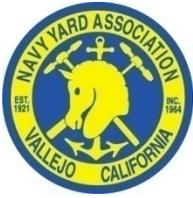


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
Recording Secretary....Sonya Domingo
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Volume IX, Issue 4

December 2011

Published Quarterly

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. **Send an e-mail to Veronica Laird at vcullum@hotmail.com (use the subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")**

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Woodland
Third Wednesday each month at 9:00am
POC: Parry Benton; (530) 402-1500

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 4355 Sonoma Blvd (Hwy 29/37 intersection), Vallejo
Second Wednesday of each month (except July/August)
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: Bill Lewis; (707) 643-6032

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Dotty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

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

The Sardine Can, 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

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
Each Friday at 11:30am
POC: Allen Green; aalgreen@napanet.net

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

I bet you've been patiently waiting by your mailbox for your September NYA Newsletter to

arrive, and here it is...in October! Go, figure. Well, after sending out a flurry of reminders and fliers about the Mare Island reunion and NYA Birthday celebration, we thought we'd give the Postal Service a bit of a break. And, this way we can also include a little recap on the reunion itself!

For those of you who joined us, thank you **very** much for making it such a happy experience; and, for those officers, directors, and their families who worked tirelessly to make it happen, your generous spirit is certainly your reward. A very special thank you to Isabella Domingo, daughter of Keith and Sonya Domingo, and Margaret Wigger daughter of Ray and Tanya Wigger, for bringing their youthful exuberance that kept us all on our toes.

One question that was asked several times during the event is what's happening now on Mare Island so long after closure, and here's what we found out: There are currently 70 businesses with a presence on the former shipyard—not counting Federal government operations like the V.A., U.S. Army, or USDA Forest Service, just to name a few. These businesses are operating out of over 80 different facilities, work spaces, and enclosures on the island. Some of them, like XKT, have been going strong since even before the Shipyard closed. I hope to be able to post a list of their names in an upcoming newsletter.

Finally, on behalf of the Navy Yard Association, I'd like to send our most sincere condolences to the family of our friend and former Shop 31 superintendent, Dave Runge, who went to be with our Maker earlier this month. He will be missed by many. If you know of an ex-Mare Islander whom you'd like to see mentioned in our

newsletter, please send us an email or card and we'll make sure it happens.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

The following are some of the current goings-on around Mare Island:

New Business - Blu Homes, a Massachusetts-based modular homes manufacturer that manufactures environmentally-friendly structures, celebrated its official grand opening in Building 680 (old Shop 31) on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

There were approximately 300 people in attendance at the grand opening, at which Founder and CEO Bill Haney described the company's product and employment opportunities. Guest speakers at the event included Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis, Lennar Mare Island's Tom Sheaff, and actor (CSI) Paul Guilfoyle.

Many former Mare Island employees and NYA members participated in the grand opening festivities, which included excellent food and beverages, as well as tours of some of the Blu Homes already under construction.

After the ceremony, two NYA members who worked in Shop 31 during their Mare Island tenure, when interviewed by a Time Herald reporter provided the following comments:

- John Chamberlin: "I don't think there's any comparison between the shop then (when Mare Island was a shipyard) and now, but I support Blu Homes' efforts to bring the facility back to life."
- Jack Tamargo: "We're glad to see the building (former Shop-31) is finally going to be used other than just a big empty building."

Blu Homes has already hired about 50 people from the local area and expects to hire 30 more employees by the end of 2011. The Mare Island

factory will be the supplier of energy efficient homes for the western United States and Canada. Based on expected increases in the volume of modular home sales, Blu Homes plans to hire additional employees in 2012.

North End Developer(s) – In November, the City of Vallejo narrowed its search for developers for the 157 acre parcel at the north end of Mare Island to two companies: a large-scale solar farm (LDK Solar) or an expansive commercial and mixed-use developer (Avant Housing LLC). Next, the City will review the details of the applications and provide follow-up questions to each of the applicants to determine the best match for this undeveloped parcel, which is one of the remaining large areas available for development in the greater Bay Area. A decision is not expected until after the first of the year.

Ship's Hull Cleaning - Allied Defense Recycling (ADR), the Mare Island based company that has taken over the operation of Dry Docks 2 and 3, lost bids to scrap the most recent 4 ships to be removed from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet. Those ships (some will sound familiar to former Mare Islanders) are the PYRO, MISPILLION, TULARE and PIGEON and are being sent to the Gulf Coast for recycling. Mare Island's ADR has won the contract—priced at \$1.7 million—for the cleaning of loose paint and marine growth from the hull before the ships are towed out of the Bay Area. The cleaning work will start in December and the last of the 4 ships will complete in February 2012.

Railroad Service - The newly-established Mare Island Rail Service is providing railroad access to Lennar Mare Island along with several other companies based on the former shipyard, including the two companies (Blu Homes and ADR) mentioned above. Mare Island Rail Service continues to upgrade and maintain additional rail track to expand service throughout specified areas on Mare Island.

USS IOWA - In late October, the USS IOWA was towed from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet to Richmond, CA, to undergo significant exterior paint

removal (including the hull) followed by application of a fresh coat of paint for the tow to San Pedro, CA. The cosmetic face-lift for the IOWA will complete in January 2012, at which time the ship will embark on its final sea voyage of about 400 miles, where it will be displayed by the Pacific Battleship Center at the Port of Los Angeles. Worthy of note is the fact that the State of Iowa contributed \$3 million to the Pacific Battleship Center toward establishing the USS IOWA as a floating museum.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

MIHPF Partnerships now Offered

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is now offering Partnerships to encourage community as well as out-of-area support. The MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) charitable Foundation and, as such, all partnership donations are tax-deductable.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is an application for partnerships at the individual, family, student and Out-of-State levels. The partnership plan allows free admission to the Mare Island Museum and to the Museum Library, 10% discount in the Museum gift shop and many other benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a MIHPF Partner, please complete the attached application and remit to MIHPF; Attention: Partnership, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

Become a Plankowner of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) continues to offer its Plankowner Program to those interested in preserving and displaying the history of Mare Island. As a reminder, the MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) foundation.

Those interested in becoming a Plankowner may do so at any of the following levels:

Ensign.....	\$25+
Lieutenant.....	\$100+
Commander.....	\$500+
Captain.....	\$1,000+
Rear Admiral.....	\$5,000+
Vice Admiral.....	\$10,000+
Admiral.....	\$20,000+
Other.....	\$_____

To enroll in the Plankowner Program, please send your tax deductible donation check to:

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation
328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590

To donate by VISA or Mastercard,
Call: 707-280-5742

MIHPF Needs Volunteers

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is the major force in the maintenance and preservation of historic properties and promotion of Mare Island's past.

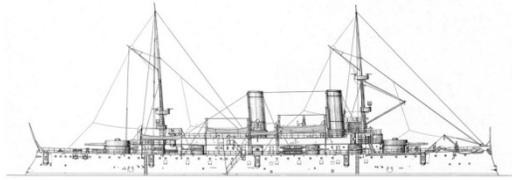
Do you have a few hours each week when you can volunteer as a docent, tour guide, or to do gardening or maintenance work in the Mare Island Historic District? If so, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) will be glad to put you to work!

Some of the sites for which the MIHPF is responsible are the St. Peters Chapel, Officers' Mansions (Quarters A and B), the Mare Island Museum (Building 46), and the grounds surrounding each of these sites. If you wish to volunteer, please call 707-557-0662 or 707-280-5742 and leave you contact information or send an email to: kenzad01@sbcglobal.net or JIG313@aol.com.

Also, anyone interested in becoming a member of the MIHPF Board of Directors is

cordially invited to attend the next Board Meeting as a guest.

Expertise Requested from NYA Members



Bringing Home the USS OLYMPIA (C-6)

Dennis Kelly
OLYMPIA Project Manager

OLYMPIA Acquisition Status: The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) submitted an expression of interest to acquire the Spanish-American Warship OLYMPIA and bring her back home to the San Francisco Bay Area for display at Mare Island's historic Dry-Dock 1. In August 2011, the Phase I application for OLYMPIA was submitted to the Independence Seaport Museum, the Navy, and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. In November, the MIHPF was invited to move forward in preparing and submitting a Phase II application. The Phase II Application must be provided by May 1, 2012. The invitation also offered suggestions to include in the Phase II application, one of which is as follows:

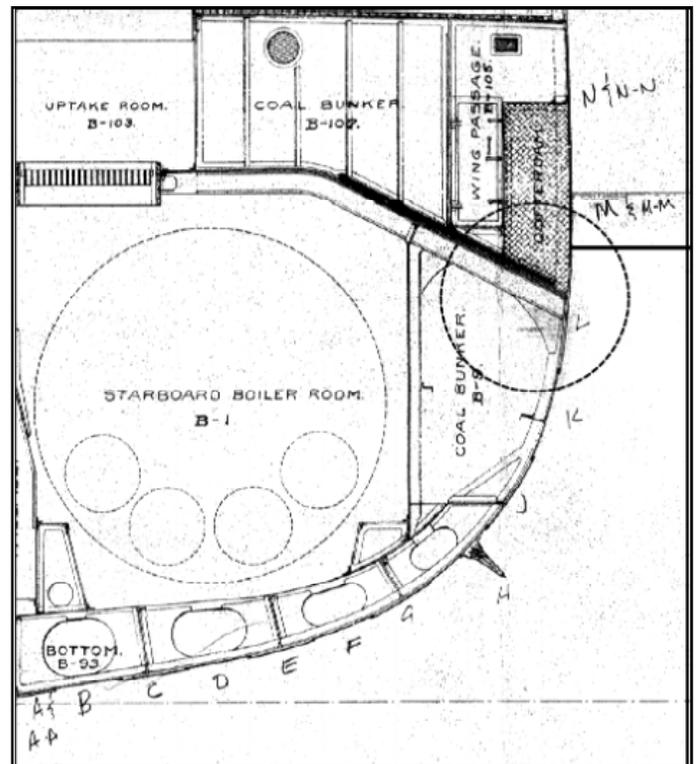
“Engage a professional engineer, with significant maritime experience, to evaluate your proposal to move Olympia to the west coast. Specific plans and methodology must be included.”



OLYMPIA - Currently Pier side at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia

The Task: We are looking for Navy Yard Association members or friends with naval or marine architect experience who meet the qualifications stipulated above to evaluate our proposal to move the OLYMPIA from Philadelphia, PA to the west coast and to assist us in developing plans and methodology for that move.

Background: While the interior spaces and topsides of the OLYMPIA have been maintained in *fair to good* condition, she has not been dry-docked since 1945 due to the costs associated with that effort. This has resulted in severe corrosion of her hull adjacent to the waterline and in a localized area beneath a cistern on the bottom of the hull. The corrosion is severe enough that she must now be dry docked and repaired prior to any open water transit. Current plans are to weld doubler plates over the corroded areas. The exact nature of repairs will not be known until after she is dry-docked.



Corroded Area of OLYMPIA Hull is circled

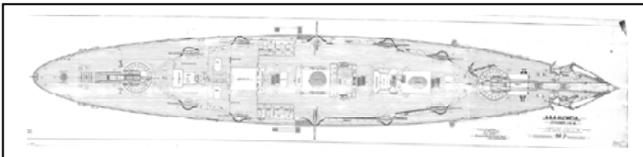
Resources: The MIHPF has copies of numerous recent documents and studies that describe the condition of OLYMPIA in detail. These include:

- Hull survey results including underwater inspections and an ultrasonic inspection of the hull
- The results of stability tests
- NAVSEA inspection results
- A draft scope of work to be performed during a dry-docking availability
- Photographs of the hull of the waterborne ship

Interested? If you are interested in assisting with the important task of saving and bringing the OLYMPIA back to Mare Island:

- ✓ Contact the MIHPF at <http://www.mareislandhpf.org/> and click on “ships”, “OLYMPIA” and “Contact Us”
- ✓ Contact Dennis Kelly directly at drkelly107@gmail.com.
- ✓ Write to: 107 Lassen Pl, Petaluma, CA 94954 or call 707-778-0915.

Learn more about our effort at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2mUuTj575g>



Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 601, while our dental plan membership stands at 282 members. As you can see in these newsletters, our members are our best recruiters. Keep up the good work!

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: Patricia E. Heady, John A. Kamerzell, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray, Jr., Lashaun “Nina” N. Tyson,

and John D. Wilson. We do **NOT** have your correct mailing addresses, thus we cannot send important information to you. **If you see this newsletter (or, if anyone reading this knows one or more of these folks), please forward the current mailing address to Robin Leong via e-mail (preferred) to robin_leong@netzero.net or by phone at (707) 643-1287.**

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Vernlette Goodrich, who passed away Nov. 22, after a brief illness; and Cyrus Fosha who died on November 8.

Welcome to new members: Jerry A Champion (recruited by Carmen Merriman), and Patsy Hollister.

Your NYA officers have adopted the following award schedule for recruitment of new members (awards subject to availability).

- Recruit 1 new member: Mouse Pad, key chain, decal, or tie-tack
- Recruit 2 new members: T-Shirt
- Recruit 3 new members: Hat
- Recruit 4 new members: Mare Island Clock
- Recruit 5 new members: Briefcase
- Recruit 7 new members: Watch
- Recruit 10 new members: NYA Jacket or Windbreaker

Remember to let Robin Leong know if you’ve brought in any new members, so you can get your recruitment award! Thanks a bunch for your interest in maintaining our organization!

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

First of all, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

Developing a column for this newsletter every quarter can be difficult, especially when I don’t have any new benefits to share with our members. So, this month I’d like to share my thoughts on a benefit we’ve offered for a long time:

the living trust/will discount with Attorney Jean Gifford.

Recently, I was reminded by member Mike De Battista about our Living Trust benefit. He wanted to learn a bit of the background on Jean Gifford, the lawyer to whom we refer on our benefits page. Having someone you know and trust recommend someone to handle your family affairs is very important. I shared with Mike that I had my living trust done by Jean Gifford in 1997, and I felt completely assured that she did a good job for me. I counseled him that one of the reasons she is more reasonable than others is that you have to fill your trust yourself as well as her philosophy she discusses in her webpage. In other words you have to go to the county seat and get your home transferred into the trust, as well as any bank and savings accounts, stock company or other accounts. This can be done by your trust lawyer. Sometimes this is why it cost more to do it. For those that have living trusts, remember you have to fill the trust, otherwise your trust is just a piece of paper. I know this for a fact, as when I checked my parent's trust none of their Savings and Loan accounts and stocks account were in their living trust. I barely transferred all of their accounts when my father passed on. I think you can have 100k outside of the trust, like a checking account and still be okay. (I'm not a lawyer so check this with yours.). I explained to Mike what Jean does when she prepares a trust. I was sorry that I am the only one that could recommend her. I know there are other NYA members that have used her. If you are willing to tell others as to how your dealings with her went, please contact me so I can use you as a reference. I told Mike we use to have sessions given by her at our office at Mare Island in building 535 about living trust, what they were and what she could do for you with no obligation. However, she now has an office in Sacramento and we have not done this in years. You can get the same information on her website www.giffordlaw.com, or you can e-mail her at jgif69@hotmail.com or you can call her at her toll free Solano number 453-1647 or (530) 759-9659. If you are within a 25 mile radius of Davis, she will come to your house to prepare all your paper work. Her office is now in Sacramento. We get 10% off

from her listed fee on her website. Her services include a Revocable Living trust, Children's trust, Certified Extract of the Trust (short form), General Transfer Document (to fill your trust), property agreement, pour-over will(s), durable power(s) of attorney for property, and durable power(s) of attorney for health care. This is one time you need your membership card for proof to get the discount. If you misplaced it, let me know and I can make another one. She is a retired Navy petty officer. If you are interest in having a group session to learn about Revocable Living trusts let me know and I'll try to set one up. We need to have 6-8 to make it worth her while. If we have 10 we may be able to set it up at Mare Island. Otherwise it will be in her office at Sacramento. If you still don't have a living trust and you own a home, getting one could provided yourself with a huge savings as probate courts usually cost upwards of 15K. Just do it before it is too late. Happy Holidays~

We now have 81 members signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This is a double benefit—it saves on printing fees, paper, postage, returned-mail fees, is an easy way to keep past issues, AND it reduces the impact to the environment. If you haven't thought about it before, why don't you consider going "green," too? Please send an e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net with "Yes, I want my NYA Newsletter via E-Mail!" in the subject line. It's as simple as that!

Benefits

One of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. This service is most graciously provided by NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo. To make an appointment for notary service, you can reach Sonya by phone at (510) 260-0429 or via e-mail to K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net. Please remember to give Sonya a minimum of 24 hours notice for notary appointments.

One of our newest benefits is a \$30 coupon for a Smog Test at Bruce Balbin's Smog Shop (Test Only) on Tennessee Street in Vallejo. Recently, I used Bruce's smog test service (with my NYA

discount!), and I was thoroughly satisfied with the service. This is a great deal, folks! It's a good idea to call ahead to Bruce, as he has excellent advice for getting the most out of your vehicle and smog-test experience.

Dental Plan News

The updated Prepaid and Blue Shield brochures are posted on our website. You can view them at www.mareislandnya.com. While there, why not go ahead and print out a membership form, send it to a former Mare Islander, and tell them about our benefits!

If you are having problems with your dentist, you should first talk to your dentist. Next, discuss the issues with Premier Claims, and file a complaint form to document the issues. You may obtain copies of the complaint form in three ways: (1) Get a copy of the complaint form directly from Premier Claims. Their address and phone numbers are:

Premier Claims Administrators, LLC
P O Box 19338
Reno, NV 89511
Office: 775-324-5644
Toll Free: 866-565-7557
Fax: 775-786-9637;

(2) Download a copy of the complaint form from the NYA website at www.mareislandnya.com; or (3) Contact me, and I'll mail a copy to you. My street and e-mail addresses are:

Robin Leong,
336 Benson Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590-3027
robin_leong@netzero.net