

March 2025
NEWSLETTER



OPEN WED-SAT 10-4

Museum

at 10 Richards Road

816-234-1011

TWAMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

10 Richards Road

Kansas City, MO 64116

twamuseum.org

From the President, Pam Blaschum

Greetings to all TWA Museum Members! I hope everyone is off to a great New Year!

The TWA Museum certainly is! On January 21st we were gifted a new and awesome display entitled “**Nearest by Air to Everywhere**”, a tour of Kansas City’s Aviation History and the part TWA played!

This exhibit at the Kansas City Public Library, which charts the rich history of air travel in the city and surrounding area, opened on the fifth floor of the downtown Central Library in June of 2021, after the Library’s return to full operations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chock-full of vintage photos and other images, the exhibit starts its timeline on July 4, 1868, when a crowd of 8,000 spilled onto rooftops and other high vantage points to view the first manned hot air balloon ascension in the city – a scene right out of "Oz". The Library exhibit drew heavily from vintage photos and other images in its special collections. Material was also pulled from the Kansas City Museum, the Jackson County and Overland Park historical societies and other cultural partners. After the exhibit run ended, the **Kansas City Public Library** approached our museum regarding the graphics collection, which resulted in a permanent loan to the museum. Our hope is to have the exhibit installed in our building by the end of **Spring 2025**.

Thanks to **Special Collections Manager Jeremy Drouin** and the **Kansas City Public Library** for their generous donation and to **TWA Board Member, John Miller** for his assistance in this wonderful acquisition.



On another note, not to brag, but our wonderful volunteers logged **7,896.05** hours for 2024! We have the best volunteers ever!

Board of Directors

Pam Blaschum-President
Nancy Sitzmann-Secretary
Chris Funk-Treasurer
Don Lueke
John Miller
Judy Gerling
Alice Wasko
Larry Dingman
Matt Larsen

TWA Operations Manager

John Mays

Archivists

Zana Allen
Joe Ballweg
Mark Murtha

BSA Merit Badge Program

Art Lujin

Volunteer Coordinator

Shelley Tork Raker

Friends of the Museum Liaison

Belinda Hobbs

Social Media

Matt Larsen
Larry Dingman
John Mays

Media Relations

Judy Gerling

Newsletter

Nancy Sitzmann

City of Kansas City Directors Meet at the TWA Museum!

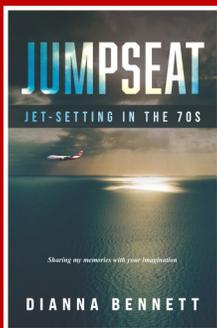


The **City of Kansas City** recently held their monthly **City Managers Directors Meeting** at our museum. Forty-two guests from KCMO government attended the event, many of whom have never visited our museum. We received several positive comments regarding our museum, and many guests confirmed that they would visit again! Our Boeing 717 Simulator seemed to be a huge hit (**City Manager Brian Platt** certainly enjoyed it!).

Thanks to our **Board Members Pam, Judy, Don, Larry and Matt** for their help with this event. Greatly appreciated! Moreover, special thanks to **Director Melissa Cooper** and the **Aviation Department** for suggesting that our museum host this event!



Book Signing by One of our Own, Dianna Bennett!



Our museum recently had the pleasure of hosting a book signing with **Author Dianna Bennett**. Dianna, a former TWA flight attendant and current museum volunteer, recently released her book, *Jumpseat: Jet Setting in the 70's*.

The book is a fabulous read: "When a 20 year old college student stumbles on her way to marriage, she finds solace in a new life of travel and intrigue. In 1969, with Vietnam raging and the

youth of America on fire, Dianna ran away from the pain of rejection and the embarrassment of an engagement gone wrong. As she searches for meaning, two strangers steer her into the arms of Trans World Airlines and the "Jet Set" age of travel. With each new assignment, especially on the Boeing 747, she soon forgets about the life she left behind. Open eyed, yet naïve, she earns her wings as she maneuvers through the new and exciting minefields of international travel."

Dianna's book is available in the Museum's gift shop for only \$15.00, plus shipping. Please drop us a line at twajohnmays@gmail.com to place your order!





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



In 2024, our museum set records for the number of hosted events and tours. That trend continued into the New Year, as we hosted a 5-day movie production which included actor **John Travolta**. The production featured the **Lockheed Constellation** previously owned by the **Airline History Museum** (the aircraft is now owned by Mr. Travolta). Over 100 cast members and crew descended upon our museum, utilizing almost every inch of space that our museum had to offer. Visitor access to our museum, and other areas of the hangar, were obviously very restricted during the production. The “Connie” was parked outside of Bay 2, with the exterior and interior filming conducted under brutal weather conditions. Our museum provided “props” for the production, and museum Board Members **Judy Gerling** and **Larry Dingman** graciously offered TWA “historical support” whenever needed. While it was physically and mentally tiring for everyone involved, our museum shined brightly for the entire event.



While we don't know yet the title or the release date for the production, it is our understanding that the movie is based upon a short-story written by Mr. Travolta.

Special thanks to the museum's Board of Directors, especially Judy and Larry, for the support they provided for the event. The entire production team was very grateful for our museum's support!



90th Birthday Celebration at the TWA Museum

With a Special Guest!

On January 12th, our museum had the honor of hosting the 90th birthday party for retired TWA Pilot Markt Meyer. Captain Meyer piloted the Martins, every version of TWA's Constellation, and ultimately retiring on the Boeing 707. The guest turnout for the party was overwhelming, with friends and family visiting from several locations. Knowing that actor John Travolta was in town for a movie production, our museum reached out to Mr. Travolta and asked if he would be willing to "crash" Captain Meyer's party. And he did! What a special thrill it was for Markt to have Mr. Travolta stop in and wish him "Happy Birthday." They both spent some time chatting about Constellations and re-visiting Captain Meyer's flying past. It was simply a special occasion!



*Save the date for the 2025
TWA Museum Golf Classic
Tuesday, September 9th, 2025*

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES



FRANCE...Orly Field, Paris

© TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

Museum Visitors 2024!

We're patting ourselves on the back! 2024 was the best year we have had so far! We had 4,846 visitors from 46 states. We were only missing Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire and Vermont! We also had visitors from at least 15 countries! Thank you [Belinda Hobbs](#) for keeping track of our visitors!

2024 - 4,846 visitors

2023 - 4,593 visitors

2022 - 4,668 visitors

2021 - 3,541 visitors

2020 - 1,584 visitors

2019 - 4,838 visitors

2018 - 4,416 visitors

2017 - 3,598 visitors

2016 - 3,325 visitors

2015 - 2,678 visitors

A Visit from Santa!

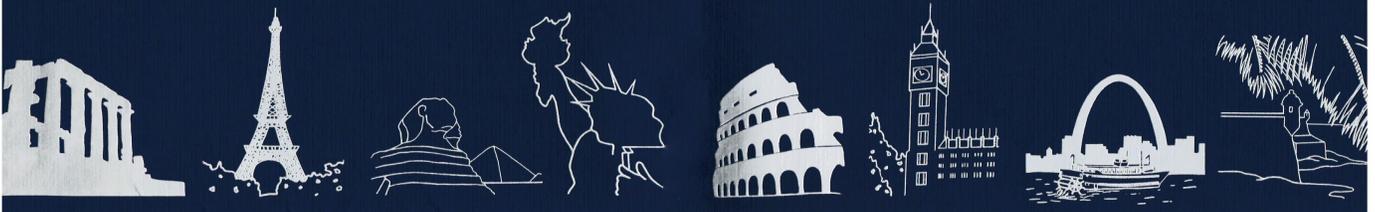
On Monday, December 23rd, Santa traveled from the North Pole to pay a visit to the TWA Museum. Santa's original visit, scheduled for Saturday, November 30th, had to be postponed due to the inclement weather. Several adults and children turned out for the rescheduled event. It was a delightful time and everyone enjoyed meeting jolly old Saint Nicholas! Santa plans to visit again this year, so be looking out for that announcement! **Joe and Belinda Hobbs** told Santa their wishes!





Royal Ambassador

The TWA Experience!



This will be an exciting time for you and your group to relive or learn what it was like to travel as a Royal Ambassador on TWA.

You will begin your experience with cocktails and appetizers in the Ambassador Club, where you will enjoy a fashion show of Vintage Airline Uniforms.

Next, travel through the jetway and board your flight! Once seated in the cabin, you will be treated to a hot towel and a glass of Champagne.

After “takeoff,” you’ll savor an international cuisine conceived by TWA Master Chefs of yesteryear, influenced by the trade winds, and inspired by the aromas of the Orient.

You will be treated to a leafy, green salad with our specialty dressing accompanied by homemade Artisan Bread and Honey Butter, and all served on our Royal Ambassador China. Following the salad, a sorbet palate cleanser will be offered.

Your fine dining will include a choice of a properly aged and selected Beef or a grain-fed Chicken dish and farm-ripened seasonal Fruits and Vegetables. Red or White wine also served. A scrumptious Dessert of our choice, fresh Fruit and international Cheeses, followed by Cordials, Coffee, and Champagne will complete the succulent meal planned especially for you during your “flight” with us.

For groups of 12-25 guests, only \$250 each.

Please scan this QR Code to watch the video! →



Bon Voyage!

Call 816-234-1011 or email twajohnmays@gmail.com for more information

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!



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 (ages 17-59), 10 people or over – \$10.00 each.

Youth and Seniors pay usual rates, regardless of number in the group.

Seniors (age 60+) – \$8.00
Youth (ages 6-16) – \$7.00
Children (ages 1-5) – FREE

From a TWA Lover's Kitchen

Chicken Enchiladas

2 tbl butter	2 garlic cloves
2 large onions (thinly sliced)	2 tsp oregano
2 cups chopped cooked chicken	1 tsp cumin
8 oz cream cheese (soft or cubed)	1/2 tsp sugar
1/2 cup diced roasted red bell pepper	
1/4 tsp salt	14 1/2 oz chicken broth
1/4 tsp pepper	1/2 cup salsa
(4) 4.5 oz cans diced green chili	10 (7 in) tortillas
1 small onion chopped	8 oz shredded cheddar

Melt butter in large skillet over med-high heat, stirring often; add sliced onions and cook 20 minutes or until caramelized. Reduce heat to low, add chopped chicken & next 4 ingredients.

Pulse chilies and next 5 ingredients in blender or food processor.

Bring chile mixture and chicken broth to a boil in saucepan over high heat; cook 5 min or until slightly thickened (thin gravy). Remove from heat and stir in salsa.

Spread 1/3 chili mixture evenly on bottom of lightly greased 9 x 13 baking dish.

Spoon chicken mixture evenly down center of each Tortilla; roll up, and place seam side down, in baking dish. Top w/remaining chili mixture; sprinkle with cheese.

Bake at 375 for 20-25 minutes or until bubbly.

Note: Freeze chile mixture and filled tortillas separately up to 1 month, thaw overnight and prepare and bake as directed.

Makes 4-6 servings.



History of TWA Flight Attendant Uniforms

Enjoy the fourth installment of the history of the infamous TWA Flight Attendant Uniforms!

1968-1971, Winter Dalton: The Dalton collection was very bright and colorful. The look was individual. For Winter, TWA Hostesses had three colors from which to choose from: poppy, avocado, and gold. The basic design combined a jacket and dress of multi-ply wool; the striped bodice of the dress featured a slightly lowered waistline with an east fitting matched belt.

The turtleneck dress had stripes, which gave way at the waist to a solid color A-line skirt. The tricot lined princess jacket opened in a V-neckline with gold blazer buttons. Hostesses could choose to wear a multi-striped beret or a striped headband to accessorize this uniform. The long, fringed scarf was worn as a part of the uniform and could be arranged in a number of different ways.

New Hostess wings were designed for this uniform. They were larger with the wing up-turned and worn only on the jacket. Shoes were a poppy orange leather or alabaster colored knee-high boots. A poppy vinyl purse was carried. The poppy orange cape-coat was for year round use. When the lining was zipped out, sleeves could be pulled in to make a cape.



1969-1971, Summer Dalton: The summer uniform was as much fun as the winter ensemble and gave the hostesses a choice of another three colors: green, navy, and brown. The dress was the same but the jacket came in different colors. The top of the dress was white and the skirt had a navy, green, and brown large windowpane plaid on a white background. White, brown, navy, or green patent shoes, or white knee high boots were worn with a white purse to complete the outfit. A headband to match the skirt was optional. An alabaster colored Samsonite suitcase was carried. The bags became very dirty during the course of the month so the hostesses spent much time scrubbing the suitcases with cleanser and then waxing them.

1971-1974, Valentino of Rome: TWA's choice for the introduction of the mix and match style as we moved further and further away from the uniform look. This uniform that Valentino designed was the first using fabrics that could be tossed into the washer and hung up to drip dry without any wrinkles!

Three new colors were used: plum, beige, and brown. Valentino introduced a dress suit, which featured a dress and short matching jacket; a pantsuit with a tunic top, slacks, and long jacket; and a safari dress. The Hostess could wear any color jacket with the pants ensemble; additionally, they could choose to wear the safari dress completely buttoned as a dress, or unbutton it to a point just below the waist and wear it over matching slacks or hot pants. Plum and brown Valentino signature scarves tied the whole look together.



. . .Continued on page 9

Flight Attendant Uniforms continued. . .

Every item in the collection was embossed with Valentino's signature "V", including the buttons. The shoes were mid-heel brown. They were also allowed to wear boots. The winter coat was plum wool and was belted. The light weight coat was beige and washable. A beige or brown serving smock was worn in flight. This was the first uniform with no hat and many of the hostesses used the scarf to tie their hair back. Grooming regulations eased - the mandatory girdle was out; so were the red shades of lip and nail color. Hair could now be long, but was required to be worn up or tied back.

1974-1978, Stan Herman: Stan Herman designed a bright non-uniform look for Hart, Shaffner, and Marx. Bold colors of royal blue, gold and brick were used. The collection had interchangeable pieces and colors to create an individual look. The shirt jacket was softly belted around the waist; the skirt had two kick pleats in front. The slacks were either beige with pinstripes or a solid blue. The outfits were worn with a sweater in matching colors or a body shirt in beige with a white all over TWA logo imprint. Caramel colored shoes with a matching shoulder bag were worn. A fiberglass suitcase in caramel was also issued. The scarf was an original TWA design depicting old and new aircraft and used all three colors.

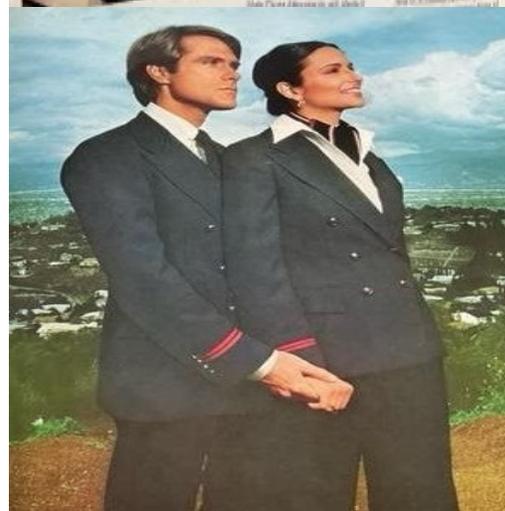


Winter coat was constructed of a heavy Melton wool fabric and was nicknamed "Big Blue". For year-round use, an optional tan slouch hat was introduced. The male flight attendants were issued a brown jacket, one pair of brown and one pair of beige trousers, which they could mix to look like a suit or a sport coat and slacks. They wore white or blue shirts, red and brown striped tie and a blue serving jacket.

1978-2002, Ralph Lauren (Submitted by President, Pam Blaschum)

Last year, a group of Silver Wings Board members were invited to tour the **Ralph Lauren Archives and Library**. They were limited to sixteen people and no phones or photos. The tour encompassed the 50 years of building the company and brand which included the designing of the TWA uniform in 1978 that completely changed the look of almost all airlines' uniforms.

Ralph Lauren started as a designer of men's ties in 1967 and charged \$1.50 per tie. The first year he made \$500,000. He then moved on to men's shirts to accommodate the wide knot of his ties. Men's suits came next, followed by women's clothing. His reputation spread and Hollywood called. His first movie was "The Great Gatsby" with Robert Redford. He designed all the clothing and his fame skyrocketed. The "Polo" label was introduced and the rest is history. All his products are still made from natural products, no synthetics. I know all of us that wore the Ralph Lauren uniforms were proud of the professionalism it created!



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!

Chris Funk owner of **Picture and Frame Industries** is our Treasurer and a member of our Board Directors. Most of the posters you see in the museum, as well as numerous prints, were framed by his company.



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



Signature Flight Support 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

Zana Allen
 Joe Ballweg
 Dianna Bennett
 Pam Blaschum
 Margo Cabillonar
 Larry Chalberg, Sr.
 Dennis Claus
 Kevin Clossick
 Sandra Clouser
 Jawn Collins
 Dwight Donald
 Larry Dingman
 Linda & Robert Eckerle
 Chris Elkins
 Margie Foley
 Chris Funk
 Judy Gerling
 Jim Hall
 Pam Henderson
 Joe & Belinda Hobbs
 Matt Larsen
 Janet Lhuiller
 Don Lueke
 Art Lujin
 Seth Mason
 Gary Mayden
 Conner McCollim
 John Miller
 Bill (Mitch) Mitchell
 Lori Moore
 David Morningstar
 Elli & Eric Morse
 Mark Murtha
 Nina Newberry
 Tom Nicks
 David Parker
 Shelley Tork Raker
 Ray Rowe
 Frank Ruege, Jr.
 Lane Sisson
 Nancy Sitzmann
 Jay Stewart
 Mark Townsend
 Pam Tucker
 Alice Wasko
 Sonia Whiteaker
 Steve Wood

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum
10 NW Richards Rd
Kansas City, MO 64116-4253

Donation Form



Friend of the Museum

Your support ensures that the Legacy of TWA and its 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 _____

plaque displayed in the TWA Museum.

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

Founders Club-\$2,500.00

(Senior \$65.00)

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.

Family (Mother, Father, Son, Daughter)-\$75.00

(Senior \$35.00 / Senior Couple \$40.00)

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.

Individual - \$45.00

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