

CANAL GATOR TALES

November 2023

Fall Fundraising Campaign Update and a Very Welcome Surprise!

We are in week 8 of our 12-week fundraising campaign to raise \$12,000 to support our Oral History program, and with Thanksgiving a few days away it is a good time to thank everyone who has already contributed. Thank you!! And thanks in advance to those of you who are planning to make a donation in the final month of the campaign.

We selected \$12,000 as our target amount so that we can combine it with the \$13,000 raised by the Friends of the PCMC during the Silent Auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion to create a grand total of \$25,000. This year is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Panama Canal Museum in 1998, and we believe that raising \$25,000 is a nice tribute to the legacy of the museum.

We received some unexpected and very welcome news this month that should help us achieve our goal. Friends and donors, the Sprague Family, informed us that they have selected the PCMC as one of their Charity Partners for their annual Sprague Family Give Back through Art program. They will be hosting an Al Sprague Art Auction, "The Light of Panama," from November 24 to December 1 where 20% of the original sales will be donated back to one of three Charity Partners. The purchasers of the paintings will get to select their charity of choice, and their 20% will be donated to that charity. As part of this program, all funds donated to the PCMC by the Sprague Family will be contributed to the Oral History Campaign. As you may already be aware, we have many examples of Al Sprague's art in the collection and Al Sprague is a past participant in the oral history program. His [interview is available online](#) in our digital collection. More information about the Al Sprague Art Auction is available at [Sprague Art](#), and you have to [register to participate](#) in the auction. Thank you, Sprague Family, for your generosity and ongoing support of the collection!!

Visit <https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/oralhistory> to learn how you can support our campaign and help us to continue to document stories of life in the Canal Zone and Panama. All funds raised during this Fall campaign will be contributed towards our Oral History Campaign so that we can continue to conduct interviews and share them

globally in our digital collection. Your contribution of any amount will directly support our oral history program. In addition, a donation of \$26 or more automatically renews your membership in the Friends of the PCMC. If you have questions, please contact Susan Harris at susanharris@ufl.edu or call (352) 273-2505.

Thank you for supporting the collection!

Spring Luncheon and New Exhibition

We hope that you will join us at the University of Florida on April 6, 2024, for the joint Panama Canal Society-Friends of the PCMC Meeting and Luncheon. The event will take place in the Smathers Library Building on the UF campus in Gainesville, Florida. The luncheon includes a buffet meal with baked chicken, carne desmechada, arroz amarillo, and baked plantains. At the Spring luncheon, we will open our new exhibition in the [Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#) focusing on the history of the Panama Railroad and crossing the Isthmus.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. to view the new exhibition and for socializing, and then the Luncheon and Meeting will start at 12:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending the luncheon as a Panama Canal Society and/or Friends of the PCMC member, please refer to the registration form available [online](#) and in the *Canal Record*. The deadline for registering is April 1, 2024, but make your registration early because maximum seating is 120. Thanks to Penny (Wilder) Canamas for serving as host of the event this year.

Cruise to Hawaii in 2024!

Since 2004, the Panama Canal Museum and the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection have arranged exciting fundraising cruises each year to support the collection. In 2024, join us on a cruise to Hawaii on Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America*. The 7-day inter-island cruise starts at Honolulu with stops at Kahului, Hilo, Kona, and Nawiliwili. For every cabin booked our travel agent, Condor Tours & Travels, will make a donation to UF in the name of the PCMC Friends. We are indeed grateful to Lori Snow and Condor Tours & Travels for their generous support of the collection! Contact Lori Snow via email at lori@condortt.com or call 770-339-9961 for more information.

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, and the people of Panama and the Canal Zone.

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

October-December, 2023

Fall campaign to raise \$12,000 for the Oral History Campaign.

Ongoing thru March 2024

Cutting Edge exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at UF, which examines the engineering of the Panama Canal. Visit <https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/exhibits/>.

April 6, 2024

Panama Canal Society/Friends of the PCMC Spring Luncheon at Smathers Library, University of Florida, Gainesville. Join us for the opening of our new exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery on the history of the railroad.

September 14-21, 2024

Join the Friends of the PCMC for a 7-day inter-island NCL cruise from Honolulu, September 14-21. Prices start at \$1,647 per person. Contact: Lori Snow (lori@condortt.com or via phone at 770-339-9961).