

July 2023
NEWSLETTER

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



OPEN WED-SAT 10-4

Museum

at 10 Richards Road

From the President, Pam Blaschum

There are times when I reflect on my years working for TWA and how I ended up on the path that led me to a 40+ year flight attendant career. I began my career with TWA as a “Hostess” in August of 1964. My job soon became my life and I loved every minute of it. TWA afforded me the opportunity to see places and meet people from every corner of the world. I was fortunate to have worked during the “Glory Days” of air travel and took great pride in offering award-winning service to my passengers. Providing Royal Ambassador meal service on Rosenthal China and crystal stemware while cruising smoothly in the skies over the world will always hold special memories for me. How I loved flying our Star Stream 707 and the legendary wide-bodied 747 and L-1011.



In 2010, five years after I had retired (from American Airlines), the Director of the TWA Museum, Marie Trainer, asked if I would be interested in taking her place. With the help of four friends, we began plotting the future of the Museum. In 2012, we took a major step in securing our space at 10 Richards Road at the KC Downtown Airport. We started with two rooms in the Art Deco building that was TWA’s first Corporate Headquarters and Overhaul Base. We were now “back home, thanks to some really hard work and the invaluable assistance of Bryan Orr, then the Area Director of Signature Flight Support.

Since 2012, we have expanded our museum’s scope and operation by leasing more space and adding more exhibits. These include a Connie flight simulator, a Lockheed Electra 12 A, 4 Cockpit procedure trainers, a classroom for hosting educational events, a Scout room to provide aviation badges for both Boy and Girl Scouts, an Ambassador Club and Cabin Trainer.

Our enthusiastic volunteers and friends are always suggesting new ways to make our Museum bigger and better. We have so much history to show and share. I feel so lucky to have worked for a company I loved. Those feelings are still with me today each time I pull up to our beautiful building. I often tell our visitors if I had a chance to do any of this over, I wouldn’t change a thing!

Board of Directors

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Art Lujin

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Judy Gerling

Hangar Dance Event

Newsletter

Nancy Sitzmann

Hangar Dance 2023 Memories!

Although the evening of April 22, 2023 was an unusually chilly one and we were unable to have the hangar doors open, the **TWA Museum Hangar Dance** was a great success! It was one of the best with around 550 in attendance! We had people who traveled from California, Texas, and New Zealand to be at the dance this year! There were a lot of smiles and laughter to go around! Special thanks to the **Clipped Wings** for escorting guests to their tables; **TWA Captain (Ret.) Russ Longley and his partner Janice Coley** for their amazing showcase dance; medley; the **Swingsters** who put on several unforgettable dance performances; Photographers **Chip Jones** and **Jeffrey M. Klepac!**





Special thanks to all of our wonderful **TWA Museum Volunteers** who helped with setting up and tearing down, giving museum tours, & checking in guests! We couldn't do it without you! We have the best Volunteers in the world! Special thank you to **John Mays** our Operations Manager! Your help with this years dance was invaluable!

Recent Tour Groups!

Our Museum recently hosted 78 students and adults from **Kansas City Northeast High School**. The students are part of the 3DE program, which is described here: <https://www.3deschools.org/>

It was a wonderful visit for everyone and we are so thankful that they selected our museum to enhance their educational experience!



Special thanks to **Michelle Hutton** and **Troop 1019 of the Greater Girl Scouts of Kansas/Missouri** for their recent visit. Our museum experience assisted the scouts in earning their STEM Career Exploration Badges, which opens up the world of STEM to young girls. **The STEM Career Exploration Badge** encourages girls to explore their career interests in STEM fields such as computer science, nature/environmental science, engineering, design, health, and agriculture.



Volunteer, **Art Lujin** recently served as a guest speaker for the Independence Retired School Personnel Association in Independence, Missouri on May 12th. The audience consisted of retired teachers, counselors, and visiting members from other areas. They also have a member's husband who was a City Clerk for 36 years and a retired teacher who was a Missouri Congressman for 4 years. Volunteer **Margo Cabillonar** also attended the event. Thanks to Art and Margo!





Artist Doug Rowe Visits the TWA Museum!

In April Doug Rowe, a former Air Force pilot, and son of retired TWA Captain and long-time TWA Museum volunteer Ray Rowe, spent April 19-22 painting in-person at the museum. Several prints of his paintings are already for sale in the museum's gift shop, and he brought several of his original paintings for display. He also spent the evening of the hangar dance painting pictures near Ellie! Doug donated 20% of all sales of originals to the museum as a supporter of the museum.

Doug's full-time job is as one of two fine artists who paint Navy people doing their Navy jobs and Navy equipment for the U.S. Navy with the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. During his off-duty time he specializes in completing commissions for pilots, historians and enthusiasts depicting their fondest aviation memories in paintings.



Welcome to our new TWA Museum Volunteers!

Margie Foley is a new volunteer at the TWA Museum but is not new to volunteering. She has been an ESL instructor and a tour guide at the Steamboat Arabia Museum.

Currently, Margie also volunteers at the WWI Museum and plays the organ and piano part time at a local church.

Prior to retirement, Margie was an elementary school teacher and a court reporter. Welcome Margie to the Thursday crew!

Shelley Tork Raker is a former TWA Flight Attendant and a Flight Attendant Instructor at Breech Academy and Jack Frye Training Center. She started flying in 1973 and flew until 1989. Shelley was involved in training new hires, pursers, service managers, returning mothers, Ozark and Lacsca flight attendants as well as a two-day training program for active flight attendants called Turning Point. Shelley served on a task force developing the service procedures for the Boeing 747-SP. She wrote many of the lesson plans and study guides for Flight Attendant Training.

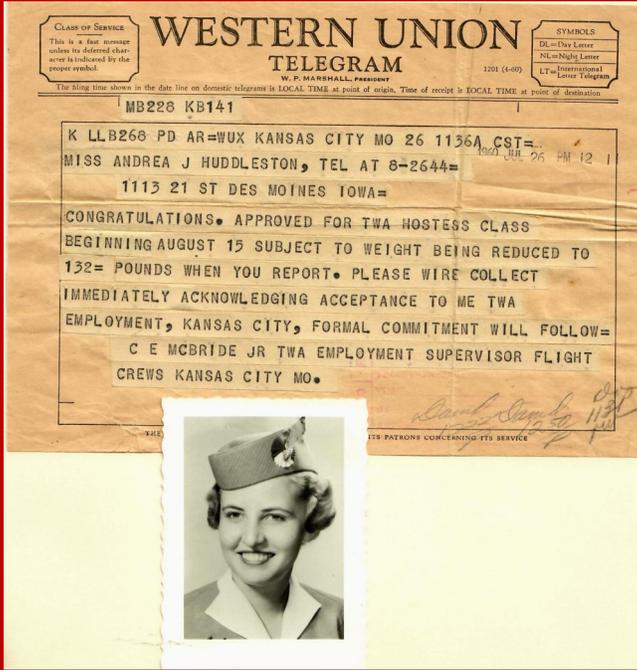
Shelley and her husband Bob recently returned to the KC area after seventeen years in Central Pennsylvania and she is thrilled to be back and a part of TWA again through the museum.

Shelley was also a former teacher in the public school system and volunteered with the Project SHARE food bank. She served on the Clean Air Board of Central PA. Shelley will be a museum guide on Fridays.

Welcome Margie and Shelley!



Congrats to Miss Andrea Huddleston (Boilesen) for being approved for TWA Hostess Class! Courtesy of the Boilesen Estate.



Museum Visitors. . . .

Our Museum President , Pam Blaschum, had the honor of giving a tour to Ms. Jo Stable. Pam thinks she has set a record for working for 12 different airlines! She started in 1968 as a Flight Attendant for Eastern Airlines, then on to Pan Am, Overseas National, TWA for 5 years, Trans America, Net-Jet, Saudia, Emirates, Middle Eastern, Garuda, Singapore, and presently with Allegiant!



In addition, when she was with Singapore and Garuda, she was an instructor. She said they only had one size for flight attendants, zero! If you can't wear zero, you wouldn't be accepted as a flight attendant!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fifth Annual TWA Museum Golf Classic!

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Paradise Pointe Golf Complex in Smithville, MO

Watch for registration information coming soon!



New Items in the TWA Museum Gift Shop

Luggage tags are \$15.00 each. They can be personalized and shipped for no additional cost. They include four lines on the back of tag.

Crystal wine glasses are \$12.00 each or 2 for \$22.00.

If you would like to order either of these items, email your order to twajohnmays@gmail.com. Once we receive the information we will issue you a PayPal invoice which will allow you to pay via credit card.



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!



Have you visited our new webpage?

Based upon feedback from our volunteers and supporters of our museum, we have updated our website. Our new website, www.twamuseum.org, now offers more streamlined content and is easier to navigate. We have also added specific pages to our website related to our history, research and upcoming events. Additional photos of our museum also promote our exhibits to website visitors. Our goal is to later introduce an on-line store in which you may make purchases directly from our gift shop. However, due to the supply chain issues that everyone is experiencing right now, we have postponed a complete rollout of our on-line store.

Wing it in flight flirty fashion!

Fashion your seat belts and get set to be a sky high style setter! TWA sets you where you want to go, and House of Nine shows you how to look when you get there! Left: Bright white all-girl party of 100% poly-chiffon save you 99¢ by high anywhere! \$42 by Sassy Petties. Center: Perky purple puts a perfect put-on on your flight plan. Glad clad of 100% Dacron® polyester. \$30 by Sassy Petties. Right: Star gazer style! Up in the air or on the ground—set your sights on a smashing simple party gear with class! Party gear from Short Stop of 70% linen, 30% cotton. \$30. Available in sizes 3-9 only at House of Nine stores from coast to coast. Prices slightly higher in the West.

house of nine

Royal Ambassador Service



Avocado-Tomato Salad

Serves 6

For the dressing:

2 TBS extra-virgin olive oil

2 TBS fresh lime juice

1/2 tsp kosher salt

1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper

For the salad:

1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved

1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded, quartered, and cut into 1/2 inch pieces

1/4 red onion, finely shopper

2 ripe avocados, diced

1/2 tsp kosher salt

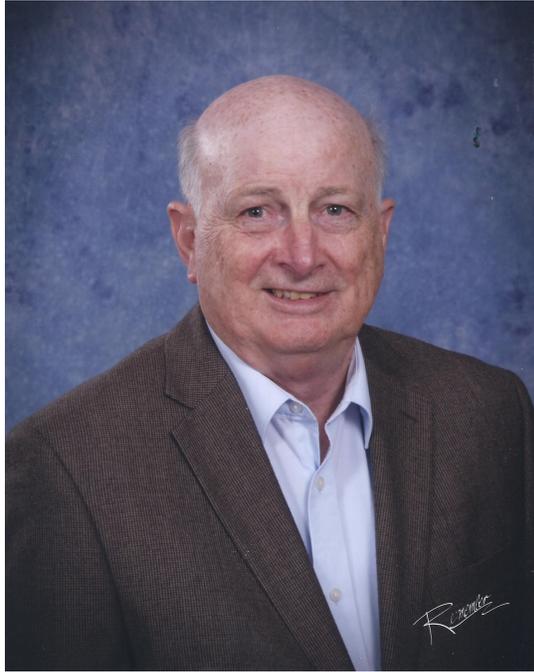
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lime juice, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Make the salad: In a serving bowl, combine the tomatoes, cucumber, and red onion. Toss with dressing to coat. Add the diced avocados and gently toss to coat. Serve immediately.



Welcome to New TWA Museum Board Members



Don Lueke has been volunteering with the TWA Museum since 2012! When Museum visitors ask Don how long he was with TWA, he tells them that he started in 1942. Don's father started with TWA as a mechanic in 1940 in Kansas City. Don was born in 1942 and has been with TWA mostly ever since!

Don's family was assigned to Washington DC during WWII and returned to Kansas City after the war. Don's father became a flight engineer in 1947 on the Boeing 307 and soon moved to the Connies. He was later killed in the crash of TWA Flight 891 in June of 1959.

Don worked in the Engineering department for about 6 months in 1961 and then returned to college. He went back to work for TWA as a ticket agent in May 1964; graduated from KU in June 1964, and got married a week later! He moved to the MCI Overhaul base in January 1965 in Production Control working twilight in the metal shop. He was accepted for Flight Engineer training in February 1966, checked out June 30, 1966 and was assigned to JFK. In 1969 he was accepted in the Purchasing department in MCI. Don served in a number of positions, buying everything from nuts and bolts, sheet metal, airframe, interiors, avionics, electronics, and systems. Don retired from TWA Purchasing in 1995.



John Miller

John Miller's iWerx facilities have assisted the development of dozens of businesses and been the center of hundreds of community events." Miller, the founder of North Kansas City's Stor-Safe Warehouses, launched the family-run storage, distribution and management company in 1973. His were the first indoor storage facilities in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Today, the company owns and manages eight buildings in Clay County, comprising more than 1 million square feet of commercial property. During the past five years, Miller has been instrumental in impacting the landscape of the business community in North Kansas City and Gladstone beyond just his property holdings, states a release. His efforts have created an environment in which new businesses can establish themselves and grow, according to the EDC press release. As a younger man, Miller overcame financial hardships. Another businessman admired what he saw in Miller and gave him an opportunity to develop the first Stor-Safe facility at 1501 Burlington in North Kansas City. Because of the support he received to build Stor-Safe, Miller held an obligation to return the favor. In the process, he developed a business model where others could begin to establish new business surrounded by emotional, financial and educational support. The result of that vision is iWerx.

This business incubator and co-working space is located in the building on Burlington, where Miller's first Stor-Safe was established. The iWerx concept has grown to four total locations: two in North Kansas City and two in Gladstone. In addition, RoKC, an indoor climbing facility, is another example of Miller's ingenuity. Consistent with his favor for small business, he was a founding investor of the Northland Angel Investment Network, designed to provide access to capital for local startups. The Clay County Economic Development Corporation named John F. Miller as the recipient of the 2020 Look North Award.

Memories from the past. . . .

We all have stories to share regarding our lives at TWA. Some of them are meant only for the brave of heart. Then there are the ones about movie stars and famous people that we've all heard rumored over the years. I'd like to relate my favorite to you.

My father was stationed in El Paso, Texas with the U.S. Army in the 40's. His wife, my mother, was a housewife and a dreamer. With little or no entertainment to provide an escape from the ramshackle military dwellings, she like so many other stay-at-home wives, was enthralled with the many stars of the silver screen. Watching these entertainers would momentarily transport her from the dirty, windy streets of a West Texas town that she so hated.



She managed to find a part-time job washing other people's laundry in a local laundromat to supplement my fathers meager salary. While waiting for the wash to complete, she would read the plentiful movie star magazines strewn about the room. After the war, so many stars failed to climb the ladder of success and attain true star status. One of these was Diana Lynn Hall.

An accomplished pianist, Ms. Hall had attained recognition on both Broadway and Hollywood as an actress. But as the years waned, her bright star dimmed and she was delegated to B movies. Regardless, my mother adored her. So much so that when I was born, my mother named me Diana Lynn after her.

My mother and I became estranged over the years. My namesake and her life also escaped my memory, until 1971. One day, while in a briefing for a flight to JFK from London, the Flight Service Manager read the names of the TWAIP's (TWA Important Passengers) list for that flight. One name startled me. "Diana Lynn Hall."

"Who's that? One hostess asked.

"I think she's a has-been movie star from the 40's." another voice answered.

I recognized the name. Was it really her?

Until that moment, I hadn't truly associated myself with her. But she was real and alive, soon to be seated on my plane.

The name brought up repressed memories of my inebriated mother scanning the T.V. guide in an effort to locate an old movie that would prove Ms. Hall's brilliance as an actress and her reasons for attaching her name to me. Never finding a movie, I was left to conjure my own reality of her.

After completing my dinner service, I went to the first class cabin. If this meeting was real, I now wished my mother could be with me. It was her dream come true.

When I spotted her seated in the oversized first class seat, she seemed so tiny. She sat alone, dressed in a grey suit, so proper and graceful, staring out of the window. I approached her, and introduced myself. "Ms. Hall, my name is Diana Lynn. I was named after you." Her eyes sparkled as she invited me to sit with her.

When I related, with affection, how much her movies meant to my mother, she began to cry. She shared that acting meant so much to her and that fans, like my mother, were few and far between anymore. We shared stories until I could see that she was beginning to tire. Before I left, she took the time to write a note to my mother. She wrote, "I've just met your lovely daughter Diana. What an honor to know that you named her after me. That is so sweet." Ms. Hall died of a stroke soon after this encounter. I was blessed to meet her.



In my short 16 years, TWA gave me many memories to share with my grandchildren. But how could anything surpass the meeting of a woman, a movie star and a legend in the eyes of my mother? Thank You, TWA!

Submitted by Diana Bennett, Museum Volunteer

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!



MCR for our partnership with the new TWA Hotel at the former TWA Terminal at JFK and their generous donation!



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.

Fred Scheiszer, Professor, was the Program Director of Aviation at UCM. He has worked on the 1011 CPT as well as the Cabin Trainer, and donated the original TWA 707 CPT.



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

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.

Museum Library Hours

10-4 PM by Appointment

For more detailed museum information, please visit our website at TWAMUSEUM.COM. Upon payment of the museum entry fee, simply advise your welcome volunteer of your intent to visit the library and a volunteer will escort you to the Library. If you have any questions, please contact John Mays at 913-515-0080 or via email at twajohnmays@gmail.com

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
 John Coleman
 Dean & Carol Conner
 Larry Dingman
 Robert Eckerle
 Chris Elkins
 Carol Emert
 Keith Epperson
 Caleb Flake
 Margie Foley
 Chris & Sandy Funk
 Judy Gerling
 Joe & Belinda Hobbs
 Matt Larsen
 Janet Lhuiller
 Larry Lillge
 Don Lueke
 Art Lujin
 Gary Mayden
 John Mays
 Conner McCollim
 Lori Moore
 David Morningstar
 Eric Morse
 Mark Murtha
 Nina Newberry
 Shelley Tork Raker
 Jonathan Reyes
 Ray Rowe
 Frank Ruege, Jr
 Lynette Seehausen
 Louise Simpson
 Nancy Sitzmann
 Jay Stewart
 Mark Townsend
 Alice Wasko
 Chelsey Willetts

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

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



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)

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

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)

\$1,000.00

Benefits: Member card, free family entry life of the member, 10% discount on all merchandise, newsletter, advance notice of special events and exhibits.

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.

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 _____