

THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Summer, 2015

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

MUSIC IN RICHMOND

We reached deep into the Museum's permanent collection to amass a group of materials to stimulate thought and delight the eyes — a visual survey of artifacts, photographs and documents all relating to making music in Richmond through time.

Commonly-held musical preferences will reflect the composition of a community and how musical tastes in Richmond have changed as our community has changed. The exhibit will survey music from the late 19th century to the early 20th century and include the formation of the Richmond Musicians Union 424 in 1907, through the World War II home front, the post-war North Richmond blues clubs and the Richmond Memorial Auditorium.

We are excited that the exhibit will feature information about musical performances from the more-recent past including the '70s, '80s, '90s and today.

The exhibit opens on Saturday, July 11th.

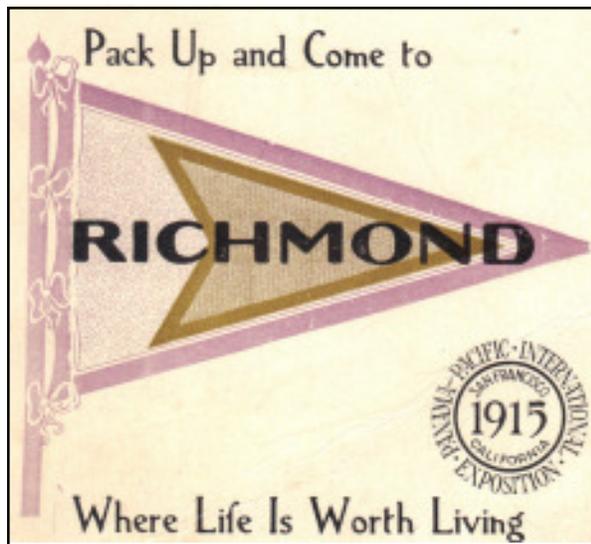
RICHMOND DAY AT PPIE

The opening of the Panama Canal was not the only thing San Francisco wanted to celebrate in 1915 – there was also the city's recovery from the devastating earthquake of 1906. So the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was born and brought visitors from around the world.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of PPIE this year, there are programs and lectures and exhibits all over the Bay Area and one of them is right here at the Richmond

Museum of History. August 7th was declared "Richmond Day" at the PPIE to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Richmond in 1915.

The exhibit opens on Saturday, July 11, and on Saturday, August 8th, the 100th anniversary of "Richmond Day," we are excited to announce that Laura Ackley, well-known author of "*San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915*," will speak at the Museum at 2 p.m.



JULY 3RD FIREWORKS ON THE RED OAK

There is nothing more thrilling than the nighttime view of the Bay Area from the deck of the *Red Oak Victory*, unless it's the nighttime view with the July 3rd fireworks thrown in.

Join the RMA at the annual 3rd of July celebration featuring a great meal and a close-up view of the fireworks, and this year, VIP access to the Boat Deck for the ultimate view.

Tickets are available now for the **Independence Day Celebration aboard the SS Red Oak Victory** on Friday, July 3, 2015! Ticket prices are \$40 VIP (limited to 40) and \$35 for general admission.

Only 150 tickets are available, so purchase your tickets now!

Tickets to the July 3rd Celebration can be purchased in three ways: over the phone at 510-235-7387, in person at the Museum or *ROV* gift shops, or at www.richmondmuseum.org.

RMA 2015 MEMBERSHIP

DRIVE

The RMA is conducting our annual membership drive through the month of June with a special incentive for all our friends and supporters. **Purchase your membership by June 30, 2015, and receive FOUR extra months of membership!** This special opportunity allows you to enjoy four free months of membership benefits including free admission to the Richmond Museum and the *SS Red Oak Victory*.

The RMA is a 501c3 charitable organization and your membership is tax deductible, so it's a win-win! You can purchase your membership online, over the phone, or in person at the Richmond Museum of History or *SS Red Oak Victory* gift shops. Remember, **we cannot be a community museum without the support of our neighbors and the greater community.**

COMING.....

"Ships and Shipwrecks of the San Francisco Bay" is the subject of the *Over, Under and In the San Francisco Bay* Lecture on Sunday, June 28. See page 6.

Pancake Breakfasts are back! Celebrate Father's Day on June 21st on the *Red Oak*. Details on page 6.

7TH ANNUAL HOME FRONT FILM FESTIVAL

This summer, why not check out a WWII-era film aboard Richmond's very own historic WWII cargo vessel, the *SS Red Oak Victory*!

Curated and hosted by Ranger Craig Riordan from Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, this festival features Hollywood films that were screened on the American Home Front during WWII. Admission to the films is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10 to help preserve and maintain the Ship.

Boarding is at 6:30 p.m. on each date, and the films begin at 7 p.m.. Please note: the Ship is not ADA accessible. Visitors must be able to climb the gangway (40 feet of stairs with railings) and steep steps once aboard the Ship.

June 25: *Invisible Agent* (1942) Peter Lorre

The concept for the story was inspired by *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells. The film was a wartime propaganda production that was part of a Hollywood effort to boost morale at the home front. The screenplay was written by Curt Siodmak, a refugee from Nazi Germany.

July 9: *Casablanca* (1942) Humphry Bogart and Ingrid Bergman

Considered by the American Film Institute to be the greatest romance movie of all time, *Casablanca* became the most popular film of the Home Front Era and its popularity is still alive and well. Feel free to dress as your favorite *Casablanca* character.

July 23: *Northern Pursuit* (1943) Errol Flynn

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Corporal Steve Wagner (Errol Flynn) tries to uncover a Nazi plot against the Allied war effort. The film was set in Canada during the early years of WWII. Remember, "The Mountie always gets his man."

August 13: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1943) Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman

Based on the novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway, this film is about an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Republicans who finds romance during a desperate mission to blow up a strategically important bridge. Hemingway hand-picked Cooper and Bergman for their roles.

August 27: *Dragon Seed* (1944) Katherine Hepburn

Based on a best-selling book by Pearl S. Buck, the film portrays a peaceful village in China that has been invaded by the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second Sino-Japanese war. The men in the village choose to adopt a peaceful attitude toward their conquerors, but Jade (Katherine Hepburn), a headstrong woman, stands up to the Japanese. This film is not without controversy, as almost the entire cast of Asian characters is played by Western actors.

Popcorn and refreshments are available for purchase during each screening. A National Park Service ranger will provide an introduction to the films in the context of the WWII Home Front.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

The Richmond Museum Association (RMA) is excited to share our new look with our members and friends! The RMA was able to accomplish it with the support of a Capacity Building Grant from the Richmond Community Foundation (RCF). The logo is part of a larger suite of materials that have been created by local firm Spokewise and will be implemented throughout 2015. Thank you to our partners at Spokewise and RCF!

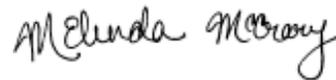
The Richmond Museum of History and the *SS Red Oak Victory* were both recently featured in the local and national news. A feature story in the Contra Costa Times on May 13, 2015, highlights our efforts to interpret a broader Richmond history while announcing the new initiative to collect oral history from the African-American community. Even more exciting was to see the Today Show segment on National Park Ranger and local celebrity Betty Reid Soskin, who was interviewed on the *SS Red Oak Victory* on May 16, 2015. Thank you to the Contra Costa Times and NBC for providing the opportunity to promote our work.

The Richmond Museum of History is so excited about our upcoming initiative to collect oral history from the African-American community in Richmond. Museum technician Evelyn Santos recently completed a workshop at the Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at the University of California Berkeley, so Museum staff is well-prepared to begin this project. We are particularly interested in interviewing people who experienced the postwar blues clubs in North Richmond.

The annual RMA July 3rd Dinner and Fireworks fundraiser is back on the calendar in 2015! Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.richmondmuseum.org. New for this year — the Boat Deck will be open to the public as VIP seating for the first time. Ticket prices for the 2015 event are \$35 for general admission and \$40 for VIP seating on the Boat Deck. Only 150 tickets will be sold (110 general & 40 VIP), so purchase your tickets early.

We cannot be a community museum without the participation of the greater community. Please join us at one of our upcoming events and support your local history museum.

Best Wishes,



Melinda McCrary

In April, the National Park Service invited the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel, to the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park. As part of her visit to the Park she came aboard the *Red Oak Victory* and had a quick tour of the Ship led by Alan Burns, with the help of Marjorie Hill. It was a great honor to have the Secretary of the Interior visit Richmond and have her as a guest on the *ROV*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MUSEUM GRANT; *RED OAK* CLOSER TO SAILING

by John Ziesenhenn, President of the Board

The Richmond Museum of History has been a very busy place in 2015 so far and it looks like there is no end in sight. Two things that have recently happened are 1) Executive Director Melinda McCrary submitted a request for a grant to form a Native American Advisory Committee to help guide our remodel of the Native American Display and was rewarded with a \$15,000 grant, and 2) the City of Richmond provided a first-class painting crew to paint the second floor of the former Carnegie Library and does it look nice! Much thanks to the City!

The We Give campaign was very successful this year with more than double the contributions from last year to the Richmond Museum Association. Thank you to all the wonderful donors!

The Shrimp Camp exhibit in the Seaver Gallery was a very nice success. Attendance was really great and the special presentation on April 11th was standing-room-only — very exciting to see so many people interested in the history of our City. Also in April, the Museum sponsored a comedy show fundraiser at the Topline Theatre at Marina Bay that was put together by Richmond native Ronnie Schell, joined by three of his comedian friends. A fun time was had by all and 100% of the proceeds benefitted the Museum. Thank you Ronnie, Will Durst, Kivi Rogers and David Gee for your generosity!

There was a nice article about the Museum in the Contra Costa Times entitled "Richmond Museum of History director has big vision." If you have not read it, please check it out online at www.contracostatimes.com. The next exhibit in the Seaver Gallery will be on music in Richmond opening in July. You don't want to miss this exhibit.

On the *Red Oak*, the April and May pancake breakfasts were a huge success and the galley team expects another packed house for the Father's Day breakfast on June 21st.

Movie night continues on the *Red Oak* as does a new speaker series which debuted on May 26th under the leadership of historian and RMA Board Member Steve Gilford. Different subjects and speakers are planned throughout the coming months, so read your Mirror and check the RMA website for future speakers.

The *Red Oak Victory Ship* crew of volunteers has been working to get the Ship in top shape for the Coast Guard and the high level of safety regulations that are required as we near the date that the engines will be fired up and the *Red Oak* can leave the pier under her own power. The tireless, dedicated and wonderful individuals that make up our crew are filled with passion as they work each hour on board the *Red Oak* at their specific tasks to get the Ship that much closer to being ready to sail. The Ship is open to visitors on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, so take a little trip to the *Red Oak* and go back in history for a few hours as you imagine sailing in the South Pacific in 1945 on the Ship filled with cargo and ammunition to support our troops,

Continued to the right at President

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

It takes a lot of help to restore a ship like the *SS Red Oak Victory*. Besides donations of money and time, many of the contributions are of in-kind services and things. We don't have room to go into details here, but since January 2015, some of those who have been really helpful are:

George Bass
Livermore, CA

Ken Berling
Monterey Industries
Richmond, CA

Darrel Burger
Josh Hall
Walashek Co.
Tukwila, WA

Friends of George Coles
Various California Cities

Debbie & Gary Ghilotti
Scott Ghilotti
Maggiora & Ghilotti
San Rafael, CA

Hedy & Matt Mitlo
Castro Valley, CA

Joan W. Morgan
Morgan Ellis Live Ship Advocates
Sonoma, CA

Mike Murphy
Mike's Refrigeration
El Sobrante, CA

Gordon Seligson
Oakland, CA

Rick Whipple
J. T. Thorpe & Son, Inc.
Richmond, CA

Robert Zeeland
All Bay Refrigeration
El Sobrante, CA

Suisun Reserve Fleet
Benicia, CA

President

hoping to make it to the next port safely.

Another step forward with the refurbishing of the *Red Oak* was the Board's decision in May to move ahead with a proposal presented by John Rodgers, President of the Society of Port Engineers of San Francisco, to fully activate the *Red Oak* under the guidelines of the American Bureau of Shipping (referred to as ABS for short). This means that the *Red Oak* would be a classed and inspected vessel by the ABS and the U.S. Coast Guard for unlimited ocean service. A lot of fundraising is involved, as you can imagine, as well as many regulations and inspections required in order to be fully operational.

Yes, this is an exciting time for the Museum and the *Red Oak*. Thank you for your support of Richmond's history. We greatly appreciate your attendance, your time and your talents at our events. Without your support, the Museum would not be as viable as it is. I look forward to seeing you at our next exhibit or at the next pancake breakfast and especially on the 3rd of July for the BBQ and fireworks.

ITEMS NOT ON DISPLAY

SHIPYARD HUMOR

by Lynn Maack

Cartoons have long served to convey the feelings, troubles, triumphs and aspirations of our society. They do so in a manner that provokes us, shocks us or just makes us feel good using humor. Somehow, humor makes it all palatable. In the Museum's collection is a set of 16 cartoons that provide humorous insight into Richmond shipyard life during World War II. The loose-leaf set, entitled "Shipyard Cartoons," by artist Eric Johnson, depicts interactions between shipyard workers and managers. We see scenes where workers mumble about managers' incompetence and managers complain about workers' laziness. Other scenes involve workers talking behind another worker's back, joking about that worker being in danger for ignoring a safety procedure. In a few, workers express their attitudes toward work in general and dream about their post-war aspirations.

The themes for the cartoons are sometimes politically incorrect by today's standards, notably in a couple of them that hint about workers' negative attitudes toward Native American crew members. The cartoons are usually very busy, showing several people speaking at once; a two-person interchange on one side of the scene and a three-person exchange on the other, with another conversation in the middle. The cartoon shown here is one example of such a complex scenario. In it, we see workers grousing about a manager and managers belittling the workers while praising one of their own.

The cartoon banter between and among the workers and managers is probably not much different from that which occurs today in real workplace settings. People talk about each other; they always have. Perceived privilege, insecurities and jealousies are the constant subjects of gossip, rant and rumor. Work itself is often subjected to complaint, ridicule and "they (management or work-



ers) should do this, not that."

The cover page for the collection of 8" x 10 1/2" cartoon sheets is dated September 1945; some of the cartoons take place during the war, and some are post-war. The humor is dated and sometimes shipyard-jargon-laden—undoubtedly, in-jokes abound that might escape today's reader—but the cartoons give an enlightening and light-hearted look at shipyard life during the War. The set was donated in July 2013 by Jo Anne H. Jones, daughter of L. B. Harbour, Engineer, Shipyard Three.

[Editor's note: The WWII Kaiser Richmond Shipyard newsletter *Fore 'n' Aft* contained many cartoons about shipyard activity. I checked numerous issues for cartoons by Eric Johnson, but found none. I have found no other reference to his work.]



RED OAK ON THE MOVE

by John Ziesenhenne

If you have not been aware, there is a new winery/tasting room that is moving into the Riggers Loft — Riggers Loft Wine Group. This is great news for the Port of Richmond and for the *Red Oak*. More people coming to visit the winery/tasting room will only mean more visitors to the *Red Oak*. As part of the overall Port of Richmond plan, the Ship needs to be moved to one of the original Kaiser Shipyard basins just west of our current mooring.

Moving a ship is no small task, as you can imagine. The Richmond Museum Association has been meeting with all interested parties involved in the move since February. There is a lot of work to be done in order for the *Red Oak* to be moved, and, once we are moved to the new location, the Ship needs to be ready to accept volunteers and guests with such amenities as electricity and water.

Our goal is to move in September. This means we are still planning for our annual July 3rd BBQ which is a BIG fundraiser for the *Red Oak*: the community loves being on the Ship and watching the All-American fireworks show from the harbor, not to mention touring the only remaining WWII Victory ship built in the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond and one of only three left in the entire United States!

I want to thank Chief Engineer Greg Blasquez for his tireless efforts to get the engines on the *Red Oak* working. His dedica-

tion and that of those around him has been a Herculean effort and we are getting close to the day that we test those engines — so stay tuned.

In the meantime, we still need to move the Ship, and that leadership is coming from our volunteer Project Manager Cliff Warren. Cliff was asked to take the lead for the Association and he is doing a great job. He meets on a regular basis with the Mayor's Office, the Port Director and his staff and other vital companies and individuals as needed. Moving requires work to be done on the Ship so people don't get hurt with items not secured for the move. In addition, he is responsible for the preparation of the new location so that when moving day arrives and we are in our temporary location, it will have electricity, sewer, drinking water and fire-response water ready to be hooked up so the Ship can be operational and accept guests.

The Museum will announce the day of the move as best we can so that you can see the wonderful historic vessel move into its new home. This is a very exciting time for the Richmond Museum Association and a very exciting time for the *ROV* volunteers as they ready the Ship for the move. Also stay tuned for the Grand Opening of the Riggers Loft Wine Group; they will be a great partner for the *Red Oak*, and we welcome them to our neighborhood in the Port.

Asbestos Victims Have Rights!

Anyone diagnosed with an asbestos disease such as mesothelioma has the right to compensation for medical expenses, lost wages or pension benefits, and for the pain and suffering that comes with this fatal illness.

Kazan Law is a nationally recognized asbestos law firm, serving asbestos victims and their families for over 40 years. Let us help you and your family get the justice you deserve.



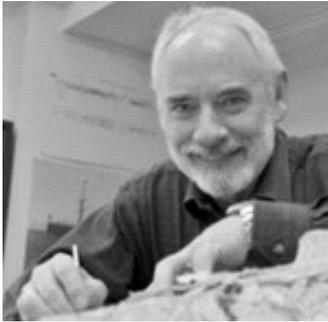
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To learn more about your legal rights,
please call us at (877) 995-6372
or visit us at: KazanLaw.com/rma

OVER, UNDER AND IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

RMA recently set a goal to increase programming at both the Ship and the Museum. The **Over, Under and In the San Francisco Bay** Lecture Series is a series of once-monthly lectures related to maritime history and current events on the San Francisco Bay.

Dr. Jim Allan, Professor of Anthropology at St. Mary's College and President of William Self Associates, a firm specializing in archaeology and cultural resources management, will be the speaker on Sunday, June 28, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. aboard the *Red Oak Victory*. His topic is "Ships and Shipwrecks of the San Francisco Bay." There is a \$10 boarding fee and all proceeds go towards the maintenance and operation of the Ship.



MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Museum needs a paper shredder, extension cords, folding chairs, power strips, a photo scanner and hand tools for gardening (claw, clippers, spades, watering bucket).

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON THE *RED OAK*

Pancake Breakfasts aboard the *SS Red Oak Victory* are in full swing! Sunday, June 21, 2015, is the Father's Day pancake breakfast! Celebrate your Dad and Grad with breakfast on the Ship and a wonderful view of the bay.

Breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. and last service is at 12:30. Arrive early so you can choose the best seat in the house! Ticket prices for the pancake breakfasts are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children under age 8.

Future dates are August 9th, September 13th and October 11th.

Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, orange juice and coffee and, for a small extra fee, a mimosa.

FREE ADMISSION DAY

Saturday, July 11th, is Free Admission Day at the Richmond Museum of History featuring the new exhibits "Music in Richmond" and "Richmond Day at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition." On other days, the new exhibits are free with Museum admission: \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Seniors/Students, and free for members of the Richmond Museum Association and for kids under 8 with a paying adult.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Roger Glafke

Ceramic vessel from Point Molate

Beatrice Marlais

Framed painting of the Winters Building, ca. 1923

Anthony Oertel

"An Elegant Illustrated Souvenir View book of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco" (1915)

Barbara Ottens

1925 Richmond Air Meet button pin

Postcard depicting opening of City Hall (1915)

Jan Willis

Scans of nine documents and photos related to Adolph Winters, ca 1920s

Anonymous by request

Collection of dolls (1930s and 1960s) donated by a longtime Richmond family.

THANK YOU!! RMA raised \$1,800 during East Bay Gives, a 24-hour period of local giving sponsored by the East Bay Community Foundation. The total sum raised tripled since we participated in 2014.

Thank you to our donors!

RED OAK WISH LIST

Donate wish-list items or send a monetary contribution toward any of these things:

- 6-foot ladder (straight or step-ladder)
- White Christmas lights
- Cree LED light bulbs, 100W, 60W
- Electric griddle – commercial size
- Stand-alone convection oven – commercial
- Rags
- Traffic cones (orange)
- Haze-gray marine paint (approx. \$50/gal.)
(Hempel Coating Co.)
- Hydraulic oil for steering gear
(approx. \$67/5-gal pail)

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

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Send an email to esandi@comcast.net to reserve your space.

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- ___ \$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
- ___ \$1000 **Macdonald Ave** --Benefits above & two tickets on The Red Oak "Sail-on-the-Bay"

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Date: _____

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Red Oak Victory Ship

Open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun
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Richmond CA 94804

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