SF Maritime Celebrates History Months

During February, African American History Month, and March, Women’s History Month, we present a series of programs that illustrate how blacks and women have contributed to maritime industries.

Through the centuries women have participated in maritime trades in a variety of roles. Perhaps one of the more well-known 19th century roles is that of the sea captain’s wife. Besides creating a home aboard ship, some of these women also learned navigation.

On a small scale, women were also testing society’s notions of suitable roles for women. Out of economic necessity, in 1897, a San Francisco woman earned a tugboat captain’s license to support her family.

Blacks did work at sea but the opportunities for them were very limited. Some, mostly West Indians, were able to find work as seamen on British square-riggers. A more typical job for a person of color was as a cook or steward.

It wasn’t until the 20th century, and World Wars I and II, that maritime employment opportunities opened up to blacks and women as never before. In mid-1943, at the height of the shipbuilding boom, nearly 65% of the shipyard workers on the West Coast were women. Shipyard work became a boon not only for white women, but for Asians, Latinas and African Americans. At Marinship in Sausalito, black workers were the largest minority, comprising nearly ten percent of all employees in 1943.

Please see page three for program listings. Also, on Hyde Street Pier during February, a photo exhibit about maritime blacks will be on display, and during March, in the visitor center theater, the exhibit, "Women in Maritime History," will be available for viewing.
### Historic Documents Illustrate Diverse Maritime Experiences of Women

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park invites you to come aboard and learn about the diverse maritime experiences of women in the past and today. The Historic Documents Department is proud to highlight research collections that illustrate women’s experiences on the water and around the waterfront.

Sallie Catherine Braun (1913-1995) was born in Oakland and began her career with the U.S. Army in San Francisco as a painter type in 1942. Ms. Braun retired in 1997 having attained the position of Maritime Transportation Specialist. She was possibly the first woman to hold this position.

During WWII the San Francisco Port was unofficially given the code name “Sallie” by American military men, illustrating Ms. Braun’s importance as their primary contact person.

After her retirement from civil service, Ms. Braun continued to work in a different profession until 1970. She married in 1973 and died in Pacific Grove, CA in 1995. The Sallie K. Braun papers (Catalog # 1176) include a variety of materials pertaining to her career with the U.S. Army Transport Service, Fort Mason, and the Military SE Transportation Service, Pacific Area. The bulk of the collection spans 1944 to 1956.

In 1994, Isabelle Autissier, and her crew, on the yacht Ecuruie Poitou-Charentes 2, set and broke world sailing speed records, racing from New York to San Francisco. Autissier, one of the world’s foremost competitive solo sailors, has sailed around Cape Horn several times and taken part in the Boc Challenge and the Vendee Globe, two legendary solo rounds around the world races.

The collection includes the published and unpublished articles, speeches and letters by Helen Delich Bentley. During the 1950s and 1960s, as a reporter with the Baltimore Sun, Ms. Bentley established a sterling reputation as one of the most astute commentators in North America on maritime industry, technology, business and politics.

Another collection (#1259) includes an original log by Anna Noia Henry, wife of Captain Joseph Paul Henry of the schooner Henry Wilson, kept during an Alaska Packers Association voyage in 1917-1918. The Henry Wilson sailed along the Pacific Coast and engaged in the salmon fishing trade.

For more information call 415- 561-7038.
MUSIC

CHANTEY SING

Saturday, January 8, February 5, and March 5, 8pm-late. No fee. Join a cappella singing of Victorian women (the Park's costumed living history players) on an afternoon in the year 1901 as they discuss their experiences raising the staysail and turning the winch. At the officer's command, watch the Living History crew aboard Balclutha go aloft to set the topsail. They need help with other work around the ship, so look lively and lend a hand raising the staysail and turning the capstan. At 6pm, join a salon of Victorian women for afternoon tea in the Visitor Center theater. No fee.

PROGRAMS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR KIDS: A SAILOR'S LIFE

Saturdays, January 12, February 26 and March 26, 1:30-2:30pm. Meet in the Visitor Center theater. No fee. If you're a sailor, you're a hero. Enjoy the story of the famous ship in which Sir Francis Drake made his famous circumnavigation of the globe.

APRIL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Saturdays, April 1 and 15, 10:00am-2:00pm. In the Maritime Museum. No fee. For more information about the programs, call 415-561-9513 or, for more information about the programs, call the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613 or visit www.nps.gov/safl and www.marinemuseum.org and join the crew!

MUSIC, TOURS, LIVING HISTORY AND CLASSES

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

Saturday, February 12, 2pm. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee. See shore, migratory, citified and resident birds on this birdwalk. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress warmly.

MARCH IN TIME: LIVING HISTORY AND TOURS

Saturday, March 5, 1:30-2:30pm. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.

LIFE IN NELSON'S NAVY

Saturday, January 12, March 12, 1:30pm. In the Maritime Museum. No fee.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II

LIFE IN THE POOL

Saturday, March 5, 1:00-2:00pm. At Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. Contact the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613 or visit www.nps.gov/safl and join the crew!

AT THE NICOLLET ROOM

Eureka's Saloon is a sarcastic name for the brothel on the Alaskan side of the border. The brothel was used to accommodate the needs of the miners heading to the Klondike. As such, it was a center for the sale of women and services. In the 1890s, prostitution was widespread and became a significant industry in the state of Eureka, with numerous brothels offering services to miners and others looking for a bit of entertainment. On the boat deck of the Balclutha, you can experience a taste of what life was like for the women who worked in these establishments.

AT THE BALCLUTHA

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AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II

The Balao-class USS Averick was a submarine that served in World War II. She was known for her long career, which included participation in various battles and operations. The USS Averick played a significant role in the Pacific Theater of Operations, participating in several high-profile missions. The submarine's story is filled with moments of heroism, sacrifice, and survival in the face of adversity. By studying the USS Averick, you can gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of African American sailors who served during World War II, highlighting their contributions to the war effort and the significant role they played in shaping the course of history.
Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

This is a special section of the Maritime News just for kids. Listed below are some opportunities at the park to create maritime crafts, to sing like a sailor and to become a Junior Ranger!

**ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS: A SAILOR’S LIFE**
- Saturdays, January 22 (Signal Flag Necklace), February 26 (Sailor’s Valentine) and March 26 (Signal Flag Necklace), 1-3pm. Meet in Visitor Center (Hyde and Jefferson).
- No fee.

**Signal Flag Necklace**
Before radio and satellite communication, when ship’s crews needed to send messages to land and to other ships, they hoisted signal flags up the mast. It was a splendid display of color and design. You can make your own colorful necklace that spells your name out of paper signal flags.

**Sailors’ Valentines**
It was a lonely life at sea. Sailors were separated from their families and friends back home. Before there was Valentine’s Day, sailors created cards or presents to give to their loved ones when they returned from their long voyages. Create a valentine of your own to give to someone special.

**Music of the Sea for Kids**
- Saturdays, January 15, February 19 and March 19, 2pm. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.
- History comes alive in this special program where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

**San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, Family Day**
- Calling all ocean-o-obsessed kids! Join us in our Visitor Center on Saturday, January 29th for a day of ocean-related films and maritime crafts just for kids. Then head on over to the Hyde Street Pier to visit the historic ships and join in on some shipboard fun. Our family day is part of the second annual San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, January 29-30 at Fort Mason’s Cowell Theater. For more information, visit the festival website http://oceanfilmfest.org.

**JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM**
Explore the park’s historic ships and earn your Junior Ranger badge! By completing the activities listed on a special worksheet you will learn about seafaring history and will become a steward of the national parks. (A steward is one who takes care of parks.) Worksheets are available at the Visitor Center, Pier ticket booth and Maritime Museum. Good luck and have lots of fun!

**Family Activity: Dirty Bags**
Grab a rope handle and explore the Museum on this fun group “voyage.” Navigate through the exhibits (using a real compass), write a “radiogram,” compose messages using signal flags and roleplay about life at sea with character cards. This free program is available at the museum desk.

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