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## THE XII TRAVELERS \$100,000+ Contributors

Established by the Tom Lea Institute in 2011, the Society of the XII Travelers is comprised of the first twelve \$100,000 contributors to the Tom Lea Institute. The 1.25-million-dollar endowment will provide a percentage of the annual operating costs for the Tom Lea Institute.



**Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca Travelers**  
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**Juan María Ponce de León Travelers**  
Allen & Rik Gilmer in memory of Jerry D. Gilmer, Austin



**James Magoffin Travelers**



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**Big Foot Wallace Travelers**  
Bill & Ann Kiely, Cypress

**Tom Lea INSTITUTE**  
P.O. Box 103, El Paso, TX 79941  
300 E. Main, Suite 205, El Paso, TX 79901

TOM LEA MONTH 2021

THE MAGIC TOUCHSTONE OF

*Horsemanship*

TomLea.com

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

El Paso Museum of Art

MCAD

Texas Commission on the Arts

COVER: Tom Lea, *Ghost at Noon Came Riding*, 1967. Oil on Canvas, 20 X 38. Collection of El Paso Museum of Art. INSIDE: Tom Lea, *Pancho Villa*, undated. Pen & ink, 17.5 X 9.5. Collection of El Paso Museum of Art. *Corporal Butler, 8th Cavalry, Fort Bliss* 1941. Collection of Carl Green & Linda Kirby, El Paso. *Ibarra Horse*, 1964. Illustration from *The Hands of Cantú*, 1964. Ink, wash on paper, 18 1/4 x 21 1/2. Collection of El Paso Museum of Art. Lea works © Catherine Lea Weeks. José Cisneros, *The Advancement of Juan de Oñate*, El Adelantado Don Juan de Oñate c. 1598, 1987. Pen, ink, and color pencil, 27 x 21. Bronze Equestrian Statue of Juan de Oñate (Second monument in the XII Travelers series), John Sherrill Houser, 1998.

## TOM LEA MONTH 2021

# THE MAGIC TOUCHSTONE OF *Horsemanship*



**Tom Lea INSTITUTE**  
300 East Main, Suite 205  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Fifty-seven years ago, Tom Lea wrote *The Hands of Cantú* about majestic horses in the New World and the fear that Indians would prove a terrible threat to the Spanish domain if mounted.

Look inside for **ACTIVITIES, LECTURES, FAMILY EVENTS** and **EXHIBITIONS**.

EXPLORE THE LEGACY OF A GREAT AMERICAN ARTIST

## WELCOME TO TOM LEA MONTH 2021

**A**N enthusiast of horses, Lea studied their lineage and training, and often made them subjects in paintings, murals, and book illustrations.

This year's theme, "THE MAGIC TOUCHSTONE OF HORSEMANSHIP" is inspired by a quote from *The Picture Gallery*. Lea wrote, "The stallion of Don Jesus, the magnificent type of Mexican saddle horse such a stallion represented and the lineage, the tradition, the history it infused, became a magic touchstone of horsemanship to an untold story." Like many facets of a prism, we will explore Tom Lea's horses through diverse events designed to appeal to young and old alike.

This year we are offering a "Destination Weekend" packed with unique opportunities to savor borderland culture through our theme of equestrianism. We hope you will invite family and friends to set aside the weekend and partake of exclusive cultural events on October 22-24 in El Paso. We have special rates with partner Hotel Indigo.

Also, along the Tom Lea Trail, there are not-to-be-missed events at the Hall of State, Fair Park in Dallas, and the Pêche bar and restaurant in Austin.

There will be two exhibitions: Ghost on Mount Cristo Rey featuring Urbici Soler and Lea with UTEP's Centennial Museum, and Brownsville's Connection to King Ranch at the MillikenGarza Gallery in Brownsville. Two "pop-up" exhibits display original illustrations from *The Hands of Cantú* at the El Paso Museum of Art, and reproductions of the art from *The Wonderful Country* at Pêche in Austin.

Please, after last year's limitations, select a few events to put on your calendar, enjoy freedom and share with loved ones. We look forward to seeing you!

Warmly,

*Holly Cobb*  
Holly Packard Cobb, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"To breed a noble horse is to share with God in one of His mysteries. As well as one of His delights."

— Toribio de Ibarra, *The Hands of Cantú* BY TOM LEA

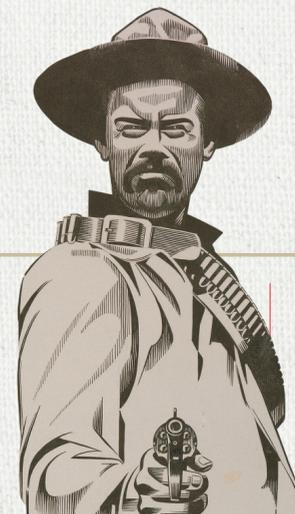
# TOM LEA MONTH



2021



# October

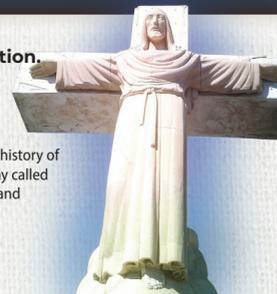


1-31  
EXHIBITION

## "Ghost on Mount Cristo Rey" Exhibition.

Upon reaching the top of the Cerro de los Muleros where his friend was sculpting a 29 foot monument, Tom Lea and his wife, Sarah, were startled by a white spectre covered in limestone dust. This exhibition, in partnership with the Centennial Museum, reveals the history of Urbici Soler's *Risen Christ* at the summit of what is today called Mount Cristo Rey. It also probes the friendship of Lea and Soler, an immigrant sculptor from Barcelona.

UTEP LIBRARY, 3RD FLOOR ATRIUM  
1900 Wiggins Dr., El Paso, TX



9  
SATURDAY

**Polo Real: Polo Match & Dinner** honoring Tom Lea's written and painted depictions of horses, while recognizing the historic polo matches at Fort Bliss – once the largest cavalry post in the U.S. – where General John Pershing invited Juárez players to join the troops. Guests will witness the symbiotic relationship of horse and rider as polo teams battle for victory. The game is followed by a short presentation by Adair Margo, then dinner and dancing. Fundraiser for the El Paso Museum of History.

INFORMATION >> Elizabeth Uribe, 915-850-5448

7  
THURSDAY  
5:30 PM

**UTEP's Tom Lea Fellow**, Javier Segovia, is the curator of the "Ghost on Mount Cristo Rey" exhibit. He will expand on the history of the Cristo Rey monument and Lea-Soler friendship, by drawing on a seminar paper written by Tom Lea's Mexican stepsister, Bertha Partida Schaefer, other original research, and a selection of original paintings.  
UTEP LIBRARY, BLOOMBERG AUDITORIUM  
1900 Wiggins Dr., El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

13  
WEDNESDAY  
6 PM

**Paso del Norte Loteria.** Join Andrew Joseph, creator of the Paso del Norte Loteria game, and spar with other teams while learning about El Paso's long and fascinating history and rich culture. Tapas, drinks, fun – and, who knows, Pancho Villa may show up for Happy Hour!  
PANCHO VILLA STASH HOUSE,  
331½ Leon St, El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

14  
THURSDAY

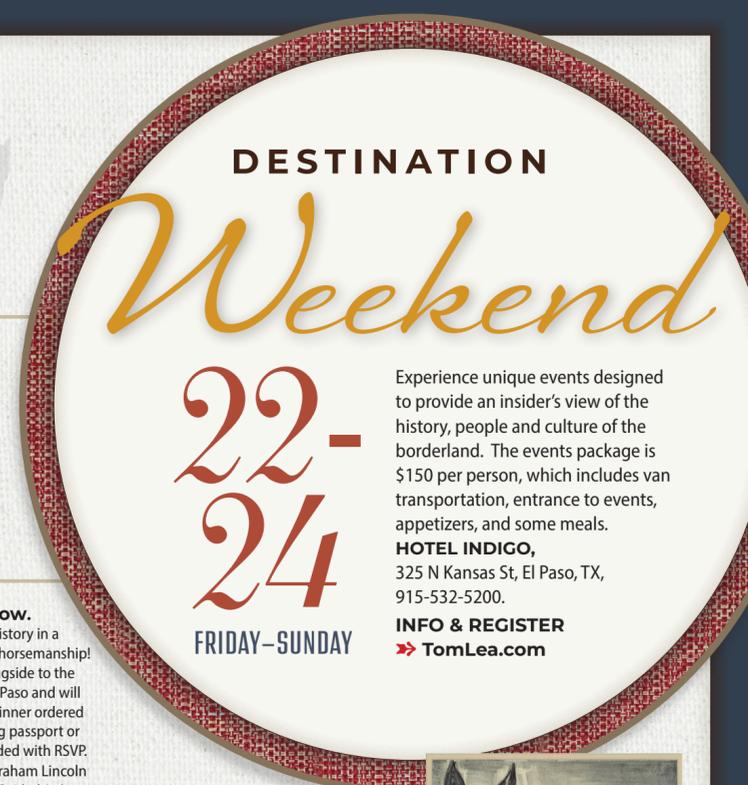
**Author John Fitch.** Sip wine and enjoy appetizers at the trendy Austin restaurant and bar Pêche, and join John Fitch, author *Time Off: A Practical Guide to Building Your Rest Ethic and Finding Success Without the Stress*, as he shares tips from his book. As a teen on his grandfather's Texas ranch, Fitch immersed himself in Tom Lea's novels, which inspired his writing and life. Adair Margo will share insights into *The Wonderful Country* story and illustrations that will be on view.  
2-4 PM, PÉCHE, 208 W 4th St, Austin, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com



**Stampede & Music.** Join us for an evening of music in celebration of Tom Lea. Composer and musician Raymond (Seth) Bedford, Orchestra Head Director for Odessa High School, will perform a piece inspired by Lea's mural *Stampede*. Audience members will be able to view *Stampede* throughout the performance. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. All ages are welcome to this free event.  
6PM, ELLEN NOEL MUSEUM,  
4909 E University Blvd, Odessa, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

16  
SATURDAY  
7 PM

**Exhibition Opening Party.** The MillikenGarza Gallery will exhibit *Brownsville's Connection to King Ranch* including work by Tom Lea, photography by Helen Kleberg and Toni Frissell, and artifacts of other south Texas ranches. Tom Lea's history of the King Ranch was dedicated to the Kinosos, and the story of vaqueros, who made Texas ranches prosper, will be told. Limited edition of *Qué Tal Juan Sanchez* available for purchase. Exhibit runs through January 9, 2022.  
MILLIKENGARZA GALLERY,  
1009 E Adams Street Brownsville, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com



22-24  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Experience unique events designed to provide an insider's view of the history, people and culture of the borderland. The events package is \$150 per person, which includes van transportation, entrance to events, appetizers, and some meals.  
HOTEL INDIGO,  
325 N Kansas St, El Paso, TX,  
915-532-5200.  
INFO & REGISTER  
>> TomLea.com

20  
WEDNESDAY  
9:30 AM

**Broadcast.** Tune in to the broadcast from *Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez* as Adair Margo, author of *Tom Lea, An Oral History* and Holly Cobb, Executive Director of the Tom Lea Institute, tell about the officially recognized Tom Lea Trail in Northern Chihuahua, as well as a discussion about bi-lingual curricula teaching Mexican and American children about their rich frontier history.  
LINK >> TomLea.com

21  
THURSDAY  
6 PM

**Secrets Behind the Making of the Equestrian Monument.** El Paso International Airport's Equestrian Monument is the largest mounted horseman in the world, taking more than 10 years for sculptor John Houser to breathe life into the 36-foot cast bronze. This session will share the lengths to which John and Ethan Houser went to fully comprehend their subject, and the tedious process of enlarging horse and rider to colossal scale. Led by art historian Adair Margo, with Ethan Houser, apprentice to his father, and Jody Schwartz, photographer, who will discuss the trials and tribulations of classical bronze casting, and the reasons Tom Lea esteemed and heartily endorsed John Houser's point of view as a practicing sculptor. Includes beautiful commemorative booklet using Houser's words about creating the monument.  
HOTEL INDIGO OUTDOOR PATIO, 325 N Kansas St, El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

22  
FRIDAY  
6:30 PM

**Scenic Cocktail Reception.** Get a panoramic view and tour of the entire region at the Paso Del Norte Hotel patio overlooking El Paso and Cd. Juárez. Mingle with Joe Lea, Chairman; Adair Margo, Founder; and Holly Cobb, Executive Director of the Tom Lea Institute. Holly will provide an overview of the weekend's activities. Appetizers and live music featured, no host cocktails. All are welcome.  
PASO DEL NORTE HOTEL,  
10 Henry Trost Ct., El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

23  
SATURDAY

**Horse Exhibition.** Wanting his subjects to be recognized by those who knew them best, Tom Lea paid attention to different breeds of horses and their visible characteristics. He wrote that "To breed a noble horse is to share with God in one of His mysteries. As well as one of His delights." He also expressed the joy he had in capturing "portrait likeness." Lea's interest in the breeding of horses extended to a fascination with the training and riding of them, as described in his historic novel *The Hands of Cantu*. Don't miss this demonstration of different breeds of horses, with presentations on their origins and purpose. Enjoy hands-on kids' activities; BBQ lunch available.  
10:30 AM, COMPADRES THERAPY INC. HORSE ARENA  
RSVP >> TomLea.com



**Presentation & Winetasting.** Through Tom Lea's *The Hands of Cantu*, equine scholar Jason Bruemmer began his career understanding the science of horses. Dr. Bruemmer will trace the importance of the horse in shaping history and world events. Also enjoy tasting wines from the Rio Grande valley and live music in a patio setting in the vineyard.  
12:30 PM, ZIN VALLE VINEYARDS,  
7315 Canutillo La Union Rd. Canutillo, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

**Viva Mexico! Dinner and Show.** Travel through Mexico's rich culture and history in a magnificent show of music, dancing, and horsemanship! Partake of a traditional Mexican dinner ringside to the performance. Van departs at 5:30 from El Paso and will cross the international bridge to Juárez. Dinner ordered from the menu and billed to patrons. Bring passport or identification, which should also be provided with RSVP.  
5:30 PM, ¡VIVA MEXICO!, 7315 Av. Abraham Lincoln 900-1, Zona Pronaf Condominio La Plata, Ciudad Juárez  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

24  
SUNDAY

**Old Mt. Franklin Field Trip.** This is a beginners' level hike to introduce the geology of the Franklin Mountains and Tom Lea's book, "Old Mount Franklin." This trip brings his writings to life, out in our mountains. Guests will even have the chance to live on the border of Mexico. Join us for this family event and experience the reasons why!  
\$10 per person.  
4 PM, CASTRO RANCH,  
7530 Damian Rd, Canutillo, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

**Festive Charreada at the Castro Ranch.** Delight in a Mexican rodeo with *charros* and *escaramuzas* in traditional costumes competing in breathtaking *suertes* with mariachi music filling the air. Tom Lea wrote that he considered himself fortunate to live on the border of Mexico. Join us for this family event and experience the reasons why!  
\$10 per person.  
4 PM, CASTRO RANCH,  
7530 Damian Rd, Canutillo, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

**Dinner at the Castro Ranch.** After the *charreada*, join Martha Vera, Honorary Consul of Spain, for a presentation to discover the surprising truth about the colonization of New Mexico, as well as a Mexican repast. Then enjoy corridos by Vera and Omar Castro, the owner of the ranch. \$35 per person for dinner, beverages, and presentation.  
6 PM, CASTRO RANCH,  
7530 Damian Rd, Canutillo, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

26  
TUESDAY  
5:30 PM



**Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands.** Claudia Rivers, Director of UTEP's Special Collections, will take participants through the library's collection of Jose Cisneros' work, commissioned in the 1980s when the new library was built. When Cisneros first showed his drawings to Tom Lea in 1938, Lea wrote a note to the city librarian, Maud Durlin Sullivan, saying "this guy has some stuff!" By the time Jose Cisneros died at age 99, he'd been honored by the King of Spain, governors, literary societies and President George W. Bush, who presented him with the National Humanities Medal in 2001.  
UTEP LIBRARY, SONNICHSEN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS,  
1900 Wiggins Rd, 6th Floor, El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

28  
THURSDAY  
5:30 PM

**Tom Lea's Magic Touchstone of Horsemanship in Word and Song.** At the invitation of Mexican Consul General Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León, José Mario Sanchez – with his operatic voice and deep knowledge of history – will present a program inspired by Tom Lea's fascination with Mexican horsemanship. A reception follows.  
MEXICAN CONSULATE,  
910 E San Antonio Ave., El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

29  
FRIDAY  
11 AM

**Soldiers Painting Horses.** Upon coming home from World War II where he served as an artist correspondent, Tom Lea longed to paint what he loved most. One of his first paintings was *The Shining Plain*, a mounted frontiersman in tall grass, which helped work images of the carnage he'd witnessed out of his head. After introducing the equestrian art of Tom Lea, Dr. Thomas Birkner, UTEP Professor of Painting, will give soldiers a drawing lesson before they discover the pleasure of capturing an image of a horse in paint.  
SOLDIER RECOVERY UNIT, FORT BLISS  
MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY



# November

5  
FRIDAY  
4 PM

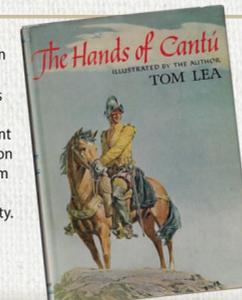
**The Hands of Cantú Presentation & Dramatic Reading.** The El Paso Museum of Art is one of the largest repositories of Tom Lea paintings, including the complete set of ink wash illustrations for *The Hands of Cantú*. A gift from Mary Lewis Kleberg of the King Ranch, they help tell the story of orphaned Toribio as he is mentored by Don Vito Cantú, a breeder of the finest horses in New Spain. Toribio advances from roping cows to putting "a great horse through every elegant variation of movement, using a single finger of the left hand on the reins." When someone rustles the horses in exchange for Indian concubines and gold, there's adventure in regaining them. This presentation explores the novel's themes followed by a dramatic reading by Eden Performing Arts, a viewing of the original illustrations, and reception with Spanish music.  
EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART, 1 Arts Festival Plaza, El Paso, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com

6  
SATURDAY  
11 AM

**Horsehair Pottery Lesson.** After returning to the Southwest from Chicago, Tom Lea worked for Dr. H.P. Mera in a WPA-supported job illustrating Pueblo "Rain Bird" designs at the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe. The experience recalled childhood memories of his father's *Casas Grandes* pottery collection. After a presentation on indigenous pottery, soldiers and their families will learn how to create horsehair pottery, witnessing how strands from a horse's mane and tail make lines on a pot.  
SOLDIER RECOVERY UNIT, FORT BLISS  
MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY

14  
SUNDAY  
2 PM

**The Orchestra of New Spain.** Spend an afternoon immersed in art and the music of The Orchestra of New Spain inspired by Tom Lea's historic novel *The Hands of Cantú*, which is written in English as if it's spoken Spanish and illustrated in ink wash. Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute, will present the story and illustrations of *The Hands of Cantú* novel. Reception follows in the spectacular art deco Hall of State and viewing Tom Lea's two murals commissioned for the building. In partnership with the Orchestra of New Spain and the Dallas Historical Society.  
THE HALL OF STATE AT FAIR PARK,  
3939 Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX  
RSVP >> TomLea.com



Coming  
Feb. 11  
FRIDAY  
5:30 PM

## I Love El Paso

This year's I Love El Paso couple is Rick and Bobette Lange, who – though warned that they should not move to El Paso – fell in love with the city upon arrival. Rick is the President of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and a cardiologist, who, after moving to Texas from his native Alaska, met and fell in love with Bobette. In this interview, they will share how they have navigated the joys and challenges of marriage and family while maintaining a balanced, healthy life. The Langes will give insights about how they made decisions at critical junctures and what they might do differently. Enjoy wine and beer tastings and hors d'oeuvres.  
LOCATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. RSVP >> TomLea.com

>> All events will follow current COVID guidelines