

July 2022  
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



In 1941 a group of women met to organize a club of former **TWA Hostesses** who had been gathering occasionally to celebrate weddings and babies. At that time hostesses had to quit when they got married. A name was needed and suggestions were called for. **Leah French Conquest**, having lived on a farm in her early childhood, recalled seeing her father clip the wings of hens to stop them from flying off their nests of eggs. The members of the club had stopped flying too, so why not "**Clipped Wings?**" That became the official name of the club. The club became international with chapters all over the United States and Europe. The friendships created were long lasting, sharing those special stories of careers in the sky.

**TWA Clipped Wings International Inc.** became strong in their philanthropic efforts donating to numerous charitable groups and awarding college scholarships annually. As well, the local chapters supported their various charities.

**Clipped Wings** began acquiring TWA Hostess/Flight Attendant uniforms and then began offering a vintage uniform presentation to organizations across the country and in Europe, always promoting and supporting TWA. The largest presentation was for 10,000 people at the Long Beach, California Air Show. Our presentation was always so nostalgic and brought back many wonderful, fun memories for the audience especially when the models came out in the "Paper Costumes." They were worn on long flights to promote TWA's International destinations.

After nearly 80 memorable years, the time came to say good bye and in late 2021 **TWA Clipped Wings** was dissolved. Some of the local chapters decided to continue on. The decision was made to donate all the assets of the international 501c3 organization to the **TWA Museum**, another 501c3 organization. A number of local chapters donated their remaining monies to the museum as well. The museum and its devoted group of volunteers have done so much to preserve the memories and memorabilia for the future. Clipped Wings is pleased to donate our complete uniform collection, monies, and other memorabilia. We are honored to share the historic collection that we cherished for so many years.

Thank you to the **TWA Museum** for receiving our history and carrying on this precious legacy.

**Judy Gerling**  
**International President**  
**TWA Clipped Wings International Inc.**

### Board of Directors

Pam Blaschum-Director  
Judy Gerling  
Alice Wasko  
Nancy Sitzmann-Secretary  
John Mays-Library & Research  
Chris Funk-Treasurer

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Carol Emert, Archivist  
Zana Allen  
Joe Ballweg  
Mark Murtha

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Art Lujin

### Volunteer Coordinator

### Friends of the Museum Liaison

Belinda Hobbs

### Social Media

Matt Larsen  
Larry Dingman

### Media Relations

Judy Gerling

### Hangar Dance Event

### Newsletter

Nancy Sitzmann

### Golf Tourney Planners

Kevin Clossick  
Don Lueke  
Chris Funk

## Transatlantic Triumphs: TWA Launched Connie Flights To Europe 76 Years Ago

The Lockheed Constellation performed its first transatlantic flight with TWA 76 years ago this past February! The Lockheed Constellation was met with fanfare when arriving in the capital of France. The aircraft and the airline would become synonymous with each other during the mid-20th century, achieving several ambitious feats.

Howard Hughes, a majority stake holder, put his faith in the Constellation to take TWA to greater heights. He wanted the specifics of the project to be a secret and requested that his airline would be the only transcontinental carrier to operate the aircraft until it had 35 units delivered.

Hughes had a meeting with Lockheed Corporation president Robert Gross, chief research engineer Kelly Johnson, and chief engineer Hall Hibbard. The four were keen to overhaul operations and launch a large aircraft that would fly passengers to longer distances at low prices. The aviator outlined his requests, and Lockheed came up with the finished design, including the state-of-the-art features of the time. Lockheed Martin states the following:

*“The Constellation would offer the first hydraulically boosted power controls, aviation’s equivalent of power steering. It would be faster than most World War II fighters at 350 mph. And, using award-winning technology pioneered by Lockheed a few years earlier, it would feature a pressurized cabin for 44 passengers that allowed the plane to fly faster and above 90 percent of weather disturbances, what Constellation regulars would come to call smooth sailing.”*

Following its first flight on January 9th, 1943, the Constellation was deployed during World War II and given the designation of C-69. During the conflict years, Hughes didn't stop experimenting with the aircraft. He broke the transcontinental speed record on a flight from Burbank to Washington DC in April 1944, averaging 331 mph (533 km/h) in six hours, 57 minutes, and 51 seconds. Hughes was such a fan of the Constellation that after the war ended, TWA reacquired all the C-69s it could from the military. They were then converted and entered civil operations as Constellations.

Thus, on February 5th, 1946, TWA conducted its first commercial transatlantic flight. The airline's "Star of Paris" L-049 departed New York's LaGuardia Airport at 14:21. Registration NC96511 stopped at Gander, Newfoundland, and Shannon on the way to France. It then landed at Orly Field at 15:57 on February 6th.

This “Connie” would go on to have an eventful life in the years to come. It was damaged after the failures of two engines after taking off from Los Angeles International on November 18th, 1950. Nonetheless, it was repaired and continued service until a crash near Hinsdale, Illinois, on September 1st, 1961. Sadly, all 78 people on board died.

All in all, the Connie could be seen all around the world after TWA's order was filled. Major carriers in the US and across the continents deployed the type on long-haul missions. TWA made sure that it continued to optimize activity with the aircraft. For instance, in October 1957, one of its L-1649As stayed in the air for 23 hours and 19 minutes on a transatlantic flight between London and San Francisco. This Connie boasts the record for the longest-duration, nonstop passenger flight on a piston aircraft.

In total, 856 units of the Lockheed Constellation were produced 1943 and 1958. There were numerous variants of the plane, spanning from the original L-049 to the Super Connie models. The aircraft has undoubtedly had a lasting legacy in the aviation industry.

(Reprinted from Simple Flying February 2022)



## WAYNE HAMMER



It saddens us to announce the retirement of our friend and volunteer, **Wayne Hammer**. Wayne was much more than a volunteer. He has been with us for 6 years. During that time, he was a tour guide, worked in archives, took care of and posted on the museum's Facebook page, introduced an audio tour of the main gallery, started a blog and became the chairman of our **East Wing Expansion Program**. |

In addition, he was a wonderful photographer and proof reader of our articles for the newsletter. He will be missed. All of us at the museum wish him well and congratulate him on his retirement



## Volunteer News



Our Volunteers logged over **8415** volunteer hours in 2021. Thanks to all of our dedicated Volunteers. We could not do it without you.

If you are local, we'd love to have new volunteers! As the word is spread about our wonderful museum, attendance continues to grow!

Please consider donating three to six hours a week of your time to help us preserve the memory of TWA

We especially need help on Friday's and Saturdays!

## Thinking of Donating Items to the Museum?

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

[twamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:twamuseum@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!





## Royal Ambassador Service



### Filet Tips Stroganoff

1 1/2 lb beef tenderloin cut into 3/4 inch cubes

Salt and pepper to taste

1/4 cup butter

2/3 cup chopped onions

1 tsp paprika

1 cup fresh mushrooms, cleaned and sliced

1 TBL lemon juice

1 c. sherry

Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper. Heat half of the butter in a large frying pan until foamy and sauté half of the meat cubes until well browned on all sides. Pan must not be overfilled. If necessary cook meat in 3 batches instead of 2 batches. As meat is cooked place on serving dish and set aside retaining the butter. Add onions and saute until light brown, turning the heat down to medium. Add paprika, blend and stir while cooking for minute or so. Add mushrooms and lemon juice and cook until mushrooms are tender and all moisture evaporated. Add sherry, bring to a boil and pour over meat cubes. (Meat should be medium)

### Sauce

1/4 cup butter

1/4 cup flour

1/2 cup stock or consommé

1/2 cup half and half

1/2 tsp salt

1/8 tsp pepper

1/2 cup sour cream

Melt butter and blend in flour. Stir over low heat until mixture bubbles. Add stock, stir until smooth; bring to a boil. Add half and half and simmer for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Whip sour cream in a bowl until smooth then mix in 1 cup of the sauce. Just before serving combine sour cream sauce with the meat and mushrooms. Blend well and heat to a boil. Accompany with rice or noodles. Yields: 6 servings

### *Do you have a story about Howard Hughes?????*

We are thinking it might be fun to collect some personal stories of Howard Hughes! (See bottom of page 6 of the newsletter on Burt Jolley telling about his experience with the eccentric, influential, and financially successful pilot).

If not personally, then maybe a family member who passed down stories to their families through the years?

If you do, please send to TWA Museum, 10 Richards Road, Kansas City, MO 64116 or email [TWAMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:TWAMuseum@gmail.com). We'll pick some of the best and publish in the November Newsletter!





## National Volunteer Month

This past April was National Volunteer Month, which is dedicated each year to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. The National Volunteer Month is observed in many countries, however, the history of the event is unknown to most people. President George H.W. Bush launched the 1000 Points of Light campaign in 1991 and established April as National Volunteer Month. President Bush showed his support of American Volunteering in his 1991 State of the Union Address, commending "a volunteer's generous gesture", and calling it "an idea that is simply right."

NVM is an extension to an already-established holiday-week, National Volunteer Week, that was first held in 1943 in Canada. The week was dedicated as a way to celebrate the contribution made by women on the home front to their efforts to World War II. It was in the early 20th century that organized volunteering reached its peak. Numerous groups opened up to escalate humanitarian services, many of which are still active today, such as the Red Cross. National Volunteer Week in the United States was first established via Presidential Proclamation 4288, signed by Richard Nixon in 1974.

Once World War II ended, volunteer celebrations were limited but saw a resurgence in the early 1970s. National Volunteer Week debuted in 1974 in the United States and was widely-accepted by the general public. Since then, National Volunteer Week, which later went on to become National Volunteer Month, has been celebrated every April. It was made official worldwide in 1990.

The benefits of volunteering have been well documented:

1. Besides the benefits to society, scientific studies have shown that individuals who volunteer enjoy psychological and physical benefits, including increased satisfaction, improved sense of belonging, lower blood pressure, increased protection from Alzheimer's, and decreased mortality.
2. It is estimated that in Canada, 13 million people, or half the adult population, volunteer some of their time.
3. Volunteer work can also be used to leverage valuable experiences where work experience is lacking, or to build on an area of interest and expertise when writing a resume for work or applying to schools.
4. Benefits of volunteer work are enjoyed by the community affected, but also by the volunteers themselves, in knowing that they contributed to the betterment of society in some way.

Volunteers should never be taken for "granted," and their efforts should never go unnoticed. Organizations should also never assume that volunteers are substitutes for paid employees. Actually, these workers compliment an organization's current workforce and offer some added personal attention to customers, which they normally would not receive. Our Museum visitors are blessed to receive tours from actual former TWA employees, who share their stories and experiences each step of the way throughout our wonderful facility.

Being an "all volunteer organization" (like the TWA Museum) requires a great deal of commitment and hard work from a very special group of people. Visitors are simply amazed by what our organization has been able to accomplish, in such a short amount of time, with only volunteer help. We are truly blessed by the unparalleled commitment of our volunteers who have given countless hours for the betterment of our museum.

**To all of our volunteers, thank you for supporting our great cause.** It is volunteers like you who make our Museum a greater place and we are grateful to have you. And to those of you who wish to consider volunteering, please send me an email to [twajohnmays@gmail.com](mailto:twajohnmays@gmail.com). I would be happy to discuss those opportunities with you!

Despite, the weather conditions being unfavorable for the hangar doors being open this year, we welcomed over 500 people to the hangar dance on April 23rd! Everyone enjoyed an evening of dancing, dance showcases, delicious TWA Cookies and catching up with old friends after a two year absence due to Covid.



*Former TWA Hostesses (Clipped Wings) were in attendance and sold TWA Cookies! There was even an engagement this year! That was a TWA Museum Hangar Dance First!*



*Guests enjoyed performances by "The Swingsters" and Retired TWA Captain Russ Longley and his partner **Mayden Wilder** during the dance breaks!*



***Burt Jolley** started with TWA in 1941 in maintenance on the cleaning crew. He remembers at one point being on the graveyard shift and about 2:30 one morning a man approached him asking directions to the engine overhaul shop, so Burt escorted the man. When Burt returned one of the mechanics asked him if he knew who the man was he had been talking to. Burt replied "no", and the mechanic said "That was **Howard Hughes**"! Burt recalled that he was wearing tennis shoes and a business suit!!!*

*Burt retired from TWA in 1983 as Manager-Ground Support Tooling & Equipment. He was introduced at the dance and got a standing ovation! He's never missed a hangar dance and he will turn 100 on July 29th!*

Many of the hangar dance guests came dressed in vintage 1940's attire, TWA Uniforms, Military Uniforms. It was fun to see the outfits and watch everyone enjoy an evening of dancing to an 18 piece orchestra. The Moonlight Serenade Orchestra never disappoints!



Dave Bibb and Julie Braby



Frank & Gerry Victor



TWA Captain Mac Knighton and his wife Jean.



TWA Captain John Kemper and his wife, Gwen.



The Moonlight Serenade Orchestra

*The thunderstorms held off until after the dance and the night was so magical we wonder if Cinderella was in attendance that night???? She left her shoes behind!*

*Thank you to all of our volunteers, guests, and donors who made this annual fundraiser a great success! You are appreciated!*

*Special thanks to **Chip Jones**, whose photos are on our TWA Museum webpage!*

The TWA Hangar Dance collected **885 pounds of food** for Harvesters Community Food Network providing **738 meals!**

**Thank you to all of you who brought donations to the dance!**  
**You are appreciated!**



**Burt Jolley** started at TWA in 1941! He will turn **100 on July 29!** If you'd like to send a card his address is:

**Burt Jolley**

**7711 N Avalon St**

**Kansas City, MO 64152-2112**

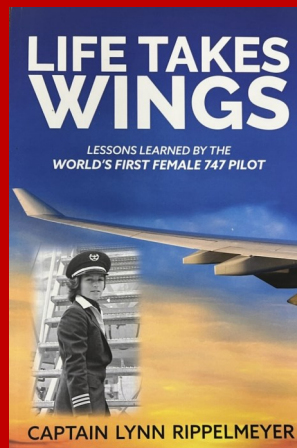
## TWA Firsts. . . . .

**First to provide non-stop service between San Francisco and New York. (March 20,**



## From the Gift Shop. . . "Life Takes Wings"

Check out our latest book in the Gift Shop! It is written by Captain Lynn Rippelemeyer. Lynn began her aviation career as a flight attendant with TWA. Read the book about her journey from a midwestern farm girl to the first woman to pilot a 747 aircraft. Get a signed copy for \$25.00!



## From the Archives. . .

### Volunteers Needed!

The TWA Museum archives department is in need of a volunteer twice a month for four hours to assist with the following: Separate in date order and bundle extra Skyliners, file donation forms and other documentation, tag extra uniforms, and assist where needed. Preferable days will be either Mondays or Tuesdays in the archives area, and either Carol Emert or Zana Allen will work with the volunteer. Hours and days can be agreed upon by the volunteer and archivists. Contact: Carol Emert at

carolemert@ gmail.com or

Zana Allen at [zallen2@kc.rr.com](mailto:zallen2@kc.rr.com) for further information.

## Also. . . anyone have a

### SPEEDPAC?



If anyone has a SPEEDPAC they are ready to part with, we are happy to preserve it in the collection. If you only have the grey cover that locked onto the top of the aisle serving cart, that would be a nice item to preserve as well.

Also, there are no bulkhead seat bayonet tray tables for use on the B707 & B727 in the museum collection.

If you care to donate any of the above, please contact Zana Allen at [zallen2@kc.rr.com](mailto:zallen2@kc.rr.com)



# 4th Annual TWA Museum Golf Classic

Monday, September 19, 2022 at The Posse at Paradise Pointe Golf Complex  
18212 Golf Course Rd Smithville, Mo 64089

**Format: Four Person Scramble**  
Price: \$500 Team Entry (Foursome)  
\$125 Single Entry

**Schedule of Events:**  
Pre-Tee Off Burrito Brunch  
8:30 am Check-in  
10:00 am Shotgun Start



**Prizes for top two teams on Two Flights**

**Gift packages for all golfers**

**Dinner in Clubhouse after Golf**

**Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

***Scan QR code for more info and to***

***Register for Event***

**For further information contact:**  
**Don Lueke (816)-514-0942**  
**Kevin Clossick (816)454-3534**



## 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!



**Perfection Floor Tile** for the wonderful flooring including logos that they have provided for the Museum and our new Ambassador club!



**Signature Flight Support** for allowing us to hold our TWA Museum 1940's Style Hangar Dance each spring as our annual fundraiser!



**Silver Wings International** for their generous annual donation!



BRA COUTURE KC

**Bra Couture Kansas City** for partnering with the TWA Museum in sharing our events weekend!



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.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know you can support the TWA Museum simply by shopping??? Go to smile. Amazon.com and igive.com and list the TWA Museum as your favorite charity. A small portion of your purchase price will be sent to the Museum every time you shop!



## 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 Non-Profit.

## Museum Library Hours

### 10-4 PM by Appointment

For more detailed museum information, please visit our website at [TWAMUSEUM.COM](http://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](mailto: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

## VOLUNTEERS

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  
 Chris & Sandy Funk  
 Judy Gerling  
 Katie Gilmore  
 Joe & Belinda Hobbs  
 Sharon Horton  
 Matt Larsen  
 Janet Lhuiller  
 Larry & Marcia Lillge  
 Don Lueke  
 Art Lujin  
 Gary Mayden  
 John Mays  
 Lori Moore  
 David Morningstar  
 Mark Murtha  
 Nina Newberry  
 Charles Ross  
 Ray Rowe  
 Frank Ruege, Jr  
 Nancy Sitzmann  
 Gary Smedile  
 Mark Townsend  
 Greg Tyler  
 Alice Wasko



# 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)

## \_\_\_\_ Lifetime-\$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.

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