

Happy Holidays

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. 28, Issue 1

Winter 2022

From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Happy Holidays from BRMA! As I reflect on going into year three of the pandemic and finishing our first full year of COVID, I'm struck with how much we have all struggled and how we are also keeping it all together the best that we can. We've all long adjusted to the "new normal" and (hopefully) made peace with the situation we are in. For myself, the past year has meant focusing more time on my family and caring for those around me, in addition to trying my best to be a more empathetic and supportive teacher. It also has meant that I, probably like many others, spent a bit of time disconnecting from some aspects of my life to redirect the finite amount of focus and care that I have. Over the past two years it has become easier to forget about commitments outside the home as social obligations just melted away. I feel the need to come clean that BRMA was not always foremost on my mind like it had been pre-COVID. In the face of family and work commitments during the past two years I placed it low on a list of priorities, to the point where we didn't even meet the first 6 months or so in 2020. I say all this because this august organization deserves better from someone asked to yet again be president.

The new year is a time for recommitment, and it's here that I publicly recommit to leading BRMA into being more active in 2022. We face some serious struggles with the total shutdown of tours, and with it our gift shop. The Omicron variant (and variants yet to come) make the 2022 tour season look non-existent from my perspective. But that doesn't matter as the gift shop and tours are only a small part of what BRMA can do. BRMA should and will spend 2022 finding out how it can be more engaged with the dual agencies that manage our park, and how we can work with other communities to tell a larger Hanford and Manhattan Project story. Enough with the rearview mirror, we know what is behind us and it is time to move forward. Into what specifically is hard to say at this moment, but we are starting those conversations with partners in January and I deeply hope they bear fruit.

On to more specific items, for the future BRMA will continue to meet virtually. With the continued uncertainty we feel it is best to be both safe and consistent. I do hope you will

be able to make our January monthly meeting where we will discuss our 2022 goals. In this issue you will also find great updates by the indefatigable head of products/sales Rick Bond, and the tireless NPS Ranger Becky Burghart.

Lastly, I've made this column enough about me but I hope you'll indulge me in just one more tidbit. On 12/22/21 our family welcomed our daughter Roisin Rebel Franklin (pronounced ro-sheen, which is Irish Gaelic for "little rose") into the world. At 8lbs and 6oz she was born happy and healthy, with a full head of hair to boot. We've certainly got our hands full here, but I couldn't imagine a better reason to hibernate during the winter break than with a small, cuddly, baby.

Again, wishing you and yours the best holidays and a happy new year!

Robert Franklin



Roisin Rebel Franklin Born December 22, 2021

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 PM.
Until further notice, we will be meeting by Zoom.
Our next meeting will be Zoomed on Jan. 10

Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, October through December, 2021.

Marilyn Allen ~ Sandra Allen.
Charles & Elaine Davis
Larry Haler ~ Cindy Kelly
Bob Leyse ~ Byon Robertson
Neil Zimmerman

New Members

During 2021 we welcomed 4 new members :
Marilyn Allen ~ Sandra Allen
Ron Kwis ~ Bob Leyse
and 4 members switched to Life Members
Bob Carosino ~ Clay Perkins
Rick Raymond ~ Roger Reynolds

Membership Report

By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair

2022 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. 42 people (including the 13 individual Life-time Members) & 1 Group (The REACH) took advantage of the Early Renewal Period for 2022. If you have not yet submitted your membership dues

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



for 2022, the information to do so is provided below.

To send in your renewal, the Form is below to: Hard Copy-- Clip and send in; E-Copy--Print, Clip and Send In.

2022 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**

From The NPS— Ranger Updates

by **Becky Burghart, MPHA Hanford Site Manager**

The winter solstice and the official start of winter was just a few days ago. The march toward longer days has begun as has the snow and fun winter activities like snowshoeing. Over the last quarter, I hired Brittany Burnett as the Visual Information Specialist (VIS) for Los Alamos. Now the VIS team is rebuilt from several staff changes this year, and they continue to develop quality content for the park. They recently finished up a major overhaul of the Plan Your Visit section of the website (<https://www.nps.gov/mapr/planyourvisit/index.htm>). That section offers a lot of visual appeal and clear navigation to help visitors plan their visit to the park. As we updated the website text, we were very deliberate in sharing various ways visitors can have a park experience within each of our communities. Each of the park communities (i.e., Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Tri-Cities) have many places that help tell the social history of the Manhattan Project. With the app, we crafted a community-based park experience that is available for visitors to enjoy all year at any time of the day. We continue to develop content for the app including more self-guided tours and trip plans. In 2022, the VIS Team will begin to revise the Learn About the Park section of the website.

Park Superintendent Kris Kirby visited the Tri-Cities for the first time since before COVID-19. It was great to see her in person again and visit with several community partners. Although COVID-19 is an ever-changing challenge, park staff are committed to providing visitor services both digitally and in-person. Starting in the spring, we will partner with Richland Parks and Recreation again to offer Popup Play Days and other family-friendly programming. We also look forward to partnering with the REACH Museum in 2022 on a variety of education and interpretation programs. I am in the process of hiring the new education technician for Hanford. I anticipate that person will start in mid-February if all goes well with the hiring process. Once that person is on-board, we will be able to fully plan our summer and fall programs.

One thing that we've learned over the past two year is pandemic or not, we are going to move forward and find creative ways to share the Manhattan Project story in our communities and around the world. Next year brings much excitement, and some worry, as we enter year three of the COVID-19 pandemic with an amazing and creative team dedicated to sharing all aspects of the Manhattan Project history. Cheers! Becky.

BRMA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2022

By **John Fox, Nominating Committee Chair**

At the December 13, 2021 Zoom Membership Meeting, Officers and Committee Chairs were elected according to our By-Laws. Past President John Fox presented a slate of nominees who had volunteered and 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..... Dave Marsh;
 Secretary..... Charles Davis.

Committee Chairs are:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

By **Dave Marsh, BRMA Treasurer**

INCOME

2021 & 2022 Dues	550.00
Life Membership Dues	750.00
Donations	956.00
Investment Income	669.25
Souvenir Sales	2,817.40
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,742.65

EXPENSES

BRMA Store Expenses	751.52
BRMA Domain Name Listing/Annual Fee	608.00
Miscellaneous	107.16
PO BOX Annual Rental	188.00
<i>Moderator</i> Printing	70.86
Souvenir Storage-Atomik Properties	195.00
Tax Filing Fee	10.00
Visit Tri-Cities Annual Membership	185.00
Web Hosting Costs	269.12
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,384.66

OVERALL TOTAL **\$3,357.99**

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BUCKINGHAM

By Terri Andre, BRMA Member

Many of you knew John Stevens Buckingham as "Steve" Buckingham. He passed away November 20, 2021 at the age of 97. He died peacefully at home.

Steve was a chemist who came to the Hanford site in 1947. He was a long-time BRMA member and supporter. He faithfully attended the BRMA meetings, always wore his BRMA ball cap, and took part in out-reach programs promoting BRMA memberships. Over the years he became an enthusiastic supporter of the preservation of Hanford history, promoter of science education, and community volunteer. Besides BRMA, Steve was involved in The Hanford Science Center, The CREHST Museum, was a member of the advisory committee to the Kennewick Community Education Program, a Sunday school teacher, volunteer for the Grace Clinic, and a former water aerobics instructor. He remained an avid water aerobics participant well into his 90s.

Steve was one of the original B Reactor tour guides. He was always willing to share stories about his time at Hanford and was an advocate of keeping the Hanford story available to all - from researchers and authors to students and their parents. He extended that enthusiasm to promoting science

education as well. One of his more memorable projects was working with the CREHST Museum in a program designed to teach the scientific method. Steve played the part of Aristotle as one of the Three Dead Guys and played the part of Roosevelt in the CREHST version of Night at the Museum. See **Picture 1**. He also demonstrated the use of a Geiger Counter in science fairs and exhibitions both for the CREHST Museum and for BRMA. See **Picture 2**.

More of Steve's story can be found on the Hanford History Project at <http://hanfordhistory.com/items/show/11> and on the Voices of the Manhattan Project website

<https://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/oral-histories/steve-buckinghams-interview>

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Steve on Jan. 15, 2022 at 3:00 PM at the West Highlands United Methodist Church, 17 S. Union St. in Kennewick. The family is hoping to have an on-line option for those who cannot attend in person. Here is the link to Steve's obituary and Tribute Wall. Please feel free to share on the wall.

<https://www.hillcrestfunerals.com/obituaries/John-Stevens-Buckingham?obId=23392834#/celebrationWall>



Picture 1. Steve as "Roosevelt",



Picture 2. Steve at a School Science Fair.

THE CO-ORDINATE CLUB (The Formative Years 1943-1946) By Burt Pierard, BRMA Historian

During the spring of 1943, a group of Hanford Engineering Works civilian engineers, realizing the need for more recreational and social activities at the project, formed a social club among their fellow workers which was to become an outstanding organization within a few short months. It was rumored, but not documented, that the group was motivated by the Army Corps of Engineers building a clubhouse for their employees called The Castle Club.

First activity of the group was a picnic, held in June 1943 at a picnic ground near the Military Police Barracks in an area known as North Richland. It was later to be recognized as the First Annual Picnic.

It was not, however, until the fall of that year that the real organization began to take form. An official meeting was held on September 29, 1943, attended by 13 individuals who were all construction engineers or employees of the Project Engineering Office, located in the old Richland Grade School building, which was being remodeled, expanded and eventually reopened as Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

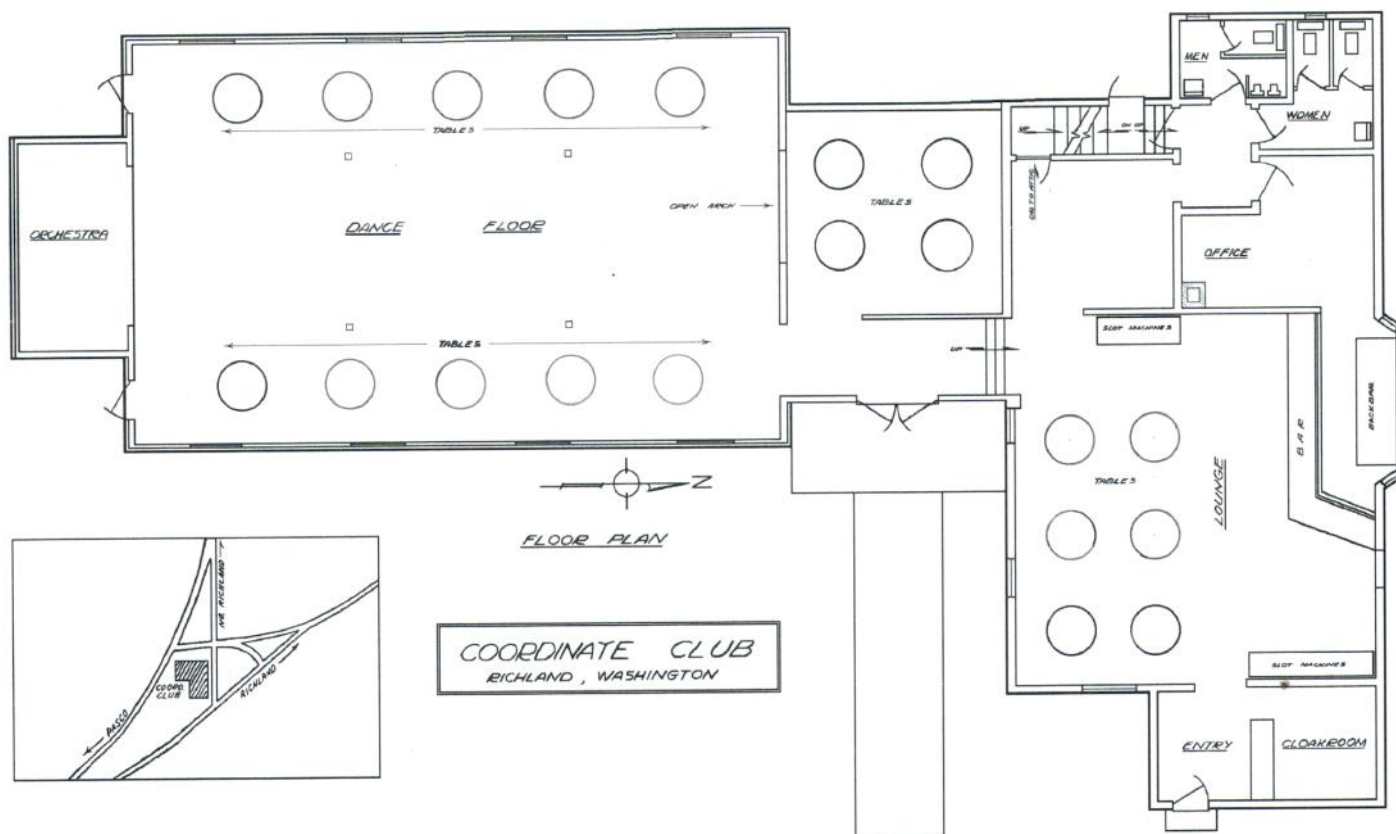
At this meeting, temporary officers were elected,

committees formed to draw up the constitution and by-laws, and a membership committee appointed.

The next scheduled meeting was held on October 13, 1943, at which time the constitution and by-laws were presented and accepted by the club. Principle provisions of the by-laws established twice-monthly business meetings, six-month terms for officers and limited membership to adult male residents of Richland Village. The elections were to be held in January and July each year. Jim Bowman, president, and other officers were elected to serve until the first official election to be held at the second meeting in January 1944. In addition, a name was chosen for the club at this meeting. Twelve names were suggested and out of the lot, the CO-ORDINATE CLUB was selected for its significance to the work of the club members, all being construction engineers and accustomed to working with maps and blueprints. The name was chosen above the others, for as the sectional lines on a map or prints so designate definite points or co-ordinates, so should the hearts of the members co-ordinate to provide definite good-fellowship.

The first official function of the club was a

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Picture 1. Architects drawing of the Club layout.

CO-ORDINATE CLUB

(continued from Page 5)

Halloween Party and Dance held on Saturday, October 30, 1943, in the newly constructed Lewis and Clark school gymnasium. After that time, the club conducted dances and parties regularly, as well as other group activities like the annual picnic, which also became known as the Club Birthday Celebration.

Meetings and other activities of the club were held at various schools in Richland for nearly one year, when at a meeting on October 17, 1944, it was recognized that since the plans were to make the club a permanent organization, consideration should be given to a permanent clubhouse. This would be a place where meetings could be conducted and if possible, to house all activities of the club. A committee was formed with then president, Donald J. Graham, Jr. as chairman, to investigate the possibilities of securing a permanent home.

The committee found a vacant farmhouse (called a tract house) located at the intersection of Thayer Drive and George Washington Way, on the southern outskirts of Richland. *(Ed. Note: this address is not a mistake. In the original layout of Richland Village, Thayer Drive extended south of town and then curved East to intersect with George Washington Way. See the inset map on **Picture 1**).* The house had been included in the government condemnation of land for the Hanford Project. Around the first of March 1945, the committee negotiated a lease with the duPont Housing Office for the very affordable sum of \$31.00 a month. Then the house was quickly remodeled in a Western Motif, utilizing the volunteer labor of the membership, and the club was open for operation.

On March 6, 1945, the first club business meeting was held in the new facility at which, an open house walk through tour was held for the members. Unfortunately, Don Graham, although present to witness the birth of the clubhouse, was forced to resign as president since he was being transferred back east. A special election was held at that meeting and W. O. Patmor was elected president. Patmor immediately appointed a Building Committee, headed by L. J. Pearson and Harry R. Hughes to continue the work started by Graham. The membership had realized from the beginning that although the tract house was adequate for club meetings and small social functions, it fell far short of their dream for a facility to house most all the club activities.

On March 27, 1945, the first social function was

held at the clubhouse when members hosted their wives for a party and tour of the new facility. For musical entertainment, one of the members brought in a phonograph (a prized possession due to wartime rationing) and one 78 RPM record titled "Rum and Coca-Cola." This record was played over and over for all social activities until the later clubhouse remodeling permitted live musical entertainment.

One of the club members, H. F. Peterson, prepared architect's drawings to build an addition to the house that would provide a 38 by 50-foot dance floor with a bandstand and room for tables around the dance floor. **See Picture 1.** Construction was again by volunteer labor and started in May 1945. The government contributed all the materials necessary for the new structure since it recognized this mushrooming organization (about 300 members by this time) as worthy of their support in their desire to improve the quality of life in the Richland Village. **See Picture 2.**

The flurry of construction going on did not keep the members from taking a break to hold the Third Annual Picnic on May 27, 1945, again at the picnic grounds by the Military Police barracks and attended by the largest group ever, over 150 members and guests.

The major milestone of the clubhouse construction occurred on Sunday, June 10, 1945 when Quonset hut sections were installed on the three sides and across the top of the annex. The occasion was a festive one as all members and their families were invited and the club provided a fried chicken dinner for all participants. **See Picture 3.**

As construction of the annex was progressing at a rapid rate, other activities were initiated to further formalize and legitimize the club. Probably the most important was the preparation and adoption of Articles of Incorporation. The adopted Articles, as a non-profit corporation, were filed with Benton County

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Picture 2. Early Annex construction/

CO-ORDINATE CLUB

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Picture 3. Raising of the Hutment sections.

on June 22, 1945. In addition to President W. O. Patmor, Trustees for the Incorporation were J. J. Wilson, Max Yates, F. K. Wilson and Jack Pierard.

In July of that year, application was made to the Washington State Liquor Control Board to obtain an annual renewable Class D License to sell beer by opened bottle at the club. Prior to this action, the club had been required to obtain special one-day licenses to sell beer at their functions. Little did that group of casual, fun-loving guys realize at the time, but that association with the Liquor Control Board would lead to untold grief and frustration, ultimately contributing to the demise of the club in 1952, but that is another story.

Also in July 1945, construction of the clubhouse annex was completed. All interior decoration had been under the direction of Rex Vaught, a Construction Painting Engineer. The final product was described in *The Villager* newspaper on July 12, 1945, the day before the Gala Grand Opening: "The new clubhouse, opening tomorrow (Friday) is complete in every detail with a spacious club lounge, modern bar, fully equipped kitchen, and a large annex with a dance floor where the club functions may be held. A beautifully decorated lobby connects the ballroom to the club lounge. Main entry is through the cloakroom. A direct outside entrance is also afforded to the ballroom, which leads into the lobby. Its interior is artistically done with in-direct, variable lights in the dome, a modern lighted band stand and tables ringing the edge of the dance floor, each table having its own individual light. Air conditioning equipment keeps the annex and club lounge at comfortable temperatures the year around."

The honored guests that attended the Grand Opening of the clubhouse on July 13, 1945 under scored the importance of the Co-Ordinate Club to the

Richland Village. The most notable was Col. and Mrs. Franklin T. Mathias, Commanding Officer of the Hanford Project and his wife. Other honorees were: Major H. D. Riley, Chief of Engineering for the Corps of Engineers, and his wife; Mr. E. G. Stanfield of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Rodney Cox of Kiwanis; Mr. L. W. Warnke, president of the Castle Club; and Mr. H. Hayden Rector, president of Villagers, Inc. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Buddy Langdon and dancing was to the music of Ray Williams and his orchestra. The Grand Opening was hailed the following week in *The Villager*, July 19, 1945, as "One of the gayest dates to be remembered in the social calendar of Richland..." The Opening party was also the basis for one of the most enduring anecdotes for the next five years. Paul Nissen, Editor and Manager of *The Villager*, attended the party with a camera and announced that he was covering the event for the newspaper. Suspiciously, no pictures appeared in the paper. Thereafter, Nissen appeared at almost all social occasions and demanded free entrance to cover the event (with his camera, of course). Pictures never appeared and the rumor around the club was that there was no film in his camera. Since Nissen was a likable person and the members enjoyed his presence, the members looked the other way and never said a word.

Now that the clubhouse was functional, newly elected president, Harry R. Hughes, embarked on an ambitious social program to utilize the new facility. In addition to special events and activities, the principal social use would be weekly Saturday night dances with various local bands and orchestras providing the entertainment. To publicize the social schedule and other club news, a weekly newsletter, the Co-Ordinate Club Bugle, was established with Jack Pierard as Editor, Chuck Buchanan Assistant Editor, and Orville Walden Publisher.

Ironically, the first major Special Event did not occur at the clubhouse at all, except as a starting point. That was the First Annual Roundup on October 13, 1945.

The members and guests gathered at the clubhouse to mount personal horses and horse-drawn haywagons for a parade through downtown Richland Village and on out west of town to the Roundup grounds near the Yakima River. **See Picture 4.**

Volunteers had outfitted the grounds with a giant barbecue pit and a large wooden platform for dancing. Approximately 700 people attended the

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CO-ORDINATE CLUB (continued from Page 7)



Picture 4. Horse-drawn Hay Wagon.

gala event. A major attraction was the all you can eat beef and pork dinners after years of wartime meat rationing. After the meal, square dancing and schottisches commenced to the music of Tom Whited and his Lazy-F Ranch band from Ellensburg, WA. The evening also included the debut of an in-house musical group of club members called “Fiddle Bow Bill and His Dew Valley Acorns”, a “Spike Jones” type band with mainly homemade instruments. This group would survive for several years, playing for club events, parades and other civic celebrations although the name was later shortened to just “The Dew Valley Acorns”. The members involved depended on the event and availability. Most of the performers played numerous musical instruments in the group, again depending on event and availability. **Picture 5** shows a group playing in a parade (there were lots of parades in forties Richland).

In the ensuing years, the Clubhouse was utilized at seemingly every opportunity possible. In addition to the weekly dances and periodic special events, the



Picture 5. The Dew Valley Acorns.

ballroom was available for rental to members for special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and special office festivities in the off hours. **Picture 6** shows an anniversary party.

Ray Millard ran a Tap Dancing School for kids on Saturday mornings. Other activities for kids were the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Annual Christmas



Picture 6. Van & Angie Van Dusen (left) Anniversary, 1946.

Party (complete with dragging a chain on the roof of the ballroom to indicate Santa’s Sleigh arrival).

The special events were especially popular with the spouses as they were invited to participate in the productions. **Picture 7** shows members from the cast of “The Gay Nineties Revue.”

In 1952, The Co-Ordinate Club ceased operations and sold their Clubhouse to the Richland Knights of Columbus.



Picture 7. Members of “The Gay Nineties Revue” cast.

From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

The MAPR/BRMA gift shop has not been open for almost two years now as a result of MAPR being shut down due to COVID. However, this has not meant that we had a complete lack of sales. BRMA has been making some sales through our outlets at The Octopus' Garden, Visit Tri-Cities, the Reach Museum, and Kadlec Gift Shop. Please support these businesses by purchasing MAPR products or other products that they offer. They have been very supportive of our local National Historical Park and essentially all the profit that BRMA makes on these sales goes back to supporting the local unit of the national park. The Octopus' Garden is located at 1327 George Washington Way in the Uptown Shopping Plaza in Richland; Visit Tri-Cities Tourism and Economic Development Center is located at 7130 W. Grandridge Boulevard, Suite b in Kennewick; the Reach Museum is located at 1943 Columbia Park Trail in Richland; and the Kadlec Gift Shop is located in the Kadlec Regional Medical Center at 888 Swift Boulevard in Richland. If you do visit and /or shop at any of these locations, please say hello and tell them that you read about them in the Moderator and that you appreciate their support for our local national park.

BRMA wants to give a shout out to Terri Andre for helping promote our gift shop. Terri made a flier and posted it on Facebook suggesting that people shop local at The Octopus' Garden and purchase some of the BRMA items that they sell for BRMA

as Christmas presents. Terri is looking into doing a similar post to promote sales at the other businesses that support BRMA by carrying some of our products. Hopefully Terri's effort will not only benefit BRMA but also benefit the businesses that support us.

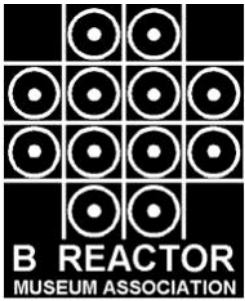
BRMA is still actively working to find a long-term solution to our dilemma of who, and how, we will operate our small gift shop once the tours start up again now that Deb Burnett has retired. Since the revenue from the gift shop is fairly small, because the tours only run about half the year (when running), and because the vast majority of visitors are only in the visitor's center for a short period of time before and after the tours, it is not feasible to pay a staff to manage the gift shop on a full-time basis. Thus, we are in a real bind and are trying to brainstorm ideas for how we can keep the gift shop open into the future. I did recently have an opportunity to follow up with contact Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory regarding having them support the gift shop operation with some of the funds that they typically donate to local Tri-City area causes. They looked into providing support but concluded that our request falls in the area of operating costs and doesn't fit their giving criteria. I will keep trying to obtain assistance from the large Hanford contractors that provide charitable assistance to the local community and local causes. If you have any ideas or are willing to help pursue this endeavor, please contact Rick Bond at (509) 375-1151.

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ON ZOOM

SIMPLY CLICK ON YOUR MEETING NOTICE INVITE TO JOIN

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE:

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 7:00 PM PST



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Richland, WA 99352

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