



CANAL GATOR TALES

October 2019

PCMC and National History Day



The Panama Canal Museum Collection continues to be a very popular topic for middle and high school students participating in the [National History Day](#) program. Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of students requesting information from the collection as part of their research, and this year continues that trend. In early October, we already have responded to eight students who are seeking information, photos, or other resources.

Students in grades 6-12 participate in the National History Day program worldwide by conducting historical research to produce a project either as an individual or as a group. The submitted projects can be papers, exhibits, documentaries, performances, or websites. Over half a million students participate in the first round of regional contests annually, with winners advancing to state and then to national contests. National History Day is supported by a variety of national organizations including the American Historical Association, the Society of American Archivists, and the American Association for State and Local History.

The majority of the requests received every year are from students seeking data, such as the annual revenue for the Canal, the death rates during French and American construction periods, and financial information about construction and operation of the Canal. We also receive a number of requests for interviews because the students are eager to speak to individuals who lived and worked in the Canal Zone. Some of our PCMC Friends members have participated in these interviews. In 2019, a group of students from Francis Parker School in California was awarded 2nd Place nationally for their exhibit entitled, "The Panama Canal: A Triumph Entrenched in Tragedy."

The 2019-2020 theme for National History Day is "Breaking Barriers in History."

Volunteers Needed -- Respond by Oct. 31!



PCMC Silent Auction, Panama Canal Society 2019 Reunion

For several years, the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection has organized a silent auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion in order to raise funds to support the collection. We rely on volunteers to coordinate every aspect of the auction from planning and collecting materials to working at the auction during the Reunion. To determine if we will be able to hold an auction in 2020, we need to know by October if we will have enough volunteers. In particular, we will need volunteers for these activities:

- To help set up the auction tables on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at the Reunion.
- To be in the room at various times during the week to monitor the tables and assist people who may want to purchase “Buy It Now” items.
- To serve as cashiers on Saturday, June 27, when the auction closes.
- To be available to assist the auction coordinators with miscellaneous duties as needed.
- To help pack up on the morning of Sunday, June 28, any items that were not auctioned off.

If you are interested, please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald at mickeyftz@aol.com. Please **respond by October 31**, which is our deadline for deciding if we will be able to hold an auction in 2020.



Sign Up for the Friends of the PCMC Caribbean Cruise!



We're excited about the cruise planned for March on Norwegian *Encore*, a large, new ship that will just begin sailing this Fall, and the best part is that you will be able to support the PCMC while cruising the Caribbean on one of the most innovative ships to be launched to date. Lori Snow's Condor Tours and Travel will generously donate a portion of the proceeds to the Friends of the PCMC, so you are directly supporting the collection when you sign up for this terrific trip.

The 7-day cruise of the Eastern Caribbean is scheduled for March 8-15, 2020, and departs from Miami. The trip is scheduled conveniently after the Spring luncheon and joint meeting of the Friends of the PCMC and Panama Canal Society, which will take place on March 7, 2020, at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Ports include San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands; and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

For more information, please refer to the cruise flyer, <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pcm/cruise flyer2020.pdf>.

Book by October 20 to guarantee your rate and ensure that you get a stateroom with its accompanying perks, which include:
Unlimited Open Bar or Soda Package

- \$200 Shore Excursion Credit
- 3 Nights of Specialty Dining
- 250 Minutes of WiFi

Those in the Inside Cabins will be able to choose two of these perks, and those in Balcony Cabins will be able to have all four. Prices begin at \$749 for Inside Cabins and \$1,279 for Balcony Cabins. Happy Cruising!



Save These Dates

March 7, 2020

Joint meeting of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection and Panama Canal Society at the University of Florida's Smathers Library in Gainesville, FL. Includes the grand opening of the 2020 exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery.

March 8-15, 2020

7-Night Eastern Caribbean Fundraising Cruise on Norwegian *Encore* with Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. For more information, see the [2020 Cruise Flyer](#). **Book by October 20** to guarantee your rate and perks.

June 24-28, 2020

Exhibit, Cultural Seminar, and hopefully the Silent Auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Caribe Royale. Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald **before October 31** if you wish to volunteer for the Silent Auction.

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

