions of the Jewish community in Richmond and greater Contra Costa County. The exhibition developed out of our work on the *“History Unfolded”* project in support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. We searched through the Museum’s collection of the Richmond Daily Independent and Richmond Record Herald newspapers for coverage of Holocaust-related events. The results of our efforts in support of the *History Unfolded* project will be part of the exhibition in November.

The exhibition committee is developing biographical information about significant Jewish individuals in Richmond and greater Contra Costa County. We also want to hear from you! Do you have information related to local Jewish people in the past and present? We welcome information about Jewish-owned businesses and people from all walks of life.

The Museum seeks community support in uncovering local Jewish history and is asking people who know about aspects of Jewish history in the area, including stories about individuals, communities and businesses, to contact the Museum at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org) or (510) 235-7387.

### HISTORY UNFOLDED

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) is asking citizen historians to help them track coverage of events in American newspapers leading up to the Holocaust in Europe. The Richmond Museum of History has contributed coverage from the Richmond Daily Independent and the Richmond Record Herald and is seeking people to search Oakland, San Francisco and other newspapers. We will share the results of the research with the public in the form of an exhibit opening in November 2018.

Learn more here:

<https://newspapers.ushmm.org>.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

When most of us think about history it is in the context of what has happened in the past. Understanding and being aware of what has occurred in the past can also be very beneficial in helping us in the present.

As an organization the Richmond Museum Association works diligently to preserve the rich history of Richmond, however we also know that an important part of the process entails planning for the future. With that in mind, we have embarked upon a plan to enhance the experience at the Museum location by updating our Main Gallery with interactive displays and other features that will broaden the appeal to a new generation of Museum visitors.

Our single largest artifact, the *SS Red Oak Victory* ship is also heading for an enhanced future; she is scheduled to begin a series of important systems tests which we hope will ultimately result in the Ship sailing again in a manner similar to the bay cruises that its “sister ship” the *SS Jeremiah O’Brien*, docked in San Francisco, offers to the public.

While we are preserving Richmond’s history, we have to make plans for the future in order to keep the organization viable, relevant and self-sustaining. This not only entails artifacts and displays but it also encompasses Museum leadership. The leadership team understands that we need fresh ideas and energy to keep the organization moving forward.

As the RMA president, I am pleased to announce the recent addition of two new members to our board of directors – Rosa Lara Vargas and Demnlus Johnson. These two individuals have strong community ties and literally grew up in the shadow of the Museum. I appreciate the level of interest and the enthusiasm that they bring to the organization as well as their respective skills and talents.

The RMA has made it a priority to take the necessary steps to preserve the history of Richmond but to do it in a manner whereby we are always “in the present.”

*Jeff Wright*  
*RMA President*

## MUSEUM SCHOOL FIELD-TRIP PROGRAM

*By Mimi Vitetta*

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the ECIA (Economic and Community Investment Agreement), the Richmond Museum of History (RMH) launched a successful and empowering field trip program beginning in January 2018 for the surrounding school system.

Working directly with the teachers especially in Richmond and North Richmond as well as surrounding areas, RMH has coordinated and conducted 20 different school group tours of the Museum that included transportation to the Museum and engaging activities relevant to the Museum’s contents and functions. RMH also completed a time capsule with contents contributed by the students visiting the Museum. This time capsule, containing messages to kids of the future, will be sealed in June and stored in the Museum archives in the basement for the next 30 years. The teachers and students have positively received the program.

Extraordinary things have taken place in Richmond and we want to empower and inspire our children by showing them their history. We hope to continue the program next year. To help us do that, please come to our fundraising event, “*A Rich Past for a Brighter Future*,” which will be held at the Richmond Country Club on September 7, 2018. (See flyer for the event on page 6.)

### **Please Pass the Word**

Do you know of a teacher in Richmond who would like to bring his or her class to the Richmond Museum of History? If so, please pass along the message that we are offering scholarships for bus transportation to and from the Museum. Interested teachers please contact Melinda at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org) or (510) 235-7387.

## MUSEUM WISH LIST

Yarn  
Extension cords  
Power strip  
Garden hose

*If you can donate these items or contribute to their purchase, please call the Museum at (510) 235-7387.*

# FROM THE *RED OAK VICTORY* SHIP

by Johannes Hoech, ROV Director of Ship Operations

2018 is getting off to a great start, the most important news being the real prospect of “lighting off” the *SS Red Oak Victory*’s original steam engine at the docks of the California Maritime Academy (“CMA”), an opportunity for which we’re deeply grateful to CMA.

Our greatest appreciation, however, goes to the crew who have been working feverishly to prepare for the light-off; getting the engine room ready, procuring fuel and distilled water, obtaining the needed compliance checks, re-installing the old gangway for use at the CMA dock, obtaining an additional standby generator, and so on ... and all the while doing the prodigious work necessary to put on yet more events. On Mother’s Day, we had our first Pancake Breakfast for the season where we hosted over 250 guests. Most recently, on May 26, we held another swingin’ Swing Dance, this time with the well-known **Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers**.



Two of our guests take advantage of a popular photo-op at our Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak)



Flying the colors, including the ROV’s radio call sign, KYVM.

And two more events with cool bands are coming up before we leave Basin 5 in Richmond Harbor to be towed up to the CMA in Vallejo around July 5<sup>th</sup>:

- o The **Father’s Day pancake breakfast** on June 17<sup>th</sup> with the **Lovin’ Harmony Trio**, and
- o Our usual **July 3<sup>rd</sup> event** with the **John Kalleen Jazz Band** that everyone enjoyed at the event on Labor Day last year

For the exact dates of when the *SS Red Oak Victory* will be away from Basin 5, moored in Vallejo at CMA’s dock, please visit [www.redoakvictory.us](http://www.redoakvictory.us); we will update our travel dates there.

In addition to these events before the light-off, we will have an Oktoberfest on October 27, as well as **three more pancake breakfasts** (August 19, September 9 and October 14). Also, school visits continue to be a large part of our calendar. In addition, we are still a favorite destination for car clubs, such as the North Bay Corvette Club which visited us recently with a dozen cars.

So, you can see, 2018 has gotten started with a bang with the exciting prospect of lighting off the *Red Oak Victory* for the first time in 50 years, and several high-quality events. You can help us light off the Ship by buying tickets to visit the Ship and attend our events. Your support is important to us, because you help us raise funds necessary to maintain and restore this rare World War II vessel. So, come visit and dance, listen to good music and dine, or just visit the *Red Oak Victory* on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Arrive curious, leave in awe!

## THE *RED OAK*

### NEEDS YOU...

...to be a greeter. It’s a hard job—you have to smile and welcome visitors to a great adventure. We especially need help on Saturdays and Sundays. Call the Ship at (510) 237-2933 for more information or to volunteer.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

Here are the coming attractions....

**June 17th:** Father's Day Pancake Breakfast

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

\$12 for adults, kids \$5

Tickets will be available on-line and via phone; or just pay at the gate.

**July 3:** Independence Day Celebration

Again this year the *Red Oak Victory* will hold our traditional Independence Day celebration aboard the Ship. Live music, classic cars, food and drink will be featured, followed by viewing the Richmond fireworks from the best seat in the house. Times and ticket availability will be announced soon.

**August 19th:** Pancake Breakfast (Subject to July-August maintenance schedule--Please call before visiting)

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

\$12 for adults, kids \$5

Tickets will be available on-line and via phone; or just pay at the gate.

**September 9th:** Pancake Breakfast

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

\$12 for adults, kids \$5

Tickets will be available on-line and via phone; or just pay at the gate.

**October 14th:** Pancake Breakfast

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

\$12 for adults, kids \$5

Tickets will be available on-line and via phone; or just pay at the gate.

**October 27:** Oktoberfest

*Red Oak Victory* will close out our season with an authentic Oktoberfest featuring local craft breweries, food and live music. Times and ticket availability will be announced soon.

The Ship is open for tours on every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the year:

Summer hours (March - November): 10 am - 4 pm

Winter hours (November - March): 10 am - 3 pm

Admission Price:

Self-guided tour (with souvenir booklet): \$10

Docent-guided tour (entire ship except the lower engine room): \$15

Deluxe docent-guided tour (includes the lower engine room): \$20

Large Groups:

For groups of ten or more visiting the ship at one time, please contact us to make arrangements. E-mail us at [info@redoakvictory.us](mailto:info@redoakvictory.us) or call the Ship's phone (during business hours): (510) 237-2933.

# WW II ON FILM ON THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

Movies of the World War II era shown on our own World War II ship is one of the great pleasures of being part of a National Historical Park. Add to that our host, Craig Riordon, who shares insight and secrets about the movies, the stars and the times, and it is an adventure.

Boarding is at 6:30 p.m. There is no fee, but you are encouraged to make a donation of \$10 to help maintain the Ship. And don't forget the popcorn and other refreshments available.

***Important Note: From approximately July 5 to August 9 the Red Oak Victory will be away from her normal berth in Richmond for maintenance. Normal hours and special events will resume in mid-August.***

As always, please verify the film by calling (510) 237-2933 prior to arriving on board.

June 28: "*Casablanca*" (1942) Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. A cynical American expatriate nightclub owner protects an old flame and her husband from Nazis in Morocco. Come join us for an evening in Rick's *Café Americain* and share the most beloved movie of the World War II era.

August 23: "*Action in the North Atlantic*" (1943) Humphrey Bogart and Raymond Massey, Alan Hale. An American tanker is sunk by a German U-boat and the survivors spend eleven days at sea on a raft. They're next assigned to the Liberty Ship "Sea Witch" bound for Murmansk through the sub-stalked North Atlantic. Excellent film highlighting the perilous duties of the U.S. Merchant Marine in WWII.

## ***RED OAK WISH LIST:***

Spill kit

Emergency locker w/lid, 3' x 4'

2 ink cartridges

AA batteries

LED penlights/laser pointers

and they really, really need SAFETY CONES

*If you have questions about these items or about how to get them to the Ship, please call the Ship at (510) 237-2933.*

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## AWARDS (Continued from p.1)

Others who received awards from the Historic Preservation Commission were:

**Alten Construction, Inc.**, “For Adaptive Reuse of the Historic National Oil Products Company Vitamin Factory to Alten Construction, Inc.’s Headquarters.”

### **Nystrom Elementary School**

“For the Rehabilitation and National Register Designation of Nystrom Elementary School.”

In addition to the HP Commission awards, The National Park Service and the City of Richmond honored Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay “for the significant role he has played in establishing and helping to make Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park flourish in the City of Richmond, California.”

Congratulations to all the awardees! You make Richmond history live on.

After the awards ceremony, a reception was held in the Richmond Art Center, at the invitation of its director Ric Ambrose. Catering was provided by the Contra Costa College Culinary Department and Chef Nader Sharkes. **In The Mix Trio** provided music for the event.



*Melinda McCrary, Director of the Richmond Museum of History, with her well-deserved “R” for Richmond Historic Preservation. (Photo by Ellen Gailing)*



*All the HP awardees, from left to right, Robert and Shannon Alten of Alten Construction, Inc., Lynn Maack, for Sandi Genser-Maack, Richmond Museum Director Melinda McCrary, Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay, Diane Hedler, board member of Rosie the Riveter Trust and Tom Leatherman, Superintendent of Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park. (Photo by Ellen Gailing)*

## Exhibit Preview Supplement

# Pioneers to the Present:

## Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County

November 2018 – April 2019 | Richmond Museum of History

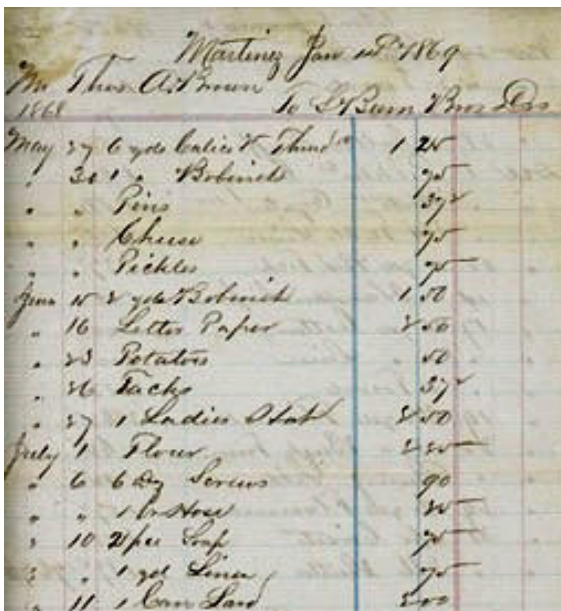
As part of our “Know Your Community” series, we will explore the often untold story of Jewish history in the city of Richmond and Contra Costa County. The exhibition will feature artifacts, historic photographs and stories that highlight the many contributions of the Jewish community in the area. The following biographical sketches are a preview of the forthcoming exhibition.

We need your help to tell this important story! You can support the project in the following ways:

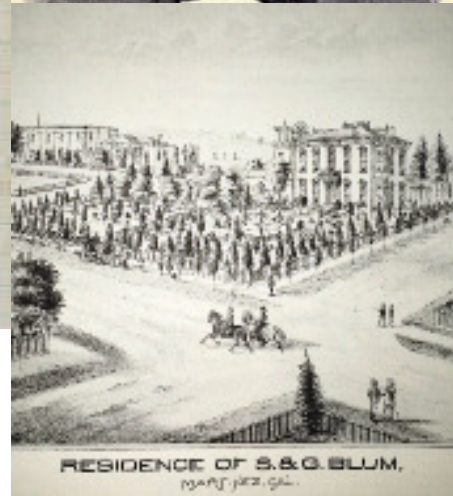
- 1) Tell your or your family’s story, 2) Invite a friend to the exhibit, or 3) Make a financial contribution payable to the Richmond Museum of History.

## Simon Blum

*Master Pioneer Merchant of Contra Costa County.*



Martinez Jan 21 1869		
Mr Thos. A. Brown to S. Blum Bros. Store		
1868		
May 27	6 yds. Baltic T. Shind	1 25
" 30	" " " " " "	75
" "	" " " " " "	37 1/2
" "	" " " " " "	75
" "	" " " " " "	75
" "	" " " " " "	75
June 16	2 yds. T. Schind	1 50
" 16	Letter Paper	2 50
" 25	Potatoes	50
" 26	Tea	37 1/2
" 27	1 Ladies Hat	2 50
July 7	Flour	2 50
" 6	6 doz. Lemons	90
" "	" " " "	30
" 10	2 lbs. Soap	75
" "	" " " "	75
" 11	1 Can Lard	2 00



### Notes:

Born 1834 (Strasbourg, France) –Died 1913 (Martinez, California)

**Far Left:** Receipt from Blum Brothers Store (1868/9)

**Top Right:** Portrait of Simon as Pioneer of Contra Costa County (no date)

**Bottom Right:** Blum Mansion in Martinez (no date)

# Clara-Rae Genser

*A longstanding pillar of the Richmond Community.*



A handwritten signature of Clara-Rae Genser in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style.



Clara-Rae Goldberg's Yiddish-speaking grandparents emigrated from Riga, Kovno and Russia. Clara-Rae grew up in Los Angeles, a secular Jew encouraged to take pride in her heritage by parents Jacob and Anna.

When America entered the Second World War, Clara-Rae left a promising civilian career to volunteer in the Army, becoming a "skirted soldier" in the Women's Army Corps. "Being Jewish and free, I went in to the WAC," she remembers. Clara-Rae went to radio school in Kansas City to learn how to monitor Axis radio transmissions for coded messages. Yet, despite being fully qualified to perform the tasks, gender discrimination relegated her instead to the job of training male soldiers.

During the war, Clara-Rae married Joseph Genser, also in the army, and in 1946, the Gensers moved to Richmond. The town was still overcrowded from its defense-related population explosion, so the young family lived for more than a year in public housing. They joined the Richmond Jewish Social Club and embraced its community. "Joe and I shared one fault," Clara-Rae remembers. **"We couldn't belong to anything and just belong. We had to get involved."** Their friendship club became the Richmond Jewish Community Center, then Temple Beth Hillel. For 25 years Clara-Rae applied her prodigious intellect to the organization's newsletter, *Shofar*. Husband Joe and son Josh each took turns in leadership positions within the congregation.

Clara-Rae served the entire Richmond community in the PTA and through political activism on behalf of the public schools. She worked in her husband's law firm and for Assemblyman John Knox. The extended Genser family remains active today in Temple Beth Hillel and supports the Richmond Museum of History.



# Frances Blumenfeld

*An extraordinary entrepreneur of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.*



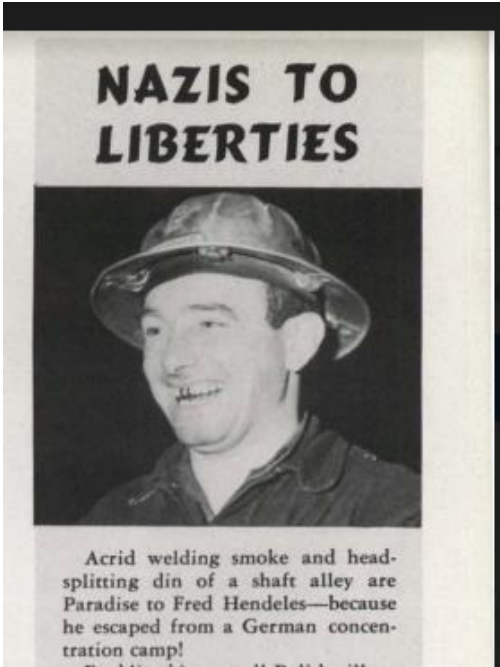
Miss Frieda Hyman (B. 1886 Galicia – D. 1970 Richmond, CA.) sailed with her sister to America from the Austrian province of Galicia. After working off her obligations to an East Coast cousin, Frieda (now Fannie) moved west to San Francisco and married a Romanian immigrant named Sol Blumenfeld — a “butter, eggs, and milk man.” In 1917 they moved to Richmond, probably because its climate suited Frances’ health. Leveraging her skills in millinery and dressmaking, Sol and Fannie opened a dry goods shop. The 1920 Federal census shows them at 18th and Macdonald, living above the store with daughter Juliette.

By 1925 Frances was divorced, a solo female shopkeeper with two children. Although the years of the Great Depression were tough, business picked up during the Second World War. Richmond’s shopkeepers faced an exploding demand for civilian work clothes and Frances seized the opportunity. She negotiated deals with a network of wholesale reps to purchase entire inventories of clothing lines that would position Blumenfeld’s as the ‘working people’s department store,’ advertising union-made clothing and S&H Green Stamps.

In total, the store started by Frances Blumenfeld would have a presence on Macdonald Avenue for 56 years. A woman of quiet demeanor, Frances nevertheless sought and nurtured networks of business associates and friends. Grandson Joel called this the “**Frances B. kind of thing –a trust in people.**” She was a member of the congregation at Temple Beth Hillel and gifted the synagogue with its first Torah.

# Fred Hendeles

*From Opatowec Work Camp to Richmond Shipyards.*



Above: Fred (1943) in the shipyard employee newsletter.

Below: Ship manifest with Fajwal (later Fred) listed as an indigent.

Fajwal Hendeles' (B. 1911 Poland – D. 2003 California) shtetl lay within a stone's throw of an ancient Polish city tracing back to the twelfth century. On September 3, 1939, the Nazis forced the people of Kozminek into a labor camp the townspeople themselves were made to build. Fred described being imprisoned behind barbed wire and working 16-hour days at heavy labor, possibly at the nearby Opatowec Civilian Labor Camp. Urged on by their father, Fajwal and his brother escaped, pressing east to find freedom.

Helped by many sources at several junctions of their flight, the Hendeles brothers first travelled more than 6,000 miles. They found temporary safe havens: first in Kobe (Japan), next in Japanese-controlled Shanghai, China.

Then, on September 28, 1941, Fred slipped aboard the *SS President Pierce*, a stowaway bound for the port of San Francisco. Lacking proper documents to enter, he was detained as a pauper and faced a Board of Special Inquiry.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS working as a part of continental United States have a foreign pass or a part of the transfer procedures of the United States, and all aliens coming as a part of said transfer procedures from a foreign port, a part of continental United States shall show to the satisfaction of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection the following:

S.S. PRESIDENT PIERCE Passengers sailing from SHANGHAI SEPTEMBER 28, 1941

No.	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Color of hair	Color of eyes	Place of birth	Nationality	Status	Place of last departure	Date of last departure	Date of arrival	Date of departure	Date of arrival	Last permanent residence	
														Country	City or town
1	STRAUSS, FRED	30	M	Brown	Blue	POLAND	HERRY	Y	POLAND	WARSAW	Sept 28, 1941	Sept 28, 1941	Sept 28, 1941	Shanghai, China	Kobe, Japan
2	STRAUSS, FRED	30	M	Brown	Blue	POLAND	HERRY	Y	POLAND	WARSAW	Sept 28, 1941	Sept 28, 1941	Sept 28, 1941	Shanghai, China	Kobe, Japan

*Handwritten notes on the manifest include: 'B50', 'B51', 'B52', 'B53', 'B54', 'B55', 'B56', 'B57', 'B58', 'B59', 'B60', 'B61', 'B62', 'B63', 'B64', 'B65', 'B66', 'B67', 'B68', 'B69', 'B70', 'B71', 'B72', 'B73', 'B74', 'B75', 'B76', 'B77', 'B78', 'B79', 'B80', 'B81', 'B82', 'B83', 'B84', 'B85', 'B86', 'B87', 'B88', 'B89', 'B90', 'B91', 'B92', 'B93', 'B94', 'B95', 'B96', 'B97', 'B98', 'B99', 'B100'. There are also signatures and initials throughout the document.*

Rescued by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Fred came job-hunting at the Kaiser Richmond shipyards; his broad smile and a dozen roses secured him an entry-level job as a steamfitter.



“It’s great to be in America,” said Fred in a 1943 interview, beaming.  
 “Suppose there were no America — what would happen to the rest of the world?”

# CURRENT AND UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS

**Ongoing, through August 2018**

***“Legacy Businesses”***

Richmond Museum of History, Seaver Gallery

Don't miss your chance to learn more about the Legacy Businesses that shaped the development of our great City. The exhibit is open through August 2018 and is included with general admission.

**September 7, 2018**

***“A Rich Past for a Brighter Future”***

Richmond Country Club

1 Markovich Lane, Richmond

A fundraiser to help provide free field trips to the Museum for schoolkids in the upcoming year.

See flyer, p. 9.

**November 2018** (date to be announced)

***“Pioneers to Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County”***

Richmond Museum of History, Seaver Gallery

An exhibition honoring the contributions of the Jewish community in Richmond.

# WHO'S THIS?

*by Lynn Maack*

This is the second entry in our new series in *The MIRROR* in which we seek the identities of unidentified people in local, historical photographs in the Museum's collection. The historical record is fuller when we can identify the people and places in our photographs. We will try to provide some background on the photograph's content to the extent we can to assist in jogging memories.

In the photograph below, we have a number of people to identify. The photo shows firemen in their long johns and was taken during a “Forty Niner Days” celebration at 3rd Street and Macdonald Avenue in 1946.

We're hoping someone out there will recognize at least one of the people in this photograph. If you do, please email the Museum at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org), or call 510-235-7387 and let us know whom the person is and any details you may know about him.

Thank you for your help.



# SHIPYARD SWING ON THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

By Fred Klink, ROV Marketing Director

On Memorial Day, we remember the fallen American soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedoms. At the *Red Oak Victory* we remembered the soldiers of World War II by enjoying their favorite music and dance. The Saturday night before Memorial Day, **Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** were the featured entertainment for our “*Shipyards Swing*” fundraiser event. Ms. Smith brought down the house with great swing, jazz, and blues tunes from the 1940s and ‘50s. She also told us she felt a connection to the *Red Oak Victory* because her father ran a shipyard in Los Angeles.



Lavay Smith belts out a tune at our Swing Dance on board the *Red Oak Victory*. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak)

We held contests for Best Dressed Man of the 1940s, Best Dressed Woman of the 1940s, and Best World War II Military Uniform. The big



The Red Hot Skillet Lickers at Swing Dance in Hold #4 on the *Red Oak Victory*. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak)



Bernie Schindler and Gail Lipman, Best Dance Couple at Swing Dance on the *Red Oak Victory*. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak)

contest, however, was for the Best Dance Couple, and that was won by 92-year-old Bernie Schindler and his dance partner Gail Lipman. Bernie has been winning dance contests for five decades and is still going strong.

If you missed the Shipyards Swing Dance, do not despair! There are more fun events on the *Red Oak Victory* for 2018: **Pancake Breakfast** Fundraisers on June 17 (Father’s Day), August 19, September 9, and October 14. Two more special events are also on the calendar: **July 3 Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks**, and **Oktoberfest** on October 14 featuring local craft brew and wines. See [www.redoakvictory.us](http://www.redoakvictory.us) for further details and for tickets. We look forward to seeing you on board.

# COME TO OUR FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS TO THE MUSEUM

## *A Rich Past for a Brighter Future*

Proceeds benefit the K-12 school program  
at the Richmond Museum of History.

**Friday September 7, 2018**

At the **Richmond Country Club**  
1 Markovich Lane  
Richmond, CA 94806  
[www.myrichmondcc.org](http://www.myrichmondcc.org)

5:30 | Drinks and Silent Auction  
7:00 | Dinner

Premium Tickets \$100

Purchase tickets at [www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org), by  
phone at 510-235-7387 or in person at the gift shop.

Please contact [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org) for  
more information or for sponsorship opportunities.

Featuring speaker  
**Matthew Duffy**  
Superintendent West Contra  
Costa Unified School District



Richmond Museum of History 400 Nevin Ave. Richmond, CA 510-235-7387  
55 Red Oak Victory 1337 Canal Blvd. Richmond, CA 510-237-2933  
[www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org) 501c3 # 94-6095083

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:

Point Richmond History Association via Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Newspapers and correspondence, 1910-1960, including  
*The Richmond Independent's* special Golden Anniversary  
Edition, October 3, 1955

Steve DeLucchi  
Memorabilia, documents and tools from Richmond  
businesses including The Pullman Company, 1910s-1940s

Lynn Maack  
Four books written by El Cerrito High School teacher  
Ben Rust, 1970s



Cover of book, *People Eaters*,  
by Ben Rust

Loretta Schauffler  
Scrapbooks, school projects, Richmond High School  
yearbooks, baby shoes, 1950s

Patricia Dornan  
Richmond High School Diploma, 1911, middy cuffs and  
collar, 1937, Lincoln Elementary class photos, 1929. From the  
estate of Linda Pereira - Richmond Union High School  
memorabilia: letter sweater from the Girls' Athletic Association,  
school programs, issues of The Richmond Hi-Nus newspaper,  
1960s

## A PUSH FOR RMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our members are important to us. They are a source of funding for our critical work on projects such as restoring the fabulous, 1940 Victor Arnautoff mural, maintaining and restoring the last remaining Richmond-built WWII cargo ship, the *SS Red Oak Victory*, redesigning and upgrading the displays in the Main Gallery of the Museum and hosting schoolkids on free field trips to the Museum, among many others. These efforts are ongoing, and some are never-ending. We depend on and are grateful to our members for helping us preserve and educate about Richmond history..

During our regular membership list review, we have noticed that it appears we have lost some former supporters. In light of our ongoing activities and increased membership incentives for our most ardent supporters, we're hoping that membership in the RMA is more attractive and we can reignite the spark in our past members. So we will be making a special effort to contact them to try to bring them back on board.

If you are one of our past supporters whose membership has expired, or if you just want to become a member, please join us! Now you will receive even more from your membership in addition to the most important benefit—the feeling you receive from knowing you are among a community of like-minded individuals who recognize the importance of historic preservation and education. New benefits include one free digital image from our permanent collection, an hour of staff research time, or an advertisement in *The MIRROR* newsletter. Learn more about the benefits that you qualify for on page 11. Help us do what we do!

## EMAIL PLEASE...

Like many organizations, the Richmond Museum Association needs to cut costs where we can. And as much as I personally prefer to hold a newsletter in my hand, that hard copy is expensive to print and mail.

So let us email you your copy of *The MIRROR*. For those members who do not have email, we will continue to print and mail your newsletter. But many of you have email addresses and we hope you will share them with us. We promise not to sell them or share them with anyone else.


Please email us at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org) with *The MIRROR* in the subject line, and don't forget to tell us your name.

Thank you for helping us keep our costs down.  
[Ed.]

**WRIGHT REALTORS®**  
*"The Right Choice Since 1968"*

**Jeffrey Wright**  
 Broker – CalBRE #00697289

10290 San Pablo Avenue, Ste. 101  
 P.O. Box 1398  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530  
 jeff@thewrightbrokers.com  
 (510) 232-2901 Direct  
 (510) 526-0121 Office




**M.A. HAYS CO., INC.**  
*Quality Insurance and Service Since 1912*

**John Zieshenne**  
 Broker  
 Lic # 0675383

232 BROADWAY RICHMOND, CA 94804 (510) 235-0353 EXT. 14  
 JOHNZ@MAHAYS.COM WWW.MAHAYS.COM FAX (510) 235-5058

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • LIFE • MEDICAL

**Your ad could be here.**

For \$100, your business card can appear in 4 issues (a year's worth) of *The MIRROR*. Current distribution is 2,000 copies sent and growing.

Send an email to [l.maack@comcast.net](mailto:l.maack@comcast.net) to reserve your space.

## Become a Member Today

And receive these Benefits:

- « Free admission
- « Quarterly newsletter
- « 10% discount in gift shops
- « Membership card
- « And more:

\_\_\_ \$35 **History Ally**—Seniors aged 62 and over—Benefits include quarterly e-newsletter and free admission for one to the Richmond Museum of History and the SS Red Oak Victory

\_\_\_ \$50 **History Enthusiast**—Benefits include one digital file of a photo in the permanent collection for personal use

\_\_\_ \$100 **History Advocate**—2 adults/2 youth—Benefits above and one hour of staff research time

\_\_\_ \$250 **History Guardian**—Benefits above and “Behind the Scenes” tour of permanent collection

\_\_\_ \$500 **History Patron**—Benefits above and one ad in *The MIRROR* newsletter

\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_ **Renew** \_\_\_ **Gift**

\_\_\_ **I would like to Volunteer!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Join at [www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org) or mail a check to RMA at:  
 Richmond Museum Association  
 P.O. Box 1267  
 Richmond CA 94802*



P.O. Box 1267  
Richmond, CA 94802

Join the Richmond Museum Association on social media! We are on Facebook under Richmond Museum of History and *SS Red Oak Victory* (two separate pages). We are also on twitter @richmondhistory.

*The Richmond Museum Association is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit educational organization. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

**Officers**

Jeffrey Wright, President  
Johannes Hoech, Vice-President  
John Zieshenne, Treasurer  
Vinay Pimple, Recording Secretary

**Directors**

Rich Chivers  
Micheal Davenport  
Steve Gilford  
Tom Horsfall  
Demnlus Johnson  
Lynn Maack  
Lorraine Regier  
Lydia Stewart  
Rosa Lara Vargas

**Museum Staff**

Melinda McCrary, Director  
Evelyn Santos, Museum Technician  
Michelle Jenkins Reeder, Curatorial Asst.  
Mimi Vitetta, Museum Educator

**The MIRROR**

Lynn Maack, Editor  
Contributors  
Johannes Hoech  
Fred Klink  
Melinda McCrary  
Mimi Vitetta

**Red Oak Victory Ship**

Open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
1337 Canal Blvd.  
Richmond CA 94804  
Mail: P.O. Box 1267  
Richmond CA 94802  
(510) 237-2933 for information and Tour Appointments

**Richmond Museum of History**

Open Wed-Sun, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
400 Nevin Avenue  
Mail: P.O. Box 1267  
Richmond CA 94802  
(510) 235-7387 for information and Tour Appointments

Visit our website at [www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org)