

Rosie the Riveter Home Front Festival by the Bay

A whirlwind of activities that began on September 22 and ended today, September 30, drew thousands of visitors to Richmond to participate in the first Home Front Festival by the Bay and the Launching of the Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park.

The events straddled the entire southern waterfront from Marina Bay on the east and Shipyard 3 and the Red Oak Victory on the west. Shuttle buses ferried participants to and from the various locations.

The weather was perfect the entire weekend, delivering clear and sunny days. The entire [schedule of events](#) went off with almost perfectly, with everything beginning and ending on time.

Friday morning began with an Ambassador Rally hosted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and attended by Chambers of Commerce representatives from throughout northern California at the Ford Building Crane Way. Friday night was a sellout Gala Fundraising Dinner hosted by Rosie the Riveter Trust, the non-profit partner of the National Park Service for Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park.

Saturday morning began with another sellout, a pancake breakfast at the Red Oak Victory, followed by the "Launch the Park" festivities attended by hundreds on the waterfront of former Shipyard # 3 at the foot of Canal Boulevard. While the "Launch" was winding down, the music was cranking up near the Rosie the Riveter Memorial where a crowd of over a thousand was building to sample food, visit vendor and public service booths, enjoy the sunshine and take cruises on historic ships.

Saturday night action switched back to the Ford Building Crane way for another sellout, the USO dance with a big band orchestra and sing dancing. A big hit was the men and women of historical clubs from all over the Bay Area who arrived in vintage cars and vintage WW II uniforms.

Sunday morning began at 10:00 AM in Marina Bay at Lucretia Edwards Park for 5K and 10K runs. In the 5K, Councilmembers Jim Rogers, Ludmyrna Lopez and Tom Butt all took first place in their gender and age brackets, and Shirley Butt took first place in hers.

Back to the Ford Building Crane Way, the Home Front Worker reunion was in full swing, with hundreds of Rosie and other Home Front workers and their families telling of their personal experiences.

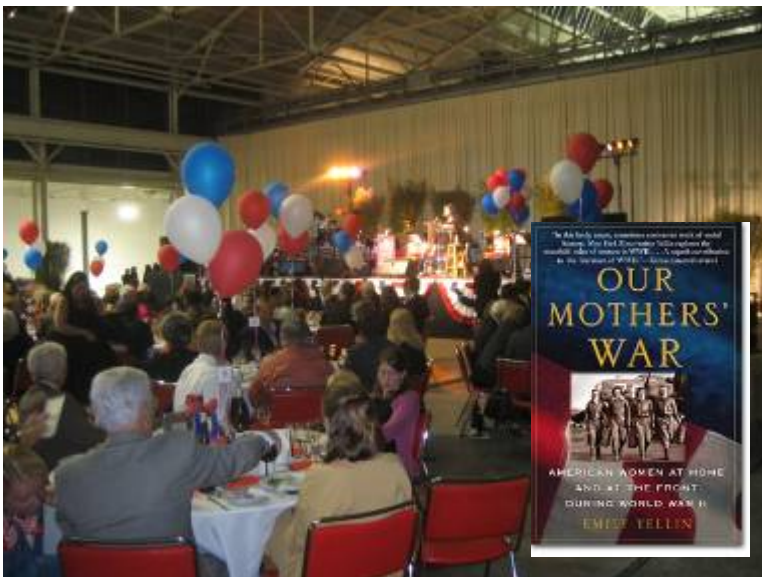
In Marina Bay Park the food and music was going aging by noon, and another perfect day of sunshine was underway. Down by the waterfront, there were cruises on the historic ship Alma and tours of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's yacht *Potomac* as well as the Sea Scout Ship *Northland*.



At a reception held by the Richmond Museum of History on Saturday, September 22 the rare and extensive collection of children's art from wartime child care centers was on display. The display was curated by Joseph Fischer, an 80-year-old retired lecturer and research associate in education at UC Berkeley, estimates the collection of paintings and linoleum block prints at more than 3,000 pieces in all, spanning the height of World War II to the late 1970s. The artwork comes from children ranging in age from 2 to 12 who attended the groundbreaking child care centers that opened in Richmond to serve shipyard workers during World War II. Fischer calls it a "national treasure."



Wednesday, September 26, open house at [Vetrazzo](#), a "green" company in the Ford Building that manufactures high end countertops from recycled glass. Guests included architects, designers, contractors and green building advocates from throughout the bay Area



Rosie the Riveter Trust Gala Fundraising Banquet on Friday, September 28, in the Ford Building Craneway, was a sellout. Featured speaker Emily Yellin talks about her book, "Our Mother's War."



“Launch the Park ceremony at Shipyard #3 featured presentations from Home Front workers and descendants. Reverend Phil Lawson gives the invocation at the Launch the Park ceremony.



Mayor Gayle McLaughlin gives opening remarks at “Launch the Park” citing the power of a united citizenry during the Home Front as an example of what can be done today to address challenges in Richmond, America and the world.



Katie Kaiser, granddaughter of Henry Kaiser, reenacts the launching of a ship at the “Launch the Park” ceremony.



Congressman George Miller , who authored and carried the legislation creating the national park, congratulates the City of Richmond for preserving the structures of Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park and recalls the impact that the events of the Home Front had on changing American life forever.



Food, music, booths, and cruises on historic ships enlivened the park next to Rosie the Riveter Memorial at Marina Bay Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30.



Sunday morning and afternoon, September 30, Rosies and other Home Front workers convened at the Ford Building Crane Way to tell stories and converse with author Emily Yellin.



Sunday morning and afternoon, September 30, Rosies and other Home Front workers pose for photographs at the Ford Building Crane Way.