

father is a veteran of World War II. "I am honored to be part of the Richmond Home Front Youth Corps because I am the daughter of an 83 year-old veteran who served in WWII," said 19-year-old Richmond native Nancy Ybarra.

The pride and interest these young Richmond women show in their work demonstrates the spirit proclaimed on the iconic WWII poster of Rosie the Riveter – "We can do it!" The youth corps will take this spirit into the future and form part of a new generation of "Rosies" equipped with knowledge and skills that will help them gain entry into a rapidly changing workforce.

—Kendall Schwarz, SCA



Home Front Youth Corps poses with (L to R, back to front) SCA crew leader Katrina Ellis, Superintendent Martha Lee, city council members John Marquez and Tom Butt, NPS ranger Carla Koop (front L), and Richmond mayor Gayle McLaughlin (front R). Photo: SCA

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is now accepting applications for **crew leader** of the **Home Front Youth Corps**, a partnership program of the National Park Service and Student Conservation Association. Women over the age of 21 are eligible. Position is part-time (primarily on Saturdays) and temporary, Dec. 2008 - April 2009. Requires previous youth work experience, valid driver's license and clean record.

Contact Bettina Mok, Student Conservation Association, at 510-832-1966 x306 or bmok@thesecca.org. Applications reviewed on a rolling basis through mid-December 2008.



**ROSIE THE RIVETER /
WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

1401 Marina Way South
Richmond, California 94804
Phone: 510-232-5050 Fax: 520-232-5504
www.nps.gov/rori/

**Do you or a family member
have a home front story?
Submit it to the NPS collection!
Call 510-307-8702.**



Partnering for the Home Front

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



News about **National Park Service (NPS) Partnerships**

WINTER-SPRING 2008-9

A New Generation of "Rosies" Hits the Deck!

FIVE YOUNG WOMEN from Richmond high schools are helping to preserve the legacy of the World War II home front and the groundbreaking accomplishments of the women, or "Rosies," who worked during this era. As members of the new Richmond Home Front Youth Corps, they are learning about the tremendous history of the place they live in, and simultaneously video-documenting their journey of discovery.

For 24 year-old crew leader Katrina Ellis, learning about Richmond's participation on the home front in WWII has been an enlightening experience. She is excited to embark on this journey with the crew. "This is a dynamic group of girls who are extremely eager to learn about the history of the 'Rosies,' the Red Oak Victory and about Richmond, their hometown," said Katrina. "Being African American myself, it was also interesting to learn the history of the many African Americans who first came to Richmond to work in the shipyards during the war."

The Home Front Youth Corps is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), Student Conservation Association, Richmond Museum of History, Richmond YouthWorks, and Richmond Youth Media Project, a non-profit located at Richmond High School.

In addition to the video project, the corps is helping the



The Home Front Youth Corps at the 10th Anniversary celebration of the restoration of the Red Oak Victory ship on September 20, 2008. L to R: Maria Esparza, Nancy Ybarra, Crystal Johnson, Veronica Godinez, Sara Moran. NPS photo.

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park do outreach at NPS and partner events, such as the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Red

Oak Victory – the last of the incredible 747 ships built at the Kaiser shipyards – and at Richmond's Home Front Festival, the city's annual signature event sponsored by the city of Richmond, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and other local organizations. Multi-media products they create will be used for education and outreach.

For one young crew member, the opportunity to work with the Home Front Youth Corps hits close to home, as her

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Thoughts from a New Park Ranger and Native Son

RICHMOND HAS A RICH HISTORY that as a native, going to local schools and playing on city streets, I knew little about. As a park ranger, I am exploring this history and sharing it with others. I remember as a kid, running around in the front yard of our home on Chanslor Circle in Atchison Village. Little did I know that it was a housing development for Kaiser shipyard workers back in World War II. Then, when I got sick – probably from playing outside without a sweater – I went to Kaiser Hospital on Cutting Blvd. Kaiser set up the hospital for



Park ranger Miguel Dimas (R) gives out information at the Ford building during the Home Front Festival, seated with his nephew, Cristain Dimas (middle), and park ranger Larry Rose (L). NPS

shipyard workers who got injured. Sometimes, on early weekend mornings, I helped my dad in the garden, harvesting beans or watering the strawberries. Decades later, my family gardened at Atchison Village just as many Americans grew victory gardens so that there would be enough food for the troops during WWII.

As a new park ranger, I have the opportunity to share the diverse stories of Richmond's history with people from all walks of life who come to Richmond's Home Front Festival

and the various historic sites. I enjoy being a ranger because everyone can relate to some aspect of home front life. The young women in our Home Front Youth Corps can relate to childcare issues because some of them have helped family members take care of siblings or cousins. Women working during the war really had two work shifts, welding (or another job) and other household tasks such as childcare.

Richmond is lucky to have been chosen as the place to tell the national story of the WWII home front. I hope that residents of the Bay Area will take a walk with friends or family along the Bay Trail, enjoy the view, visit the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, and learn about the joys and challenges of home front life. Knowing that people came together and overcame many obstacles during this time gives me inspiration for my own future. We are all in this together, and Richmond's history shows us that we can do anything.

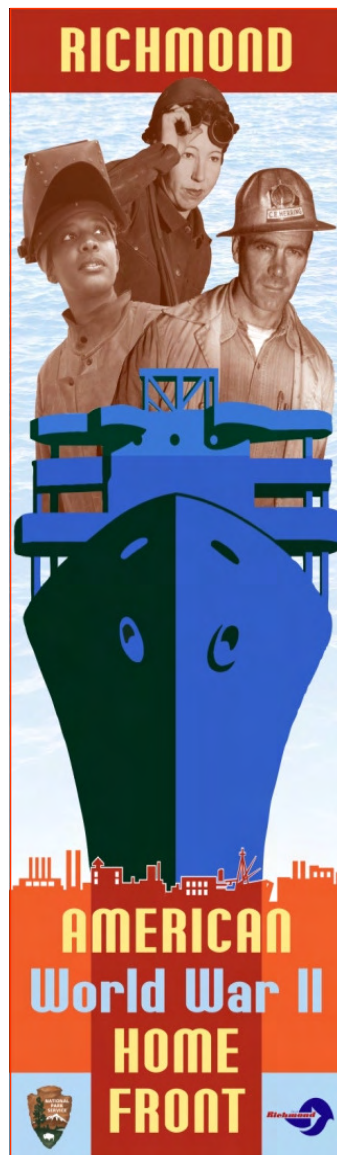
—Miguel Dimas, NPS

New Park Banner Features a Special "Rosie"

I AM SO PLEASED to have been selected to model for the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front NHP street banner. I so admire the very special people who are part of home front history, and particularly women's significant contributions. As the sole city of Richmond employee designated to work alongside the consultant who coordinated the dedication of Rosie the Riveter Memorial site in 2000, one might deduce that I was a suitable candidate for this role. I wore a stiff, weighty leather welding uniform during the photo shoot, and would gladly suffer that small discomfort again to recognize our home front workers' commendable service to our country. I do hope that "Rosies" and other home front workers experience a great sense of pride and accomplishment when they view the banner that was created in their honor. We are proud to have the national park in our Richmond community!

—Jacqueline McBride, City of Richmond

The new NPS street banner was presented to the public at the Home Front Festival and now waves brightly on streets near park sites in Richmond. City of Richmond employee Jacqueline McBride appears on the left with two photos of actual shipyard workers. The banner was funded in part by the city of Richmond and was designed by Oakland-based artist Jeff Norman.



Got Housing?

AMONG THE MANY CHANGES thrust upon Richmond by World War II was a huge population boom. From a small town of under 24,000 in 1940, the city grew to over 100,000 by 1944. Affordable housing became a critical issue for the city's many new residents, and the Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) and the U.S. Housing Authority worked to meet this dire need.

One of the new housing projects was Nystrom Village, a relatively small complex of 51 duplex homes located just north of Martin Luther King, Jr., Park in the Coronado neighborhood of Richmond. The project included units with one, two, or three bedrooms. Each block of homes was built around a central grassy area with room for a parking lot.

Nystrom Village has been in continuous use since the end of the war, when many temporary housing units were torn down. The neighborhood has changed over time, but the duplexes have retained their basic structural characteristics. As such, plans are in development to turn a single unit in Nystrom Village into a historic house with period furnishings and interpretation.

Current research into the social history of Nystrom Village during WWII will form the basis for restoring one historic unit. We know that Nystrom Village was reserved for defense plant managers and higher-skilled workers. All residents were Caucasian at the time, and some were likely university educated. Most oral histories characterize the atmosphere as one of patriotism and cooperation. Oral histories and original documents offer a glimpse into the cares and concerns of ordinary families and will help us piece together a picture of Nystrom Village, not only as a physical space, but as a community.

More information about where Nystrom residents came from, how they arrived in California, and what expectations they brought with them will help us will help us understand what daily life was like for those living and working on the home front in Richmond and across the nation.

—Veronica Rodriguez, NPS & SFSU

Veronica Rodriguez is the archive technician for the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front NHP (NPS) and a current graduate student in Museum Studies at San Francisco State (SFSU). The Nystrom Village research will culminate in an internship for her graduate program.



The PRISM project will identify historic buildings in Richmond, such as above-pictured Gompers School on 8th Street, originally built as Roosevelt High in 1944 to meet the increased demand for schools as the city's population exploded during World War II. Photo: Page & Turnbull

PRISM Project to Reveal New Facets of Local History

THE CITY OF RICHMOND RECENTLY launched Project PRISM (*Preserve Richmond to Interpret and Support Memories*) with the help of a Preserve America grant from the National Park Service. The project includes a historic survey of approximately 2,000 buildings in three of Richmond's oldest areas: the Iron Triangle, Santa Fe and Coronado neighborhoods. The city hopes to use the information to help guide planning efforts, as well as boost heritage tourism by identifying important historic buildings—especially those with ties to the World War II home front effort. Importantly, the survey also seeks input from current and former residents of Richmond by asking them to share their personal memories, old photos and other information. A public event to scan photos and collect oral histories will be held on January 31, 2009, at Nevin Park in Richmond during the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council's annual picnic. Interested persons can also submit information by calling 510-620-6704, or by visiting the Project PRISM website at: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/projectprism.

—Jonathan Lammers, Page & Turnbull

Bring to life Richmond's history by sharing your memories and keepsakes on January 31, 2009. See calendar item, p. 6.



UPCOMING EVENTS



PARK RANGER PROGRAMS
NOV.—DEC. 2008

Regular tours for 2009 will be announced via email. To receive notices, email rori_gen_info@nps.gov.

Rosie the Riveter Memorial Marina Bay Park - FREE!

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM
SATURDAYS 11/29, 12/6, 12/20

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM
THURSDAYS 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Rosie had a boyfriend Charlie and a cousin Wendy? Meet park ranger at memorial by main parking lot. 45 min. program exploring women's contributions on the WWII Home Front.

For more information about ranger programs or directions, call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori/.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Richmond Museum of History Richmond at War - The Home Front Experience. Visit the new permanent exhibit! Location: 400 Nevin Ave., Richmond. Hours: Wed. - Sun. 1 - 4 pm. Contact: richmondmuseumofhistory.org, 510-235-7387.

SS RED OAK VICTORY TOURS - ONGOING

Self-guided tours

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 11 AM - 3 PM

Cost: \$5 donation (\$4/seniors & children) to Richmond Museum of History.

Info and directions to shipyard: www.ssredoakvictory.com/contact 510-237-2933

Group Tours: 510-222-0955 (Lorraine)

SAVE THE DATE!
2009 EVENTS

JANUARY 19, 2009—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service. Info: Park Guthrie, park@urbantilth.org, or 510-691-5051.

JANUARY 31, 2009—Contribute to the PRISM Project at the Iron Triangle Annual Picnic at Nevin Park. Info: 510-620-6704.

MARCH 21, 2009—Enjoy the unique opportunity to dine in the historic Machine Shop in Shipyard No. 3 at the Rosie the Riveter Trust Gala Dinner. Details TBA. Info: dhedler@rosietheriveter.org

VOLUNTEER

Join the National Park Service "crew"! Contact NPS Volunteer Coordinator at: 510-232-5050

Cut here and save!

University Partnership Helps Make Home Front Festival a Success

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED a group of college students wearing National Park Service volunteer T-shirts at the Home Front Festival this year. The students were members of the Travel Industry Management class that I've been teaching for the last six years in the Humboldt State University (HSU) Recreation Administration program. Instead of doing library research and writing a 20-page paper on the subject, students help plan, implement, and evaluate a "destination special event" - in this case, Richmond's Home Front Festival. Having worked as a seasonal ranger at the park in summer 2008, I felt that the festival could provide a unique learning opportunity for my students.

On Friday, October 3rd, members of the class drove a rainy 300 miles from Arcata to Richmond, where they made their way to Shipyard No. 3 and found a place to sleep on the floor of the historic Red Oak Victory ship. After what some might describe as a "hard" night's sleep, the students rose, ate a quick breakfast, cleaned the hold area, and raced off to their various Saturday duties, including shuttle

bus duty, coordination of the tule boat ceremony at Lucretia Edwards Park, and staffing an information table at Shipyard No. 3. After a full day at the festival, the class gathered to eat and hear the last few songs from the Spinners at the Ford Building, and then spent the evening preparing the building for the next day's reunion. Before heading back to the ship, students shuttled back and forth to take showers at a local hotel.

Sunday morning saw the arrival of several new members of the class who play on the university football team. After helping HSU to victory in the homecoming game on Saturday, the football players left Arcata in the wee hours of Sunday morning in order to help at the festival. After a full weekend, the class headed off on Sunday afternoon for

a 300-mile return trip to Arcata.

In total, the Travel Industry Management class contributed over 900 hours of volunteer service. As a whole, the class felt they benefited from the experience and, as future recreation professionals, they also helped evaluate the event. All heartily agreed that volunteering at a real destination special event was better than writing a 20-page term paper!

—Craig Riordan, HSU & NPS



Humboldt State University student-volunteers help at the Home Front Gathering at the Ford Building during the Home Front Festival. Photo: Jonathon Beauchamp



Gladys Thews was a welder in Richmond's Kaiser shipyards. Photo: FDR Presidential Library collection

Shedding New Light on Photo of Local Welder

FOR MANY YEARS we've seen the iconic photo of a young African American "Rosie" with a welding helmet turned up and smiling winsomely. The young woman, a worker in the Kaiser Shipyards, won a competition for being the fastest welder on the yards, according to Tom Debley, a historian with Kaiser Permanente. She is 22 year-old Gladys Thews of Richmond, California. The picture was taken by Emmanuel Joseph, one of the most prolific black photographers from the '30s through the '70s. The original photograph is a part of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library collection.

With clearance from the war department, Joseph had access to sites now under study by the National Park Service. He was the official photographer for the National Negro Press with credits from the Pittsburg Courier, The Amsterdam Press, and the Chicago Defender. The E. F. Joseph collection is owned by Careth Bomar Reid, who is working with NPS ranger Betty Reid Soskin to identify and catalog photos for future researchers.

—Betty Soskin, NPS



Fourteen schools and community gardens participated in the Victory Garden poster exhibit at the Ford Building on October 5. NPS photo.



Local youth made miniature tule boats during the year and participated in the tule boat ceremony at Lucretia Edwards Park on October 4. The boats were reminders of the rich resources and cooperative spirit that helped indigenous people and home front workers thrive in the coastal community now called Richmond. Photos: Jonathon Beauchamp (L) NPS (R)



NPS archivist Carola DeRooy with a home front worker who donated her story and memorabilia at the Home Front Gathering & Reunion. NPS photo.

2008 Home Front Festival by the Bay



A DRIZZLY START TO SATURDAY'S EVENTS didn't stop thousands of people from celebrating the home front spirit during the October 3- 5 Home Front Festival in Richmond. Hosted by the National Park Service (NPS), the city of Richmond, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and other community partners, festival goers were able to have fun and immerse themselves in history all in one weekend. Those lucky enough to sample all of the festival sites had a wide menu to choose from. A well-attended WWII-style "USO Dance" on Friday kicked off the weekend events. Saturday's festivities began at Lucretia Edwards Park, where dignitaries and festival organizers were joined by youth from local schools who participated in a ceremony featuring miniature, hand-made tule boats. Visitors enjoyed home front exhibits and activities at the NPS Gathering & Reunion on Sunday at the Ford Assembly Building, where the huge craneway was filled with light, food, music, exhibitors, and reminiscences by home front workers. Fourteen school and community gardens participated in a victory garden poster exhibit that featured artwork made by local youth. Renowned folk musician



Renowned folk singer Faith Petric sings a duet with SF Folk Music Association member Bob Reid as part of a ceremony to honor her for lifelong achievements as a labor activist, musician and shipyard worker during WWII. NPS photo.



Home front workers gather for a group photo in the Ford Assembly Building. NPS photo.



Jacqueline McBride sings a Rosie the Riveter medley in tribute to WWII home front workers at the Home Front Gathering & Reunion at the Ford Assembly Building. Photo: Ellen Gailing

Faith Petric performed with fellow musicians from the San Francisco Folk Music Association and was honored for her lifetime achievements, including a stint as a "Rosie" in the Hoboken, New Jersey, shipyards during WWII. Just down the road from the Ford Building, the historic Filice and Perrelli Cannery featured a display of children's art made at wartime childcare centers, quilts, and historic photos of the beautifully restored cannery, which helped provide food for the war effort. North of the cannery, visitors learned about the Pueblo Indian "village" that existed at the Richmond freight yard during the war. At all festival sites, kids had fun discovering the home front with a scavenger hunt. They earned "ration stamps" by doing activities such as asking a home front worker to sign a *Rosie's Ration Book*. Attendees enjoyed boat rides and free shuttle service on both days.

—Carla Koop, NPS