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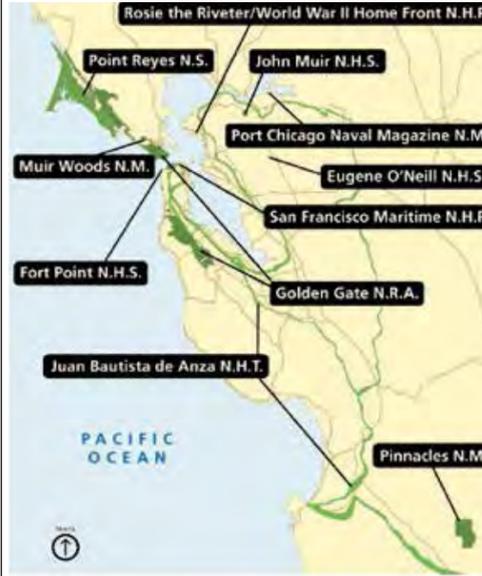
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Local Spots Celebrate National Parks' Centennial

By Sophie Braccini



Homefront National Historic Park. On Saturday, Aug. 13, the Richmond site will hold a "Rosie Rally" hoping for a turnout of 5,000 people dressed up as Rosie. Details are available at the <http://www.rosietheriveter.org/news-events/events>.



The other sites that are part of the urban area are the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial—the most recent addition to the NPS in 2009—and the John Muir National Historic Site that includes the home John Muir shared with his wife and daughters in Martinez, as well as Mt. Wanda, where Muir liked to take his daughters on nature walks. Mt. Wanda was purchased for preservation by the John Muir Land Trust in the 1990s. The trust is one of the many partners NPS works with to preserve and manage the sites.

Since the late 1800s and the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, this country has been preserving land and historical sites. It was on Aug. 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson created a unique federal administration to manage all the federally owned properties for the enjoyment of the people, the National Park Service. This year parks all over the country are celebrating the centennial. It is also an opportunity to rediscover the 11 national parks of the Bay Area.

Tom Leatherman is National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent at four National Park Service historic sites in the East Bay. He spoke at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on May 4 to kick off the local celebration.

Leatherman highlighted that the NPS not only manages large parks and wilderness areas, but also preserves and promotes sites that can bring history of this country alive. Right here in the Bay Area, the city of Richmond was chosen to be part of the Urban Park program – there are only 10 urban areas nationwide, aimed at connecting people to their parks every day, not only while they're on vacation.

The closest site to Lamorinda that is part of the Richmond urban park is Eugene O'Neill's home in Danville, Tao House, his last "home and harbor" as the Noble prize-winning playwright called it. The house that O'Neill and his wife left in 1944 has been completely restored and can be accessed through a shuttle departing from downtown Danville. Information is available at <https://www.nps.gov/euon/index.htm>.

Many have already visited the Rosie the Riveter

All these parks are part of the Centennial campaign "Every Kid In a Park" that gives every fourth-grader nationwide a card to access national parks with their family for a year. As Leatherman explained it, this year's celebration focuses on involving the next generation of park-goers. The superintendent added that the program started for this school year would continue with next year's fourth-graders.

California has more national sites than any other state. It includes national trails, preserves, memorials and historic landmarks. For the centennial, the NPS has produced "Find Your Park" brochures to engage the public. Leatherman said that many minorities do not always feel a connection with national parks; he hopes that the current campaign will show them how their ancestors were part of the development and the history of the Bay Area.

The three Lamorinda libraries are proposing youth and adult events as part of the centennial celebration: For adults on June 23, backpacking experts will share their experience in Yosemite in Lafayette; for youth, from April to August, the Lafayette library will display postcards sent by young patrons from any national park; on May 18, the Moraga library's Wild Child Book Club for upper elementary and middle school students will discuss books about children surviving in the wilderness; on June 20 the Lindsay Wildlife Museum will bring animals from Yosemite to the Lafayette library; and on July 12 children can bring their favorite stuffed animal to spend the night in the Lafayette library. (The stuffed animal gets to sleep over, not the child.) Details at ccclib.org.

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Happy Closets owner Rinata Garayeva believes organizing is therapeutic and fun, and she founded her company to help others organize their space. "Every time I help my friends and clients, I am amazed by how a few hours of organization can transform a space and spirit," Garayeva said on her website. "At Happy Closets we believe that a clear mind starts with a clear space. The company is designed to help you organize your home or office. I provide personalized solutions to help you create and maintain clean and functional spaces." Garayeva also helps individuals prepare their property for vacation and short-term rentals, noting, "From rearranging the furniture to adding personalized touches to taking beautiful pictures of the space, my services will raise the value of your listing."

Ali Babington Joins Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda
5 Moraga Way, Orinda
(925) 253-4600

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Ali Babington has affiliated with the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. In her new position, Babington will specialize in residential sales in Orinda. "Ali will be a great addition to our sales team, and I couldn't be more excited to have her join us," said Val Cook-Watkins, manager of the company's Orinda office. Babington earned her bachelor's degree in architecture and fine art in photography from the University of Oregon. She also studied abroad in Italy, where she specialized in Italian, art history, photography and regional Tuscan cooking. Prior to affiliating with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Babington worked at Ali Cat's Catering as owner and head chef. She actively volunteers for the Easy Bay Humane Society and Wild Care in Marin.

Ali Babington Photo provided

New Moraga Produce
576 Center St., Moraga, (925) 247-5071

Photo Sophie Braccini

New Moraga Produce opened the day of the Moraga Community Faire, on Saturday, May 14 at the Rheem Shopping Center, close to CVS. The store, which will have its formal grand opening on Saturday, May 21, will offer fresh organic and regular local produce at good prices, says the owner, who also owns stores in different locations throughout the Bay Area, from San Jose to Oakland. Hours: Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
A Ribbon Cutting /coffee celebration will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 26 for Oakbay Chiropractic-Lamorinda, located at 1080 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

Moraga
Chamber mixer at Saint Mary's new Sport Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 24. Saint Mary's College will be treating members to a tour of the new Sports Center at Fillipi Hall and will present their five-year plan.

Orinda
Ribbon cutting at Bay Sotheby's Realty from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at 3725 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Lafayette Chamber of Commerce members are also invited.

Ribbon cutting at Sutter Health Urgent Care from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23 at 12 Camino Encinas, Orinda. There will be music and appetizers. Tour of the new urgent care facility will be organized.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com