

# THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Fall 2013

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

## TO SAIL OR NOT TO SAIL

“The Board of the Richmond Museum Association really put a lot of time and thought into this decision, but ultimately we decided not to go until we could do it right,” said John Ziesenhenné, President of the RMA Board, about the Board’s decision to delay the *Red Oak Victory Ship*’s “first sail” since 1968.

“We were all so excited about sailing and the Ship’s crew has been working long and hard toward this goal, but there is lots to do to get the Ship ready, not to mention the need to meet the Coast Guard requirements for sailing, so our new goal is to sail around the Bay as soon as we’re fully shipshape, with the ultimate goal to go with a flotilla to Normandy for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day in 2019.”

Watch for our updated sailing schedule.

The many people who bought Certificates of Sailing for the 2013 Veterans Day sail have options on what to do with them.

If you hold Certificates of Sailing, you actually have three options for them:

- save them to pay for the next trip. It will take six certificates per person.
- turn them in to get a refund.
- count what you spent as a donation to a good cause, tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Whatever you decide, thank you for supporting the renovation of the *Red Oak Victory*.

Sincerely,  
The RMA Board

**STILL CELEBRATING -- VETERANS DAY ON THE  
RED OAK**  
SEE PAGE 4



## LOIS BOYLE RETIRES

Lois Boyle has retired from many things: her career at the City of El Cerrito; running a daycare center; owning a party shop, and lots of other things. But through it all, her passion has always been the Richmond Museum Association, the Richmond Museum of History and the *Red Oak Victory Ship*.

And now Lois has retired again. (Not entirely -- she serves as the Project Director of the project “For the Love of the Ship.” See page 3 for all the details.)

Visit [www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org) to see the Spring 2013 issue of *The MIRROR* and read about Lois and her contribution to Richmond’s history. We’re eager to see what she does next.



## HOME FRONT FESTIVAL BY THE BAY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**

**RED OAK VICTORY SHIP AND CRANEWAY PAVILION**

**10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

This year, the 7th Annual Home Front Festival features a shuttle -- a vintage bus -- going back and forth between the two festival venues, the Craneway and the Ship.

On the Ship, activities include selling hot dogs, chips and drinks from the Galley, and demonstrations such as lowering the anchor, climbing the mast, and using the winch. And, of course, tours of the Ship, free to all on that day.

At the Craneway, there will be more food, entertainment, children’s activities, information booths, the Kiwanis Classic Car Show and rides on the Duck Boat.

The theme for this year’s Festival is “Children on the Home Front” (see the logo at the left) and we are excited to be showcasing the Museum’s collection of Children’s Art created at the Maritime Childcare Centers.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Melinda McCrary

Dear Members and Friends:

As I look back on the dwindling summer, I am compelled to reflect upon my time at the Museum during the past year. It was only one year ago, in July 2012, that I began working as a volunteer in the costume collection on Sunday afternoons. While that period seems like a lifetime ago, I am so proud of all that has been accomplished at the Museum in one year, and am so excited for the present and future of the Richmond Museum Association.

Recently, staff and volunteers have been focused on cleaning up the Museum building and grounds. A huge priority is painting the interior of the Museum, which will be completed in many stages. The new gift shop/visitor services station will be painted first, followed by the Seaver Gallery. It is our hope that early next year we can begin to paint the upstairs permanent gallery as well. The Museum will look even more beautiful with a fresh coat of paint on the inside!

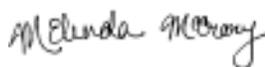
The most exciting recent development at the Museum is related to public programs. I am so proud to report that a local Richmond foundation has funded a new program to encourage young scholars to visit the Museum. A local non-profit called 4Richmond (<http://4richmond.org/>) has agreed to pay for school buses to transport every 4<sup>th</sup>-grade class in Richmond public schools to the Museum for a field trip during the 2013/2014 academic school year.

During the field trip, the students will learn about local history with a focus on material that corresponds to the State of California Curriculum Standards for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The students will be provided with a docent tour of the permanent exhibit with opportunities to handle authentic artifacts from the teaching collection. After the tour, the students will be asked to participate in a gallery scavenger hunt that requires them to observe and describe artifacts in the exhibit.

The students will benefit from learning about their local history and handling authentic artifacts related to classroom curriculum. It is also our hope that we will instill a sense of pride about our rich local history into our young neighbors. The Museum will benefit from a significant increase in attendance and publicity, while carrying out our most basic mission to educate the community about the great history of Richmond. Please help me in thanking For Richmond for their support and generosity.

As always, thank you for your support of the Richmond Museum Association. The organization would not exist without the continued support and efforts of our volunteers, members, friends, business associates, and the City of Richmond.

Best Wishes,



Melinda McCrary  
Executive Director  
Richmond Museum of History

## THE RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Hours are available Wednesday through Sunday 10-4:30. Please call 510-235-7387 or email [info@richmond-museumofhistory.org](mailto:info@richmond-museumofhistory.org) for more information. Court-appointed volunteers are welcome. We want to fill the following positions:

**Visitor Services** representatives to greet the public. Duties include greeting visitors, collecting admission fees, recording visitor statistics, answering the phone and assisting with the Gift Shop. Successful candidates will love working with the public. Individuals with Spanish language skills are needed.

**Facilities Maintenance** technicians to help tend the garden and do some housekeeping and other light maintenance tasks.

**Office Assistant** to assist with general office work including answering phones, typing, photocopying and preparing material to be mailed. Volunteer may also be asked to run simple errands within the local area (if possible).

**Graphic Designer** to create marketing materials for the Museum to create more visibility in the community. The graphic designer will be asked to creatively combine images from the Museum collection of historical documents and photographs with the urban vibe that is the modern City of Richmond while still promoting our Mission devoted to the history of the City. The intention of the new marketing approach is to appeal to the local community of Richmond, specifically young families. We are looking for someone with a hip, urban, fresh point of view to help us increase our visitor count.

The Museum has limited graphic-design software, so it is recommended that individuals have access to proper equipment. Candidates will benefit from a discreet recognition on all marketing materials created. All designs must be approved by Museum staff prior to printing and/or distribution. Please note the artist will be asked to give the copyright of all images created to the Richmond Museum Association for further use and distribution of any and all marketing materials created. However, the artist is encouraged to include all materials created in his/her personal portfolio. The candidate must allow all marketing materials to be translated into Spanish. Selected candidate may also be eligible for a letter of recommendation from the curator/Museum manager.

# NEWS FROM THE RMA

## LAST PANCAKE BREAKFAST OF 2013

The view of San Francisco and Oakland, the usually balmy weather on a lazy Sunday morning, meeting with family and friends -- and on top of all that, a great breakfast for only \$7.00!!!

Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee and, for a bit extra, mimosas. Children under 5 are free. After your meal, if you can drag yourself away from the view, you can take a tour of the Ship for only \$5.00 more.

Bring friends to the final breakfast of the year on Sunday, October 13. Breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Ship is open until 3 p.m.

## THOUSANDS OF PANCAKES...

By day, he's Chief Electrician, but on Pancake Breakfast Sundays, Rich Chivers is Pancake-maker extraordinaire. On October 13th, Rich will be serving his 40,000th pancake.

## SUCCESS FOR SALE

There is an ongoing sale of used books on the *Red Oak Victory Ship*. To shop the sale, visit the *Red Oak* on open days, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To donate books for the sale, bring them to the Ship or to the Museum on its open days, Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m..

The Richmond Museum Association is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and donations of books or funds are tax-deductible.

## EXCITING NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

A new committee is looking at membership in the Richmond Museum Association. The price of the various levels may go up (you might want to join or renew soon!) as everything does, but the benefits of membership will be multiplied. And every member at every level will realize some exciting new annual benefits.

## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

[Richmondmuseumassociation.org](http://Richmondmuseumassociation.org) will soon be the Internet home for both the Richmond Museum of History and the *Red Oak Victory Ship*, all together where it will be easier to find the calendar of upcoming events, to make reservations or buy tickets for those events, to shop the Gift Shops, and even to reserve rooms at the *Red Oak Inn* Bed and Breakfast. (Details coming soon.)

## ITEMS NOT ON DISPLAY

The column "Items Not on Display" is not included in this issue of *The MIRROR* due to technical difficulties. We hope to continue this popular feature in a future issue.

# INTERVIEWING *RED OAK* VOLUNTEERS

by Clare Fischer

As part of the Cal Humanities grant awarded to the Museum this year, I have been listening to a rich and diverse narrative about the volunteer commitments involved in the restoration of the *Red Oak Victory (ROV)*. For the past two months, 15 crew members have generously given time to share stories about their respective contributions toward the eventual sail. Twelve additional interviews are planned before the first phase of the grant is completed. These recorded stories will become part of a permanent archival document allowing listeners to hear the crew tell of an extraordinary volunteer community.



Among responses from crew volunteers are those that emphasize the *ROV* as a unique teaching object: a physical presence that points to the home-front efforts in Richmond and the Ship's significant role in providing goods during three wars. Other crew volunteers reflect on the collaborative environment that supports "right work." All of the interviewees share a sense of accomplishment and a willingness to meet a variety of challenges with determination.

In the months to come there are successive steps designed to provide an informative document about the *ROV* volunteers. A video of a representative number of crew volunteers will be created and this media document will be accessible to the general public both at the Museum and on the *ROV*. A short booklet is planned to incorporate excerpts from and photos of crew interviews and will be sold in the gift shops for a modest cost.

Lois Boyle is the Project Manager and as such, puts in many hours assuring solid and vital planning, connections with interviewees and the various demands of administering the grant (including reports to the California Humanities Council). The final phase of the grant will involve an exhibition, curated by Lois, displaying artifacts and photographs illustrating the Ship volunteers' contribution in achieving the restoration of the *ROV*. The opening event will be on January 26, 2014, and will be a celebration of all the committed efforts of the *ROV* crew, including the viewing of the video production, a panel presentation involving *ROV* volunteers, food and music.

Clearly, the critical role of volunteer enthusiasm for the task and committed skill and time cannot be overstated. Even so, the need for volunteer engagement continues. Every department on the Ship needs help, especially willingness to paint, to work in the engine department, to assist in the educative efforts of docents and greeters. Interested persons are urged to contact the Ship at 510-237-2933.

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Roseann Pauley (June 2013)

29 color slides depicting the construction of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge dated 1953

May Barbano (June 2013)

One black-and-white photograph of Women's Softball Team in Nicholl Park in 1947/8.

One color photograph of the same ladies in the 1990s

Carla Mendelson (June 2013)

Photographs and ephemera from Lola (Machado) Peterson related to the Machado, Peterson, and Chichester families of Richmond (ca. 1880-1950s)

Jean Womack (June 2013)

15 black-and-white photographs depicting various subjects including Richmond City Hall, Pt. Isabel, and the construction of Hilltop Mall

Susan Imboden (June 2013)

Four Alvarado Park Oral History Project Booklets, commissioned by the East Bay Regional Park District

Betty R. Smith (June 2013)

Two books: One Hundred and One Fingers by G. Miner (1956) and Arts & Crafts Manual for the Richmond Children's Center by M. Haley (October 1965) [*George Miner was a long-time Superintendent of Richmond Schools and Monica Haley was an artist and a teacher at local daycare centers during and after World War II.*]

JoAnne H. Jones (July 2013)

Collection of documents and photographs related to the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards owned by engineer L.B. Harbour including 17 loose pages of shipyard cartoons, a binder of memoranda to middle management from the Shipyard General Superintendent, ephemera from several ship launchings and booklets related to the maintenance and care of active U.S. Navy ships

Randy Smith (July 2013)

Scrapbook of ephemera related to the Richmond-Shimada (Japan) Friendship Tour that took place from Sept. 21 to Oct. 12, 1981

Joseph Fischer (August 2013)

Page from the St. Louis Dispatch of "Tilly the Toiler" cartoons by Russ Westover, ca. 1930

## WANTED! DOCENTS, GREETERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Want adventure on the high seas without actually sailing anywhere? Want a job with great hours, no pay, good company, and lots of fresh air? Try sharing your talents on the *Red Oak* as a docent or greeter.

No experience necessary, standing in line at a union hall not required, and training provided.

Intrigued? Call the Ship at (510) 237-2933. You'll get a vest, a badge, a flashlight, a whistle and a laser pointer! You'll love it. Call today!

To volunteer at the Museum, call Melinda at (510) 235-7387. All the benefits, no wind in your hair.

## STILL CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY ON THE *RED OAK*

Veterans Day will be celebrated dockside at the *Red Oak* as it has been celebrated for many years, this year with a few special touches like the Ribbon Cutting at the newly rehabilitated Rigger's Loft, followed by a BBQ fundraiser and the laying of flowers in memoriam.

The festivities start at 11 a.m. on November 11.

A free art giveaway will be a feature of the Veterans Day celebration. Acrylic paintings by award-winning artist Tom Bottomley, *Red Oak Victory* purser, will be given in exchange for modest donations ranging from \$25 to \$150, to the Ship's operating fund. Among the more than two dozen paintings available are several acrylic sketches suitable for framing.

Bottomley currently has four paintings on display at the El Cerrito Department of Motor Vehicles office and one at the El Cerrito library. Since May, he was awarded first-, second- and third-place ribbons in mini art shows at El Cerrito Art Association meetings.

# CALL FOR ENTRIES 2014 WWII HOME FRONT QUILTS CHALLENGE

This quilting challenge focuses on the years 1941 - 1945, a brief and influential period in American history that continues to impact life in the United States today. The WWII Home Front theme was chosen to celebrate one of our newest National Parks, the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, located in Richmond, California. Quilts inspired by any aspect of civilian wartime life across the USA are welcomed.

- Open to anyone living in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii.
- Format: Small quilts, measuring 80 inches around the perimeter, square or rectangular in shape.
- Traditional, contemporary and innovative techniques are encouraged.
- Entries accepted 12/1/2013 – 1/15/2014. Quilts selected by the jurors must arrive by 3/1/2014.
- Challenge guidelines:  
[www.wiihomefrontquilts.com/2014-call-for-entries](http://www.wiihomefrontquilts.com/2014-call-for-entries)

The World War II Home Front Quilts Project will exhibit the best quilts entered in the challenge based on composition, concept, content and overall excellence, representing a range of styles and a diversity of home front subjects. Up to 80 quilts will be exhibited online beginning in March 2014, and at *Voices in Cloth* on March 22 and 23, 2014. This major San Francisco Bay Area quilt event will be held on the Richmond waterfront at the Craneway Pavilion, adjacent to the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park Visitor Education Center.



Other exhibit venues are pending, and quilts selected by the jury will be retained for exhibition through December 2014 and returned in January 2015.

The WWII Home Front Quilts Project is a collaboration of San Francisco Bay Area quilt enthusiasts, arts organizations, museums and historical associations, the Rosie the Riveter Trust, and National Park Service staff and volunteers.

For more information, visit the Project website: <http://www.wiihomefrontquilts.com>, or contact us at: [2014challenge@wiihomefrontquilts.com](mailto:2014challenge@wiihomefrontquilts.com).

*We are excited at the prospect that the Richmond Museum of History might be one of the venues for displaying some of the quilts in 2014.*

# BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RICHMOND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

## Privileges:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter, “*The MIRROR*”
- ◆ Advance notice of tours and events
- ◆ Free entrance to Museum and Ship

*Yes, I want to become a member*

*Enclosed is my check for*

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to RMA)

## Categories of Membership

\$25	Senior/Student
\$35	Individual
\$50	Family/Organization
\$65	Contributing
\$100	Sustaining
\$500	Patron
\$1000	Benefactor/Corporate

\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_ **Renew** \_\_\_ **Gift**  
\_\_\_ **I Would like to volunteer**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

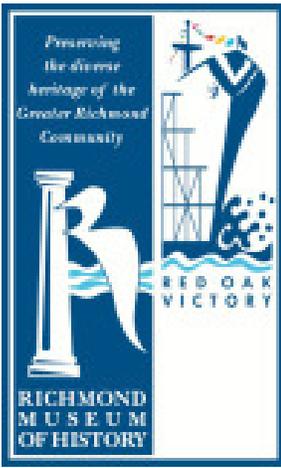
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **I would like my newsletter sent by e-mail**  
(saves money & trees).

Mail to:

**Richmond Museum of History**  
**PO Box 1267**  
**Richmond, CA 94802**



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Richmond, CA 94802

**Museum Admission:**

*Members: Free*

*Seniors/Students: \$1.00*

*General: \$2.00*

*Children: Free w/adult*

**Red Oak Boarding Fee: \$5**

*Children under 5: \$2*

*Members: Free*

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

**Officers**

John Ziesenhenn, President  
Jeffrey Wright, Vice President  
Marsha Tomassi, Treasurer  
Susan McCloskey, Recording Secty  
Sandi Genser-Maack, Corresponding Secty  
Lorraine Regier, Financial Secty

**Appointed Chairs**

Leona Derheim, *Red Oak Tree*  
Karen Stephenson, Membership

**Museum Staff**

Melinda McCrary, Director  
Plinio Hernandez, Museum Assistant

**Richmond Museum of History**

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

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Robert Moore  
Ray Sitton  
Karen Stephenson  
Virgil Weekes

**The MIRROR**

Lynn Maack, Editor

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**Red Oak Victory Ship**

Open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun  
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**redoakvictory.com**