

MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Fall 2017

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

VICTOR ARNAUTOFF: *RICHMOND INDUSTRIAL CITY*



Museum Director Melinda McCrary (center) and team unroll the Arnautoff mural so it could be photographed. From Left: Museum Staff E. Santos, Volunteer R. Morris-McDermott, Art Conservator A. Rosenthal, San Francisco State University (SFSU) Labor Archives Director C. Powell, SFSU Curator B. Alper-Finley and M. Nungaray, Richmond Chamber of Commerce summer employee. Image by Hannah Anderson, Academic Technology, SFSU. See p. 8.

Upcoming events:

Dia de los Muertos p. 7

Research in the Museum Collection p. 7

WW II Classic Comedies on the *Red Oak* p. 2

Honoring Legacy Businesses p. 3

Red Oak Report p. 4

Join the RMA p. 9

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

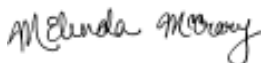
School is in session once again, the leaves are falling and the days grow ever shorter. The Museum has been busy preparing for the upcoming winter. We're working hard to implement the Legacy Businesses exhibit, and our opening reception is set for Saturday, November 18.

We are also working on something a little different this year. Museum staff is supporting Urban Transformations' plan for the 2nd annual Trick or Treat event on 23rd Street in Richmond taking place from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. In conjunction with that event, the Museum is hosting a FREE *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) craft workshop on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Come for the crafts and stay for the altar (or *Ofrenda*), dedicated to the people who lived in this area during the Mexican period (1921-1948).

A reproduction of the mural *Richmond Industrial City* (1941), by renowned artist Victor Arnautoff, is currently on display at the Labor Archives in San Francisco through December 12, 2017. *The Art of Politics* exhibit is in the Special Collections Gallery at the J. Paul Leonard Library, located at 1630 Holloway Ave. in San Francisco. The gallery is open to the public Monday-Friday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment. The closing event on Tuesday, December 5 at 5:30 features Grey Brechin discussing various New Deal projects. I am delighted to have been asked to speak briefly about the rediscovery of the Richmond mural and how it is in need of conservation. The event is open to the public and I encourage you to join us.

As the end of the year approaches, I urge you to remember the Richmond Museum Association in your charitable giving. We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, and your donation is fully tax-deductible. More importantly, you will gain the peace of mind of knowing you are part of a community of history heroes, working diligently to preserve local history for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you so much for your continued support!



Melinda McCrary
Executive Director

WE WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN RICHMOND AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTY!

The Richmond Museum of History seeks photographs, objects, and stories related to Jewish Life in Richmond and Contra Costa County for a program we're planning for Fall 2018. Please contact Melinda at melinda@richmondmuseum.org or (510) 235-7387 if you are willing to share with us your Jewish experience in Richmond and Contra Costa County.

MANY THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS FOR RENEWING THEIR MEMBERSHIP:

Gretchen Blais
Janet & Byron Brown
Caitlin Harvey & Michael
Hibma
Joseph & Julie Health
Janet Hunt
Melissa S. Jacobson
Christopher Marshall
Doug Neil
David Penn
Lynne Therriault

MUSEUM WISH LIST

Yarn
Multicolored Tissue paper
Extension Cords

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

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:

J. Arborgast, Mellwood Whiskey Bottle, Key System token holder, Photograph

Inez Brooks-Myers, Large Collection of Richmond artifacts, primarily costumes (1910s-1950s)

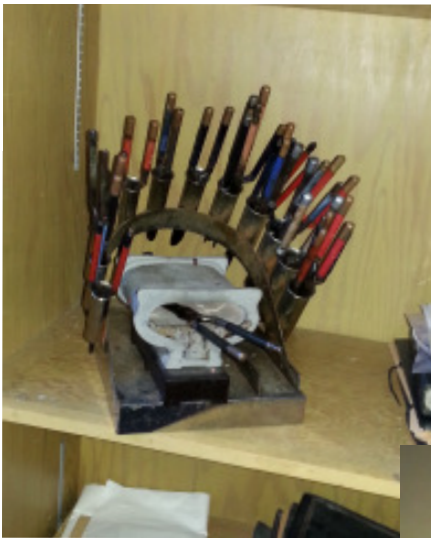
Hedquist Estate, Shipyard ID Badge, WWII regimental military newspapers

C. Katrenburg, Housing Authority Image (1943)

F. Mijango, Class Photos of Verde School (1960s)

Glenna Slayton, Shipyard ID Badge, Shipyard Manual, Chipper Foreman's journal

Dr. B. Burris Wright, 25 Curling Irons + Carousel, hot combing brushes, and photographs from Novalean's Beauty Shop (1960s)



CLASSIC COMEDIES ON THE RED OAK VICTORY

Classic Comedies of WW II is the theme for the Fall, 2017 movies of the World War II era shown on our own World War II ship. Craig Riordon, the Ranger in charge, shares insight and secrets about the movies, the stars and the times.

Boarding is at 6:30 PM. every third Thursday. There is no fee but you are encouraged to make a donation of \$10. And don't forget the popcorn and other refreshments available.

October 19th: *I was a Male War Bride* (1949) starring Cary Grant and Ann Sheridan.

Service members returning to the Home Front from overseas were often befuddled and frustrated by post war bureaucracy. This film gently (and not so gently) and hilariously pokes fun at the hoops some had to jump through, including those affected by The War Bride Act.

November 16th: *What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?* (1966) starring James Coburn and Dick Shawn.

Blake Edwards partially based this story on a question he was repeatedly asked by his son. (Edwards served in the Coast Guard during WWII.) This was Hollywood tough guy James Coburn's first starring role but the comedic elements are pure Blake Edwards.

December 21st: *Father Goose* (1964) starring Cary Grant and Leslie Caron. Academy Award winner.

This Academy Award winning film is considered one of Cary Grant's most endearing comedies. Although set in WWII, this is a family-friendly movie that will have everyone laughing out loud and leaving with smiles on their faces.

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.

“LEGACY BUSINESSES” OPENS

The exhibit “Legacy Businesses,” honoring Richmond's pioneer and long-time businesses, opens at a Reception at the Museum on Saturday, November 18 at 2:00.

FROM THE *RED OAK VICTORY* SHIP

by Johannes Hoech, Director of Ship Operations

As the third quarter of 2017 was winding to a close on the *Red Oak Victory*, we were celebrating several firsts:

- On the online rating service **Yelp**, for all of 2017 the *SS Red Oak Victory* has been the **highest-rated historic ship in the San Francisco Bay Area**. Congratulations to the team, and heartfelt thank-yous to our visitors and guests who took the time to rate their experience on the Ship.

- Our **pancake breakfasts have had record attendance throughout the year**, and we've launched several new, large-format events that were both popular entertainment as well as good fundraising events for the Ship.

- For example, our **July 3rd celebration was the highest-revenue event ever hosted** on the Ship, and, coupled with a few donations, really helped with moving us toward our fundraising goals.

- Our **August 12th, WWII-themed event in support of the Rosie Rally and Home Front Festival** tripled our attendance over last year's Rosie Festival supporting event.

- And on **September 2nd we hosted a Korean War-themed dinner dance and music event**, featuring 1950s Jazz performed by the John Kalleen Group. That evening the *Red Oak Victory* was probably the only place in the Bay Area with balmy temperatures as our guests were treated to a wonderful experience overlooking the Bay; watch a video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7v3HQBAVms>.

We have a wonderful crew of volunteers that's making all this possible:

The engine room and deck departments have been making incredible progress toward light-off, and our marketing, recruiting and docent departments are similarly greatly increasing their levels of activity. Also, we thank the U.S. Coast Guard for extending our COI (Certificate of Inspection) with very minimal corrections feedback.

We're continuing to recruit well:

New recruits include new folks in marketing, new docents, and a couple of folks in the deck department. Plus, we appreciated hosting a crew of Chevron volunteers on the Ship on September 21. Thank you, Chevron volunteers!

We just finished this year's major events with two more:

- On **October 7th, we put on a Vietnam War-era event** in support of Fleet Week that weekend. It came complete with a genuine Huey helicopter, an M-113 tracked APC (Armored Personnel Carrier), a genuine 1950s Greyhound Scenicruiser bus, and a collection of military vehicles and 1960s / 70s classic cars. We had rock music from the time and reenactors. Also, we reached

out to the Blue Angels and got them to fly over the *ROV* again like they did last year. And to round out the experience, we provided great food and refreshments.

- And then on **October 8th**, we had our final **Pancake Breakfast** for this year. Thank you to all of you who have attended; it was the most successful pancake breakfast season ever.

- As always, for all of these events, you've had your choice of two venues at the end of Canal Blvd: Not just the *SS Red Oak Victory*, but also our neighbors, the **Riggers Loft Wine Company**.

Strategic Priorities:

And finally, we are continuing our strategic planning and budgeting efforts for our key priorities for the first half of 2017 of 1) recruiting, 2) fundraising, 3) lighting off, 4) compliance, and 5) marketing. As readers of our past **MIRROR** articles may remember, we are hopeful we will be able to light-off the *ROV* late this year or in early 2018.

We now have two potential light-off locations and will approach two more. Also, thanks to the help of John Ziesenhenne, Richmond's Mayor Tom Butt has offered to assist in facilitating our light-off process.

Come on down:

As you can see, 2017 has been a busy year with many new initiatives and events. Come visit the *Red Oak Victory* on Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends from 10 to 4. Arrive curious, leave in awe!

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.

400 Nevin Ave
Richmond CA 94801



510-235-7387
www.richmondmuseum.org

DAY of the DEAD

CRAFT WORKSHOP

FREE!



Sunday
October 29,
2017
1 p.m to 4 p.m

Make all the essential items for your Day of the Dead altar at the Richmond Museum of History! Crafts include skull decorating, mask making, decorating candles, tissue paper flowers and much more! Event features an altar dedicated to local Mexican History.

This program is made possible by the ClaraBelle Hamilton Fund at the San Francisco Foundation

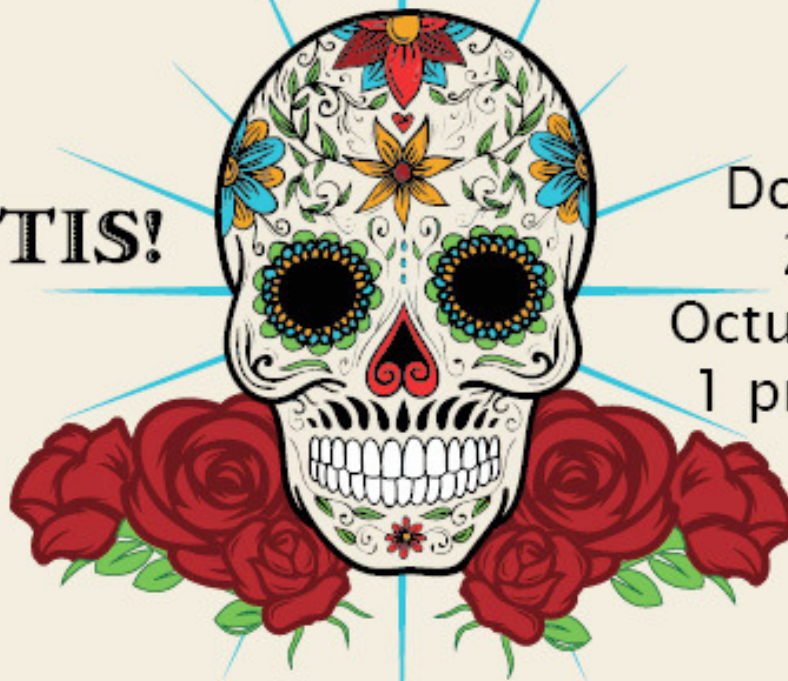
400 Nevin Ave
Richmond CA 94801



510-235-7387
www.richmondmuseum.org

DIA *de los* MUERTOS CRAFT WORKSHOP

GRATIS!



Domingo,
29 de
Octubre 2017
1 pm a 4pm

Haz todos los elementos esenciales para tu altar de Día de Muerto en el museo de historia de Richmond. Artesanías incluyen la decoración del cráneo de azúcar, la fabricación de mascara, velas de decoración, flores de papel y mucho más!

Este programa es hecho posible gracias al Fondo de ClaraBelle Hamilton de la Fundación San Francisco.

THE POWER OF TEAMWORK

Now that summer has officially come to a close and we've embarked upon a new season, it's a good time to slow down and take a moment to reflect. As a general rule, public activity at the Richmond Museum of History as well as aboard the *Red Oak Victory* ship tapers off during the fall and winter months, which in turn presents a good window to evaluate and plan.

As I reflect back, what really stands out for me is the power of collaboration and teamwork. We, as an organization, understand that availing ourselves of resources and expertise that extends beyond our in-house capabilities will most assuredly help to further develop a better Richmond Museum Association, which in turn will result in a better experience for our members, visitors, volunteers and staff.

Our Museum Executive Director Melinda McCrary has formal education, the requisite degrees and skills related to the field, yet she still freely embraces the opportunity to benefit from collaborating and working with others who can further enhance her knowledge and in turn benefit the organization as a whole. Two prime examples of relationships that Melinda has developed with scholars and luminaries in the field are Susan Anderson and Professor Robert Cherny. Susan's extensive resume includes being a managing director at UCLA and USC's libraries Special Collections. She's an expert in American History and African American history. She's a fountain of information and has been a great resource that Melinda has worked with closely. Robert Cherny is Professor of History Emeritus at San Francisco State University, and Melinda's relationship with him has also been very beneficial for our Museum. As many of you are aware, as a result of a little "detective work" Melinda located a very significant original work of art in the basement of the main office of the Richmond Post Office on Nevin Avenue. Our Museum now has possession of this work—a mural by noted artist Victor Arnautoff. The Richmond Museum of History is now raising funds to restore this massive and historical work of art, and our Museum Executive Director has a collaborative relationship with Professor Cherny who literally wrote the book about the artist, "Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art." Now that's big!

The Museum's single largest artifact, the *SS Red Oak Victory* ship, is another example of how collaboration and teamwork come into play. The RMA is very fortunate to have Johannes Hoech as part of the team. Johannes is the *SS Red Oak Victory's* Director of Ship Operations. He's essentially responsible for running the Ship. He has a degree in naval architecture, an MBA and years of high-level corporate experience. With as much knowledge and experience that Johannes has, he's constantly reaching out, networking and developing relationships that will assist us in "keeping the Ship afloat" and enhancing the overall Ship experience. He's assembled a great marketing team with Fred

Klink and Kristen Elford, and they have been working diligently to develop effective marketing strategies and putting systems and metrics in place to measure the degree of effectiveness. Based on the attendance aboard the Ship and the resulting bottom line, they have been very successful. A big thank-you to all of the crew for your diligent efforts and resounding success.

What I want our readers to be aware of is that even though the Richmond Museum Association (parent to Richmond Museum of History and *Red Oak Victory* ship) is not a very large organization, our vision is big, and we do not operate in a vacuum. We utilize our in-house talent, but we don't limit ourselves solely to our skills. We believe in collaboration and teamwork because our goal is to bring forth the best experience for our visitors and to be the best organization that we can possibly be.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, our staff, board, RMA members and the ever-increasing number of visitors who make it all possible.

Jeff Wright
President
Richmond Museum Association

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CRAFT WORKSHOP

We're excited to be hosting a craft workshop for *Dia de los Muertos* on October 29, 2017, in partnership with Urban Transformations and the 2nd annual trick-or-treat event on 23rd Street/ Calle 23rd. There will be music (hopefully live), free Dia-themed crafts, and an altar dedicated to important people of Richmond from the past.

Rumor is the Food Emporium hosted by Cesar Zepeda will also be in Nevin Park that day.

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Have you ever wanted to gain an insider's view to the permanent collection of the Richmond Museum of History? Your opportunity has arrived because, on November 11, our esteemed volunteer Michele Reeder will be teaching a class on how to get the most out of conducting research in the Museum collection. Michele earned her Masters of Library & Information Sciences from San Jose State University and has been a volunteer at the RMH for roughly two years.

RICHMOND INDUSTRIAL CITY HIGHLIGHT OF ARNAUTOFF **SHOW**

The Richmond Museum of History is proud to support the exciting exhibition about the art of Victor Arnautoff at the Labor Archives at San Francisco State University.

Victor Arnautoff (1896-1979) was a leading artist in San Francisco in the 1930s whose best-known work is the mural “City Life,” located at Coit Tower. *Victor Arnautoff and The Politics of Art* looks at Arnautoff’s “art for the people” – works executed in an easily-reproduced format and accessible to the general public that were intended to move and stimulate thinking.

Like his mentor, Diego Rivera (1886-1957), Arnautoff saw art as “a weapon of ideas in the struggle for a new society.” This exhibition includes a full-scale reproduction of his recently rediscovered New Deal-era mural for the Richmond Post Office and a selection of works on paper spanning his entire career addressing themes of labor and social justice.

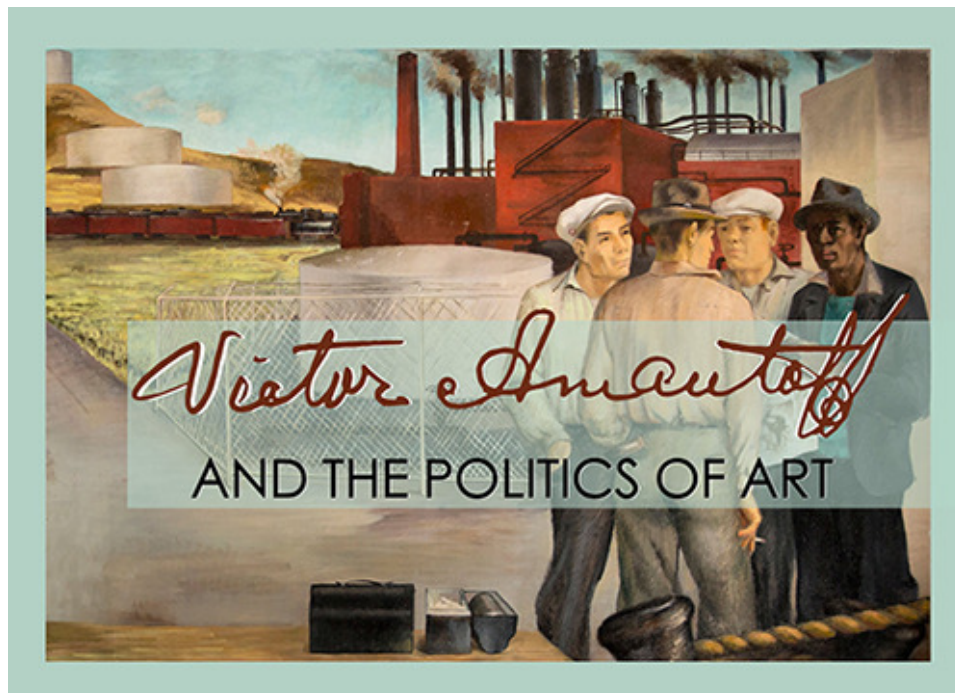
Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art **September 13-December 12, 2017**

Labor Archives and Research Center
San Francisco State University
J. Paul Leonard Library, Special Collections Gallery
1630 Holloway Ave., 4th Floor, Room LIB 462
Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday, 1-5 pm or by appointment

Closing Event: Tuesday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m.
Gary Brechin will discuss New Deal projects

Co-sponsored by Friends of the J. Paul Leonard Library and SFSU Retiree Association

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 Individuals

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 & invites to member-only events

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 Benefits above & "Behind-the-Scenes" tours
 of Museum collection & Ship archives

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 Benefits above & exclusive tour & luncheon
 with Museum Curator & Ship Captain

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Join at www.richmondmuseum.org or mail
 a check to RMA at:
 Richmond Museum Association
 P.O. Box 1267
 Richmond CA 94802



P.O. Box 1267
Richmond, CA 94802

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

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

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Red Oak Victory Ship

NOW OPEN UNTIL 4 p.m.

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

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