

CANAL GATOR TALES

January 2024

Fall Fundraising Campaign Update

Thanks again to all of our terrific supporters who contributed during our Fall fundraising campaign. Our goal was to raise \$12,000 to support our Oral History program, and we are happy to report that we raised \$18,880 between October and December. When combined with the \$13,000 raised by the Friends' 2023 Silent Auction, we raised a grand total of almost \$32,000!

A special thank you to Albert and Jane Nahmad, who donated \$10,000 for the Fall campaign. The Nahmad family had previously provided funding that helped establish the [Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#) at UF, which opened in 2017 and is dedicated to Al Nahmad's classmates in the Balboa High School Class of 1958. The family has continued to provide support for our exhibits program over the years, so it is very generous for Al and Jane to also support the Oral History Program in this way. Another special thank you to the Sprague Family, who surprised us by selecting the PCMC as one of their Charity Partners for their annual Sprague Family Give Back through Art program. As a result of their generosity, we received \$1,400 for the oral history campaign. Al Sprague is a past participant in the oral history program, and his interview is available online in our [digital collection](#).

Of course, there are many others who donated generously to the campaign, so thanks to everyone who has supported the Oral History Program. Please 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.

New Exhibition Opens at Spring Luncheon April 2024

The 2024 exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery will examine the history of the railroad in Panama. In addition to focusing on the construction of the first transcontinental railroad in the 1850s, the exhibition will address how people

crossed the isthmus prior to the railroad, particularly during the Gold Rush years. Other topics include the creation and development of railroad stations and towns; special cars and trains; the steamship line; the impacts of Canal construction on the railroad; management of the commissaries used throughout the Canal Zone; and the various ways in which employees, residents, and tourists used or interacted with the railroad for decades. The exhibition will open to the public on April 6 during the Panama Canal Society/Friends of the PCMC Spring Luncheon at Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. We hope you can join us! As always, we will create an online version of the exhibition and post it at pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/exhibits.

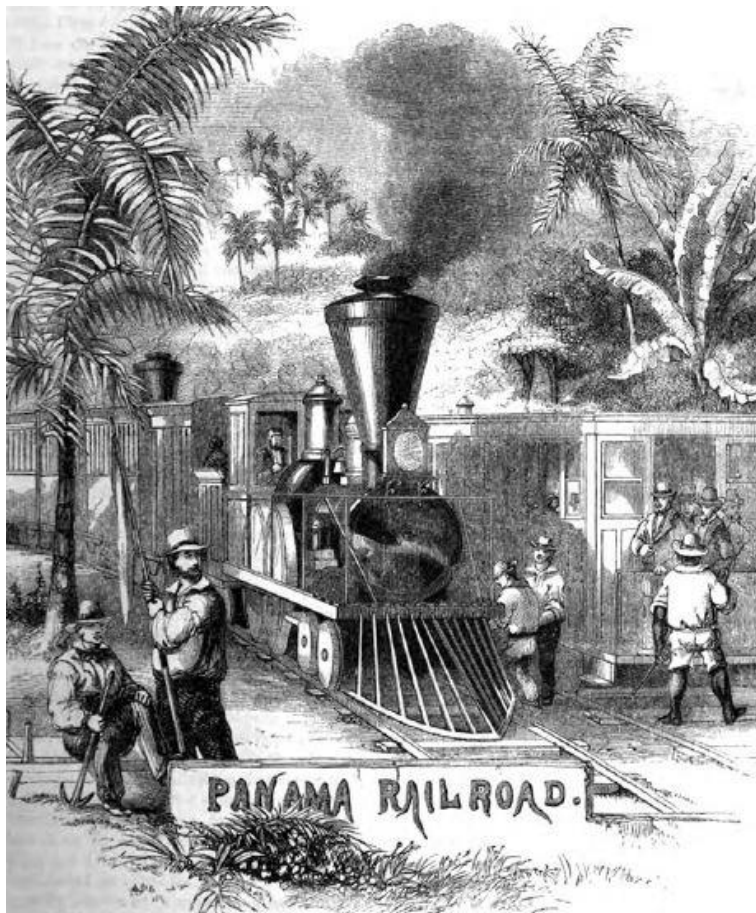


Illustration from *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*,
January, 1859, Vol. XVIII, No. 104.

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

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.

July 3-7, 2024

Panama Canal Society Reunion, Orlando. Join us for our annual Silent Auction, museum exhibit, and Cultural Seminar. As always, we're looking for both volunteers to help manage the auction and for people to donate items. Please contact 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.

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).