Changes Are Coming to HMM!

The museum is undergoing several changes in the first part of 2017.

The most exciting development will be the addition of a new exhibit on the USS Houston. Nathan, our curatorial assistant, is hard at work designing the exhibit, which will include ship models, artifacts and photos highlighting the Houston's exploits over the years. Opening February 28th, the 75th anniversary of the USS Houston's sinking, the exhibit will be a welcome addition to our collection.

The gift shop has moved locations to make room for our new exhibit. The new room is actually in its old room located next to the World War II room.

We also wanted to take a moment to introduce Jenny Podoloff, who has joined the HMM Crew as the Assistant Museum Director. Prior to joining HMM full-time Jenny worked with the museum on a variety of projects including marketing, graphic design, administrative support and assisting Museum Director, Leslie Bowlin, with BuildHMM efforts. An native Houstonian, Jenny has an extensive background in public relations, communication, and marketing. Please welcome her to the crew the next time you stop by!

Collection Highlights: Carl Zeiss Jena Binoculars

Gift of Laurence Shallenberger (2016.26)

This pair of binoculars was donated to HMM by our Wednesday docent, Laurence Shallenberger. His father, George G. Shallenberger, purchased these Carl Zeiss Jena binoculars while on vacation at Glacier National Park, Montana, in 1936.
Founded in 1846, German optics manufacturer Carl Zeiss Jena's lenses are considered some of the best in the world leading to high demand for both public use and as military equipment.

After America's entry into World War II, the U.S. Military requested citizens donate binoculars to aid in the war effort. George Shallenberger packaged his binoculars and shipped them off to war. In June 1946, to Mr. Shallenberger's surprise, the U.S. Navy returned his binoculars engraved with his name, and serial number 4290-1942.

Make sure to stop by HMM in 2017 to see these binoculars and many other cool artifacts!

Houston Maritime Museum on Social Media

At Houston Maritime Museum, social media helps us fulfill our mission to capture and preserve the influence of maritime history and industry. Right now, Houston Maritime Museum maintains a presence on four social networks: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. Each network provides a different platform for us to share the different facets of our collection with a wide audience of other organizations and visitors who are not local to the museum.

On Facebook, we share museum events, maritime news, and interesting historical articles. The network also allows visitors to "check-in" at our location and to provide feedback on their visit.

On Instagram and Tumblr, we share photographs and stories from our collections while networking with a large number of other museums and libraries. On Twitter, we share facts and short quotes about maritime events. Currently we are focusing on a day-by-day history of the USS Houston.

Follow us on social media to stay connected with Houston’s maritime history and events here at Houston Maritime Museum!

January Events @ HMM

History Lecture Series
The "Underground Railway" to Pensacola: Slaves, Abolitionists, and Florida's Gulf Coast
January 24, 2017 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

$5 FOR ADULTS (12 AND UP) | FREE FOR MEMBERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This lecture is generously sponsored by UTC Overseas, Inc.

In the decades before the Civil War, Pensacola, Florida was a maritime and military community that shared little in common with other seaports along the South's Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Indeed, because of arid soil, shallow waters, and an extraordinary multiracial, multiethnic, and international population, Pensacola remained on the margins of antebellum southern society. As a result, the city earned a reputation as a gateway to freedom for enslaved people across the Deep South who found the northernmost routes of escape inaccessible. Through an examination of Pensacola during the antebellum era, this lecture tells the forgotten story of fugitive slaves and their allies along Florida's Gulf Coast.

Matt Clavin is an award-winning teacher and historian of the United States and Atlantic world at the University of Houston. He received his Ph.D. at American University in Washington, D.C., and is the author of Aiming for Pensacola: Fugitive Slaves on the Atlantic and Southern Frontiers, which was published by Harvard University Press in 2015. He is currently working on several research projects, including a retelling of the Battle of Negro Fort, a deadly conflict between
the United States Army and Navy and hundreds of fugitive slaves and Choctaw Indians in Spanish Florida, and an examination of both the meaning and memory of the Declaration of Independence in nineteenth-century America.