

# The MIRROR

## The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Winter 2017-2018

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

### MEMBERS INVITED

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The Richmond Museum Association (RMA) Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 25, at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum, 400 Nevin Avenue.

The Annual Meeting is for members of the RMA and their non-voting guests. Non-members may join the RMA on that day (or before) and be included.

On the agenda will be reports of the 2017 activities of the Richmond Museum of History and the *SS Red Oak Victory* and the election of Directors to the RMA Board for three-year terms.

On the recommended slate are incumbents Rich Chivers, Steve Gilford, Pat Pearson and Lydia Stewart, all returning for an additional term.

Refreshments will be served, and there is no charge for this event.

The Richmond Museum Association Board and members appreciate the service of retiring Board member Karen Stephenson. Thank you, Karen!

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## FREE MUSEUM FIELD TRIPS FOR SCHOOLS

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 in spring 2018. The program is made possible by a grant from the Economic & Community Investment Program. Interested teachers should contact Melinda at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org) or (510) 235-7387.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Crafts Workshop at the Museum

Building on the great success of the "*Dia de los Muertos*" craft workshop last October, the Museum is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual FREE holiday craft workshop for kids of all ages on Saturday, December 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The program will feature holiday traditions from around the world and celebrated by those in our wonderfully diverse community. (*See flyer, p. 5.*) Join us!

### National Book Award Finalist Presented

The Richmond Museum of History, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, is proud to present Richard Rothstein and *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America* on Saturday January 20, 2018, at City Council Chambers. The book is one of the ten finalists for the 2017 National Book Award in Non-Fiction and contains a significant chapter on Richmond history—Richard's colleagues conducted research for the book in the Museum collection. (*See flyer, p. 6.*)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

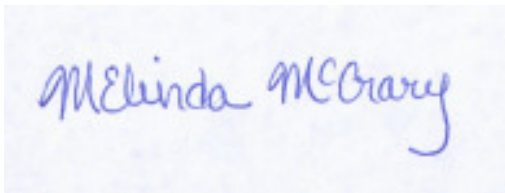
It is with a heavy heart that I write this message. The RMA is mourning the passing of one of our most ardent supporters, Sandi Genser-Maack (December 2, 1945 - November 26, 2017). Sandi was a tireless advocate for history preservation and education in the City of Richmond and greater East Bay. Her sudden passing leaves the RMA board, staff and volunteers in a state of shock and sadness.

Sandi was involved with the RMA in several capacities since the early 1990s. In 1992, she assumed the staff position of volunteer and outreach coordinator, a job she held until 1997. Sandi then joined the board in 2008 as the Recording Secretary and remained in that position as a board member until 2015 when she assumed the Vice Presidency. Sandi and Lynn, her husband of 49 years, were consummate collectors of many things, including all types of Richmond memorabilia and items from other local cities, with a particular fondness for the wares of the Technical Porcelain and Chinaware Company (TEPCO) of El Cerrito. In 2007, they staged what is likely the only exhibition about TEPCO in history at the Museum, called *“Tiptoe through the Tepco,”* which was one of our most popular exhibits.

Please join Sandi’s family in a celebration of her life on Sunday December 17, 2017, 1:00 - 4:30 PM, at the Richmond Country Club. Sandi will be sorely missed by everyone in the community. Life is so short and precious. Enjoy this holiday season with your loved ones.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Melinda McCrary

## SEEKING JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY IN RICHMOND

Help us tell the story of the Jewish Community in Richmond & Contra Costa County

The Richmond Museum of History is planning an 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, for which we searched through copies of the Richmond Daily Independent and Richmond Record Herald newspapers held in the Museum collection 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 that people who know about aspects of Jewish history in the area, including stories about individuals, communities and businesses contact the Museum at (510) 235-7387 or [Melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:Melinda@richmondmuseum.org).

### 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/>

## 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 the Ranger in charge, 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 PM. There is no fee but you are encouraged to make a donation of \$10. And don't forget the popcorn and other refreshments available.

The final film of the Fall 2017 Historic Film Festival series, "**Father Goose**," will be screening on December 21, 2017.

December 21: "**Father Goose**" (1964) Cary Grant, Leslie Caron, Trevor Howard.

*During World War II, a man persuaded to live on an isolated island and spot aircraft finds himself responsible for a teacher and several students, all female. A delightful movie. Adventure, comedy, romance.*

We're pleased to announce the spring lineup for the Historic Film Festival on the third Thursday of the month from February through May 2018. The theme of this spring's series is "**From Other Perspectives: WWII films from Other Points of View.**" As always, please verify the film by calling (510) 237-2933 prior to arriving on board.

February 15: "**The Cuckoo**" (2002) Anni-Kristiina Juuso, Ville Haapasalo, Viktor Bychkov.

*The Cuckoo is a 2002 Russian historical comedy-drama film directed by Aleksandr Rogozhkin. It takes place during World War II from the perspective of opposing Soviet and Finnish soldiers stranded at a Sami woman's farmhouse. Drama, war, comedy.*

March 15: "**Everything is Illuminated**" (2002) Elijah Wood, Eugene Hutz, Boris Leskin.

*A young Jewish American man (Elijah Wood), with the help of an eccentric local, endeavors to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II in a Ukrainian village that was ultimately razed by the Nazis. Comedy, drama.*

April 19: "**Das Boot**" (1981) Jürgen Prochnow, Herbert Grönemeyer, Klaus Wennemann.

*The claustrophobic world of a WWII German U-boat; boredom, filth, and sheer terror. Riveting. Adventure, drama, thriller.*

May 17: "**Memoirs of a Geisha**" (2005) Zhang Ziyi, Ken Watanabe, Gong Li, Michelle Yeoh.

*The story of a young Japanese girl who is sold by her impoverished family to a geisha house and becomes one of Japan's most celebrated geisha. Drama, romance.*

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:

### Melissa Jacobson

World War II gas mask and goggles used by Air Raid Warden and Sector Warden in San Francisco and Richmond.

## MUSEUM WISH LIST

Yarn

Multi-colored tissue paper

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.*

## 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.*

### Sandi Genser-Maack

The Board and staff of the Richmond Museum Association, the crew of the *Red Oak Victory* and the membership all mourn the loss of Sandi Genser-Maack. Sandi was a tireless advocate for Richmond and a dedicated supporter of many community organizations, including the Richmond Museum Association for over 25 years and as a member of the Board of Directors for the past nine years.

Sandi was well-known for her thoughtful and spirited participation in any activity she engaged in, as well as her trademark, flaming-red hair and cheerful smile.

A memorial/celebration of Sandi's life will be held on Sunday, December 17, from 1:00 - 4:30 pm, at the Richmond Country Club at 1 Markovich Lane in Richmond. Donations in Sandi's memory may be made to the Richmond Museum Association.



# FROM THE *RED OAK VICTORY* SHIP

by Fred Klink, ROV Director of Marketing

The crew of the *Red Oak Victory* is looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. 2017 was easily the busiest and best year ever for the Ship in a number of ways. We presented five major public events including two Swing Dances with the fabulous Stompy Jones band; an Evening of Jazz with the John Kalleen Group; a Vietnam Veteran's commemoration strongly supported by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, the Pacific Bus Museum, and the Eagle Field Foundation; a wonderful educational day in conjunction with the NPS "Rosie Rally"; and the most successful July 3 Independence Day fireworks event we have ever held.



*Vietnam-era "Huey" helicopter displayed by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association on Veterans Day. Photo by Dori Luzbetak.*

We also can't forget the six Pancake Breakfast fundraisers, which continue to be a popular event with the local Richmond community and beyond.

2017 was our best year ever in terms of public outreach and revenue generation. We plan to continue this growth in 2018 with a new series of Pancake Breakfasts and public events.

Of course, none of this is possible without the terrific crew of volunteers. Whether they were greeting visitors, taking tickets, parking cars, conducting tours, operating the winches, slaving away in the galley or serving dinner guests, every member of the *Red Oak Victory* crew worked hard to make these events a success.

As all of this was taking place, our engineering and deck crew were hard at work behind the scenes getting the Ship ready for the light-off of the engines in 2018. This will be a major event not just for the *Red Oak Victory* but for the historic ship community in general. Our engine light-off will be first time in 38 years that a historic World War II steam ship engine has been brought back to life, and the first time in nearly 50 years that the *Red Oak Victory* has rumbled with the sound of her own turbines. The publicity resulting from this event will be a real boon to the Ship and to the Richmond community.

Group visits to the Ship have always been an important feature of our repertoire, and this continued in 2017. Local car clubs, bike clubs, and community groups have all visited the Ship in 2017, but I think I speak for the rest of the crew when I say the most fun and satisfying visits are those by school and scouting groups. Most recently we hosted a group of Cub Scouts from Hercules who toured the Ship, learned about navigation and watched the cargo winches in operation.

Another new and important element for the Ship in 2018 is a re-doubled effort to rent the Ship's spaces out for business meetings, parties, weddings, photo location shoots and other functions. To extend our marketing reach, we are going to be listing many of the Ship's spaces on Peerspace, a service which covers the entire Bay Area with rental space offerings. We will be up and running on Peerspace around the first of the year.

I started this column praising our volunteer crew members, and so it is appropriate that I close by reminding everyone that recruiting for volunteers is an on-going effort. We are currently looking for greeters, docents, deck hands and even a videographer. But of course, anyone with an interest in historic ships and the time to devote is welcome as a volunteer. Regardless of their skill set, we can always find an important contribution for them to make.



*Fred Klink, SS Red Oak Victory's Director of Marketing, instructs a Cub Scout from Hercules, California, on the proper use of the sextant. Photo by Dori Luzbetak.*

# HOLIDAY CRAFTS

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday,  
December 16, 2017

1-4pm FREE

Come and make crafts to  
celebrate your tradition:  
Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Hanukkah,  
St. Lucia Day, Christmas,  
Chinese New Year, Japanese New Year.



**Richmond Museum of History**  
400 Nevin Ave, Richmond, CA 94801.  
Telephone (510) 235-7387  
Contact: Melinda McCrary  
melinda@richmondmuseum.org  
[www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org)



## 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.

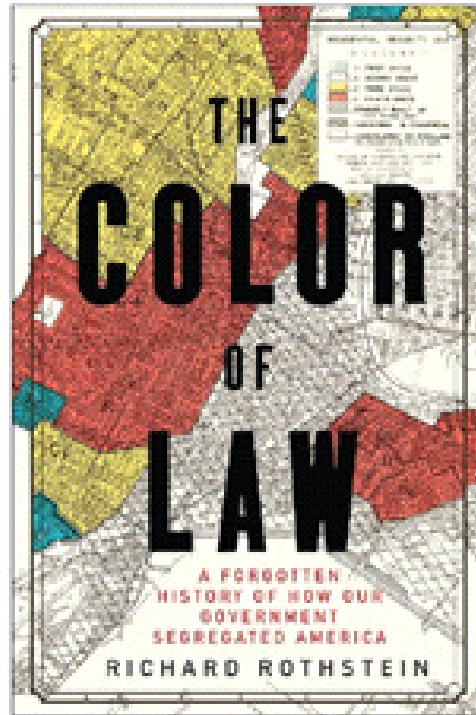
So let us email you your copy of *The MIRROR*. For those members who do not have email, we will continue to print and mail your newsletter. But many of you have email addresses and we hope you will share them with us. We promise not to sell them or share them with anyone else.

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 who you are.

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

# THE COLOR OF LAW:

A FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF HOW OUR GOVERNMENT  
SEGREGATED AMERICA WITH AUTHOR RICHARD ROTHSTEIN



Saturday,  
January 20, 2018  
2-4pm FREE

City Council Chambers,  
440 Civic Center Plaza,  
Richmond, CA 94804

**Richard Rothstein** is a Research Associate of the Economic Policy Institute, a Senior Fellow of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Law, a Contributing Editor of *The American Prospect*, and an occasional contributor.

*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein was published in May 2017 and is a finalist for the National Book Award in Nonfiction.



A program presented by the Richmond Museum of History and the Richmond Public Library.

For more information contact:  
Angela Cox 510-620-5516 or  
Melinda McCrary at [melinda@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:melinda@richmondmuseum.org)



## 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.

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- « And more:

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Individuals 62 & over and students

\_\_\_ \$50 **Potrero Ave** –

Individuals

\_\_\_ \$100 **Cutting Blvd** –

2 adults/2 youth –Benefits above & invites to member only events

\_\_\_ \$250 **Garrard Ave** –Benefits above

& "Behind the Scenes" tours of museum collection & ship archives

\_\_\_ \$500 **Barrett Ave** – Benefits above

& exclusive tour & luncheon with museum curator & ship captain

\_\_\_ **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 (2 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  
Sandi Genser-Maack, Vice President  
John Ziesenhenn, Treasurer  
Vinay Pimple, Recording Secretary

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Johannes Hoeck  
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Karen Stephenson  
Lydia Stewart

**Museum Staff**

Melinda McCrary, Director  
Evelyn Santos, Museum Technician

**The MIRROR**

Lynn Maack, Editor  
Contributors  
Fred Klink  
Melinda McCrary

**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)