

TREASURE ISLAND TIDES

NEWS FROM THE TREASURE ISLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Building One, Room 111, No. 1 Avenue of the Palms, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California 94130

A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR

TRANSFER CEREMONY

On August 17, 2010, a small group of TIMA board members and volunteers were privileged to attend a ceremony honoring the transfer of Treasure Island's ownership from the Navy to the City of San Francisco. The event took place on a sunny afternoon in front of Building One, with the San Francisco skyline as a backdrop. Mayor Gavin Newsom, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi spoke on the occasion and participated in a public signing ceremony. The event was followed by a reception in the Casa De La Vista on Treasure Island. Although the actual transfer will occur in the near future, the ceremony was a fulfilling event for those who have worked persistently to see Treasure Island become a part of the City of San Francisco.



At the Treasure Island Transfer Ceremony, S.F. Mayor Gavin Newsom accepts a TIMA t-shirt from TIMA vice president Walt Bilofsky.

SEA SERVICES EXHIBIT

In March 2010, TIMA mounted *Treasure Island Salutes the Sea Services: a Look at San Francisco Bay Area History*, an exhibition featuring uniforms, models, posters, film footage, and other 20th century artifacts. Individuals and institutions loaning items for the exhibition included the USS Hornet Museum, Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park, San Francisco Public Library-San Francisco History Center, San Jose Public Library-California Room, the Bancroft Library, and the Naval Historical Foundation. TIMA's Exhibition Committee, chaired by Art Banda, worked with guest curator Paradise Osorio to plan and organize this display. A well-attended opening reception was held on Sunday, March 28th in the main lobby of Building One. The exhibition continued through October 16th. Many visitors expressed their appreciation of this wonderful gathering of relevant materials and the retelling of an important part of Bay Area history.

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS IN 2010

January: A collection of documents from the 1980's relating to the history of Treasure Island and the museum (Barbara Donley).

February: Two women Navy officer's uniforms

worn on T.I. in the 1980's (Kay Riordan).

A collection of some 10 items from the Golden Gate International Exposition, including Bobby and Betty Visit the Fair (Laurence Robert). A collection of customized tools for Pan Am aircraft, donated by Larry Christiansen, who worked for Pan Am on T.I. A 1945 photo of the T.I. Navy Band (Steeferie Wicks).

June: A collection of some 25 items from the GGIE and Panama Pacific International Exposition: glassware, ceramics, and sheet music (John Graham).

October: 5 Pan American World Airways posters (Manny Ezquerro). A complete portfolio of Miguel Covarrubias's "Pageant of the Pacific" maps from Pacific House (GGIE), with all maps in mint condition (Lafayette, Calif. Historical Society). We plan a small exhibit and a lecture at their facility.

November: A collection of PPIE artifacts (Susan Wilpiltz).

Also in 2010, Nancy Laird, whose father painted the huge Sea Services mural in the Building One

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lobby, gave us key materials on the mural and the founding of the museum. Colin MacKenzie, designer of our model Tower of the Sun (now at the Hiller Aviation Museum) and Elephant Tower exhibit cases, provided us with working photos of these projects and has agreed to loan us table-top models.

Other exciting acquisitions are pending.

VOLUNTEERS AND DOCENTS

Over the past year and a half, we have been joined by two talented and energetic young men with the enthusiasm and skills to assume many of TIMA's tasks. Steve Moody, who spent four years in the Navy and until recently was a Treasure Island resident, was our regular weekday docent for many months through the spring and summer. Max Hori has volunteered at our events and managed our Dragon Boat Festival booth this year and proved himself capable of doing any needed task. Steve and Max became our regular crew for the removal, storage, and re-mounting of our lobby exhibit as needed.

A crew of diverse people joined us over the summer as weekend docents for our lobby and Sea Services exhibits. Max Hori was instrumental in helping us recruit new lobby volunteers. Steve and

Max have regretfully moved on to other projects but their assistance to TIMA will always be remembered. Please see the "Acknowledgements" section of this newsletter for a more complete list of volunteers and docents.

OUR NEW EMPLOYEE

In September, TIMA reached another milestone, hiring our first staff member in 13 years. Anna Lau is our new part-time Office Manager, with responsibilities

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New Office Manager Anna Lau staffed our booth at the Dragon Boat Festival, along with volunteers Hans Warner and Max van der Sterre



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(A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR... continued)

ranging from database entry to collections management and storage, and putting our office in order.

Anna will complete her Master's in Museum Studies at S.F. State next spring. In the Spring of 2010 she interned at TIMA, acting as the Registrar for our "Sea Services" exhibition which ran from March -October 2010 in Room 111.

TREASURE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In appreciation of TIDA's support and sponsorship of our activities, TIMA nominated Mirian Saez, Director of Treasure Island Operations, for an Art Deco Society Preservation Award last April. It is the support of Mirian and her staff – Peter Summerville, Marianne Thompson, Nikki Ivey, and the entire staff at TIDA – that has enabled us to return to Building One and engage in the activities that have brought the museum back to life during the last two and a half years. The Art Deco Society of California bestowed the award on Mirian at their Preservation Ball last May.

RECENT DONATIONS

In recent months, we received a substantial cash donation from Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig, the president of our board, as well as a gift from Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, our most staunch and generous supporter for many years. We offer our deepest thanks to these tireless and generous women for their great show of faith in us, which allows us to continue carrying the torch of the Treasure Island Museum.



Mounting our GGIE Photo Exhibit

WHAT'S NEXT?

As redevelopment of Treasure Island starts to ramp up in 2011, all tenants and residents are expected to be asked to pack up their belongings and leave. We are hoping that we'll be back sooner than the last time this happened (12 years!) but as before, we must find a place to store our belongings. This time we hope to find exhibit and office space in addition to storage. If you have any suggestions for us, will you please let us know? In the meantime, we have been pouring so much energy into planning for the future that we're not certain that we will be able to produce our History Day in February of 2011. Watch for news about that in the very near future. But we will certainly be planning a big bash next year to celebrate how far we have come, to thank our volunteers, and to bid another farewell to Treasure Island as we await another re-awakening.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Surely the last twelve years has been a roller-coaster ride for TIMA. But now is the exciting part and we are picking up speed!

For more than a decade we dreamed and schemed about whether we would ever return to Treasure Island. In the past 2 1/2 years, thanks to our History Days, celebration days, lecture events, website traffic, and the ongoing support of the Treasure Island Development Authority, TIMA experienced a re-awakening. We found new sources of support, new board members and young volunteers with professional skills to help us plan exhibits and events, brainstorm our future, and infuse our organization with fresh enthusiasm.

Our graphical history exhibit in the lobby of Building One, planned for a three month showing, has now been on display for more than two years. During 2010, exhibits of GGIE posters and our Sea Services exhibit drew steady attendance. Even without access to the collections formerly presented in Building One, we created exhibits which attracted visitors.

We won our way back into Building One, but the larger question remains: as redevelopment commences, where will the museum fit in? The new Treasure Island will be the "most environmentally-sustainable large development project in U.S. history, one of sixteen projects worldwide of the Clinton Climate Initiative". It will be the Bay Area's focal point of sustainability and

environmental creativity.

TIMA is now planning a museum that will celebrate that new vision as well as the island's past glories and histories. Last spring, we decided that it was time to seize the initiative and begin to design our future. We have retained professional assistance and are currently pouring our resources – volunteer time as well as money – into planning. We are making the decisions and creating the materials – slide presentations, drawings, and financial and organizational plans – to demonstrate why San Francisco must have a museum on Treasure Island, and how it can happen.

We enter our planning phase at a difficult time. History museums are struggling, and all non-profits are grasping at shrinking dollars. Yet we believe that the appeal of Treasure Island itself will attract visitors as well as the resident population. Our new museum will offer perspectives on the island's past and future and provide a beautiful and provocative gathering place. We have confidence that we will find the resources we need.

If you have ever thought about giving to TIMA, now is the moment. As we embark on our new adventure, your gift will enable us to move forward and ensure our future on the island as it morphs into "Magic City 2.0." Please join us on this adventure and be there when we open Treasure Island Museum 2.0.

Get on the roller coaster today!
Claire Wahrhaftig, President



Flora and Fauna of the Pacific' from our new Covarrubias 'Pageant of the Pacific portfolio'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

These volunteers and docents helped make our programs and exhibits happen during 2010: Walt and Nancy Bilofsky, Manny Ezquerro, Rev. Thomas Hernandez, Zeldia Holland, Max Hori, Marc Kagen, Karen Knowles-Pearce, Paul Lufkin, Steven Moody,

Lazaro Sanchez, C.J. Tinloy, John Underhill, Desmond Thorsson, Max von der Steere, Joseph West, Hans Warner. Our talented presenters on History Day were Gray Brechin, Will Maynez and Carolyn Treanor. Tides layout: Emily Oldham, Production: John Carroll