



FAM14

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

AUTUMN 2023

Welcome to this edition of **FAM14**! I'm writing to you as the new President of the Board of the Aeronautical Society. Many, many thanks to Eric Starks who completed his term as President and continues to be an extraordinarily dedicated Board member.

I've been working to continue to drive forward several projects, started by Eric, to fulfill our mission to advance knowledge and appreciation of aviation history. The Society looks forward to announcing significant new acquisitions in the coming months.

I'm pleased to now invite you to a special behind the scenes members only tour of our Aviation Museum on September 29, 2023 at 10am. When I took this tour, I learned there's way more behind the scenes than I had ever imagined. The tour also offers an opportunity to appreciate the scale of our permanent collection. You should have received a separate email invitation by now,

but if not, please send an email of interest to ccordero@sfaero.org.

There are several exciting historical aviation exhibits on display now in the Airport. It's worth making a visit to see these exhibits, which are all pre-security. In the Aviation Museum, in the International Terminal, there are exhibits of Airlines Passenger Chairs from the 1920's-1970's and Endurance Aircraft Engines and Propellers from the 1910's and 1920's. In the International Terminal G-side, there is an exhibition titled More than a Meal - Airline Meal Service Sets, 1960's-1980's. In the T2 Sky Terrace, a pre-security outdoor area, there is a historical photographic exhibit of Mills Field and the San Francisco Airport. And, finally in Terminal 1 are Masterworks by Edward Chavez of the Nut Tree Restaurant Airfield Model Aircraft Collection.

Truly, SFO has amazing exhibitions! I am happy that our Aeronautical Society is

supporting this program and adding to the Aviation Museum permanent collection.

We are grateful for the active participation and generous donations by Society Members and Sponsors; it is because of you that we too are able to transform. We hope that the activities in 2023 will inspire you to become even more involved and that we will see you at the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum.

To help minimize our administrative costs and to support the environment, we have decided to only make available the FAM14 via digital format after this last printing of the Autumn 2023 edition.

I hope that you enjoy this 2023 Autumn edition of **FAM14** and again, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your support.

John L. Martin
President

MOVIE NIGHT WITH A TRUE HERO

One of the most memorable events of 2022 was spending time with Captain Sully Sullenberger at the Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum at SFO. Nearly 100 fans gathered around our Bay Area hero to get their book signed, and their questions answered before watching the documentary, "Miracle Landing on the Hudson." One attendee said she was overcome with joy after meeting Sullenberger in person.

Shortly before the film started, Sullenberger lit up the room with quick wit and his great sense of humor. He talked about the current aviation safety standards and delivered a moving speech about how he and his partner landed the plane, saving the lives of 155 people onboard. "Obviously it was never possible to practice a water landing. But because I had learned my craft so well; I knew my airplane and my profession so intimately; I could set clear priorities." He described that it came down to judging altitude, speed, and holding the nose of the plane just right before landing on the water. Sullenberger was also the recipient

of the SFAS Achievement in Aviation Award in 2018 and remains active with the Society.

We are grateful for this aviation icon's continued support!



Capt Sullenberger at the SFAS movie night

EDWARD S. TRIPPE TO RECEIVE SOCIETY'S 2023 ACHIEVEMENT IN AVIATION AWARD

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society Board of Directors will award its highest honor to Edward S. Trippe in recognition of his outstanding work in preserving aviation history for the public benefit. Mr. Trippe is Chairman of the Board of the Pan Am Historical Foundation and the son of Juan T. Trippe, founding president of Pan American World Airways.

The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in the aviation field while serving to preserve, promote, and increase public awareness of the history of flight.

"It is particularly fitting," said Society President John L. Martin, "to recognize Ed Trippe for his career with Pan Am and his thirty years of leadership at the Pan Am Historical Foundation, which have added so much to the Trippe family legacy in commercial aviation."

After receiving degrees at Yale, Oxford, and Harvard Business school, Mr. Trippe joined Pan Am in 1967 as Government Traffic Manager in Saigon. He then began a leadership role at the Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation, Pan Am's wholly-owned subsidiary. From 1968 to 1989, his positions included Director of Development, Staff Vice-President of Finance, Senior Vice-President of Development, President of Forum Hotels International/London, and President of Inter-Continental Hotels/Europe/Middle East/London.

Mr. Trippe went on to form Trippe Martinet Ltd. in 1990, and in 1998 he created Bermuda Properties Ltd. where he was President until 2013.

Anticipating Pan Am's eventual demise in 1991 after years of finan-

cial instability, Mr. Trippe began assembling a group in 1990 to address the preservation of the company legacy. With his late brother, Charles, and other senior Pan Am veterans, he established the Pan Am Historical Foundation as a nonprofit educational and membership organization.

The Foundation successfully raised funds needed to save Pan Am's corporate records and artifacts from dissolution. Working closely with its long-serving past President, the late C.W. "Pete" Runnette, current President Adam Aron, and dedicated board members, Mr. Trippe has overseen the successful donations of company archives and artifacts to public collections at repositories that include the University of Miami, the Smithsonian Institution, and SFO Museum. Additionally, the Foundation's initial funding led to the production and recent airing on PBS of the documentary film, "Across the Pacific." New undertakings at the Foundation include the acquisition of the Pan Am film archives.

Mr. Trippe's efforts and the Foundation's successes in preserving and sharing Pan Am's important material culture have enabled a sustained scholarly interest in global air transport history as they have expanded public access and awareness of Pan Am's pioneering role in commercial aviation.



WHAT A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

As 2022 came to an end, we gathered for the re-opening of the Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum and to honor William R. Hearst III with the 2022 Achievement in Aviation Award for his support in preserving aviation history. "Will and the Hearst family enjoy a remarkable past that has been intertwined with aviation from its earliest days. This role in advancing aeronautical achievements goes back generations," said John Hill, former Assistant Director and Curator in Charge, Aviation of the SFO Museum. A couple of examples of how this family shaped aviation history includes early transoceanic flight attempts when such

missions were exceedingly daring and fraught with risk, and the infamous 1929 around the world flight of the Graf Zeppelin – the world's first global passenger-carrying flight!

During his acceptance speech, Hearst talked about what it was like growing up in Hearst Castle, his passion for flying, and preserving aviation history. In addition to presenting the award, it was a very nostalgic night with the gala being held inside the replica of the original SFO 1937 terminal. Former aviation employees Karen and Doreen flew from 1965 to 1975 and proudly wore their flight attendant uniforms designed by Edith Head, a famous designer who won a record eight Academy Awards for Best Costume Design.

The gala was a success, and the Society is grateful to its members for their generous donations and continued support. See you at the Museum on November 2, 2023 for this year's big event!



William R. Hearst receiving award



IN MEMORIAM

In May of this year, the aviation world lost one of the true aviation pioneers, Captain Moon Fun Chin, at the age of 110. Captain Chin was a legendary pilot, airline executive and owner, and advocate for the preservation of aviation history. The Society was very fortunate to have him as a generous supporter and we were honored when he accepted the Achievement in Aviation Award from the Society in 2014



Capt Chin accepting the Achievement in Aviation Award, Nov 2014

for his outstanding contributions and excellence in the air transport industry, both in China and the US.

Captain Chin was born in Taishan, Guangdong, China and moved to the US as a young boy with his family. After high school he enrolled in the Curtiss Wright Flying School and graduated with a Commercial Pilot License. He then moved back to China in 1933 and worked for the China National Aviation Corporation as an aviation mechanic, co-pilot and promoted to Captain in 1936. He was active as a civilian aviation pilot throughout World War II serving on rescue missions. Because of his heroic acts, he received four prestigious medals by the US Government for his service, even though he was never a part of the US Military. In 1951, Captain Chin started his own airline called, "Foshing Airline" providing service between Taipei and Taitung, Taiwan and remained active throughout the decades, including Chairman until his return to the US in 1993.

The Society wishes to extend its condolences to Captain Chin's family and friends around the world. His big smile and passion for aviation will truly be missed.

ADDING TO THE COLLECTION

The San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A Turpen Aviation Museum's collection just got a whole lot better! During 2022, the SFAS made two important donations to the collection: Trans World Airline (TWA) memorabilia and Anthony Lawler airplane models.



TWA uniform circa 1960s

The TWA acquisition includes a diverse and varied collection of items, from two model airplanes, a set of first class menus from the 1960s, as well as items that reflect the inflight fashion during these bygone decades

of aviation. The uniform pieces provide a glimpse of TWA's "couture" with a winter "Cutout" jacket from 1944, a hat from 1955, and dresses from the 1960s.

The Lawler airplane models fill unique gaps such as aircraft and airline livery representation in the Museum. These models are very helpful to tell the stories of flight and aviation history, whether those stories focus on the transformation of flight over the past century, or on the makers of such aircraft, or the airlines and crew who flew the planes.

Megan Callan, Asst. Director Museum Affairs said of the two donations "we are grateful to the Society for its dedication to acquire and gift such important pieces to the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum and Archives so that together we can preserve and appreciate aviation history."

The SFO Museum holds over 150,000 objects related to the history of commercial aviation



BOAC de Havilland Comet 4 late 1050s

and airline industry. From the model Pan American World Airways airplane, circa 1955, to a Super Constellation ashtray from the early 1950s; Qantas flight attendant uniforms from the 1970s; mail from the first airmail flight by Pan American World Airways in the 1940s; and an American Airlines Curtiss Condor T-32 (Condor II) biplane airliner model aircraft from 1983.

The Society appreciates its members' and supporters' contributions that make these important acquisitions possible. An in-person visit is a MUST and you can continue to help by making a donation at: <https://sfaero.org/joingive/how-to-donate/>



SAVE THE DATE

This year's Gala and Fundraiser will be held on November 2, 2023 and the theme, Pan Am on Film, celebrates the extensive collection of moving image media from the Pan American World Airways company archives, and the exciting effort to preserve it for the public benefit.

The gala will also pay tribute to Achievement in Aviation Award recipient, Edward S. Trippe, Chairman of the Pan Am Historical Foundation, and the Trippe family legacy in aviation. We hope you will join us for a wonderful evening and opportunity to support the Society's important work in celebration of aviation history.



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.

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.



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

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SAVE THE DATE
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY GALA
Thu, Nov 2, 2023
For further information,
please contact:
winslowevents.com

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