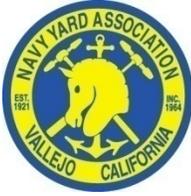


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
Recording Secretary....Sonya Domingo
Executive Secretary.....Veronica Laird

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084
Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
Website Address: www.mareislandnya.com

Volume XII, Issue 1

March 2014

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, & Napa
Third Friday each month at 9:00am
POC: Jim Davis; (707) 226-1119

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 4355 Sonoma Blvd (Hwy 29/37 intersection), Vallejo
Second Wednesday of each month (except July/August)
POC: To be determined

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Center, 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

Delta Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Denny's at Hwy 4/Somerville, Antioch
First Monday of each month at 12pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep)
POC: Bob Martin, (925) 458-1260

Mare Island Historic 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

Welcome to the 2014 Annual Navy Yard Association Membership Drive! I hope you find this month's newsletter interesting and enjoyable reading.

As a reminder, we are planning another group event to see the Oakland Athletics play the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday, July 20. We'll all sit together in field level seats, and all members of our group with a paid ticket will receive a gold replica jersey of Josh Donaldson! Tickets are \$25 each, and I encourage you to order your tickets early. More than 80 of us had a terrific time at last year's group event, and we all enjoyed seeing the NYA's name in lights. Some of you might be lucky enough to have Bruce snap your photo at the game—just joking! Bruce just loves taking pictures. Hope to see you there!

This year, we won't hold a reunion in October because we are making big plans for our "closure plus 20" reunion in 2016. However, we *will* be holding our annual "open to all members" meeting in October (time and place to be decided), as required by our bylaws.

On a more sad note, recently we lost one of our most active and supportive members. On February 19, 2014, Veronica "Ronnie" Duquette (mother of NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo) lost her courageous battle with cancer. Ronnie not only recruited many new NYA members each year, she freely offered her time and many organizational skills to nearly every event we've held for more than 10 years. Her friendly face and infectious laugh will be missed sincerely.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to keeping the NYA alive. You (and you know who you are!) are what has kept the NYA alive, viable, and human to the core. No matter if it's calling to share the news of a friend or coworker who has passed on; offering to help out when we send out a request for assistance, or even just checking in to see if everyone is doing okay. There is no substitute for the quality of humanity in our organization—founded more than 90 years ago and still going strong more than 15 years after the industry that brought it about has ceased. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the coming year on ways that we might be able to reach out to those who don't know the NYA is still going strong or don't know how to join.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Blu Homes Moves Michigan Operations to Mare Island

In December 2013, the Time Herald reported that the Blu Homes Ann Arbor, Michigan, operation would be relocated to Mare Island. This move is expected to increase the number of employees at the Mare Island plant from the current levels of 130 to about 250.

On January 27, 2014, Blu Homes broke ground on the BluDesignCenter's first Bay Area model home. The model home is located at 1205 Club Drive on Mare Island and is a three bedroom, two-bath "Breezehouse," containing 2,300 square feet of floor space.

Coal Sheds are Home to Another Small Business

In January 2014, the Vallejo Times Herald reported the arrival of "Mackenzie Marshall Kay Costuming" located in one of the waterfront

Coal Sheds on Mare Island. Ms. Marshall creates custom costumes for any gender, age, and size. She specializes in period costumes from the 15th to the early 19th centuries and indicates that she is accustomed to making costumes to fit "curvier" women.

To contact Ms. Marshall, call 707-774-5439 or send e-mail to:
mackenziemarshall@rocketmail.com

Hundreds Attend Flyway Festival on Mare Island

On February 7-9, 2014, the annual Flyway Festival was again held on Mare Island in Building 223. Spearheading the event, Myrna Hayes once again put together excellent programs for the hundreds of bird and wildlife enthusiasts who attended the Festival. Rainy weather over the weekend of the event put a damper on some of the outdoor events, but there were many indoor educational activities for those who attended.

Departing Mothball Fleet Ship Bypasses Mare Island on its way to Texas

On February 19, 2014, the former super tanker, USNS SHOSHONE, departed from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet to begin the almost 3,000 mile trip through the Panama Canal to be scrapped in Brownsville, TX. The ship was built in 1957 and sent to the mothball fleet in 1984. With the departure of SHOSHONE, there are 10 vessels remaining to be scrapped from the 57 ships that were present in Suisun Bay when the Maritime Administration began offering dismantling contracts in 2010. Only two of the 47 ships from Suisun Bay were dismantled at Mare Island.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

Repainting of Causeway Bridge Mare's Head Logo

In February 2014, a new NYA member (and the newest board member of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation), former Mare Island employee Tom Watson, submitted an open letter requesting donations to the project to refurbish the badly faded and nearly illegible mare's head logo on the Mare Island Causeway (Wichel's Bridge). This bridge was constructed in 1981, and in Tom's letter, he reminds former Mare Island employees of the memories conjured up by the mare's head logo of the vast number of trips that we made back and forth across the bridge. The letter states that, "The Mare Island [Naval Shipyard] logo mounted on the top of the causeway lift bridge was as bright and shiny as the future, the state of our jobs, and the Navy's mission to build and fix ships."

The letter further indicates that, "Through your generous donations the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, MIHPF, will set up a separate account for this noble request and, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are asking you to send in donations to remove, restore, and reinstall the Mare Island [Naval Shipyard] logo during the 2014 – 2016 City of Vallejo's public works project to repaint the causeway lift bridge."

Your tax deductible contributions may be made on-line by going to the MIHPF website at: www.mareislandhpf.index/html, or by sending a check to:

MIHPF Logo
1100 Railroad Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590

Also, you may contact Tom Watson directly at 707-507-5249 or via e-mail to: portlandtx@gmail.com.

Sell-out Crowd Enjoys St. Peter's Chapel Annual Christmas Concert

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Museum Manager Joyce Giles reported there was once again a full house for the annual event featuring the Vallejo Choral Society held at St. Peter's Chapel on Sunday, December 23, 2013.

This was the 18th Annual Christmas Concert held at the Chapel. The choral society's director, Andrew Brown, led more than 30 singers presenting traditional Christmas song selections for the concert.

Landscape at Mare Island Parks Being Reviewed

In December 2013, the Vallejo Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission reviewed an architectural evaluation report pertaining to Alden Park and Farragut Plaza. Among the items reviewed was the removal of some of the eucalyptus trees that could pose a hazard to St. Peter's Chapel. Apparently the eucalyptus trees were planted in the park originally as a wind break.

Time Capsule from Mare Island Building 866 Cornerstone

In January 2014, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum received the time capsule that was removed from a cornerstone of Building 866 (former Electric/Electronics Shop), when it was demolished in the early 2000s. Museum Manager Joyce Giles and former Building 866 employee, Tom Watson, emptied the time capsule while other former shipyard employees observed. The capsule contained many black-and-white photographs of shipyard activities, as well as various state-of-the-art electrical/electronic equipment from the 1950s and earlier.

Many of the items removed from the time capsule are now on display inside the Mare Island Museum. To view them, please visit the Museum located at 1100 Railroad Avenue on the first or

third weekends each month, or any weekday between 10am and 2pm.

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 your 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.

Membership update

James Porter

NYA Membership at the close of our fiscal year (August 31, 2013) was 566. This was slightly lower than our membership number of 583 for the previous year. Currently, our dental plan membership stands at 241 members.

Welcome back to returning members Juan Torres (from 1996) recruited by David Beard.

Welcome new member Pamela Helm, who was recruited by Tom Cosso, Jr.

We offer our sincere condolences to NYA Director Carmen Merriman on the loss of her mother, Audrey May Merriman, and to NYA Director Sonya Domingo on the loss of her mother, Veronica Duquette.

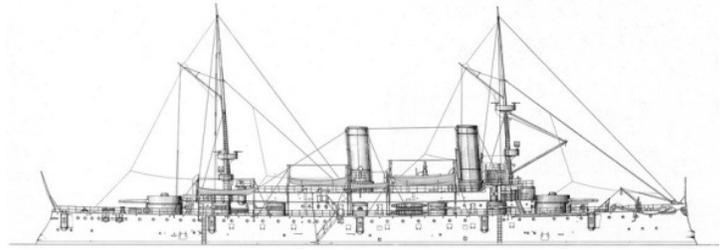
2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

If your newsletter includes a self-addressed return envelope and a card strip with your contact information noted on the left-hand side, here's what you need to do:

- 1. Review the data on the card.**
- 2. Mark any changes or corrections directly on the card.**
- 3. Cut the card on the dotted line, and keep your membership card.**
- 4. Return the contact information portion of the card strip, along with your \$15 membership dues, in the self-addressed envelope provided.**

If your newsletter contains your membership card but does NOT include a self-addressed return envelope, dues are collected electronically—no need to send a check.

***Reminder:* Please keep Robin Leong informed of your current contact information (since that's how you can continue to receive this newsletter). This is especially important for dental plan members (since that's how you receive information from us.**



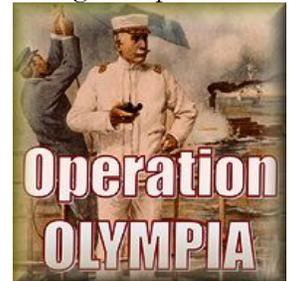
Bringing Home the USS OLYMPIA (C-6)

Dennis Kelly, OLYMPIA Project Manager

The OLYMPIA project committee continues our work to acquire this great ship.

For over two years, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has navigated a complex, multi-step acquisition process developed by the Independence Seaport Museum (ISM), the US Navy, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to acquire this forgotten icon of our shared history.

As complex as the acquisition process is, our real challenge remains fundraising to capitalize our effort. On February 22, the MIHPF kicked off Operation OLYMPIA in response to the ship's distress call. Operation OLYMPIA is a "crowdfunding" campaign to address the acquisition costs for the OLYMPIA.



The campaign web site may be viewed at: <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/operation-olympia>. The campaign will run for 60 days and began on February 22, 2014.

The campaign is being run on the Indiegogo platform. This is the same platform that recently raised more than \$55K to send the Jamaican bobsled team to the Olympics. The goal of our campaign is to raise the \$300K to complete the planning required by the ownership interests to demonstrate that we are competent to acquire the ship. That planning will include studies by outside consulting firms to complete environmental planning studies, engineering studies on hull integrity, docking arrangements, tow plans and more.

The key to the success of this campaign will be to attain wide distribution on social media. We ask our supporters to donate what you can and share this site with your contacts to help us reach the largest possible audience. Even the smallest donations help to show support. You can use the Facebook, email, and Twitter share tools on the web site to share the campaign with your contacts. We must bring OLYMPIA back to the public conscience, or we may as well be lighting the scrappers' torches ourselves.

Sea Classics Magazine

Our effort was recently featured in a Sea Classics magazine article that said, in part, "The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation has been managing major assets at the [former] Mare Island Naval Shipyard for over 18 years, and has demonstrated a keen ability to raise funds. Its leadership is composed of a cross section of high level naval officers, business people, and knowledgeable non-profit leaders. There is no question as to the integrity of this group. The extensive plan to preserve the OLYMPIA certainly proves the desire and ability to save this almost orphaned warship."



Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Happy Belated Chinese New Year and Happy Easter! Hope this post-holiday season finds

you in good health and spirits. I wish you steadiness and calm in the Year of the Horse.

Benefits

Dental plan brochures are still missing from our website, but we hope to have the updated and posted within the next month or two. In the interim, you can always contact me or the dental plan administrators for more information.

Here is the contact information for Integrity Administrators, Inc.:

Integrity Administrators, Inc.
1787 Tribute Road, Suite E
P.O. Box 13128
Sacramento CA 95813-3128
Phone: 916-921-3388 or 800-562-9383
Fax: 916-921-3383
E-Mail: brentjones@integrityadmin.com
OR
kfranklin@integrityadmin.com

While we have lost a few NYA benefits recently (it's getting harder to garner discounts for small groups these days), there are plenty of discounts out there for livelier set (55+), and I'll be posting on our website as many of those discounts as I can find (and, since I've been "55+" for a year or two, I know where to look!). In the meantime, here are a few to whet your interest:

Cell Phone Discounts:

AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan at \$19.99/month (65+)

Jitterbug: \$10/month cell phone service (50 +)

Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan at \$29.99/month (65+).

Overnight Accommodations:

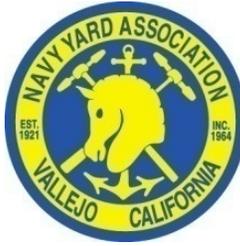
Holiday Inn: 20-40% off depending on location (62+)

Best Western: 40% off (55+)

Marriott Hotels: 25% off (62+)

Motel 6: Stay Free Sunday nights (60+)

Myrtle Beach Resort: 30% off (55 +)



Join the Navy Yard Association for a Day at the Ballpark



VS



**Sunday, July 20, 2014 at 1:05pm
O.co Stadium**

\$25 per Ticket

Tickets must be **reserved**
and **purchased no later than**
Sunday, June 15, 2014

To purchase tickets, please contact
Sonya Domingo at (707) 326-5275 or
k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net



**Jersey Day – with each ticket purchased,
you will receive a gold replica jersey
of Josh Donaldson**

NYA BENEFITS

BENEFITS	COST	WHAT TO DO	COMMENTS
LEGAL SERVICES			
 Notary Public	Free	To make an appointment, contact Sonya Domingo at (707) 326-5275 or send e-mail to k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net	Please allow 24 hours - you will be contacted to set up an appointment
 Living Trust	10% off the prices posted on the website, at: www.giffordlaw.com	To make an appointment, contact Jean Gifford at (707) 453-1647 or (530) 759-9659	
RETAIL/SERVICE DISCOUNTS			
 Kelly Moore Paint and Wallpaper	25% off	To obtain the discount card, contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	
 Balbin Smog Shop Test ONLY Center	10% off	Contact the Balbin Smog Shop at (707) 647-1601	Other discounts may be available – call the shop and don't forget to mention that you're an NYA member
Handy Consumer Tips Emergent Benefits Job Announcements/Reunions	No cost	Send your e-mail address to Robin Leong at robin_leong@netzero.net	
TRAVEL DISCOUNTS			
 Ambassador Travel	Heavily discounted tours and cruises	Please contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	
RECREATION DISCOUNTS			
 Vacation Villa	NYA Members receive a 25% discount	For details, go to: www.casadosdelfines.com	Villa located in the Cancun/Playa Del Carmen Mexico area

If you would like to receive benefits updates via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Robin Leong at Robin_Leong@netzero.net.