

From the Chairman, Ed Trippe...



As we begin our fourth decade of operation, I sometimes ask myself what keeps the Pan Am Historical Foundation going strong? So many other iconic companies that have ceased operations have been relegated to a footnote in history, but not Pan Am.

Pan Am wasn't just a company — it was a driving force in the history of aviation. First across the Pacific with the flight of the China Clipper. First across the Atlantic to Europe. First to fly the Boeing 747 that dramatically changed air travel in the '60s. The list of 'firsts' continues. Pan Am was not just a leader in international aviation, Pan Am was a force that helped change the world in the 20th Century. Juan Trippe, in a memorable speech, once described the race between the jet passenger plane and the transcontinental bomber, and the jet winning the race to bring peace, good will and understanding in an ever-shrinking world.

The Pan Am Historical Foundation had its roots in that sad day in 1991 when Pan Am ceased operations. Kathleen Clair, Juan Trippe's as-

Chairman *cont. p. 2*

The End of an Era: **The Rollout of the Last 747 in Production**

BY CHARLES TRIPPE

To really understand the true human accomplishment, the majesty, and the impact of the Boeing 747, one needs to be ON the apron when a Pan Am 747 is 'turned' during a routine schedule.

One warm summer afternoon in 1986, I watched from the apron at IAD (Washington Dulles) as a 747 gracefully floated down from the heavens — as 747s do — then gently land on the distant IAD runway. The aircraft then slowly approached the apron with its huge roaring engines winding down from a long trip across half a continent and an entire ocean. The giant aircraft was a well-used decade-and-a-half-old workhorse that needed repainting.

Over the next couple of hours, I watched a well-honed crew guide the aircraft in, and place blocks on the wheels. Perhaps a dozen land contraptions manned by dozens of technicians unloaded the containers (a Boeing/Pan Am innovation on passenger aircraft). Passengers de-planed via the most "interesting" mobile lounge busses. Engines were serviced, the plane was refueled and reloaded with cargo and

people. In less than two hours, the massive machine was back on its way across the Atlantic.



Those ninety minutes of that Pan Am 747 choreographed routine turn was the

best ballet or Broadway musical I had ever enjoyed. For that evening's routine performance, perhaps over 700 people and 350 cubic meters of cargo were exchanged between the capital of the United States and the commercial capital of free Germany. The show was played out thousands of times by Pan Am's and other carriers' 747's throughout the world that day.

Like a good ballet or Broadway show, the 747's 64-year "run" as a delivered commercial aircraft ended on January 31, 2023. I was invited to represent Pan Am for the last delivery of the 747 to the cargo airline, Atlas Air. I was a Pan Am

The End of an Era *cont. p. 3*

sistant for many years, and a Founding Director of PAHF, recalled the frantic effort to save the Pan Am archives that were stored in a warehouse in New Jersey. “Pilots, flight attendants, office and airport personnel went out to the warehouse every day to sort through the file boxes, keeping the important stuff and discarding the rest,” she recalled. “That was how the Pan Am Historical Foundation got its start... and it was important and fun.”

Partnering with the University of Miami’s Richter Library, the historic archives were preserved and protected for posterity. The Richter has capitalized on advances in technology to make the archives accessible to former employees, historians and aviation buffs. Now you can access the archives right from your own computer to search for a colleague, company records or an event in history.

Pan Am was also a film star on the big and small screens. In 2021, we acquired the Pan Am film archives that includes hundreds of iconic films that span the entire history of the company. Work is underway to digitize the collection to form the basis for the PAHF “Digital Museum”.

Beyond our history, there is something else that keeps us together. It’s the Pan Am spirit. You can see it on the faces of pilots and flight attendants wearing their old uniforms to attend an event.

Former colleagues gather at celebratory occasions such as the recent ‘Flying Down to Rio’ Gala organized by the Pan Am Museum Foundation. We have participated in conventions, and we have organized tours to Pan Am destinations to share our stories with our colleagues and maintain the ties with our past.

Our future promises to be as important to our mission of preserving the legacy of Pan Am as has been our past. Our new President, Adam Aron, has embarked on a path to bring the Pan Am community together to support our mission. Working with our partners at World Wings, the Museum Foundation and Clipper Pioneers we look forward to an exciting future with many new initiatives. In June, the Bahamian Government will celebrate the inauguration of air service to Nassau, and Pan Am, fittingly, will be central to the week-long celebrations. PAMF and PAHF are working together to represent Pan Am.

One final note. On January 31, 2023, the last Boeing 747 in production was delivered to Atlas Air at a ceremony at the Boeing Plant in Everett, WA. Charles Trippe, grandson of Juan Trippe, carried the Pan Am flag at the ceremony recognizing Pan Am N747PA as the first 747 to roll off the assembly line. Fittingly, that aircraft ended its Pan Am service as “Clipper Juan T. Trippe”. ✈



Betty Trippe wielding a Champagne bottle, christening the “Clipper Juan T. Trippe”

Pan Am Museum Foundation

Linda Freire, Chair

The Pan Am Museum kicks off 2023 on a high note following the successful Flying Down to Rio gala in November and the opening of our new exhibit, “Worldport 1980” that provides a peak into life at the famed Worldport Terminal at JFK.

Have you visited the Museum? If not, contact us to arrange a Docent Tour with Museum Curator John Luetich. It’s a fascinating place to learn about the glorious history of Pan Am and the evolution of aviation. We are located on Long Island inside the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

Maybe you missed Gala 2022? No problem! Catch up with friends and colleagues by attending Gala 2023, Passage to India on October 14, 2023. Our galas are a great opportunity to gather, remember, and celebrate Pan Am. This year’s gala will commemorate Pan Am in India and honor crew members from Flight 73, hijacked in Karachi on September 5, 1986.

Craving travel in Pan Am style? Join us on August 2 – 9, 2023 on a special Silversea Cruise. Sail aboard the Silver Spirit departing Venice and stopping at ports along Croatia’s Dalmatian Coast. Silversea Cruises offer premium onboard service with one-to-one crew to guest ratio. We’ve secured special pricing and a liberal cancellation policy for this one-of-a-kind voyage.

Popularity of the Museum’s award-winning Pan Am Podcast is growing by leaps and bounds. The program has received global attention with 80,000 downloads in 140 countries! Pan Am’s legacy lives on through the stories of its people. Join the global interest in Pan Am and listen to an episode available on your favorite

The End of an Era



L-R: Charles Trippe, Ron Marasco

“brat” — namesake of PAA treasurer/VP planning, a summer intern in 1986, and grandson of Juan T. Trippe. I was accompanied by Ron Marasco, a former PAA Vice President for Maintenance and Engineering, who played a key role in the early deployment of the Boeing 747 for Pan Am. What an honor for us both to represent Pan Am.

The event was hosted by Boeing Commercial Aircraft President Stan Deal at the gigantic Everett, WA factory in front of nearly 8,000 current and former Boeing employees, current Boeing customers and suppliers, the press, and celebrities including John Travolta. Juan Trippe was honored for his vision

and the role he played as the first customer of the 747. Most of the people I interacted with at the event were current Boeing customers who had recently purchased the final 747-800 freight variant.

I was given the honor of carrying a Pan Am flag up the aisle of the huge makeshift theater along with the Atlas Captain taking delivery of the final 747. We represented the first and the last carriers to fly the 747.

Some people are sad that the last production of the 747 was delivered on January 31, 2023. But the 747-800 that was delivered will likely be in service for another two decades.

All Pan Amers can be proud that the foundation for all commercial widebody design and operation was created by Pan Am people over 50 years ago. We know it. Boeing knows it, and historians know it! Thank you “Gopa” (JT Trippe), thank you Bill Allen (Boeing CEO '45-73), thank you Joe Sutter (Chief Boeing 747 Engineer), thank you John Borger (Pan Am’s Chief Engineer), and ALL Pan Amers including Ron Marasco, for bringing widebody long-range transportation to humanity. ✈

[Click here to view the livestream presentation.](#)

Pan Am Colleagues End

In March 2020, the world went on lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hid behind masks and activities were cancelled. We lived in isolation and meetings were held on Zoom. At the Pan Am Museum Foundation (PAMF), the 'Flying Down to Rio' gala celebration was postponed. Work was temporarily halted at the Marine Air Terminal in New York to commemorate Pan Am's historic relationship with the terminal that served as the operations headquarters for the B-314 'Flying Boats' from 1940-1948.

As Covid began to loosen its grip, the Pan Am Museum Foundation and the Pan Am Historical Foundation decided to join forces for a two-day celebration of our airline's history and its people. On Friday, November 11, 2022, the long-awaited dedication at the Marine Air Terminal was celebrated with a reception co-hosted by PAHF and PAMF.

The following evening, on Saturday, November 12, the Museum Foundation held its fifth Clipper Gala, 'Flying Down to Rio'.

Here is a glimpse at these two memorable events --

Marine Air Terminal Dedication By Ruth Maron

"It was a dark and stormy night." Those are the words that best describe the evening of November 11 as wind and rain swept across the tarmac at the Marine Air Terminal at La Guardia Airport in NY. The hosts — Ed Trippe, Linda Freire and Adam Aron — wondered if anyone would show up for the long-planned reception honoring Pan Am's historic presence at the Terminal.

And then they started to arrive in cars, taxis, buses, and Ubers. Flight attendants marched into the Terminal in their striking blue uniforms. Pilots also donned uniforms with a nod to the good old days. Smartly dressed guests filled the hall to greet friends and former colleagues. Also in attendance were



MAT photos this page are left to right starting at the top Ron Marasco with Adam Aron; Dan Colussy, President of Pan Am 1970-1980, chats with Ed Trippe; Adam Aron, Dan Colussy, Retired Admiral William Studeman (whose father was a Captain on the China Clipper); Ed Trippe greets Mrs. Jane Keith, 104-year-old widow of Pan Am Captain Paige Smith; Ed Trippe with former flight attendants in uniform; Pan Am crew members gather in the Rotunda.

representatives of the Port Authority of NY&NJ that operates the Terminal and partnered on creating the commemorative installation.

Ed Trippe, Chairman of PAHF, spoke about this important installation that celebrates the history of Pan Am. Three commemorative plaques mark the opening of the Terminal by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia and Juan Trippe; Pan Am's B-314 Yankee Clipper christened by Eleanor Roosevelt; and the huge circular Art Deco mural "Flight" by James Brooks. He pointed to the large new

model of the Yankee Clipper that now hangs from the ceiling of the Rotunda; and the newly restored mural "Flight" circling the Rotunda.

Among the noteworthy guests were 104-year-old Mrs. Jane Keith, widow of Pan Am Captain Paige Smith, and Dan Colussy who served as President of Pan Am from 1970 – 1980.

Undaunted by the weather, the party continued into the evening. Next day it was on to the Gala at the Pan Am Museum in Garden City, New York.



GALA photos this page are left to right starting at the top: Guests entertained by dueling pianists UAL Captain Beau Brant and John Luetich, Pan Am Museum Foundation Curator and Historian; Linda Freire welcomes guests; Adam Aron delivers tribute to Ed Trippe; Adam Aron honors Ed Trippe as founder and chairman of the Pan Am Historical Foundation and presents him with a model of the B-314 Flying Boat; Ed Trippe, Linda Freire, Adam Aron; Gala honoree Dorothy Kelly and Emcee Christine Negroni; *Flying Down to Rio* Gala; Brazilian samba dancers entertain the guests; Model of JFK Worldport on display.

Flying Down to Rio Gala at the Pan Am Museum Foundation

By Linda Freire, PAMF Chair

A night to remember! The fifth gala of the Pan Am Museum Foundation, *Flying Down to Rio*, landed on November 12, 2022, after a two-year delay due to the pandemic. The gathering united Pan Amers and fans of Pan Am in celebration of the airline's historic flights to South America.

For a celebration titled "*Flying Down to Rio*," a party is expected, and this

year's gala did not disappoint! With Brazilian samba music and cuisine to set the mood for the evening, the Museum was transformed into the South American paradise where Pan Am was famous.

Guests were welcomed on the Red Carpet as they proceeded to enjoy a Caipirinha and a culinary assortment of Brazilian appetizers. Kicking off the fun was UAL Captain Beau Brant, a Pan Am fan, who also happens to be a pianist and recording artist. In addition to his extraordinary musical talent Capt.

Brant's passion for flying was inspired by his neighbor growing up — one of the first Pan Am 747 captains.

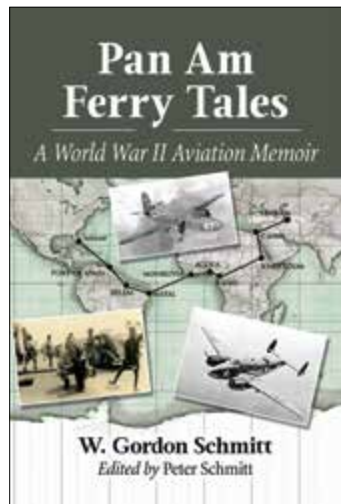
We were fortunate to welcome back the effervescent Christine Negroni as the gala's Emcee. Christine opened the evening by introducing Adam Aron who joined us as the keynote speaker in his new position as President of the Pan Am Historical Foundation.

Christine also introduced this year's Pan Am Honorees, Ed Trippe, Founder and Chairman of the Pan Am Historical

REVIEWED BY RUTH MARON

Pan Am Ferry Tales: *A World War II Aviation Memoir*

By W. Gordon Schmitt, Edited by Peter Schmitt



Pan American World Airways played a critical role in World War II. These stories of heroism have been extensively chronicled as Pan Am forged worldwide air routes and helped the Allies win the War.

But few people know about the Pan American Air Ferries. During World War II, an eccentric band of barnstormers, stunt flyers and commercial pilots joined military recruits to form the Pan American Air Ferries (PAAF), a subsidiary of Pan American World Airways. These civilian pilots developed a strategically crucial and highly efficient system for shuttling aircraft to Allied forces around the world that contributed significantly to key campaigns during the War.

The late W. Gordon Schmitt served as a navigator for the Pan American Air Ferries, and later the U.S. Air Force from 1942 to 1945. His engaging and often amusing memoir recounts the close calls and indelible characters he encountered on PAAF missions, from Brazil to Africa to the Middle East and beyond.

Edited by his son, Peter Schmitt, “Pan Am Ferry Tales” was published in 2022 and includes historical photos, a three-page index, and an informative introduction about PAAF by the editor. Peter explains that in the late 1980s when his father was in his seventies, he began writing his stories, standing to type them on a manual typewriter from his handwritten draft. Gordon was unable to find a publisher by the time he died in 1996. Peter began to slowly digitize the manuscript to share it with family and friends. The heightened interest in World War II led to its publication by McFarland & Company. ✈

“Pan Am Ferry Tales” is available at independent bookstores and at Amazon in print and digital editions.

High Note *from p.4*

Foundation; and Dorothy Kelly, a true heroine during the aftermath of The Tenerife Incident and the first recipient of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Heroism Award. Ed’s vision and dedication has kept the Foundation going strong into its fourth decade of operation.

A special legacy presentation was given to two young men — Maddex Henry of Tulsa, OK, and Josh Moye of Colchester, England. Both Maddex and Josh help keep the Pan Am legacy alive as representatives of the next generation of Pan Am enthusiasts. It is to the next generation that we must pass the Pan Am torch. Maddex, a high school student, promotes the Museum on social media. Josh, inspired by the podcast program, has opted to pursue a graduate degree with a focus on aviation. He also assists with research and content development.

Like all families who experience loss, we took time out at the gala to honor two of Pan Am’s own family legends; Charles “Pete” Wilson Runnette, III, and Jeffrey “Jeff” Feller Kriendler. Pete served for more than 20 years as President of the Pan Am Historical Foundation leading the way for the Foundation to accomplish great things. Jeff was the public voice of Pan Am and served as a board member of the Foundation since its founding. They both truly left their footprints on the field of aviation.

During the evening, attendees were encouraged to visit the Pan Am exhibits on the third floor of the Museum. Of special interest was this year’s addition of an incredible model of the Pan Am Worldport, designed and created by former employee, Brian Keene.

Guests also viewed an emotional video called ‘Give Them Our Wings’ created for the Pan Am Museum Foundation by James Duff and Phillip Keene. You can view the video on the Museum’s YouTube channel.

Following the presentations and remembrances, everyone enjoyed a delectable three-course Brazilian-themed dinner. The party revved up again with a spirited performance by Brazilian samba dancers, bringing partygoers to the dance floor in a giant samba line.

We are already looking forward to our next gala on October 14, 2013. It will be an exotic evening called “A Passage to India” to celebrate yet another memorable Pan Am destination. Ticket sales will be announced later this year on our website, ThePanAmMuseum.org, and on our Facebook page. ✈

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2022-2023**

Edward S. Trippe
Chairman

Adam Aron
President

Marie Lindell
Treasurer

Darlene Laster
Secretary

Lilian A. Walby

John H. Hill

Ruth Maron

Doug Miller

Peter M. Leslie

Ron Marasco

Charles W. Trippe, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emilia de Geer
pahf@metrodisc.com

WEBMASTER

Doug Miller
panamweb@gmail.com

CLIPPER EDITOR

Ruth Maron
ruth.maron@comcast.net

WEBSITE

www.panam.org

ARCHIVES

www.library.miami.edu/
archives/panam/pan.html

Our Partners *from p. 2*

podcast platform (Apple, Spotify, Google) or
at podcast.thepanammuseum.org.

For additional information about the Pan Am
Museum, visit www.ThePanAmMuseum.org.

World Wings International

Nancy G. McAllister, President

FOLLOW THE SUN TO SCOTTSDALE

You're invited! Join your Pan Am friends and former colleagues at World Wings 54th annual convention scheduled for October 29 to November 1, 2023, in Scottsdale, Arizona — "The West's Most Western Town." Members from several World Wings chapters are combining their amazing skills to assure a fantastic time for everyone. It shouldn't be missed!

We will be headquartered at the lovely Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch (an esteemed Hilton Curio Collection Property) where the tranquil beauty of Arizona sur-

rounds you at every turn. Celebrate in style, beginning with cocktails under the palms, followed by a seated Southwestern dinner.

Relax by the pool, indulge in a spa treatment, chase the little white ball around, shop, sightsee, visit museums, historical sights, and art galleries. Take our tours to the Grand Canyon, Sedona and area attractions. A special evening excursion takes you out in the Sonoran Desert for a southwestern barbecue amid the famed Saguaro cacti, some as old as 1,000 years.

Celebrate with friends at our farewell gala Champagne reception and banquet presented with pure Pan Am F/C style! Stimulating speakers, talented musicians and many surprises await your arrival in Scottsdale — reserve your spot today! ✈

For more information, please visit our website: worldwingsinternational.net/scottsdale2023/