

THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History & Culture

Spring 2021

SS Red Oak Victory

THE MUSEUM REOPENS!

After a year of fits and starts, the Richmond Museum of History and Culture has reopened its doors to the public. State and county COVID-19 guidelines have relaxed, and we are once again able to host visitors, albeit at reduced capacity. Come visit us, and we'll show you our latest and highly-treasured historical artifact, the mural by famous artist Victor Arnautoff, "**Richmond Industrial City.**" Face masks and social distancing required.

In case you have forgotten, the Museum is located at 4th Street and Nevin Avenue in the old Carnegie Library building, adjacent to Nevin Park. We hope to see you there!



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SS RED OAK VICTORY REOPENS!

Like the Museum, SS *Red Oak Victory* has been shuttered for most of the past year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. After a number of planned reopenings and cancellations, we are ready to reopen. Our reopening will take place on Mother's Day on May 9 at 9:00 a.m. This will be a reservation-required, Bring-your-own-Breakfast-if-you-want-Breakfast event, with docent tours available. Of course, face masks and social distancing will be required at all times while on the dock and onboard the Ship (except while eating.)

For more details on the reopening event, see *From Red Oak Victory* on page 5.



SS Red Oak Victory in historic Shipyard 3

The Ship is moored in Berth 5 in historic WWII Shipyard 3 at the end of Canal Blvd. You can't miss it. Nor should you. Come on down and see us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Maack

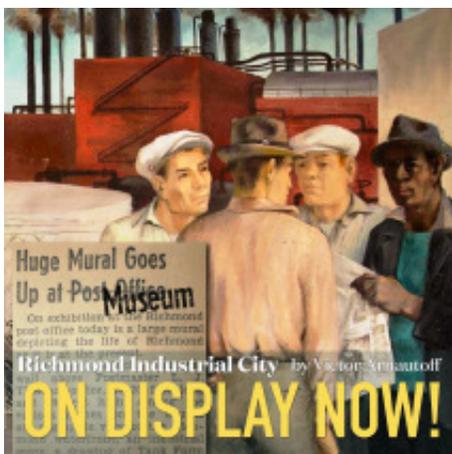
Hello, everyone, and welcome back to both the Museum and the Ship, *Red Oak Victory*! Yes, both venues have reopened. Well, as of this message, the Museum is offering open hours, while the Ship is scheduled to open for Mother's Day, May 9. So please make room in your schedules for a visit to one or both!

We started our new year with our Annual Meeting on February 28th. For the business part of the Annual Meeting, we provided an update on activities at the Museum and on *Red Oak Victory*, as well as an overview of the RMA financial picture. As for official business, we re-elected board members Rich Chivers, Steve Gilford and Lydia Stewart for additional terms. Congratulations, Rich, Steve and Lydia; thank you for your service to date, and for your continued support going forward. Also on the agenda, Museum Executive Director Melinda McCrary presented a taste of the Museum's Listening Session for the Museum's Community Engagement project, which began last year and continues this year.

The Arnautoff mural is up and running on an entire wall in the Main Gallery in the Museum. The long-awaited restoration and hanging of the mural were finished in November, and the framing of the mural was done in January. A special lighting system is in the works. The mural is spectacular! Don't miss it.

At *Red Oak Victory*, we will reopen with a celebration of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. Rather than having one of our usual Pancake Breakfasts, and due to COVID-19 concerns, we will host a Bring-your-own-Breakfast affair, much as we did last October with a bring-your-own-picnic-lunch event. Also as we did last October, we will have musical entertainment onboard.

We're looking forward to a successful 2021. We appreciate the support of our dedicated volunteers, our members, our donors and the community. Keep up the good work and support. Come visit us. You'll be glad you did.



Come see the "new" mural!

**RICHMOND MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE**
.....
**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!
HEALTHY LIVING POSTER
DESIGN CONTEST**
.....
PRIZE: \$1,000
.....
**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SATURDAY 05/29/21
BY 5:00 P.M. PST**

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Healthy Living Poster Design Contest

Prize \$1,000

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Saturday, May 29, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. PST.

The Richmond Museum of History & Culture invites submissions of posters with artwork in the theme of living healthy in the modern world. We encourage posters that promote the following themes: safe driving, healthy food & drink, safe sex, exercise, mental wellness, wear a mask/wash your hands, and/or brush your teeth. All subject matter that promotes a healthy lifestyle will be considered, so please be creative! We especially encourage posters that appeal to youth, teenagers and young adults.

The Museum will choose three winning designs and each artist with a winning design will be awarded a prize of \$1,000. Contest winners will be notified via email by June 7, 2021. The winning designs will be printed for the following purposes: 1) 50 posters will be distributed free to local community centers and schools and 2) 50 posters will be sold in the Museum gift shop. The winning designs will be included in an exhibit exploring the history of health and wellness in Richmond forthcoming in Fall 2021. The contest is supported by a Neighborhood Public Art grant through the City of Richmond Arts & Culture Commission.

Send your submissions to melinda@richmondmuseum.org.

Learn more at <https://richmondmuseum.org/news/healthy-living-poster-design-contest/>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and a new season is upon us. Spring symbolizes renewal, and this year will take on a particular significant meaning as Covid-19 vaccinations become more widely available. Let's all hope we have seen the worst of the pandemic and we can all safely move on with our lives. I am so excited to report the Museum reopened to the public on Friday March 26, 2021, after being closed for 375 days!

We have a new addition to the permanent gallery. "**Richmond Industrial City**" (1941) by Victor Arnautoff was installed in November 2020 and is on display after 45 years in the dark. The process to fundraise for the mural over the last five years seemed tedious and drawn-out. A silver lining has emerged, however, in that there is now something new and exciting to draw people to the gallery.

The Museum saw a change in staff since the last *Mirror* newsletter. Evelyn Santos left the museum after seven years on staff. We wish her well! I am looking at this as an opportunity for fresh excitement and energy at this time of new beginnings. We are planning several upcoming events to celebrate the mural and other things, so take a look at our events calendar.

The Museum is offering a special incentive to members who join at the History Advocate (\$100) level. Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of the collections area will take place every other month through 2021. Don't miss this special opportunity to learn more about how museums work. The offer is open to new members and existing members who increase their donation. Space in the next tour on June 12, 2021, is limited, so increase your level today!

The closure of Brookside Hospital in 2015 was a travesty for West Contra Costa County. The loss became even more acute during the pandemic as COVID-19 disproportionately impacted the poor and people of color in our community. The Museum is planning a forthcoming exhibition exploring the tradition of quality, accessible health care in Richmond and West County. Do you have a story to tell about medicine or health care in Richmond? Do you know of a significant medical practitioner that we should highlight or showcase? If so, please reach out to Victoria Stuhr at Victoria@richmondmuseum.org.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes,



Melinda McCrary

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Mark Maltagliati

Galileo Club Receipts (1950s - 1960s)

Save the Date!

Thursday May 6, 2021, 5-9 p.m.

Richmond Museum Fundraiser at **The Factory Bar**
12517 San Pablo Ave, Richmond.

Enjoy specialty drinks and bring your electronic device to enjoy digital trivia about drinking alcohol through history in Richmond!



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MUSEUM LOGO!



Here is our new Museum logo. You may see the logo used in different background and color combinations, such as:



but there is no doubt that it is for the Richmond Museum of History and Culture!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lana

Lana Roderick has been a volunteer at the Richmond Museum of History & Culture since November 2019. She learned about the Museum through an advertisement distributed through the Richmond Garden Club seeking knowledgeable volunteers to prune the roses. Lana quickly became a valued part of the Museum team and is now working in all areas of the garden. She was an integral part of installing the native plant garden on the west side of the building.

Lana was born at Richmond Hospital and has lived in Richmond on and off for most of her life. Her grandparents moved to Richmond from Oklahoma and Kansas in about 1940. As a child, Lana attended Marin School in Albany, then Adams Middle School, Harry Ells and was in the first graduating class at Kennedy High School. She has fond memories of spending time at her aunt's house on 10th Street in Richmond. Lana still lives in the home her family purchased in 1961!

Lana has one daughter and one grandson who both live in Missouri. She is so proud that her grandson will be graduating high school this year and starting college in the fall. Lana worked at Baker's Square on Barrett Ave. and San Pablo Ave. to put her daughter through college at Sacramento State. Her brother-in-law introduced her to Richmond Police Officer Bill Roderick while she was a waitress. Bill and Lana have been married since 1997.



Museum volunteer Lana Roderick in her natural habitat.

Lana takes courses in horticulture at Diablo Valley College to keep busy in retirement. She has taught swimming for 44 years, mostly at Canyon Pool in El Sobrante. "This is a godsend, this is my happy place," says Lana about working in the garden "to sit here, have lunch and do a little bit (of work). It's heaven." Lana also enjoys having a new sense of purpose as well as the unique challenges that come with solving problems in the

Museum garden. We are particularly appreciative that Lana has embraced our initiative to install native plants in the garden.

Join us in showing appreciation for Lana! Thank you, Lana.

Learn more about available volunteer opportunities at <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org878288.jsp>.

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 continue sprucing up our garden area:

New or gently-used hand tools for the garden including shovels, spades, hoes, claws, clippers.

Clean garden work gloves

Wheelbarrow

Clean buckets

Ceramic flowerpots and/or garden decorations

Unopened bags of compost and mulch

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

Thank you for your help and support!

THE VOLUNTEER APPEAL

The headline above has a double meaning: one, the RMA is appealing to the public for volunteers, and two, volunteering is appealing. If you have time on your hands, or you want a break from the stresses of your daily life, and you want to do something useful ... Volunteer! We have something for everyone, either at the Museum or on the *Red Oak Victory Ship*. Do you want to put your mechanical or technical skills to work? Get thee down to the *Red Oak*. Do you want to help document and digitize old photos? The Museum is your place to be. Do you want to be a docent and educate the public about Richmond history, or explain the intricacies of a WWII ammunition-carrying cargo ship? Make your way to one of our venues and volunteer your services.

The Richmond Museum Association depends on volunteers. Without them, we cannot operate. So we appeal to you for help. And we offer you appealing jobs. Just contact us, let us know that you'd like to help, and we'll be happy to welcome you to the fold. Call the Museum at 510-235-7387, or email the Ship at info@redoakvictory.us. They'll tell you what we have for you to do.

Wait, there's a third meaning to the headline: if you volunteer, you will be more appealing to others! Call now!

FROM *RED OAK VICTORY*

By *Kim Abbott, ROV Executive Committee Chair*
and *Fred Klink, ROV Marketing Director*

Red Oak Victory Re-Opening!

Those of you who have been coming to the *Red Oak Victory* for many years know that Mother's Day has always been a special day for us. This year it is very special because that is the day we are re-opening the Ship to the public!

Join us on Sunday, May 9, to celebrate Mom's special day. The Ship will open at 9:00 a.m. and tables will be set on deck for you to enjoy your own breakfast picnic. COVID regulations make it difficult for us to provide food as we have traditionally done for our famous Pancake Breakfasts but there is nothing to prevent you from bringing your own breakfast. Tell Mom you're taking her to a BYOB party—Bring Your Own Breakfast! While you eat, you will be entertained by live music from our very own crew member Lisa Kreppela and her trio, **Lisa and Friends**.



Lisa and Friends at ROV Crew Appreciation Day, January 2020. Photo by Dori Luzbetak.

For details about the event and to purchase tickets, go to www.bit.ly/ROVMothersDay.

Advance ticket purchase is required. General admission is \$10 per person for adults and \$5 for kids under twelve. Docent tours of the Ship, including the engine room, are available for an additional \$10. We are selling a limited number of tickets due to capacity restrictions related to COVID-19. To date we have sold over half of the available tickets and some of the docent tour times are completely sold out. So act now and buy your tickets. You don't want to be disappointed, and you really don't want to disappoint your Mom!

Shop in the Online Ship's Store

Shop in the Online Ship's Store. We are continuing to expand and improve the *Red Oak Victory* online Ship's Store. Be sure to come back and visit often to see new products and specials. Go to <https://shop.redoakvictory.us/> and stock up!

RED OAK WISH LIST:

SS Red Oak Victory needs a lot of attention. We hope you can help. We appreciate all donations, large and small, monetary and otherwise. Here is a partial list of physical things the Ship needs; some of them are very specific—please email us at info@redoakvictory.us to get details:

- Face masks (new, unopened)
- Starboard-side steel hull plate replacement (to donate, email us at info@redoakvictory.us to make arrangements)
- Restore the insulation (lagging) on our high-pressure turbine
- Repair Main condenser Isolation valve
- Clean and re-hang the curtains in the Lois Boyle Theater
- Improved lighting for Hold 5
- Replica light shades to replace those lost or broken throughout the Ship
- New hatch-cover canvas for Holds 1, 3 and 5
- New canvas covers for the two port lifeboats
- New canvas covers for the guns and miscellaneous deck fixtures
- New Ship's Name Boards Port, Starboard and Aft
- New 12-volt car battery for the portable lighting generator
- Emergency locker with lid, 3' x 4'
- AA batteries
- Seat cushions for the Theater seats
- Safety cones
- Paint, paint, and more paint!

To make a donation by credit card or PayPal, go to www.redoakvictory.us and click on the DONATE button at the top of the home page. To make a donation by check or other means, email us at info@redoakvictory.us. You can also use this email address to request more information about any of the items on our wishlist and to inquire about volunteering to become a crew member.

Thank you for your help and support!



UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Sunday May 2, 2021

“Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour”

<https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>

Learn all about the newly-installed native plant garden on the west side of the Museum building!

Thursday May 6, 2021, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fundraiser for the Museum at The Factory Bar.

Join us for an evening of fun and drinks to benefit the Museum!

The Factory Bar is located in Richmond at 12517 San Pablo Avenue.

Saturday May 8, 2021 Museum Free Day!

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Planting Day with Rotary Club of Richmond, Calif., and Nevin Park Clean Up with Moving Forward 510.

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Opening Reception for *our “Ohlone Voices”* exhibit. Learn about the Ohlone people, this area’s first inhabitants, and hear their Chocenyó language, almost forgotten since ancient times.

Wednesday May 26

Fundraiser for the Museum at the Artisan Kitchen Café from **8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Buy your favorite meal from Artisan Kitchen Café and a portion of the proceeds benefits the museum!

The Artisan Kitchen Café is located at 865 Marina Bay Parkway, #33, in Richmond.



Saturday June 12, 2021 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Members-Only Event

History Advocate Level and Above

Behind-the-Scenes Tour with the Curator/Director

Advance reservations required!

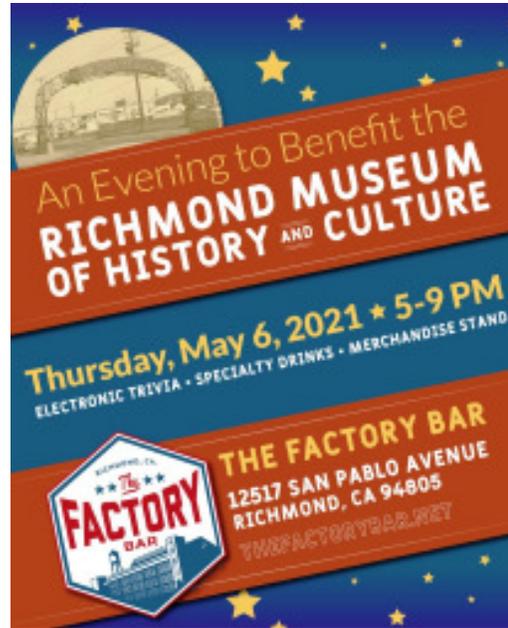
Call 510-235-7387 to make reservations.

CURRENT MUSEUM EVENTS

Friday Drop-In Programs

Join Tatiana every Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for drop-in enrichment programs about local history, art and culture! The programs are free, family-friendly and designed to use everyday materials commonly found around the home. Drop-in programs will be held through June 2021. No registration needed. The link for the programs is on the Museum website at:

<https://richmondmuseum.org/education-school-tours/>.



Don't miss our fundraiser at The Factory Bar!



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- « 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: _____

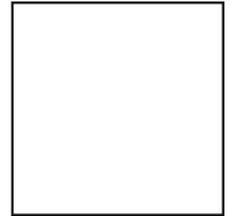
Phone: _____

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



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 Culture 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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