



**B Reactor – the showplace of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park**

# **BRMA Annual Report**

## **CY 2023**

*This is the second Annual Report produced by BRMA, with hopes of a continuing effort to produce a report annually summarizing the efforts of BRMA for the year. As stated in the 2022 Annual Report, previous years have been summarized in the Moderator that is published in Quarterly throughout the year.*

### **B Reactor Museum Association [BRMA]**

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## **To Our Membership & Supporters**

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### **Strategic Highlights**

BRMA Wishes to personally thank all of our members and continued supporters of this amazing organization. With your support and contributions, BRMA was able to work with the National Park Service this past year on the development of a B Reactor Virtual Tour Video and a B Reactor Panoramic Tour Video to be loaded onto the National Park Service website. Additionally, BRMA was able to support the development of a T Plant Virtual Tour Video and a T Plant Panoramic Tour Video also to be loaded on the National Park Service website. Links to these videos will also be uploaded to the BRMA Website and the DOE website as well.

These videos will serve our visitors well during the coming year as the B Reactor Tours will be limited due to the construction on the roof of B Reactor.

A sincere thanks to all, we would not be able to support activities like this without your support.

BRMA also has a seat at the table on the Energy Communities Alliance Committee which works with all energy communities throughout the country, to include Hanford, Los Alamos and Oak Ridge and most Department of Energy Sites around the country.

BRMA continues its support on the Visit Tri-Cities planning committee who provide additional support to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and the Tri-Cities National Park Committee aimed at

supporting activities associated with the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

The legacy that has been built by current and former members of the association continues to impact the local community and the two other locations that are part of the National Park.

Collaboration planning was initiated this past year to bring the three historic sites together to begin to tell a comprehensive story about the Manhattan Project. This was encouraged by a visit from Richard Groves, the grandson of Leslie R. Groves. Dick continues to work on a long-term project, but still provides time to share information and encourage cross talk between the three sites. The hope is that 2024 will bring more cooperation and collaboration between the sites, even to the point of sharing similar stories such as Photography displays of historic photos taken by early federally employed photographers from each site. In late 2023, Dick met with BRMA representatives and visitors from Los Alamos and Oak Ridge. The visit began a process that hopefully will blossom into further sharing of ideas and stories surrounding the Manhattan Project.

### **Looking Ahead**

2023 is Robert Franklin's last year as President of the association. Robert has served faithfully for the past 5 years and has left some big shoes for the incoming president to fill. Graciously, Robert has agreed to continue on the Board as the Vice President and mentor to the new president Dave Marsh. Dave has been a member of BRMA since 2019 and Treasurer for the past 4 years. Two new members to the association have stepped forward to take on the role of Treasurer vacated by Dave and that person is

Elizabeth Eschbach and Mark Smith has stepped forward to fill the vacant position of Communications Chair. BRMA is very excited to have these two individuals step forward and join BRMA and fill these two roles on the Board.

### **2023 Overview and Summary**

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2023 brought back some forms of normalcy for BRMA and the tour programs at B Reactor and for the Pre-Manhattan Historical Tour. The spring tour registration process filled up very fast since many intended visitors were unable to participate in tours during the previous year due to lingering Covid restrictions.

It was announced in mid-summer that the project to replace the roof of B Reactor would impact the tour season for 2024 and 2025 at a minimum. As a result, there was a sudden influx of registrations for the remaining tours of the 2023 season, even to the point where virtually all of the Pre-Manhattan Historic Tours were booked solid until the end of the year.

BRMA continued to provide support for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park through providing Docents, souvenir sales, and participation in public meetings in support of the National Park. These included attendance at the Visit Tri-Cities Committee, and the Energy Communities Alliance Committee. These two organizations provide support to the National Park Service and the Department of Energy through interface with the Tri-Cities Community. One of the goals of these two organizations is to finalize the development of a “Friends Of The Park” group that would provide additional resources to support the National Park.

BRMA's financial future is rosy, especially with arrangements for the sale of merchandise through the **Xenophile Bibliopole** Book Store. Thanks also goes to **The Octopus Garden** in Uptown Richland and to **Visit Tri-Cities** and the **REACH** museum who also provide sales opportunities for BRMA and NPS merchandise. (Please see the Products and Sales report in this Annual Report for details).

*2023 brought a return to a full tour program for both the B-Reactor Tour and the Pre-Manhattan Historical Tour with nearly 13,000 visitors.*

## **Manhattan Project National Historical Park Tour Program (MAPR)**

The visitor numbers for the final two months of 2023 and the annual totals are provided below. BRMA continues to support the tour program with members of the organization serving as Docents, and in the availability of souvenirs for the guests and supporting DOE and the NPS with planning for future activities surrounding the tour programs.

The number of tours conducted for each of the two tours (B Reactor and the Pre-Manhattan Historical) and the number of visitors for each are provided below.

<b>Month</b>	<b>B Reactor Tours</b>	<b>Pre-Manhattan Tours</b>	<b>Visitors To B Reactor Tours</b>	<b>Visitors To Pre-Manhattan Tours</b>
October	36	8	1220	123
November	22	0	817	0
October & November Totals	58	8	2037	123
Totals for 2023 Season	332	58	12009	890

Total numbers for 2023 are: 12899 total visitors, and 390 total number of tours conducted. Similar to last season, Indian Eyes employed over 25 Docents to perform the tours. There were several new members to the Docent team and it is a good indicator of the strength of the program when new members join the ranks of the Docents.

Anne Vargus and Julie O’Neill continue in the roles of Tour Coordinator and Program Technical Representative (respectively), and they are very much appreciated by the tour program and BRMA for the continued work they do in keeping the program running smoothly. It would not be appropriate to discuss the Tour programs without recognizing the work of the staff that maintains B Reactor and the Pre-Manhattan sites. A special thanks to the Management Staff of Lucas Engineering and Management Services for their management of the facilities and the tour docents. Additionally the folks that keep the facilities open and ready for tours, (Patick Jaynes, Jon Lucas, Nathan Woods, and Ruben Palomarez) are the ones who deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their efforts, positive attitudes and support of the tour program, without them the tour program would not be what it is today.

Since the 2024 season will be different in that only limited B Reactor tours will be conducted, the winter will be spent working with Anne, Julie, the National Park Service and the Department of Energy to determine how tours will be conducted next year and what changes may be necessary due to the closure of B Reactor. BRMA continues to work with all participants and other Docents to brainstorm what might be next year. The Winter Moderator hopefully will contain tour information based on planning during the off season relative to potential changes for the 2024.

At the National Park Committee meeting held on November 30th, both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Park Service (NPS) presented exciting reports on the 2023 Tour Season for the Manhattan Project National Park Sites. The DOE's report highlighted significant



achievements, including a total of 13,000 visitors, marking the second-highest attendance since the park's inception in 2015. Notably, visitors from every county in Washington State, with only four exceptions, and every state in the Union, and 53 different countries contributed to the diverse attendance. The visitor center experienced a notable increase, with the attendance of 3,800 individuals not participating in the tour but exploring the center—a figure that doubled since 2019. Furthermore, the announcement of B Reactor closure for renovation resulted in a swift booking of nearly every available tour spot within two days.

On the NPS front, the combined statistics for all three Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) sites revealed a robust season with nearly 43,000 total visitors. This encompassed 16,432 formal tour attendees and 242 special event visitors. The NPS distributed 2,800 junior ranger books, engaged with 430 student visitors, and reached an additional 1,100 students through in-school teaching. The Park's online presence was notable, with 600,000 visits to the MAPR NPS website and a steady increase in app, website, and social media interactions following the release of the Oppenheimer movie. Impressively, the app recorded 382,000 uses, including 1,600 offline instances. The top four cities accessing NPS content were Seattle, Nashville, Albuquerque, and Phoenix. On Facebook, the NPS reached an impressive 9.5 million people, marking a 15,000-follower increase from 2022.

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## **Financial Statements**

**Statement of Financial Position**

- BRMA is a 501.c.3 organization founded in 1990 with the goal of supporting protection and preservation of the B Reactor and other Manhattan Project sites at Hanford.
- BRMA does not have any liabilities outside of maintaining storage for the merchandise that is sold through several local outlets.
- BRMA is in good standing with respect to financial status. BRMA plans to provide additional support during 2024 to the tour program, The National Park Service and to B Reactor. Since B Reactor will be closed during portions of 2024, most of the effort will be toward the Pre-Manhattan Historical Tour and preparing for the re-opening of B Reactor after the Re-roofing project is completed.

**Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profits and Losses)**

- BRMA's expenses involve the costs of storage of our merchandise, replenishment of souvenirs and sale articles, and normal office/business expenses. Please refer to the Products and Sales report later in this report for specific sales information.

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

- BRMA's equity consists primarily of the merchandise/souvenirs and the intellectual property held by its membership. BRMA also has small investments in Certificates of Deposit at local banks, which has been set aside for support to the B Reactor and NPS.

*Current President Robert Franklin steps down as BRMA President after 5 years in that position but will continue as Vice President to assist the new President in his new role.*

## **Committee Status Reports**

### **President's Update**

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Current President: Robert Franklin

#### BRMA 2023 President Report

The year 2023 was my last as President after serving for five (5) years. Thank you to Dave Marsh for stepping up while I step aside to Vice President. 2023 was a year of growth for BRMA in many ways. I believe we grew in members, we certainly added a few new faces to the board, and we engaged in new products. Thanks to Rick Bond and a full year of tours we had an excellent year of sales in the Xenophile Bibliopole gift shop! Rick also has a feature in a documentary/movie that came out in 2023 about Richland called...Richland, by Irene Lusztig. I'm proud that BRMA was able to financially add Subject Matter Expert support to the B Reactor and T Plant Virtual Tours that will debut in 2024.

Robert Franklin

*During 2023, our Vice President John Fox passed away. He will be greatly missed by all BRMA members and those with whom he worked in the early years of the B Reactor Museum Association.*

## Vice President's Update

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Current Vice President: John Fox

During this past year, John's health declined significantly and he had to step down from the position of Vice President. His health continued to decline and John passed away on September 25, 2023. John served many years as an active member of the B Reactor Museum Association and as president from 2017-2018. Needless to say, he will be dearly missed by all.

## Secretary Report

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Current Secretary: Charles Davis

Charles has served faithfully since 2019 as the BRMA Secretary providing meeting minutes for both the BRMA Board Meetings and the Public Meetings held each month. BRMA is very grateful for his continued participation and excellence in his role as BRMA Secretary.

## **Government and Community Relations Report**

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Current Board Member: Maynard Plahuta

Maynard has served in many roles over the years since joining BRMA. Maynard first served on the BRMA Board of Directors in 2007 as the “Tour Coordinator”. He since has served as President of BRMA from 2009 to 2016, then served as the National Park Committee chairperson in 2017 and has served as the Government/Community Relations Chair since 2018. Maynard’s expertise has been very valuable to the association due to his previous work experience.

## **Interpretive Projects Report**

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Current Board Member: Ben Johnson

### The Long Road to Publication

by Ben Johnson, BRMA Reporter & Historian

An extension/summary of the piece initially appearing in the Summer 2023 **Moderator**, newsletter of the **B Reactor Museum Association**)

BRMA is trying to revive the initial assessment of DuPont’s role in the Manhattan Project. Currently, their role seems to be viewed as a competent and compliant contractor who followed the orders and guidance of the Army Corps of Engineers. Consequently, there is no particular reason to make a special note of their success at Hanford during their three-year contract. The 15-minute introductory video to the National Park’s tour of B reactor makes no mention whatsoever of DuPont’s



Dupont de Nemours

In early 1943,  
General Leslie  
Groves and  
President

Roosevelt, met with  
the Dupont Board  
of Directors  
requesting that  
Dupont participate in  
the newly  
established  
Manhattan  
Engineering District  
project at Hanford.

This article was  
written with the  
intent to highlight  
the role Dupont  
played in the World  
War II efforts to  
bring an end to the  
war.

involvement at Hanford. Similarly, in the introductory chapter of a book written by one of the more prominent Hanford historians she writes – . . .the facility succeeded far beyond the hopes of its builder, the Army Corps of Engineer . . .” and continues with yet technologically pedestrian.

This is in marked contrast to the original post-WW2 “public attitude” evidenced by the April 16, 1951, TIME Magazine (with the cover picture of Crawford Greenewalt, DuPont’s then-current president and their former technical director at Hanford). The feature article was *The Wizards of Wilmington* which explained why DuPont was the sole-source selection to build the Savannah River facility. In so doing, it made the case that probably at no time in our history had the nation been so significantly dependent on a single commercial entity; and (as opined by one nuclear expert) “to select any other firm for that job would be like taking a rookie in the [baseball] draft when you could get Babe Ruth in his prime”. However, no technical details were included – those details had all been “born classified” for the past six years and for the next 15 or so years to come.

If this original assessment were to be included in the National Park narrative, we believe it would provide a badly needed “WOW factor” to the public’s interest in the Hanford section of the three-location Manhattan Project National Historical Park. DuPont’s accomplishments at Hanford are truly phenomenal! Interestingly, the current DuPont corporation has no interest whatsoever in being more intimately associated with Hanford and the Manhattan Project. We surmise DuPont management sees no

likelihood that would benefit (and might damage) their year-over-year stock price.

It has been quite an experience trying to get that assessment recalibrated. We have had our paper turned down six times. and with each new submission we have changed our approach in the essay hoping to better interest the readership profile (based on their recently published articles) of the different journals.

Perhaps, without our realization, our task has become one described by the humorous mantra gleaned from aerospace engineering development—

**“The truth of the situation has been established; our job is to beat the facts into submission.”**

Robert Franklin and I have submitted the paper for a sixth time. Here is a very brief accounting.

*Pacific Northwest Quarterly* – The editor felt we had failed to adequately cover the vast amount of pertinent literature on the Manhattan Project (our essay was titled “Lost in the Telling” and we didn’t mention his book on Hanford).

*Journal of History of Technology and Culture:* (Johns Hopkins U. Publishers) The Editor liked our revision in response to the peer reviews, but she wanted it critiqued by her expert on Nuclear Technology. Unfortunately, he was unavailable in the remaining time before the editorship was changed to a new university – in Holland. Hence, we had to resubmit.

*Ben Johnson, the BRMA, Interpretive Projects Chair, spent the major portion of 2023 attempting to publish the Dupont Story in several different Professional Journals. As is indicated by this report, BRMA is still seeking a suitable journal for the publication.*

*Journal of History of Technology and Culture:* New editor had a load of good articles passed on by the previous editor – just as the pandemic hit. She was not accepting new papers.

*Journal of the History of Science – ISIS* (U of Chicago, Publishers) The editors thought the paper was too technical (but not sufficiently “analytical”?) for their readership. They felt it should be published by editor No. 2-3.

*International Journal of the History of Engineering and Technology (British):* The editor sounded very interested in our submission but admitted it would be “subject to undue scrutiny”. He also wanted it “a bit shorter but more detailed”. After our revision was sent in, the editorship changed hands and a year passed before the new editor decided “on balance”, without further peer review, they would not publish it “because we failed to discuss plutonium extraction in the context of the “bigger picture of international plutonium production”. But we surmise from his other comments that actually the new editor ran into bitterness at the way the U.S. withheld atomic secrets from the Brits after the war. This situation resulted in a bad accident in Britain’s first efforts to independently produce plutonium.

*Oregon Historical Quarterly.* After protracted requests for modifications, the editor rejected our paper. The editor offered to discuss her decision further in a zoom meeting which took place a week or so ago. It was a very pleasant discussion. She felt her readers had little interest or understanding of “engineering



achievement” and saw the situation in a more nuance way.

Specifically, she felt meaningful achievement should be linked to more clearly understood, less esoteric, successes. One possible example (my, suggestion) – compare Hanford’s overall experience contrasted to that of the British at Windscale and the Russians at Mayak. Moreover, because of the huge loss of Japanese lives and some events at the end of the war, questions have arisen on the need for the project.

This particular exercise leads one to realize writing history that is not new but is in the process of becoming “established” is very different from writing a technical paper. It seemingly involves finding common grounds with three or four key individuals – editors and peer reviewers.

Our current effort is directed to resubmitting the paper to the Journal of Technology and Culture at Eindhoven. Some recent instructions from that journal indicates their interest in historiological assessment, I am considering the possibility of restructuring the piece to initially focus on the several ways to look at the Hanford project and how history can be influenced by the way detailed events are initially made known. In so doing, technical details could be treated as corroborative evidence of this main point. It would be one way to reduce the technical detail of the piece, while maintaining its importance to the paper. However, it is not clear that this approach can be made into a “compelling” essay.

At some point, we may have to conclude that the engineering accomplishments at Hanford just aren’t a compelling story. One indication of that possibility is that neither the National Park, nor the B reactor tours

have shown a significant interest in making the engineering accomplishment at Hanford a “WOW Factor” of the Hanford segment of the National Historical Park.

BRMA was established in 1991 and the membership has grown to 89 members as of 2023. BRMA is very grateful for the support of local and national members who have continued to support our activities and goals over these many years.

### Membership Chair Report

2023 BRMA Report Membership Committee Report by Bob Carosino

BRMA has long been an organization that has had an outsized effect upon the effort to protect and preserve B Reactor and related Hanford sites from destruction or cocooning, and to make those sites more accessible to the general public, doing so with a small but dedicated group of members.

2023 continued that history. Despite a general aging of the BRMA membership, and the passing of some long-time BRMA members, membership has grown in 2023. At the end of the year, BRMA has 66 paid memberships who have submitted their 2023 dues. This includes the members who have chosen to contribute to BRMA by becoming LIFE members. BRMA’s full membership of dues paying members is larger than this number, as BRMA recognizes that a member can forget to submit dues in one year, and may make payments in a subsequent year. BRMA membership rolls include 89 members who have signed up for dues paying membership. BRMA continues to offer membership benefits including attendance at meetings and receipt of the quarterly Moderator newsletter, to members for three years after their last dues submission. Approximately 22 members are in that category at the end of 2023.

In 2023, BRMA welcomed Stephen Larson, Mark Jensen, Gene Carbaugh, Tom Mattis, Thoa Pham, as new individual members, and Xenophile, Bibliopole & Armorer, Chronopolis (the business that hosts BRMA’s gift shop), as a new business member. During calendar year 2023, BRMA saw an increasing number of members converting to LIFE membership status, as a way of making a significant donation to BRMA (\$250 each), and avoiding the need to remember to make annual dues payments. Members switching to LIFE membership included Neil Zimmerman, Dr. Cameron Reed, Lloyd Piper, Burt Pierard, Dave Marsh, and Missy Baker. Thank you to all our returning, new and LIFE members!

In addition to paid members, BRMA offers comped membership to representatives of federal, state and local governments or organizations who are partners in the effort to preserve and enhance the historical facilities at Hanford or operate the Hanford component of the Manhattan District National Historical Park. With these memberships included, our total membership is 112 individuals or organizations.

As members know, the costs of maintaining the BRMA organization are very low. This allows BRMA to utilize its funds to support and enhance the visitor experience at B Reactor by funding the acquisition of new exhibits at B Reactor audio-visual and internet aides to the Museum. This year, a major BRMA funding effort was donating money to the National Park Service to provide for development of a “virtual” B Reactor Tour, and a T Plant tour. It is expected that the virtual T Plant tour will be available on the NPS site in early Spring, and will allow interested individuals to virtually tour the B Reactor while the physical tours are suspended during the re-roofing and other renovations taking place at the B Reactor

Many of the models and displays in B Reactor were either funded by BRMA or fabricated by BRMA for the museum, and have become integral parts of the current B Reactor visitor experience. Since B Reactor is a non-profit organization, dues and donations are tax deductible. Members have been generous in making not only dues payments to BRMA, but also making supplemental donations to BRMA, so that it can continue to make an impact on the B Reactor and Hanford visitor experience.

Members who made monetary contributions in addition to their dues payments in 2023 included the following members: Charles and Elaine Davis, Cindy Kelly, Maynard Plahuta, Joh Fox, Stephen Larson, Dave Marsh, Dan Ostergaard, Del Ballard, Gene Carbaugh, Mark Jensen, and William Galligan.

Special thanks to Thomas Moak, a non-member, who made a \$250 donation in memory of John Fox. John was one of BRMA’s influential members, who passed away in late 2023.

In closing, I want to thank all our members who have supported the organization through dues, donations and/or personal participation in

BRMA activities. It has been an honor to have been associated with the organization during the last couple of years. It is an awesome experience to be able to talk to, and work with, many of the original members who are responsible for starting the organization, saving the B Reactor and working to establish the Manhattan District National Historical Park. I would be remiss if I didn't offer my thanks to Burt Pierard, who was the Membership chair before I took this office, and who has helped me immensely in learning this function. Of course, he remains the BRMA historian and the editor of the Moderator quarterly newsletter, which is a tremendous responsibility, and one for which we all owe him a debt of thanks.

If I have failed to mention someone in this write-up, who should be listed here, I apologize in advance; please let me know and I will correct our records.



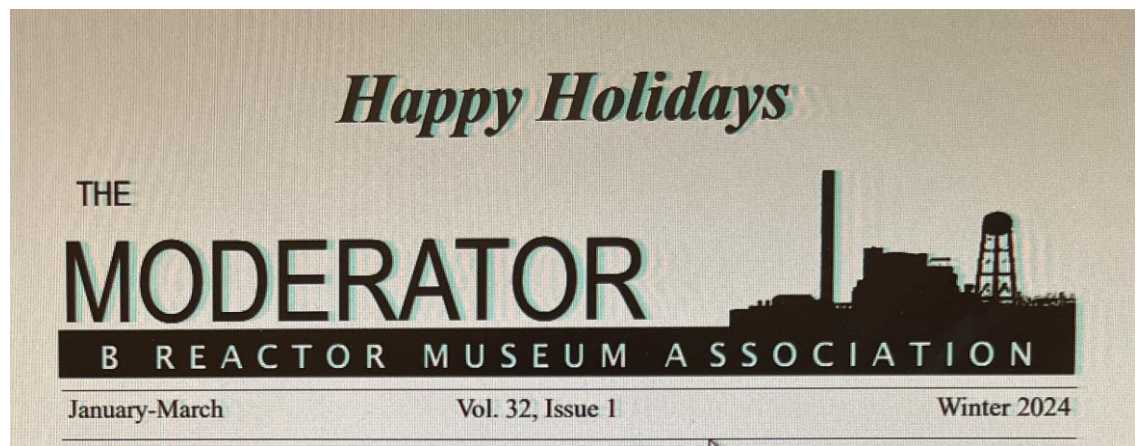
Photo of BRMA Members at sponsored B Reactor Tour in November 2023. Special Thanks to Colleen French of DOE-RL for setting up the tour.

## Historian Chair Report

*Historian Burt Pierard has served in this role since 2004 and also serves as the Editor and Publisher of the quarterly newsletter "The Moderator"*

Current Board Member: Burt Pierard

Burt Pierard first became a BRMA Board member in 2004 and served the past 20 years as the Historian/Artifacts/Exhibits chairperson. In 2009, Burt took on a dual role serving both as the Board Historian and as the Membership Chairperson for BRMA. Burt is also the editor/publisher for the quarterly Newsletter called the Moderator, which is published in January (Winter), April (Spring), July (Summer) and October (Fall). Burt's historian role has served the board well. With his research and knowledge, he has written many articles for the Moderator and BRMA is grateful for his continued role as a member of the Board of Directors.



## Products and Sales Report

Current Board Member: Rick Bond

### Products and Sales Committee 2023 Annual Report Input

Rick Bond

The Products and Sales committee manages all aspects of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR)/B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA) Gift Shop operation to include the development, ordering, and sale of products, tracking items sold, maintaining records of gift shop inventory and sales, collecting and paying sales tax, developing ideas for new products, and negotiating agreements with retail outlets for additional sales opportunities.

Since May 2022 our BRMA/MAPR gift shop has been located at Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer, Chronopolis (Xenophile Books) located at 2240 Robertson Drive, about two blocks away from the MAPR Visitor's Center. Thus, the gift shop operated out of Xenophile Books all of 2023. Xenophile Books is run by Steve Woolfolk and his business partner Brian Sheldon. They buy, sell, and trade books and collectible items of all types but they also have a strong interest in, and a lot of knowledge, of the Manhattan Project and the Hanford area. They have an amazing number of books (over 20,000), games, posters, albums, toys, etc. They have the largest collection of science fiction books west of the Mississippi River. They also have a room dedicated to the Manhattan Project and the Hanford area with many artifacts, letters, books, etc. Steve is a retired health physicist from the Hanford Site and Brian worked at PNNL and at one time owned a bookstore in the Uptown Shopping Center. Due to their

*Rick Bond has served as the Products and Sales Chairperson for BRMA since 2018. In that role he has increased the product inventory and selection and established a sales outlet through the Xenophile Bibliopole Bookstore. During 2023, Net Sales totaled \$17,385.*

local ties, Steve and Brian have a very strong interest in supporting our local national park.

Xenophile Books has given BRMA a space in their building to display our gift shop products. They display and sell our products, keep track of sales, collect and pay the state sales tax, and help us to maintain our inventory. They are doing this for a fee of 5% of the total sales. What they get in return is increased traffic to their shop, and hopefully that will translate into increased sales for them.



We currently sell about 25 different items in the gift shop to include patches, lapel pins, medallions, stickers, magnets, coffee mugs, books, book marks, national park passport books, coffee mugs, water bottles, tote bags, postcards, note cards, posters, graphite dust, shutdown pellets, T shirts, sweat shirts, caps, and B Reactor clocks (made with actual graphite and process tube sections that were made for use in the B Reactor). In 2023 we expanded our products to include additional books, a line of kid's T shirts, and a new line of adult T shirts.

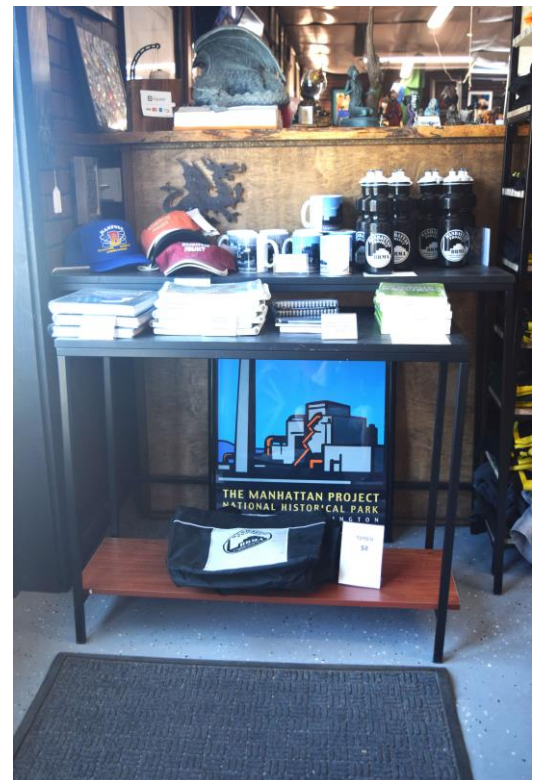
BRMA currently has an inventory of products valued at about \$20,750 and \$10,000 consists of about 2,000 copies of the book "A Guide to the Manhattan Project in Washington State" and the rest is fairly evenly distributed among all of our other products.

Sales at the gift shop in 2023 were about three times our 2022 sales (2022 sales were reduced due to COVID) and about two times our best year pre-COVID. Total sales for the 2023 year were \$30,877. Profit to BRMA after expenses was about 57% or about \$16,720.



In addition to our gift shop BRMA also sold our products at The Octopus' Center. We did not sell products at The Reach Museum in 2023 but have already made plans to resume selling our items there in 2024. We sold about \$1,900 at these two locations (primarily at The Octopus' Garden, about \$1,650). These locations do not charge BRMA for their services but are happy to support the local national park. BRMA made a profit of about 30% on these sales or almost \$600.

Total for the year BRMA did \$32,777 in sales of gift shop items and made a profit of about \$17,385.



**Photos of souvenir sales display at the Xenophile Bibliopole Bookstore. Special thanks to Steve and Brian (Owners) for their support to BRMA and the Tour Program.**



## Treasurer's Annual Report

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Current Board Member: Dave Marsh

### BRMA 2023 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023

#### INFLOW

Cash Out CD (For New CD)	\$26,884.51
2023 Donations	\$ 575.00
2023/24 Dues	\$ 505.00
Lifetime Dues	\$ 1,500.00
Souvenir Sales - Octopus Garden	\$ 1,534.50
Souvenir Sales - Xenophile Bookstore	\$29,994.06
Souvenir Sales - Visit Tri-Cities	\$ 118.79

**TOTAL INFLOWS** **\$61,111.86**

#### OUTFLOWS

Costs for B Reactor Virtual Tour	-\$ 3,008.22
BRMA Website Maintenance	-\$ 1,061.33
P.O. Box 1531	-\$ 226.00
Souvenir Sales Appreciation Gift Cards	-\$ 372.70
Souvenir Sales Bookstore Map	-\$ 64.86
Souvenir Sales Souvenir Re-Supply	-\$16,527.12
Souvenir Sales Misc. Expenses	-\$ 75.01
Souvenir Sales Storage-Atomik Prop.	-\$ 780.00
Purchase 24 Month CD	-\$ 20,100.00

**TOTAL OUTFLOW** **-\$ 42215.24**

**OVERALL TOTAL** **\$ 18896.62**

#### SOUVENIR INVENTORY VALUE AS OF 12/23

**BRMA Cost \$ 11,400**

**Retail Value \$20,700**

### **Communications Annual Report**

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This position has been vacant since early 2022. Our President has filled this role since that point in time. We are very pleased to announce that Mark Smith has taken over this role for 2024 and we look forward to Mark's enthusiasm and expertise in the field of communications.

### **Founder Emeritus Annual Report**

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Current Board Member: Del Ballard

Del Ballard Founder Emeritus Annual Report 2023

Oh, what an enjoyable and soft position; with no official duties or voting rights, but with lots of room to make suggestions, and to offer advice. I enjoy attending all of the Board, and general membership meetings, and offering my insight into all of the BRMA's plans and activities. I truly appreciate having been given the Emeritus title and am proud of my thirty-three years of continuous service on the Board, including 5 years as Secretary, 2 as President, and 13 as Treasurer . During 2023 my continued support and suggestions to Dave Marsh helped in bringing the document covering the history of BRMA to a ready-for-publication status.

Additionally, I was glad to have the opportunity to speak at the celebration of life event, in October, for our past president John Fox, and to recognize John's extensive contributions to BRMA.

## **National Park Report for 2023**

Provided by: Becky Burghart, Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) Hanford Site Manager (Excerpts from the NPS Input to the Winter 2023

On December 8, it was announced that all three of the Manhattan Project NHP communities (Tri-Cities, WA; Los Alamos, NM; and Oak Ridge, TN) were designated as World War II heritage sites. The American World War II Heritage City Program honors the contributions of local towns, cities, counties, and their citizens who stepped into the workforce to support America's war effort during World War II. Only one American World War II Heritage City can be designated in each state or territory.

January 2023 There have been several exciting announcements in the last month for the park. First, Wendy Berhman has been selected as the permanent superintendent. We are excited to have Wendy on-board and leading the park. Wendy was in the acting superintendent role since Kris Kirby's departure in August. Wendy has worked for the National Park Service for over 30 years, most recently as a program planner for the NPS Washington Office. Wendy and her husband reside in East Denver with their twin 17-year-old son and daughter.

Additionally, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park takes center stage as the national stamp in the highly anticipated 2023 Passport to your National Parks® Stamp Set released by Eastern National on November 1st. The national stamp is the large center stamp in a collection of 10 stamps that honor national parks. The 2023 national stamp features three photos from Manhattan Project NHP locations in New Mexico, Tennessee,



***BRMA is very proud of the cooperative work completed in the past year with the National Park Service. Our NPS Hanford Site Manager (Becky Burghart) and Ranger (Kalina Hildebrandt) worked hand in hand with BRMA on several projects during 2023.***

and Washington. The park was selected because its locations and historical buildings represent the nation's diverse geography while weaving together many themes of national importance. The national stamp features three historic buildings: B-Reactor in Hanford WA; Pond Cabin in Los Alamos, NM; and X-10 Graphite Reactor in Oak Ridge, TN.

### Spring 2023

National Park staff are busy with planning and providing community programs. Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) night season is here when many area schools host evening STEM programs for the students and families. NPS has been able to attend many STEM nights this year thanks to the wonderful support and enthusiasm of our volunteers. This week, Kalina Hildebrandt and Terry Andre gave presentations about the Manhattan Project and Hanford to over 400 7th graders at Ray Reynolds Middle School in Pasco. We are enjoying getting back out into schools and connecting with area youth.

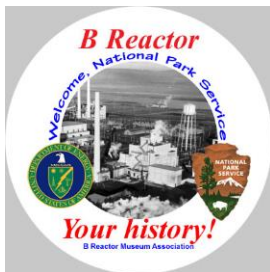
In April, NPS hosted another Ride with a Ranger on April 1 in collaboration with Bike Tri-Cities, the REACH, and REI. The first Pop Up Play Day of the year with Richland Parks and Recreation was conducted on April 6 at the Richland Community Center. On April 17 and 18 NPS partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to provide an activity at Salmon Fest. NPS also participated in the Earth Day celebration at the REACH Museum on April 22. In May, the NPS started a new program called, Not So Secret City Walking Tour of downtown Richland. These programs were offered the first Wednesday of each month, May through August. On May 6 NPS co-hosted the second Hike with a Ranger program

up Candy Mountain in collaboration with rangers from Whitman Mission National Historic Site. Meghan Murphy, lead visual information specialist, accepted a new permanent position as a public information officer for the Florida Department of Health. Her last day was March 23. Meghan's contributions to the park were many including illustration of the Hanford and Los Alamos junior ranger books, leading the social media team, and designing the park's website. Meghan worked exceptionally hard her last two weeks to finish the build out of the website. She left behind a wonderful website the park will be able to continue to build for years to come.

NPS is partnered with the REACH Museum for Junior Ranger Park Explorers programs and with the City of Richland Park and Recreation for Popup Playdays. Additionally, NPS hosted their annual Messages of Peace program where community members were asked to write messages of peace on the bags that were used at the Lights for Peace August 9 commemoration event in Howard Amon Park. Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's Youth Heritage Project partnered with the NPS for their summer program that focused on Hanford. Forty-six high school students from around the Pacific Northwest were in the Tri-Cities July 18-21 learning about the Manhattan Project and Hanford's role in the project. Students had the chance to learn about the contributions and perspectives of the Tribal Nations who have called this area home since time immemorial and the workers who helped build the world's first plutonium production facilities. They explored the complex legacies of the project that ushered in the nuclear age to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and ethical issues surrounding nuclear science and

technology. The students toured the B Reactor; heard from Tribal educators and elders at the Wanapum Heritage Center; learned about the contributions of African American workers and the challenges they faced working and living under a Jim Crow-like system of segregation; and listened to a third-generation atomic bomb survivor share her family story and reflect on the full cost of the race to develop and deploy the world's first atomic weapons.

Alexana Bueno, Latino Outreach Intern, was with the park for two months this summer. She focused on archival research to learn more about the role of Latinos in the Manhattan Project at Hanford.



NPS partnered with the DOE and BRMA to produce a virtual tour of the B Reactor. An NPS funded crew were in town July 5-7 to photograph the B Reactor and gather the interpretive information needed to help assemble the tour. NPS really appreciated BRMA's financial support to help make this tour possible and also thankful to BRMA for the subject matter expert input and review that will be critical to making a quality product that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) ended on September 30. The transition to the new fiscal year provided an opportunity to reflect on the past year and plan for the new year. Over the past year, we fully transitioned back to "normal operations" after the rocky COVID years with a variety of education and outreach programs. It is great to be back in the community and connecting community members with the park. On October 21, NPS conducted the Hike Through Time at the Candy Mountain Trailhead. NPS continued to work on the Learn about the Park section ([www.nps.gov/mapr/learn](http://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn)) and

the basic structure for the Get Involved section ([www.nps.gov/getinvolved](http://www.nps.gov/getinvolved)) of the NPS Website. The digital infrastructure project that has funded work on the website, app, virtual tours, and social media is coming to an end in FY24. Park staff will continue to maintain these important resources, but the bulk of new content development will be accomplished through partnerships and additional projects and grant funding. It is important to share this information to highlight the importance of partners in helping the park accomplish its mission and the creativity needed to find funding opportunities to accomplish mission-critical work. One example of how we can accomplish big projects with limited resources is the B Reactor virtual tour. This project would not have been possible without the support of BRMA.

One of the NPS main goals for FY24 is to develop the education portal on the park's website to provide resources for teachers and students. One step in that direction will be to publish the nuclear chemistry lesson plans that our Teacher Ranger-Teacher Jen Pollard developed for the park this summer. NPS is also looking forward to working with WSU and the Hanford History Project on the development of podcasts that share under-told stories of the Manhattan Project. Project funding has been received to support the creation of about seven podcasts in collaboration with WSU staff and students. The Park service will also continue with the Latino Outreach work to learn more about the role of Latinos in the Manhattan Project at Hanford and provide programming to local Latino communities.

## Department of Energy Report for 2023

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*The DOE representative (Colleen French) has been very gracious to the BRMA membership, sponsoring a special family tour of B Reactor for members during 2023. Colleen is unable to provide a formal statement of support for BRMA but has stated on many occasions how important the BRMA Association has been in saving B Reactor.*

During the month of November, our DOE Representative, Colleen French invited BRMA members and their families for a “BRMA Day At The Reactor”. Colleen graciously provided transportation and “goodies” at the Reactor for approximately 30 BRMA members and their family members. Dave Marsh provided a narrative on the bus to and from the Reactor and Marty Zizzi provided a narrative presentation at the Reactor at the front face. All present seemed to enjoy and appreciate the tour and are very grateful to Colleen for taking the time and energy to provide a tour for BRMA members and their families. Colleen is the Manhattan Project National Historical Park’s voice within DOE and BRMA works to support her activities associated with the B Reactor and the National Park.



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## Organizational Information

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