The Printing Museum started the year at full speed with a varied series of programs scheduled and a few in the planning stages. We celebrated Franklin's 307th Birthday in full colonial style in January, complete with balloon decorated cakes for nearly 200 guests. Then in February, we held the first of our four annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Days with continued success. Merit Badge Day continues to grow strong, bringing 400 scouts annually through the hands-on program to earn two merit badges in Graphic Arts and Paper. It is exciting to see the energy and excitement of the scouts as they experience the magic of printing and paper. One of the comments by a parent was “The program was amazing each station was better than the previous. The information, the hands-on… I could keep going. I just want to thank you for all the work it must have taken to assemble such an incredible event. It was amazing! My husband and I could not drag ourselves away, even though this was just for our scout!”

Saturdays at the Printing Museum are always very busy with guests enjoying the collection and our working tours, and our many docents engaged in projects creative and constructive. We have also seen an increase in the number of collegiate graphics students for tours focusing on typography, printing, and the book arts. It is very interesting to see how they are so surprised when learning how type and printing have developed; it really helps them to understand the relevance of type and printing to their studies and how computer graphics are tied to “the old ways”.

Our annual Kids Krazy Kraft Day in spring was a great success with our largest crowd to date. With the help of our local IHOP Restaurant, we were able to attract nearly 250 “kids” of all ages. The event is usually the first opportunity for our guests to engage in printing crafts and arts, making paper and printing and creating beautiful graphic keepsakes. Most of our visitors that day stayed for well over three hours, a great testimony of how engaging the day was, thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and docents.

Richard Smith, world-class guitarist from Nashville, performed a concert on Friday evening April 19th. Richard and his wife, Julie Adams on cello, mesmerized the Museum audience last year when they visited, and this time was just as stunning. Richard was touring Southern California for three weeks, but it is guaranteed that the Printing Museum gig was the only one that let guests...
custom-print a letterpress broadside using wood type and a linoleum cut featuring Richard on guitar! Wednesday, June 12th will be our next scheduled concert featuring Thom Bresh, son of guitarist Merle Travis. As Chet Atkins put it, “Thom Bresh is a ‘World Class’ guitarist that deserves to be heard.” When he lays into his father’s thumbpickin’ classics, he and that guitar will leave you breathless. Don’t miss this great concert at the Museum in June.

On April 17th, Peter & Donna Thomas from Santa Cruz parked their colorful Book Arts Gypsy Wagon at the Printing Museum to spend the evening talking about letterpress printing, creative bookmaking, playing a few ukelele book arts songs specially written by Peter, making paper, showcasing their years of making limited edition and artists books since 1976. It was a very enjoyable and eclectic evening; two years ago after finishing his Gypsy Wagon, Peter made the Printing Museum his first stop on his cross-country sojourn; this visit was his last as he and his wife headed back to Santa Cruz.

Even with the cutback in school budgets, the Museum on Wheels program is busy bringing living history to schools throughout California and Arizona. The Ludwick Family Foundation in Glendora awarded the International Printing Museum a very generous grant to fully underwrite our Ben Franklin Colonial Assembly to visit up to 60 local schools. If you know of a school that would like to participate go to www.printmuseum.org/ludwick

Sixty designers and printers descended on the Museum on April 13th for our Beauty of Engraving Symposium. Sponsored by Neenah Paper and BurdgeCooper Inc (the LA-based, largest commercial engraving company in the world). This was a working experience into the fascinating world of engraving, both commercial and artistic. Following presentations on the process and history of engraving and its applications in modern design, guests had the opportunity to rotate through working stations to experience the process of engraving. We moved a 1920’s engraving press down from BurdgeCooper in Los Angeles which the guests learned how to feed paper into and print their own engraved notecards; our printmaking docents, Mike Powe and Sandy Cvar, operated our turn-of-the-century intaglio press with the help of attendees to produce beautiful engravings from 80 year old plates from BurdgeCooper. Don Burdge detailed the process and possibilities of engraving, instructing designers how to incorporate it into modern design. It was another signature day at the Printing Museum, using our vast resources to make history come to life in a very relevant way.

Sunday, September 15th will be the International Printing Museum’s 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration and Building Campaign Kickoff. With tours, presentations, music, food and more, we will be showcasing the accomplishments of the Printing Museum over the last 25 years as well as detailing our vision and plans to expand the Museum. The Building Campaign will create a larger theatre, develop new exhibit galleries, new educational tours, a rotating exhibit gallery, and improved Book Arts Institute. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 15th to join us in this celebration of what the Printing Museum has accomplished over the last 25 years and where we are heading in the next 25 years.

October 5th will be our 5th Annual LA Printers Fair. With an anticipated 100 artists-printer vendors and suppliers in attendance to showcase their work, this year’s Printers Fair will truly be a great Celebration of Paper and Printing. There will be an ample supply of used printing equipment available for those waiting to expand their shops. It will also be an exceptional opportunity to Learn, Print and Play with like-minded individuals. For the non-printer, the LA Printers Fair gives an opportunity to purchase wonderful artistic gifts for Christmas or any other occasion. Throughout the event there will be printing demonstrations and exhibits showcasing the beautiful art of printing and the paper arts. www.printmuseum.org/printersfair

December is our annual Dickens Holiday Celebration. With the Museum decorated like Fezzigwig’s Warehouse, The Dickens Celebration heralds in the Victorian era of Christmas. Charles Dickens himself will retell his Christmas Carol in the Museum’s Heritage Theatre. Every year this event is regularly sold out so don’t delay to get your tickets through the Museum’s website at www.printmuseum.org/dickens.
Kids Krazy Krafts Day on March 30th was attended by nearly 250 very enthusiastic guests this year, our largest crowd ever, all having wonderful comments about their experience at the Printing Museum. The most common remarks referred to the enthusiasm and knowledge of the docents as they demonstrated and explained their expertise. It was difficult to tell who enjoyed themselves the most, the young kids or the older kids who drove them to the Museum! As we have mentioned to everyone, Kids Krazy Krafts Day at the Printing Museum is for “kids of all ages!”

A great addition to this year’s event was the sponsorship by our local IHOP Restaurant who helped with banners and promotions. But for our guests, the best part was the complimentary IHOP pancake brunch. Who doesn’t like pancakes?! IHOP really outdid themselves with the large plate of pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and juice for all of the attendees. The big, gleaming eyes of the kids as they carried away their “swag” was priceless! Our thanks to the Carson IHOP, manager Miguel Herrera and his staff for their tireless efforts of supplying nearly 250 complimentary meals for our guests.

Dressed in traditional Japanese fashion, Yoshiko and her family introduced kids to the fascinating world of origami, their creations decorating the Museum’s theatre. It was great to see a father and daughter sitting and trying to fold paper into a rabbit and other wonderful creatures. Our own Phil Soinski brought out the cartoonist in everyone, teaching them to draw ears and eyes and noses, many not realizing they were skilled artists. Adults and their children created wonderful cartoon characters at the tables as well as on a giant poster on the wall. Jane Shibota, whose line never ceased, demonstrated and taught the beauty of calligraphy and writing, calligraphing the most beautiful bookmarks! Gary Remson helped the young printers dip their hands in the papermakers vat to form their first paper. The line was never short at Mike Powe’s screen printing station where wide eyes saw their t-shirts being printed. The Linotype and Ludlow cast hundreds of lines of type for participants to use on one of the many small presses.

Kraft Day has grown over the last few years and is becoming a favorite with people returning each year to enjoy with friends and family. “I had no idea the Museum was here. What a wonderful informative place!” and “My children are having such a wonderful time, folding paper, making paper and printing, that they do not want to go home!” Many of the guests arrived before the doors opened and stayed until the end of the day. And the most priceless comment by a young lad, Ethan, who visited after experiencing our school assembly at his school in Torrance the day before, “This place is AMAAAAZING!” Huell Howser would have agreed.

Thanks to all who came, saw, learned and enjoyed as well as our many volunteers who demonstrated their skills, but especially to our wonderful friends at the Carson IHOP… what great fun was had by all!
Enclosed is my donation of: $25 $50 $100 $250 $500 $1,000

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