

The Tom Lea Institute has over 320 members! Join us today!

Tom Lea INSTITUTE JOURNAL

SPRING 2020

Our Evening at I LOVE EL PASO



TO say that the Sun City showed up and shined brightly at our I Love El Paso event would be an understatement. The TLI partnered with United Way Young Leaders Society, Progress 321 and EPMA to gather a crowd of visionaries to learn from Sun City success stories and honor others, like Tom Lea, for their contributions to El Paso.

On the evening of February 6th, hundreds packed out the El Paso Museum of art to lean into the wisdom local power couple Rick and Ginger Francis had to share with the young and eager crowd. While the crowd



was tuned in, guests also enjoyed tastings from Deadbeach Brewery, L&F Distributors, Lescombes Winery, and

El Paso power couple Rick and Ginger Francis share their stories, wisdom and experience about the challenges of building a business while balancing home and family. Guests enjoyed charcuterie and beverages as well.

Wine Attitude. Love on Board created a stellar charcuterie display.

Our goal for this event was to celebrate and learn from those who have added to the brilliance of our city as Tom Lea did, with an audience who aspires to follow a similar path. This event exceeded our goal, shining a light on our culture, our history and our limitlessness as a community.

Viva El Paso!

INSIDE

- Art as a Dream with Sabiha Al Khemir
- Members Exclusive Heritage Tourism Journey to Mexico City
- Join TLI and get a Free Membership for a Friend

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I Love El Paso attracted more than 200 mostly young professionals to sip wine & craft beer, nibble on charcuterie and listen to Rick and Ginger Francis discuss how they balance success, nurturing a marriage and healthy family life. (Also, they are avid collectors of Tom Lea's art). At the event, we introduced a new generation to the Institute's mission to preserve and transmit the art and writings of Tom Lea. Founded in 2009 by Adair Margo, most of our members knew Tom and Sarah Lea personally or had a connection with them. As we edge closer to twenty years since Tom Lea's passing in 2001, we are striving to provide experiences which inspire younger audiences to connect with the genius of Tom Lea.



Membership matters

In this issue, we are celebrating our members – many of whom have been with the institute from the early days. People have a variety of reasons for being members – most know what a loss it would be to extinguish Lea's legacy through time and neglect. Others have discovered his art or writings more recently. All recognize the singular depth Lea brings to his work. Can you think of another person who was both a world-class artist and a best-selling writer?

For our next generation

Our curricula is a vital part of our outreach to new audiences; six districts in Texas and two private

schools use our seven 3rd- through 11th-grade curricula. Impacting thousands each year, students are introduced to Lea's art and writing in their social studies/history courses. Because he never sought the spotlight or pandered to the artistic elite, through our educational efforts, Tom Lea is more broadly known today than he was when he was alive.

Transcending geography

In March, Sabiha al Kehmir, an Islamic scholar, poet, and author, will tell us why Lea's *Southwest* mural, which she encountered on a postcard in Paris, is her favorite American work of art. She writes, "Murals are walls that talk – politically, socially, meditatively. And walls talk in different ways – from the scream of graffiti to the propaganda of consumerism. Tom Lea, however, said that he considered his paintings a 'conversation between friends.' In the case of *Southwest*, I, a stranger, became a friend through a painting that reached me on the other side of the world." We hope our members and guests will join us for an enchanting evening on March 24th, at 5:30, at the El Paso Museum of History.

As members of the Tom Lea Institute, you are supporting not only his art, but Lea's extraordinary depiction of our culture, history, and natural beauty. He speaks to people all over the world – like Sabiha Al Kehmir. We are very grateful for your support!

– Holly Cobb
Executive Director

BECOME A MEMBER

Keep up with the latest events and support the Institute.
Membership levels and benefits are listed online.
It's easy to join at TomLea.com

ONLINE

TomLea.com

Follow the Institute
on social media



INSTITUTE STAFF



(L-R) Arturo Flores, *membership & operations manager*; Adair Margo, *founder*; Patricia Ladd, *finance*; Javier Segovia, *collections & education manager*; Lin Mckinley, *grant writer*; David Guerin, *videographer*; Christy Gonzalez, *marketing & events manager*; Holly Cobb, *executive director*

Upcoming Event



Southwest, mural 1956. Oil on canvas, 5.5 X 20 feet. El Paso Public Library. (Currently on display at El Paso Museum of History.)

Art as a Dream *with Sabiha Al Khemir*

March 26, 2020, at 5:30 PM
El Paso Museum of History

SABIHA AL KHEMIR – art historian, novelist, and distinguished author of children’s books – will share an encounter she had in Paris with Tom Lea’s *Southwest* mural, which drew her to El Paso for the first time.

In a delightful presentation, this native of Tunisia and current New Yorker will articulate her journey, speaking not only about art as a dream but about the twists and turns of life.

As an expert in Islamic art, she has curated exhibitions for museums such as the Louvre, Metropolitan Museum of Art and Dallas Museum of Art and is founding director of the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar. Khemir has authored fiction and non-fiction works and has provided illustrations for several publications. This event promises an evening of insight and intellect. RSVP at TomLea.com to save your seat today.



UTEP Professor Mimi Gladstein and Adair Margo in class.

College Students Love The Wonderful Country

DR. Mimi Gladstein, a renowned English professor at UTEP, assigned her undergraduate literature class *The Wonderful Country*, a novel by Tom Lea.

After finishing the book, Dr. Gladstein graciously invited El Paso First Lady Adair Margo to her classroom to give a presentation about Tom Lea, *The Wonderful Country*, and his artwork.

The students were highly engaged in a discussion about Lea’s art and the book

because the story is about the founding of El Paso or “Puerto,” in the book. As a result, students felt they developed pride in the region and their heritage.

We would like to encourage educators to contact us about using one of the seven K-12 curricula available through the Institute. The high school curricula has lessons appropriate for college-level instruction. All curricula incorporate primary sources and are TEKS correlated.

Submissions are in for the Tom Lea Fellowship Program

APPLICATION submissions for 2020 closed February 14th, and we are excited to see who is awarded.

The Tom Lea Research Fellows Program was established in 2013 by Dee and Adair Margo to encourage high-level research using primary documents related to the art, literature, and life of Tom Lea.



Sarah in the Summertime, 1947. Oil on canvas, 69" x 28". © Catherine Lea Weeks

Lea is a nationally renowned painter, illustrator, muralist, and author from El Paso. The Tom Lea Fellowship will award \$3,500 per fellow who undertakes a publication-quality research project focused on Tom Lea, his art, his writing, and his role in the art of El Paso, Texas or the United States. Fellows may explore the classical ideas and training that informed his work, or theoretical premises that relate to understanding Lea's work.

El Paso is home to the Tom Lea Institute, which is a superb resource and research repository that offers research support to Fellows.

The fellowship is open to current graduate and undergraduate

students in any department or program in the College of Liberal Arts and involves a project related to Tom Lea. Sample types of projects are the following:

- A scholarly work based on primary documents related to Tom Lea
- A scholarly or creative work that furthers the knowledge of Tom Lea
- A project that enlivens knowledge or understanding of the Tom Lea Trail
- A project that contributes to Tom Lea curricula used at school districts in the El Paso area

All undergraduates and graduate students are encouraged to apply next year.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.utep.edu/liberalarts/tom-lea-fellowship



That 2,000 Yard Stare, 1944, oil on canvas, 36" x 28". LIFE Collection of Art WWII. U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. © Catherine Lea Weeks

Museum of Fine Arts Pairs Works of Tom Lea and Norman Rockwell

THE Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, included Tom Lea's *That 2,000 Yard Stare* as part of an exhibition of Norman Rockwell's art about *The Four Freedoms*.

The MFA Houston writes, "The presentation explores how Rockwell's 1943 paintings came to be embraced by millions of Americans. These works of art provided crucial aid to the war effort and took their place among the most indelible images in the history of American art." Like Rockwell, Tom Lea's LIFE magazine art was viewed by millions hungry for news about WWII. Lea said, "I went out to the war as a reporter. I absolutely was not going to do anything that I didn't see and know – because I was there to record it, not as I thought it should be or not as an object of art."

That 2,000 Yard Stare was originally published by LIFE magazine in 1945. It depicts, perhaps for the first time, a traumatized shell-shocked Marine who Lea encountered on the island of Peleliu. It has become the national symbol of PTSD.

MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE HERITAGE TOURISM JOURNEY

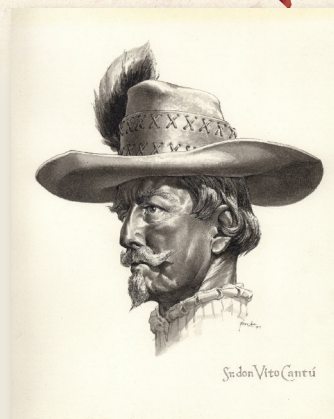
The Spanish Art of Training Horses

Mexico City | November 4-8, 2020

DELVE into the extraordinary Spanish colonial period of 1580 through experiences based on Tom Lea's novel *The Hands of Cantu*. The book captures the history and drama of New Spain (or Mexico) through the life of Cantu, an acclaimed horse breeder who takes an orphan, Toribio, under his wing. Toribio starts at the bottom, as a *vaquero*, and ascends to learning the art of putting a horse through every elegant variation of movement, using a single finger of the left hand on the reins.

In this 5 day, 4-night journey you will:

- Travel with Adair Margo, first lady of El Paso, and Jose Mario Sanchez, founder of the Bull Fighting Museum and an aficionado of the culture and history of Mexico.
- Learn how horses are trained using ancient methods at the ranch of Emiliano Gamero, Mexico's best *rejoneador*, and have lunch as his guest at his home.
- Attend a show at the *Equestre Domecq*, a top equestrian training center.
- Stay in a restored historic hotel near the Zocalo, the cultural center of the city.
- Tour Chapultepec Castle, the National Museum of History.
- Experience extraordinary regional cuisine.
- Visit *Hospital del Purisima Concepcion Y Jesus Nazareno*, the oldest hospital on the continent, where Toribio de



Portrait Head of Don Vito Cantú, 1963. Illustration from *The Hands of Cantu*, 1964. Ink, wash on paper. 11 3/4" x 9 1/4". © Catherine Lea Weeks

Ibarra was left as an infant.

- See Cayotes Plaza, and House of Cortes, the residence of Don Vito Cantu.
- Go to Dolores Olmedo, Xochimilco, to see the work of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo and its spectacular pre-Mesoamerican collection.
- Tour *Casa Azul Museo Frida Kahlo*.
- Dine on a catered river canal cruise at Xochimilco Trajineras.

Total per-person double occupancy cost is \$2,890 for members, \$3,390 for non-members. Become a member to receive our members' rate! Tom Lea Institute trips fill up quickly, so please reserve your spot as soon as possible with a \$1,000 non-refundable deposit that goes toward your total.

For more information, contact Holly Cobb: 915-533-0048 or hcobb@tomlea.net.

Tom Lea Institute Members

\$10,000+

Allen & Ricki Gilmer

\$5,000+

Joe & Carol Lea Jr.
Stephen Feinburg

\$1,000+

Sonny & Ann C. Brown
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Dr. Robert & Judith Drotman
Joe Gomez
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Will & Lauren Harvey
John & Nancy Howell
Dr. Boris & Fifi Kaim
John & Linda Keck
Ann Morgan
& Rutledge "Rut" Lilly
Clay & Rhonda Lowenfield
Michelle McCown
Jon & Jackie Means

Marshall & Sharon Meece
Tom & Andrea Meece
James & Mary M. Polk
Caren H. Prothro
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Joan & Leo Schuster
Gayle W. Strange
Kris & Catherine L. Weeks
Leland & Monica White
Dr. George
& Hon. Pamela Willeford

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McGrath
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Melissa O'Rourke
Dr. Enrique & Rosario Ponte
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Carl Russell
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Lionel & Jane Thomson
Dr. James Tillapaugh
& Ruben Vasquez
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Rosa Goeldner
Dr. Grace Goodell
Dr. David C. & Carolyn Gough
Becki Hardie
Carter & Page Hatfield
H. Harris & Kay Hatfield
Helen Joanie Holt
Sandra S. Hoover
Diane M. Judy
Richard "Tres" & Olive Ann
Kleberg, III
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Terren Klein
Alan & Rebecca Krasne
Roy & Rachel Levit
Ray & Ann Lovelady
Amy & Clement Marcus
Herb & Chula Marsh

Cheryl McCown
Montgomery & Mary Ann Meigs
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Ike & Nancy Monty
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Ceci Miles & Ron Mulvihill
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\$50+

Katherine Alexander
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Alice Jane DeGroat
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Fred R. Egloff
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Elizabeth Feuille
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James Fulgham
Soraya Holguin
Frank T. James
Faye A. Johnson
Grace Kelly
William C. King
Julie Lama
Patty Lea
Bill Long
Dr. Ken Lucius
Colleen Marusich
Marilyn Mendeloff
Russell Moore
Fred "Pito" J. Morton
Ana Rosa M. Navarro
Carol Nicks
Sharon Owen
Yolanda Padilla
Sally Pendergras
Doris E. Poessinger
Melissa Renn
Frieda Lee Schwartz
Rachelle Thiewes
Thomas Thigpin
William Wright, Jr.

Educator/student

Brandon Raab
Ann Wilson
Guadalupe Camargo

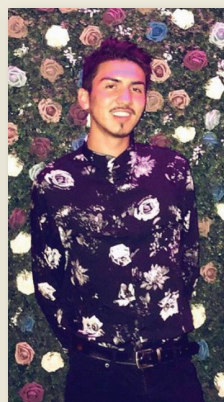
Dearly departed members

Lonnie Borrett
Maury Kemp
Ann S. Schaechner
Joan Schuster
Evern Wall

Members Spotlight

Isha Rogers & Steve Santamaria MEMBERS SINCE 2014

Isha on our heritage tourism trip to Washington, DC: "My favorite observation from our incredible trip is from my husband, Steve, who commented, 'Before I met Adair, the only Lees I knew were Bruce and Stan. Now, I'm at a private viewing in DC, standing next to Joe Lea, admiring a Tom Lea!'"



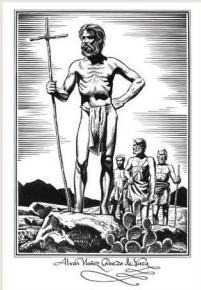
Brandon Raab MEMBER SINCE 2019

"The Tom Lea Institute shares the region's history and culture through Tom Lea's works. Their events encourage community development and appreciation of the diversity of El Paso. As a UTEP student, the Tom Lea Institute inspires me to give back to our community."

The XXII Travelers

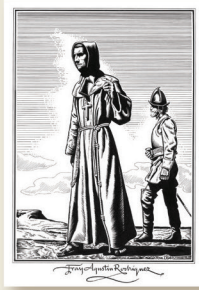
\$100,000+

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



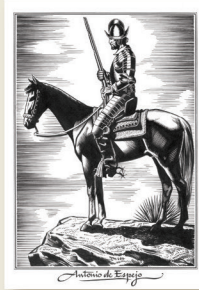
**Alavar Nuñez
Cabeza de Vaca
Travelers**

J.P. & Mary Jon
Bryan, *Houston*



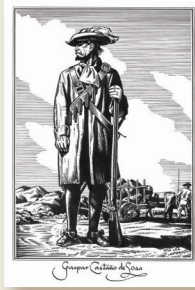
**Fray Agustin
Rodriguez
Traveler**

Betty Ruth Wakefield
Haley, *El Paso*



**Antonio de
Espejo
Travelers**

George W. & Laura
Bush, *Dallas*



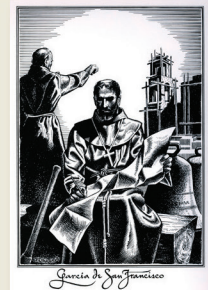
**Gaspar Castaño
de Sosa
Travelers**

Jack & Evonne
Cardwell, *El Paso*



**Juan de Oñate
Travelers**

Woody & Gayle,
Hunt, *El Paso*



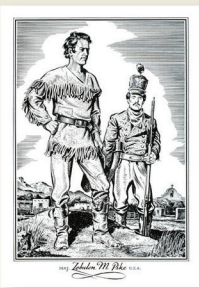
**Fray Garcia de
San Francisco
Travelers**

Dee & Adair Margo,
El Paso



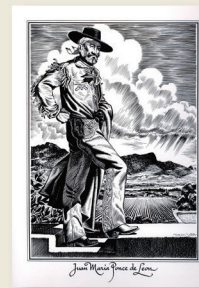
**Don Diego
de Vargas
Travelers**

Rick & Ginger
Francis, *El Paso*



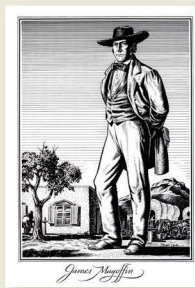
**Maj. Zebulon
Pike Travelers**

Paul & Alejandra de
la Vega Foster,
El Paso



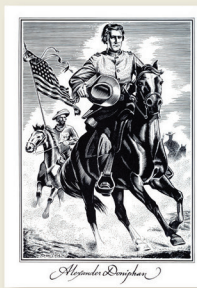
**Juan Maria
Ponce de Leon
Traveler**

YOUR NAME HERE



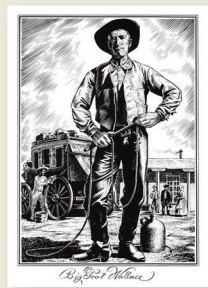
**James
Magoffin
Traveler**

YOUR NAME HERE



**Alexander Doniphan
Travelers**

Allen & Rikki Gilmer
in memory of Jerry
D. Gilmer, *Austin*



**Big Foot Wallace
Travelers**

Bill & Ann Kiely,
Cypress

FRIENDSHIPS = MEMBERSHIPS

WHAT'S a better way to recognize true Amistad than to give your friend a free TLI membership?

All new membership sign-ups through the month of April come with a free membership for a friend!

Our 2020 year is paying tribute to Amistad. Friendships on both sides of the border held such importance in the life of Tom Lea and the legacy he left behind. As we grow in members, we hope our connections, and our roots will spread wider and run deeper – bringing Tom

Lea's heart and values further than ever before.

Members enjoy perks:

- Free admission to exclusive member events
- A members-only rate for heritage tours
- 20% discount on most merchandise, including lithos
- Quarterly newsletter

Call our friend Arturo at 915-533-0048 to coordinate membership for you and your friend today!



P.O. Box 103, El Paso, TX 79941
201 E. Main, Suite 100, El Paso, TX 79901
915-533-0048 | tomlea.com

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Bill Kiely, *Spicewood*

James D. Lea*, *Houston*

NOW YOU CAN LEASE TOM LEA ART

ART Masters of El Paso is pleased to announce a partnership with The Tom Lea Institute that will not only bolster the Institute's growth but will also make Tom Lea's art more accessible to all! As a part of Art Master's art leasing program, individuals and businesses now have the opportunity to lease original giclees and lithographs by Tom Lea. For members, ten percent of the cost of leasing and framing will go back to the Institute as a donation in their name. When in downtown El Paso, catch the display of the *XII Travelers* prints (available for lease) inside the Mills Building.

MORE INFORMATION:

artmastersofelpaso.com, or 915-833-3838

Garcia de San Francisco, from *Calendar of XII Travelers through the Pass of the North*, 1946.

© Catherine Lea Weeks.



Garcia de San Francisco