

July 2026  
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, Matt Larsen*

Fellow volunteers and Friends of the Museum,

One of the perks of my being president of the museum's board of directors is meeting people from all walks of life. Shortly before the hangar dance in April, I was informed that I'd be sitting at the VIP table (I've never thought of myself as a VIP). Guests at the table included Dan Viets and his wife (Dan is the owner of the Moonliner II rocket on display at the museum), and Charles and Daniel Disney (sons of Ray Disney - older brother to Roy and Walt). Both of them are so warm and friendly! Charles was seated next to me and told me all sorts of stories from growing up in Hollywood's golden era. Amongst his friends were Ricky Nelson!



Two exciting operational changes are coming to our museum soon. Currently I'm working with each of my fellow board members to implement Zoom meetings. This will allow volunteers and others to attend our meetings virtually. Part of that process will include acquiring and installing the necessary hardware on the office computer to include a camera and a headset, along with training for volunteers who request it. I'll also work with individual volunteers who need technical assistance on their own electronic devices.

The second change involves a new POS system at the front desk and in the gift shop. Features of the new system include a bigger screen so it's easier to see things, as well as a laser scanner to replace our current camera-based system. When the system is ready to be implemented into our operations, training will be offered to those who normally staff the front desk.

One last thing: the board of directors recently voted to start having bi-monthly social meetings for former TWA employees. Those events will take place on days that the museum is normally closed so as not to impact tours. Dates and times are yet to be determined, but will start after we make it through what is expected to be a busy summer tour season.

-Matt

#### Board of Directors

Matt Larsen, President  
Judy Gerling, Executive VP  
Jay Stewart, VP of Operations  
David Parker, Treasurer  
Dianna Bennett, Secretary  
Jim Hall, Director  
Janet Lhuillier, Director  
Donald Lueke, Director  
Shelley Tork Raker, Director  
Alice Wasko, Director  
Ken Weiner, Director  
Pam Blaschum, Past President

#### Archivists

Zana Allen  
Joe Ballweg  
Judy Guilford  
Rick Karsten  
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#### BSA Merit Badge Program

Art Lujin

#### Friends of the Museum Liaison

Belinda Hobbs

#### Gift Shop

Janet Lhuillier

#### Media Relations

Judy Gerling

#### Newsletter

Nancy Sitzmann & John Mays

#### Operations Manager

John Mays

#### Social Media

Matt Larsen & Jay Stewart

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Shelley Tork Raker

## Vintage TWA Lives on in Maryland!

These photos feature Craig Whitaker (right) and Robert Neal Marshall (left) and their Maryland dining room with a vintage TWA logo sign originally displayed behind the counter at LAX. Craig flew as a TWA flight attendant from the late 1980s into the early 1990s, based at LAX before later commuting to JFK and St. Louis due to company furloughs. Craig and Robert first met aboard a TWA L-1011 flight to Los Angeles — an aircraft that remains a favorite for both of them. After the two relocated to Maryland to be closer to family, Craig left TWA and started over with USAir, later US Airways, which ultimately became part of the American Airlines system where Craig still flies today based out of DCA. Robert recently authored the illustrated young readers book *Connie's Tale*, which was inspired by the Lockheed Super Constellation.



### For those of you who live in the Kansas City area. . .

The North Platte Historical Museum located in Dearborn, MO will be showcasing a TWA exhibit on July 18, 2026 from 10am to 4pm. The museum welcomes past TWA employees to gather and visit. They will display TWA memorabilia and welcome any TWA memorabilia you would like to share for the day, along with sharing your memories of your TWA experiences.

The museum has received a grant for a PA system to enable everyone to hear the speakers and help with the oral history recordings.

We hope to see you at 210 Main Street in Dearborn, MO on July 18.

### Cute Little TWA Museum Visitor!



On March 1st cute little 2 year old Beau Jansson brought his parents, Alicia and Greg, and baby brother Liam, to visit the museum! He was pretty shy about getting his picture with the rocket, but after some coaxing by his Mom, who "she'd go too", he loved it! Beau decided he'd like to come back again sometime!

**Save the Date!**  
**TWA Museum**  
**2027 Hangar Dance**  
**Saturday, April 24, 2027**  
**Let's Dance!**

# TWA's Role in Putting a Man on the Moon!

*Submitted by Pam Blaschum*



Watching NASA's Artemis II mission to the Moon recently, brought back some TWA memories! Going back some 20 years, I took my niece, Samantha and nephew, Jeremy to various theme parks for a spring break. After exhausting all those, I told them we were going to do something I wanted to do — visit the Kennedy Space Center. I could tell they were not very excited, but quickly changed their minds once we arrived. They were in awe of everything. I told them that TWA used to run the place. Jeremy said, "oh Pammie, you think TWA did everything". We found a tour guide who confirmed that TWA did indeed run the visitors through the complex. Here are some of the highlights:

On Valentine's Day in 1964, nine TWA employees flew from their home base in Kansas City to a place called the Merritt Island Area, a site the world would soon be known as the Kennedy Space Center. These "Valentine 9", along with 3,000 additional employees, would represent TWA's first major government support contract as the company became a key contributor to the space race and America's journey to the moon.

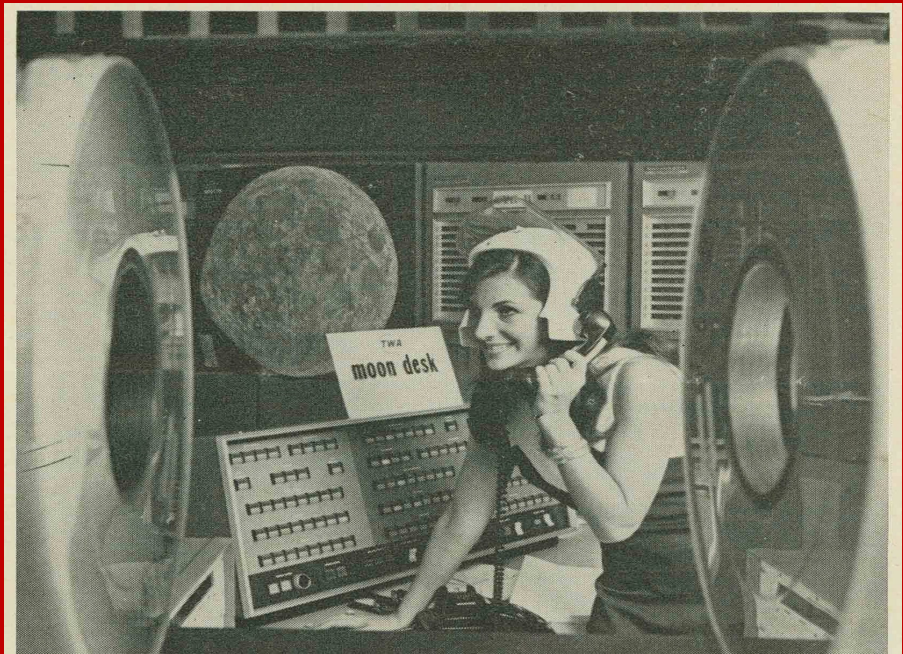
Much of the work putting together this contract for TWA took place at MCI offices. It was at this location where the telex from NASA arrived on Feb. 10, 1964, informing TWA that they had won out over 20 companies in competition for this major contract which started during NASA's Gemini program and continued through all Apollo Moon flights.

At the height of the Apollo programs, there were 3,400 TWA employees working at KSC including engineers, doctors, firemen, cooks, janitors, bus drivers, motor pool mechanics and security personnel. TWA was responsible for 375 Space Center buildings including the Vehicle Assembly Building which was the world's largest building in the world at that time.

The company supplied most common materials needed for Space Center operations, to include 30,000 pens and pencils and 8,000 rolls of toilet paper per month. TWA's Mail and Distribution section delivered 14 million pieces of correspondence annually. Perhaps most visible to the public was TWA's operation of the Visitor Education Center and bus tours of KSC, often processing over 7,200 tourists per day.

At the height of the Apollo program, TWA employees and their families added 12,000 people to the population of Florida's Space Coast!

*Photo Credit: TWA Skyliner Magazine, 1969-06-02*



**MOON MAIDEN.** Leslie Russell, computer programmer at the communications center at Rockleigh, New Jersey, simulates tomorrow's "Moon Desk" for processing reservations for the moon. Later this year, TWA will activate its Burroughs B-8300 computerized reservations system for its round-the-world routes—and will transfer onto magnetic disk files the 3,000 requests we've received for reservations to the moon. Another surge in moon reservations is expected since the flight of Apollo 10.

## 2026 TWA Hangar Dance!

The TWA Museum Hangar Dance is back and was a huge success! So many positive comments and lots of smiles! Many thanks to: The TWA Volunteers who assisted with setup, working the evening and cleanup; Signature Aviation's Vic Wyld and Lane Sisson; and Kerry Floyd, who shared the Wings of Pride for the evening - everyone loved being able to board. The photo opportunities were endless; Judy Gerling and all the TWA Models who made the evening so special for our guests; John Miller, who was relentless in the groundwork to make this happen; and last, but certainly not least, John Mays for his attention to every detail, every license, every permit needed, organizing shuttle service against a very difficult parking lot situation and making sure the Museum was ready for business the following week. Special guests included Charles Disney, Daniel Disney, and Dan Viets, owner of the Moonliner II. A wonderful evening of music was provided by musicians Walter Bryant, Rod Fleeman, & Kent Rausch. Vocalists were Adrienne Hall and Rudy Amato! The evening's performers were Mark Harris & Shari Augustine, TWA Captain (ret.) Russ Longley & Janice Coley, and The Swingsters!



## “Nearest by Air to Everywhere” Exhibit

The TWA Museum is pleased to announce a new display! When visitors enter the lobby at Signature Aviation at Hangar 1, they will be greeted by the Kansas City Public Library exhibit, “Nearest by Air to Everywhere”. Jeremy Drouin, Special Collections Manager at the Library, along with Museum Past President Pam Blaschum, Board Member John Miller, and volunteer Art Lujin, were the driving forces in obtaining this donation. Operations Manager, John Mays was instrumental in coordinating the installation of the exhibit. The exhibit draws heavily from vintage photos and other images in the Library’s Missouri Valley Special Collections, and from the Kansas City Museum, the Jackson County and Overland Park historical societies and other cultural partners.

As always, thanks to Signature Aviation for their ongoing support of the TWA Museum. Special thanks to Carrie Maidment of Print Media Design, and Am Reynolds and Zeke Berger of The Local Print Shop KC for their expertise with the design layout and installation!



### From the Gift Shop!

A TWA flight Attendant uniform was introduced in 1938 and designed by TWA's chief hostess, Gladys Entriken. There were two seasonal variations. In 1941, famed artist George Petty created a drawing featuring the image of a TWA hostess. The purpose was twofold: to generate publicity for TWA and to drum-up patriotism, as World War II unfolded. "TWA's Petty Girl", shown on the t-shirt, would be seen by millions of people through posters, postcards and even luggage tags. The shirts are 100% airlume combed and ring-spun pigment dyed cotton heavyweight 6oz. They sell for \$30.00 and \$32.00 for 2XL and are available in the Museum’s gift shop.

# Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Welcoming the TWA Museum



As a new member of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, the TWA Museum celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 21st! According to Shelby Gambino, the Chamber’s media and communications director, it was one of the best-attended events she has seen!

Special thanks to Operations Manager John Mays, to Joe Ballweg and Debi Knechtenhofer, and to board members David Parker, Judy Gerling, Janet Lhuillier, Don Lueke, Jim Hall, Matt Larsen and Ken Weiner!

*Submitted by Jay Stewart, VP of Operations*



## The Freedom Plane Lands at the TWA Museum!

On March 2nd, the Boeing 737 “Freedom Plane” landed at MKC and taxied to Signature Aviation’s Hangar 1, delivering several of the nation’s founding documents for display at the WWI Museum! Inside the hangar, our TWA Museum served as the backdrop for welcoming remarks before the historic documents continued on to the WWI Museum. TWA Museum Volunteers Margie Foley and Gary Mayden also volunteer at the WWI Museum, and Jerry Bauers serves on it’s Board of Trustees!





**2026 Annual Golf Fundraiser  
Paradise Pointe Golf Complex**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2026 - 8:30am Check-in/10am Tee-off  
18212 Golf Course Rd, Smithville, Missouri**

**4 Person Scramble**

**\$150 per person**

**\$600 for each team of 4**

**Four-person team registration includes:**

- **Breakfast & Lunch**
- **Loaded Goodie Bag**
- **18 Holes of Golf with Cart**
- **Snacks and Beverages**
- **Awards at 3 PM**

**Follow the link below or scan the QR code to:**

- **View the agenda & location**
- **Register for the event**
- **Check out our sponsors**
- **Check out our sponsorship opportunities**
- **Donate to the cause**
- **Volunteer**

**[Charitygolftoday.com/TWAMuseum26](https://Charitygolftoday.com/TWAMuseum26)**

**Need more information?**

**TWA Museum - 816-234-1011**

**Bruce Slimmer - 913-927-9876 (Dixon Golf)**



## Thinking of Donating Items to the Museum?

Before sending or dropping off items to the museum, please send an email to:

[twajohnmays@gmail.com](mailto: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 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!

### A Cake for Chocoholics Only!

1 package Duncan Hines Devil's Food Cake Mix

1/4 cup oil

2 eggs

1 1/4 cup water

1 package chocolate instant pudding

6 oz package chocolate chips

Preheat oven at 350. Mix the oil, eggs, & water together well;

Add the cake mix and instant pudding using a hand or stand mixer. You can also use a whisk. Fold in chocolate chips. Pour into a 9 x 13 cake pan. Spread evenly and bake for 35 to 45 minutes.

After the cake cools, frost with icing of your choice or:

### Fast Fudge Frosting

1 lb. powdered sugar (may need a little more or a little less)

1/2 cup dry cocoa

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup boiling water

1/3 cup butter, softened

1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, cocoa, and salt. Add water and butter and blend; Add vanilla and blend

Frosts two 8 or 9 inch layers or use it on a 9 x 13 cake!

*(This cake will be your forever chocolate cake recipe!)*



## 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".

## TWA Board of Directors — Working for YOU!

Greetings to all our supporters! The Board of Directors want you to know that the museum is growing and thriving. The following list details just a few things that the current Board has accomplished.

- Relocated the Moonliner II to the TWA Museum in Hangar 1 — September 2025
- Hosted the Moonliner II dedication event, featuring Dan Viets and attended by Charles and Daniel Disney — November 2025
- Joined the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce — February 2026
- Hosted a Hangar Dance, attended by over 300 guests to include Charles and Daniel Disney — April 2026
- Celebrated the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting event — May 2026
- Explored new opportunities to market the TWA Museum.
- Created new QR code system to benefit & expedite the front desk handling of gift shop and tickets sales.
- Research completed by the Finance Committee to finalize a business plan to present to the Board for approval by early summer.

The Board works hard to keep our museum healthy and financially secure. With the assistance of our wonderful volunteers, we continue to look for opportunities to enhance the museum.

On behalf of the current TWA Board of Directors, thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and energy to support the TWA Museum.

*Submitted by Judy Gerling, Executive Vice President*

### TWA Museum Hosts "A Beautiful Place"

The feature documentary film "A Beautiful Place" had its premier at the TWA Museum on June 5th & 6th to sold-out audiences. On February 19th, 1955, TWA Flight 260 departed from Albuquerque Airport with 16 people on board en route to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Shortly afterwards, the plane crashed into the Sandia Mountains, killing all three KC-based crewmembers and thirteen passengers. The documentary feature film from Heartland Film Productions explores the emotional journey and stages of navigating tragedies such as this, largely through the experience of Dr. Ginny Campbell (pictured lower-right at the check in table) who lost her father and two grandparents on the flight. Don Lueke, TWA Board Member, was also featured

in the film after the loss of his father in 1959 on TWA Flight 891 near Northern Italy and the loss of his granddaughter Becca in 2013.

Director Sue Vicory, is pictured on the left with the "A Beautiful Place" autographed poster. All proceeds benefited the TWA Museum.



## 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

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Zana Allen            | Nancy Sitzmann  |
| Erik Avery            | Jay Stewart     |
| Joe Ballweg           | Mark Townsend   |
| Jerry Bauers          | Pam Tucker      |
| Dianna Bennett        | Alice Wasko     |
| Pam Blaschum          | Ken Weiner      |
| Martin Bryant         | Kris Walstad    |
| Margo Cabillonar      | Sonia Whiteaker |
| 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             |                 |
| Rick Karsten          |                 |
| Debi Knechtenhofer    |                 |
| Matt Larsen           |                 |
| Chris Lichti          |                 |
| 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        |                 |

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)

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: