



## EVENT ADVISORY

December 6, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TRADITIONAL CAROLS PLAYED IN AN UNTRADITIONAL LOCATION**  
*flutes of fancy* VIOLIN AND RECORDER DUO PLAY A FREE CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT IN A FORMER MUNITIONS MAGAZINE

*Preserve open Friday-Sunday December 9, 10 and 11, 10:00am-8:00pm with a  
Sierra Club guided hike 9:30am, guided full moon walk at 6:00pm and Holiday  
Lighted Trail Walk 5:00pm-8:00pm*

[VALLEJO}, CA – Saturday, December 10, 2011 beginning at 2pm *flutes of fancy*, a violin and recorder duo will perform a concert of traditional Christmas carols in the Visitors Center, a former munitions storage magazine at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. The musicians will also play two recorders during the free concert. A classically trained duo based in Vallejo, Dorothy and Bertram Barth provide music throughout Northern California for traditional weddings, theme weddings, and other special events. According to Preserve volunteer manager, Myrna Hayes, “Visitors to our free concert can expect to hear traditional music played in a most untraditional place—an historic bomb storage magazine. Listeners will be rewarded by a rich acoustical sound much like that of music played in wine caves. We are also offering a guided full moon walk in the Preserve at 6:00pm during our [Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk](#) during which four stops along the paved trail route will be lighted for self-guided access to the Preserve.”

In what is likely their farewell concert due to a planned move from the area, *flutes of fancy* will

play Celtic and traditional Christmas carols for the third season. Bert and Dorothy Barth have played as a duo since 1996, performing first in San Diego and later in Central California. In April 2003 they relocated to Northern California where they perform in Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin counties as well as the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas. Dorothy began playing violin during childhood. She discovered early music after graduating from Stanford University with a degree in music. Bert comes to early music with a background in modern woodwinds and concert management for station WBUR FM in Boston.

Continuing a tradition of special programming at the Preserve on the Second Saturday, the Preserve will be open an hour earlier than normal beginning at 9:00am for the regular Second Saturday Access Day 9:30am morning hike to the Historic Southshore led by a Sierra Club hike leader. A guided full-moon walk will begin at 6:00pm. Meet for both hikes at the Preserve trailhead entrance at the Visitors Center located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. beyond Touro University and the Army Reserve. There will be a campfire with s'mores at the Visitors Center each evening.

Preserve volunteers will serve complementary refreshments including hot drinks following the concert in the Visitors Center decorated for the holidays. Mare Island themed gift items will be available for sale to benefit the programs of the Mare Island Heritage Trust. The event is free. Donations help to keep the Preserve open regularly 3 days a week, Friday-Sunday 10am-sunset. In the Preserve, the public can walk or ride bicycles on a self-guided trail with 14 interpretive stops along the 3-mile roundtrip route to the top of the hill and beyond. The hike to the Historic Southshore is scheduled from 9:30am to 11:30am. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. A picnic area is available next to the Cemetery. Dogs are allowed on leash.

The weekend also marks a milestone with the one-year anniversary of the opening of the San Pablo Bay Wetlands Walking Trail, a two-mile walking trail built by Weston Solutions, Inc. in the wetland ecological reserve along the western shore of Mare Island. It is part of the completion of the environmental cleanup and closure of the Mare Island facility landfill. No dogs on or off leash or bicycles are allowed on the trail. The trail is open 7 days a week 10am-sunset. The trail entrance is reached by following the extension of A. St. called Dump Road west from Azuar Dr. to a parking lot and informational kiosk.

**December 2011 Mare Island Preserve Public Access:** The Preserve is open Friday through Sunday, December 9-11, 2011 from 10:00am-8:00pm. Beginning Friday December 16, the Preserve is open rain or shine daily through New Year's Day, including both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as well as Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The 2nd Saturday Access Day program featuring guided hikes at 9:30am and 6:00pm and live Christmas music and refreshments is Saturday, December 10. The Winter Solstice Potluck Party is Wednesday, December 21, 5:00pm-10:00pm. The [Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk](#) hours will be extended to daily, 5:00pm-8:00pm December 16 to January 1.

[\*Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk\*](#) continues in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve from 5:00-8:00pm Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 11. The Preserve is regularly open 10:00am to sunset (late fall/winter 5:00pm) Friday through Sunday. Beginning Friday December 16, Preserve volunteers will extend hours from 5:00pm-8:00pm daily continuing through New Year's Day, including Christmas weekend and New Years weekend.

On the *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk*, Preserve visitors will enjoy walking in the outdoors with four lighted stops along the one mile paved trail to the top of Mare Island Hill and the panoramic nightscape views of the Carquinez Strait and its lighted Al Zampa Memorial Bridge, the historic marquee lights of C&H Sugar, the California Maritime Academy, the Sandy Beach Napa Riverfront neighborhood and the towns of Crockett, Rodeo, Hercules, Benicia, Martinez, Vallejo and American Canyon with more distant views of the night lights of seven Bay Area counties.

The *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* route starts at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Visitors Center converted from a former bomb storage magazine and decorated for the season, where visitors may enjoy hot drinks and holiday treats and a campfire with s'mores and purchase Mare Island-oriented food and gift items from the Mare Island Magazine Marketplace. The *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* is self-guided and accessible rain or shine. Preserve visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes, dress in layers and bring a flashlight. Although the Preserve is open to the public for free, because it is all volunteer-operated with no funds received from the property owner, the City of Vallejo, there is a suggested donation of \$5 per person with no cost for children 14 and younger. Funds raised keep the Preserve open weekends year-round and provide visitor amenities such as bathrooms.

The lighted stops along the paved trail include the Victorian-era fence of the U.S. Navy's oldest cemetery in the Pacific founded in 1858 decorated with garlands and wreaths; the grounds and ruins of the Historic Gardens of Bill and Alma Rowser; a coast live-oak in the grove at the entrance to the historic Ordnance Reservoir; and the "Spirit Ship" atop the Mare Island Hill. The Spirit Ship is an art tribute created by metal artist William Wareham in 1996 to honor Mare Island shipyard workers. It was commissioned at the time of the navy base closure by the cities of Vallejo and Benicia and the Navy Yard Association. The Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve is at the southern end of Mare Island situated at the confluence of the Napa River/Mare Island Strait, the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay and highly visible from Interstate 80 over the bridges that cross the Carquinez Strait. Because there are no lights on the Preserve, it is a "dark spot" which makes the Spirit Ship visible from the water and also from the bridges that span the Carquinez Strait.

***Mare Island Aglow*** sponsors to date include Vallejo Executive Lions Club, Paul Ligda Trust, Bert Johnson, the Joullian-Mosley Family, John and Sharon Powers and Fred Sessler Real Estate. Additional donations are needed for the purchase of LED Christmas lights, power accessories and nighttime driving direction signs to the Preserve. Donations may be made at the Preserve website or by mailing a check to Mare Island Heritage Trust, 816 Branciforte St. Vallejo, CA 94590.

For more information and to schedule volunteering, contact Volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes, 707-249-9633 or [myrnahay@pacbell.net](mailto:myrnahay@pacbell.net) or visit [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org). Key features of the Preserve are spectacular scenic vistas encompassing 7 Bay Area counties, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. St. Helena, the Carquinez Strait and Sonoma and Napa Valleys and the U.S. Navy's first cemetery in the Pacific, founded more than 150 years ago. Visitors may also view interpretive displays and an art show by members of the Benicia Plein Air Group portraying the Preserve at the Visitors Center in a former munitions storage magazine, Building A-167. Visit [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org) for directions to the Preserve.

The first parcels of the property were transferred to the City of Vallejo in a grant from the legislature through the California State Lands Commission in 2002 for public trust uses such as a park, for all Californians. Additional parcels were transferred in Fall 2010. The remainder of the

215-acre site is still undergoing environmental cleanup by the U.S. Navy.

Volunteers began hosting regular free public access at the Preserve on the second Saturday of each month in April 2008 and in October 2010 the access was expanded to a weekly basis through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo. For info. Call 707-249-9633 or 707-557-9816. Visit our website: [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org)

**Directions:** The Preserve is located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo, CA. From Interstate 80 take the Tennessee St./Mare Island exit. Follow Tennessee St. westbound across the blue bridge and Wichels Causeway. Turn at first left onto Nimitz Ave. Continue on Nimitz to 15th St. Turn right. Continue one block to Railroad Ave. Turn left. Continue through the gate at the south end of Railroad Ave. From Hwy 37 Mare Island exit, continue on Walnut Ave. to the stop sign at G St. Turn left. Continue past the flashing stoplight one block to Nimitz Ave. Turn right and follow directions above. Visit [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org) for detailed directions to the Preserve.

**Info.** Call 707-249-9633. Visit our website: [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org)

**Please note:** High resolution photos of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve are available. Tours of The Preserve are available to any reporter or photographer covering these events. Call Myrna Hayes, 707-249-9633 (cell) to schedule.

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