

THE MODERATOR

B R E A C T O R M U S E U M A S S O C I A T I O N

April—June

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Spring 2018

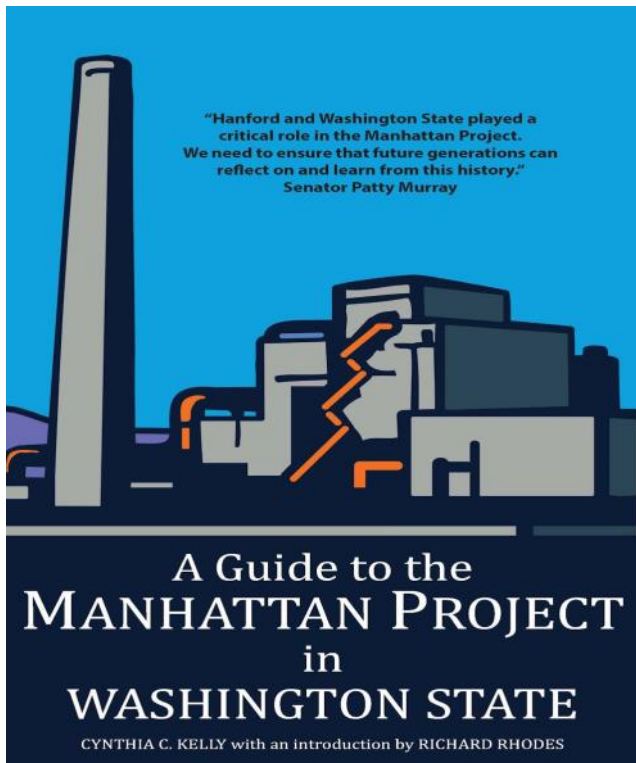
From The Control Room

by John Fox, BRMA President

Spring is here, sunny but a bit chilly, but it is still uncertain when the scheduled DOE tour season of the National Park sites will begin. Docents have been told not to expect tours in April, and that the number of pre-Manhattan Project tours will be reduced because of low attendance in 2017. In the meantime, Becky Burghart has asked docents to improve exhibits in two of the reactor building side rooms. These will explain the health physics program in the Manhattan era and the role of DuPont in managing the Hanford Works project. Up to now, an assortment of instruments and other items have been displayed without explanation of how they were used and their relevance to reactor operations.

BRMA has been busily engaged this winter in a joint effort with the Atomic Heritage Foundation to

update and expand their publication “A Guide to the Manhattan Project in Washington State”. This has been funded by grants from the Murdock Charitable Trust, City of Richland, and Warriner family. The booklet is expanded from 60 to 80 pages with new topics about Hanford and, of course, the National Park. BRMA and local partners submitted a substantial amount of text and number of photos as well as updates and corrections to some existing content. The booklet will be published in April and BRMA will sell it in the gift shop near the visitor center and perhaps elsewhere. BRMA members contributing to this effort include Maynard Plahuta, Robert Franklin, Ben Johnson, Ron Kathren and myself. Other local contributors were DOE, NPS, REACH, Port of Benton and Save the (Pasco NAS) Tower.



2018 BRMA Goals

- **Provide BRMA recommendations for priorities for park development and interpretation directly and through the Tri-Cities Park Committee to DOE, NPS, other Park sites, ECA, and elected officials**
- **Organize new Committees per Bylaws and get them functioning**
- **Provide updates, corrections and whole new sections for AHF Green Guide**
- **Assist in developing and installing DuPont exhibit in 105-B Bldg.**
- **Help make 105-B Wifi usable by visitors during 2018 tour season**
- **Add display about T Plant at 105-B or Logston**
- **Expand BRMA souvenir & document items and sales, including patches and new AHF Green Guide**
- **Produce BRMA history and accomplishments document**
- **Provide support to formation of a Friends of the Park Organization**

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland. The next meeting is Monday, April 9.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
By Robert Franklin

BRMA Facebook Instructions:

If you have a Facebook account

Either open your Facebook mobile app or point your web browser of choice to www.facebook.com. Once there, search for "B Reactor Museum Association" You may see TWO results, both called B Reactor Museum Association. Click on the one that has our logo as the profile photo. Once there, browse our photos and posts, and please "like" our page!

You can still view the webpage without a Facebook account, but your ability to interact with the page may be limited. To view the page go to <https://www.facebook.com/BReactor/>

Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, January through March , 2018.

Del Ballard~ Maureen Hamilton
 Dan Ostergaard

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell
Contributed by Connie Estep



Connie Estep again went to *The Villager* archives to obtain this Dupus cartoon, that was published after Donnell's 2 booklets came out. This ran February 16, 1950, apparently, just after the Spring Thaw when the snow was gone and only mud remained!

Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Committee

2018 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. Our 2018 Membership count is 46 people including another new Life Member. Anyone who has paid and not received their 2018 Membership Card yet

should receive it in a separate mailing. To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

2018 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (h): (____) _____ (cell): (____) _____
 E-mail: _____ (Please print legibly)

Renewal New
 Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 60+ - \$10) or Student (\$10) or Life Member (one time — \$250)
 Society/Group (\$25) Name of Voting Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____
 Note: both Dues and Cash Contributions are Tax Deductable. (Tax ID # 94-3142387)
 No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution
 If your total enclosed contribution is \$50 or less, print a copy of this application for your records. Over \$50 will be separately receipted.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Thank you; please mail this B Reactor Museum Association
 (Please make check out to BRMA) application with payment to: PO Box 1531
 Richland, WA 99352

BRMA In The Community

By Terry Andre

Rosalind Franklin School and Badger Mountain Elementary School

In February, BRMA volunteers joined other community agencies in science nights at both the Rosalind Franklin Elementary School in Pasco and the Badger Mountain Elementary School in Richland. In both schools BRMA shared a display area with the Manhattan Project National Park. Volunteers from both organizations spoke with parents about the importance of the park, the upcoming B Reactor tours,

and demonstrated shielding techniques using Cold War-era Geiger counters. We were impressed with the friendly, inquisitive, and engaging students. We also enjoyed speaking with the parents – many of whom did not realize the old “fastest finger” signup method of getting a spot on the B-Reactor tour was no longer the way to sign up.

Upcoming Events

BRMA, The Hanford History Project, and the Hanford Site Manhattan Project National Historic Park will have a booth at the upcoming Safety Connect. You may remember this event titled Hanford Safety Expo in previous years. This is a free event – come see our booth.

Volunteers Needed

Celebration of Science
John Day Plaza in Richland
Saturday April 21
11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

The “Celebration of Science” is a festival-style event to showcase the amazing contributions of science in the Mid-Columbia area to our everyday life. The festival is designed for all ages!

We are looking for BRMA members to interact with the public at our booth. The focus of our booth will be to emphasize the advances made in various scientific fields directly or indirectly related to the development of the B Reactor/Hanford area. Do you have a story to tell about the advancement of nuclear science, health physics, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, etc. that can be traced to the formation of the reactor or Hanford in general? If so, we invite you to be a part of our booth. Please contact Terry André at (509) 987-7630 for more details and to sign up.

For more information on the overall event see www.threeriversscience.org

A yellow poster for 'SAFETY 2018 CONNECT TRI-CITIES, WA'. It features a silhouette of a worker in a hard hat and safety vest against a background of scaffolding. The text on the poster includes: 'SAFETY 2018 CONNECT TRI-CITIES, WA', 'APR 17-18TH', '6600 BURDEN BLVD · TRAC CENTER · PASCO, WA 99301', '7AM TO 7PM', 'Admission is FREE!', and 'If you appreciate Science or Safety - we have an experience for you!'.

**SAFETY 2018
CONNECT**
TRI-CITIES, WA

APR 17-18TH
6600 BURDEN BLVD · TRAC CENTER · PASCO, WA 99301
7AM TO 7PM
Admission is FREE!

**If you appreciate Science or Safety
- we have an experience for you!**

From experiencing the dedication of our first responders, sharing the value of STEM in our community, to working with experts on health and work-life balance choices, this is an event you do not want to miss.

Whether you are a local business, part of the Hanford cleanup mission, a family or student interested in the importance of Science and value of Safety, this event is for you.



NEW! FROM OUR GIFT SHOPS

By Rick Bond, BRMA Store Manager

BRMA recently designed and produced a collectable patch for the B Reactor of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The patch has been encased in a clear plastic sleeve along with a card providing a brief history of the B Reactor and the BRMA mission statement (see picture). The patch can be purchased at the Whimzeez BRMA Gift Shop located near the B Reactor Headquarters of the Manhattan Historical National Park (2000 Logston Boulevard, Richland) and at the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center (Reach Museum) located at 1943 Columbia Park Trail in Richland. The MSRP is \$6.00 + tax.

A Nagasaki hibakusha (survivor) visits B Reactor

by John Fox

Mr. Mitsugi Moriguchi was 8 years old that fateful August day in 1945. His mother had taken him and two siblings to the outskirts of Nagasaki after a conventional bombing, but others in the family were scattered either closer or farther away. All initially survived the atom bomb explosion, but over the years, one by one, they became ill and died, apparently from radiation effects. He emerged fearful of radiation and, as a school teacher, became convinced that its creation by humans is unjustified. This led him to visit Hanford, where the plutonium in the Fat Man bomb was produced.

His visit was sponsored by the Hanford-Nagasaki Bridge Project, funded by the City of Nagasaki, Whitman College, and the Concern Over Radiation Effects nonprofit organization. It was arranged here by World Citizens for Peace, headed by Jim Stoffels (a founding BRMA member). Mr. Moriguchi was accompanied at the reactor on Friday morning, March 9, by Professor Emerita Norma Field (U. Chicago) and Associate Professor Yuki Miyamoto (DePaul U.). Local media, the *Seattle Times* and KCTS-TV representatives also attended. DOE opened the facility and provided bus transportation only. Robert Franklin and I were informed by DOE and NPS late Wednesday afternoon that we should serve as hosts and docents for the visit, since BRMA had volunteered to have some Board members attend.

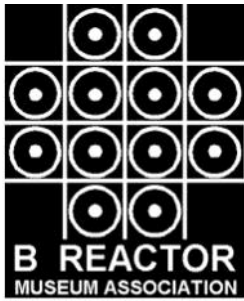
The visitors had spent two days at Whitman College before arriving in Richland, where they also visited Richland High School, the public library exhibit of the Nagasaki peace bell, and WSU-Tri-Cities, where they showed a film and answered questions. At the reactor, the three donned protective suits because of Mr. Moriguchi's sensitivity to radiation. He frequently consulted his meter, which measures micro-Sieverts. It typically read in a range from one to two. When asked how he interpreted that, he responded that he might slightly exceed the recommended annual dose limit if he stayed inside the building full time for a year. I told him we wouldn't keep him here that long, but didn't ask him what the readings were on the flight from Japan. He asked about the nuclear reactions which produce

plutonium. The BRMA full-scale model of a small section of the lattice structure was perfectly suited for explaining this. His focus remained on what he regards as the evil of making plutonium. When in the control room, I invited him to sit at the console if he wished. He hesitated, but chose to, then asked for his photo to be taken there.

The purpose of the visit here was reflection between representatives of opposing sides of a war which introduced the most powerful weapon yet invented, one which once was thought so bad it might even end warfare among humans. It was not to revisit the causes of that war and assess blame. I tried to keep it on a personal basis, comparing how differently it affected my life and his. In 1945, I would turn 18 in October. The U.S. was preparing to invade Japan, and I was apt to be drafted for that. Instead, in September I returned to start my second year of college. I have long felt that, except for the bomb, I might well have ended as just another body on a beach of Honshu. Each of us was spared in a different way. I think we understood each other's perspectives without loss of our convictions.



Mitsugi Moriguchi, a survivor of the Aug. 9, 1945, atomic bomb explosion over Nagasaki, Japan, sits at the B Reactor control console on March 9 of this year. It was his first visit to the reactor.



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info@b-reactor.org

Perspective On An Important Visit To B Reactor

by Robert Franklin

On Friday, March 9th I had the pleasure to be part of the team escorting Mr. Mitsugi Moriguchi to the B Reactor. Mr Moriguchi, a native of Nagasaki, Japan, is a *hibakusha*, or a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Mr. Moriguchi's visit was the goal of the Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project, an effort of Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE), a Washington State nonprofit organization working with the City of Nagasaki. Accompanying Mr. Moriguchi were two CORE board members: Yuki Miyamoto in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University, and Norma Field, professor emerita, University of Chicago.

Come the day of the tour, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park visitors' center was all abuzz with news media and the guests of honor. Shortly before the tour the three guests donned DuPont Tyvek suits and had boots, gloves, and masks.

John Fox had a lifetime of experience at Hanford, and also had a rapport with Dr. Field, who was staying with John and Kay Fox. Content to be a fly on the wall, I observed the guests learning about the reactor functions, laughing at some of the cartoon graffiti on the reactor wall, and noticed the frustration of the press that there were no grandiose efforts or poses by the guests. As John noted, Mr. Moriguchi

frequently consulted his radiation meter and appeared to be more interested in the fluctuations between readings in different rooms than in the overall dose itself. The most powerful and to me, important, moment of the tour was when John and Mitsugi shared how the bomb impacted them personally. It reinforced to me the idea that it is important to preserve places of some controversy such as B Reactor specifically and Hanford in general so that these conversations can be had.

Later that night there was a screening of the 2003 documentary *Hibakusha at the End of the World* at the WSU Tri-Cities auditorium. This event was well-attended with a rough estimate of 80 total attendees. According to the author, the film "draws together post-Gulf War Iraq, Hanford, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima." I was not overly impressed with it. After the video there was a presentation by Mr. Moriguchi about his experience, the experience of his family, and much of the city of Nagasaki, of the bombing on August 9, 1945, and the immediate aftermath. Following this was a short Q&A with Mr. Moriguchi where he took audience questions and comments. I thought the evenings events provided important perspectives and interactions between the many sides of this story. It was truly in the spirit of building a bridge between these two communities.