

Early 2021 Dues Renewal Open

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

October-December

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Fall 2020

From The Control Room

by **BRMA President Robert Franklin**

Everything is different and off this fall. Most of us are siloed in our homes and bubbles, many working or communicating online. BRMA is no different this year. Sadly, there was no 2020 tour season. This is regrettable on several fronts, but what I personally miss the most is the connections that I make with visitors to our Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR). Sharing the history of the Hanford site and reading the room as they enter the B Reactor and step back in time is really something else. I hope we can get back to that soon.

I'll be honest with you, there really are bit many updates to give you. The BRMA board has continued to meet, dealing with the issues (usually small) that crop up, but with the tours closed and the ever-present threat of global pandemic over our lives I think we've all had to reprioritize. For myself, as a working parent (working in education none the less), my priorities have shifted to caring for my family and spending lots of time with them, for caring and educating my students at WSU and CBC as they navigate a strange semester into an uncertain future, and caring for myself as best I can. I hope you are all caring for your loved ones and yourselves as well. And be careful – my family ended up getting COVID-19 at the end of July. Luckily it was completely asymptomatic and we were able to test before we had the chance to spread too far but this is a new and opportunistic disease – had we not been tested we would have never known we were sick.

There are two things worth mentioning before I sign off. The first is that the NPS had a major social

media engagement for the 75th anniversary, publishing posts on important historical events from Trinity to the surrender of Japan (July-Sept). I along with a couple of other BRMA members helped with this effort, writing informative and engaging social media posts for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Turns out trying to give succinct coverage of a historical event in 240 characters or less is really challenging! I am glad we participated because it helped to grow the reach of MAPR – in total the posts got reactions or positive engagement from almost 250,000 people from all around the world. Compare that with the average number of visitors to all three sites, 60,000 per season, and you can see the potential. Now I am not saying that a tweet or Instagram post replaces the B Reactor tour, but we can help grow the audience and interest for our history. I really enjoyed writing posts on the Potsdam Declaration, Japan Rejecting the Potsdam Declaration, the Soviet Invasion of Manchuria, and other historical moments that interest me. Presence and engagement on the social media and internet sphere are crucial, now more than ever, and I think a future for BRMA needs to include more online engagement and resources on our website. We have members that could give interesting talks that, if done on the internet, could draw a diverse crowd. Just an idea.

The last thing is a somewhat sad one (to add to your 2020 troubles). The BRMA gift shop is folding up in January as Debbie, who runs Archer Analytical and Whimzees in the Logston building,

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

Our meetings are presently cancelled due to COV-19 social distancing.

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

Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, July through September, 2020.

Clay Perkins

New Member

Richard Raymond (missed from Feb.)



Ed. Note: From Connie – “This is the closest I could come for the current situation. The last six months have been so strange it makes one wonder how far we are from the U.S.!”

**Membership Report
By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair**

Our final 2020 membership count was 56 individual members (10 new for the year), and 3 groups (Atomic Heritage Foundation, The Reach, and Hanford History Project). Our Life Membership count is at 11 (2 members switched).

AS OF OCTOBER 1, THE EARLY 2021 RENEWAL PERIOD IS OPEN (any dues we receive after that date will be credited to CY2021). To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Print and/or Clip and Send In.

2021 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**

BOOK REVIEW

“The Apocalypse Factory”, a new book by Seattle author Scott Olson By: John Fox, VP BRMA

This new book features Hanford, the massive plant producing plutonium for most nuclear weapons, while other books about the WWII Manhattan Project focus on Oak Ridge and Los Alamos, but barely mention Hanford. Olson, on the other hand, presents a broad overview of our nuclear era, from the discovery of fission to the issues we face now and in the future. He places plutonium at the core of these, rather than enriched uranium, which is used for generating electricity and propelling naval vessels, but not weapons, waste, and radiation.

Not highly technical, the book describes key discoveries and problems encountered without delving into obscure details and solutions. It gives the general reader a “feel” for things: insight into the roles of various personalities (scientists, engineers, politicians, military, displaced people, workers) leading up to the decision to proceed with the wartime project, succeed at that, and react to its consequences. It tells of seizing barren land here in remote Washington,

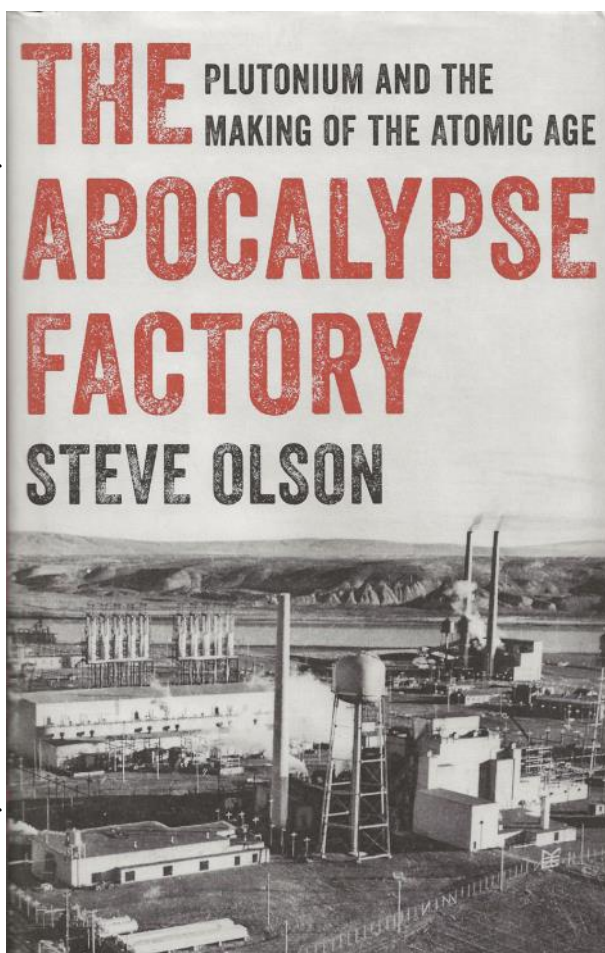
designing and building nuclear “piles” and huge chemical plants not certain to work and be safe. It describes isolated lives of people then drawn here from throughout the nation and how the area has evolved until now. Hanford’s post-production era, industrial diversification efforts, waste cleanup, and contention over radiation exposure are mentioned.

The proposal to strip and “cocoon” all reactor buildings drew quick rally to preserve the first, B Reactor, as a historic monument. The book clearly describes formation of B Reactor Museum Association and its determined effort over a couple of decades to accomplish this politically by eventual joint action with Los Alamos and Oak Ridge to obtain the Manhattan Project National Park.

The August 9, 1945 bombing mission and example of its consequences are described in this book. In later years, contacts between people in Richland and Nagasaki led to some interchange and annual

ceremonies.

This book may be purchased at his website: steveolson.com, also at Amazon, perhaps elsewhere.

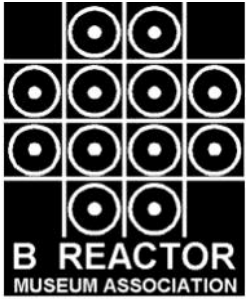


FROM THE CONTROL ROOM

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is retiring this year. Have no fear – we are talking with the various partners involved at Logston and are working on securing a physical space, and maybe even a better one. I cannot share more details than that at this time, but we are on it.

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