

NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

816-234-1011

TWAMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

10 Richards Road

Kansas City, MO 64116

twamuseum.org



OPEN WED-SAT 10-4

Museum

at 10 Richards Road

From the President, Pam Blaschum

Dear Friends of the Museum, Donors, our Board of Directors and our wonderful Volunteers. This will be my last newsletter article as I will be retiring from the President position due to a Missouri statute limiting Board positions for 501(c3) non-profit organizations. I prefer "Director" as I've never felt Presidential.

I started with the Museum in late 2009 when I was contacted by former Museum Director Marie Trainer, who took care of all artifacts and displays for over 20 years. She asked if I would be interested in taking over her position. I was thrilled at the opportunity.

I have such a passion for TWA and was excited to learn all the ins-and-outs of running the Museum, along with several other volunteers with their passion of our beloved Airline.

At the time, the Museum was located at the KCI Expo Center and our lease agreement was expiring. With the kindness of former Signature Area Director Bryan Orr, we were able to secure space at 10 Richards Road.

After several months of rehabbing our first two rooms, we had our Grand Opening on March 3, 2012. The Museum has since expanded to include an Education Center, featuring 3 cockpit trainers and pilot training boards; a Scout

room for Aviation Badges; a Research Library; the Ambassador Club; a Conference Center; and a 707/727 Cabin Trainer.

Entering our 8th Anniversary at 10 Richards Road, we were forced to close due to Covid 19 on March 15th and reopened May 21st following CDC guidelines.

It is my hope that aviation and history enthusiasts will come for a visit and learn of TWA's innovations in the field of commercial aviation and see our newest exhibit - a Disney Rocket!

Although my tenure as Board President is coming to an end, it does not mean that I am gone from the museum. I will continue to be of help whenever & wherever needed.

It was a great ride! Sincerely, Pam Blaschum



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Christmas Shopping Done Yet?

The gift shop is always looking for new ideas to expand and offer items that would be of interest to former TWA employees, families of former employees and airline enthusiasts. Just take a look at these new items!

- Etched TWA logo glass ornament, with included gift box. Priced at \$20.
- Two new coffee mugs in two different sizes: The 11-ounce mug is white on the outside, and red on the inside. Priced at \$15 each. The 15-ounce mug is red on the outside, and white on the inside. Priced at \$20 each. The mugs include graphics of these aircraft that TWA had in their fleet: Douglas DC3, Martin 404, Lockheed "Connie", MD-80 Wings of Pride, Boeing 707, Convair 880, Boeing 747, Boeing 727, McDonnell Douglas MD-80, Lockheed L-1011, Boeing 757, and the Boeing 767.

Enjoy shopping with us and help support our museum! To order, email at twajohnmays@gmail.com or call 816-234-1011.



The First Air Force One

The airplane destined to become the first "Air Force One" began as a "humble cargo plane carrying munitions, food, or possibly troops. Its service number was S/N 48-0610. It flew for the Air Force from 1948 to 1953."

This plane was a modern engineering marvel. And it was fast. "Seriously fast. With a top speed of 375 mph, it clocked faster than the P-40 Warhawk." Its notoriety etched into the record books, one achievement after another. Fastest cross-country flight. Fastest flight from Los Angeles to London. And a record that stands today, the "*longest nonstop flight of any piston-powered passenger plane.*" The plane chosen for this prestigious assignment was the iconic Lockheed Constellation, known as the Connie.



It was named Columbine II after the state flower of Maine, the home state of President Eisenhower's wife. It retained the call sign of "Air Force 8610".

One day, in 1954, a possible mishap would change the call signs forever. As the president's plane descended into Richmond, the Air Force co-pilot checked in "Air Force 8610". Ironically, Eastern Airlines 8610's flight was simultaneously checked in. Had the Air Traffic Controller been less curious as to the duplicate call signs, a tragic accident could have occurred. From that day forward, the president's plane was designated "Air Force One".



President Eisenhower was the first president to enjoy the comfort and safety of the illustrious Connie. His flights during the Cold War found him writing his famous "Atoms for Peace" speech in the cabin of the Connie.

The First Air Force One is currently being restored thanks to the First Air Force One Foundation. For more information go to: www.firstairforceone.org



The TWA Moonliner II Has Landed!

Moonliner II Rocket launch and landing at the TWA Museum

By Jay Stewart and John Mays

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors had expressed an interest in the possibility of hosting the TWA Moonliner II at our museum. The rocket, owned by Dan Viets of Columbia, Missouri, had been on loan to the Airline History Museum for several years. Board Member Jay Stewart took the lead on this possibility, and he was able to locate Mr. Viets and contact him regarding a potential partnership. After touring the museum and meeting with Jay Stewart and John Mays, Mr. Viets graciously agreed to loan the Moonliner II to our museum. With the blessing and support of the Kansas City Aviation Department and Signature Aviation, the museum hired Belger Cartage Service, Inc. to move the rocket across the airfield to our museum. On September 27, 2025 at 2:00 PM, the Moonliner II officially landed at 10 Richards Road. Voilà!



TWA Sign Project Update



As a follow-up to our July article ("Remember that Neon TWA Sign on the Headquarters Building???"), we are sad to report the death of Thomas Cobian of the Neon Gallery. Thomas unexpectedly passed away on July 10, 2025. As the design lead, his sudden passing has paused the project. The museum is now working with Premiere Outdoor Enterprises, Inc. in an effort to continue Thomas' vision for the project. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cobian Family over their recent loss.

Mercantile Library Donation

Special thanks to the University of Missouri-St. Louis / Transportation Collections at the St. Louis Mercantile Library for loaning our museum their collection of marketing/training films and videos. These items were donated to them back in 2001 by TWA as it was winding down operations. This long-term loan consists of several hundred film reels and video cassettes that are not as focused on the business history of the company but rather the technical aspects of aircraft operations, crew training and marketing operations. Our museum picked up and transported the collection back to Kansas City on September 8. The photo depicts Isaak Loewen and Nick Fry (the Transportation Collections curator) in front of the rental truck prior to departure to KC. We are so grateful to the Mercantile Library for their generous loan of these treasures!



Thank You, Pam!

Dear Pam, as your time as TWA Museum President draws to a close, we wanted to express our sincere gratitude for your service. Board service is the toughest volunteer role, and your commitment to our organization is certainly unmatched by no one.

More than your amazing ability to connect with guests, donors, the media or your willingness to support every fundraising effort we had, we are most grateful for your active leadership as a judicious steward of our organization. We know that you have always carefully deliberated on matters before the board, even when the decisions were difficult.

We will certainly miss having you serve our great organization as President, but we look forward to you continuing to serve as a volunteer!

Sincerely, the TWA Museum Volunteers



TWA Museum and TWA Breech Academy Presentation

By Jay Stewart

Several years ago, I became acquainted with Brad Moore through social media. Brad is the Executive Director of the Overland Park Historical Society. My twin brother, Jeff and I were raised in Overland Park, Kansas and with Brad, we did an informal recorded interview regarding our experiences growing up there.

This past March, Brad recalled that I volunteered as a TWA tour guide, and he reached out to me. He discussed an offer to do a presentation for the Overland Park Historical Society on the history of the TWA Breech Training Academy, previously located in Overland Park. I suggested doing a joint presentation covering both the TWA Museum and Breech Academy histories. Brad agreed, and the event was scheduled for August 23rd.

Approximately 80 people were in attendance at this 90-minute event, which was held at the American Legion on 75th Street in Overland Park. Brad introduced me as “a kid who grew up in Overland Park” and I spoke briefly about growing up there before proceeding with the TWA history portion of my talk. Pam Blaschum then provided an overview of her involvement with the museum’s founding. After I finished the TWA history presentation, Joe Ballweg was up next to present his segment on the Breech Training Academy. For the remainder of the presentation, Joe delivered an historical perspective and discussed his experience as an instructor there. This was followed by a Q & A session.



Pam Blaschum

Participants remained attentive throughout the presentation, indicating interest in both TWA and Breech Academy history and enjoyed seeing the historical photos that accompanied the presentations. Appreciation is extended to Joe Ballweg for his contributions to the success of this event. Thanks also to Pam Blaschum and her sister Stephanie for attending this fun event!



Joe Ballweg



Jay Stewart



Welcome New Volunteer!

David Schrag

As a new volunteer, I've really enjoyed my time at the museum so far. I'm a retired North Kansas City School District librarian and teacher, but prior to becoming an educator, I was a customer service agent, first for Air Midwest (a commuter airline), and then for Delta.

Although I never worked for TWA, I have good memories of flying the legendary airline several times, including a memorable flight piloted by a friendly 727 captain who invited eight-year-old me into the cockpit at SFO as my family was boarding. Today as an admitted airliner geek, I'm the guy who, when booking a flight, seeks to fly on a new aircraft type or airline whenever possible (cost permitting, of course). Probably like many of us at the museum, I'm a little nostalgic for the glory days of classic airlines and airliners.



Along with being the proud father of two young adult daughters, I also have two cats who at least respect my scale model airliner collection, even if they don't understand or appreciate it. As a museum volunteer, it's been fun to again be around like-minded airline people, and I appreciate the opportunity to help share the rich history of TWA with our visitors.

If you would be interested in volunteering at the TWA Museum, we would love to have you! You can volunteer for three hours a week from 10 AM to 1 PM, or 1 PM to 4 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. We especially need volunteers on Saturdays! If you love TWA or Aviation History and want to be a part of our wonderful family of volunteers, email us at twamuseum@gmail.com or call the museum at 816-234-1011 and ask for Shelley Tork Raker! She would love to talk to you!

Santa Claus is Coming to the TWA Museum!



**Saturday, November 29th
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

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



2025 TWA Museum Golf Classic!

Our September 9th TWA Museum Golf Classic had a delayed start because of the rain, but the sun soon broke through and players enjoyed a day of food, camaraderie and GOLF!

A word of thanks to everyone who assisted with our annual golf fundraiser last week. We appreciate the continued support of our sponsors and players. Special thanks to Don Lueke, who once again coordinated and organized the event. He invested a great deal of effort and hours into making this happen. Thanks Don!



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Thanks to our Sponsors!

Ray Rowe



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 Buttery Raspberry Crumble Cookies

1 cup unsalted butter, softened	2 1/4 cups All Purpose Flour
3/4 cup granulated sugar	1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 cup brown sugar packed	1/4 tsp salt
1 large egg	1 cup raspberry jam
1 tsp vanilla extract	1/2 cup granulated sugar (for rolling)

Preheat oven to 350. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, cream together butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until light and fluffy.

Beat in the egg and vanilla extract until combined.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture and mix until combined.

Roll dough into 1 inch ball, then gently flatten each ball slightly.

Press your thumb in the center to create a small well. Fill each well with about 1/2 tsp raspberry jam.

Roll the edges of the cookie in granulated sugar.

Place cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 12-14 minutes or until edges are golden. Let cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



We have seen an increase in the number of visitors to the museum!

In 2024, for the same period January through September, we had 3908 visitors. In 2025, we have had 4658 visitors through the museum. This summer, we had five groups visit us from the Olathe Parks and Recreation Department.

With the new addition of the TWA Moonliner II and other exhibits, we look forward to a continued increase in the volume of visitors. It is the support of our visitors that we are able to maintain our collection of TWA memorabilia. Thank you!

...Belinda Hobbs



The TWA Museum is proud to announce.. *The TWA Experience*



A special evening for you and your group of 12 or more!

You will begin your experience with cocktails and appetizers in the Ambassador Club

Enjoy a fashion show of Vintage TWA Uniforms!

You are now ready to go through the jetway and board your flight!

Once seated in the cabin you will be treated to a hot towel, sorbet and a glass of Champagne.

Next, you will be served House Salad accompanied by Homemade Artesian Bread and Honey Butter served on
Royal Ambassador China.

Your choice of Beef or Chicken Entree

Three Cheese Au Gratin Potatoes

Vegetable Medley

A Fruit & International Cheese Plate

Crème Brûlée with Berries & Whipped Cream

Coffee

Red or White Wine served with Dinner

Catered by Emily McMurray of Gourmet-ish!

\$250 per Person

Minimum number of Guests-12 (Maximum of 25 Guests)



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 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	Bryan Sitzmann
Joe Ballweg	Nancy Sitzmann
Jerry Bauers	Jay Stewart
Dianna Bennett	Mark Townsend
Pam Blaschum	Pam Tucker
Martin Bryant	Alice Wasko
Margo Cabillonar	Ken Weiner
Larry Chalberg, Sr.	Sonia Whiteaker

Dennis Claus
Kevin Clossick
Sandra Clouser
Jawn Collins
Jim Davis
Dwight Donald
Linda Eckerle
Robert Eckerle
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Jim Hall
Pam Henderson
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
John Miller
Bill (Mitch) Mitchell
Lori Moore
David Morningstar
Elli & Eric Morse
Mark Murtha
Nina Newberry
David Parker
Shelley Tork Raker
Ray Rowe
Frank Ruege, Jr.
David Schrag
Lane Sisson



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)

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

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

(Senior \$65.00)

Founders Club-\$2,500.00

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

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 _____