

The MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Spring 2019

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

RMOH EXHIBIT RECOGNIZED

Museum staff are delighted and honored to be profiled in the latest issue of *History News*, the Magazine published by the American Association of State and Local History. Our work on the *History Unfolded* project in support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was presented as an important contributor to the project. The History Unfolded project's goal is to determine how and how prominently the Holocaust was portrayed in American newspapers across the country. *History News* recognized the Museum's efforts as follows:

"In addition to its broad appeal among educators, *History Unfolded* offers librarians, archivists, and staff at historical societies ample opportunities to meet their institutional objectives. Some of the most innovative approaches to and most exciting outcomes from the project have come from special programs in which libraries and historical societies have engaged staff and volunteers to investigate collections.

"The **Richmond Museum of History** in Richmond, California, for example, began its participation in *History Unfolded* in 2016. Staff there were curious to find out what information about the Holocaust, if any, was available to the local community—home

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RICHMOND TRIVIA NIGHT A ROUSING SUCCESS

Our first-ever trivia context was a great success. Held at the East Brother Beer Company in Richmond, the "**Richmond Trivia Night**" event consisted of a silent auction of fabulous items, a Richmond history test and, of course, beer. In the silent auction were several wonderful works of art donated by Arts of Richmond, a case of wine from Navarro Winery, a double-magnum bottle of wine and many other fine items. Thank you to all who donated to the event.

Twelve teams competed, and one team emerged victorious—"The Oilers"—aptly named by its long-time-Richmonder members Walt Russey, Janette Russey, Jim Russey and Jeff DeFabio.



Proud Richmond Trivia Night winners, (foreground, l to r), Walt Russey, Jim Russey, Jeff DeFabio and Janette Russey

Richmond Museum Association Board members Karen Buchanan and Lynn Maack, along with Museum Executive Director Melinda McCrary, developed the questions and answers, which were presented in two rounds, with five categories of four questions each. The questions were projected onto a wall of the EB brewery so participants could read them while Buchanan read them aloud. A big thank-you to Roxy Miravalle of El Sobrante Historical Society for her help scoring the contest. The happy winners received round-trip tickets for the ferry to San Francisco and a gift certificate to the Bouli Bar at the Ferry Building.

Congratulations, again, to our winners! Let the bragging begin!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

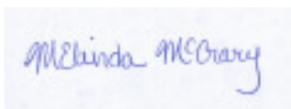
The spring bloom is especially pretty and abundant this year as we reap the benefit of the heavy rains over the last winter. I hope you're enjoying the warm and sunny weather!

The Museum has been extraordinarily busy over the last several months as we celebrate the *"Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County"* exhibit. The exhibit includes several related events at the Museum through June, and all to date have been successful in terms of increased attendance and donations, which are so critical to our continuing our important work. We are so grateful to the many people who have joined us to make these events successful. I want to give thanks and recognition to the following groups and individuals who made contributions to the events: Rabbi Dean Kertesz, Temple Beth Hillel, National Council of Jewish Women-Rossmoor, Sherry Green, Ingrid Mueller, Sue Edelman, Karen Pollak, Laurie Leiber, Jane Zastrow, Roberta Spieckerman, Lisa Kharazzi, Marty Kharazzi, Diane Bloom, Ellen Pechman and John Zieshenne. The most important thanks I want to give is to Richmond resident and Museum volunteer Julie Freestone, who planned and organized all of these events. Thanks, Julie! It is so exciting to build this amazing community and introduce new audiences to our work at the Richmond Museum of History.

Speaking of new audiences, the Museum held a Richmond Trivia Night fundraiser at a local brewery and tasting room! A big thanks to the folks at **East Brother Beer Company** for hosting us on March 28, 2019. RMA board member Karen Buchanan was a fun and entertaining MC for the evening and Roxy Miravalle of the **El Sobrante Historical Society** provided excellent scoring. A huge thanks to those who donated items for our silent auction, including the **Arts of Point Richmond** who donated many beautiful artworks. We had so much fun, we're already planning to hold a trivia contest again next year. Congratulations to the first place team: The Oilers!

We have so much planned for the rest of 2019, including an exhibit celebrating past and present photography in Richmond and the annual Day of the Dead event. Be sure to check www.richmondmuseum.org periodically to keep up with all the exciting events at the Richmond Museum of History. As always, thank you for your continued support of the Richmond Museum Association.

Have a great day!



Melinda McCrary

RMA BOARD REFRESHED

At the Richmond Museum Association's Annual Meeting on February 25, 2019, board members Rich Chivers, Steve Gilford and Lydia Stewart were elected for additional three-year terms. Pat Pearson, who was on the slate of candidates, has decided to retire from the board. Congratulations and thank you to our continuing board members and a special thank-you to Pat Pearson for her long and dedicated service to the RMA board.

At the first board meeting after the election, the board thanked outgoing president Jeff Wtigh for his enthusiastic and committed leadership for the past three years and elected Johannes Hoech as the new president for 2019. Also elected as officers were Lynn Maack as vice-president, John Zieshenne as treasurer, and Vinay Pimplé as secretary.

HELPFUL INVENTIONS?

The Kaiser Richmond Shipyards management was always seeking time- and cost-saving suggestions from the workers. The August 4, 1944, issue of shipyard employee newsletter *"Fore 'n' Aft"* poked fun with a suggestion of dubious merit



SAVE THE DATE:

"WIG WAGS FOREVER"

FESTIVAL: JULY 28, 2019

A community-wide festival celebrating the full restoration and activation of Point Richmond's historic wig wags is scheduled for July 28th. The event, *"Wig Wags Forever,"* will occur on the premises of the Point Richmond Mechanics Bank from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

In addition to a dedication ceremony, there will be live period entertainment featuring musical and dance performances, some dating back to 1908. A curated art exhibition is another attraction, focusing on railroad crossings of yesteryear and today, as interpreted by national and local artists and shown in both copies and original works. Booths staffed by local community organizations, artisan vendors, wig wag poster sales, and food/beverage enticements are other features of the wig wags inaugural event. All are welcome. Come early and enjoy yourselves at this historic event.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Johannes Hoech

2019 is proving to be an exciting year for the Richmond Museum Association (RMA), owner and custodian of both the Richmond Museum of History (Museum) in downtown Richmond, and the *SS Red Oak Victory ship (ROV)*, moored at Basin 5 at the end of Canal Blvd.

For starters, we've had the regular changing of the guard as the outgoing RMA Board President Jeff Wright has termed out, and I am proud and excited to have been elected as the new President. You might know me from my prior and continuing role as Director of Ship Operations at the *ROV*. John Ziesenhenne was re-elected as the Treasurer, Lynn Maack is now the Vice President, and Vinay Pimplé agreed to serve as Secretary. Complemented by a great group of additional board members and a large organization of volunteers, we've already started toward realizing some great plans for 2019.

For the Museum, the continuing stretch goal will be to not only fund ongoing operations, but also secure funding for the restoration of the Richmond mural created by the well-known Bay Area muralist and painter Victor Arnautoff (he created several well-known murals in the mid-twentieth century such as the San Francisco Coit Tower murals). We also want to continue bringing you engaging exhibits like the current and popular "*Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County*," which runs through June 30, with a related event, "*Jewish Food and Wine*," on June 23rd. The Museum is a not-so-hidden gem with remarkable and valuable artifacts that tell the unique history of the Richmond area and Richmond's first hundred years-plus as a city.

Similarly, the *ROV* faces the exciting prospect of being able to light off again this year and completing the restoration of her engine room to operational status. Of course, this ambitious goal also requires funding, and to that end the *ROV* will put on many events throughout the year, ranging from the popular pancake breakfasts to several music, dinner and dance events. The *ROV* is also available for group and small-to-large event rentals, and as of late has been doing some movie work, including for a WW II movie starring Tom Hanks.

Beyond that, we're all excited to have been able to attract more volunteers (98% of our volunteers believe that should include YOU) :) and continue the renewal and revitalization of the organization that was begun under John Ziesenhenne's and Jeff Wright's presidencies.

If you have ideas, energy, time and/or cash, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at either <https://richmondmuseum.org/contact> or at <http://redoakvictory.us/contact-us>; our operators are standing by :) Above all, visit the Museum; visit the *ROV*—we'd love to show you around.

Onward to a great 2019!

RMOH RECOGNIZED

(Continued from p. 1)

to the Kaiser Shipyards, which made significant home front contributions to the war effort during WWII. Were the men who built the ships aware of Nazi persecution and murder of European Jews? Or were their eyes solely on the Pacific theatre? The museum placed advertisements in the local Jewish newspaper and invited members of a nearby synagogue to participate in volunteer research using the museum's collections of historical newspapers. Eventually, they expanded research beyond just what their community might have known about the Holocaust to an exploration of the history of Jewish Richmond and surrounding Contra Costa County, resulting in a new exhibit that opened in January 2019 documenting the Jewish history of the city and surrounding region."

Currently on display in our Seaver Gallery, the exhibit noted is "*Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County*," and it runs through June 30, 2019.

FREE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP PROGRAM

Working directly with the teachers especially in Richmond and North Richmond as well as surrounding areas, the Richmond Museum of History coordinates and conducts school group tours of the Museum that include transportation to the Museum and engaging activities that explain FIRST WOMAN MAYOR the Museum's contents, functions and relevance to the community.

Please Pass the Word

Do you know of a teacher in Richmond who would like to bring his or her class to the Richmond Museum of History? If so, please pass along the message that we are offering scholarships for bus transportation to and from the Museum. Interested teachers please contact Melinda at melinda@richmondmuseum.org or (510) 235-7387.

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.

FROM THE *RED OAK VICTORY* SHIP

RED OAK VICTORY PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

by Johannes Hoech, ROV, Director of Ship Operations

For those who have been following the story of the *SS Red Oak Victory* historic ship, particularly over this last year, you know that we are moving ever closer to our goal of getting the Ship underway to take passengers on the Bay. An article in a previous issue of *The MIRROR* (Fall 2018 issue), detailed the light-off of the Ship's boilers during the summer of 2018.

Of course, all this restoration work requires money, especially since we have a chance to continue our restoration efforts by lighting her off for a second time in 2019 to obtain important U.S. Coast Guard permits, culminating in the eventual operation of the *Red Oak Victory* out on the bay.

To press forward with our historic restoration effort—last year she became the first large U.S. WW II warship to be lit off in 40 years—the *Red Oak Victory* relies on traditional fund-raising through corporate and individual donations, grants and online fundraising through GoFundMe (search for “*Red Oak Victory*” at www.gofundme.com). However, we also employ some non-traditional methods that provide our Bay Area community with entertainment, educational resources and rental space.

Daily Visitors and Tours:

The *Red Oak Victory* hosts hundreds of daily visitors to the Ship who pay anywhere from \$10 to \$20 depending on which level of ship tour they select. Visitors come to the Ship because they've seen our website, our Instagram page or our advertising on Facebook. Many visitors come aboard as a spur-of-the-moment decision while they are walking or biking on the Bay Trail that winds its way through Shipyard No. 3, or they see us when they're enjoying a glass of excellent wine at Riggers Loft.

Educational Mission:

Some 600 Bay Area school children visited the Ship in 2018. Institutions ranging from middle school through high school have conducted field trips to the Ship and often also included a visit to the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Such a field trip provides a full day of learning important American history on the very spots where it took place. Schools bring their students on board at a discounted rate and they receive small-group, docent-guided tours of the Ship as well as special presentations on local history or nautical topics.

Special Events:

The *Red Oak Victory* has become famous for our Pancake Breakfast fundraisers. Over three hundred visitors typically come on board on a Pancake Sunday and enjoy a breakfast out on the open deck while listening to the sounds of live, local musical talent. Bay Area supporters of the Ship also look forward to our annual July 3 celebration with a spectacular view of the Richmond City Fireworks from the stern of the Ship.

In addition, we have hosted swing dances with top local bands such as Stompy Jones and Lavay Smith. We've also had a beautiful evening of jazz under the stars with The John Kalleen Group. This year we'll have John Kalleen on board again plus the George Cole Trio and the Silver Bell Swing Band. Visit our website at www.redoakvictory.us/visiting/calendar-events/ for the 2019 event schedule.

Rent Space on the Ship or the entire Ship!

The fastest growing fundraising effort in the last two years has been rental of the Ship's spaces for parties, meetings and corporate events. Every organization that has come to the Ship enjoys not just their own event, but the up-close, hands-on history of the *Red Oak Victory* and the surrounding shipyards. Groups such as the San Francisco Port Engineers, the American Welding Society and Kaiser-Permanente have held their meetings on the Ship. MATTIE CHANDLER Numerous private parties have also been held on board, including birthday parties and wedding receptions. We even offered a rental of the Ship as a silent auction item for a school fund-raiser last year. We receive inquiries about renting the Ship on almost a weekly basis and all indications are that 2019 will be an outstanding year for this aspect of our fund-raising efforts.

Now that you know a little more about the creative ways we raise money for the *Red Oak Victory*, we hope that you'll be able to give either your time or your money to one of these efforts. Or, perhaps you have an idea that hasn't occurred to us yet. We'd love to hear from you. E-mail info@redoakvictory.us.

Arrive curious, leave in awe!



Design for a commemorative coin, available soon

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

Our famous Sunday Pancake Breakfasts will be returning next month. Breakfast is \$12 for adults, \$5.00 for kids and includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee and, for a bit extra, mimosas.

After your meal, if you can drag yourself away from the view, you can take a tour of the Ship. On Pancake Breakfast days, we offer \$5.00 discounts per ship tour—self-guided tours (with booklet) are free; docent-guided tours are 10.00; docent-guided tours including the Engine Room are \$15.00.

Tickets will be available on-line and via phone; or just pay at the gate. Breakfast hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Here is the schedule:

May 12 - Mother's Day

June 16 - Father's Day

August 11 - Dress Up Like 1944 Day

September 8 - Grandparents' Day

October 13 - Fleet Week

Another great event will be our swing dance, "*Swing on the Ship*," featuring the **Silver Bell Jazz Band**. Get out your dancing shoes and come on down on **Saturday June 8** from 6:00 until 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 for admission and dancing; \$55 if you also want dinner. Tickets are available at <http://www.bit.ly/rov68swing> or by calling the Ship at 510-237-2933. Ship tours are also available.

The Ship is open for tours on every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the year:

Summer hours (March - November): 10 am - 4 pm

Winter hours (November - March): 10 am - 3 pm

Admission Price:

Self-guided tour (with souvenir booklet): \$10

Docent-guided tour (entire ship except the lower engine room): \$15

Deluxe docent-guided tour (includes the lower engine room): \$20

Large Groups:

For groups of ten or more visiting the Ship at one time, please contact us to make arrangements. E-mail us at info@redoakvictory.us or call the Ship's phone (during business hours): (510) 237-2933.

RED OAK WISH LIST:

The *Red Oak Victory* ship needs a lot of attention. We hope you can help. We appreciate all donations, large and small, monetary and otherwise. Here is a list of physical things the Ship needs; some of them are very specific—please call the Ship at the number below to get details:

Media system for Holds 3 and 4 (and on-deck as needed); sound system, mic, modern projector
Heating system for Hold 4 for Winter/Spring events
Replica light shades to replace those broken throughout the Ship
New hatch-cover canvas
Spill kit
Emergency locker with lid, 3' x 4'
Printer ink cartridges
AA batteries
LED penlights/laser pointers
and we 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.

Easiest of all, go to www.redoakvictory.us and click DONATE to contribute monetarily to the Ship's restoration.

Thank you for your help and support!

EMAIL PLEASE...

Like many organizations, the Richmond Museum Association needs to cut costs where we can. And as much as I personally prefer to hold a newsletter in my hand, that hard copy is expensive to print and mail.

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

Please email us at melinda@richmondmuseum.org with *The MIRROR* in the subject line, and don't forget to tell us your name.

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

A TALE OF TWO SURVIVORS

The Red Oak Victory ship celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year. The Ship was launched November 9, 1944, at Kaiser Richmond Shipyard No. 1. After final outfitting, on December 5, 1944, the Ship was commissioned to the U.S. Navy as an ammunition carrier, the USS Red Oak Victory (AK-235). In January 1945, the Ship sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge to supply ammunition to the Pacific Fleet in the final naval assault on the Empire of Japan.

It seems fitting at this time to relate a first-hand account of the Ship's first duty assignment in the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II. This stirring account is provided by the last known surviving, original crew member of the Red Oak Victory, Robert DiChiara, about a harrowing experience on what is now the last surviving ship built in Richmond. In his own words:

"I am here, as witness, to tell you a story of the Red Oak Victory, her 115 men carrying 4,000 tons of explosives and our first entry into WW 2 that very well could have been our last! I must preface it with a human tragedy that occurred before we arrived.

"On November 10th, 1944, at 8:55 A.M., the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood, AE11, lying at anchor among a number of support ships, in Manus Island, South Pacific, carrying 3,800 tons of ammunition, EXPLODED for no apparent reason! 350 men aboard were instantly vaporized. They went up in smoke! No human remains were ever discovered. Debris was found on ships 2,000 yards away! (That's 20 football fields.) The largest piece of metal belonging to the Mount Hood was a piece of steel 10 by 16 feet! It made a trench in the ocean floor 1,000 feet long, 500 feet wide and 40 feet deep. Ships around her were either badly damaged or sunk. All told, injured, wounded, drowned, missing were close to 900 men.

"A few months later, March 1st, 1945, the USS Red Oak Victory, AK235, with approximately 4,000 tons (that's 8 million lbs.) of explosives arrived in Ulithi Atoll. Unlike Manus Island, occupied mostly by service vessels, Ulithi was the Staging Area for the U.S. Fleet! Approximately 800 ships, getting ready for the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa! As an ammunition ship, flying the RED Baker Flag (DANGER), we always anchored away from other vessels....

"Now, in Ulithi, they ASSIGNED us a berth "alongside" the huge aircraft carrier USS Randolph, loaded with PLANES, BOMBS, AMMUNITION, AVIATION FUEL and 3,500 MEN!! The atoll was blacked out every night! Without fail! On late afternoon, March 11th, we received an urgent request for some ammunition. They sent over an LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] to pick it up. Arriving shortly before sunset, they tied up on our starboard side between us and the Randolph. It was getting dark, so they proceeded to set up floodlights over our hold and over the LCVP. I was down on the LCVP deck with

two other seamen, guiding the net full of ammo to a spot where we were stacking it. As the net came down full of ammo, we were pushing it over to a spot, I with my left shoulder and my head facing the Randolph. The flight deck seemed to be 200 feet high! Thinking to myself, WOW! What a huge ship! It was almost 9:30 P.M. I suddenly heard the sound of a plane engine followed by TWO HUGE EXPLOSIONS on the aft deck with remnants of the Kamikaze arching in the sky over the bow of the Randolph as another Kamikaze exploded on the Island. Naval History tells us that the Japanese sent 24 Ginga Bombers 1,500 miles (one-way) in an attempt to stop the American advance. Lucky for us, only two bombers made it; the others either got lost or ran out of fuel. Aboard the Randolph, 27 men were killed, and 105 were wounded.

"I SHUDDER TO THINK, IF ONE OF THOSE BOMBERS HAD CHOSEN THE ONLY LIT-UP TARGET IN THE ATOLL!! — THE RED OAK VICTORY— the chain reaction from warship-to-warship would have created unbelievable havoc, and without question, the possible destruction of our entire Pacific Fleet!! A true story.... SCARY! — VERY, VERY SCARY!

"P.S.: The next morning they moved us so far away, my position as a Signalman was useless. With my long telescope, all I could see was the tops of some masts, since the ships themselves were over the horizon.

"Bob DiChiara, Sm3/c, Last Survivor, ROV, AK235."



Bob DiChiara provided this image of the scene on the USS Red Oak Victory on a mail run on August 16, 1945, the day after VJ Day.

Bob DiChiara is the last surviving crew member on the last surviving ship of the 747 ships built in Richmond. Happily, this year we are all able to celebrate the Red Oak Victory's 75th Anniversary at its home in Richmond! Come on down and let us show you around. You will be glad you did.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Currently and through June 30, 2019

“Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County”

Richmond Museum of History, **Seaver Gallery**

An exhibition honoring the history and contributions of the Jewish Community in Richmond.

June 23 (Sunday), 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

“Jewish Food and Wine,” with **Perfusion Winery** conducting a wine tasting and Alix Wall speaking on Jewish chefs in the Bay Area. This is the final program of the *“Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County”* exhibit’s program series. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EXHIBIT

“Richmond in Focus”

Opening August 10, 2019, in the Seaver Gallery, a new exhibit will celebrate photography in Richmond. The exhibit will present highlights of the Museum’s permanent collection found during the *“California Revealed”* cataloguing project. It provides an opportunity to highlight the Ellis Myers collection of photographs



From the Museum permanent collection: Advertisement for De Luxe Studio portrait studio on Macdonald Avenue

of African Americans in Richmond during the 1950s. The exhibit provides a vehicle for the Museum to exhibit the many pieces of historical photography equipment held in the permanent collection.

We will also engage local living artists by requesting submissions of original photographs with some relation to Richmond to be included in the exhibit. Call the Museum at 510-235-7387 to learn more about how to submit a photo.

The show is being planned with the partnership of Dana Davis, who is a professor of photography at Contra Costa College, and the goal is to engage students in exhibit design and installation. The exhibit will be accompanied by public programs through December 2019 and is part of the *“Know Your Community”* series.

WHO’S THIS? WITH A TWIST...

by Lynn Maack

This issue, just for fun, we’re changing the photo identification game. Instead of showing a photo of unidentified people in local, historical photographs in the Museum’s collection and asking our readers to identify the people, we’re showing a photo of a person whose identity we already know and asking you if you know. The woman in the photograph below, circa 1926, is significant in Richmond’s history. Can you name her and say why she is notable? The answers are contained in the text of this newsletter. All you have to do is read everything to find them! Maybe you already have. Have fun!



MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Museum, like all non-profit organizations, always seeks and greatly appreciates donations, monetary and otherwise. Here is a list of things we need to help us put on exhibits and events to bring you history you can enjoy:

- Glass or ceramic serving platters for food
- Cloth tablecloths for 6-ft. x 4-ft rectangular table
- Serving utensils (please no plastic)
- Yarn
- Extension cords
- Power strip
- Garden hose

If you can donate these items or contribute to their purchase, please call the Museum at (510) 235-7387, or visit our website, www.richmondmuseum.org and click DONATE. Thank you for your support!

CALL TO ACTION TO THE YOUTH OF RICHMOND: KNOW YOUR HISTORY

By Antonio and Andres

Joe Spina, a tutor, brought a couple Richmond youth to the Museum recently as part of their history studies. Impressed and inspired by what they saw, the young men co-wrote an article about their visit. Mr. Spina asked whether we might publish it for our readers. We were impressed by the young men's perspective on what they learned at the Museum. So here is their story.

"We are two brothers named Antonio and Andres who live in Richmond. We are in the 8th grade and 9th grade and attend John F. Kennedy High school and Mira Vista K-8 school. Our call to action to the youth of Richmond is to inform students about the importance of understanding one's history. Students need to know the history of the past generations because they will understand to not commit the same mistakes as the past. We recently toured the Richmond Museum of History and we saw how citizens worked, attended school, and lived in the past. We learned many pieces from Richmond's history, such as there were a lot of jobs in the past in Richmond. For example, there were many factories including a Ford factory that would soon become a tank factory during World War II.

"One striking exhibit was a photograph that was showing a battleship being made in the Richmond shipyards during WWII. This is important because a small little city like Richmond supplied the United States with battleships during the war that helped the U.S. win the war. Another exhibit was how the Spanish made adobe blocks. This is important because it showed us how people made structures. We also learned about Native Americans by looking at the pictures and reading the captions below the pictures. For example we saw the reed boats and how the Native Americans made and used them for traveling through the water. We enjoyed seeing how Native Americans, Spanish, and citizens of Richmond lived before us.

"The youth of Richmond must strive to learn their past history for many reasons. One reason it is important to analyze the past is so people don't make the same mistakes as the past. For example, by studying history we will understand mistakes that happened and we can avoid those mistakes today. By understanding the past students can make better life choices in the future. For example, we could study a person like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. then we could make our future brighter by understanding the matters he stood for. This is key because the youth are going to grow up to be role models in the future. As we develop our understanding of the past we need to understand what is right and wrong. Students of Richmond must know their history because it will affect their future. (Continued, right.)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:

Julie and Rich Perez

"Justice for Pedie Perez" promotional items including pens, buttons, bracelet, and news story

Robin Lopez

San Francisco Bay Ferry program, flyer, magnetic schedule and button from opening day in Richmond, January 10th, 2019

Steve Koepke via the estate of Carmen and Frank Avila

Class photograph from Longfellow Junior High School, January 1952, five copies of *The Richmond News* newspapers spanning from Tuesday, April 2nd, 1918, through Saturday, April 6th, 1918

Karen Buchanan

8x10-inch black-and-white photograph of the "City of Richmond," circa 1904; 8x10-inch black-and-white photograph, of Pt. Richmond, Municipal Tunnel, western portal

Jack Kenny

Political ephemera and photographs of former Richmond City Councilman, James P. Kenny

John Tysell

Richmond National Exchange Club adjustable cap; book, *Richmond Country Club History 1924-1978*; outdoor Richmond political signage

CALL TO ACTION: (Continued)

"Lastly, the Richmond Museum of History is located at 400 Nevin Avenue. The location of the museum is interesting because it is in the Iron Triangle district. There is a room in the museum that has an exhibit that features pictures of memorials of kids who were killed by gang-related violence in the area. This is significant because this shows that the museum is trying to inform the people of Richmond about the gang violence that is located in the Iron Triangle area. If we learn about our history of violence in the Richmond community we can begin to learn that violence in this community is affecting the youth and therefore we can begin to make change, or avoid this predicament."

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And receive these Benefits:

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- « Membership card
- « And more:

___ \$35 **History Ally**—Seniors aged 62 and over—Benefits include quarterly e-newsletter and free admission for one to the Richmond Museum of History and the SS Red Oak Victory

___ \$50 **History Enthusiast**—Benefits include one digital file of a photo in the permanent collection for personal use

___ \$100 **History Advocate**—2 adults/2 youth—Benefits above and one hour of staff research time

___ \$250 **History Guardian**—Benefits above and “Behind the Scenes” tour of permanent collection

___ \$500 **History Patron**—Benefits above and one ad in *The MIRROR* newsletter

___ **New** ___ **Renew** ___ **Gift**

___ **I would like to Volunteer!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

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



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