

# THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History & Culture

Summer 2022

SS Red Oak Victory

## MEET EVELYN SANTOS, OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meet Evelyn Santos, the new Executive Director of the Richmond Museum Association. Evelyn is a returning Richmond Museum staff member who started off as Museum Technician in 2014. During her education at Mills College and while participating in a school ethnography project of Atchison Village, she was taken by how little she knew of the city that raised her, Richmond, California. Evelyn graduated in 2013 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Anthropology, unsure of the direction she wanted to take next. Amid uncertainty, then-RMA board member Desiree Heveroh informed Evelyn that a role opened up at the Richmond Museum. Evelyn jumped onto the opportunity, interviewed, and got the job. What grew from that was an unbounded pride in her city and an appreciation of its rich history!



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The RMA is transitioning from our Interim Executive Director Desiree Heveroh to our incoming permanent Executive Director Evelyn Santos. Although Desiree is leaving her temporary position as ED, she will stay on in a volunteer capacity to continue and complete some of the projects she started and to help the organization in other ways as she can going forward. The RMA gives huge thanks to Desiree for her prodigious work under difficult and trying conditions as she balanced Museum work with her other jobs--Manager of the Hotel Mac (the hotel part) and one of the *Red Oak Victory* shipkeepers (making sure no one steals or otherwise disturbs the Ship during closed hours).

Thanks, Desiree, for a job well-done. Yes, as your photo declares: Mission Accomplished!



Evelyn dabbled in many aspects of the Museum throughout her first seven-year stint, including collections, public programs, assistance with fundraising and grants, marketing, bookkeeping, and other essential tasks. Of particular joy to her were public and interactive programs such as “Day of the Dead” and educational programs about the Ohlone Indians, all of which were geared towards educating our local children about the richness of cultures that are celebrated amongst the diverse residents of Richmond. Evelyn left the Museum in 2021 but is elated to be returning as Executive Director of the very Museum that cultivated her into the community-oriented individual she is today.

Evelyn’s biggest wish as Executive Director is to continue forging a museum that highlights and uplifts all communities and cultures in Richmond. Welcome, Evelyn!

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# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Lynn Maack*

The Richmond Museum Association welcomes back to the organization former Museum staff member Evelyn Santos and congratulates her on having been selected as our new Executive Director. Evelyn brings a wealth of Museum experience and a zeal for bringing Richmond's history and cultural variety to public display. We know that Evelyn will be an asset not only to the Museum, but also the community we serve. Welcome, Evelyn!

Thanks again go to Desiree Heveroh, our Interim Executive Director, for her help these last seven months in handling the affairs of the Richmond Museum Association. As editor of this newsletter, I decided to include Desiree's Director's column exactly as she wrote it--a proud, stream-of-consciousness, run-on listing of her accomplishments. Her writing shows the myriad tasks that needed to be done and gives you an idea of the frenetic pace at which she worked to make it all happen. Thank you, Desiree, and we're glad you'll be staying on as a volunteer to complete some of the projects you started.

The Museum is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come say hello to Evelyn and welcome her to her new position as Executive Director. She'll be happy to show you around the updated Museum and tell you some of her plans to make the Museum even better.

And don't forget, the Ship, *SS Red Oak Victory*, is open on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the spring and summer months. Our Pancake Breakfasts are on our schedule; get your tickets early, they've been selling out!

We still need volunteers on the Ship, especially painters! Chipping, sanding, priming and painting are the orders of the day. Now that the weather is conducive to outdoor activity (and work), this is an excellent opportunity to get out, do something productive, and make a difference. We'd appreciate your help.

As always, we thank you all who have supported us and continue to support us now that things are becoming a bit more normal despite COVID and other challenges. Without the support of our members and the community, we would be unable to sustain the Museum and the *Red Oak Victory*. We look forward to your continued support.

Come see us at the Museum and the *Red Oak Victory*; we'll be glad to see you, and you'll be glad you did.

# 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 you might be able to help us with:

Volunteers - Please consider signing up to be a volunteer for our Museum  
Sewing machine  
Muslin cloth  
Rolls of Tyvek and acid-free tissue paper for the Textiles area  
Air filter/purifier  
Gift cards to major and local stores (Amazon, Staples, Target, JoAnn Fabrics, Gaylord's, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, etc.)  
Leaf Blower  
Any kind of newer technology - we still have a corded phone and only one scanner, which is dying!  
Donations of trade - (for example) we need a locksmith to help us with some locks without keys, local digitizing services, etc.  
Donations of Richmond-related artifacts  
Donations to our General Fund  
Memberships - Join the RMA!  
Glass display cases for the Gift Shop  
Businesses willing to offer a heavily-discounted non-profit rate for our various service needs

If you can donate these items, contribute to their purchase or volunteer, please call the Museum at (510) 235-7387, or email Museum Director Evelyn Santos at [evelyn@richmondmuseum.org](mailto:evelyn@richmondmuseum.org).

Thank you for your help and support!

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

**Carrie Smith** -- Kaiser Shipyard booklet, 1943

**Elizabeth Watts** -- Newspapers from 2000 and 2020

**Deidre Cerkanowicz** -- Richmond pens, business cards, books and notes

**Susan McCloskey** -- Richmond photo album, Shipyard badge, Richmond clothes hangers, RUHS yearbook

**Margaret Baker** -- Longfellow Jr. High class photo, 1951, Shipyard booklet with envelope

**Christopher Preciado** -- Kukar Family portraits & documents (found while renovating house)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Desiree Heveroh*

Hello, you wonderful members of the Richmond Museum Association! I am writing my third and final “From the Director” for *The MIRROR*. It really feels like I’ve just blinked since the first. I was handed the keys to the Museum on December 23, 2021, and I hit the ground running. I knew what I was here for—the Fixer. I knew my time would not be permanent, and my goal was to fix, bring us to the next level and turn it over to the right person as a finely-working Museum. So much needed to be done. I was able to deep-clean and organize, re-structure systems, bring the relationship between the Museum and the *Red Oak Victory* ship to a wonderful collaborative effort, refresh the Main Gallery, bring the Arnautoff Mural to life, re-open the Museum to the public, countless administrative and financial updates, got the wall in the Seaver Gallery repaired, got a few grants that will help cover cost and transport for students to visit, and repair the courtyard bench, a repeat feature in *This Point in Time* newsletter, a *Richmond Standard* article, new Facebook page, new LinkedIn page, formed a large and talented Volunteer crew to help with the many needs of the Museum, set up a blended Volunteer base with the *Red Oak*, sent the DiChiarra collection to its rightful home on the *Red Oak* as a long-term loan, helped apply for National Register of Historic Places status for the Museum (pending), an Art Grant to bring the Maritime Children’s Center art to Richmond business, and many more small but equally-important accomplishments and community collaborations.

I could never have done all of this alone, so a huge shout-out to my ride-or-die, my Magician, the insanely-talented and capable Victoria Stuhr, my brother-for-life, Handyman Captain Jarrod Ward, and my talented volunteers Anne, Gillian, Erin, Luis, Elsie, Gabby and Ryan. Also, our Board of Directors, for letting me do this my way, which doesn’t always make sense but always produces results. Many hands went into making my visions come about and many hands went above and beyond under my open-ceiling leadership style. I like to see how high people can fly, and it has been very rewarding for the Museum. Special shout-out to Jose and Frank from the City of Richmond, and Vince from Ashby Lumber for your help in making our Museum safe! It has been a whirlwind of activity which included bringing back former employee of seven years Evelyn Santos for an opportunity I believe she earned, to be Executive Director of the Richmond Museum of History. I have learned that this Museum is not for just anyone. This Museum needs someone who will love and care for it. I spent seven months loving and caring for it and I wouldn’t have been able to turn it over to just anyone. I have high hopes for Evelyn and for the future of this amazing Museum. I will stay on as a background volunteer to complete projects that I’m working on and provide support where needed, because I’m invested...the place has really added another branch to my roots in Richmond, which continue to grow ever deeper.

Thank you for this opportunity, RMA. I was glad to help, I feel that I made a difference, and it’s been a great ride.

# MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS / PROJECTS / EXHIBITS CALENDAR

**Museum** - The City has finished repairing the leak in the roof and the mold/damage that it caused in the walls of the Seaver Gallery. So now we can hold events and mount exhibits in the gallery. Stay tuned for the schedule.

**Upcoming Events** - Summer Camps are scheduled to bring in Richmond children for field trip days to the Museum. For example, on July 21 we had 75 kids come in to learn about Richmond History... THEIR history. If you are involved in a Summer Camp Program, please reach out to us so we can host your group here, too!

**Projects** - The City is going to repair the bench in the Museum’s Courtyard. A Love Your Block mini-grant covered some much-needed supplies, gardening tools and 25% of lumber, and Ashby Lumber generously donated another 25% of lumber for free with Delivery.

**Exhibits Calendar** - To be determined and announced.

# CELEBRATE THE END OF WORLD WAR II ALL WEEKEND!

*By Fred Klink, Director of Marketing, Red Oak Victory*

On August 15, 1945 the Empire of Japan issued an unconditional surrender, which effectively ended World War II. This year marks 77 years since that historic event, and you can mark the end of the war with historic and educational activities all weekend long on August 13-14.

On Saturday, August 13, take a trip to History San Jose, an outstanding historical park in that city. The afternoon will be filled with living history events commemorating the end of the war and the era of the 1940s. Military reenactors, demonstrations, fashion shows, period vehicles, and more will fill the park with things to do and learn. The day ends with a genuine 1940s big band swing dance. For tickets and more information visit: [www.historysanjose.org/programs-events](http://www.historysanjose.org/programs-events).

Then, on Sunday morning August 14, head to the famous Kaiser-Richmond Shipyards and board the World War II Victory ship *Red Oak Victory* for our End of World War II Pancake Breakfast. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs and more will be prepared in and served from the ship’s galley. 1940s musical entertainment by the **Lovin’ Harmony Trio** will accompany your breakfast. You can also take a docent-led tour of the historic vessel. Tickets and additional information are available at: [www.bit.ly/ROVWarsEnd22](http://www.bit.ly/ROVWarsEnd22)

# FROM *RED OAK VICTORY*

By Fred Klink, Chairman, Ship's Executive Committee

## Matching Funds Campaign Successfully Concluded

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Mirror*, we started a matching funds campaign on April 1 with \$5,000 in seed money. We are now delighted to announce that as of late July, we have met and exceeded the goal of doubling that seed money. A big thank-you goes out from the crew of *Red Oak Victory* to all of you who donated to the cause with both large and small contributions. We will make good use of the money to repair, upgrade and maintain the facilities on the Ship. Stayed tuned to *The Mirror* for progress reports on our most important projects.

## Pancake Breakfasts are HOT(cakes)!

May and June saw the beginning of the 2022 Pancake Breakfast series on *Red Oak Victory*. We held our Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on May 8, and then we gave Dad his shot on



Another satisfied customer receives a full plate of pancakes, sausage, bacon, and eggs straight from the *Red Oak Victory's* galley. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak.)

Father's Day, June 19. The Mother's Day breakfast sold out on the day of the event. And for Dad, we sold out completely by the Friday before Father's Day. We thank you all for your generosity and we sincerely apologize to those few people we had to turn away at the door.

Please come back to visit us again! (And please purchase your ticket ahead of time...)

Both Mother's Day and Father's Day featured the music of *The Sites Show*, a trio led by our very own Lisa Krepela, who is not only a welder on *Red Oak Victory* but a very talented guitarist and bilingual singer. As another feature of both Pancake Breakfasts, during breaks in the music, patrons could run up to our Radio Room and have a message sent to their friends and loved ones anywhere in the world.



Lisa Krepela (left), performs with her band *The Sites Show* during the Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak.)

If you missed both of those events, don't despair; we're doing it again on August 14! *Red Oak Victory* will celebrate the anniversary of the end of World War II with another Pancake



Breakfast. Tickets for adults are only \$15. (\$5 for children aged eight and under.) Plus, a limited number of discounted docent-led tours will also be available and can be purchased along with your breakfast. The featured entertainment will be the *Lovin' Harmony Trio*. Many of you will remember them fondly from their past appearances on the Ship. In keeping with the End of World War II theme, the trio will feature the top hits of the '40s. As usual, the Radio Room will be open to send your Radiograms. All that is needed to send a Radiogram is to fill out a message form with the recipient's email or phone number, and then we transmit the message via Morse code to a shore station who will forward it to your recipient. Best of all? There's no charge for that service!

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.bit.ly/ROVWarsEnd22](http://www.bit.ly/ROVWarsEnd22) or scan the QR code in the ad above. **WARNING: Our last four events on the Ship have sold out in advance! Go to the online ticket listing and buy your tickets now if you don't want to be disappointed.**

## Richmond Ferry Fest

A team consisting of Alan Burns, Maxfield Hunt, Greg Blasquez and Fred Klink supported the *ROV* booth at the First Annual Richmond Ferry Fest, June 11, at the ferry terminal across from the Craneway. Music, food, free ferry rides, and vendor booths were offered. The team spoke with a number of people about visiting *Red Oak Victory* and handed out



Your donation dollars helped us obtain this very professional-looking tent and table cover for our external marketing efforts. The tent debuted at the Richmond Ferry Fest, June 11. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak.)

(Continued on p. 6)

# MOVIE NIGHTS ARE BACK!

You've asked for it, and we've finally come through for you! Thanks to Kathryn Daskal and Craig Riordan (formerly with the National Park Service at *Rosie the Riveter World War II Homefront National Historical Park*), the *Home Front Film Festival* is back. See the graphic below for full details:

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

COVID has had a significant impact on our volunteer staffing, resulting in volunteer hours falling to half the pre-COVID level.

Our Volunteer Coordinator Mandy Torres has done a fine job of reaching out to the community and recruiting many new volunteers for the Ship's crew. But we still need your help to bring our volunteer crew back up to full staffing levels! We don't require any maritime experience, nor do we need you to have trade skills. Our most urgent need at this time is docents--that is, people willing to learn about the Ship and to lead tours while telling the story of the *Red Oak Victory*. If you have served at sea, we'd love to have you as a docent, but such service is certainly not a requirement to effectively lead tours and engage our visitors.

Of course, if you do have trade skills, such as welding, electrical work, plumbing, sheet metal fabrication, etc., you will be more than welcome on our crew as well. On the marketing side we also need commercial artwork and application development such as guided tour mobile apps and automated check-in systems.

Come on down and see what we're all about. The Ship is a continuous work in progress, and we can use your help.

Thank you from the RMA and the crew of the *Red Oak Victory*!

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

THE 14TH ANNUAL 2022 HOME FRONT FILM FESTIVAL

Aboard the Historic SS Red Oak Victory

FILM TIMES: 7PM THURSDAY EVENINGS • 6:30 PM BOARDING

Admission to the films is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10 to help preserve and maintain the ship.

July 14: "Casablanca" (1942)

September 15: "Windtalkers" (2002) Rated R

October 27: "Whisky Galore" (2016)

December 15: "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

**Address**  
SS Red Oak Victory,  
Shipyard No. 3  
1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 5,  
Richmond, CA

**Directions**  
Take the Canal Blvd. exit off I-580 West. Turn left on Canal. Drive south to Shipyard No.3 (Port of Richmond). Parking is in front of ship.

Please note: the ship is not ADA accessible. Visitors must be able to climb gangway (approximately 40 stairs with railings) and steep steps once aboard ship.

For More Information: [info@redoakvictory.us](mailto:info@redoakvictory.us)

NOW SHOWING

Casablanca

WINDTALKERS

WHISKY GALORE!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

## **Red Oak Victory** (Continued from p. 4)

literature related to the Ship and the Father's Day breakfast. This was the first use of the Ship's brand-new *Red Oak Victory* graphic popup tent and table cover.

### **Red Oak Victory Celebrates Independence Day**

Hot on the heels of our Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, *Red Oak Victory* celebrated Independence Day onboard on Sunday, July 3rd. The City of Richmond has traditionally put on their fireworks display on July 3 but COVID concerns caused this popular event to be canceled in 2020 and 2021. Therefore, we were very happy to see the fireworks show return in 2022 and so



*Dazzling fireworks above the Kaiser Shipyard General Warehouse Building seen from the Red Oak Victory. (Photo by Dori Luzbetak.)*

were our guests—we sold-out this event by the evening of July 1. Jazz and pop musical selections were offered up by one of our most popular musicians for the last several years, **George Cole**, this time in the form of the **George Cole Trio**. In keeping with the All-American theme of Independence Day, we offered hot dogs, chips, soda, beer and wine. Patrons consumed their meal, listened to the music, maybe squeezed in a tour of the Ship and then, around 9:00PM, headed aft to watch the fireworks display over the channel. All-in-all, a great American evening, on a great American ship!

### **DiChiarra Exhibit:**

Robert DiChiarra was a U.S. Navy Petty Officer who served on the USS *Red Oak Victory* AK-235 from December 1944 until the Ship returned to the United States in May 1946. Bob always kept in touch with the Ship and with her crew. Many of us got to know him and enjoyed listening to his stories and recollections. Before he passed away, Bob donated most of his *Red Oak Victory* memorabilia, including uniforms, letters and photographs, to the Ship. Going through these priceless items we have uncovered a lot of interesting things about our Ship. We are now in the process of sorting and categorizing all of these artifacts in preparation for an exhibit to be opened in the Hold No. 4 museum in the next couple months.

For more about Bob DiChiarra, see *The Mirror*, Spring 2020. <https://richmondmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MIRROR-Spring-2020-FINAL.pdf>

## **RED OAK WISH LIST:**

*SS Red Oak Victory* needs a lot of attention and you can help! We appreciate all donations, large and small, monetary and otherwise. Here is a list of critical items the ship needs—please email us at [info@redoakvictory.us](mailto:info@redoakvictory.us) to ask about how you can help and for more details:

### Low-cost small items:

Face masks (N95 only, new, unopened; especially for painters)  
Disposable gloves and work gloves sizes medium and large  
Safety glasses  
Cylinders of Oxygen and Acetylene  
AA batteries  
Paint, paint, and more paint, rust converter, and painting supplies!

### Moderate-Cost Items:

Seat cushions for the Lois Boyle Theater seats  
Improved lighting for Hold 5  
Replica light shades to replace those lost or broken throughout the Ship  
New canvas covers for the two port lifeboats  
New canvas covers for the guns and miscellaneous deck fixtures  
New Ship's name board, portside  
Pressure washer to clean decks and railings  
Upgrade the Hold 3 Theater sound system  
Multiprocess welding machine, power source 230V single phase, wire feeder, 15-25 feet of gun cable  
60"x45" letter signal flags

### High-Cost Projects:

Starboard-side steel hull plate replacement  
Restore the insulation (lagging) on our high-pressure turbine  
Repair main condenser isolation valve  
Overhaul the lifting gear on Hold 4  
Scaffolding to access the high places that need painting such as stacks and masts

## **UPCOMING EVENTS ON RED OAK VICTORY**

### **Pancake Breakfasts**

August 14, 2022 -- Celebrate the End of WWII  
September 11 -- First Responders Day  
October 9 -- Fleet Week

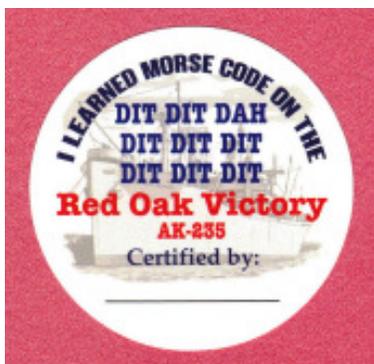
### **Movies on the Ship**

September 15 -- "Windtalkers" (2002) (Rated R)  
October 27 -- "Whisky Galore" (2016)  
December 15 -- "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

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- « Membership card
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\_\_\_ \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

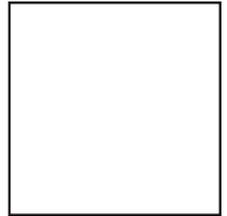
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Join at [www.richmondmuseum.org](http://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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Visit our websites at [www.richmondmuseum.org](http://www.richmondmuseum.org) and [redoakvictory.us](http://redoakvictory.us)