



# CANAL GATOR TALES

March 2018

If you haven't already, make a visit to the Albert H. Nahmad  
Panama Canal Gallery for the newest exhibition,  
**Served in the Zone**



This new exhibition in the Albert Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at the University of Florida opened to the public on March 3, 2018, coinciding with the annual Panama Canal Society luncheon and joint meeting with the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. The exhibition, *Served in the Zone*, examines the role of food in Zonian experiences and culture. The Zonian cuisine that developed during the American Era of the Panama Canal combined the traditional cuisine of the U.S. with that of Panama and other cultures. The varying cultural influences on the food is evident in the cookbooks produced by community members, which feature recipes incorporating Panamanian products, Caribbean spices, and produce from Chinese gardens. The American citizens who resided in the Canal Zone share memories of their unique cuisine, and continue to preserve their distinctive food practices today.

The exhibition features excerpts from oral histories and narratives contributed by Zonians, as well as a variety of historical photographs, publications, documents, and artifacts from the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC). The exhibits

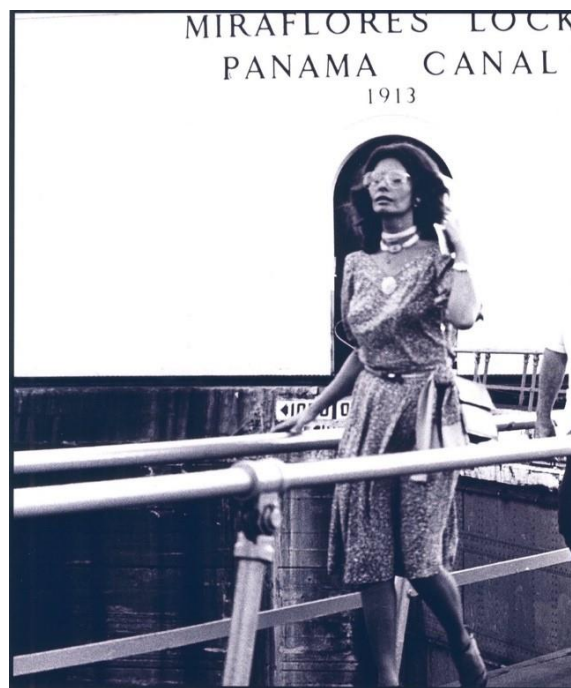
address diverse themes relating to food, including popular recipes, dinner staples, community and social events, restaurants, holiday meals, school lunches, cultural influences, and shopping at the commissary. The exhibition also examines the international cultural influences and the impact that international conflicts and wars had on food in the Zone.

Visitors are welcome to view the exhibition during weekdays and on Sundays when the Smathers Library Building is open. The exhibition is curated by Liz Bouton, Exhibits Associate for the George A. Smathers Libraries, with assistance from Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler, John Nemmers, and graduate student assistant Lynea Wilson.

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Here's what we have seen  
**From the Stacks**

As we continue to re-process the collections, we continually come across fascinating objects and images. Check out these photographs we found of actress Sophia Loren's visit to the Panama Canal in 1980!





The Italian actress earned several major awards throughout her career, including an Academy Award for Best Actress. While we don't know the nature of her visit, we know that the Panama Canal was a frequent publicity stop for a multitude of public figures and celebrities.

At the 2018 Panama Canal Society Reunion, we'll be focusing on Popular Culture in the Panama Canal Zone! Make sure to attend this exciting event at Orlando World Center Marriott on June 27 - July 1, 2018.



**NEW! Video for Served in the Zone**



The team of PCMC interns tested their cooking skills with recipes from a cookbook loaned to us by Edna Ridgby. Stuffed yucca, fried plantains, sweet plantains, and arroz con piña were all on the menu. The test kitchen helped the interns learn about cuisine in the Panama Canal Zone, and they made a video to get everyone excited for the new exhibit in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery, *Served in the Zone*.

See the video by following this link: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00062327/00001>

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## Share Your Memories: 2019 is a Year of Anniversaries

The 2019 exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at UF will focus on the 20th anniversary of the transfer of the Canal to Panama, the 30th anniversary of Operation Just Cause, the 40th anniversary of the treaties, and so on. As always, the exhibition will feature a wide variety of objects from the collection displayed along with oral histories from Zonians that tell stories relating to these significant historical events. We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals who were children during one or more of these years. Are you a member of the class of 1979, 1989, or 1999? If so, we'd love for you to share your memories with us. If you have interesting stories to share, please contact Liz Bouton at [dizliz@ufl.edu](mailto:dizliz@ufl.edu) or (352) 273-2685.

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**Membership Reminder**

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If you haven't done so already, now is the time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF. If you're not a member already, please consider joining!

The funds collected are used to support education and research through the preservation, conservation, digitization, and processing of the collection. Funds also support the creation and development of local, traveling, and online exhibits that increase awareness about the collection, the Panama Canal, the Canal Zone, and its people.

We maintain these efforts through the support of friends like you when you join or renew your membership. Dues and donations qualify for tax deductions. Thank you for your continued support of the PCMC at UF.

To join or renew membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection visit <https://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/pcmmembership/> or call 352-273-2505 for more information.

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FRIENDS OF THE  
PANAMA CANAL  
Museum Collection  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



### SAVE THESE DATES

**June 27-July 1, 2018**

Exhibition, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion  
at  
the Orlando World Center Marriott.

