LET’S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS!

By: Jonna Doolittle

On Saturday, October 26, eight World War II veterans from the Mighty Eighth Air Force shared their stories with 270 guests at this year’s Taste of Flight. B-17 crew members Dr. John Clark, Conrad Lohoefer, Alex Ranftle, Wilbur Richardson, Harry Selling, and Lawrence Stevens, and Fighter Pilots Steve Pisanos and Walt Drake spoke eloquently about their experiences. Our only regret is that we didn’t have more time to listen to their amazing tales.

Entertainment provided by The Harmonettes took us all back to the ‘40s with three beautiful voices harmonizing, Andrew’s sister’s style, the songs that were popular during the war years.


As always, great wine and excellent beer played a major role in the evening’s success. Bella Luna Winery, Jack Creek Cellars, Cass Winery, Pianetta Estate Winery, Anheuser-Busch and Dale Bros. Brewery returned this year and Gordon’s Home Brew made its debut. The continued support of California wineries and breweries reminds us of why California has carved out a special niche in the international wine and beer world.

This year Chef Henry Gonzalez of Spaggi’s outdid himself with food stations placed around the hangar. The new format allowed leisurely dining and an opportunity for the guests to taste it all. The food this year was outstanding!

A special thanks goes to Museum staff and volunteers, especially Irene James, Meg Kylander, Cindy Novak, Susie Harrison, Cory O’Bryan, Silvia and Alex Gonzalez, and Nancie Filkins.

Great auction items, great presentation from 8th Air Force veterans, and great food set the stage for a successful 2013 7th Annual Taste of Flight.
President’s Message

2013 was another great year here at Planes of Fame. Everyone continues to work hard, making our Museum something special and unique. Since Planes of Fame opened its doors in 1957, the Museum has accomplished many great things and 56 years later, 2013, we are still making progress. Here are some of this year’s activities that set us apart from other Museums:

• We held a very successful annual Planes of Fame airshow 2013 “Lightning Strikes Chino” in May where we flew a formation of 5 P-38’s as well as 40+ other warbirds and aerobatic performers,
• We held a very successful annual Taste of Flight “Salute to the Mighty 8th” where eight WWII army air force air crew attended to tell their stories of their service,
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• We held 12 “Living History” events featuring aircraft and historians presenting lectures of aviation history,
• We were involved with television and student film projects as well as art projects using some of our aircraft,
• Our Zero returned from a successful 1 year display in Japan,
• Veterans Day weekend 162 volunteers sorted 157,500 lbs of books, magazines and cataloged more than 7,500 books for our new archives facility,
• Aircraft restoration continues to produce good results: P-59, B-17, DC3, O-47, ME109 and Navion are ongoing,
• Aircraft maintenance of our currently eighteen flyable aircraft is masterfully handled by our volunteers

We also do what other Museums do:
• More than 60,000 guests visited our facilities in Chino and Grand Canyon,
• We have over 1400 current members,
• We hosted more than 45 private after hours, banquets, weddings conferences and parties at our Chino facility
• The Aviation Discovery Center project (ADC) is now funded and open every Saturday,
• Three aircraft were donated to Planes of Fame in 2013
• We were able to bring Jerry Wilkins in as Executive Director of Planes of Fame

Thank you staff, volunteers, members and donors again for all you did to keep Planes of Fame “SPECIAL and UNIQUE”, not just another air Museum with airplanes.

Keep ‘em flying!

Steve Hinton
President
2013 YEAR-END APPEAL

By: Karen Hinton

56 years…that’s how long Planes of Fame has been open to the public. We are asked repeatedly how we have managed to keep the aircraft flying, the doors open and the history alive all this time and the answer is YOU! Thank you!

From our first home on Foothill Boulevard to our present locations in Chino, California and Valle, AZ, word of mouth has been our best form of advertising. Generous donors like you have given time, treasure and talent to restore aircraft, give tours, sweep the floors, create new displays and most recently, install a new sound system to make sure every word of our Living History presentations is heard. The Museum has grown from ten aircraft in one building in 1957 to over 150 aircraft in eight buildings and storage today. Thank you!

What’s next? The sky is the limit! There are an endless number of projects possible to improve the experience within the Museum. From aircraft restorations to improved displays around the Museum galleries, we have ‘job security’ through 2114. The possibilities are only limited by those same three resources that have kept the Museum alive: time, treasure and talent. Our recent ArchivaPalooza event to catalog 70 pallets of books means a Reading Room open to the public is now a possibility. Funding for the archives will be an ongoing need.

Will you consider an extra gift to Planes of Fame to help us increase those resources? Go to our website and sign up as a volunteer. Make a donation for the B-17 restoration. Or perhaps you’d like to help the education program grow. Enclosed are several flyers highlighting those needs. Looking for a unique holiday gift? Purchase a personalized bench or give the gift of Planes of Fame Museum membership and you will provide much-needed general operating support.

Are you over 70 ½ and have an IRA account? Through the end of the year, you can give up to $100,000 to charity without having to include any of that transfer as part of your income. This law was only extended to the end of this year though so act quickly.

As we enter the holiday season, we reflect with gratitude on another year. We are grateful for your support. We are grateful for the unflinching service of our veterans and active military. We are grateful for being able to keep the doors open all these years to preserve our nation’s aviation history! Happy Holidays!

PoF GIFT SHOP HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Roaring Glory Warbirds DVD Collection!

In each of the 10 DVDs, PoF’s own Steve Hinton gives you a full walk around, check out, preflight, and engine startup of a WWII fighter or bomber. Steve takes you flying in a F4U Corsair, P-38 Lighting, B-17 Flying Fortress, the world’s only totally authentic A6M5 Japanese Zero, and many others! Special Holiday offer only $139.99 for the complete collection, plus S/H.

TO ORDER THESE GREAT DVD SETS Call (909) 597-3722 or visit: www.planesoffame.org (Gift Shop)

A GIFT FOR THAT HARD TO SHOP FOR PERSON!

Are you shopping for one of those people who have everything? We have the antidote to your quandary: Purchase a Planes of Fame Air Museum memorial bench in their honor! A name, company, squadron etc. can be engraved on a sturdy bench that will be positioned in one of the seven hangars at the Museum. Your wonderful gift will give visitors an attractive, convenient resting place AND be a tribute to the individual or group you “gift” the bench for.

Benchs are $1,500 and help the Museum further its mission. Call or e-mail Kristen Maloney to order your bench today! Kristen can be reached at (909) 597-4754 or at Kristen.maloney@planesoffame.org.
ARCHIVAPALOOZA, SPEED DATING FOR AN AIR MUSEUM’S LIBRARY

By: Dydia DeLyser

Even if you’re a long-time Planes of Fame Member, you may never have visited the Museum’s modest library, which also housed thousands of books and other treasures that lay hidden in boxes not opened in decades. Although the library is loved dearly by a few, it remained small and unexplored by most. But on Veteran’s Day weekend all that changed when Planes of Fame hosted the first ever ArchivaPalooza, a 3-day, all-volunteer, cataloging effort to identify rare donated materials for the library. With careful planning and 162 volunteers (most new to the Museum and many of them with library experience), the team sorted 2,100 boxes of books, periodicals, manuals, images, and other historical materials. Custom-designed easy-to-use software allowed volunteers to match 7,500 books with Library of Congress call numbers, which will be used to shelve books in the newly refinished library building. And, this is only the beginning—thousands more books need call numbers, duplicates must be weeded out, and non-book materials must be sorted. So watch for an ArchivaPalooza II, and come join the ongoing effort to help match books with their call numbers and build the Planes of Fame Library.