



FAM14

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

SPRING 2022

Welcome to the relaunch of FAM14. While the Society has been “virtual” during the pandemic, we have not been idle. Significant acquisitions for the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum collections have continued and we have two new Board Members broadening our aviation expertise and community outreach. We also launched a new website where you can find all of the latest information so please take a look and update your own membership details at: sfaero.org.

Since the beginning of time, man has watched as birds floated through the air with an ease that created a longing to experience the same sensation. That longing became an obsession, and that obsession inspired visionaries and dared man to dream. Over the centuries countless attempts were made to achieve flight, but all failed until December 17,

1903. In the 117 years since Kitty Hawk there have been countless achievements and advancements in the field of aviation, one building upon the other, and each one requiring men and women of courage and the conviction that anything is possible. It is the Society’s mission to preserve not only their stories and honor their bravery, commitment, but all of aviation history past, present and future.

This mission to advance the knowledge and appreciation of aviation history is carried out in each event the Society sponsors. History fades away in time unless it is passed on to and appreciated by each generation. We take the convenience and ease of air travel for granted because we never experienced the first airline seats that were made of wicker, or the nearly 20 hours it took to fly to Hawaii. For these reasons, we are excited about our 2022 plans to provide seminars on aviation-related topics;

move forward with additional aviation acquisitions, interviews with aviation leaders, and the return of our annual Aeronautical Society Gala in November.

Our success to achieve our mission is directly dependent on active participation and generous donations by Members and Sponsors. We truly hope that you will rejoin us in these efforts, and we look forward to welcoming you to the newly remodeled San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum, opening by summer, 2022.

The Society hopes that you enjoy this 2022 Spring edition of **FAM14** and on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your support.

Eric Starks
President

SFAS Acquisitions to Ensure Aviation History Preservation

Over the past two years the museum has continued to work closely with the San Francisco team to identify and procure important aviation memorabilia. As one of the Society’s primary objectives it is exciting to see these pieces join the collection to be seen and appreciated by so many.

Model Airplanes

Eleven model airplanes that represent nearly fifty years of aircraft development

between the mid-1920s and early-1970s was gifted to the museum. The making of scale aircraft models was an important part of the design, manufacturing, and marketing process for both airlines and aircraft manufacturers. Crafted by in-house model shops or independent model makers, they represented designs scaled down for convenient analysis. Carriers also utilized models as advertising display pieces to promote their services, enabling would-be passengers to visualize their mode of transportation—of particular importance in an era before flying was common or the internet was available. The donated models depict a variety of aircraft, from an early KLM (Royal Dutch



Airlines) Fokker F.VII trimotor, to an American Airlines Douglas DST, to a Pan American World Airways Lockheed L-049 Constellation prop liner, and a Lockheed L-500 (C-5) represented as a concept airplane for United Air Lines.

Historical Pilot Insignia Collection

A collection of commercial airline insignia spanning nearly seventy years of commercial aviation, from the 1920s to the 1990s was donated to the museum. Recognized the world over as emblems of the intrepid aviator, these unique and individualized insignia have served to identify licensed commercial pilots for more than a century. This wings collection was assiduously assembled by Thomas G. Dragges during his employment with Japan Air Lines and Federal Express at SFO. The collection features rare and historically significant airline captain, first officer, and flight engineer insignia, including a first issue Western Air Express pilot wing from 1925, an early 1930s Transcontinental Air Transport/Maddux Airlines wing, and a

first issue Pennsylvania Central Airlines flight engineer wing from the 1930s.



Over the course of his twenty-year relationship with the SFO Museum, Mr. Dragges has generously donated more than 30,000 items in support of the Museum's mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history of commercial aviation.

In addition, we will be gifting limited model aircraft and TWA memorabilia to the museum later this year. Photos and details will be announced soon.

MUSEUM UPDATES!

Megan Callan, Assistant Director, Museum Affairs and Gabriel Phung, Aviation Museum & Library Manager

As we announced in September 2021, the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum (AML) is undergoing a remodel and is expected to open during this summer. The space is being transformed and we are excited about welcoming aviation enthusiasts once again. The following photos are a "sneak peek" of a new lightbox outside of the Aviation Museum to display exhibition banners (top right) and Flying the Southern Cross Route display (bottom right).

The SFO Museum aims to preserve, interpret, and share its aviation objects and their histories but faces major challenges with a lack of space to display the over 150,000 collection objects in a meaningful way. (It is estimated that most museums have 90-95% of their collections in storage at any given time!) Leveraging digital technology, we have created a new searchable database which helps us to fulfill our mission to preserve, interpret, and share museum collections. So, for those who may not be able to get to the Museum yet, and are interested in our extensive collection, (many items acquired by the SFAS), the SFO Museum has launched a new online collection at <https://collection.sfomuseum.org/>.

The website includes over 40,000 objects and hyperlinked, related data. For instance, if you are researching [United Air Lines stewardess dress](#) and then want to see more from the designer, [Jean Louis](#), you can click on the name to see other objects from our collection, currently online by him. The site is constantly updated with new object records so be sure to check back often.

The San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum is located at San Francisco International Airport, International Terminal, Pre-Security, Level 3. It is open daily from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, closed holidays and for private events. The telephone number is (650) 821-9900. For additional information and to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact the SFO Museum at (650) 821-6700, or email curator@flysfo.com or visit www.sfomuseum.org.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society (SFAS) is pleased to announce the addition of two community leaders and aviation enthusiasts to its board: Mr. Ed Barnes and Mr. Napoleon Brandford III. Both bring unique strengths from comprehensive airport operations and airline management to full-service investment banking and financial services. Together their talents and enthusiasm will complement the existing members' experience, ensuring a dynamic leadership for the Society. President of the Board, Eric Starks stated "the Society is fortunate to have these two new Board Members join our efforts to extend our community outreach and find new ways to generate interest and donations. Mr. Barnes' active aviation career will help connect



us to the next generation of air transport leaders in the bay area, while Mr. Brandford's extensive Board and diverse background will surely bring new perspectives and ideas." Mr. Barnes added "I am excited to be joining the SFAS as its goals of ensuring that our industry's educational programs and archives are shared with both local and global communities is something I have been passionate about since completing my own University degree in Aviation." Mr. Brandford said, "I have had the good fortune of traveling over 7.5 million air travel miles so having the opportunity to engage more deeply in the industry, to preserve its history and future contributions is something I look forward to."



Mr. Ed Barnes is an Aviation Management graduate of San Jose State University and currently serves as the Executive Director for the International Terminal airline consortium SFOTEC at San Francisco International Airport. Previous experience includes leading the Air New Zealand operation at SFO and

serving in passenger service and ramp operation management roles with Northwest/KLM. He started his aviation career at San Jose International Airport in 1990, where he also earned his private pilot rating.



Mr. Napoleon Brandford III is currently Chairman and CEO of NB III Entertainment (EST 1996) and has recently completed drafting his memoir which is expected to publish shortly. He also currently serves as one of the chief financial strategists for Team Harris LLC, a management company and foundation for Gary Harris, Jr. (#14) starting shooting guard, Denver Nuggets. Mr. Brandford served as Chairman of California based Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C., from 1996-2016, the nation's only African-American and women-owned firm established in California and headquartered in San Francisco. Mr. Brandford is a world traveler and has extensive experience serving on Boards.

IN MEMORIAM

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society (SFAS) has been fortunate to have great aviation leaders on its Board, each sharing their expertise, laughter and spirit. We would like to acknowledge those who have passed during the last few years and say thank you for their passion for aviation and for being a part of history themselves.



George Doubleday II: 1940-2019

George dedicated his adult life to aviation, starting as a pilot of the F-8 Crusader for the U.S. Marines, spending 16 years at Pan American World Airways including running the Far East operations, and then founding Geographic Expeditions, an adventure travel company that grew into one of the most respected in the world offering

unique cultural experiences in far reaching parts of the world. George joined the SFAS Board in 2002 and also served as Vice President and member of the Pan Am Historical Foundation Board of Directors. George was a true collaborator and always ensured that the SFAS and Pan Am Historical Foundation leveraged each-others' activities with the intent to preserve aviation history and memorabilia.

Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter 1915-2020

Zoe Dell passed away in April 2020, less than two months shy of her 105th birthday. A dancer, model, huntress, pilot, philanthropist, Official Hostess and Pirate Theme Girl of the 1939-40 Golden Gate Exposition on Treasure Island, she lived her life with



a spirit of adventure fueled by her enthusiasm and curiosity about virtually everything. Zoe Dell will be remembered for her indomitable spirit, her keen intelligence, her sense of humor, her kindness and her philanthropy, but aviation enthusiasts will miss her passion for the industry and her story telling. Zoe Dell was the embodiment of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society's mission because in her nearly 105 years she lived the history of aviation.



Louis A Turpen 1944-2022

The founder, President and namesake of the Museum and Library, had a lifelong passion for aviation and dedicated much of it to the preservation of its history. From his days at the United States Air Force Academy, to his time in the Air Force where he directed the building of a landing strip on the U.S. military base on Guam,

to running major international airports in the United States and Canada, Lou lived out his passion for aviation and developed a deep and abiding respect for its rich history. In 1991, he became a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in Great Britain; in 2013, he was the recipient of Airports Council International's prestigious Downes Award for his outstanding leadership in promoting airports and aviation, both domestically and internationally; and, in 2013 he was inducted into the Living Legends of Aviation by John Travolta, Official Ambassador of Aviation, at its annual awards ceremony in Los Angeles. In 2019, the San Francisco Aeronautical Society honored Lou by presenting him with its Achievement in Aviation Award. But most of all, Lou was a mentor, visionary, leader, true family man and friend.



2022 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

As we begin to navigate a life without COVID restrictions, the SFAS is planning our 2022 activities and hopes to see many of our members, friends and aviation enthusiasts soon! We are busy planning a return of our in-person Gala and fund raiser to take place on November 3rd, with details to be released soon. We are also looking into hosting another interview with an exciting aviation leader and will make this available virtually for those who cannot attend in person. The SFAS is looking to leverage digital and social network technologies to expand our reach during these "new times" and we welcome your suggestions on how we can better share information and celebrate past, present and future aviation activities together.

In the meanwhile, please check out the upcoming exhibitions at the Museum:



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FAM14 is the abbreviation for the world's first transoceanic Foreign Air Mail route, which originated in San Francisco and linked the East and West by air. The **FAM14** masthead photograph, on page one, was taken by Clyde Sunderland and shows the Pan American Airways' *China Clipper* over the city of San Francisco on November 22, 1935, departing on the first trans-Pacific commercial flight to Manila, Courtesy of Pacific Aerial Surveys.

<u>Airmail Down Under:</u>	Spring 2022	Nov. 2022
<u>Flying the Southern Cross Route:</u>	Spring 2022	Dec. 2022
<u>Jet Mainliner in Miniature:</u>	Spring 2022	Jan. 2023
Going the Distance:	Spring 2022	Nov. 2023
China Clipper Propeller:	Continuous	

CONTACT! For Society general inquiries about membership, donations and other programs please visit our website or contact us at:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

San Francisco Aeronautical Society

President: Eric Starks; *Vice President:* Ken Turpen; *Treasurer:* John Martin; *Directors:* Ed Barnes, Dennis Bouey, Napoleon Brandford III, Jean Caramatti, Angela Gittens, Catherine Mayer; *Emeritus Directors:* Judd Iversen, Peter Volny

SAVE THE DATE
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY GALA
Thu, Nov 3, 2022
For further information,
please contact:
winslowevents.com

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