



## Women Of Steel

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work” and they did it so well that production levels rose despite the military call-up of millions of male workers. They discovered a new sense of pride and dignity in their work. Their earnings leapt upwards. Many joined unions and found substantial new benefits from labor representation. And for the first time in history, black women gained entry into major industrial plants.

When the war was over, Rosie wanted to stay. But neither the structure of the American economy nor the dominant view of women’s place in society sustained such hopes.

The story is told by the women themselves — five former “Rosies” who movingly recall their histories working in Detroit, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco during the war. Their testimony is interwoven with rare archival recruitment films, stills, posters, ads and music from the period which contrast their experiences with the popular legend and mythology of Rosie the Riveter.

2pm FILM SCREENING: No Time To Waste

No Time to Waste celebrates legendary 98-year-old park ranger Betty Reid Soskin’s inspiring life, work and urgent mission to restore critical missing chapters of America’s story. The film follows her journey as an African American woman presenting her personal story from a kitchen stool in a national park theater to media interviews and international audiences who hang on every word she utters.

The documentary captures her fascinating life — from the experiences of a young Black woman in a WWII segregated union hall, through her multi-faceted career as a singer, activist, mother, legislative representative and park planner to her present public role.

At the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, Betty illuminates the invisible histories of African Americans and other people of color. Her efforts have changed the way the National Park Service conveys this history to audiences across the U.S., challenging us all to move together toward a more perfect union.

Author Talk: Anthracite - Everyday Women Extraordinary Lives with Charmaine Welby

Join us at the National Museum of Industrial History as we welcome author Charmaine Welby to share inspiring stories of courageous women from Pennsylvania’s coal region from her new book.

“Anthracite Everyday Women Extraordinary Lives” highlights the inspiring stories of ten remarkable women from the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. This collection celebrates their strength, courage, and resilience in overcoming significant challenges with stability and grace. Each narrative reflects universal themes of hope, love, and perseverance, offering profound insights into the beauty found within everyday struggles. The book deeply examines these women’s journeys, showcasing their impact on their communities and emphasizing their contributions to family and relationships.

Charmaine Welby is a retired teacher celebrating everyday women’s strength and significance. Throughout her career, Charmaine worked closely with young adults with disabilities and was a standardized patient educator at a local hospital. She has been actively engaging with readers through appearances at local libraries and was featured on Author’s Corner on Channel 27 in Harrisburg on Good Day Pa. Included with museum admission.

All programs included with regular museum admission. Come dressed as Rosie for \$2 off admission.

For more info go to <https://www.nmih.org/>.



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Debbie Pettinari  
Agent

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