

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 600 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. Contact Veronica Cullum or send e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com

Shop 38 Luncheon

Sardine Can Restaurant, Vallejo;
Second Wednesday of each month
POC: Rudy Lukes, (707) 643-3225

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Cntr, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Elsie Babcock; (707) 643-7914

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Dick Champion; (707) 253-7242

Mare Island Historical Park Foundation

Mare Island Quarters "A"
Third Monday quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) at 10:00am
POC: Ken Zadwick; (707) 557-1538

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

Sardine Can restaurant, Vallejo
First Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: Dick Barlow; (707) 642-6022

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

friend and supporter of the shipyard.

Membership numbers this year—thanks to the innovative and thinly spread Robin Leong and staff—remain nearly the same.

Our support of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, the Salvation Army and NARFE remains steady, and Veronica still puts out a great NYA Newsletter.

Next year, as you're all aware, marks the 10th anniversary of the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. To mark this occasion, our directors have chosen to plan an employee reunion. Actually, the reunion will be more in the way of a celebration exemplifying the philosophy put forth in our theme during Mare Island's Sesquicentennial Celebration and developed by Sonya and Veronica: to honor our past and embrace our future.

Our upcoming event will be somewhat different than those held in the past. First, it will be held on a Saturday (April 1, 2006); and second, it will be held in building 46, the Mare Island Historical Park Foundation Museum. The event will offer a buffet-style catered lunch, and a chance to catch up with some of the usual (and not-so-usual) faces with whom you used to work. In addition, the event will also boast displays of all the historic artifacts collected in the Museum; tours of Quarters A and B, the Chapel, the Cemetery; and information on the housing being built, as well as Lennar's conceptual display of further changes planned for Mare Island.

We hope you will all help us to get the word out and make this the biggest and best

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

First and foremost, I wish everyone the happiest and healthiest of holiday seasons.

I'd like to give special thanks to the NYA officers, directors, and members who have continued to contribute to the well being of our group. Also, I'd like to welcome aboard our newest director, Carmen Merriman, a long-time

reunion ever. Tickets are on sale now. The cost is \$5.00 for NYA members and \$15.00 for non-members. The lovely Mary Rutland is handling ticket sales for this event. You may contact her via email to mrutland@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (707) 426-4296. We strongly encourage that you request tickets as far in advance as possible.

Finally, it's never difficult to find a reason to be thankful, whether it be a friendship, a blessed birth, a healing, or a birthday celebrated. This year, I'd like to include those who are currently engaged in defending our freedom; and I ask that you join us in wishing for their safe return and the satisfactory completion of their mission.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

Historic District. In November 2005, Lennar—the master developer at Mare Island—presented an overview of the Mare Island Specific Plan Amendment, scheduled to be issued by the end of 2005. In addition to providing the necessary details for carrying out the Mare Island Reuse Plan of 1994 and the Mare Island Specific Plan of 1999, the amendment will be based on analyses of historic and archaeological resources. This involves providing detailed historical information, including a survey of, and guidelines for the preservation and reuse of an increased number of historic structures and a reduced number of required demolitions at historic sites.

Currently, the Mare Island Historic District encompasses approximately 65 percent of Mare Island and includes approximately 661 buildings and structures, 502 of which are identified as 'Contributing Resources,' including 12 historic landscape areas, and one archeological site, comprised of 27 discrete features. Of the 502 buildings and structures that are 'Contributing Resources,' 396 are located within the area slated for reuse by the master developer under the Specific Plan.

The special heritage of Mare Island, which is expressed in its historic buildings and landscaping, will be preserved and made accessible to the public as a living, evolving environment within the Historic District according to the Secretary of the Interior's standards.

To access the Specific Plan Amendment, please visit: www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/uploads/155/1706.pdf

Museum. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Museum, located in the old pipe shop, Building 46, currently has many historic displays. A crew of volunteers is working on adding new displays from the thousands of artifacts that are available from the Shipyard shops and codes. If you are interested in assisting the volunteers in their effort to create additional displays, contact Ken Zadwick at 557-0662.

USS DRUM (SSN-667). The revised application continues to be prepared, with the business and financial plan being the final piece to be put in place. The Navy requires finances in excess of \$1 million to be available in order to agree to allow the ship to be transferred to Vallejo (Mare Island). As was previously reported, due to a heavy workload at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS), they are behind schedule for the cutting-up of all of the decommissioned submarines. The result is that the ex-DRUM will not be prepared by PSNS for towing to Mare Island until sometime in 2007. Current plans are to dry dock the ex-DRUM into historic Dry Dock 1 upon arrival.

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity, so all donations toward readying the ex-DRUM to become a museum are fully tax deductible. Checks (or pledges) may be made payable to "MIHPF" and sent to either the NYA at PO Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592, or directly to the MIHPF at 328 Seawind Drive, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Mare Island Reunion to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Mare Island's Closure.

The NYA will co-sponsor a reunion on the 10th Anniversary of the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard on Saturday, April 1, 2006. This is **NOT** an "April-Fools" joke, so please mark your calendars to reserve the date. The event will be held indoors in case of inclement weather in the Old Pipe Shop, Building 46. The reunion will include a catered luncheon, with many commemorative gifts—similar to the Mare Island Family Days that many of you will remember when the shipyard was in operation. Tours of Mare Island will be available during the days. Details will be provided in the near future as to how tickets to the event may be obtained.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 672, which surpassed our 2005 membership goal of 650! Dental membership stands at 394 members.

We are very pleased at our successful efforts in renewing lapsed members, as well as members recruiting members.

We offer a warm welcome to our new members: Shari Allen-Santos (Vandy Christy); James L. King (Bruce Christensen); Calvin Potts (from the website); Ronald Robin (Bruce Christensen); James Rookwood (Bob Yeasted); and Roger Wilson (Carmen Merriman).

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Warmest greetings during this festive time of the year!

Your NYA Officers and Directors strive diligently to provide you with membership benefits; and we sincerely hope you find them of use. In order to get certain time-sensitive information to you while it is still timely, I

regularly send e-mail notices to members who've provided their addresses. If you would like to update or provide your e-mail address, please contact me via e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net, or you may send your contact information to us at: benefit@mareislandnya.com.

Before I start this month's column, I thought I would take the opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season, and pass along my sincere hopes that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

With that said, there isn't much to cover in the Benefits arena this month. I'd like to highlight that we still offer free notary public service. If you need something notarized, please refer to the benefits page (at the back of this newsletter) to get instructions for making an appointment with Sonya Domingo.

NYA members receive a 10% discount off website prices for living trust preparation from Attorney Jean Gifford. Jean offers an already reasonable price on establishing a living trust (\$540 for single; \$810 for married). Check out her website at www.giffordlaw.com. This is probably one of the best benefits we offer, and there's never a better time than the present to get started on your living trust.

There is still significant interest from members interested in obtaining a retired DOD identification card. For those who have missed it in previous issues, here again is the process: You'll need a copy of your Standard Form 50 showing you retired from Mare Island Naval Shipyard; your vitals, i.e., your hair and eye color, weight, and height; a passport photo (Costco and CSAAA offer that service); and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (If you cannot find your SF-50, provide your Social Security Number. Sometimes, your name can be found on a list using your SSN. Although, the best method is to provide the SF-50.) Mail all of the above materials to NYA of Mare Island, PO Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592.

The information will be transferred to a Form 55, with your passport photo attached. It is then sent to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to obtain an authorizing signature. The card is returned to you in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. It is then up to you to sign and laminate the card.

Please note that we may **only** assist in obtaining DOD retiree cards **for NYA members**. There are benefits to having this card, and I'd be happy to provide that information again on an individual basis. Please contact me at (707) 643-1287 or via e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays!

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyard Historian

DECEMBER LAUNCHINGS

While there have been 11 Mare Island-built ships launched in Decembers, none of them occurred on Christmas Day.

The MOHICAN (Cruiser) was launched on December 27, 1883, and it was nineteen years later before the tug LESLIE reached the Strait on December 2, 1902. The collier PROMETHEUS made a big splash, in more than ways than one on December 8, 1908.

The SHAW (DD-68) was launched on December 9, 1916, followed a year later by FAIRFAX (DD-93) on December 15, 1917. Twenty-three years passed before the big FULTON (AS-11) was launched (December 27, 1940), and in December 1941 two ships were added to the rapidly growing number of M.I.-built ships with the Floating Workshop (YR-36) on 12/13/17 followed by the big popular SPERRY (AS-12) four days later..

Two DEs were welcomed in 1942: HAROLD C. THOMAS was launched on December 18, and WILEMAN the following day.

While there was plenty of action on the waterfront during the years that followed, launching crews did not go back to work until PLUNGER (SSN-595) made its debut on December 9, 1961.

One of the best belated Christmas gifts that the Shipyard ever offered was the commissioning of WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624) on February 22, 1963. Big and majestic, the ship was wrapped up with great red and green ribbons that encircled the sail. A big gift tag announced the Shipyard's 503rd contribution to the fleet. It was a chilly day but a standing-room-only crowd of 1500 witnessed the event. Chief Justice Earl Warren was the guest speaker, and the former governor of California referred to the submarine as an "instrument of peace." Woodrow Wilson died on February 2, 1924, and Warren in 1974.

There was only one Change of Command ceremony during Decembers. RADM Josiah S. McKean turned over the keys to the front office to CAPT John M. Luby on December 15, 1924.

Winter was probably too cold for folks to stand out there in Alden Park and shiver around the bandstand. Spring and summer months proved to be more popular.

The Glacier Society Ship's Store is OPEN!

Orders can be placed on their website,
www.glaciersociety.org
or
call them at 203-375-6638

Golf Shirts! T-Shirts! Jackets! Caps!
License Plates! Books! Videos! Decals!
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much, much more!

Not only will you find a great gift for that merchant marine, sailor, soldier, etc., in your life but you will also benefit the Glacier Society!

STORE HOURS: 8:00 - 5:00 pm Daily

Orders can be placed on line at anytime. You will receive confirmation of your order and expedited shipping