Is “become a pilot” on your bucket list? Have you often wondered how those amazing machines stay in the air? Did you know the first US airline was established in 1914?

To answer those questions and more, make sure to include a visit to the Museum to enjoy “Dynamics of Flight.” This special exhibition will unlock the wonder of flying, the amazing history and heritage of aviation, and the excitement of working in the field. The exhibit will feature a flight simulator so that you can test your skills as a pilot and learn the role of pitch, yaw and roll.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Laboratories for their sponsorship of “Dynamics of Flight.” Additional support is provided by the Albuquerque Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Aspen Avionics, the U.S. Southwest Soaring Museum, and the Lobo Wing of the Commemorative Air Force.

Join the Museum for a members-only preview will be held on Friday, May 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. That night we will celebrate everything flight-related and feature a special cocktail. To RSVP, please contact Nadine Scala at 505-245-2137, extension 113.

“Dynamics of Flight” will be on display through the end of the year. There is no additional fee to experience the exhibit, beyond the usual price of admission for non-members.
We often hear that our visitors choose to take time to stop and visit us because they can enjoy our great and historic collection of aircraft. Indeed, since the events of September 11, 2001, opportunities to get up close to an airplane have become much harder to find. The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a real airplane experience in the mid-state region.

We have some real beauties for sure, reminders of a time past but a commitment that continues for air defense and those who gave lives and careers to keep America safe. However, our wonderful aircraft are suffering from exposure to the elements and we are having difficulty gaining financial support to recondition and repaint them. We have started to develop a great plan of action that is a result of many hours of study by one of our prominent volunteers, Maj. Mike Chavez, USAF (ret). His program will ensure we can work with our scarce resources to make the most of our reconditioning efforts. In fact, staff and volunteers have already begun some aluminum replacement on badly corroded parts of our B-29. What a difference this is making.

We are looking for help with several efforts beginning early summer. First, we will roll out a program where our visitors can make a donation (in person or on-line) to help us paint the planes. This campaign is called “Operation Preservation,” and we hope we can gain enough financial support to repaint several airplanes this season. Next, we are looking for volunteers that have time and some skill level to get involved in the restoration and reconditioning effort. Most folks don’t get a hands-on chance to work on a big airplane, but we will offer that unique opportunity.

We hope to have two crews that work on the many smaller and larger parts of the project. Our BOMARC will receive attention first because we have received a grant from the Association of Air Force Missleers to fund the refurbishment. We feel this will be a great way to kick off an effort that is likely to last through 2014.

In this issue you will read of our newest exhibit, “Dynamics of Flight,” which will be made even more powerful by a visit to see the great planes outside. (We hope to receive several new aircraft, beginning this summer.) I invite you to experience the exhibit, become involved in our restoration effort, and make a financial contribution to the “Operation Preservation.” With your help, we will have all our aircraft back in a state we can be proud of, one that reflects the value of their important heritage to all of us.

Sincerely,
Jim Walther, Museum Director

Our 2011-2012 Annual Report is now available online! Visit our website at www.nuclearmuseum.org and click “Connect with the Museum” and “Publications.” For questions, or if you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the Annual Report, please contact Nadine Scala at 505-245-2137, ext. 113.
“Operation Preservation” is your chance to play an important role in the restoration of the Museum’s iconic aircraft. Because these important artifacts “live” in Heritage Park, they are subject to the ravages of the southwestern weather – and they are showing it. All four current airplanes (the B-29 Superfortress, B-52B Stratofortress, F-105D Thunderchief, and A-7 Corsair II) are in need of paint and other attention.

An ambitious campaign will kick off on May 31, in conjunction with the members-only preview of “Dynamics of Flight.” At that time, we will announce some special features of the campaign, including at least one great summer event. (Check out the ad below!)

Not only must the Museum raise a lot of financial support (our goal is $200,000 in only two years), we must also raise some human resources. Because the planes need a lot of “hands-on” attention, we are hoping to raise a contingent of volunteers who will be assigned the actual refurbishment duties. Another way volunteers can help is to take our campaign to the community. To that end, we will establish a Speaker’s Bureau. To volunteer in any capacity, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 505-245-2137, extension 122.

To give, go to the Museum’s website, www.nuclearmuseum.org, and choose “Support the Museum.”

**Movie Under the Wings**

**Saturday, August 3**

Doors open at 7:30 - Movie begins at dark

Bring a portable outdoor chair!

Local food trucks!

$10 Adults; $8 Youth & Seniors
In 1951 Republic Aviation began a project to develop a supersonic tactical fighter-bomber for the United States Air Force. The result was the Republic F-105 Thunderchief. Nicknamed the “Thud,” the aircraft was designed as a nuclear strike weapon. Before the Vietnam conflict these aircraft saw service in West Germany and Japan. In 1959 Republic produced the improved “D” model which had a more powerful engine than earlier versions. The deployment of the new model began that same year.

Our F-105D, serial number #61-0107, was delivered to the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) on June 6, 1962. After training at Wheeler AFB the aircraft was sent to Spangdahlem AFB, West Germany as part of NATO. In August 1966 it was transferred to the 23rd TFW at McConnell AFB and used in pilot training at both McConnell and Nellis AFB.

On September 9, 1974, the aircraft was assigned to the Kansas Air National Guard at McConnell AFB. In 1979 it was then assigned to the 184th Tactical Fighter Group, Air National Guard at Andrews AFB, Maryland.

In June 1981 the aircraft was being flown to the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposal Center in Tucson, Arizona. The aircraft was piloted by Captain David Kelsey. The plane stopped at the Albuquerque International Airport for refueling. Upon take off the engine failed to obtain enough power and the pilot dropped an emergency hook to catch a steel cable on the runway. Kelsey was not injured.

A crane was used to haul it onto a trailer for examination. The National Atomic Museum (now the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History) made a request to the Air Force to have it transferred to the Museum for static display. The Air Force agreed and the aircraft was loaned from the Air Force Museum (now the National Museum of the United States Air Force) to the National Atomic Museum.

The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History has been granted permission to repaint the aircraft as it appeared when serving with the 49th TFW. This new paint scheme will make our F-105D more relevant to our Museum’s mission.

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**Membership Matters!**

**2013 Membership Campaign**

by Charles W. Lowery II, Development Director

The Museum formally launched its year-long “Membership Matters” campaign on Friday, February 1, in conjunction with the Members Preview of our last temporary exhibit. It was a successful event, with 106 people in attendance. More importantly, we received 22 new or renewed memberships that evening. The hard work of two model Museum store staff members, Sarah Caird and Lynn Jones, has helped contribute to the campaign’s success – they are selling memberships at a brisk pace.

If you’ve received a renewal letter, we hope you’ll respond and keep the trend going. Likewise, if you have a friend or neighbor who you believe would appreciate a membership, let them know! There are incentives for just those purposes:

- A copy of the book “America’s Lost H-Bomb,” by Randall C. Maydew, a Museum water bottle (while supplies last), and a 15% discount in the Museum Store for all new members
- An additional two months of free membership for current Museum members who recruit a new member
- An additional two months of free membership and a 15% store discount for renewing or upgrading your membership

It’s going to take some effort to reach our goal of 2,250 members – we hope you’ll agree this is a worthwhile endeavor and that “Membership Matters”!
Welcome Patti

New Education Enrichment Coordinator

Patti Martinez was familiar to the Museum even before she started her position as Enrichment Coordinator in late 2012. Patti, in addition to being a teacher with Albuquerque Public Schools, was a popular and much-appreciated Summer Camp teacher.

As a Museum educator, Patti is excited about continuing her work with children, which is her passion. Whether it’s leading a school tour or teaching a camp program, Patti says she loves the challenge of making science interesting AND fun. As enrichment coordinator, her duties will also include helping to develop camps that are current, assisting with exhibit program design, and working with partner organizations.

“It’s really hard work, but exciting,” she says. “There are so many aspects to the job, and there are no bells to tell you it’s the end of the period!”
A Breathtaking Event
Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Day 2013
by Beunka Sinclair, Special Events Coordinator

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a commemoration, welcoming communities across America to celebrate the cultural customs, native languages and exceptional experiences exemplified among more than 47 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific Islands who live in the United States. This special heritage month acknowledges millions of AAPI's whose strong family values, dedication, and great sense of community has helped unify us as a people and support us as a nation.

For 16 years, the Museum, in partnership with the Sandia National Laboratories Asian Leadership Outreach Committee and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has hosted our very own event. We invite you to join us for the 17th Annual Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Day, to be held on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This year, we have a very unique lecture on Anime (a Japanese art form created by hand-drawing or computer animation) by the University of New Mexico's Anime Club. The art form is used to create TV series, short films, and full-length films. By attending the lecture guests will walk away with a better understanding of Anime's history and how its wild success in Japan and the United States came to be.

Guests will also be mesmerized by tantalizing dance performances, participate in hands-on activities such as origami, brush painting, calligraphy, and observe beautiful Ikebana floral arrangements. Guests are invited to taste traditional Asian food samples provided by our continued partner, Talin Market, our new partner Chopstix, and explore the fascinating world of tea by indulging in samples from The Fragrant Leaf.

Through the continuing support of the Chinese Cultural Center and Lin's Martial Arts Academy, New Mexico School of Chinese Language and Arts, Ichiyo School of Ikebana, Ikebana International Chapter 41, the New Mexico School of Chinese Language & Arts, Talin Market, and this year’s new performers, this event will be a lovely day to remember!

Only Available Online!
In an effort to keep costs down, and to improve our eco-friendly practices, the Summer 2013 Nuclear Times Newsletter will not be printed and mailed. It will only be available online.

Thank you so much for your understanding and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact us at 505-245-2137.