

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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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

gadgets common to the day. Stay tuned to the Vallejo Times Herald or our website for details, as they become available.

Seasons Greetings! I, and your fellow NYA Officers, Directors, and members, wish you and your families the happiest of holiday seasons. As another year comes to a close, we celebrate the blessings and events that made 2006 one for the history books. One thing we in the NYA share is our association with Mare Island. And, whether it was the memories of the experiences or the friendships built there, we can all look back and see what we've all gained.

For the NYA, 2006 held many highlights—among them the 10-Year Reunion held in April that was responsible for an increase in membership, and the wonderful reminiscing that went on that day. As always, I am grateful for the hard work of NYA Officers Veronica Cullum (who became Mrs. Laird in September); Sonya Domingo, following in her father's footsteps; Lloyd Mahan, for keeping us all in the auditors' good graces; Robin Leong, for working tirelessly to keep us reaching out; James Porter, for being the strength that gets things done; and Bruce Christensen, a dedicated mentor to all of us (and the Historical Park Foundation) who keeps us on track and looking forward. Our officers and directors (including, Mary Rutland, Bob Yeasted, Rich Wright, Rudy Balli, Doug Ghiselin, Howard and Maryann Fitzpatrick, Gordon and Jan Triemert, Carmen Merriman, and Sue Lemmon, to name a few) give of themselves and ask for nothing in return. Without them, our group would be just a memory.

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Time Capsule Discovered on Mare Island.

Another time capsule recently was discovered on Mare Island. Lennar, the developer on Mare Island, turned over to the City of Vallejo and the Navy a time capsule discovered while dismantling building 866. Few details are available yet, other than that the time capsule appears to be circa 1960 and contains newspapers and various other

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God bless you all now and in the years to come.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

ex-USS DRUM – Navy Plans to Dismantle Ship in FY 2009. On September 28, 2006, the Department of the Navy, Office of Legislative Affairs, wrote a letter removing the ex-USS DRUM (SSN 677) from donation to the City of Vallejo as a museum/memorial. The letter was forwarded to the City of Vallejo on October 19 by the Inactive Ship Program Office (PMS333) and reads; “Appreciating your interest in the current plans, programs, to retain the ex-DRUM as a donation asset for transfer to the City of Vallejo, but will proceed with planning for its dismantling in fiscal year 2009.”

The loss of the ex-DRUM (last nuclear submarine to be built at Mare Island) for display in historic Dry Dock #1 is a disappointment to the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) and the NYA. This was particularly disappointing to past NYA president Dennis Kelly and his group, who spearheaded the effort to prepare and submit the applications to obtain ex-DRUM.

Apparently, the Navy plans to suggest that another ship (or ships), all non-nuclear, be towed to Mare Island for display as a museum/memorial. As additional news develops regarding obtaining an alternate ship, we will provide updates in future NYA newsletters.

Call for Volunteers. Many openings are available for those interested in volunteering to help preserve Mare Island’s proud Naval History. These include gardening of the grounds around St. Peters Chapel and Quarters A and B, maintenance work and/or cleaning of the Chapel and Quarters, being a tour guide for historical

tours or a docent to oversee events that take place within these historic buildings.

Tasks throughout the Mare Island Historic Park provide an opportunity for ex-Mare Islanders, as well as those interested in learning more about Mare Island’s history, to become involved personally in the efforts to preserve that history. Most tasks can be scheduled to be worked at the volunteer’s convenience and most allow people to work together in an environment that often results in the making of new friends. Each task provides gratification and many are informative and educational. In addition to contacting Joyce Giles either at the museum during the week or by email to jig313@aol.com for work at the museum, if you’re interested in volunteering for other Historic Park Foundation tasks, please contact Ken Zadwick at 707-557-0662.

<p>11th Annual Christmas Concert with Melody Choral</p> <p>December 17, 2006 at 2:00pm. St. Peters Chapel, Mare Island</p> <p>Refreshments following at Quarters A (Shipyard Commander’s Mansion)</p> <p>Tickets: \$15 Payable to MIHPF, 328 Seawind Drive, Vallejo, CA 94590</p> <p>Call 557-1538 for tickets</p>

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 763, which more than surpassed our 2006 membership goal of 675! Dental membership stands at 389 members.

We offer a warm welcome to new members Ronald Rampone, Mitchel E. Marquez (Charles Johnson), and Morris A. Yoro (Mitchel Marquez).

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to the family of recently deceased member Ruben Abundis; to Bill and the family of the late Mary “Frankie” Redmond, who passed away on November 21; and to NYA Director Sue Lemmon on the passing of her husband, Toby.

The NYA Directors try to keep the membership directory as accurate and up-to-date as possible. If you think we don’t have your current e-mail address, please consider sending it to us. We will never sell or otherwise disclose your address to any third parties, nor will we send frivolous messages.

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

Dental Plan Updates. As a reminder, we now have a new dental plan administrator. After many years of service to the NYA, our longtime dental administrators, Larry and Betty Carter, have decided to retire. For the time being, Larry will continue with First Tier Administrators as a consultant.

If you have any questions about changing dentists; changing banks for withholding; changing your dental status from family to single or vice versa; signing up for a dental plan; or complaints about a dentist, please contact First Tier Administrators. Following is their contact information:

First Tier Administrators
P.O. Box 119338
Reno, NV 89511

Phone: (775) 324-5644
Toll Free: (866) 565-7557

Larry Carter, Ext. 114
E-mail: lcfierstier@charter.net
or
Kay Haas at Kay.Haas@firstiertpa.com

As you may now know, the Federal government has begun offering dental and vision

plans, which are available during open season. PLEASE remember that all dental plans are not alike. At first glance, the government plans may have a lower monthly premium, but the costs for individual procedures and office co-payments are often higher. Take the time to carefully compare costs for services. You’ll find that the NAONE dental plans are quite competitive. And, best of all, you don’t need to wait for an open season to sign up for one of our dental plans. Every day is open season!

Other Benefits. There is nothing else new on the benefits front. I remind you that if you would like to use our free Notary service, it is much faster to call Sonya Domingo directly, rather than to leave a message on the NYA answering machine (which may not be checked frequently).

In my opinion, probably the best benefit we offer is the Living Trust discount. You can save quite a lot by having a Living Trust in place. I encourage you to do it if you have not already done so. See the enclosed table for contact details.

We continue to have a steady stream of requests for a retired Government Identification Card. Please pass the word on this service offered to NYA members.

Please do remember to have FUN this holiday season. I wish you the best one ever!

What’s happening on Mare Island?

Bruce Christensen

Memory Photograph Books and Picture CDs from the Reunion Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Mare Island’s Closure still available for purchase!

The NYA still has for sale several of the memory books containing photographs taken during the celebration/reunion commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard that was held Saturday, April 1, 2006. Also available are CDs containing

all of the miscellaneous photographs taken during the day, including the group photo that was snapped during the lunch period. These limited numbers of books and CDs are available to members at the NYA's cost of \$10 each. If you are interested in obtaining one or both of these items, either send a personal check or money order to the NYA, PO Box 2034, Vallejo, CA, 94592 or send e-mail to the NYA at benefit@mareislandnya.com.

Next Reunion? Your NYA Board of Directors has received several requests for another Mare Island reunion in the not-too-distant future. The Directors take each of your suggestions into consideration; and based on input to date, we will skip 2007 and look into planning the next reunion in 2008. Suggestions from member as to the location of the next reunion and whether it should be held on a weekday or weekend are very much appreciated. We will use the NYA newsletter and website to inform all NYA members of when and where the next reunion/celebration will be held.

On the Island. Large, private residences continue to be constructed at Mare Island. But, as is the case throughout the Bay Area, the real estate market has leveled off and, in some instances, has declined. There are now more than 175 new homes that have been sold and are occupied west of Azuar Drive (formerly Cedar Avenue). Another 25 homes are under construction; but construction beyond those 200 residences will be slower than during the past two years. The Mare Island grammar school has reopened and is operating at near capacity.

There are still no significant retailers (grocers, restaurants, gas stations, cleaners, fast food, etc.) located on Mare Island to serve these new residents (apparently due to the relatively low population base), even though it includes some residents associated with Touro University.

Mare Island now has a 'rotary' or 'round-about' street intersection—perhaps a first for

Vallejo. This intersection is located at a five-way intersection where Azuar Drive, Walnut Avenue and 12th Street intersect. However, if you plan to check it out, you'll need to approach it from Walnut Avenue or 12th Street (now named Bagley Street) because Azuar is currently closed for repairs between the old 5th and 9th Streets (now named Flagship and Rickover Streets).

Quarters A (recently painted) and B, along with St. Peter's Chapel and Building 46 continue to be maintained as historic landmark sites at Mare Island. Arrangements to use these buildings for weddings, receptions, memorial services, and other events may be made by contacting the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation at 707-557-0662.

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyard Historian

THE OLDEST BUILDING

If there were a prize for the oldest building on Mare Island, it would go to Bldg. 46, now proudly occupied by the Historic Park Foundation Museum. The foundation for the former Pipe Shop (Smithery) was laid on January 24, 1855. First constructed under Farragut's command, it has undergone many transformations over the years, although the exterior walls remain.

Second oldest building is Bldg. A-1, a magazine at the south end of the island in the former Naval Ammunition Depot. In the NAD area, all building numbers were preceded by an "A." The site for this rectangular one-story building was selected by Farragut, who probably hired the same masons who built the magazine at Benicia Arsenal.

The original building was badly damaged by an explosion on June 5, 1901, but a wreathed eagle, astride an anchor, still stands guard over the main doorway. Several years ago vandals tried to turn back time by chiseling off the numbers "57"

and painting in “54, “ but they only succeeded in blemishing the sandstone ornament.

By 1858, several other buildings were completed, including 71, 85, 87, 89 and 91, and NAD Magazines A-3 and A-4

Among residential buildings, A-45 is the oldest. It appears on the map of 1861 as quarters for “Gunner.” It was never occupied by Farragut, for it was completed after his departure.

While not a building, the cemetery was not listed on the original plan for the Navy Yard, and it does not appear on maps until after 1861. According to Farragut’s log, however, the first recorded burial was Feb. 12, 1856.

By 1862 the stable, Bldg.88, was in use. Bldg. 45 was completed in 1864 and Bldg. 69 appears on the records the following year – both have served as administrative offices. Alden Park was so designated in 1868, and Bldgs. 47 and 77 date from 1870. Some of the building numbers originally assigned have been changed, but generally speaking, numbers were assigned chronologically. In addition, those south of 8th Street have even numbers – those north of 8th odd numbers.

As for Bldg. 1? It was Farragut’s quarters, but its designation was changed to “A” after 1906.

While there have been several changes in recent years, Bldg. 46 remains a constant, and visitors are encouraged to see how the Historic Park Foundation has maintained and enhanced this memorable old building. If you haven’t been there recently, you should put such a visit on your “To do” list. You’ll be glad you did!

Here are two great specialty hot drink recipes to enjoy this holiday season!

Hot Toddy

Pour 1 1/2 ounces of Rum into a cup. Stir in a teaspoon of sugar. Top up with freshly boiled water. Add a knob of butter and sprinkle with nutmeg. Serve hot.



Mulled Wine

Ingredients

1 Bottle Red Wine
1 cup Sugar
2 Cinnamon sticks
2 Cloves
Small Pinch of allspice, nutmeg, ginger and mace
Juice of an Orange and a Lemon
Orange and Lemon Slices

The cinnamon and cloves are optional, but give this Christmas recipe a great flavor!

Instructions

Mix the red wine, spices, cloves, and cinnamon sticks together over a medium heat. Add sugar and heat thoroughly until the sugar dissolves, but do not allow to boil! Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes. Strain the mixture through a clean cloth. Add the Orange and Lemon juice. Cover and slowly simmer for 30 minutes over a low heat. Add the orange and lemon slices. Serve hot.



*Seasons Greetings
and
Best Wishes
for a
Happy and Prosperous
New Year
from your
Navy Yard Association
of Mare Island*