

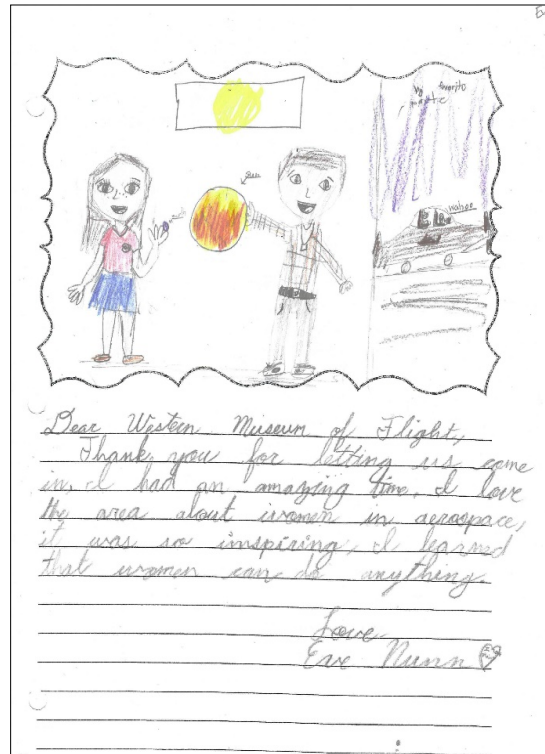
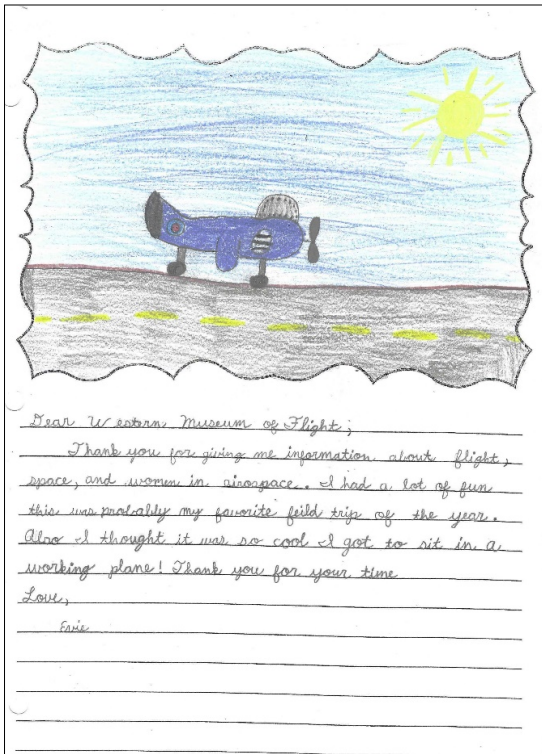


The Newsletter of the Western Museum of Flight

Riviera Hall Lutheran School

Photos: WMoF Staff

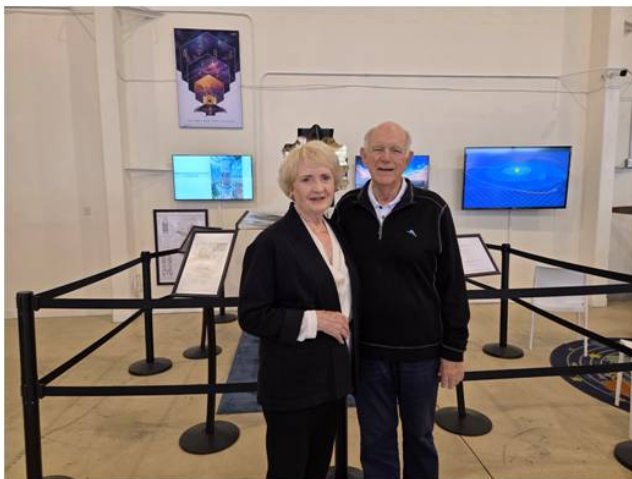
Thank You Letters from Third Grade Students at Riviera Hall Lutheran School on 28 April:



James Webb Space Telescope New Exhibit - Out of This World

Janis Yee, Photos: Museum Staff

WMoF's new James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) exhibit is now open thanks to the generous donation from Susan and Allan Frew. A Patrons Day premiere on 16 July included the Frew Family as honored guests.



Jack Trost, our space expert who retired from TRW, provided an inaugural narrative on the significance of JWST to science. Jack leads the space lectures for school kids.



The JWST 1/10 scale model was meticulously designed and fabricated by Proteus, Dimensional Technologies, Inc. in Vista, CA. Chris Gehrisch, CEO and designer, and Jose Campos, designer and fabricator, delivered the model from their San Diego headquarter. Museum volunteers, led by Rich Peterson, developed the installation schedule, designed & furnished the exhibit layout including artwork, obtained videos with Jack, and populated the static displays with comprehensive information. Marty Jones' muscle team did the monumental job of prepping the area for JWST's arrival by clearing and cleaning the former archives storage space. Bruce Guberman expertly moved out the F-5 aircraft into its new home in the spacious west hangar. Bruce also installed all the audio/visual (A/V) equipment and wall art, uploaded A/V content, tested for flawless playback, and updated the WMoF Exhibits website describing JWST. It was a much appreciated galactic team effort!

Please stop by and experience the latest engineering marvel unlocking our universe's mysteries and discoveries in high definition.



Partners for Pediatric Vision

Photos: Museum Staff

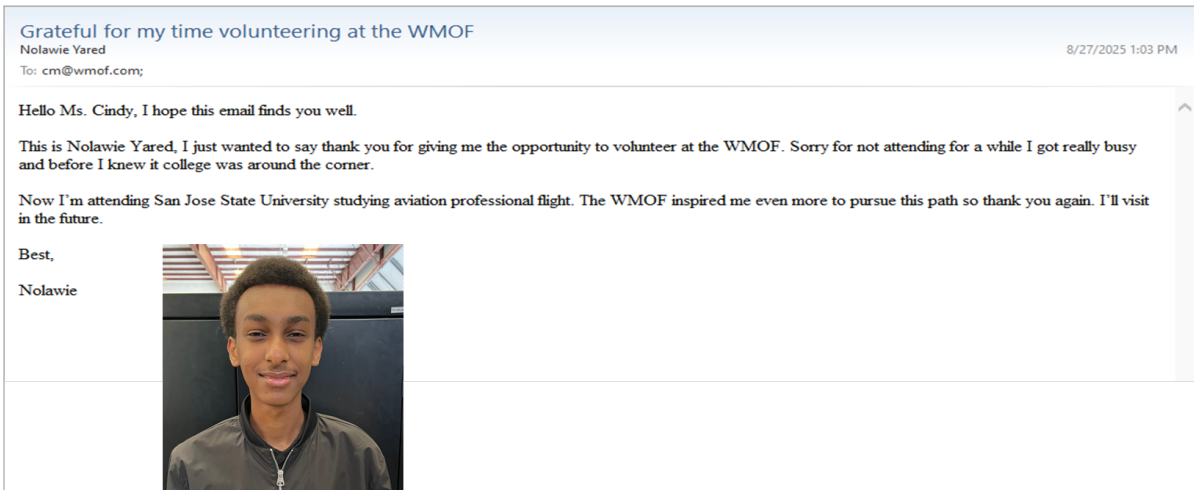
Tori Schladen, Founder of Partners for Pediatric Vision, (left) brought families with young children affected by impaired vision to the museum for an afternoon of aerospace exploration.



Nolawie Yared - WMoF Graduate

Photos: Museum Staff

We are proud museum-parents of Nolawie Yared. Go Spartans!



Museum Layout Change Is Happening!

Fred Peitzman, Exhibits Team

If you've been to the museum in the past month you know that things look different. This is just the start!

The visible part began when the Harrier "jump jet" went back to the California Science Center to be installed in their major new building with the vertically-mounted space shuttle. This allowed the F-5A to move from the East hangar to the place previously occupied by the Harrier.

The whole area behind where the F-5A was then prepped to become the Space Section of the museum and the centerpiece of that exhibit, the James Webb Space Telescope exhibit featuring a 1/10 scale model of the JWST was installed and is now available to enjoy.

But really, it began many months ago with a hard-working team of museum volunteers led by Marty Jones and assisted by the Exhibits Team who moved all the archives file cabinets and huge amount of storage that had been hidden behind the F-5A to the southwest hangar storage and work area.

The JWST exhibit is just the beginning. The first visible change will be the rest of our Space exhibit items moved to the new Space area. Then most other things in the East hangar will be refurbished and moved to new locations. Refurbishment will include new display cases, improved signage, and more "stories" being told.

This process will probably take most of a year since it is an all-volunteer activity. During that time small areas at a time will be "Under Renovation" and cordoned off. We appreciate your patience.

We're excited about the changes underway that we hope will bring an enhanced experience to all our visitors. Every time you visit you should see something new.

While we had already done some planning for the changes that would be possible when the Harrier left, a major grant from Allan and Susan Frew makes it possible to do this in a much better way than would have otherwise been possible. Al has not only provided the funding but additional insight to make the museum better.

Supercruiser Tours

Photos: Bill Dea

Miraleste STEM students explore both the museum and Sling Pilot Academy.



YF-23 Aircraft Quest

Bill Dea, Story & Photos

As one of the newest WMoF volunteer docent team members, I am always captivated whenever I see our Northrop YF-23A Black Widow II, an amazingly stealthy and fast tactical fighter. In planning a recent trip back East to my hometown in Maryland, my fellow docents strongly encouraged me to make a stopover at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, OH to see the only other YF-23A. I'm so glad I decided to do so.

My walk-through of the four hangars of the National Museum of the USAF was amazing, with so many vintage planes from WWI to the present-day. But I could not stop anticipating seeing our "sister plane". And then there she was, the Gray Ghost. It was an indescribable feeling of finally meeting the other member of your family; only two in the world. Glad to finally meet you.



Bill Dea with WMoF YF-23A PAV-2 (Spider), left, and NMoUSAF YF-23A PAV-1 (Gray Ghost).

Operation Homefront

Photos: Museum Staff

Operation Homefront volunteers handed out 160 backpacks at the Western Museum of Flight on July 12th as part of their annual Back-to-School Brigade.



LA County Board of Supervisors Tour

Photos: Museum Staff

Jennifer LaMarque, from Supervisor Janice Hahn's Field Office along with Jenny Eubanks, visited the museum for an overview of our operations and programs, including a tour with Chief Docent, Joe Provenzano. Cindy Macha, Director, and former Torrance Councilmember, Mike Griffiths, pose with Jennifer. Advisor Susan Swinburne, at left, complements the line up in front of the Douglas A-4A Skyhawk.



Northrop Grumman “Bring Your Kids to Work Day”

Photos: Museum Staff



Museum team members support the annual “Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Northrop Grumman Day”. Docents Joe Provenzano, Fred Peitzman, Jim Ueda, Ken Dreshfield and Roy Martin welcome visitors to the Western Museum of Flight tent.

Aerospace & Defense Forum

Photos: Museum Staff

Marty Jones hosted members of the Aerospace & Defense Forum for a breakfast meeting and museum tour. Roy Martin, former Chief Test Pilot at Northrop Grumman (in blue cap) provided a walk-around of the YF-23.



Armed Forces Day

Cindy Macha, Photos: Museum Staff

Favorable weather opened the skies for the airshow at Torrance Armed Forces Day. Museum Intern, Jonathan Patch, await arrival of Flag Officers with Cindy Macha, Director, and former Torrance Councilmember Mike Griffiths.



Chief Ramp Boss, Chris Jensen, signals C-53 for parking position.

Members of the Civil Air Patrol Beach Cities Squadron assist with chocking aircraft and provide flight line safety.



Thousands of military pilots got their start in the venerable T-28 (left photo). This one is owned and flown by Gary Stark. Popular Airshow pilot, John Collver, takes off with smoke on in his WWII North American SNJ trainer (right photo).



The Commemorative Air Force from Camarillo flew their handsome B-25J with Mike Hohls at the controls (left photo). Inland Empire Wing of the Commemorative Air Force returns once again with their venerable WWII C-53 "D-Day Doll" that delivered airborne glider troops into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Armed Forces Day (cont'd)

Cindy Macha, Photos: Museum Staff

The USMC put the Bird Dog to good use in directing artillery attacks against enemy forces.



Motor officers of Torrance Police Department provided security escorts for Flag Officers and Senior Personnel participating on Armed Forces Day.



Senior Personnel for all of the Armed Services were represented at the museum.

Pilots and Ramp Marshals receive briefing from Tommy Watson, Aerial Coordinator.



High School Interns Audrey Lai and Sabrina Robles assist with luncheon for pilots and volunteer staff. Special thanks again to Garen Khodaverdian, owner of Jersey Mike's franchises in the South Bay.

Kyong O. Kim

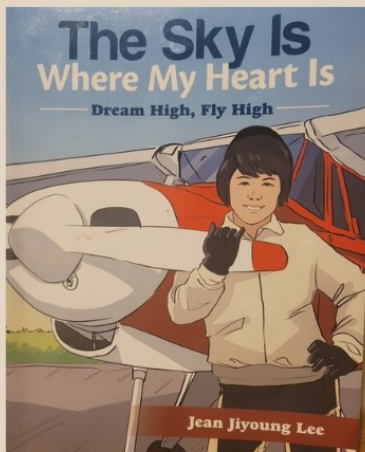
About Kyong O. Kim:

- Born in 1934 and currently lives in Seoul, Korea
- The first woman pilot in the Republic of Korea
- The founder of the Korean Women's Civil Aviation Association
- The Chairperson of Zonta, an international service organization that promotes gender equality and advocates for women's rights, in Seoul, Korea (1985 ~1987)
- The Chairperson of the Korea National Council of Women (1988 ~ 1994)
- Winner of the Gold Air Medal from FAI (1992)
- Received the Dongbaek Medal of the Order of Civil Merit (2013)



- Kim, Korea's first female military pilot, started flying when she was only 16 years old. Korea had just gained its independence from Japan at the time and the president wanted to train several female pilots to display the country's newfound freedom. Kim was among the 15 out of 8,200 high-school girls who made the cut and were trained as pilots.
- Afterward, Kim joined the Korean Air Force in 1949 and flew during the 1950-53 Korean War. Because Kim was the only woman to fly a military plane in the Korean War, she soon became an icon for Korean civil aviation.
- In 1957, the Korean government sent Kim to study abroad at Guilford College in North Carolina since there weren't any aviation colleges in Korea. While in the United States, Kim became acquainted with members of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots. Those American female pilots later gifted Kim a new Piper Colt airplane in 1961, which Kim then used to teach other women to be pilots.
- Kim obtained her U.S. Private Pilot certificate and became a Ninety-Nine in 1959.
- In 1987, Kim became president of the Korean National Council of Women and convinced the then presidential candidate Kim Young Sam to allow women to enroll in Korea's military and police academies, which he followed through after being elected.
- Moreover, Kim is the only Korean woman to have an exhibit in the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Kim's daughter, Jean Lee, wrote a children's book titled "The Sky Is Where My Heart Is: Dream High, Fly High", detailing the story of her mother's life and was published in 2022.



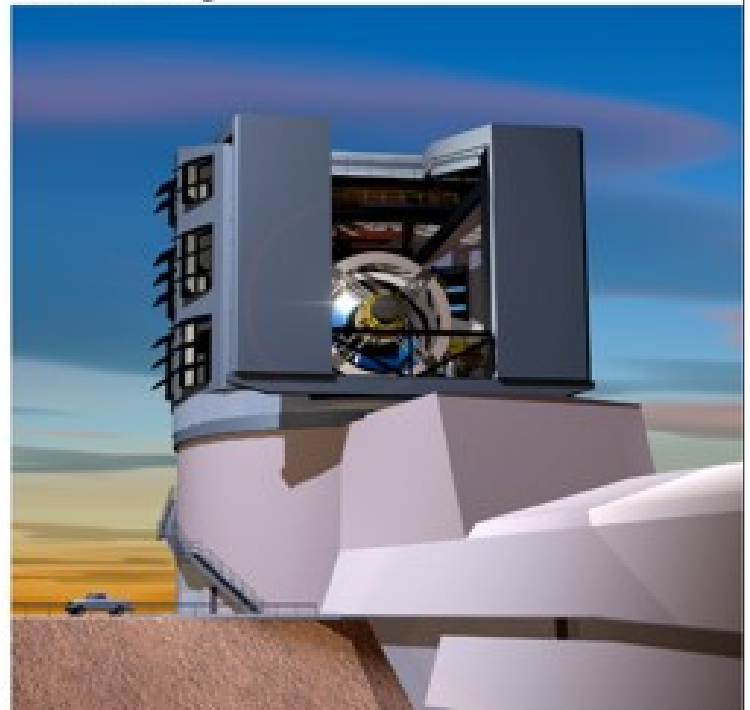
Women in Aerospace: Vera Rubin



- Vera Rubin was born to Eastern European Jewish parents in 1928 in Philadelphia, and they cultivated her love for science
- She attended Vassar College in New York but was denied graduate school at Princeton because she was a woman
- Rubin did crucial work in providing evidence for the existence of dark matter
- Earned the National Medal of Science, Dickson Prize in Science, Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, nominated as a member of the National Science Board, and earned the James Craig Watson Medal
- She mentored aspiring astronomers and advocated for women in science

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory

- The observatory, once called the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, was named after Rubin in 2019
- The Observatory houses the largest digital camera built and takes detailed images of the southern hemisphere sky for a detailed time-lapse record.
- This camera was built to capture distant objects, detect temporary events like supernovae, and share exciting scientific discoveries with scientists and the public.



Created by Sabrina Robles, Intern - www.wmof.com

Women in Aerospace Exhibit open Friday through Monday, 10 AM - 3 PM

Celebrity Lecture Series

Photos: Museum Staff

February 2025: Richard Martindell, **Warfare At Arms Length.** Richard tells the saga of General Atomic's MQ-9.



March 2025: Scott Krambeck, USN Capt (ret), **Birth of the F-35 Lightning II.** Scott shared the fascinating story of the conceptualization, development, and deployment of this versatile aircraft.



April 2025: William B. Scott, **Saga of Brigadier General "Earthquake" Titus.** Bill Scott, former Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief of Aviation Week, shared the saga of Brigadier General Robert "Earthquake" Titus based on his new book. Linda Scott (left) and Cindy Macha, Director, (right) share the spotlight with the author (center).



July 2025: Pilots Don Weiss, USMC Col (ret) and Tom LeBeau, USAF LtCol (ret), describe how **B-2 Proves Its Mettle.** Museum Director, Cindy Macha, and Mike Ciminera, Board Chair, welcome Colonels Weiss and LeBeau to the museum for their outstanding presentation on the B-2 Bomber. We were fortunate to have two of the test pilots who helped bring this aircraft into operational existence which drew a large crowd.



August 2025: Rhon Williams, **The Jovial Jenny.** Museum volunteer, and builder of the Jenny, Rhon Williams, walked the audience through the process of designing and building a 2/3 scale flying model. And, as an acid test, to prove the replication of this iconic aircraft, he actually flew it in for display.



Celebrity Lectures and Events

September 20, 2025 - The F-20 Tigershark, Northrop's \$1.2B Gamble, Tony Chong, Northrop historian.

October 18, 2025 - Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint-Strike Fighter, Dr. Paul Bevilaqua, world-renowned for inventing the vertical lift concept.

November 15, 2025 - Planetary Defense, Dr. Nahum Melamed of Aerospace Corporation.

Become A Contributor

We know that many of you reading this are former members of Southern California's aerospace industry and may have some interesting stories and experiences from your careers. We ask you to consider sharing some of these stories with us, whether about a particular company's aircraft project/program or during the course of military service associated with one of the many aircraft types built in Southern California. We look to preserve these stories before they are lost to time.

Our mission is to preserve the histories of the aircraft built here in Southern California, primarily airframes in earlier times, for the defense of our nation, experimental research air vehicles, spacecraft and commercial airliners. **Lockheed** (Burbank, Palmdale); **Douglas/McDonnell Douglas** (Santa Monica, El Segundo, Long Beach), **Hughes** (Culver City, El Segundo), **North American Aviation/Rockwell/Boeing** (LAX, Downey, Palmdale), **Boeing** (El Segundo, Long Beach, Seal Beach), **Northrop Grumman** (Hawthorne, El Segundo, Palmdale), **Vultee** (Downey), **Consolidated/Convair/General Dynamics** (San Diego), **TRW/Northrop Grumman** (Redondo Beach), **SpaceX** (Hawthorne), **Robinson Helicopters** (Torrance), these amongst all the larger companies.

We look to the future as well, as history continues to be written with new initiatives and opportunities for further space exploration. We'll help to polish up the words if you are not a professional writer. Or it may simply be an interesting photo(s) with a caption added to tell the story. Please contact us directly via email: info@wmof.com, with your thoughts and comments.

The Western Museum of Flight honors and champions the Aerospace Industry Heritage of Southern California and inspires, motivates, and educates the dreamers and creators of today and tomorrow.

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