We are proud to announce that from November 8–20, the Museum will host the traveling Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall.

The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. It stands eight feet high and 240 feet long and is inscribed with the names of more than 58,000 Americans who died or went missing in Vietnam. Since 1990, the traveling monument has been displayed in more than 200 cities across the country, allowing millions of visitors to experience the healing power of the memorial. This will be the first time that it has been displayed in Manhattan. Admission will be free to the public and the Wall will be open 24 hours a day at the Museum’s Pier 86.

Representing in equal measure the loss associated with the Vietnam War and the bravery of the soldiers who fought, it brings healing to veterans, awareness to younger generations and contemplation to all who gaze into its reflective surface. Bill Nelson, President and CEO of HBO and a Vietnam infantry veteran, explains why he is supporting the Wall: “I have met many Vietnam Veterans who have never made it to The Wall in D.C., for reasons either physical, financial or because of plain trepidation of those long suppressed memories being stirred anew. The Moving Wall has allowed those issues to be greatly resolved, especially the latter one, because they can go with their friends or family members for support as they approach that black granite Wall and face again the memories that have weighed on them for 40-plus years. Bless you and your organization for making this healing Wall available for those who reside in the Tristate area.”

The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum is a non-profit educational and cultural institution. Please consider donating to the Intrepid Museum to help support the exhibition of the Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall at the Intrepid. Contributions will go toward supporting the installation of the Wall at the Museum and educational programs, exhibits, collections and public outreach initiatives. Contributing a special gift now will help the Museum continue to fulfill its mission to “honor our heroes, educate the public, and inspire our youth.”

To donate to the Museum’s presentation of the Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall and to qualify exhibits and educational programs year-round, please visit intrepidmuseum.org.
“In November we have a unique exhibit coming to the Intrepid, the Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, which is a three-quarter scale replica of the memorial in D.C.”

Managing Our Collections

By Jessica Williams, Curator of History

Collections management is what museums call the process of caring for the historic artifacts in our custody.

Managing a collection isn’t simply a matter of putting an item on a shelf in a storeroom. Each object requires documentation that tells us its history. Our files contain information on the object’s purpose, its previous ownership and its acquisition. Artifacts must be carefully stored to ensure their long-term preservation. In order to safeguard our collection, we must record the location of each object and track its movement.

In addition to caring for individual items, we also develop policies that guide the growth of the collection, ensuring that our holdings support the Museum’s mission and goals. These tasks require specialized skills, and the Intrepid Museum strives to meet the highest professional standards in collections management.

The Intrepid Museum has been collecting artifacts and archival materials since its founding in 1982. Over the years, the Museum has amassed a vast collection of Intrepid-related material, including uniforms, gear, photographs, souvenirs, film, training materials, artwork and documents. In addition, the heavy left behind countless pieces of old furniture, blueprints, manuals and other materials. Some of these items are completely documented and appropriately stored, but many are not. Taken together, these items represent a wealth of information about Intrepid and its crew - and a massive collections-management challenge.

In early October, the Intrepid Museum kicked off a two-year project to tackle our collections backlog. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the Intrepid Museum a two-year grant that allowed us to hire two Collections Assistants who will help us to seek out, evaluate, catalog, and properly store the collection items to be found on the ship. These two new staff members, Naomi Hochberg and Ann Stegina, will survey all of the Museum’s collections, giving us a better understanding of our holdings.

The first step in the project is to document and properly house the collections materials located in our storage spaces. Once we address the items in known storage areas – which is no small feat – we will begin the exciting task of combing the entire ship for objects and archival materials. Many compartments aboard Intrepid have been left virtually untouched since the ship’s decommissioning in 1974. Our new Collections Assistants will help us gather this material and determine which items should become part of our collections and archives. These select materials will be housed in our designated collections storage space. This room has separate HVAC, security and fire systems from the rest of the ship, creating a physically safe space for the preservation of the permanent collection.

In addition, our Collections Assistants will enter each item into our collections database, the Museum System (TMS). This highly regarded program is utilized worldwide by leading large museums. TMS records catalog information including dates, descriptions, and donors, and tracks each object by its location. Once all of our items are recorded in TMS, searching the collection and archival materials is a priority for the Museum. We are grateful to IMLS for its support, and we look forward to sharing our findings with you.

The Intrepid Museum has been collecting artifacts and archival materials since its founding in 1982. Over the years, the Museum has amassed a vast collection of Intrepid-related material. It will be as easy as searching Google. For example, we’ll be able to determine how many flight helmets are in the collection and where they are located. We’ll even be able to view a photograph of each helmet. This digital catalog will transform our ability to use our collections for research, exhibitions or educational programming.

Our collections help us understand and share Intrepid’s rich history. Properly caring for these materials is a priority for the Museum. We are grateful to IMLS for its support, and we look forward to sharing our findings with you.

Questions? Call 646-381-5030.
MORE 2 EXPLORE

Membership Offers
By Christine Gooran, Director of Membership
Intrepid Museum Members are eligible for special offers and discounts from our partners. These include:

FREUD’S LAST SESSION now through November 30, 2011

The play, Freud’s Last Session centers on legendary psychoanalyst Dr. Sigmund Freud, who invites a young, little-known professor, C.S. Lewis, to his home in London.

THE BLUE FLOWER - This musical explores the romantic and tumultuous relationships between four young friends - three artists and a scientist - as they create a world of art, revolution and passion amidst the turbulences and destruction of the World Wars.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THESE NEW EXHIBITS AT INTREPID:

EJECT! The History and Workings of the Modern Election Seat

On display through February 5, 2012

This new exhibit tells the fascinating history of ejection seats in high-performance military aircraft. This temporary exhibit explores the development history of ejection systems and explains the split-second workings of these life saving devices. Several seats will be included in the display as well as other artifacts related to the survival needs of the air crewmen.

CITIES AT SEA

November 5, 2011 through January 1, 2012

Renowned illustrator and artist Thomas C. Houtz, in association with D.L. Sears Books, has created 12 original works dedicated to carrier aviation in World War II. The illustrations will be featured in an annual commemorative calendar that will be published by D.L. Sears for 2012. These original works will have their first public exhibition at the Intrepid Museum, coinciding with the retail sales release of the calendar. To be installed in Intrepid’s new Art Gallery on the second floor of the Visitors Center, this exhibition will be accessible to all Museum visitors.

SAVE THE DATE!

MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 17, 2011

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join us for some holiday fun

Kids Week

February 18 – 26, 2012

Mark your calendars for Kids Week 2012! Join us as the Museum hosts fun-filled hands-on activities with our partners.

CAMP-SOSI

A winter/spring camp for children ages 5-13. School vacations? Winter recess? Why not have your children join in the educational fun offered by the Intrepid Museum? Camp-SOSI is a full day, drop-off program focusing on science and history while integrating the exhibits and history of Intrepid. What an exciting way for campers to learn about sea, air, space and life at sea and to broaden their horizons with the weekly theme-based projects.

The first week is December 16 – 20, 2011 with the theme Intrepid Passport. Campers will learn about the different countries Intrepid visited during tours of duty!

For a full schedule, pricing and sample day plan, visit http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/Education/Camps/Camp-SOSI.aspx

Weekend Family Hands-On Fun

Saturday and Sunday

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Families are invited to stop by the Discovery Deck located in the Explorium for arts, crafts and experiments designed around the four Explorium themes: sea, air, space and life at sea.

Did you know that Intrepid’s Access Programs are available for everyone?

If you would like to learn more about all of the Intrepid’s Access Programs please contact access@intrepidmuseum.org or call 646-381-5163. You can also check out the programming at http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/access.aspx.

This October, the Intrepid hosted its first Disability Awareness Month series of events to celebrate our differences and raise awareness for bettering cultural experiences for everyone.

This full month of programs, advocacy and events is an extension of the Intrepid’s focus on increasing access for all visitors. The goal of Intrepid’s Disability Awareness Month was to bring together families, children and adults with varying special needs with advocates who are involved in creating and supporting opportunities for them.

Over the past few years, the Museum has designed and delivered dozens of programs for adults and children with a range of special needs, including those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, blind or partially sighted or have developmental disabilities. Building on those programs, Disability Awareness Month offered 19 individual events for more than 1200 participants free of charge.

Highlights included:

- American Sign Language-led tours of the Growler submarine and Concorde jet
- Five Power of One Programs featuring speakers who shared their experiences living with disabilities
- Superhero-themed program for families affected by Autism
- Sensory-sensitive film screening of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs for families with children with developmental disabilities
- Guide Dog Foundation demonstrations and puppy training class
- A teacher Open House for educators to learn about education programs for students with special needs at museums throughout NYC

If you would like to learn more about all of the Intrepid’s Access Programs please contact access@intrepidmuseum.org or call 646-381-5163. You can also check out the programming at http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/access.aspx.

For more information please call 646-381-5030 or email groupsales@intrepidmuseum.org.

Questions? Call 646-381-5030.

Visit Intrepidmuseum.org today
Summer Aircraft Excitement

By Eric Boehm
Curator, Aviation and Aircraft Restoration

In the last newsletter I reported that the Cougar was finally finished after 19 months of blood, sweat and tears. The volunteers and staff contributed quite a bit of all three but the results are amazing. I covered the details last time so for this issue I’ll just share a couple of shots of the finished product.

The Cougar roll-out, earlier this summer, was attended by a few Wall Township New Jersey residents. They remember the Cougar in her former life as their playground fixture.

Aircraft team volunteers and staff pose in front of the finished product.

The Cougar rolls out in front of a nice crowd of visitors and staff. This was the Aircraft Restoration team’s most ambitious project to date.

The ejection seat, as found in the modern combat aircraft today, is a highly sophisticated flying machine in its own right. Come see our new exhibit, “EJECT!”, open now through February 5, 2012.

The exhibit will take you through the history of ejection systems starting way back, believe it or not, in 1910. It then progresses through history to the World War II years when the first generations of practical ejection seats were actually used in combat. It continues with the advancements of the modern ejection systems used today. The exhibit also has a “How it Works” section that explains the fundamental workings of the seats. There are several seats on display as well other artifacts such as a survival kit, parachute harness and seat rocket motor. Super slow-motion video clips of ejection seats being tested are just too fascinating to describe. You must plan to see this exhibit soon, as it will only be on display through February 5, 2012. It’s something you won’t want to miss!

We are very excited about a new exhibit that just opened in our temporary gallery on the Hangar Deck. The exhibit is called “EJECT!” and highlights the history and workings of an essential piece of combat aircraft hardware, the ejection seat.

“The exhibit also has a How it Works section that explains the fundamental workings of the seats. There are several seats on display as well other artifacts such as a survival kit, parachute harness and seat rocket motor.”