November 2026
NEWSLETTER

816-234-1011
TWAMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM
10 Richards Road
Kansas City, MO 64116
twamuseum.org

OPEN WED-SAT 10-4

TWA Museum at 10 Richards Road

From the President, Matt Larsen



One of the benefits of traveling part-time for work is the flexibility it allows me to do some sightseeing while I'm traveling from one meeting location to another. During October, I was sent to Alaska by my company, and on the way back to Kansas City I planned a 6-hour layover in Seattle for the express purpose of visiting the Museum of Flight immediately adjacent to Boeing Field.

I was impressed by both the size and presentation of the museum. Unlike most other aviation museums I've been to (including the Pima Air and Space Museum in Pima, AZ and the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles International Airport), guests are actively encouraged to board and explore the aircraft on display.

For the first time - and all in once place - I was able to view the prototypes for the Boeing 727, the 737, and the 747. I learned that after completing it's flight test program, the 727 was sold to United Airlines where it flew until the 1990s. Afterwards, it was donated to the MOF and spent many years parked near the Boeing factory in Everett before being restored to airworthy status and flown to the museum.

Unlike the 727 prototype, the 737 prototype never flew for an airline. Instead, it served for decades as a test aircraft for NASA before being retired in the 1990s and also flown to the museum. The largest aircraft on display is the 747. Although I've seen 747s at other museums (including the 747-400 prototype at the Delta Museum), I wasn't prepared for the awe I felt when I went aboard. It was absolutely cavernous. Of particular note was the classic spiral stairway to the upper deck. Unfortunately for me, the staircase was blocked off and I was unable to view the 1960s styled upper-deck lounge, or the cockpit.

Those of you who were working at the overhaul base in Kansas City during the fall of 1989 may remember the arrival of a rare DC-2 into Kansas City. It was repainted in the mid-1930s "Lindbergh Line" livery of Transcontinental & Western Air, and appeared at an open house event there. That same DC-2 is now retired and on display at the MOF (it's the only one on display in North America, and is one of only eight aircraft left in the world from the civil production run of 130).

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Ruth Taylor White, an American Pictorial Mapmaker!

Ruth Taylor White, a.k.a. Ruth Taylor Day (born March 1896, sometimes cited as 1899; date of death unknown) was a pioneering American pictorial mapmaker celebrated for her whimsical, colorful, and highly detailed "cartographs" created between the late 1920s and 1940s. Born in Oregon to painter John S. Taylor, Ruth was part of a creative family that included her sister Della Taylor Hoss, also a noted pictorial cartographer, and her brother Frank Taylor, an author with whom she frequently collaborated. Ruth's early work included illustrations for Frank's popular books about U.S. national parks, such as 'Oh, Ranger!' and Grand Canyon Country.

Her distinctive style—marked by lively characters, humorous commentary, and vibrant landscapes came to define the golden age of pictorial mapping. She gained widespread recognition for her commissioned maps, notably a series for the Hawaii Tourist Bureau in 1930, which captured the islands' culture and attractions and were distributed to visitors. Her most famous publication is *"Our USA: A Gay Geography"* (1935), an atlas of all U.S. states and territories filled with her signature cartographic illustrations, produced in collaboration with her brother Frank.

White's career was marked by adventurous travel, including flights across the U.S. and trips to Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines, and India, experiences that inspired many of her works. She also produced notable maps for events like the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco. Despite her prolific output and growing popularity among collectors today, Ruth Taylor White's personal life remains relatively obscure, with few biographical details available and no confirmed date of death, though she was reportedly still active as late as 1997. Her legacy endures through her playful, engaging maps that continue to charm and inform audiences worldwide.



Here is a cover of Ruth's work, produced by Western Air Express in October of 1929. This gem includes 10 pages of maps, texts and photos to include a single page map of the United States showing WAE routes and connecting airlines. The cover features a Tri-motored Fokker aircraft flying overhead with the signature WAE arrowhead logo at the bottom.

Biography courtesy of The Antiquarium in Houston, Texas, one of the longest running, and last remaining, general antique rare map and print sellers left in the world.

. . .Submitted by John Mays



Save the Date!
TWA Museum Hangar Dance
Saturday, April 17, 2027

Thank you John Miller, Sr.



We want to take this opportunity to thank John Miller, Sr. for his time served on the TWA Board of Directors, as well as for his countless hours and support for the museum. John stepped down this summer due to other obligations.

The Museum first met John Miller when Steve Wood, a former board member, brought him in for a visit. He was so friendly! John is a successful business owner in NKC. He owns several buildings and has shared one of his spaces, iWERX, with the museum for several events over the last few years, including a movie night (which sold out) and more recently an evening honoring the memory of TWA Flight 800 on July 17th.

He offered his parking lots for the museum to sell parking spaces during the North Kansas City Snake Saturday parade two years in a row. The parking lots sold out each time and John donated the proceeds to the museum.

John also has hosted several luncheons for the Silver Wings organization at iWERX.

But wait, there's more! He also worked tirelessly to see that the TWA Hangar Dance returned as a fundraiser for the museum after a three year absence. John foot the bill for the table and chair rental and also bought several tables for his guests. He also invited Kerry Floyd at TriStar Experience to move the Wings of Pride aircraft over to our hangar for the enjoyment of the dance guests to tour and to be photographed in the cockpit.

Thank you John for your time and countless effort! You will be missed!

The TWA Museum is a Hidden Gem!

While traveling in the area from Arkansas, my husband and I had an afternoon free in Kansas City. Having been to the city many times, we'd done all the touristy things and stuffed ourselves with all the BBQ that we could stand. We were looking for something new. And we found it in something old.

A search for little-known things to do revealed that TWA had a museum tucked away at the downtown airport. Although we never flew TWA, we both remembered it as a great American success story. Once we arrived and were greeted by several friendly staff members, we knew it was going to be a great experience. And it was.



We met former flight attendants, saw actual planes in the hangar, and witnessed the history of this historic airline through displays and artifacts. In the end, I wound up buying a cool, vintage mechanics jacket once worn by a TWA worker. Our tour guide was wonderful and everyone we met were kind, helpful, and fun!

We would encourage you to visit the TWA Museum and experience it for yourself. It's the best specialty museum I've ever seen!

Laura Keck

Matthew Walsh Scholarship Award

In September, the Matthew Walsh Memorial Scholarship recognized another group of promising aviation maintenance students at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) in Kansas City. Andrew Maldonado was selected as the scholarship winner, with Caleb Richard and Sheldon Waller named runners-up. This was Sheldon's second time as a runner-up.

With support from the Walsh family, friends, and the TWA Museum, the program has awarded 24 scholarships during its first eight years. Winners receive a stocked toolbox or an equivalent payment toward student loans, while runners-up receive a handwritten note of encouragement with a small cash prize. The next scholarship will be awarded in December.

TWA Museum Volunteers play an especially important role by carefully reviewing the applications and helping select students who best represent the scholarship's values of perseverance, service, character and commitment to aviation. Their thoughtful work behind the scenes helps ensure that each award honors Matthew's memory and supports a deserving future aviation professional.

Established in 2018 by Tom and Valerie Walsh in memory of their son Matthew, the scholarship helps talented AIM students begin careers in aviation maintenance. Matthew graduated from AIM with honors and earned his FAA certification in 2008, but his aviation career was tragically cut short six months later. The scholarship preserves his enthusiasm for aviation by helping future mechanics obtain the tools and financial support needed to enter the profession.



Caleb Richard, Runner-Up (center) & Andrew Maldonado (right) Scholarship Winner

Please contact Tom Walsh via email at tom.walsh@tw-Security.com if you would be interested in volunteering to help make a positive impact in the lives of others through this scholarship program.

Red Tail Academy Gala at the TWA Museum

The Red Tail Academy, Inc. officially launched in June 2020 as a nonprofit in Kansas City with the mission to create opportunities to expose, educate and mentor underrepresented youth (ages 12-18) in the aviation field. The Academy was founded by local pilots and aviation enthusiasts who are passionate about helping youth overcome the many barriers into the world of aviation. Here are some photos of their recent fundraising gala!





From the President, Matt Larsen

(continued from Page 1)

An aircraft on display that TWA ordered, but never operated, is the Concorde. Like the 747 prototype, this is one of the aircraft on display that you can tour the interior of. Unlike the 747 though, this Concorde is still fitted with its last passenger interior and you can stand in the rear part of the cockpit. So many switches and dials!

Although much smaller than the MOF, I'm proud to be a volunteer at the TWA Museum. I'm very fortunate to be working with all of you! -Matt

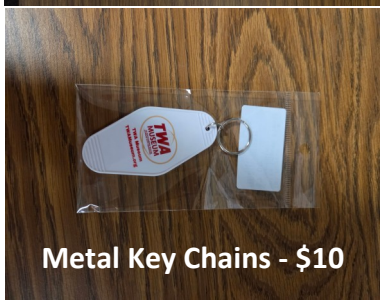






New in the Gift Shop!











Travel Tips. . .

I was told recently about a beautiful park in Yonkers, New York. It's 12 miles from Manhattan, open seven days a week with free entry and parking!

Untermyer Gardens originated as the grand estate of Samuel Untermyer and evolved into one of the most celebrated gardens in the United States, with over 48 acres of spectacular scenery! Oh, and don't miss the TWA Bench in memory of the victims of Flight 800 in 1996!

...Submitted by Pam Blaschum



Birthdays Galore at the Museum!

Joe Hobbs, Sr.

First of all our own Joe Hobbs, longtime volunteer at the museum, celebrated his 90th birthday at the museum on Saturday, August 8th! His wife, Belinda, is also a longtime volunteer!





Jim Loosen

Next up, our museum hosted a photo shoot for Jim Loosen, who turned 102-years-old on September 2nd. Jim was a former TWA employee, who began working in 1946 at our very building after his pilot career in the Navy. The senior living facility in which Jim resides celebrated his membership to the centenarian club in style with a photo shoot with Jim near Ellie and other areas at our museum. Accompanying Jim were his children, Kevin Loosen, Patti Thedinger and Kay Sipple. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting Jim and his family, along with hearing the stories about Jim's TWA past!





R.E. “Ed” Whaley

On September 19th, the museum also hosted the 90th birthday celebration of Ed Whaley. Ed was a longtime TWA employee in the machine shop.

The TWA Museum is a wonderful venue to host small celebrations of life! Contact the museum at 816-234-1011 if you have an interest in booking!

Welcome to Our New TWA Museum Volunteers!



Bob Meixell

I am a retiree after serving on Navy nuclear submarines and a career in commercial nuclear power. My wife Susan and I recently relocated from Greenville, SC to North Kansas City, MO to be close to our family in the Northland.

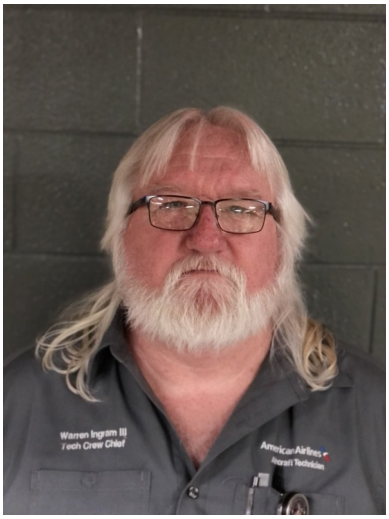
I was already interested in commercial aviation, partly because in the nuclear plant control room we studied airline cockpit command and control as part of our training. Then one day at the dog park, I met a former TWA flight attendant and TWA Museum volunteer (Debi Knechtenhofer) and the rest is history…



Scott Lakin

Scott Lakin grew up in a TWA family in Gladstone, MO. His father, John Lakin, was a captain with TWA for over 30 years based here in Kansas City. Scott graduated from Oak Park High School and is an alumnus of William Jewel College where he met his wife of 47 years, Cindy. Scott and Cindy have three children and five grandchildren.

Warren Ingram



I started my aviation career in the United States Marine Corps on November 2, 1979, assigned to the A-6 Squadron, VMA (aw) 332 “The Moonlighters”. This is where I learned my craft as a structure res mechanic, metal shop. I have worked with the Grumman A-6, the F-4, the A-4, the Harrier, the EA-6B, the KC-135 and helicopters as well during my active-duty career. I was fortunate to travel all over the world during my active-duty days. In June of 1987, I was hired by TWA - my dream job! I worked in the engine building, Structures/Metal Shop or metal/composite repairs for most of TWA’s known livery. I made the transition to American Airlines and retired in December of 2022. United Airlines called in March of 2023 and I retired from there in August of 2026.

I loved working for TWA because it really was a “family” environment! It was a fun place to work as there were many days I looked forward to going in to work. TWA gave me a great life making it possible to achieve things I my life!



Erik Avery

Erik is a 50+ year Kansas City area resident who first became interested in aviation around 5-years-old when his military family lived at Scott AFB, just east of St. Louis. Eventually, he chose a career in healthcare and retired 5 years ago from Occupational Therapy. He maintained his interest in flying with Microsoft Flight Simulator through the years and looks forward to learning more about aviation from all of the great volunteers he has met through the TWA museum.

Thinking of Donating Items to the Museum?

Before sending or dropping off items to the museum, please send an email to:
twajohnmays@gmail.com
describing your donation, list of items and pictures if possible.

We will respond as soon as we can!
We truly appreciate the donations we receive but are running out of storage room.

Thank you for your consideration!

TWA MUSEUM
10 RICHARDS ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Want to Book a Tour of 10 Guests or More?

Simply follow this link to book your tour online:

https://twamuseum.org/group-tours

All group admission prices require a minimum of **10 guests** paying in one transaction.

Reservations are required. Please book **72 hours** before your visit date.

Group Admission Fees:

Adults and Seniors, 10 guests or more – $10.00 each.

Youths pay usual rates, regardless of number in the group.

Youth (ages 6-16) – $8.00
Children (ages 1-5) – FREE

From a TWA Lover's Kitchen!



Jalapeno Popper Spread

(2) 8oz packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
(1) 4oz can chopped green chilies
2oz canned diced jalapeno peppers (drained)
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese (plus some for the top)

With a hand mixer, combine cream cheese and mayonnaise in a large bowl until smooth. Add green chilies, jalapenos and 1 cup of parmesan cheese. Microwave on High until hot, about 3 minutes or bake in preheated oven (375 degrees) for about 30 minutes. Serve with tortillas chips or toasted sliced French Baguette.



TWA Museum Mission Statement

The mission of the TWA Museum is "to preserve and celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Trans World Airlines (TWA), educate visitors about its pioneering spirit and contributions to aviation history, and to inspire future generations".



The 2026 TWA Golf Classic

Many thanks to Don Lueke (left) who spearheaded this year's successful golf tournament yet again! Thanks so much to all who participated and especially to this year's Corporate Sponsors!









TWA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The TWA Board of Directors would like to thank our volunteers who attended the TWA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on October 13th! It was wonderful to see so much socializing! Thanks to Scott's Kitchen for delivering the delicious food! For those of you who were unable to come, we missed you and hope to see you at the next event. Each of you are so appreciated! This wonderful museum could not continue without you. You have so much to offer of yourselves, your time, your knowledge and your stories. We have grown over the years and continue to grow and thrive! Stay with us; together there is more to come!





Santa Claus is Coming to the TWA Museum!

Saturday, November 28th



11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Bring your little ones to tell Santa their wishes and take their picture with Santa and our 1937 Lockheed Electra (Ellie) or our TWA Moonliner Exhibit!





THANK YOU!

The TWA Museum would like to thank the following businesses for their support in so many ways!

iWERX for allowing us use of their space for events and their continuing support!

Community America for their history and partnership in the future with the TWA Museum!

Silver Wings International for their generous and consistent donations they make to the TWA Museum!

Clipped Wings International for their generous donation of $49,000 to the TWA Museum and their wonderful in-person support at special events!

Signature Aviation for their continued support in all our endeavors!

Thank you to our Caterer Emily McMurray of "*Gourmet-ish*", for helping us with the many events that we host!

Also, thank you to our wonderful TWA former employees, Friends of the Museum, and all those who have donated items and money to make sure we preserve the history of TWA here in Kansas City, as well as the world.

Museum Legacy Society

The TWA Museum Legacy Society has been established to provide you the opportunity to commit a gift during your lifetime that will help preserve the TWA Museum for years to come!

Dying is not something we want to think about. However, if we want to have a say in what happens after our passing, we need to make sure our wishes are known ahead of time. If in lieu of flowers you would like memorial donations made to the TWA Museum in your memory or the memory of a loved one, make sure that your loved ones are told of your wishes or if you would like to leave part of your estate to the museum, make sure it is put in your will or trust to that effect.

All of the memorial donations are tax deductible as the Museum is a 501C3 nonprofit.

Need to Conduct Some Research?

The museum offers several links and resources in which to perform research. The museum's archives website and digital collection is a great place to start. Most of the information that you seek may be found by searching through the resources offered here:

https://twamuseum.org/research

http://www.twamuseumarchives.org/

MAKE YOUR PROM OR ENGAGEMENT A SPECIAL MEMORY AT THE TWA MUSEUM



We have had several requests for Prom and Engagement Pictures to be taken with Ellie, in our vintage phone booths or in the Ambassador Club. Now we can include our Cabin Trainer! We love to get our pictures out there and welcome the opportunity for those special moments in time. A $25.00 donation is suggested for personal phone photos and a $50.00 donation for professional photographers. Reservations are recommended so we can secure the volunteers we need to help with this one of a kind opportunity. Call the Museum at 816-234-1011 to make your reservation!



TWA Museum Hours
Wednesday - Saturday / 10 AM to 4 PM

TWA Museum Volunteers

Zana Allen
Erik Avery
Joe Ballweg
Jerry Bauers
Dianna Bennett
Pam Blaschum
Martin Bryant
Margo Cabillonar
Larry Chalberg, Sr.
Dennis Claus
Kevin Clossick
Sandra Clouser
Jawn Collins
Jim Davis
Linda Eckerle
Robert Eckerle
Chris Elkins
Margie Foley
Jim Hall
Judy Gerling
Kathy Grant
Judy Guilford
Belinda Hobbs
Joe Hobbs
Warren Ingram
Rick Karsten
Debi Knechtenhofer
Scott Lakin
Matt Larsen
Janet Lhuillier
Don Lueke
Art Lujin
Seth Mason
Gary Mayden
Conner McCollim
Bob Meixell
Bill (Mitch) Mitchell
Lori Moore
David Morningstar
Elli & Eric Morse
Mark Murtha
Nina Newberry
David Parker
Shelley Tork Raker
Neil Ralston
Ryen Reedy
Frank Ruege, Jr.
David Schrag
Lane Sisson
Bryan Sitzmann
Nancy Sitzmann
Jay Stewart
Mark Townsend
Pam Tucker
Alice Wasko
Ken Weiner
Kris Walstad
Sonia Whiteaker



TWA Museum Volunteers
TWA Museum Volunteers
TWA Museum Volunteers

Donation Form

Your support ensures that the Legacy of TWA and it's influence on early aviation remains intact within future generations, and for that WE THANK YOU!

If you would like to make a donation through this newsletter, please fill out the following form and mail it to the volunteers at:

TWA Museum

10 Richards Road, Suite 110

Kansas City, Missouri 64116

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Phone Number:_____

Amount Enclosed:

___$250 ___$500 ____$750 ___$1000 ___Other_____

Friend of the Museum

Additionally, if you would like to become a Friend of the Museum, please choose from the options below:

_____Individual - $45.00

Benefits: Member card, unlimited free museum admission 1 year, a 10% discount in the gift shop and online sales, and advance notice to special events and exhibits.

(Senior $35.00)

_____Family (Mother, Father, Son, Daughter)-$75.00

Benefits: Member card, unlimited free museum admission for family members 1 year, a 10% discount in the gift shop and online sales, and advance notice to special events and exhibits.

(Senior $65.00)

_____Founders Club-$2,500.00

Benefits: Member card, free family entry life of donor, 20% discount on all merchandise, newsletter, advance notice of special events and exhibits, PERMANENT RECOGNITION on beautiful plaque displayed in the TWA Museum.

TWA Museum

10 NW Richards Rd

Kansas City, MO 64116-4253