

CANAL GATOR TALES

February 2023

History of the Panama Canal Museum

From time to time, we receive questions about the history and past activities of the Panama Canal Museum which was active for fourteen years from 1998 to 2012. In response, we recently created a page on our PCMC website that compiles information and links related to the former Museum: pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/panama-canal-museum.

The page includes links to archived versions of the Panama Canal Museum website (panamacanalmuseum.org) and to digital version of the Museum's publications, *Panama Canal Museum Musings*, *Museum News*, and *Panama Canal Museum Review*, as well as lists of past Trustees, Officers, and members of the Board of Advisors.

Spring Luncheon & New Exhibition in April

We're excited to see everyone at the upcoming Spring Luncheon and joint meeting with the Panama Canal Society on Saturday, April 22, here on the UF campus. Join us starting at 11am to see our new exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery. The luncheon and meeting program begins at 12pm, and there will be time after for socializing and touring the exhibition. Look for registration information in the next issue of the *Canal Record*.

The 2023 exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery will examine the engineering of the Panama Canal's original construction, specifically looking at its planning, design, and execution, as well as the innovations in materials and technology that enabled the U.S. to complete a project of monumental scale in a time frame that many thought impossible. The exhibition also will explore the engineering aspects of alternative and new canals across Panama that were proposed throughout the 20th century, as well as the new locks and expansion completed in 2016. We hope you can join us!

Silent Auction 2023

The Friends of the PCMC will hold their annual silent auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion in Orlando in 2023 in order to raise funds to support the collection. We are fortunate that volunteers have once again stepped forward to donate their time and energy to coordinate every aspect of the auction. Of course, we still need your help. First, please consider donating items for the auction. We accept everything from clothing and jewelry to art and decorative objects. Second, please consider volunteering your time to help at the auction with set-up and clean-up and everything in between. If you are interested in donating your time or your items, please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald (mickeyftz@aol.com), Carole Miller (czmiller345@gmail.com), or Kathy Egolf (Pankee@aol.com).

Friends Memberships

If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF. If you are not a member already, please consider joining!

The funds collected are used to support education and research through the preservation, conservation, digitization, and processing of the collection. Funds also support the creation and development of local, traveling, and online exhibits that increase awareness about the collection, the Panama Canal, the Canal Zone, and its people.

We maintain these efforts through the support of friends like you when you join or renew your membership. Dues and donations qualify for tax deductions. Thank you for your continued support of the PCMC at UF. To join or renew membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection visit <https://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/pcmmembership/> or call 352-273-2505 for more information.



SAVE THESE DATES

April 22, 2023

Panama Canal Society/Friends of the PCMC Spring Luncheon at Smathers Library, Gainesville. Join us for the Spring Luncheon with the Panama Canal Society in Gainesville at the Smathers Libraries starting at 11am. We will open the new exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery which will focus on engineering. Also,

if you have any items you would like to donate to the 2023 silent auction, you can bring them to the Luncheon.

July 5-9, 2023

Exhibit, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL. Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald (mickeyftz@aol.com), Carole Miller (czmiller345@gmail.com), or Kathy Egolf (Pankee@aol.com) if you have items to donate or if you want to volunteer to help out.