

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF NANCY LEA

Born July 7, 1906 in Terra Haute, Indiana  
Died April 1, 1936 in El Paso, Texas



Nancy, Fall of 1932. Courtesy of James D. Lea

In February 1927, while attending the Art Institute of Chicago, Tom Lea eloped to Waukegan with a fellow art student and aspiring writer, Nancy Jane Taylor. He had met Nancy — a beautiful girl who knew lots about poetry — in a painting class two years before. Tom and Nancy started their lives together living in a rooming house on Cass Street in Chicago, before moving into a one room apartment in a high rise on Fullerton Parkway near Lincoln Park. Tom made a living doing odd jobs and painting murals, while Nancy kept house and made notations in her notebook about life around her, including the rectangles of light cast on the apartment walls and the “sturdy beggars” playing their instruments in the alley below.

In 1933, Tom and Nancy built an adobe home on the slopes of the *Sangre de Cristo* Mountains near Santa Fe, living a primitive but idyllic life close to the hills and the piñon. Tom made a living and Nancy wrote, until one night she got a pain in her side. Tom rushed her to the hospital where the operation for a burst appendix was bungled. Infection set in and Nancy couldn't get well, returning to El Paso where she died in 1936.

Nancy left behind one finished novel and several unfinished writings: parts of two other novels, a play, several short stories, and rough drafts for essays. She also left dated journal-like entries as a personal record intended for no reader but herself. Tom compiled all the dated entries his wife chose to write, publishing *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA* in a private edition of twenty-five, and giving a copy to each of her friends.

Eighty years following Nancy's death, the Tom Lea Institute and Four-O Publishing have published a special edition of *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA*, in the number of twenty-five copies. The book holds Nancy's innermost thoughts, with lessons for readers today.

*I think my house is inseparable from myself; or I should say I think of our house inseparably from us. I did not start with a cheap little shack, expecting to add on here and there...instead, I carefully made the big plan first, as best I could, then I selected a logical starting point. And as our house grows, it will grow beautifully and gracefully; and whether it ever reaches its final complete form, it will have gone in the direction towards it. And that is the way I want Tom and myself to be. Whether either of us reaches the final stage doesn't matter much; but we shall be working towards it always.*

*Journal Entry dated Oct. 28, 1932*

Price of each copy is \$5,000. For more information contact Carolina Franco at [cfranco@tomlea.com](mailto:cfranco@tomlea.com) or call 915-533-0048.

## Centennial Museum,

University of Texas at El Paso 500 W. University  
Avenue, El Paso, Texas · 915 747-5565

### ❖ The Notebook of Nancy Lea

Exhibition on View

**Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 – Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2016**

Opening Reception

**Tuesday, Oct. 11th · 5:30 p.m.**

### ❖ Nancy Lea in Her Own Words

Presentation by Adair Margo

**Sunday, Nov. 20 · 1 p.m.**

After Nancy Lea died in El Paso on April 1, 1936, she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. On her death certificate, in the space left for her occupation, it read “housewife.” This is the first exhibition to ever tell the story of Nancy Lea, revealing a woman of extraordinary talent and perception, who wrote with a philosopher's pen. Included in the exhibition are the rare Carl Hertzog copy of *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA* from the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department in the UTEP Library, and never-before-seen photographs of Nancy Lea.

## Philanthropy Theater

Plaza Theater Annex, 125 Pioneer Plaza,  
El Paso, Texas · 915 533-0048

### ❖ Tom Lea: Grace Note in a Hard World

A one-act play by Camilla Carr

Starring Ray Baker and Morgana Shaw

Performances

**Saturday, October 29 · 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 30 · 3 p.m.**

Admission \$25.00. Tickets available at the Tom Lea Institute. Reservations with Paola Martinez at [pmartinez@tomlea.com](mailto:pmartinez@tomlea.com) or call 915-533-0048.

Commissioned by Betty Ruth Wakefield Haley for the Tom Lea Institute, the one act play by Camilla Carr dramatizes the early life of El Paso native, Tom Lea. Based on the book *Tom Lea, An Oral History* by Adair Margo, the performance focuses on Lea's early life as the mayor's son, his studies at the Art Institute of Chicago and apprenticeship to muralist John Norton, and his marriage to fellow art student Nancy Taylor. Stage, film and television stars Ray Baker and Morgana Shaw star as Tom and Nancy Lea. Morgana Shaw reads from the newly released book *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA*.

## The Bryan Museum

1315 21st Street, Galveston, Texas  
409 632-7685

### ❖ Nancy Lea's Art and Writing

Exhibition on View

**Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 – Saturday,  
Dec. 30, 2016**

**Open Friday through Monday  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

To commemorate the publication of *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA*, the Bryan Museum exhibits never-before-seen items from its Nancy Lea collection.

### ❖ The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA

Dramatic Reading by Morgana Shaw

**Tuesday, Nov. 1 · 6 p.m.**

For more information contact Carolina Franco at [cfranco@tomlea.com](mailto:cfranco@tomlea.com) or call 915-533-0048.

Thompson & Knight   
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

## EVENTS IN EL PASO

### Head for the Hills Fiesta and Live Exhibition

W.S. Hills Building  
110 Texas Ave. El Paso, TX 79901

**Saturday, Oct. 1 • 7 p.m. – 12 a.m.**

Admission \$100.00. Tickets available at the Tom Lea Institute. Reservations with Carolina Franco at [cfranco@tomlea.net](mailto:cfranco@tomlea.net) or 915-533-0048.

Head for the Hills pays homage to the artists that have given us an understanding of what it means to be from El Paso del Norte. We will celebrate with music from Frontera Bugalu, fashion by Zayra Estrada, live arts by local artists including Los Dos and Matthew Poe, all in one of the most beautiful buildings downtown has to offer – soon to be a hub for the arts and heritage tourism. Keynote presentation by J.P. Bryan, renown architectural conservationist and patron of our region's cultural traditions. We invite you to join us in this fundraising endeavor – benefitting the Tom Lea Institute, Texas Trust Society, and Amor por Juarez – as we work together to unite the region's creative industries!

*"I cherish, beyond power of words or pictures, the exact place where I observe daily the miracle of light and of life around me. I take pleasure in being able to tell you exactly, even when not asked, the precise terrestrial position of the house and headquarters for work where Sarah and I live. We're at 31 degrees, 47 minutes, 30 seconds North latitude and 106 degrees, 27 minutes and 30 seconds longitude West of the Greenwich meridian-with the great space of all the world for studio walls and the whole vault of the heavens for skylight. It's a very good location. And I am a singularly fortunate man, doing work I love so much, at the place I love so much, midst the people I love so much."*

-Tom Lea



Tom in his studio, 1943. Courtesy of James D. Lea

### The Hands of Cantú: Horsemanship at the Pass of the North Presentations by Dr. Melissa Warak and John Hamilton

Compadres Therapy Inc.  
6666 Morrill Rd. El Paso, Texas • 915 203 - 0885

**Saturday, Oct. 15 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Tom Lea's 1964 novel, *The Hands of Cantú*, tells the tale of an orphaned Spanish youth learning the art of horsemanship in the New World. Lea's illustrations for the book and the precision of his language in describing horse training techniques, emphasize his respect for the intelligence, majesty and physical strength of the horse.

Compadres Therapy, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in El Paso's Upper Valley, which provides equine facilitated activities and therapies to persons with special needs and individuals who will benefit from the experience of the human-animal bond. This horse-themed event is a day for the entire family, with activities and demonstrations that will include Western Dressage, Jumping, Adapted Riding, Hippotherapy and more!

Tom Lea, *Arrendador*, 1964. Ink wash on paper, 11 x 9. Illustration from *The Hands of Cantú*, 1964. Collection of the El Paso Museum of Art, gift of Mary Lewis Scott Kleberg © James D. Lea



### Experience the *Pass of the North* Mural Tour Hosted by El Paso Electric Led by Elisa Garrido and Carolina Franco **Tuesday Oct. 11 • 12:00 p.m.**

Meet at the Tom Lea Institute  
201 E. Main, Suite 100, El Paso, TX 79901  
R.S.V.P. to Elisa Garrido at [egarrido@tomlea.net](mailto:egarrido@tomlea.net) or call 915 533-0048



*"The studio I had in downtown El Paso was on the second floor of the Hills Building, over Norton Brothers' bookstore and the Guarantee Shoe Company... The room had a fine north light and space enough for painting murals as well as easel pictures. I did a lot of work there... The job I worked on the hardest, and learned the most while doing, and took the most pleasure in doing was the 'Pass of the North' mural for the Federal Courthouse in El Paso."*

- Tom Lea, *A Picture Gallery*, 1968.

Tom Lea's 1938 *Pass of the North* mural has inspired generations by its depiction of the giants of El Paso's history. The mural space measures 11 x 52 feet and was painted in oil on canvas. Tom consulted more than 30 volumes and found appropriate models who posed for him in the desert while wearing authentic costumes. Recognized as "the finest mural of the period," it continues to encourage an appreciation of El Paso's multi-cultural richness. The tour includes Tom Lea's *Pass of the North* mural inside El Paso's Historic Federal Courthouse, *Our History* by Carlos Callejo at the County Courthouse, and *A Day in El Paso* by John Valadez at the R.C. White Federal Building.

Tom Lea, *Pass of the North*, mural, 1938. Oil on canvas, 11 x 54 feet, U.S. Courthouse, El Paso, Texas. Commissioned through the Section of Fine Arts, 1934-1943. Fine Arts Collection, U.S. General Services Administration. © James D. Lea



## Female Portraits: A Connection between Artists and Models Exhibition on View

El Paso Museum of Art

Tom Lea Gallery · 1 Arts Festival Plaza · 915 532-1707

**Through Sunday, June 11, 2017**

In 1998 the El Paso Museum of Art inaugurated the Tom Lea gallery devoted to the work of Tom Lea and other artists of this region from the nineteenth century to the present. Born in El Paso in 1907, Tom Lea was one of the Southwest's most prolific and respected American scene artists. Today he is known for his work as muralist, illustrator, war correspondent, portraitist, landscapist, novelist, and historian. As a portraitist Tom Lea enjoyed capturing the portrait likenesses of those he chose to paint.

Tom Lea, *Sarah*, 1939. Oil on canvas, 34¼ x 26¼. Portrait of the artist's wife. Collection of the El Paso Museum of Art, gift of IBM Corporation. © James D. Lea



## Tom Lea Fellowship Presentation Maria del Carmen Barney and Delia Alicia Ramos

Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center

University of Texas at El Paso · 500 W University Avenue · 915 747-6151

**Tuesday, Oct. 18 · 6 p.m.**

The Tom Lea Research Fellowship Program has been established by Dee and Adair Margo, who are dedicated to an appreciation of the art and culture of our region. The two recipients for this Fellowship are Delia Alicia Ramos, and Maria del Carmen Barney. The candidates will use the fellowship award to support research in studies of art history or literary history and culture in the Paso del Norte region.

Tom Lea, *Portrait of Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault*, 1943. Chinese ink painting, 19 x 14. LIFE Collection of Art WWII, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. © James D. Lea

# EVENTS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

## Tom Lea and Bullfighting Presentation by José Mario Sánchez Soledad

La Custodia de San Pablo

Ave. 16 de Septiembre No. 2355, Cd. Juárez, México · +52 656 114 9481

**Wednesday, Oct. 12 · 6 p.m.**

Tom Lea studied bullfighting with a passion, attending bullfights in Juárez and making many friends. He shared his love of the corrida through newspaper articles, a bullfighting manual and a bestselling novel, *The Brave Bulls*. José Mario Sánchez Soledad, who built the Custodia de San Pablo, a cultural and gastronomic building that commemorates the history of bullfighting in Ciudad Juárez, will talk about Tom Lea's example and what we can learn from it today.



*"It has always seemed to me that I was fortunate in being born on the border in a town where two nations thought are in constant confrontation to test and to broaden and to deep daily that human beings do not all speak one tongue, all share in one fine set of aims and ideals, all conform to one established pattern of conduct, or all accept one definition of the good life or the bad or the purpose in it. Mexico and Mexicans, the flavor of the Spanish language, the manners and customs and attitudes of the people, the particular character and color and vitality that distinguishes their land, seem to be a fairly constant and natural and enlivening part of my life."*

-Tom Lea, *A Picture Gallery*, 1968



## Ciudad Juárez Downtown Walking Tour Led by Dr. Tomás Cuevas

El Pasoans meet at Camino Real Hotel,

101 South El Paso St. at 9 a.m.

R.S.V.P. with Paola Martinez at [pmartinez@tomlea.net](mailto:pmartinez@tomlea.net) or call 915-533-0048

**Friday, Oct. 14 · 9:30 a.m.**

Simply by crossing a bridge from downtown El Paso to Juárez on the Mexican side, visitors sense another pace and rhythm of life. Led by tourism instructor of the Autonomous University of Juárez, Tomas Cuevas. Participants will visit awe-inspiring sites like the 17th century Misión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, which has served the people of the region for over 350 years; and the old red brick Customs House, beautifully restored to tell the story of the Mexican Revolution. In addition, stopping for breaks at la Nueva Central and Martino's will provide a memorable culinary experience.

## Tom Lea and the First Surgery in North America Presentation by Dr. Rubén Garrido

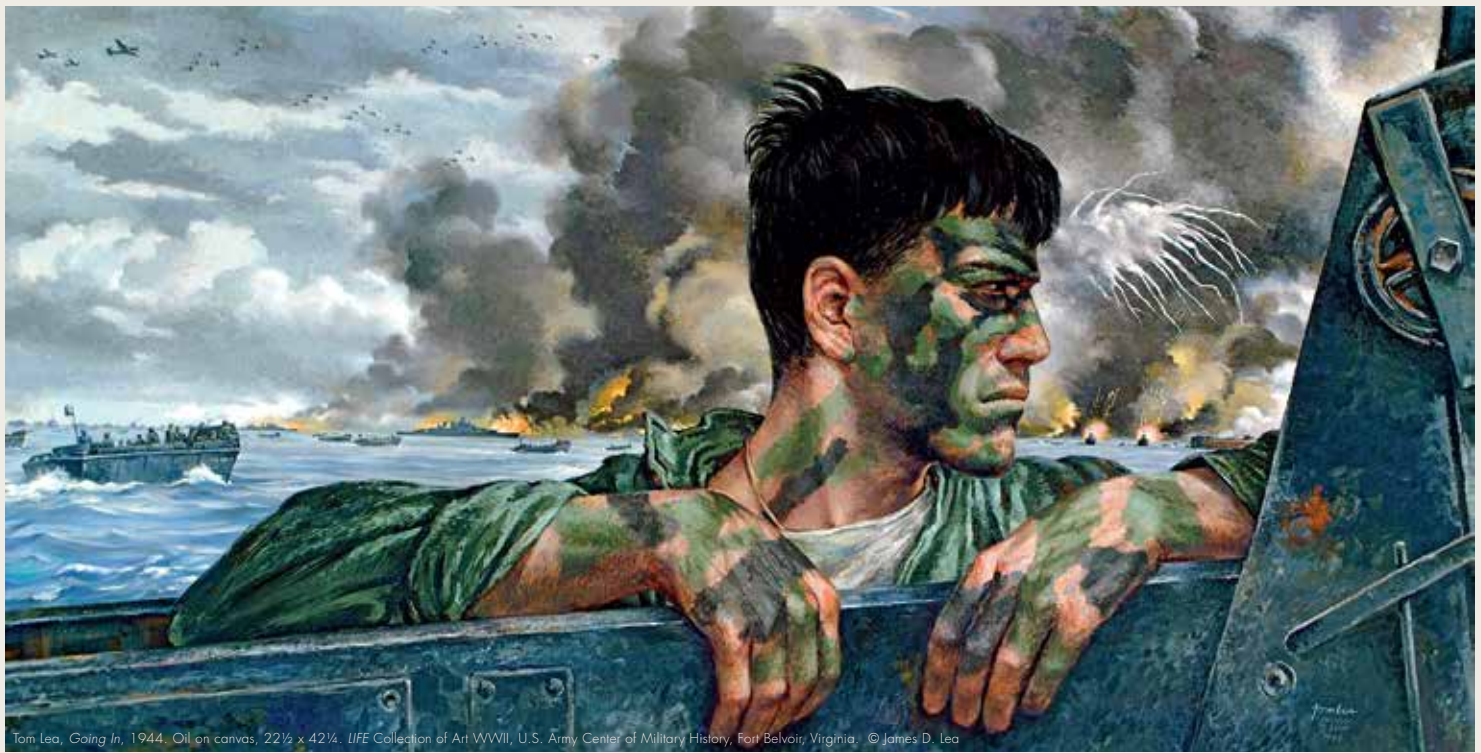
Hospital Ángeles Ciudad Juárez

Av. Campos Eliseos No. 9371, Fracc. Campos Eliseos, Cd. Juárez, México

**Friday, Oct. 21 · 7:00 pm**

In the 16th century Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca was part of the failed expedition to America and was one of four survivors. He recorded his experiences in his *Relación*, published in Spain in 1542, including the removal of an arrowhead from an Indian's chest. In 1965 Tom Lea commemorated the historical event by painting *The First Recorded Surgical Operation in North America: Cabeza de Vaca, 1535* for the Texas Surgical Society. This year, Thoracic Surgeon, Dr. Ruben Garrido, will share with medical students from the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez and the public his surgical experience and personal perspective on the importance of Tom Lea's work.





Tom Lea, *Going In*, 1944. Oil on canvas, 22½ x 42¼. LIFE Collection of Art WWII, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. © James D. Lea

## ◆ WORLD WAR II ◆

### ✦ **Tom Lea, Life and World War II**

#### **Exhibition on View**

The National WWII Museum  
945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana  
504 528-1944, ext.463

**Through Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017**

Opening to enthusiastic crowds in June, this exhibition features twenty-six of the eighty-three paintings Tom Lea completed for *Life* magazine as its first accredited war artist-correspondent. Travelling over 100,000 miles from 1941-45, Tom Lea was embedded with soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines whose experiences he recorded. His seventeen paintings of the North Atlantic Patrol resulted in the most extensive article featuring an artist-correspondent's work *Life* had done, and his paintings of his sixty six days aboard the USS Hornet during the Guadalcanal campaign became the only pictorial record of the carrier's last months. The paintings provide a ringside seat to the reality of war, with the greatest number of paintings from the battle of Peleliu. Tom Lea's paintings became full-color spreads in over ten issues of *Life*, reaching over 30 million readers. They are now housed in the Army Art Collection, U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

### ✦ **Tom Lea and the Battle of Peleliu**

#### **Presentation by Brendan M. Greeley, Jr.**

US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center  
New Orleans, LA

**Friday, Nov. 11 • 1 p.m.**

The Battle of Peleliu raged on from September 15 – November 27, 1944. Tom Lea landed on D-morning about fifteen minutes after the first troops hit the beach, with marines under the command of Captain Frank Farrell, Headquarters Company, Seventh Regiment. Staying with the men under fire for the first thirty-two hours of the assault, Tom Lea experienced the reality of combat, returning home to record the burden of his memory. Brendan Greeley, Jr, USMC (ret) discusses the actions of the campaign, the men involved, the objectives sought, and the aftermath as he places Tom Lea's paintings into their historical context.

A limited edition of *Tom Lea, Life Magazine and World War II* is published by the Tom Lea Institute in collaboration with the National Museum of the Pacific War and the National World War II Museum, with the support of the Brown Foundation. Introduction by Adair Margo and essay by Melissa Renn, with twenty-nine color plates of Tom Lea's art. One thousand copies printed. \$ 49.95 and available at [www.TomLea.net](http://www.TomLea.net)

### ✦ **Tom Lea, Life Magazine and World War II Presentation and Book Signing by Dr. Melissa Renn**

Ellen Noel Art Museum of the Permian Basin  
4909 E. University Boulevard, Odessa, Texas • 432 550-9696

**Thursday Oct. 20 • 6 p.m.**

Art historian and curator Melissa Renn discusses why having artists was an essential supplement to *Life's* photographic coverage of the war, and the things an artist could achieve that a photographer could not do.

Welcome to the 10th Annual

◆ TOM LEA MONTH! ◆

This is a special year for the Tom Lea Institute as it celebrates the tenth anniversary of Tom Lea Month! Its annual celebration has grown exponentially since Tom Lea's centennial in 2007, when fourteen events took place in El Paso reaching 1,800 people. Last year there were fifty events in nine cities, three states and two countries, with attendance reaching over 133,000! The numbers don't mean as much as the quality of the events, and ninety-five percent of those responding have said their experiences were "excellent."

This year brings extra meaning. Eighty years ago, Tom Lea's beautiful wife died in El Paso at the age of twenty-nine. Nancy Lea was an aspiring writer, whose talent was ended too soon. To commemorate Nancy's life, the Tom Lea Institute has published a special edition of *The NOTEBOOK OF NANCY LEA*, comprised of journal entries she kept as a personal record. It is published in collaboration with Four-O Publishing, with the support of the Summerlee and Dodge Jones Foundations. An exhibition about Nancy's life at the University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Museum introduces a remarkable young woman for the first time, and a one-act play by Camilla Carr and theatrical reading by actress Morgana Shaw, bring Nancy Lea's character to life.

The handsome book, *Tom Lea, Life and World War II*, is also released this year with book signings and talks by the authors. It serves as a scholarly catalogue for the National World War II Museum's exhibition, on view in New Orleans until January 2017.

"Head for the Hills" is an event inside the W.S. Hills Building downtown, designed by Henry Trost and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historian and patron J.P. Bryan speaks about Trost's genius while art, music, food and fashion fill its upstairs' space. Ten miles north in El Paso's upper valley - about five miles from the place Don Juan de Oñate brought horses across the *Rio Grande* in 1598- trainers and their horses show the awesome power of the human-horse bond, demonstrating how *making* a horse – not breaking a horse – contributes to the betterment and wonder of life.

We invite you to join us during this year's Tom Lea Month, learning the lessons of history while discovering their applications today.

*Micki Costello*

Micki Costello  
Chairman

*Adair Margo*

Adair Margo  
Founder and President

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201 E. Main Suite 100 • El Paso Texas

**AWAKENING  
THE GIANTS OF  
OUR HISTORY**

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**TOMLEA.COM**

**COVER IMAGE**

Nancy at the Grand Canyon. Courtesy of James D. Lea

PUBLICATION CONTENT: Adri' Margo • Carolina Franco

EDITING: Arturo Flores • Elisa Garrido

PRINTING: Tovar Printing

DESIGN: Barracuda PR • Ana Gabriela Becerra

*Tom Lea*  
INSTITUTE  
— *10<sup>th</sup>* Anniversary —

*Awakening the Giants of our History*





## ◆ EVENTS AT A GLANCE ◆

◆ Exhibits	◆ Lectures & Book Signings	◆ Tours	◆ Presentations & Entertainment
July 24, 2016 through June 11, 2017	◆ <i>Female Portraits: A Connection between Artists and Models</i> Tom Lea Gallery, El Paso Museum of Art	Oct. 20 6:30 p.m.	◆ <i>The Art and Life of Tom Lea</i> by Adair Margo · The Grace Museum · Abilene, TX
Oct. 1, 2016 through Dec. 22, 2016	◆ <i>The Notebook of Nancy Lea</i> Opening reception Oct. 11th at 5:30 p.m. Centennial Museum, University of Texas at El Paso	Oct. 20 6 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea, Life Magazine and World War II</i> book signing by Dr. Melissa Renn Ellen Noel Art Museum of the Permian Basin, Odessa, TX
Oct. 1, 2016 through Dec. 30, 2016	◆ <i>Nancy Lea</i> · The Bryan Museum, Galveston, TX	Oct. 21 7 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea and the First Surgery in North America</i> by Dr. Rubén Garrido Hospital Angeles, Ciudad Juárez, MX
Oct. 1, 2016 through Dec. 30, 2016	◆ <i>Tom Lea, LIFE and World War II</i> The National WWII Museum, New Orleans, LA	Oct. 22 6 p.m.	◆ Vox Clamatis in Deserto Concert of Sacred Choral Music – La Misión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Oct. 1 7 p.m.	◆ <i>Head for the Hills – Fiesta and Live Exhibition</i> W.S. Hills Building, El Paso, TX	Oct. TBA	◆ Architectural Tour <i>San Jacinto Plaza and Tom Lea, El Paso's Identifying Center: Changing Architecture, Controversies and History</i> by Ken Gorski Meet at El Paso Main Public Library, Downtown
Oct. 6 7 p.m.	◆ Movie Screening of <i>The Brave Bulls</i> · Craft and Social, El Paso, TX	Oct. 28 4 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea, Life Magazine and World War II</i> book signing by Adair Margo War Eagles Museum, Santa Teresa, NM
Oct. 11 12 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea's Pass of the North</i> Mural Tour led by Elisa Garrido <i>Tom Lea Meet</i> at Tom Lea Institute, El Paso, TX	Oct. 29 7 p.m.	◆ <i>Grace Note in a Hard World</i> , one act play by Camilla Carr Plaza Theater, El Paso, TX
Oct. 11 5:30 p.m.	◆ <i>The Notebook of Nancy Lea</i> Exhibit: Opening Reception Centennial Museum, University of Texas at El Paso	Oct. 30 3 p.m.	◆ <i>Grace Note in a Hard World</i> , one act play by Camilla Carr Plaza Theater, El Paso, TX
Oct. 12 6 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea and Bullfighting</i> by José Mario Sánchez Soledad Custodia de San Pablo, Ciudad Juárez, MX	Nov. 1 6 p.m.	◆ Dramatic Reading from <i>The Notebook of Nancy Lea</i> by Morgana Shaw The Bryan Museum, Galveston, TX
Oct. 13 7 p.m.	◆ <i>Student Focus Talk</i> · El Paso Museum of Art	Nov. 11 1 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea and the Battle of Peleliu</i> by M. Greely, Jr. US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, New Orleans, LA
Oct. 14 9:30 a.m.	◆ <i>Ciudad Juárez Downtown Walking Tour</i> by Dr. Tomás Cuevas El Pasoans meet at 9 a.m. at Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, TX	Nov. 20 1p.m.	◆ <i>Nancy Lea in Her Own Words</i> by Adair Margo Centennial Museum, University of Texas at El Paso
Oct. 15 9 a.m.	◆ <i>Compadres Horse Therapy Horse Expo</i> – Presentations by Dr. Melissa Warak and John Hamilton Compadres Horse Therapy, El Paso, TX		
Oct. 18 6 p.m.	◆ <i>Tom Lea Fellowship</i> presentations by Maria del Carmen Barney and Delia Alicia Ramos · Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center, UTEP, El Paso, TX		

**For more detailed information about  
Tom Lea Month events please visit [www.TomLea.com](http://www.TomLea.com)**