

# THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Fall 2014

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

## RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Greetings Red Oak Victory Team,  
Congratulations on completing your attraction vessel COI today!!! Attached is the COTPlift letter for your review and records. We wish you all the best and look forward to our continued working relationship.

Best Regards,

LT Michael DeVolld  
USCG Sector San Francisco  
Chief, Domestic Vessel Inspections

(see the story on p. 3)

## LAST PANCAKE BREAKFAST OF THE YEAR

Sunday, October 12th, is the last time the *Red Oak Victory* hosts a Pancake Breakfast in 2014.

Come to breakfast: pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and maybe a mimosa. After your meal, if you can drag yourself away from the view, you can take a tour of the Ship, visit the Museum and Gift Shop and, on some special days, tour the Engine Room for an additional donation. And don't forget the balmy weather on a lazy Sunday morning and meeting with family and friends.

Breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Ship is open until 3 p.m. No reservations needed.

## JOINING THE MOVEMENT

Just as you are doing at home, the Richmond Museum Association is working to be more environmentally aware and economically sound.

We hope to communicate more and more with you electronically.

If you are able and willing to receive your quarterly issue of *The MIRROR* by email, please send a note to the Museum staff at [info@richmondmuseumofhistory.org](mailto:info@richmondmuseumofhistory.org) to tell us. And don't forget to include your email address!

## Per Article VI Nominations & Elections, Section 2:

Nominations for the board may be made by nomination forms signed by 10% of the membership. These forms must be submitted to the nominating committee by December 10th.

For forms and a list of the membership, please contact Susan McCloskey, [susymc06@comcast.net](mailto:susymc06@comcast.net) or by phone at 510/331-1066.

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 11, 2015, 2:00 p.m., at the Museum.

## 2014 HOME FRONT FESTIVAL

"Kids can do it!" is the theme of this year's Home Front Festival on Saturday, October 11, 2014, held on the *Red Oak Victory Ship* and at Lucretia Edwards Park.

Many activities are planned for the Festival including the YMCA Fun Run, a bicycle ride with RichCity Rides, live entertainment, food trucks and much more! The Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Richmond Museum Association and the Richmond Friends of Recreation are coordinating the event. Check for details on <https://homefrontfestival.wordpress.com/>

## VETERANS DAY: 70TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE ROV

November 9, 2014, is the 70th Anniversary of the launching of the *Red Oak Victory Ship*. Join us on November 11, 2014, to celebrate that and honor our servicemen and women.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# A JEWEL AND A SHIP THAT SAILS

by John Ziesenhenn, President of the Board

The Richmond Museum is a very beautiful jewel both from the outside and certainly on the inside. In 1907, the Richmond Library Club and the West Side Improvement Club of Point Richmond merged to form the Public Library. A lot was purchased at 4th & Nevin by the Richmond Women's Improvement Club based on the City of Richmond getting a Carnegie grant. In 1909, a grant of \$17,500 was announced. The architect selected for this grand project was William H. Weeks, who designed the building in the Classical Revival style. The Carnegie Library opened in 1910 and served as a city library until 1967. In 1975 the City Club transferred the property to the City of Richmond in order for the city to qualify for federal funding for the new Nevin Center on 6th Street with the Carnegie Library being part of the overall project. The building was enlarged by the addition of the Seaver Gallery in 1979 and it was rededicated as the Richmond Museum in 1980 and re-named the Richmond Museum of History in the 1990s.

Our largest artifact, the *Red Oak Victory Ship*, is still undergoing improvements as part of qualifying for the Certificate of Inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard. Guests are welcome onboard from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The wonderful docents lead very interesting tours of the Ship, with historical accounts about the life of the *Red Oak Victory* since its launching in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards in November 1944.

A huge thank-you from the Board of Directors to our volunteers for getting us through the Coast Guard Inspection, the first step towards eventually sailing under our own power on the *Red Oak*. Stay tuned for more information about the rebirth of Richmond's own historic WWII Victory Ship.

## ROV WISH LIST

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

- 6-foot ladder (straight or step-ladder)
- Fluorescent light fixtures
- Six 48-inch fluorescent shop lights
- Strings of Christmas lights
- Cree LED light bulbs, 100W, 60W
- Electric griddle – commercial size
- Stand-alone convection oven – commercial
- Rags
- Traffic cones (orange)

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

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

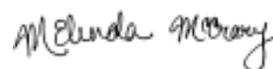
The kids going back to school took on a new meaning for us at the Museum this year, as our two summer youthWORKS students left us to begin their junior year in high school (see article, pg. 5). We will miss them so much and we are so appreciative of all their hard work! The Museum is so grateful for our partnership with the City of Richmond Summer YouthWORKS program, which sponsored these two paid employees at no cost to the Museum. The beginning of the school year also ends the frequent visits made by the day camps held at the Nevin Community Center. The Museum staff and volunteers enjoyed a very busy summer and we hope to continue both partnerships next summer.

As I look back upon the summer of 2014, I realize our theme was partnership and collaboration. We worked closely with the following organizations on recent projects including the Richmond Fire Department, Chinese Whispers, and Nerd Crossing just to name a few. A key project that was completed this summer was a collaboration between the Richmond Museum of History, Kaiser Permanente (KP) Heritage Resources, and the curatorial team at the Rosie the Riveter visitor education center to compile a complete digital set of the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards' weekly employee newsletter, *Fore 'n' Aft*. The Richmond Museum of History has veritably the largest collection of *Fore 'n' Afts* and the collection was nearly completed by the Voorhies Collection that was recently donated by Don Hardison through his daughter, Jan Brown. The three parties agreed to pool their collections, so that we all could have a complete set. KP Heritage Resources generously digitized every available issue of the *Fore 'n' Aft* and, more importantly, paid to have every issue upgraded to searchable. The project allows researchers to search for keywords through all the issues at once, rather than having to physically search through individual issues.

The board and staff of the Richmond Museum Association look forward to many more collaborative projects and partnerships through the end of 2014 and well into the future.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Best Wishes,



Melinda McCrary

# EARNING THE COAST GUARD COI

by Dee Davison, ROV Port Captain and Environmental Health & Safety Officer

The U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection (COI) is required on all large passenger-carrying American-flagged vessels. This certificate signifies that a vessel has passed an extensive inspection by the USCG and is in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. The Certificate of Inspection is a United States Coast Guard regulation issue that may seem insignificant to those outside the industry, but it is a very important document which relates directly to your safety and peace of mind. COI components are:

- **SAFETY & THE ENVIRONMENT** - The design of the



Photo by John Trtek

Safety Management System (SMS) provides for safe practices in ship operation and a safe working environment. It establishes safeguards against all identified risks and continues to improve the safety management skills of volunteers, including preparing for emergencies related both to safety and the protection of the environment. The *Red Oak's* SMS complies with mandatory rules and regulations, applicable codes, guidelines and standards.

in accordance with U.S. Law and international conventions to which the U.S. is a party.

The SMS documents the RMA's safety and pollution prevention policy, functional safety and operational requirements, maintenance for all equipment, volunteer training and drilling (i.e., fire, man overboard, abandon ship) and record-keeping and reporting responsibilities. In addition, the SMS is designed to be consistent with functional standards and performance elements which include a policy for safety and environmental protection and instructions and procedures to ensure safe operation of the ship and crew. It defines the levels of authority and lines of communication between and among shore and shipboard personnel; procedures for reporting accidents and non-conformities; procedures to prepare for and respond to emergency situations, and procedures for internal audits and management reviews.

- **PROTECTION OF THE BAY** - The second component is the Vessel General Permit program, which regulates incidental discharges from the normal operation of a vessel consistent with the Clean Water Act. Incidental discharges include, but are not limited to ballast water, bilge water, gray water (e.g., water from sinks, showers) and anti-foulant paints (and their leachate). These discharges may result in negative environmental impacts via the addition of traditional pollutants or, in some cases, by contributing to the spread of invasive aquatic species.

The NPDES vessels program consists of many activities to

characterize the different types of discharges; assess the environmental impacts of these discharges; identify appropriate measures for controlling these discharges, and establish tools to manage associated data and other vessels' related information. All vessels authorized to discharge under the VGP must comply with the applicable permit terms and conditions.

- **SECURITY** – The Security Policies and Plans have been developed in accordance with USCG requirements and describe in detail how to protect the ship and ensure all of the requirements of vessel security mandates are met.

*[Editor's note: The technical and logistical complexities of the COI are readily apparent from Dee's descriptions. I want to acknowledge Dee's prodigious accomplishment in pulling together the necessary resources and working closely with ROV crew and the Coast Guard to enable the ROV to succeed in earning its COI. Kudos also to the ROV crew for its concerted efforts in safety training and drills to make the COI a reality. It was truly a well-orchestrated team effort.]*

## WWII MEMORIES STITCHED IN CLOTH

*CONTEMPORARY QUILT EXHIBIT EXPLORES WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES, VICTORY GARDENS, AND JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT, AMONG OTHER STORIES*

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park is pleased to announce a new exhibit, "Quilts About the Home Front," at the park's Visitor Education Center. A total of 45 quilts, and the personal stories which accompany them, will be displayed on a rotating basis in the

basement gallery through December 31, 2014.

The quilts were initially exhibited at the Craneway Pavilion in March 2014, during "Voices in Cloth," the Bay Area's premier quilt show produced biennially by the East Bay Heritage Quilters. As a result of the popularity of the first call, the committee issued a second call for quilts, some of which will be on public display for the first time at the park's Visitor Education Center. The quilts of the first call were exhibited at the Richmond Museum of History this spring.

Public programs with featured quilters will take place at the Visitor Center on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m.

*The park's Visitor Education Center is open seven days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM and is located at 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond, CA 94804.*

*For more information and directions to the Visitor Center, please call (510) 232-5050 x 0 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/rovi/planyourvisit/directions.htm>. Admission to the Visitor Education Center and all exhibits and programs is always free.*

**Thank you to Matt Gasparich of Maritime Training Services in Seattle for donating vital training material.**

# ROV DOCENT TRACES LIFE FROM KAISER SHIPYARDS TO GRACE CATHEDRAL (AND BACK)

By Jim Knowles • San Leandro Times

A recent story about Mary Torres, an original “Rosie the Riveter,” reminded another San Leandran of the shipyards during World War II.

Bruce Elliott got a job at the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond when he was 17. He drove a vehicle that lifted the massive steel plates to the ship where they were welded into place.

“I used to haul the steel plates to the Rosies, so the welders could weld the ships,” said Elliott, who just turned 90.



*When his kids were little, Elliott and his wife took them on a trip to Yosemite.*

another 25,000 would come in for swing shift,” he said. “I never saw so many people in my life.”

Elliott remembers the president asking people to get to work.

Elliott is a volunteer at the Richmond Museum of History with the crew that’s restoring the *S.S. Red Oak Victory*, one of the cargo ships that carried supplies overseas during World War II.

To this day, the tremendous production and the workforce at the Richmond shipyards still impresses Elliott.

“Each day, 25,000 people would come to work. And then, they would leave, and another 25,000 would come in for swing shift,” he said. “I never saw so many people in my life.”

“Roosevelt said, ‘All you teenagers, and you women, come out here and build ships,’” Elliott recalls. “And we did. And the Germans were sinking them as fast as we could build them.”



After the war, Elliott applied at the Key System and drove a bus for many years. He and his wife Charlotte raised three kids in San Leandro. His brother Phil was a pilot for Eastern Airlines.

Elliott played organ at the First Presbyterian Church in Oakland and many other houses of worship, including Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. His mother was an organist too, and he was such a well-regarded organist, he was even invited to play the organ at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

Elliott has a one-eyed cat named Shanti who he liked as soon as he saw her at the animal shelter. Nobody else wanted a cat with one good eye, but Elliott saw it differently.

“She had but one eye and most people wouldn’t take her and they were thinking of putting her to sleep,” Elliott said. “So I said, ‘No no no, I’ll take her.’”

*One of Bruce’s jobs on the Red Oak is collating the report on visitors: how many are there and where did they come from?*

## THE GOINGS-ON ON THE RED OAK

Just this year there have been performances, weddings, conferences, classes and celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries on the decks of the *Red Oak Victory Ship* and in the holds below.

What a great place to host your own celebration! Your family and friends will never forget your party and you can make arrangements to include tours of the Ship for your guests.

Call Lorraine or Marjorie on the Ship at (510) 237-2933 to discuss using this unique and amazing venue for your next celebration!



*Bruce Elliot of San Leandro and other Kaiser shipyard employees gathered for a photo during World War II.*

## MUSEUM HAS SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYEES

The Richmond Museum of History was fortunate to have two YouthWORKS employees sponsored by the City of Richmond during the summer months of 2014. The City of Richmond YouthWORKS is a highly competitive program that matches youth in Richmond with local businesses and nonprofits to provide valuable work experience to teenagers.

A'miya J. and Ginisha S. are both juniors at Leadership Public School and Richmond High School. A'miya lives in North Richmond and is a boxer with the Richmond Police Activities League. Ginisha lives in the Iron Triangle and is a softball player. She is also the fourth generation of a Richmond family and her grandfather worked in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards.

A'miya and Ginisha assisted Museum staff with visitor services, exhibit installation, collections work and special events. They accomplished several long-standing collections projects including compiling an inventory of nearly 500 historical maps and scanning all of the covers of the ship-launching programs from the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards. Ginisha said the following about her time at the Museum: "This summer I learned a lot about Richmond history and got a lot of work experience. I know how to put together exhibits, photocopy, check inventory, etc. I believe this was a good summer and I learned a lot."

Many thanks to City of Richmond YouthWORKS, program manager Jay Leonhardy, and especially Ginisha and A'miya.

Learn more about City of Richmond YouthWORKS at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=662>.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

### Gregory Ghent

14 art pieces by Monica Haley, art teacher at the Maritime Childcare Center (1940-1980)

### Kerry Ellis

Foreman's time book, Kaiser Shipyard (August 1943)

### Victoria Carpenter

WWII Red Cross nurse's uniform

### Margaret Accornero Baker

Roosevelt Junior High School photo and shirt collar and cuffs (1926)

### Louise Cook

WWII Japanese Imperial Navy dinnerware

## SALES AT THE MUSEUM AND *RED OAK* GIFT SHOPS

Gift-giving season is coming and what better to give than a little local history and support for your Museum and the *Red Oak*? Both Gift Shops are marking down items and there will be a big sale on the *Red Oak* during the Home Front Festival on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

T-shirts and sweatshirts are always welcome gifts; there is a variety of books on local history, wonderful Rosie items, including the popular lunch boxes, model airplanes and *The Birth of Victory* on DVD -- a great movie. How about the comfy throw woven with landmarks of Richmond's past.

Visit one of our Gift Shops now or call the Museum at (510) 235-7387 or the Ship at (510) 237-2933. (If you can't get there, gifts can be mailed.) See p. 7 for a Gift Membership to the RMA.

Members of the Richmond Museum Association get a 10% discount on regularly-priced items.

## TURNING POINTS OF WORLD WAR II ON FILM

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Richmond Museum Association are pleased to continue the popular film series partnership aboard the SS *Red Oak Victory*.

During World War II, freedom hung in the balance. This film program "tells the story of four of the turning points that tipped the scales and led to Allied victory over tyranny," explains the series curator, Ranger Craig Riordan, from Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

**October 16: *Enigma* (2001):** Against a back drop of espionage and mystery, Kate Winslet and Dougray Scott struggle to break the German code that will give the Allies a critical edge during WWII. This film was produced by Mick Jagger who donated his personal Enigma machine, a rare WWII collectible, for the film. This film is rated R; no one under 17 will be admitted without a parent.

**November 20: *The Heroes of Telemark* (1965):** Kurt Douglas and Richard Harris lead a team of Norwegian saboteurs who prevent the Germans from obtaining a supply of heavy water needed for the development of an atomic bomb. The story of these Norwegian heroes was highlighted during the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

**December 18: *Fat Man and Little Boy* (1989):** Paul Newman leads the team of Manhattan Project scientists in the development of the first atomic bombs. The team struggles with both the technological challenges and struggles of conscience in the development of such a terrifying weapon.

The full-length films show on the third Thursday of each month this fall. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. and the films begin at 7 p.m. Popcorn is still only \$1.

## ITEMS NOT ON DISPLAY

# MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

by Lynn Maack

The Victrola is an early phonograph record player made by the Victor Talking Machine Company, which made many different Victrola models beginning in 1901. Donated by Richmond resident Louise Dunster in 1962, the Museum's example is an upright floor model, Model VV-80, which, according to its model number, serial number and the Victor company's famously meticulous record-keeping, was made in 1924.

The Victrola, like all record players, converts recorded sound waves back into sound. Sound waves are recorded in a spiral groove on a disc-shaped platter, or record. The record sits flat on a turntable, which is driven by a crank-operated spring motor. The sound reproduction system, using Victor's terminology, consists of a needle, attached to a sound box, attached to a metal taper tube, connected to a cast-iron horn, connected to a wood horn. On modern-day record-playing equipment, these components are called, respectively, the stylus, cartridge, tonearm, amplifier and speaker. The taper tube is attached to the turntable platform next to the turntable. Attached and hinged at the end of the taper tube is the sound box, into which a playback needle is inserted. The turntable rotates the record; the needle tracks the spiral groove on the record and starts the sound reproduction process. The sound box via an internal mica diaphragm picks up the vibrations from the needle and passes them on through the horns, which amplify the vibrations and expel them as sound, closely duplicating the original.

In operation, a disk-shaped record sits atop the turntable. A crank-wound, spring-driven motor imparts rotational motion to the turntable on which the record sits. A hole in the center of the record fits over a spindle in the center of the turntable, keeping the record centered and stable for playback. On the side of the cabinet is a winding key (crank) port and key for winding the turntable motor spring. Playback controls consist of a turntable speed adjustment knob and speed indicator scale, a turntable brake lever and a trip lever, which releases the brake and starts the turntable motor.

Playing a record involves setting the turntable brake by moving its lever to the brake position, turning the crank to wind



the turntable drive spring, placing a record on the turntable, nudging the trip lever to release the brake, moving the conical tube assembly with sound box to the outer edge of the record, carefully placing the needle onto the surface of the record, making sure it moves into the record sound groove, and enjoying the recorded material, whether it be music or spoken words. The taper tube swivels horizontally, but, unlike modern equipment, it does not move vertically on and off the record. That vertical function is reserved for the sound box at the end of the tube. The box is hinged to allow it and the needle to be raised and lowered for playback. At the end of the recording,



*Close-up of the taper tube with sound box and needle in up-ended, rest position.*

the sound box is lifted from the record and the taper tube is moved off to the side so the record can be removed from the turntable. When idle, the sound box can (and should) be folded back to rest atop the taper tube so the needle does not contact the turntable. Important for preserving record grooves, early steel needles were to be used for only one play, after which they had to be replaced. The needle supply and disposal trays on the turntable platform served as a handy repository for new needles, which were available in boxes of 100 or more, and a place for disposal of used ones. Later tungsten steel needles could be used for between 100 and 300 plays.

Victrola cabinets were made of wood and came in several different veneer finishes, such as walnut, oak and mahogany. The Museum's model is finished in a mahogany veneer with a dark stain. On the front of the cabinet are four doors. The bottom two doors cover storage shelves for records. The top two, smaller doors cover the wood horn (speaker) opening and act as sound modulators; the unit will play audibly when these doors are closed, but sound volume increases and decreases as the doors are opened and closed. On top of the cabinet is a hinged lid. Raising the lid exposes the turntable platform, turntable, taper tube and sound box, needle supply and disposal trays and playback controls. With its lid closed, the unit is 40-1/2" tall, 19-3/4" wide and 21-1/2" deep. It retains the original Victor logo decal affixed to the inside of the lid and its metal identifying information tag showing the model and serial numbers.



The Victor Talking Machine Company operated from 1901 until 1929, when it was bought by the RCA Corporation and became the RCA Victor Company.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR MEMORIES?

Do you have memorabilia from your past? From Richmond's past? If so, now is the time to talk to the staff of the Richmond Museum Association about preserving your memorabilia and your memories forever by donating it to the place that will honor it, care for it and incorporate it into the story of Richmond.

Memorabilia can be photos, clothing (uniforms?), paper items, toys, almost anything.

Call Melinda McCrary, Executive Director, at (510) 235-7385 or send her a note at [info@richmondmuseumofhistory.org](mailto:info@richmondmuseumofhistory.org).

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\_\_\_ \$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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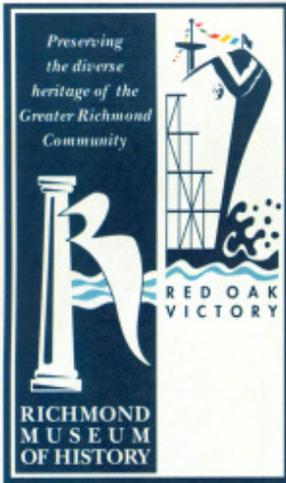
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Lynn Maack, Editor

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***Red Oak Victory Ship***

Open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Richmond CA 94804

Mail: P.O. Box 1267

Richmond CA 94802

(510) 237-2933 for information and Tour Appointments  
[redoakvictory.com](http://redoakvictory.com)

**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

**[Richmondmuseumofhistory.org](http://Richmondmuseumofhistory.org)**