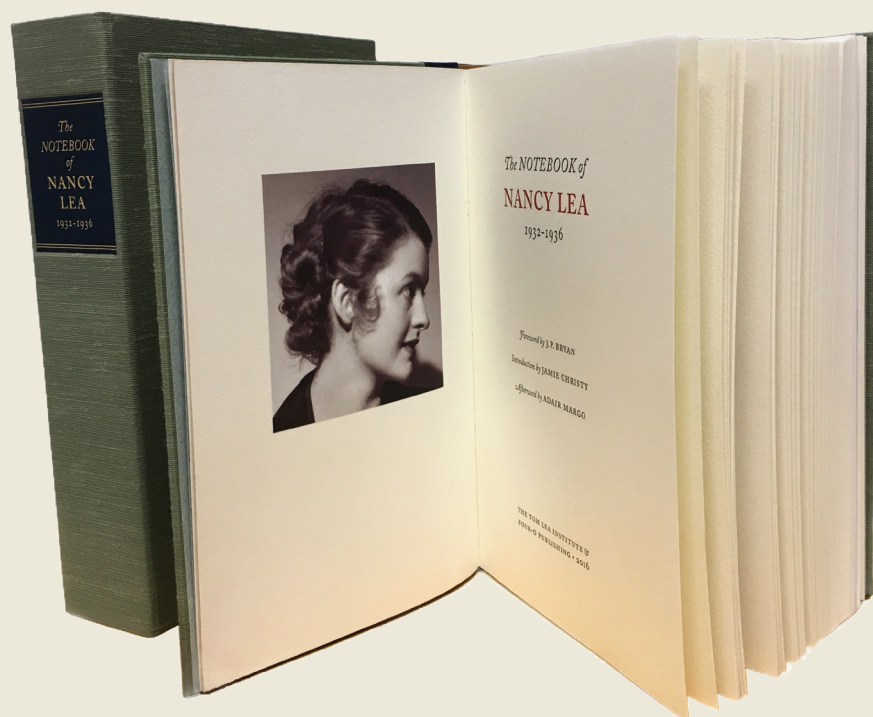


Tom Lea Month 2016 Highlights



The Notebook of Nancy Lea

OCTOBER 2016 marked the tenth anniversary of Tom Lea Month. The focus was on Tom Lea's first wife, Nancy, who died in 1936 when she was only 29 years old. Nancy Taylor was a talented artist and an aspiring writer, and though none of her works were published during her lifetime, her writing speaks poignantly today. Twenty-five copies of a deluxe edition of *The Notebook of Nancy Lea* were published by the Tom Lea Institute and Four-O Publishing – the same number of copies Tom Lea printed with Carl Hertzog to give as remembrances to Nancy's friends. Each copy is signed and bound in green silk with a blue leather spine and encased in a silk-lined dust cover. The deluxe edition sells for \$5,000 and proceeds support TLI education programs. It was made possible through the generosity of the Summerlee and Dodge Jones Foundations.

Nancy Lea's personality was brought to life by actress Morgana Shaw (of the television series *Salem*) in the one-act play, *Grace Note in a Hard World* by Camilla Carr, with award-winning actor Ray Baker (supporting actor for seven Academy-Award-winning actresses) playing Tom Lea. The performance took place at El Paso's Philanthropy Theater downtown on October 29-30, sponsored by Betty Ruth Wakefield Haley. Ms. Shaw then traveled to Galveston for a dramatic reading at the Bryan Museum.

The Centennial Museum at UTEP hosted a Nancy Lea exhibition, introducing Nancy to the public for the first time. The walls of the Tom Lea Gallery were filled with photographs of Nancy and Tom, and words from her notebook about art and writing, being a woman, the Southwest and other themes. A special visitor to the exhibit was former First Lady Laura Bush.

THE NUMBERS

25 Events **2** Exhibitions

4 States **7** Cities

235,000
People reached

95%
Ranked programs
as Excellent

Tom Lea, LIFE and WWII

CURATED by the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, the exhibition *Tom Lea, LIFE Magazine and World War II* opened in June at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans and closed January 1. A book co-authored by scholar Melissa Renn of Harvard University and Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute, accompanied the show. Peleliu veterans, Joe Clapper and R.V. Burgin attended the opening reception and spoke to the large audience about their horrific experiences in 1944. Burgin said, "It was a living hell from day one on Peleliu" and Clapper recalled returning to the beach for

CONTINUED »→

Tom Lea Month 2016 Highlights, continued

*“It was an honor to work with Adair Margo, Brendan Greeley, and Larry Decuers on the 2016 book **Tom Lea, LIFE Magazine and World War II**, which tells the important story of Tom Lea and LIFE magazine’s wartime artist-correspondent program. The paintings and drawings done by Tom Lea during World War II form an invaluable archive of the war, and, in many cases, are the only visual documents of certain events. Lea’s art for LIFE was not only a major contribution to the magazine’s coverage of World War II, but also to the art world.”*

– DR. MELISSA RENN,
art historian



R.V. Burgin and Joe Clapper at opening of Tom Lea exhibition.

from page 1

evacuation after getting shot: “It seemed like every ten feet you were stepping over a body and it was a Marine. It was literally carpeted with Marines lying there. And ... you don’t forget that. It pretty much makes a damned fatalist out of you.” Both

men looked at Tom Lea’s paintings for a long time, and said that he captured what they experienced. Brendan M. Greeley, Jr., editor of *The Two Thousand Yard Stare, Tom Lea’s World War II* (A&M University Press) attended the opening reception and spoke at the museum in November.

Tom Lea and Bullfighting

TOM Lea and *Bullfighting*, a dinner presentation by José Mario Sanchez Soledad on October 12, was held in La Custodia de San Pablo, a new museum dedicated to the history of the bullfight. Its walls are filled with photographs of the city’s old bull rings and the empresarios who ran them. One room is filled with Tom Lea’s bullfight illustrations. Custodia San Pablo offers fine dining and sells outstanding Spanish wines and meats, making it a destination for heritage tourism. Dr. Tomás Cuevas, professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez, led a walking tour of downtown Juárez on October 14, with stops at the Mercado Cuauhtémoc for shopping, the 17th century Misión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, and by the Café La Nueva Central for *pan dulce* and the Kentucky Club for margaritas.

Head for the Hills

HEAD for the Hills filled the second floor of the Trost-designed W.S. Hills Building where Tom Lea worked on the design for his iconic *Pass of the North* mural (in downtown El Paso’s historic federal courthouse). The event was a collaborative effort between the Tom Lea Institute and the Trost Society, bringing together local artists, fabulous food and music by Frontera Bugalu. J.P. Bryan, founding patron of the Tom Lea Institute and Trost Society, spoke to an audience of nearly 200 about the genius of Henry C. Trost and El Paso’s good fortune in having the majority of his buildings in the city. The Tom Lea Institute and Trost Society are committed to improving the quality of life in El Paso through the preservation of its architectural and cultural heritage.

TLI Welcomes new Executive Director

AFTER an extensive search, the Honorable Pamela Willeford, Chairman of the Tom Lea Institute Search Committee, is pleased to introduce Lisa M. Pugh of Las Cruces, NM as its Executive Director. With over twenty years of professional museum experience, Lisa is the ideal candidate to take the Tom Lea Institute to the next level as a premier not-for-profit research facility, exhibit space, and resource center.

Lisa is the former director of the Las Cruces Museum of Art, a contemporary art museum noted for its strong educational programming. An outstanding administrator, she has significant experience in strategic planning, exhibitions, and collections management gained while working for the City of Las Cruces and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. Lisa was at the NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces before moving to the New Mexico Historic Sites Division in Mesilla. Lisa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Latin



Lisa M. Pugh, new executive director of the Tom Lea Institute.

American Studies from Texas Tech University and a Master's Degree in Anthropology from New Mexico State University, with a focus on the art, culture, and history of the borderlands. She and her husband, Dennis Pugh, live in Las Cruces and have three adult children: Sara, Daniel, and Michael.

"As a sixth-generation Texan raised in El Paso, I consider El Paso my home.

I am delighted to be working with the dedicated staff at the Tom Lea Institute and look forward to becoming more involved in the community. With projects like Tom Lea Month, *Awakening the Giants of Our History* curriculum, and new publications like *The Notebook of Nancy Lea* and *Tom Lea, LIFE Magazine and World War II*, there won't be a dull moment!"

TLI Board meets in Galveston, Texas

THE Board of Directors gathered in Galveston November 1-2 for their bi-annual meeting, with an evening reception at the Bryan Museum. A highlight was a dramatic reading of *The Notebook of Nancy Lea* by actress, Morgana Shaw, in a room where never-before-seen artwork by Nancy Lea and photographs of her were displayed. Chairman Micki Costello introduced J.P. Bryan, founder of the museum, who spoke about Nancy and Tom



Theatrical reading at Bryan Museum, Galveston.

Lea's married life in Santa Fe and their friendship with artist Fremont Ellis.

At the board meeting the next day, Adair Margo, Pamela Willeford, Jan Bullock and Tania Schwartz were re-elected to new terms, with Anne Imelda Radice stepping down from

the board and Claudia Chiu elected as a new member. Tita Sealy Hunt hosted lunch in the George Sealy Mansion, now part of UTMB. She also arranged a tour of the Moody Medical Library, where Tom Lea's *Cabeza de Vaca Performing the First Recorded Surgical Operation on the North American Continent, 1535* is displayed, having been presented in 1965 to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Texas Surgical Society. Archivist Bobby Marlin shared other treasures housed in UTMB's collection and a presentation was made by Dr. Scott C. Weaver on UTMB's research.

Letter from a Friend

Dear Tom Lea Institute,

Thank you for sending me the beautiful Tom Lea Institute program. I loved seeing Lea's stunning work at the El Paso Museum of Art – my first introduction to him. Tom Lea came up with the concept of the XII Travelers – a dozen extraordinary individuals who, through the centuries, contributed to the greatness of greater El Paso.

I contend that Tom Lea himself is the thirteenth Traveler. He was a Texan who dreamed, lived, and painted big. Today he is bigger than ever. This traveler went North to Santa Fe and East to Galveston. He also followed the cattle trails of the Old West across Texas, capturing on canvas the brave bulls and cowboys who were the lords of the plains over a century ago. During World War II, Lea traveled to the Pacific to portray in paint the courage and sacrifice of the men who braved the perils of Peleliu.

Today, thanks to the Tom Lea Institute, artists and art lovers can retrace Lea's giant steps as they tour his lasting legacy across the big country of Texas and beyond.

Paul Hoylen
Deming, New Mexico

Tom Lea Research Fellowship Program

THE Tom Lea Research Fellowship at the University of Texas at El Paso awarded grants to Delia Alicia Ramos and Maria del Carmen Barney in 2016. The awards helped Delia travel to Fort Belvoir's U.S. Army Center of Military History and Maria to visit the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at UT Austin. Both are art history degree candidates studying under Dr. Melissa Warak and they presented their findings at the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts during Tom Lea Month in October.



Adair Margo, left, Delia Ramos, Melissa Warak and Maria Barney at UTEP.

"The Tom Lea Research Fellowship was an exciting and challenging academic endeavor. It gave me an opportunity to look into Tom Lea's life and art, both unfamiliar to me before. My project was academically sound, and something I became passionate about in the end.

It allowed me to write the best research paper I have done in my academic career, and present it to the public. I am grateful for the opportunity."

– Delia Ramos

"I had the privilege of being admitted to a storage room at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin to study portraits of Tom Lea's not always on exhibit including Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. No digital image can ever compare to seeing an artwork up-close and in person! I also researched UTEP's special collections, feeling as though I were walking through history as I read over Tom Lea's war diaries and letters."

– Maria del Carmen Barney

I LOVE EL PASO

TOM Lea Institute will co-host I LOVE EL PASO with the UTEP Business Center downtown on February 13 at 2:00 p.m. This year will feature Nevena Christi, whose company Rocketbuster Boots has drawn thousands of customers from all over the world, including Sharon Stone, Whoopi Goldberg, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Learn how a boot-buying trip to El Paso for Nicole Miller in 1994, led Nevena to love, marriage and a gift of Rocketbuster Boots. As an artist who never wanted to make the same thing twice, Nevena built demand for one-of-a-kind designs while elevating the world of American handmade cowboy boots. Her talk will be followed by discussion and refreshments.



DATE: Monday, Feb. 13
TIME: 2-3:30 p.m.
PLACE: UTEP Business Center, Chase Bank Building, 201 E. Main Street
RSVP: Tom Lea institute, 915-533-0048

Pass of the North Ambassador Training

DO you love history? If you could see a work of art that describes El Paso's history at a single glance, would you want to see it? Tom's Lea's 1938 *Pass of the North* mural

DATE: Feb. 7&9 or 21&23

TIMES: TBD

PLACE: Tom Lea Institute, Chase Bank Building, 201 E. Main Street

IF INTERESTED

CALL: Tom Lea institute, 915-533-0048

describes the heritage of El Paso through archetypal figures standing nine feet tall. An *Awakening the Giants of Our History* curriculum has been written about it and is being taught in area schools. It culminates in a tour of the mural and visits to other downtown sites. The TLI trains volunteer Ambassadors to lead these tours. Those completing the training are recognized as Ambassadors of the Pass of the North and given a certificate. Any committed person who likes learning and sharing with others is invited to apply.

Curriculum Update

WHEN José Cisneros entered El Paso's federal courthouse in 1938, he was afraid. Afraid to interrupt the artist he quietly watched high up on the scaffolding, painting thirteen giants under an inscription overhead:

*O Pass of the North
 Now the Old Giants are Gone
 We Little Men Live Where Heroes
 Once Walked the Inviolable Earth.*

Holding a packet of his drawings under his arm, José wasn't confident they were good, but he wanted to know what a real artist thought. When at last he gathered courage to speak, Tom Lea's response changed the course of both men's lives and began a lifelong friendship.

Both José Cisneros and Tom Lea

experienced the Mexican Revolution – José fleeing his home in Durango, Mexico, with the clothes on his back, and Tom, the El Paso Mayor's son, watching battles through a telescope. Tom's distance did not mean safety. As a result of Pancho Villa's threats against his father, Tom Lea was escorted by a policeman to the elementary school. Using firsthand accounts chronicled by Adair Margo, and combining them with their art, the TLI introduces its second curriculum, on the Mexican Revolution, for EPISD 7th grade Texas history classes this spring.

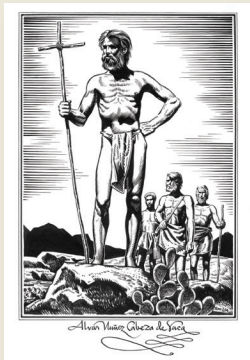
The Mexican Revolution unit augments the *Awakening the Giants of Our History* 4th grade regional history curriculum already in place. Both are designed to increase student

engagement and achievement, while helping students develop pride in being El Pasoans. Videos, digital activities, historical documents, art and literature create a rich, blended learning experience. The curriculum culminates in a field trip to downtown El Paso, experiencing the *Pass of the North* mural and Mexican Revolution sites. Holly Packard Cobb, director of education, says that the goal is not only to build an appreciation for the cultural heritage of El Paso. "We want to provide students with outstanding role models to emulate, countering the mindset that you have to leave El Paso to be successful. Tom and José are perfect examples of nationally acclaimed artists who chose to stay and thrive on the borderland."

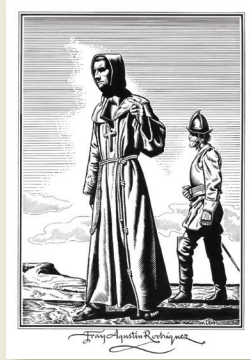
The XII Travelers

\$100,000 +

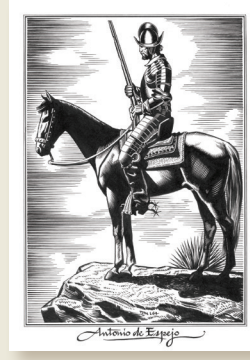
Established by the Tom Lea Institute in 2011 through the leadership of founding member, J.P. Bryan, the Society of the XII Travelers is comprised of the first twelve \$100,000 donors to the Tom Lea Institute. The \$1.25-million-dollar endowment will provide a percentage of the annual operating costs of the Tom Lea Institute.



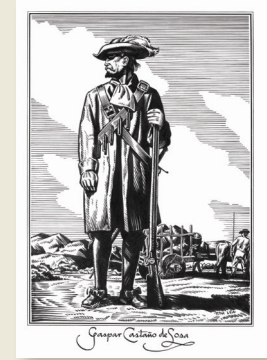
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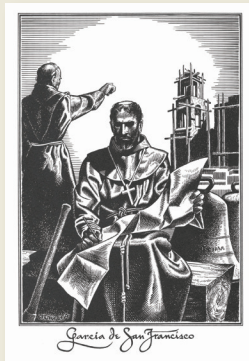
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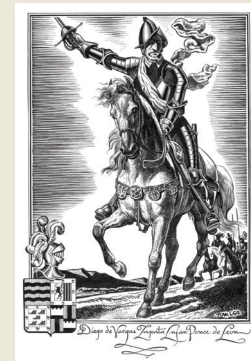
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