

# Seasons Greetings

## 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

January-March

Vol. 26, Issue 1

Winter 2020

### From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Seasons Greetings! By the time you read this we will be past the 12 days of Christmas and well into winter and I hope you all had a Happy Holidays! I can't believe it's already time to summarize another year but here we are. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) had the best tour season yet, a little over 15,000 visitors came to the B Reactor and the Pre-Manhattan sites from April-November. Our gift shop, expertly managed by Rick Bond and Debbie at Whimzees, also had our strongest year yet. Rick has some redesigning work he is taking care of during the off season so stay tuned for that in a later *Moderator*. In 2019 the BRMA partnered with the NPS in a couple projects. The first of which is what was known as the "T Plant Video" which morphed into *Hanford Made*, a 15-minute-long video available on YouTube and shown at the Los Alamos visitors center (and hopefully here in the future). BRMA provided technical and financial assistance to make the video possible. The second effort is currently underway and will debut next tour season, that being the Reflection Room at the B Reactor. BRMA is providing financial assistance for some of the fabrication work. One of the highlights of 2019 was the Atomic Frontier Day, which saw the BRMA participate in the parade and co-hosting a booth with the National Park Service at Howard Amon...I mean Riverside Park. The last issue of the *Moderator* featured that prominently, so I won't go into it too much here but it's a good reason to check out the back issues if you haven't already. The Atomic Frontier Day was one of many 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events this September and October.

In more somber news the BRMA lost a couple friends in 2019. The first loss was the reduction of the Atomic Heritage Foundation and the closing of their online store and staff (outside of President Cindy Kelly). As you may remember, the BRMA acquired a large amount of AHF merchandise in 2019 for a good price and thanks to our high sales we have gone quite a ways in balancing our cash flows, but it was a bittersweet deal as our good fortune was linked to the reduction

of AHF. I wish Cindy, Nate, and Alex all the best for 2020. The second loss was of longtime member Don Baker who passed away in the summer of 2019. I knew Don not only as a BRMA member but I had interviewed him as part of the Hanford Oral History Project, but in a more special vein I would see Don at Ganzel's Barber Shop every other Friday. You are missed at the BRMA meetings and at the barbershop Don.

Moving on to looking forward, I predict 2020 will be a very interesting year. We have a much more somber anniversary this year – the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the ending of WWII. After our celebration of the scientific and technical achievements of the B Reactor, and the local, state, and nationwide press they generated, I think eyes will be on how we remember the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. I for one look forward to tackling these momentous events. Our Board composition is largely the same but there are a few important changes. Bob Caracino has joined as Membership Chair. I personally want to thank Burt Pierard for doing dual roles as History/Archives AND Membership for the past few years (at least as long as I've been coming to meetings). John Fox is now VP and Ben Johnson has moved over to Interpretive Projects to take the seat that Gary Busselman vacated. Thank you, Gary, for your many years of service on the Board. Lastly, Del Ballard has agreed to be Treasurer for one more year but we have identified a replacement, Dave Marsh, who will be learning the ropes this year. It would be almost impossible to summarize the work Del has done for the BRMA so I'll just say that you can read my best effort later this year when I finish that 2019 goal that rolled over to 2020 – the official BRMA history. It's coming in 2020 no matter what.

There is some uncertainty in 2020, especially with the changing of the Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract to a new contractor, which of course means a new player vis-à-

(continued page 3)

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 PM,  
in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland.

The next meeting is Monday, January 13.

## Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, October through December, 2019.

Charles & Elaine Davis ~ Joe Escamillo  
Maureen Hamilton ~ Cindy Kelly  
Scott Kiff

In addition, Homewood Suites Richland sent us a Christmas Card saying that in lieu of a gift, they had made a donation on our behalf to Communities in Schools of Benton and Franklin Counties (CISBF).

## New Members

Joe Escamillo ~ Larry Haler  
Scott Kiff (LIFE) ~ Dave Marsh  
Dennis McLain ~ Byron Robertson  
George Strausser ~ Jerry White  
Martin Zizzi

## Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



O.K. MR. CLAUS — NOW LETS SEE WOTCHA GOT IN THE BAG —

*Ed. Note:* Local “Dupus History” fans should check out Connie’s class on page 5 of this issue.

## Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Committee

**2020 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.** 32 people (including 10 Life Members) & 2 Groups (Atomic Heritage Foundation & The REACH) took advantage of the Early Renewal Period for 2020.

We also signed up 8 new members & 1 renewed as a Life Member in those totals.

To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

### 2020 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)  
*(Individual Members Only)*  
 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make check out to BRMA)

Thank you; please mail this application with payment to:

**B Reactor Museum Association  
PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352**

## BRMA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2020

By John Fox, Nominating Committee Chair

At the December 9 meeting, Officers and Committee Chairs were elected according to our By-Laws. Past President John Fox presented a slate of nominees who had volunteered; there were no nominees from the floor. The uncontested nominees were approved by a unanimous vote.

### Officers are:

President..... Robert Franklin;  
 Vice President..... John Fox;  
 Treasurer..... Del Ballard;  
 Secretary..... Charles Davis.

### Committee Chairs are:

Govt. and Commun. Relations.....Maynard Plahuta;  
 Membership..... Bob Carosino;  
 Historian..... Burt Pierard;  
 Products and Sales..... Rick Bond;  
 Communications..... Jillian Gardner-Andrews;  
 Interpretive Projects..... Ben Johnson;  
 Past President..... John Fox.

Since Del Ballard anticipates retiring from the Treasurer position at some future time, Dave Marsh has agreed to be available to replace him, so will be invited to attend Board meetings. Robin Kovis will remain as a non-voting student liaison appointed by the President.

## CONTROL ROOM (continued from page 1)

vis the tours and reactor management. There is also some talk that the tours may be close to reaching capacity (not a terrible problem to have especially when the alternative is empty buses). Stay tuned to further meetings and issues of the *Moderator* to learn more.

Again, happy holidays and I hope you all are having a wonderful start to your new year!

## 2019 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

By Jillian Gardner-Andrews, Commun. Director

BRMA received 27 messages through our website ([www.b-reactor.org](http://www.b-reactor.org)) in 2019. There were a wide variety of questions and requests from people all over the United States and Internationally. The majority of the correspondence was related to questions about the Manhattan Project National Historical Park tour program which were answered or forwarded to the MAPR staff members. Other messages included research requests from students, questions/ correspondence for individual BRMA members, requests from organizations putting on exhibits about Hanford or the Manhattan Project and interview requests from newspapers and podcasts.

We received a message from a worker at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina who was interested in learning more about how B Reactor was preserved and became a historical interpretation site. There is hope to do something similar with one of the reactors at Savannah River. BRMA serves as a wonderful example for historic preservation advocates.

We also received a request for support for an exhibit about Hanford to be held at the Spokane Public Library. This message included questions about the Hanford Site and Manhattan Project and requests for photographs and artifacts for the exhibit. BRMA supplied interpretive panels from the former CREHST Museum to the library and the Hanford History Project facilitated photograph usage and loans of a few artifacts and archival materials. The exhibit ran through the month of November and featured weekly talks about the Hanford Site and the legacies of the Manhattan Project and was very well received.

It has been a wonderful year serving as BRMA's Communications Chair. I am very happy about the variety of interests shown in our cause and look forward to even more attention to the B Reactor Museum Association in 2020. I hope we can continue to grow interest in the Manhattan Project and the Hanford Site through our website and remain active supporters of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

## DICK GROVES VISITS IN NOVEMBER

By: John Fox, BRMA VP

Dick Groves, grandson of General Leslie Groves, visited Richland again briefly in November. He is researching Manhattan Project history in preparation to develop a documentary series. Last year, BRMA and Hanford History Project members guided him on a tour of B Reactor and pre-war sites included in the National Park. This year, BRMA worked with Colleen French of DOE to arrange for Dick to visit T Plant, the first chemical processing plant to recover plutonium for the Trinity bomb test in July 1945. The tour passed through both 200-W and 200-E Areas containing the four other processing plants, waste storage tank farms, Vitrification Plant and other facilities under construction, and various ancillary facilities. DOE provided an escort for Dick and BRMA members Maynard Plahuta, Ben Johnson and John Fox. T Plant processing cells are now used to store contaminated sludge from the KW reactor storage basin until permanently disposed of. T is intended to be included in the Historical National Park when no longer in use for cleanup activities.

Dick spoke at the November 12 BRMA meeting, providing his perspective on the history of the making of the bomb, starting with the December 1938 discovery of uranium fission. He began his talk by noting that he would prefer to be known as General Groves' last secretary, as Dick, then 16, was working as Leslie's typist at the time of his death.

Dick outlined factors necessary to build the bomb, and discussed some of the individuals (Bush, Sengier, Somervell, et al) who assembled the resources and know-how. Dick currently foresees a six-episode series, covering the history's three "acts" – discovery and warning in 1939; research, feasibility analysis, and decision-making from 1939-1942, and execution (the Manhattan Project) from 1942-1945. He intends to ensure that the fuel production story at Hanford and Oak Ridge is properly covered, and that the builders, chemists, industrial engineers, and project managers get the credit they deserve.

Dick also described his August visit to the Chernobyl area near the 1986 explosion of Chernobyl power reactor No. 4. Daily eight hour tours from Kiev go to the powerplant's nearby abandoned town of Pripjat, where you can glimpse the newly installed cover over the shattered reactor building, stroll through the ghost town and get a reading of your very low radiation exposure. A few PNNL staff members worked on design and installation of the new cover. Chernobyl has become Ukraine's top tourist attraction on account of the HBO miniseries. Chernobyl reportedly drew 150,000 visitors in 2019..

Dick was also able to attend the Visit Tri-Cities annual luncheon and performance reviewing its annual achievements. At our table were Becky Burghart of NPS, Maynard and Yvonne Plahuta and John Fox, BRMA, Robert Franklin and Jillian Gardner-Andrews of BRMA and HHP, and Michael Mays of HHP. Richard met later with Becky and Mike while here. Dick expects to visit us again next spring.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019

Del Ballard, Treasurer

### SUMMARY

Although not indicated by the "bottom line" BRMA's financial results for the year were quite positive. Cash inflow was \$21,955 and our outflow was \$26,300, resulting in a negative \$4,345 for the year.

This result was due to a large purchase of souvenir inventory from the Atomic Heritage Foundation when that group closed out their gift shop. Total cost of purchased souvenirs was \$24,468. Again this year souvenir sales were our major source of income; BRMA's portion of revenue from those sales was \$19,293 in 2019, compared to \$10,066 in 2018. BRMA's net profit from sales was about \$7,200 through November and was approximately twice the profit for the previous year.

Total revenue from dues and donations was \$1,890. This included two new Life Memberships at \$250 each. Investment income amounted to \$772, not including yet unavailable year end dividends. Miscellaneous expenses amounted to \$1,832.

See Total 2019 Cash Flow Breakout below.

### INFLOWS

Donations	715.00
Dues	675.00
Investment Inc	771.83
Life Member Dues	500.00
New CD	0.00
Souvenir Sales	
Kadlec Aux. Gift Shop	310.20
Souvenirs Indian Eyes	79.00
Souvenirs Octopus gardens	674.70
Souvenirs The Reach	800.50
Souvenirs Visit Tri-Cities	51.10
Souvenirs Whimzeez	17,377.95
<b>TOTAL Souvenir Sales</b>	<b>19,293.45</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>21,955.28</b>

### OUTFLOWS

Box Rent	134.00
BRMA Souvenir Purchases	24,467.76
Dues and Subscriptions	185.00
Gifts Given	50.00
Greenewaldt Diary	482.81
Legal-Prof Fees	10.00
Misc	646.35
Postage and Delivery	61.00
Printing and Reproduction	174.63
Rent	88.00
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>26,299.55</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL -4,344.27**

## From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

Now that the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) 2019 tour season has end, it is a good time to reflect on what's been happening with our B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA) gift shop, Whimzeez, this past year. I am proud to report that we did almost \$20,000 in sales in 2019. That is almost double our 2018 sales! This great success is due to a number of factors. For one, we have an ever increasing number of visitors to our national park (over 15,000) and this translates to more potential shoppers. We also have a lot more products and a much more diverse range of products in the gift shop for people to choose from. Another major factor in our success is that the visitor's center staff at Logston, as well as our tour docents, are doing a wonderful job of making our tour guests aware of the gift shop. As we all know, our gift shop is not located in the national park visitor's center but is located a few doors down at Whimzeez. Unfortunately, this can make it difficult for our visitors to find it. Without the staff and docents advertising it, many visitors are not aware that we have a gift shop. A big thank you to all of them for getting the word out and promoting the gift shop! Along this line, it is important to remind our visitors that all proceeds from the gift shop go back to our local unit, the Hanford unit, of MAPR to support a whole variety of projects, activities, and educational programs. Last but by no means least, so much of our success is due to the efforts of Debbie Burnet who owns and operates Whimzeez and manages our BRMA gift shop. Debbie's dedication to being there six days a week, as well as on holiday weekends, is beyond the call. She not only is our sales person but she keeps track of our sales and inventory, helps with decisions on what and how much to order, and stores much of our inventory. We can't thank her enough.

Besides the gift shop at Whimzeez, we continue to offer some of our items for sale at The Reach Museum, Visit Tri-Cities (VTC), The Octopus Garden, and the Kadlec Hospital gift shop. All of the staff at these locations are great to work with and have been very supportive of our national park and BRMA. We can't thank them enough for their generous support.

BRMA has been talking with the Pasco Airport and the

American Empress cruise ship line regarding the possibility of selling some of our items in their gift shops. Hopefully this will become a reality starting next tour season.

Also this past year, we have been assisting Debbie Burnet in talking with The Port of Benton, the owners of the building where our visitor's center and Whimzeez gift shop are located, to get better signage outside the building so visitors realize that we have a gift shop and are better able to locate it. Thanks to the Port for making this happen, hopefully very soon now.

Our plan for the gift shop in the off season is to upgrade our display in Whimzeez. We are working with Debbie to rearrange the gift shop so that all of our MAPR related items are displayed in one location. We purchased several matching tables and shelves to display our items on and we are having a large sign made to clearly identify our MAPR portion of the Whimzeez gift shop. A good friend of mine, Jan Jones (retired senior executive with Macy's) is helping us with our layout and display.

We are working on developing a "logo" for our Hanford Unit of MAPR. The current thoughts are to have a big "B" with the atoms flying around it or an image of the B Reactor with the atoms flying around it. The big "B" would be a glow -in-the-dark greenish-blue color. We plan to use the logo on a whole line of products that we would sell in the gift shop - hats, T-shirts, patches, pins, badges, stickers, postcards, mugs, shot glasses, tumbler glasses, key chains, Christmas ornaments, water bottles, etc. We're hoping to come up with a design that really catches the eye and will stand out when displayed on the line of products.

Don't forget that the gift shop is open in the off season and Debbie would love to have visitors, and make a few sales. While it's a little late for Christmas presents, many of our books and other items would make great birthday present or gifts for other occasions. Please stop by the gift shop located at 2000 Logston Boulevard, just a few doors down from the visitor's center, and say hello.

### KENNEWICK COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS #706S20

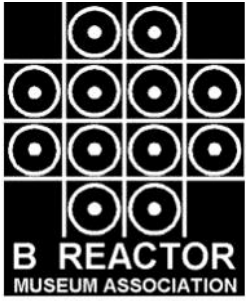
"DUPUS BOOMER BRINGS COMIC RELIEF"

With Connie Estep

Peak through a prefab window at life in the 1940s and discover Dupus Boomer. Dupus has been called the Dilbert of the time. Then, as now, life reflected through comics uncovered many truths. Dupus was the main attraction; people read the weekly *Villager* newspaper to see what he was up to. He often irreverently poked fun at living conditions endured by the atomic pioneers in Richland.

Thursday Feb 27, 2020 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Kamiakin High School RM 440 \$12 Fee

Register at: [CommunityEd@ksd.org](mailto:CommunityEd@ksd.org)  
(509) 222-5080 • 1000 W. 4th Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336



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