

# Ninety-Nines

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

November/December 2017



**Julie Wang**

*Reigniting  
the passion  
p. 10*

**Cajun Airlift • Fly Now Winners • AWESome Adventures**

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After Hurricane Harvey, members of the NOLA Chapter took part in the Cajun Airlift, recruiting supplies, setting up drop-off locations and organizing flights.



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Deanna Brasseur was honored with the Elsie MacGill Northern Lights Award.



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In 2016, Julie Wang became the first Asian woman pilot to circumnavigate the world solo.

### On The Cover

Julie Wang poses with her Cirrus SR-22 after completing her circumnavigation at Addison, Texas (KADS) on September 19, 2016. She was the first Asian woman to accomplish a solo flight around the world.

Julie grew up in China surrounded by aerospace engineering professors, her parents and their colleagues at Harbin Institute of Technology. She was fascinated with space and, to her, flying was living in the sky.

She feels that being a pilot is all about knowing everything you can about your aircraft and your own skills and being prepared. There's never occasion for panic in an airplane, since if the problem is solvable, troubleshooting and decision-making are your best companions.







*Heather Underwood joyfully reacts to the news that she was selected as a Fly Now Award recipient.*

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*The rugged Idaho terrain served as a backdrop for individualized flying opportunities at the Woman Wise AWEsome Adventures.*

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*When Petra Illig was young, she knew she wanted to be a pilot. While in college, she realized she liked to help people and was good at science, so becoming a medical examiner was a good compromise.*

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## The 99s Mission Statement

The Ninety-Nines is the International Organization of Women Pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

# EVENTS

# 2018

## FEBRUARY

- 1** Due date for submissions to *Ninety-Nines* magazine for the March/April issue.

## MARCH

- 1-3** **99s International Board of Directors Spring Meeting**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 22-24** **Women In Aviation Conference**, Reno, Nevada. PPLI Reception on site, and be sure to visit The 99s booth #217. Visit [www.wai.org/2018-international-women-aviation-conference](http://www.wai.org/2018-international-women-aviation-conference).

## APRIL

- 1** Due date for submissions to *Ninety-Nines* magazine for the May/June issue.

- 8** **Antelope Valley Chapter Poker Run and Barbecue Fundraiser**, William J. Fox Airfield, Lancaster, California, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Lynne Hsia at [lkhsia@aol.com](mailto:lkhsia@aol.com).

- 10-15** **Sun 'n Fun Lakeland, Florida**, [www.flysnf.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-expo](http://www.flysnf.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-expo).

- 11** **WASP Luncheon at Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, Florida**, honoring the surviving members of the WASP, 11:30 a.m. at the Buehler Restoration Center. Tickets are \$20 each and limited to 60 seats. Deadline for mailing checks/money orders is April 1, 2018. Contact Chairman Barbara Yeninas, [JYBMV@verizon.net](mailto:JYBMV@verizon.net) or 813 654-3780.



Connecticut Chapter members Amanda (AJ) Davis; new member Amy Myzie, New Jersey Chapter; and New England Section Governor Glenna Blackwell at The 99s booth during the AOPA Fly-In in Groton, Connecticut.



- 27-29** **Southwest Section Spring Meeting**, Bakersfield, California. Register at <http://ninety-nines.net/sws99s-Bakersfield/index.asp>

## MAY

- 3-6** **South Central Spring Section Meeting**, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Hosted by Pikes Peak Chapter. Contact Patsy Buchwald, [patsy@balloonclassic.com](mailto:patsy@balloonclassic.com).

- 4-6** **North Central Section Spring Meeting**, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Hosted by Michigan Chapter. Accommodations at Four Points by Sheraton Kalamazoo. Contact Rebecca Duggan, [rebdpilot@aol.com](mailto:rebdpilot@aol.com).

## JUNE

- 1** Due date for submissions to *Ninety-Nines* magazine for the July/August issue.

- 15-16** **AOPA Fly-In**, Missoula International Airport (KMSO), Missoula, Montana,

- 19-22** **Air Race Classic**, Start at Sweetwater, Texas, Terminus at Fryeburg, Maine. [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org).

## JULY

- 3-7** **99s International Conference 2018**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, [www.99sconference.org](http://www.99sconference.org).

- 23-29** **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018**, EAA Aviation Center, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, [eaa.org/en/airventure](http://eaa.org/en/airventure).

## To List Your 99s Events, Send Information To:

*Ninety-Nines* magazine, PO Box 95037, Oklahoma City, OK, 73195-0374; Email: [news@ninety-nines.org](mailto:news@ninety-nines.org) or fill out Online Form at [ninety-nines.org/forms/index.cfm/news\\_reporter.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/forms/index.cfm/news_reporter.htm) (please use new form). High resolution photos requested and sent as email attachments (not in Word). For advertising information, specs and rates, or to place an ad, please contact [advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org](mailto:advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org).



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jan McKenzie, Terry Palmer, Lisa Ward and Lynn Bennett.

**F**lying a turbine Airbus helicopter sim around the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor? How do you get to do that? Go to a Section meeting! Ninety-Nines provide exciting aviation opportunities to members when they attend their Section meetings.

The South Central Section flew to Shreveport, Louisiana. You could spend your afternoon flying turbine helicopter simulators or sitting in the pilot's seat of a B-52 at Barksdale AFB. You get to do the coolest aviation adventures when you join your sister 99s. I hope you are planning now to attend your next Section meeting.

If you see a member at your next meeting wearing a blue badge, she is a Life Member of The 99s. Thanks to Vice President Corbi Bulluck's idea and the vote of your International Board, all Life Members are easily recognized by their blue name badge.

*What are the advantages of being a Life Member?*

- Never have to worry about missing paying your dues on time.
- If membership dues ever increase in the future, you do not have to pay more.
- Once you are a Life Member, you will always be a 99, remain in touch and be involved in The 99s.
- AND the International Board just approved a reduction in Life Member dues!

Do the calculation. I believe you will find it less expensive to pay the one-time Life Membership dues than to continue paying dues every year.

The new Life Membership dues information can be found at [www.ninety-nines.org/members/?fuseaction=Library&ViewID=291](http://www.ninety-nines.org/members/?fuseaction=Library&ViewID=291).

I have heard so many great comments about our new updated magazine. I think it looks fantastic! I want to thank our Publisher Danielle Clarneaux, Lori Plourd and our entire Publications Committee for all their extra effort to provide The 99s a new look for our magazine.



**Jan McKenzie**  
**International President**

**Choose to Soar!**  
**Choose to Fly Your**  
**Dreams!**



*Life Members at the South Central Section Meeting: Mary Wheelock, Beverly Stephens, Jan McKenzie, Linda Horn, Sandra Leder and Phyllis Scott.*



*Members at the Fall 2017 South Central Section Meeting.*

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## BRIEFINGS



PPLI-WAI  
Social 2016

## PPLI Accepting New Participants

BY KAREN ROSIER

*PPLI Public Relations Coordinator*

The Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) aims to accelerate the advancement of women in all pilot professions, facilitate dynamic mentoring and enhance our leadership role in the aviation community. This highly-structured, formal leadership and mentoring program is unique and will take 18-24 months.

The program consists of three phases:

**Captain Phase:** In the first five-month session, you are the Captain setting your own course. You will create a formal Flight Plan.

**The Captains' Circle:** The Captains' Circle provides peer mentoring in a Google+ communities-based discussion group.

**Navigator Phase:** Now you can help steer another woman pilot along her path. You will give guidance, support and encouragement as your Captain develops a plan to pursue her goals.

**Leadership Activities:** During your time in the PPLI, you will work on developing your leadership, teamwork and organizational skills through giving back and volunteering for The 99s and the aviation community.

The next application deadline is January 31, 2018. To apply, please read the Fact Sheet for requirements at <https://www.ninety-nines.org/professional-pilot-leadership-initiative-ppli.htm>. For more information, email [mentoring@ninety-nines.org](mailto:mentoring@ninety-nines.org).

### Congratulations New PPLI Graduates

Kaitlyn Bussell, Oklahoma City Chapter  
Kritika Vincent, Florida Goldcoast Chapter  
Nikki Nicholson, Greater Seattle Chapter  
Meagan Wood, Las Vegas Chapter

## International Awards Deadline

BY MARILYN SHAFER

*International Awards Chairman*

Nominations for International Awards are now being accepted. These awards will be presented at the International Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in July. The deadline for nominations for the awards is January 15, 2018. Award information is listed in the September/October *Ninety-Nines* magazine.

Please consider whom you might nominate, and send your nominations to Headquarters, attention Awards Committee, [hqmanager@ninety-nines.org](mailto:hqmanager@ninety-nines.org).

The five Awards are: Award of Achievement for Contributions to The 99s, Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation, Award of Achievement for Humanitarian Efforts, Award of Merit and the George Palmer Putnam Award.

Nominations may be submitted by a 99s Chapter, Section or Trust. For more information, contact Awards Chairman Marilyn Shafer, [probbmom@gmail.com](mailto:probbmom@gmail.com).



## Deanna Brasseur Honored with Elsie MacGill Northern Lights Award

On September 30, the Northern Lights Aero Foundation celebrated its 9th annual Elsie MacGill Northern Lights Award gala in Vaughan, Ontario, Canada. Over 300 people gathered to witness and celebrate trophy presentations to eight awesome Canadian women who are leaders in the aviation and aerospace industry.

The award categories are Flight Operations, Business, Education, Government, Engineering, Pioneer and two Rising Stars. The Pioneer winner this year is Major (Ret.) Deanna 'Dee' Brasseur, who, in 1995, was the first 99 to be recognized for her military pilot certifications. Joy Parker Blackwood, East Canada Section Governor at the time, added a "Military" box to The 99s application form and submitted it to Headquarters. This large demographic had been missing from our membership.

The Northern Lights Aero Foundation was formed in 2009 by a small group of 99s from the First Canadian Chapter to recognize and celebrate many women across the country, both 99s and others in aviation, too often ignored for their talents and leadership by aviation museums and halls of fame. The program expanded each year from one Lifetime Achievement Award to currently seven categories.

Nominations for 10th anniversary candidates open in January 2018 and close on March 31. Visit <http://northernlightsaerofoundation.com/> for more information.



*Deanna Brasseur*

— Joy Parker Blackwood

## Nora Feddal and Renee Sandell Honored by the Southwest Section

The Southwest Section is proud to honor two of its exceptional members each year as Woman Pilot of the Year and Professional Woman Pilot of the Year. These two prestigious awards are revealed and presented at the Fall Section Meeting Banquet.

The 2017 honorees are Nora Feddal, Woman Pilot of the Year, and Renee Sandell, Professional Woman Pilot of the Year.

**Nora Feddal** learned to fly at a small airport in France with French radio. After coming to the U.S., her English improved by taking a college course and joining the Los Angeles Palms Chapter.



*Nora Feddal.*

She started flying Young Eagles and handicapped children, in addition to joining Flying Doctors. Air Racing was one of her passions, and she flew several races in the western U.S. and the Air Race Classic.

Her instrument rating is in the works, and she plans to do more public benefit flying for Angel Flight, Flying Samaritans, and to continue flying as pilot in command for Flying Doctors.

Nora has been a very active member of her 99s Chapter

and has a passion to share her joy of flying and to inspire others to fly and to start air racing.

**Renee Sandell** was nominated by her Bay Cities Chapter. Chair Wendy O'Malley remembers meeting her and "being in awe with her confidence and career. She was the pilot I wanted to be — and still do."

Renee led the Chapter to do great things. Some of the annual events she initiated are the Poker Run Scholarship Fundraiser and the Girl Scout Aviation Badge Day, and participation in aviation week at Amelia Earhart Elementary School.

She chose a second term as Chapter Chair to see that the commitment to hosting the Southwest Section Meeting project in Oakland was completed.

Renee is a 16-year Southwest Airlines pilot, now captain, and participates in the Southwest Airlines Adopt-A-Pilot program spending time in elementary classrooms near her. She also participated in Southwest Airlines Pilots Association Strong Rallies at several major aviation events.



*Renee Sandell.*

— Linda Mae Hivert

## HOLDING SHORT

**W**elcome to “Holding Short” — some quick reads for our busy pilots on the go! We’ll be looking for lots of input from our readers for this section, so when you post your favorite flying photo or announce an award or scholarship on social media, think of us too. Send it to [news@ninety-nines.org](mailto:news@ninety-nines.org).

There will also be various topics that include photos and short captions, such as “What I would’ve missed if I weren’t a 99,” “Back Taxi in Time” (a favorite photo from your Section, Chapter or personal archives), “Featured Photo” — send us your favorite photo taken from a flight, at the airport or with your aircraft.



**Elise Wheelock of the Old Dominion Chapter placed first in the Primary Category at the 2017 International Aerobatics Club (IAC) U.S. National Aerobatics Championships.**

**C**ongratulations to Elise Wheelock, who competed in the 2017 U.S. National Aerobatics Competition held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Elise took first place in the Primary Category. She was introduced to aviation at a Women Can Fly event at Warrenton-Fauquier Airport, Warrenton, Virginia, in 2013. She has since earned her private certificate with a Fly Now scholarship. She has returned to attend the Women Can Fly events in the past few years as a pilot and a 99 to engage women and young girls and explain that they can do exactly what she has done in aviation. Elise is also an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund winner in the academic category. She is currently a student at the University of North Dakota, where she is a member of the UND Aerobatics Team. Elise was featured in EAA’s spotlight of the IAC U.S. National Championships.

— Susan Passmore

## Ninety-Nine Flight Instructor Honored by AOPA

**C**ongratulations to Zoan Harclerode of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Pikes Peak Chapter. Zoan has received the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association’s (AOPA) 2017 Flight Training Experience National Best Flight Instructor Award. The awards were based on the 2017 Flight Training Experience Survey that focused on four key factors: educational quality, customer focus, community and information sharing. The award presentation ceremony took place during the 2017 Redbird Migration at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Zoan is an instructor at the Rocky Mountain Flight Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was chosen as winner of this award for her aviation passion and care that students have found inspiring. She takes the time to meet her students’ needs, working with them to prepare study materials or giving extra ground school to help them understand more challenging aspects of flight training. Zoan also works with military veterans, helping them complete Veterans Administration paperwork.

Two other Ninety-Nines were also recognized by the Flight Training Experience survey as Distinguished Flight Instructors: **Brenda Tibbs**, top right, Sugarloaf Chapter (also winner of AOPA’s 2016 Best Flight Instructor Award); and **Peg Ballou**, bottom right, All-Ohio Chapter, who was awarded an AE Scholarship to partially fund her flight instructor certificate.



Photo courtesy Bill Green, Frederick News-Post





## School Named in Honor of Charter 99

Thaden School, named in honor of Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden (1905-1979), opened in the fall of 2017 in Bentonville, Arkansas, with grades 7 and 9. Louise Thaden was born and raised in Bentonville and graduated from Bentonville High School at the age of 16. Through a generous gift from the Walmart Foundation in 2015, 30-plus acres were given to the Thaden School as a location for the new campus.

Louise was a charter member of The 99s, as well as winner of the first Powder Puff Derby. She and fellow racers formed a loosely organized group of women pilots, which eventually grew to become The 99s. Not only was Louise the holder of numerous aviation records, she won the Bendix Trophy in the Bendix Air Race in 1936 with Blanche Noyes. Up until that time, the Bendix Air Race was men only. Louise is shown with the Bendix Trophy to the right.



Construction on the permanent campus is currently underway. Throughout the day, students will move through a variety of buildings, structures and landscape features that create a robust campus experience. Many classrooms and work areas will open into adjacent outdoor areas, and a variety of porches, pavilions and breezeways will further extend the open-air feeling. Sustainability will also be a tangible and important part of a Thaden education: it weaves reclaimed materials and structures into the fabric of the school, beginning with the historic home of Louise Thaden.

## 99s Cheer for Member Milestones



Members of the Sleeping Giant Chapter recently got together to celebrate Joelle Thorgrimson's recreational certificate, Emily Crombez's recent 737 checkout and Elizabeth Robinson's recent commercial certificate. And of course Liz Wieben is always cheering us on!

*Left to right: Liz Wieben, Elizabeth Robinson, Joelle Thorgrimson and Emily Crombez.*



In August 2016, it was announced that portions of Louise Thaden's family home in downtown Bentonville would be preserved and integrated into the new school campus (conceptual rendering shown left). The home has been dismantled and is in storage during the first stages of construction. This structure will add a personal and historical element to the school's design, allowing students and community members to appreciate the history of the town and Louise's achievements.

Thaden School will grow incrementally over the next few years to serve students in grades 6 through 12. Activities outside of class — such as acting in a play, competing on a team or working on a community service project — provide essential opportunities for students to develop as leaders, volunteers and contributors to their community.

Louise's pioneering and innovative spirit, both regional and global in its orientation, will inspire efforts to create a school that gives students roots and wings, enabling them to build strong foundations and reach new heights as they pursue their dreams and make their futures.

— Sonia Faciszewski  
*Thaden School Communications Manager*

## Flying With a Snowbird

Antelope Valley member Mercedes Eulitt flew with her formation flight team, the West Coast Ravens, at the Calgary Airshow in July. Mercedes also had the opportunity to fly one of the Canadian Snowbirds in her RV6. Mercedes says, "I was lucky to have Snowbird number 6 fly with me since I'm West Coast Raven number 6. It was so funny how we instantly got along so well because we were both number 6. Also, his wife is going to be very surprised because now he is looking for an RV-7A just like mine to buy," she added with a chuckle. "The only problem with having him ride with me was he wasn't willing to have me ride with him as an even swap — ride for ride."

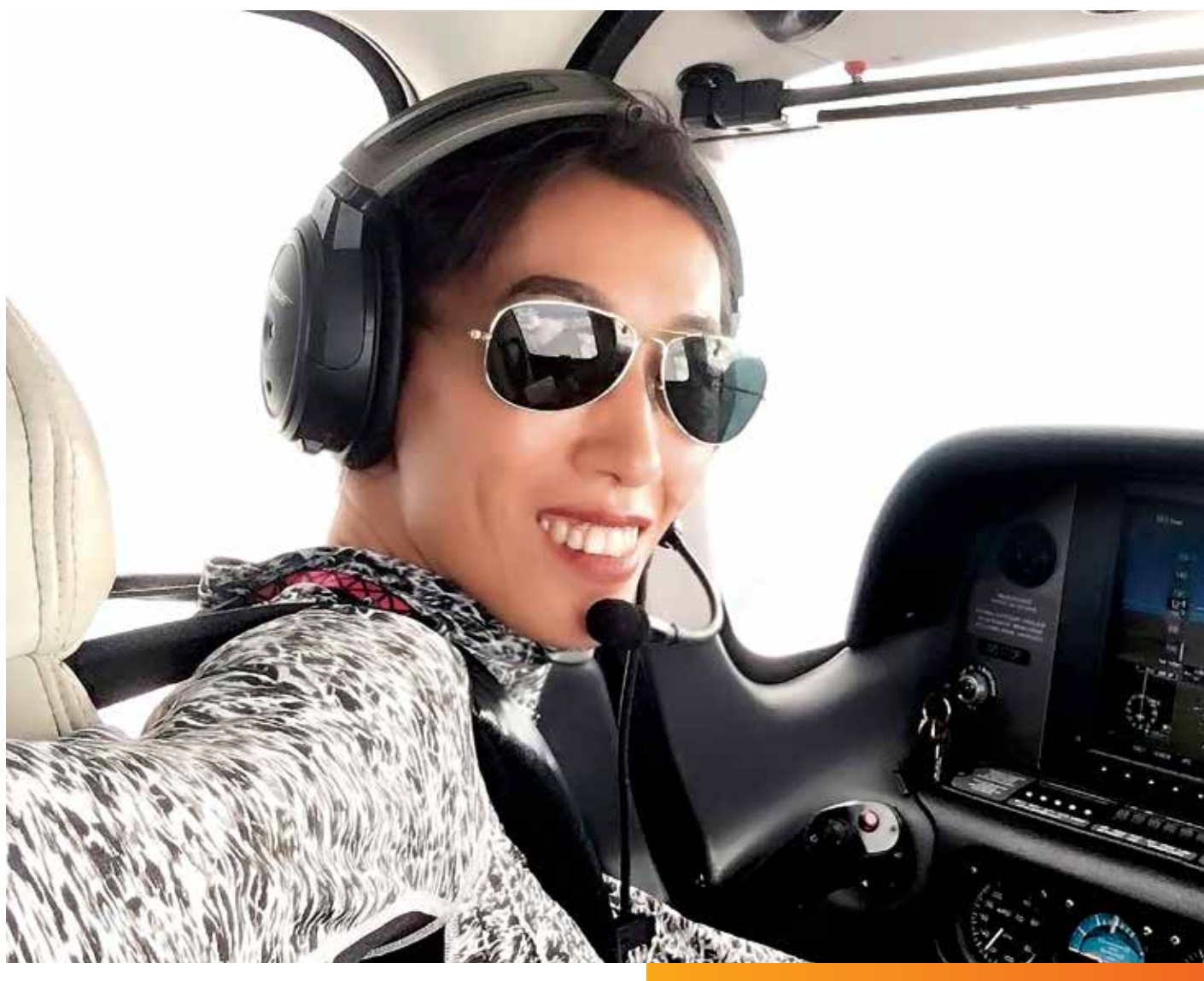
— Lynne Hsia



BY JANN CLARK  
Eastern New England Chapter

# JULIE WANG — AROUND THE WORLD

*Julie was eager to break out of her comfort zone and reignite her passion for flying. In 2016, she accomplished this by circumnavigating the world solo in a Cirrus SR-22.*



*Julie Wang in the cockpit of the Cirrus SR-22 in which she spent 18 days flying alone around the world.*

Photos by Zulutime Pilot



The idea of flying around the world had intrigued Ninety-Nine Julie Wang almost from the beginning of her flight instruction in 2011. After five years of hard training and hundreds of hours of flight instruction, Julie was eager to break out of her comfort zone and reignite her passion for flying.

She accomplished this in 2016 by becoming the first Asian woman to pilot an airplane around-the-world solo, the ninth woman in history to make the solo flight and the first Chinese person to do so.

Julie grew up in China surrounded by a generation of aerospace engineering professors, her parents and their colleagues at Harbin Institute of Technology. She was fascinated with space and, to her, flying was living in the sky.

Julie was already in her 30s when she started her aviation life in the U.S. after an advertising career in Beijing, where she rose to become vice general manager of a WPP Group global agency.

All her friends and family cautioned her not to switch careers. "It's too late," they said. "You will lose all your advertising career's value." Julie wasn't afraid of failure but worried that one day she'd be too old to chase her dreams and regret not having tried.

Julie earned her private pilot certificate in several months in 2011, adding multi-engine and instrument ratings and commercial certificate in quick succession, always asking "why?" until she thoroughly understood aerodynamics, systems, ATC and weather. She exhausted pilot friends with penetrating questions they hadn't considered in years, or ever.

She became a flight instructor, then chief flight instructor at Zulutime Pilot in Stuart, Florida. She was the first Chinese citizen to be approved by the FAA for such a position at a Part 141 flight school. In July 2016, just prior to her around-the-world flight, she earned her airline transport pilot certificate.

She flew the U.S. coast-to-coast and back with a friend as a "warm up" and then announced that to maximize fuel capacity and as an added measure of



*Julie tightens the new filter after changing the oil.*

challenge, she would fly the circumnavigation solo.

In just three months, Julie would settle her route, subscribe sponsors, engage a flight support specialist to obtain landing and over-flight permissions, lease a Cirrus SR-22, complete Cirrus transition training, arrange insurance and attend to all the details that go into planning a circumnavigation flight.

On August 17, she officially began the circumnavigation at Addison, Texas, and flew to Merced, California, to have ferry tanks installed and get FAA approval for the modifications and a special flight permit.

The two weeks in Merced were an eternity. Week one was mostly waiting for the local FAA and Chicago ACO to act on her various applications. Week two was more pressurized, with Julie getting

checked out to fly overweight, training in the use of the HF radio mandatory for flying in all oceanic Flight Information Regions (FIRs) and in using oceanic charts and reporting procedures.

Last was an inspection of the aircraft by the FAA Designated Engineering Representative, test flying the aircraft and fine-tuning the engine.

A glitch loading the Jeppesen global nav data into the Cirrus' Garmin Perspective (G1000) avionics cost one more day on the ramp, but on September 2, 2016, Julie finally began the "real" circumnavigation flight, departing Merced and, moments later, being vectored to join the oceanic route system west of Monterey Bay.

Julie feels that being a pilot is all about knowing everything you can about your aircraft and your own skills and be-

ing prepared. There's never occasion for panic in an airplane, since if the problem is solvable, troubleshooting and decision-making are your best companions.

Julie relied on what she calls "PIC" attitude to handle problems during preparation for the flight and the flight itself. "It's really the principle of checking the fuel in the tanks yourself because you're responsible as pilot-in-command."

The first time she flew the Cirrus, for example, she reported a squawk about the engine not making full cruise power, but the manager of the leasing company decided there was nothing wrong. When Julie insisted a mechanic inspect the engine, he discovered that the magneto timing was off and needed adjustment.

Planning for the removal of one ferry tank at Guam, Julie had calculated that she could have the 40-gallon ferry tank removed and keep the 100-gallon tank, which she would need when she flew over the Atlantic Ocean. The mechanic's computer said the 100-gallon tank had to go, to which Julie replied, "The computer is wrong." After an uncomfortable standoff,



*Julie in her dry suit for the leg crossing the Atlantic from Santa Maria, Azores, to St. Johns, Newfoundland.*

night, making phone calls to her team scattered across the U.S. and Asia. The consensus was that the engine should run fine on avgas 100 or on a mixture of 100 and 100LL, but Julie had a plan just in case.

She planned to run one main tank with pure 100LL nearly dry of its then 36 gallons before switching over to the mix-

was fully prepared if it hadn't.

Another challenge was weather. Julie had no weather radar in her plane. She survived a severe thunderstorm over the Mediterranean at night with no help from ATC, using lightning flashes to stay clear of thunderheads.

The most physically challenging part of Julie's flight was the 29-hour day without sleep, crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Lisbon to the Azores and then to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

There were unexpected rewards, too. In the Marshall Islands, a local woman approached Julie and, amazed to see a female pilot land on Majuro alone, told Julie that no woman had flown to the Marshall Islands since Amelia Earhart. Flying alone, moreover, wasn't at all lonely but rather something of a mystical experience. Flying above the ocean at night, there was no horizon, no city lights and no landmarks, only the light from the cockpit instrument gauges and the thrum of the engine.

"I had never felt such a vast expanse. It was as though my very being had expanded out to meet the vastness, and I no longer existed just in my little body. The world was vast and so was I. At that moment, tears were welled up in my eyes; how unexpected it was, that on this journey in an airplane, all alone, I would meet myself."

By the end of her journey, Julie felt as though her consciousness had become more refined, recognizing that although the universe is vast, our planet is small, small enough to be flown around in 18 days in a little aircraft.

Julie's biggest takeaway from the journey? "The beauty of aviation is precious beyond compare, really an unbelievable gift to anyone who makes the effort to get into an airplane. At 8,000 feet above the ocean, you can understand something of the vastness of the universe and also how small is the planet we share with so many other creatures on land and in the sea."

”

***"I had never felt such a vast expanse. It was as though my very being had expanded out to meet the vastness, and I no longer existed just in my little body. The world was vast and so was I."***

the mechanic refreshed the calculations and got a new result that corresponded with Julie's.

On Majuro in the Marshall Islands, where only 110 gallons of avgas were available, Julie smelled something strange as the lineman refueled the aircraft. Training her flashlight on the pump handle, she saw green fuel being pumped into her ferry tanks when it should have been blue. It was avgas 100 (not 100LL), and conventional wisdom has it that the two should not be mixed.

Julie pondered the problem that

ture. If there was a problem, she would switch to the other main tank with 46 gallons of pure 100LL, enough to make it back to Majuro.

If the engine failed in flight, she would follow the procedures for an air start. If she lost the engine, she was mentally prepared to pull the Cirrus' parachute and ditch. She had a ditch bag with a full survival kit, radio, ePIRB, PLB and supplies to last several days at sea, even a checklist for deplaning after splashing down.

The switch worked out fine, but Julie



# Cajun Airlift

BY LISA COTHAM, NOLA Chapter

**T**he get-it-done attitude so prevalent in the Cajun culture took charge when unprecedented flooding hit southeast Louisiana in August, 2016. First responders just weren't responding fast enough and needed help. An all-volunteer flotilla of personal watercraft stepped up and rescued hundreds of people, carrying on the tradition known as the Cajun Navy. It was formed after Hurricane Katrina hit 11 years earlier.

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey inundated coastal Texas with over 50 inches of rain in some areas. The Cajun Navy set out once again to participate in rescues. However, in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas, pilots organized to create the Cajun Airlift. Members of NOLA Chapter 99s played an integral part in recruiting supplies, setting up drop-off locations, organizing flights and scheduling deliveries.

Kelli Kuntz, whose own house flooded in 2016, knew she had to do something. A certified Red Cross volunteer, Kelli used social media to plead for donations. Immediately her house became a collection center. She even got a truck to drive supplies to Texas once the roads opened.

Janet Gonzales, who manages Louisiana Regional Airport, turned the terminal building into a collection center. Since it appeared it would be several days before the roads would open, Kelli transferred supplies to the airport, and local pilots answered the call. Even pilots from across the United States flew to LA Regional to load up supplies and head to Texas.

Julie Jones made numerous flights in her Cessna 182 along the Texas Gulf Coast, from Orange to the small town of Tivoli, where every structure in town was damaged. Generous donors even sponsored fuel for these flights.

Erin Seidemann in her Piper Seneca, Big Chief, flew at least four flights carrying cases of water, baby and cleaning supplies. In Beaumont, one of four stops that day, church and other volunteer groups picked up supplies for ground deliveries. This was typical of other drops too.

Many other NOLA 99s were involved in sorting, organizing and loading supplies into airplanes. In New Orleans, a DC-3 flew over a ton of supplies to Texas. In addition, 99s from around the world sent in supplies to help with our missions.

When Hurricane Irma came ashore in Florida, the Cajun Airlift was a conduit for other 99s to get involved. Liz Poeppelman, Mommy Pilots Chapter member who lives in Mississippi, coordinated relay flights throughout Florida.

After Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria, it also benefitted from the Cajun Airlift. Businesses donated Citations and King Airs to transfer supplies, including medical supplies, to the hard-hit island and bring survivors back to the U.S. mainland. Department of Homeland Security and the National Guard even joined with the Cajun Airlift in transporting supplies directly to Puerto Rico.

After one trip to Beaumont, Kelli and Julie shared the story of a young boy they met who was working at the airport, unloading and reloading supplies. He was there with his church group, while his mom and dad were trying to salvage what they could from their flooded home. Although his spirit was so positive, they could tell he was distressed. He made such an impression that Kelli, Julie, Alice Fanto and Sigrid Allenstein flew to Beaumont in mid-October to honor him at his school for his generous help and present him with a new video game console. He and his family can enjoy it as they rebuild their home and their lives from a travel trailer parked in their driveway.

General aviation held the spotlight for those few weeks, and The 99s were there, donating personal time, money and flights. As Kelli said, "We are proud to be a part of both organizations."



*Photos, from top:  
Erin Seidemann with a  
planeload of supplies ready  
for delivery; Lisa Mannina  
accepts contributions from  
a donor; Kelli Angelle and  
Alice Fanto load supplies;  
and Julie Jones with her 182  
filled to capacity.*

# fly now **Winners!**

## Fly Now Awards Increase to 19!

BY JACQUE BOYD, Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund Chairman

The Ninety-Nines Student Pilot membership numbers are climbing – and so is the number of Fly Now Award winners! The AEMS F Trustees are impressed by the enthusiastic response to this program. Of the 74 applicants for the Fall 2017 Fly Now Award, 19 were selected to receive awards worth \$85,500. These award winners will have the opportunity to offset up to \$6,000 of their flight training costs by completing specific milestones. If not completed at the time of application, the following milestones are eligible to be earned.

MILESTONE: Passing the FAA or equivalent knowledge exam: \$500.

MILESTONE: First Solo: \$2,500

MILESTONE: Long solo cross-country: \$2,000

MILESTONE: Receiving FAA or equivalent flight certificate: \$1,000

Fly Now is available for any initial certificate in any aircraft, including balloons and gliders. All Milestones may not be applicable to every applicant. Milestones will be eligible for payment if not completed at the time of application – no reimbursements for what has already been accomplished.

The Trustees have found the success of the Fly Now Award is tremendously dependent upon the relationship between the student pilot and her 99s Chapter.

Thanks to everyone who helps make the application process a success.



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### Jennifer Billock

*Colorado Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Jan McKenzie*

I have always been interested in aviation but never felt it was an accessible career until I fell into the aviation industry as a flight attendant. I became fascinated with the flight deck, the aircraft systems and reading the flight releases whenever I could. I did an intro flight and was instantly hooked. Flying is an amazing pursuit, and I can't imagine doing anything else. I am so grateful to the amazing women in The 99s who have encouraged and inspired me. I plan to fly jets commercially and introduce other women to the world of aviation.



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### Christine Chang

*Idaho Chapter, Northwest Section*

*Mentor: Alana Erickson*

I have had a desire to earn my certificate since my first post-graduation job at NASA Johnson Space Center and later when I was working at Boeing Commercial Airplanes. However, when I visited the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in May 2016, saw the Amelia Earhart exhibit and first learned about The Ninety-Nines, I knew then it was time to start my pilot training. I am so grateful to the Idaho 99s and to the AEMS F Trustees for this opportunity. I look forward to one day inspiring girls to follow their dreams of flying as well!



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## Amy Ehn

*Oregon Pines Chapter, Northwest Section*

*Mentor: Lorraine Skalla*

Imagine landing a helicopter in the jungle somewhere in central Africa. There is an injured elephant, shot by poachers and unable to move. The mission: stabilize the frightened animal, tend to the wounds, watch the vitals and put it into a long-line harness, gently supporting its massive weight while airlifting it to safety. In the distant clearing, a truck waits for us, ready to transport this majestic creature to a medical facility. This is my dream, and The 99s are helping me get there. Thank you for recognizing my passion for flight and conservation with the Fly Now Award.



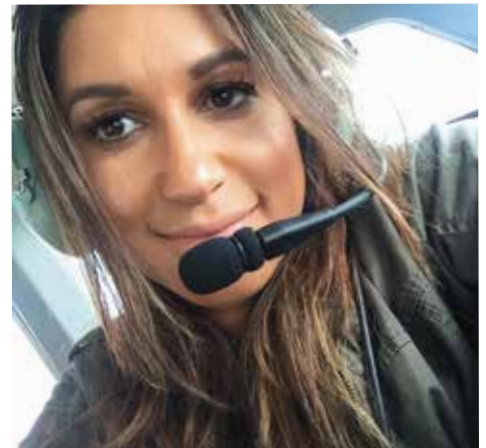
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## Kailyn Flowers

*San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section*

*Mentor: JoAnn Minor*

When I was a little girl, my dad, an aviation mechanic, insisted we go to the local airshow every year. I would ask “Why can’t we go to a Barbie Convention?” As I got older, I was the one requesting we go to the airshow. Two years ago, I finally decided to get my private pilot certificate. Shortly after my first flight lesson, I joined The 99s. I am so blessed to be a part of such a prestigious group of incredible women. Your generosity with this scholarship has inspired me to give back to my community and help others.



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## Amanda Higley

*Colorado Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Trimbi Szabo*

My father took me on my discovery flight in April of this year, and I was immediately hooked! I’m currently working as a civil engineer to fund part-time flight training. I’m finding the cubicle walls to be quite stifling, and I’m always watching the sky. I have chosen to change careers and pursue a life as an airline pilot. I aim to start full-time flight training in 2018 after completing my private pilot certificate. With the support of my friends, family and organizations like The Ninety-Nines, I can make my dreams a reality!





## **Baylee Holder**

*Houston Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Katherine Clark*

Growing up on an Air Force base, I was always fascinated with flight, so much so that I became an architect who practices aviation architecture. However, it was shortly after receiving my master's degree that I witnessed a Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Drop Night and immediately realized I wanted to do more than just design airports. I wanted to fly into one. With the support of my family and friends, I started the process of attaining my private pilot certificate. I am extremely grateful to have the support of The 99s and look forward to mentoring other 99s in the future.



## **Carolyn Hunker**

*Sugarloaf Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section*

*Mentor: Sethany Van Lehn*

I became a flight attendant four years ago because I wanted to travel. After about a year and a half, I realized I also wanted to fly. I'm about 40 hours into my private certificate and plan to move onto instrument training immediately. I'm also excited to finish my private so I can participate in more events with my local 99s Chapter. Luckily, I have a lot of emotional family support. All my mom wants for Christmas is for me to pass my check ride, and I'm thankful to The 99s for helping get me closer.



## **Ashley King**

*Oklahoma Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Lindsie Bain*

I am so honored and grateful to be chosen for this award! As long as I can remember, I've dreamed of being in the sky. My first memory is of my grandmother taking me to the airport to watch the planes come in and take off. I am so thankful to be a part of the Oklahoma Chapter, which has been extremely supportive and helpful during my training. I can't wait to get my private pilot certificate so I can take girls and women for rides, perhaps helping them discover their love of aviation as well!



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## Sweta Kolisetti

*Colorado Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Stephanie Wells*

Coming from a traditional Indian family, I was always expected to become a doctor like those before me. I graduated with a bachelors in pre-med from Clemson University in 2013. However, it was not until I discovered my love of aviation that I truly felt whole. After my private pilot certificate, I hope to join the Air Force Reserve to serve a purpose that is bigger than myself. I will be the first aviator and military officer in my family. Thank you, Ninety-Nines, for your support. Your encouragement continues to motivate me as I pioneer these new paths.



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## Melissa Markham

*Florida Goldcoast Chapter, Southeast Section*

*Mentor: Beth Schoppaul*

I've had proud achievements in my life, but none has changed me as much as aviation. With a B.A. in International Relations, Magna Cum Laude, I am founder of a charitable organization and an author. I worked on humanitarian missions in Central America and learned fluent Spanish. After becoming an untimely widow, I've had some major challenges. Learning to fly, a childhood dream, has allowed me to reinvent myself, being the best I've ever been, with a goal of flying commercially. I will actively work to inspire diverse women to take charge as pilot-in-command of their lives, increasing the numbers of women in aviation.



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## Clara Martin

*France Section*

*Mentor: Nadège Supornpaibul*

I'm a 17-year-old student pilot at the Valence flying club where I soloed in July. I am so delighted to have been selected to receive a Fly Now Award! This will help me get my private pilot license before next summer, because I will move to study at the École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile in Toulouse, the European aeronautical capital city. I'd love to have a career in aviation, becoming both a professional pilot and aeronautical engineer. I'd like to thank Bruno, my flight instructor; Laurence; and especially Nadège, my mentor, for her precious help. Merci beaucoup to The 99s!





## Phonechin Matthews

*Alaska Chapter, Northwest Section*

*Mentor: Kathryn Trantum*

I'm 32, a mother, and nearly finished with my private certificate. I am ecstatic to be selected for the Fly Now Award. I am incredibly grateful and humbled to have this support while I pursue my dreams. My goal is to become a professional pilot and continue my work in community service. I would like to start a nonprofit flight training program that helps those in rural Alaska. The majority of villages rely solely on air transport. My hope is to reach youth in those communities and teach them how to fly.



## Lauren McGough

*Oklahoma Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Holly Blunk*

My love of flight evolved from my love of falconry. I'm from Oklahoma City and, since the age of 14, have been a licensed falconer – that is, someone who hunts with a trained bird of prey. I'm one of a handful of people that fly golden eagles, a practice I learned from living with the nomadic peoples of Mongolia and the subject of my PhD dissertation in anthropology. The Oklahoma 99s have been extremely supportive and have seen me through passing my written and soloing in March 2017. Flying has been so empowering. I can't wait to earn my private pilot certificate!



## Madison Perry

*NOLA Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Janet Gonzales*

Ever since I was a little girl, I've dreamed of flying. I am beyond excited that I am finally in flight training. So far, the experience has been wonderful, and I already have so many memories. I plan to continue my training through my CFI certificate and eventually fly for the airlines. I am so grateful for this scholarship, and I hope to share my love for aviation with upcoming pilots when I finish my certificate!



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## Tanya Rames

*Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section*

*Mentor: Chrysa Kennedy*

After experiencing my first flight in the cockpit, I fell in love with the pure feeling of flying and the challenge that presented itself in learning how to do so. One day I plan to be a pilot for Hawaiian Airlines. I want to share my very special island home with the world and share the world with my family and friends. I am beyond grateful to The Ninety-Nines for choosing me as a recipient of the Fly Now Award and to the Aloha Chapter for surrounding me with an amazing group of female pilots. Mahalo nui iā pakahi ā pau.



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## Madelief Schelvis

*Bay Cities Chapter, Southwest Section*

*Mentor: Christina Malcomson-Young*

I started flying in January, and over the summer I passed the written exam and had the unforgettable experience of flying solo! I will graduate this fall with a bachelor's degree in integrative biology and marine science. I hope to use my certificate to explore remote locations to conduct fieldwork or aerial population surveys. In addition to making my own dreams a reality, the Fly Now Award will help me inspire others to join the wonderful world of aviation by showing that it can be done even with a limited budget.



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## Brooke Tribley

*Houston Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Lori Tribley*

I had the privilege of growing up with an older brother. His love and passion for aviation sparked an interest of flying in me at an early age and led to my working on a private pilot certificate. At times, though, this seems so minor compared to the fact he is a fighter pilot. Earning my private pilot certificate is only the beginning. Ultimately, my goal is to complete all my ratings and hour requirements to become a commercial pilot. I am forever grateful for The Ninety-Nines organization and their endless support.



# fly now **Winners!**

## **Heather Underwood**

*Colorado Chapter, South Central Section*

*Mentor: Marion Thurnauer*

After several years of pursuing my other passions of teaching and entrepreneurship, I was finally able to start flying last July. My dad used to be a pilot, and I grew up hearing stories of the exhilaration and freedom of flying. I soloed in August, and it was everything he said it would be. I could not be more grateful for receiving this scholarship so I can complete my private pilot certificate and continue to experience the joy of flying. Thank you so much for this award.



## **Shona Williams**

*Chicago Area Chapter, North Central Section*

*Mentor: Jill Mann*

I am humbled to receive the Fly Now Award! As a flight attendant, I always thought there was a separation between me and the pilots on the flight crew. However, after meeting so many dynamic female aviators from all walks of life, I am inspired to spread my wings and let my dreams take flight. I will use this award to secure my private certificate en route to my ATP, which will allow me to lead from the flight deck and provide safe passage for mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who would entrust me with their lives.



let's celebrate... YOU!

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BY DONNA MILLER  
International Careers Committee

## If Not Now, When?

*When just starting out on a new journey, it's only natural to feel vulnerable. It may seem that you have much to lose. But may I remind you that never again, at any other point in the same journey, will you have so much to gain?*  
— The Universe (Mike Dooley)

I have always envied people who knew from a really young age that they would grow up to be pilots. They soloed on their 16th birthdays and got their certificates on their 17th. They were on the track to an aviation career before they had any idea what that would look like.

I didn't learn to fly until my mid-twenties. I didn't get my first paying flight job until my mid-thirties. My career was slow to take off, and when 9/11 changed the entire career path for most pilots, I was no exception.

Before taking the leap to an aviation career, I remember thinking about being 90 years old and rocking in my rocking chair. I knew that I would look back on life and wonder, "What would have happened if I had pursued a career in aviation?" Even if it was a colossal failure, the question would be answered.

That propelled me to leap into the great unknown. The journey, while not anything I expected, has been amazing. And what I realized is that, while my journey doesn't resemble

anyone else's, I wouldn't trade it for the world. I think that by starting later, having spent time in a "cube farm" and several office jobs, I have an appreciation for flying that I may not have fully realized had I started sooner.

My friend Margot learned to fly after she retired from her career. She realized it was something she always wanted to do, so she went to a local airport and inquired about flight lessons. One of the first questions she asked was, "Am I too old to learn to fly?" She was a few years from turning 60. "Absolutely not!" said one of the flight instructors, who was also a 99.

We're all going to turn 60 anyway (or have). You can turn 60 with a pilot certificate or without. It's up to you. Since that time, 13 years ago, Margot has become an integral part of her 99s Chapter, creating an award-winning Chapter newsletter every month. She uses her skills in photography to add great pictures to the stories and attends the fly outs and meetings with other members.

Last month I mentioned Shannon, who began a flying career in her 40s. She may never be a wide-body international captain for a major airline, but she is pursuing her dream anyway.

When we are finally rocking in our rocking chairs, what I think is going to happen is we will appreciate not where we ended up but how we got there – the whole journey with the scary leaps that we were courageous enough to take that made our lives interesting and worth the trip.

We have much to gain. Leap.

## MILESTONES

Julie Baker – Private  
Nancy K. Jensen Memorial Scholarship  
Greater Seattle Chapter  
Jaspreet Bath – A-320 jet type rating  
Bay Cities Chapter  
Nancy Bradshaw – Commercial  
Helicopter add-on  
Treasure Coast Chapter  
Keely Costello – Private  
Phoenix Chapter  
Missy Day – ATP, Embraer 145  
NOLA Chapter  
Tricia DeBlock – Jet type rating  
Indiana Dunes Chapter  
Erin Hambrick – Commercial  
Antelope Valley

Elizabeth Harris – Private  
Columbia Cascade Chapter  
Sydney Hedrick – Commercial  
Multi-Engine CFI  
Phoenix Chapter  
Emily Johnson – Instrument and  
Commercial, Phoenix Chapter  
Kendra Liscom – Commercial  
Phoenix Chapter  
Laura Lloyd – Instrument  
Columbia Cascade Chapter  
Jordyn Matthews – Private and  
Instrument  
Phoenix Chapter  
Sara Mazzarella – Instrument  
Phoenix Chapter  
Jeanne Rieck – CFII  
Phoenix Chapter

Celeste Ripley – Instrument  
Phoenix Chapter  
Jenna Roulliard – Private  
Katahdin Wings Chapter  
Sam Sizemore – Tailwheel  
Phoenix Chapter  
Courtney Smith – Commercial Seaplane  
Phoenix Chapter  
Keegan Starkey – CFI  
Amelia Earhart Scholarship  
Indiana Dunes  
Kayla Ann Waskowski – ATP  
Phoenix Chapter  
Felecia Zahn – Private  
Phoenix Chapter  
Trimbi Szabo – Multi-Engine Commercial  
Colorado Chapter

# Woman Wise



BY ANGELA CARSWELL  
@aviatorangie  
Southwest Section

*The backcountry surrounding Cascade, Idaho, provided the backdrop for individualized flying adventures at the Woman Wise AWESome Adventures.*

## AWEsome Adventures

Cascade, Idaho, provided the perfect backdrop for a three-day, action-packed event full of flying, seminars and female-empowering workshops. Christina Tindle created Woman Wise AWESome Adventures to provide coaching, training and adventures for women pilots that boost passion, competence and confidence.

The program lets you choose your adventure: Do you want to fly floats, do you want to learn aerobatics, maybe fly a taildragger or get comfortable in a 172?

Weeks before the seminar, Christina asked us what we wanted to get out of our weekend and what our learning style is. We each received a tailored experience based on our needs. My aviation goal is to be a wildlife pilot, so I wanted to get a good handle on the fundamentals of backcountry flying.

Christina began the program by introducing the Woman Wise instructors, who all had a positive attitude and years of experience. We learned about our classmates and why each of

us joined this adventure of a lifetime.

From there, we continued to ground school and safety. Rich Stowell, an accomplished 20-year Master Instructor – National CFI & FAAS Team Rep of the Year, gave us an inside look at aerobatics and emergency maneuver training.

My adventure started in ground school, going over checklists for a Kit Fox. I was so excited to get into this airplane. The first time I met my instructor, Fred Williams of Adventure Flying Services, I knew we were going to have a blast. He was patient, knowledgeable and cared about the quality of learning he was giving his students.

We met early the next morning and took off for the beautiful Idaho backcountry. Fred took me to strips that gave me an opportunity to learn how to judge an abort point and what to look for on a backcountry field: winds, integrity of landing strip, animals, patches and field overview. These are tools I will use every day as a wildlife pilot.



Fred also taught me how to manage my energy while making a keyhole landing and gave critical pointers on how to land a taildragger safely in canyon winds. Thanks to Fred's communication and teaching style, I received a backcountry introduction that provided a strong foundation for my backcountry pilot tool belt.

After the day's flying, Christina asked that we look inward for self-discovery. An overall tone during the initial introductions was a lack of confidence while flying. However, after our tailored flights and excellent flight instructors, the group was no longer lacking confidence.

Christina provided a beautiful space for growth, positivity and goal setting. Through her teachings and fantastic hand-

picked instructors, barriers came down and friendships developed. We were a great group of women inspiring each other.

I met Logan, who has been flying in the backcountry her whole life but wanted to learn tailwheel; I met Lori, who just bought a Piper Cub and flew in the backcountry with Fred. I met Christine, who is a DPE in the Chicago area. I met Meredith, who was at the event to film. She took her first flight and is now a Student Pilot member of The 99s. If you are looking for an awesome adventure and a great group of women, I encourage you to join us in beautiful Cascade, Idaho, for friendship, confidence building, great instructors and flying tailored to your learning style.

Blue skies and tailwinds, until next year.

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## The Most AWESome Aerobatic Training

BY SUE LIN

Eastern New England Chapter

I had two reasons to fly to Cascade, Idaho, in July. First, I wanted to see Idaho, and second I wanted to fly upset recovery with Rich Stowell.

I'm a relatively new pilot, and the idea of spinning toward the earth yelling "no" was not an option. I wanted to be able to fly my plane all the way to the ground and land straight and level.

Rich was an instructor at Woman Wise AWESome Adventures, so I decided to attend.

On the first day, he gave a talk and demonstration of aerobatic flying while talking us through the whole demonstration. The next morning, I went to his hangar for my pre-flight. Understand, I volunteered to fly with him and wanted to fly with him, but my hands literally shook as he took me through what we would do during the flight.

When he invited me out to his plane, I told him I might not remember everything he said. He understood and didn't expect that I had. We did stalls, Dutch rolls and steep turns. The last turn, he told me to point the nose down, further, further. Then he asked me to level the plane. I couldn't. He announced I was now in a spiral. Oh! That was what I was most afraid of!

Then he told me what to do to get out of it. I followed directions and was

***"I knew that no matter what came up in my plane, even though I'd made mistakes, I could and did recover from some pretty crazy stuff."***

immediately flying straight with the blue side up. We probably did eight recoveries from all kinds of crazy attitudes, and I never felt afraid or nervous.

The first time, I methodically moved the stick until I was straight. He commented I might like to recover more quickly, like my life depended on it.

Another time he said, "Throttle." I pushed it full in and recovered. He mentioned the recovery would have gone better if I'd pulled the throttle to idle,

as I was supposed to. Well, he did say "throttle"! The next time his instructions were to "retard throttle."

After landing (a taildragger!), I exited the plane and was shaking again, but from excitement and confidence. I'd easily recovered from being in upside down and twisted around positions.

I knew that no matter what came up in my plane, even though I'd made mistakes, I could and did recover from some pretty crazy stuff. I can do it.



Sue with Rich Stowell before her flight in the Super Decathlon.

# Petra Illig

## *The Flying Doctor*

”

**“My practice is always fun because I’m talking to people about aviation.”**

BY JANICE PELLETTI,  
Appalachian Aviatrices Chapter

Imagine your first airplane flight, at age 10, was to cure your bad case of whooping cough. That is exactly what happened to *Ninety-Nines* magazine medical columnist Petra Illig.

“In those days, we didn’t know that erythromycin could cure it,” explains Petra. “My dad was a doctor. He had heard that the organism couldn’t survive at high altitudes, so he hired a pilot to take me flying for an hour. I coughed my way through the entire flight.”

Despite the cough, Petra was hooked on aviation. “I absolutely loved it, I thought the houses looked like Monopoly pieces.” Several years later, her dad got his pilot certificate and they started flying together.

Growing up, first in Germany and then in South Dakota, she wanted to be a pilot or an astronaut. “I never really wanted to be a doctor, but in college I realized I liked to help people, and I was good at science. So, medicine seemed to be a good compromise.”

She started out as an ER doctor. “During that time, my first flight physical was done

by an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) out of his home in Seattle.” Petra liked the idea so much that she set up an exam room in her house and became an AME. She lived on a residential airpark in Kent, Washington, so pilots often flew in for their exams.

She was drawn into aerospace and flight medicine because, unlike the usual medical practices where patients have abnormal physiology, it’s a practice where you take individuals with normal physiology and put them in an abnormal environment.

“My practice is always fun because I’m talking to people about aviation.”

In 1998, Delta Airlines hired her as the Western Regional Medical Director of Aircrew Health Services. She moved to Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, the department did not survive the post 9/11 bankruptcy.

“I always wanted to live in Alaska, so this was my opportunity to make the move.”

Petra discovered her love for Alaska when she was in medical school. “I like adven-

ture, and I’m always looking to find out what’s around the next corner. I want to see if it’s more interesting than what I’m doing now.”

She is currently self-employed as Senior Aviation Medical Examiner at her practice in Anchorage, Aviation Medical Services. She recently retired from work at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) after eight years. “I was with the Global Migration and Quarantine Branch. Basically I was the quarantine medical officer for Alaska.”

Petra began flight training during her second year of medical school. Her father quit flying years earlier at the behest of her mother following an emergency landing.

“It was a catastrophic en-

gine failure at night. It was pitch black; the engine was quiet and he could hardly see out the windshield because it was covered in oil. We saw some lights moving below and headed for the road. He had to do a 180-degree turn to land with the traffic. He executed a perfect landing, and we were all safe. Of course, mom was quite upset and made him quit flying, but he was my hero, and it motivated me even more.”

Petra admits to not being very efficient about her flight training. “I was financing the training with medical school money. By the time I was ready for the flight test, I was one month from graduation from medical school and out of money.”

She found herself in the







*Left, Petra's plane is a Christavia MK1 built by three Boeing engineers. "I've been flying it for 25 years. It needs a paint job but otherwise is in fine shape."*

*Below: Petra visits Burt Rutan's hangar in Mojave, California, when they were first building the VariEze. She was very interested in composite homebuilt aircraft at the time and found his designs to be revolutionary (canard configuration). She enjoyed meeting Dick Rutan at that visit, which was a few years before he flew the Voyager around the world with Jeana Yeager.*



uncomfortable position of having to tell her parents about the flight lessons and the need for money. To her surprise, her mom took the news well.

"She was worried about me because I was acting so strange. She ended up being my second passenger."

Her most memorable flight was in 2003. She flew with a group of Alaska Air-men in seven single engine planes from Nome, Alaska, to Provideniya, Russia. For many years, negotiations had been in the works to create a civilian flight corridor from Alaska to Russia, crossing what was known as the "ice curtain."

Planning a route that crossed the shortest distance over open water and the fact that Russian airspace is mili-

tary were just several of the obstacles. The route took them from Tin City, Alaska, through the Bering Strait by the Diomed Islands and west to the Russian coast, where they flew down the coast and occasionally inland until the city of Provideniya.

"It was a life-changing event," she remembers. "It gave me chills. I grew up with the threat of nuclear annihilation."

They were the last group to successfully complete a trip

along this route.

Today Petra flies her Christavia MK1. She likes to fly with friends and take visitors on sight-seeing trips. This year she plans to do some camping flights to off-airport areas.

She is also involved in growing Siberian Rhodiola. After experimenting with the growth of this medicinal plant in the Alaskan climate, she started a farmers co-op. Rhodiola is now grown on many farms. Petra is marketing the

dried roots to botanical companies and working to develop end products.

"This is a great botanical," she explains. "Just one of the benefits is to help the body adapt to stress."

Petra writes *Fit to Fly* for the *Ninety-Nines* magazine. In 2015, she received The Ninety-Nines Award of Achievement for Contribution to Aviation for her dedication to pilot health, pilot advocacy and aviation medicine.

## GRASS ROOTS



*Fanni Pajer, new Austrian Section Governor, left, presents a gift to outgoing Governor Monika Stahl.*

### AUSTRIAN SECTION

At a recent Austrian Section meeting, Fanni Pajer was officially appointed the new Governor. The former Governor, Monika Stahl, presented Fanni with a lovely present, and the members all toasted to Fanni's new position.

Currently, the Austrian Section is small, but Fanni envisions expanding it in the future, attracting new members and creating more activities for the group.

Fanni and Monika travelled together to Cairo in October and attended the annual meeting of the Arabian Section, which featured many exciting events. They also met with International President Jan McKenzie.

— Fanni Pajer

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

For our August membership meeting, 26 Chapter members and guests visited the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies (ASTREA) facilities at Gillespie Field Airport (KSEE).

Captain Maria Wood gave a captivating presentation about the Emergency Services Division of the Sheriff's Department. She shared her responsibilities of overseeing the entire aerial team, which consists of nine aircraft, as well as the County's Sheriff K-9 unit.

The group was treated to a tour of the ASTREA maintenance hangar, main aircraft hangar, emergency readiness ramp and CalFire facilities. We learned about the process of purchasing and outfitting aircraft for Sheriff operations, training required to be a Sheriff Pilot or Tactical Flight Officer and various missions the team completes. They consist of law enforcement, search and rescue, fire suppression and emergency service air support to public agencies throughout the county, which covers about 4,200 square miles.

— Kathleen Devlin



*Capt. Maria Wood with one of the helicopters used by the San Diego Sheriff's Department's Emergency Services Division.*



*Central New York Ninety-Nines with their display at the Cortland Airfest in July. From left, Bonnie Contento, Joanne Bolton, Marcia Buller, Valerie Collins, Deanna Bowles and Karen Stumpf.*

### CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

In July, members of the Central New York Chapter presented a display at the Cortland Airfest at Cortland County Airport (N03), Cortland, New York. There was not only a static display of several warplanes and other planes from the WWII era, but flights in a C-47 and an AT-6 were raffled off as well. Helicopter rides were the mainstay of the day.

This is the second year the Central New York Chapter had a display. Our goal is to interest young women in aviation and in learning to fly. Our Chapter is comprised of only a handful of members, but we make our presence known throughout the central New York area.

— Karen L Stumpf



## APPALACHIAN AVIATRIXES CHAPTER

After months of planning, the new Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter held their first week-long fundraiser at Tri-Cities Airport (KTRI). The event was a big success thanks to the support of the Arizona Commemorative Airforce and the B-17, Wes Stower and his P-51, photographer Jymmi Davis and local WWII reenactors.

The Chapter offered 1940s pin-up style professional photo shoots, professional photo opportunities for Mustang car owners with the Mustang airplane, and several raffles. Along with donations, total net proceeds toward a new Chapter scholarship are \$4,000.

— Janice Pelletti



Adrienne Smith, Emma Perdue, Megan Harr, Janice Pelletti, Dawn Bell, Karen Weldon, Mae Marquet and Pam Phillips participate in the Chapter's fundraiser. Jymmi Davis Photography.



## CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

The Chicago Area Chapter had a wonderful social gathering at west suburban Poplar Grove Airport (C77). The weather was great and there were lots of cool planes to look at. We toured the museum, the EAA 1414 project plane and had fun at the breakfast.

For those who encounter the Jeppesen statue outside the museum, there's a long-standing tradition to copy his pose and have their picture taken. We raised our arms as if we too had a propeller in our grip and posed to memorialize the event.

Wings and Wheels Museum celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Our Chapter had a display table for this event.

— Diane Cozzi

Posing with the Jeppesen Statue are, from left, Kathryn Brenner, Madeleine Monaco, Jepp, Mary Lou Erikson, Jill Feldman, Preethi Thamina and Sharon Schorsch.

## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Our one air marking for the summer took place on August 19 at the Red Wing Regional Airport (KRGK) in Red Wing, Minnesota, where we painted the airport's name and elevation on the ramp.

The Minnesota 99s had a booth this year at the Girls Aviation Day held at Flying Cloud Airport (KFCM) in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, on September 23. This popular aviation event was sold out, and around 1,300 girls attended the event.

Our fall business meeting took place at the AirTrek North FBO at the Air Lake Airport (KLVN), Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 1. We were also treated to a tour at Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center in Farmington, Minnesota. Thank you to Kjersti Kittelson for organizing the event and Heather McNevin for giving us the tour.

Finally, we welcome new members Aura Austin, Majel Baker and Margaret Miller.

Note: In the last issue, Kjersti Kittelson was misidentified in a photo as Kjersti Sandusky.

— Melissa Aho



From left, Kate McDonald, Natasha Stenbock, Robyn Stoller and Jessica Rowland at Girls in Aviation Day.

# GRASS ROOTS

## BIG SKY CHAPTER

The Big Sky Chapter held its first fundraiser the last Saturday in September with an airplane wash at Edwards Jet at Billings Logan International Airport (BIL). We all had matching shirts and brought food and soft drinks for sale.

Patty Mitchell's husband Robert brought his grill and cooked cheeseburgers all day that we sold for \$7, along with a bag of chips, drink and a cookie.

We showed up at 10 a.m. with sweatshirts and jackets, ready to wash the airplanes. Several planes were already taxiing up from hangars at the west end of the airport. We charged only \$25 for a single engine, \$50 for a twin. Most paid us more than that as a donation.

We also raffled off a generous donation from Edwards Jet of 50 gallons of avgas.

The members attacked each airplane with buckets of soap, long-handled brushes and lots of water. We cleaned the windows inside and out and left each airplane with an air freshener labeled "Thanks From The 99s."

A great day was over around 4 p.m., having sold about 40 cheeseburgers, washed 18 airplanes including three King Airs and a Citation. The tired and wet group counted the money, loaded up the grill, chairs, tables, coolers and looked forward to hot showers, grateful that we made about \$1,000!

— Patty Mitchell



*Big Sky Vice Chair Trena Boyd scrubs at the fundraiser.*



## INDIANA DUNES CHAPTER

Indiana Dunes Chapter members gathered at Winona Lake Boathouse near Warsaw, Indiana, for the installation of new officers for 2017-2019. While the weather prohibited us from our usual monthly fly-in, several members were able to attend and celebrated with the incoming officers.

— Diana Austin

*From left, new officers April Graham, Vice Chair; Margaret Wint, Chair; Jessica Richardson, Secretary; and Tricia DeBlock, Treasurer.*

## ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Orange County Chapter 'womaned' a booth at the Huntington Beach Airshow on September 28 through October 1. Over the three days of the airshow, 16 Chapter members plus two Friends of The 99s donated 28.5 hours of time, recruited two new members and two new Friends members. Contact information was collected from 87 people requesting information on future activities of The 99s.

A life-size picture of one of our members acted as background for 277 pictures of people as a "Corporate Pilot for a Day." Many tickets were submitted for the six free introductory flights donated by five of our local flights schools.

Our Chapter Chair, Irene Engard, was interviewed twice, for a total of 23 minutes of airtime, by Talk Radio KFI, broadcasting beachside at the show. This is the second year of the Huntington Beach Air Show, and the Orange County Chapter was honored to be a part of it as it grows.

We were all dazzled by the performances of the Blue Angels, Canadian Snowbirds and many other exceptional performers. We look forward to the show next year!

— Shirley McFall



*From left, Carol Eastman, Linda Abrams, Kim Tran, Morgan Thorpe, Irene Engard, and Diane Titterington-Machado at the Huntington Beach Airshow.*



## SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

San Antonio Chapter member Katie Brandt, her husband Josh, her father (both pilots) and her two sons flew to Oshkosh and had a blast! As if that weren't enough fun, she then stopped in Colorado for an aerobatic flight in an Extra 330LT.

San Antonio Chapter members Reni Baker, Debbie Bertram and Cheryl Mora flew into the Bluebonnet Airshow (KBMQ) Burnet, Texas, and volunteered to work at The 99s booth. We sold some miniature airplanes to raise funds for our local scholarship. Next to us were several Dallas Chapter members.

Thank you to Austin Chapter member Kathy Quinlan and her husband for setting up the canopies and providing tables and chairs for us.

— Cheryl Mora



From left, Laurie Peake, Dallas Chapter; Reni Baker, San Antonio Chapter; Lynette Bascom, Dallas Chapter; Beth Jenkins, Austin Hill Country Chapter and Devil Dog pilot; Cheryl Mora, San Antonio Chapter; Kathy Quinlan, Austin Hill Country Chapter; Debbie Bertram, San Antonio Chapter; Brooke Franklin, Dallas Chapter; and Sandy Travnicek, a Jet Blue pilot.

## LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

The Long Island Chapter, NY-NJ Section, started the season with five members and one potential member meeting for brunch at our secondary venue, the Islip Diner. At other times we meet at Republic Airport's (KFRG) main terminal in the evening. This accommodates both western residents and eastern residents on the island.

Naraline Coqk, Vice Chair, opened the meeting by introducing a guest, a pilot and owner of a C-152. Mae Smith provided updates from the recent International Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Members Nancy Neumann and Pat Ohlsson also attended the Conference.

Naraline received scholarship money from the New York-New Jersey Section as an applicant for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund. Her application had been forwarded to International last year. And, as usual, we discussed how to encourage new members.

Several of the members attend safety seminars once a month held by an FBO, Mid-Island Air, at L.I. MacArthur Airport (KISP). Mae Smith, JC Follender, Nancy Newmann and others hosted a table to promote The 99s and sell aviation items.

In June, at the Bayport Aerodrome (23N, a grass strip) Breakfast Fly-in, Jill Hopfenmuller, Mae Smith and Nancy Newmann once again set up the table and the displays. Later that day, Mae and Nancy attended the nearby FAA seminar about pioneer women pilots, while Jill stayed at the booth to promote The 99s, women in aviation, and of course, the Long Island Chapter.

— Patricia J. Rockwell

## NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY SECTION

On October 21, the New York/New Jersey Section held its meeting at Saratoga Springs Airport (5B2).

Nina Marousek was our guest speaker. She shared her personal flying challenge of flying to all 48 states, solo, this summer. She is an inspiration to us all.

— Shannon Osborne



Nina Marousek with her Cessna 172. Photo by Evelyn Hoffman

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Adam**, Catriona, (F) Greater Seattle  
**Almquist**, Ava, (F) Lake Erie  
**Ames**, Erika, Ventura County  
**Armstrong**, Elizabeth, (F) Florida Goldcoast  
**Arnold**, Rhonda, Kentucky Bluegrass  
**Arsenault**, Bethany, NOLA  
**Baker**, Majel, (F) Minnesota  
**Barclae**, Cynthia, Colorado  
**Bell**, Dawn, Appalachian Aviatrixes  
**Bennett**, Morgan, Alabama  
**Binder**, Nancy, Arabian Section  
**Black**, Mary, (F) Virginia  
**Bodenstein**, Barbara, (F) Reno High Sierra  
**Boudreau**, Madeline, (F) NOLA  
**Bourgeois**, Robin, Iowa  
**Boyer**, Kasey, Shenandoah Valley  
**Bradsen**, Lise, First Canadian  
**Bradwell**, Tracey, Maple Leaf  
**Bridges**, Dianna, (F) Colorado  
**Brock**, Staci, (F) Tennessee  
**Brundrett**, Lorna, (F) New York Capital Region  
**Carper**, Christina, (F) Scioto Valley  
**Carter**, Sydney, (F) Daytona Beachin Eagles  
**Castro**, Carola, (F) Florida Goldcoast  
**Chen**, Yingchun, China Section  
**Choudhary**, Bandna, (F) Long Beach  
**Clifford**, Lisa, (F) Montana  
**Colavolpe**, Michele, (F) Long Island  
**Cole**, Muriel, Montana  
**Collins**, Caryl, Orange County  
**Conklin**, Rachel, New Jersey  
**Cook**, Dawn, Minnesota  
**Cooke**, Carole, (F) Phoenix  
**Cowley**, Katherine, British Columbia Coast  
**Craig**, Kathryn, First Canadian  
**Cunningham**, Vickie, Eastern Pennsylvania  
**Dalrymple**, Samarra, Fullerton  
**Davan**, Karissa, (F) Katahdin Wings  
**Davan**, Kiley, (F) Katahdin Wings  
**Davenport**, Jennifer, (F) San Diego  
**David**, Antonia, (F) Ventura County  
**Denton**, Camille, (F) Eastern New England  
**Detrio**, Deborah, (F) Michigan  
**Dillon**, Kimberly, Western Washington  
**Dudgeon**, Alexandra, (F) Kentucky Bluegrass  
**Dusciuc**, Abigail, (F) Montana  
**Edwards**, Jennifer, (F) Georgia Flying Belles  
**Eisenberg**, Marla, Dallas  
**Erwin**, Monica, Mt. Shasta  
**Essex-Stahl**, Jodi, Chicago Area  
**Estes**, Leah, (F) Virginia  
**Flemmings**, Tiffany, (F) Aloha  
**Fletcher**, Olivia, (F) Greater Kansas City  
**Franklin Ludwig**, Alicia, Appalachian Aviatrixes  
**Froh**, Hallie, (F) Georgia Flying Belles  
**Garritty**, Pamela, Aloha  
**Garza**, Brittney, (F) Long Beach  
**Gonzalez**, Kimberly, Alaska

**Gonzalez**, Sandy, Florida Goldcoast  
**Grillini**, Pamela, (F) Kitty Hawk  
**Grimwood**, Amanda, Greater Seattle  
**Gurley**, Sandra, (F) Sarasota Ladybugs  
**Handlin**, Lourdes, Ventura County  
**Hardy**, Brianna, Colorado  
**Harper**, Holly, (F) All-Ohio  
**Hart**, Trielle, (F) Los Angeles Palms  
**Hasbrouck**, Christie, (F) Colorado  
**Haynes**, Kendall, (F) Alabama  
**Hein**, Margaux, (L) Bakersfield  
**Hemphill**, Addison, (F) Houston  
**Henderson**, Hannah, Phoenix  
**Heussen**, Zahra, (F) Sugarloaf  
**Hill**, Kyla, Kentucky Bluegrass  
**Holstrom**, Krista, Mt. Shasta  
**Hopkins**, Katherine, (F) Ventura County  
**Hudson**, Jill, Chicago Area  
**Ireland**, Emma, (F) Intermountain  
**Janusz**, Kelly, (F) San Gabriel Valley  
**Jordan**, Tara, (F) Keystone  
**Karlowski**, Laura, Eastern Ontario  
**Keck**, Terrie, Oklahoma  
**Kellett**, Abbie, Florida Heartland  
**Kennedy**, Chrysa, Aloha  
**Kimani**, Peninah, Delaware  
**Kodman**, Mayra, (F) Lake Erie  
**Koehler**, Erica, Treasure Coast  
**LaMott**, Brenda, Idaho  
**Law**, Lacey, San Antonio  
**LeBard**, Racquele, (F) Reno High Sierra  
**Lee**, Abby, (F) Chicago Area  
**Lee**, Jennifer, Santa Clara Valley  
**Leonard**, Meira, Aloha  
**Lewis**, Magali, Bakersfield  
**Lewis**, Vienna, (F) Utah  
**Liu**, Monica, (F) Long Beach  
**Lopez**, Jacqueline, (F) Fort Worth  
**Lukowski**, Emily, (F) Connecticut  
**Luse**, Danielle, Oklahoma  
**Magdaleno**, Patricia, (F) Orange County  
**Mamadou**, Maryse, (F) Georgia Flying Belles  
**Manson**, Barbara, Fort Worth  
**Mar**, Diana, (F) Long Beach  
**Marin**, Jessica, Florida Goldcoast  
**Martin**, Sheryl, Placer Gold  
**May**, Nicole, (F) Pikes Peak  
**McCabe**, Anastasia, (F) Phoenix  
**McDermott**, Kathleen, San Gabriel Valley  
**McEntire**, Lindsey, (F) New York Capital Region  
**McNivens**, Lauren, Santa Barbara  
**Mcphail**, Amy, (F) Carolinas  
**McQueen Fogelin**, Jodi, (F) Mt. Shasta  
**Mershon**, Kimberly, Alabama  
**Miller**, Jessie, (F) Colorado  
**Minor**, Maci, Carolinas  
**Mitchell**, Sydney, (F) Kitty Hawk  
**Molinaro**, Ashlyn, Florida Goldcoast  
**Mollohan**, Mackenzie, Rio Colorado  
**Momoh**, Busola, Arabian Section  
**Muhtasib**, Juman, Arabian Section  
**Myzie**, Amy, New Jersey

**Nash**, Tina, Spaceport  
**Neipert**, Leslie, (F) Houston  
**Nichols**, Pam, Utah  
**O'Neil**, Bebe, Houston  
**Opoku-Nsiah**, Adwoa, (F) Daytona Beachin Eagles  
**Page Tritz**, Deanna, (F) Wisconsin  
**Partridge**, Jennifer, Southeast Section  
**Pebler**, Hannah, Phoenix  
**Pham**, Van, (F) Long Beach  
**Plein**, Lindsay, Antelope Valley  
**Queller**, Janine, (F) Reno Area  
**Ravdal**, Juliana, (F) Colorado  
**Reeves**, Lydia, Eastern New England  
**Rennier**, Sherry, Greater St. Louis  
**Repp**, Cynthia, (F) Intermountain  
**Rhodes**, Kassidy, Alaska  
**Rogers**, Brooke, Dallas  
**Romano**, Gabriella, (F) Daytona Beachin Eagles  
**Romo**, Aubrey, (F) Ambassador  
**Ross**, Jaime, Aloha  
**Ruelaz Maher**, Alicia, (F) Los Angeles Palms  
**Salem**, Nerin, Arabian Section  
**Sankaran**, Olga, Chicago Area  
**Santieli**, Yamira, Treasure Coast  
**Schuchardt**, Stacie, (F) Colorado  
**Schultz**, Kassandra, (F) All-Ohio  
**Schwartz**, Deena, Chicago Area  
**Shukiar**, Carly, (F) Ventura County  
**Sigrist**, Cynthia, (F) Indiana Dunes  
**Sippel**, Paula, (F) Finger Lakes  
**Smith**, Mary, Orange County  
**Snipes**, Julia, Georgia Flying Belles  
**Solomon**, Madison, (F) Colorado  
**Soutiere**, T Yvette, (F) Alaska  
**Stayton**, Savannah, (F) Tulsa  
**Steele**, Cathleen, Maryland  
**Steffensen**, Sandra, Reno High Sierra  
**Supan**, Patricia Ira, (F) First Canadian  
**Sutherland**, Lauren, Texas Dogwood  
**Swanson**, Erin, Utah  
**Swartz**, Hannah, Australian Section  
**Tan**, Faith, (F) British Columbia Coast  
**Thamina**, Preethi, Chicago Area  
**Thomas**, Janie, Los Angeles Palms  
**Travis**, Sharon, (F) Columbia Cascade  
**Ullius**, Emma, (F) Carolinas  
**Velez**, Nabill, Ambassador  
**Vierling**, Chausette, (F) Aloha  
**Wadel**, Tiffany, (F) Alaska  
**Wagner**, Amanda, Chicago Area  
**Ward**, Sophia, (F) Chicago Area  
**Ware**, Beth, Reno High Sierra  
**Ware**, Bridget, (F) Colorado  
**Warner**, Madison, (F) Utah  
**Whitson**, Shalyn, (F) Oregon Pines  
**Williams**, Marcia, Arabian Section  
**Winter**, Erika, (F) Kentucky Bluegrass  
**Wolfgang**, Amy, Maryland  
**Zhang**, Bowen, China Section  
**Zuberek**, Jessie, Eastern New England

*\* (F) indicates a Student Pilot (formerly referred to as Future Women Pilots).*



## Six Lucky Winners of The 99s Travelling Raffle Revealed

BY SUSAN LIEBELER, Ventura County Chapter

The 2017 99s travelling raffle debuted at the AOPA Regional Fly-In in Camarillo, California, in the spring. We also sold raffle tickets at Oshkosh, the International Conference in Texas, and other air shows and aviation events.

Out of all those tickets sold, the six lucky winners are:

**Sugarloaf 99 Lin Caywood** from Frederick, Maryland, won the CP Aviation, Santa Paula, California, the winner's choice of tailwheel endorsement or emergency maneuver training course, \$2,000 value.

**Mike Toft** of Brock, Texas, won the mountain/canyon flying course, a \$5,400 value, at McCall Mountain Canyon/Flying in McCall, Idaho.

**Florida Goldcoast 99 Kim Elsholz** of Key West, Florida, won the seaplane training course from ProMark Aviation Services in Burnet, Texas, a \$2,000 value.

**Eugene Lee** of Ottawa, Canada, won two unrestricted system-wide tickets on Alaska Airlines or Virgin America, \$2,500 value.

**Mt. Shasta 99 Donna Taylor** won 80,000 frequent flyer miles on Hawaiian Airlines.

**Sally Knight** of Santa Paula, California, won four Southwest Airlines E Passes, an \$800 value.

Proceeds from the raffle support the promotion and award of the Karen Johnson Solo Scholarship for young girls between 16-20 years of age who want to learn to fly ([www.kjsoloscholarship.com](http://www.kjsoloscholarship.com)), and other 99s outreach activities.

The Ninety-Nines are grateful to our generous raffle donors for the terrific raffle prizes: CP Aviation and Judy and Clay Phelps; McCall Mountain/Canyon Flying and Lori McNichol; Promark Aviation Services and Ken Wittekiend; Alaska Airlines; Hawaiian Airlines; Southwest Airlines.

## Opt in to Elections!

You now can choose how you participate in 99s elections. You can continue sending in your ballot via snail mail, or you can use the easy, speedy electronic ballot. However, you need to opt in to use the electronic ballot.

Currently, only 473 out of 5,230 members have opted in to take advantage of this easy, secure and cost-saving method of casting their vote.

Anyone who doesn't opt-in for the electronic ballot will be sent a paper ballot at the cost of approximately \$3 per ballot for mailing and counting. With over 4,700 members getting paper ballots, \$14,000 of the membership dues money will be spent for the 2018 election.

Even if you choose not to vote, please opt in at <https://www.ninety-nines.org/members/VotingOptInOut.htm>. The deadline is December 31, 2017.

This space is dedicated to our members and 49½s who have passed on to New Horizons. We will miss them, and thank these 99s for all their contributions to our organization.

Our members who recently flew to New Horizons were:

**June Beverly Bonesteel**, March 21, 2017, Phoenix Chapter  
**Margaret 'Mike' Mathilda Conlin**, December 20, 2016, South Central Section

**Pam Crane**, September 9, 2017, San Antonio Chapter

**John Davey**, October 8, 2017, 49½ of Billie Downing, Eastern New England Chapter.

**Jorge Delano**, September 13, 2017, 49½ of Kathy Wasworth, Connecticut Chapter

**Marilyn Kamp**, Central New York Chapter

**Stella Doss Leis**, September 4, 2017, San Antonio Chapter

**Kathryn McNamara**, November 8, 2016, Fresno Chapter

**Anne Roethke**, M.D., October 20, 2017, Paradise Coast Chapter

**Gloria Santucci**, October 27, 2017, Central New York Chapter

**Ruth L. Sitler**, September 11, 2017, Spaceport Chapter

**Gay Skerman**, November 2, 2017, New Zealand Section

**Marie Slaton**, January 4, 2016, South Central Section

**Eleanor L. Todd**, June 16, 2017, Orange County Chapter

The full obituaries and photos are now posted on The Ninety-Nines website. To read them, follow the link, [www.ninety-nines.org/new-horizons.htm](http://www.ninety-nines.org/new-horizons.htm), or you can access the obituaries from the home page of the website. Click on the History tab, then on New Horizons in the drop-down list.



### Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

**Marie Andrews**, Ridgecrest, California

**Kaitlyn Clark**, Cook, Minnesota

**Deborah Decker**, Esko, Minnesota

**Caroline & Etienne d'Otreppe**, Suffield, Connecticut

**Arlyn Duval**, Imperial, California

**Tony Hann**, Albany, Oregon

**Josh Lubbers**, Estero, Florida

**Dale Machalleck**, Montecito, California

**Mike McWade**, Reno, Nevada

**Taylor Peeff**, Louisville, Kentucky

**Lori Pobuta**, Bellingham, Washington

**Mary Shell**, Bakersfield, California

**Brooke Spurlock**, Lawrence, Kansas

**Linda Stull**, La Mesa, California

**Elizabeth Vance**, Dania, Florida

**Starr Worthy**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

# Amelia...

## The Town and The People Who Loved Her

by J.A. Kiehl

**A Book Like No Other.**

**It is not a mystery about her disappearance.  
It is a story of how she lived as a child.**

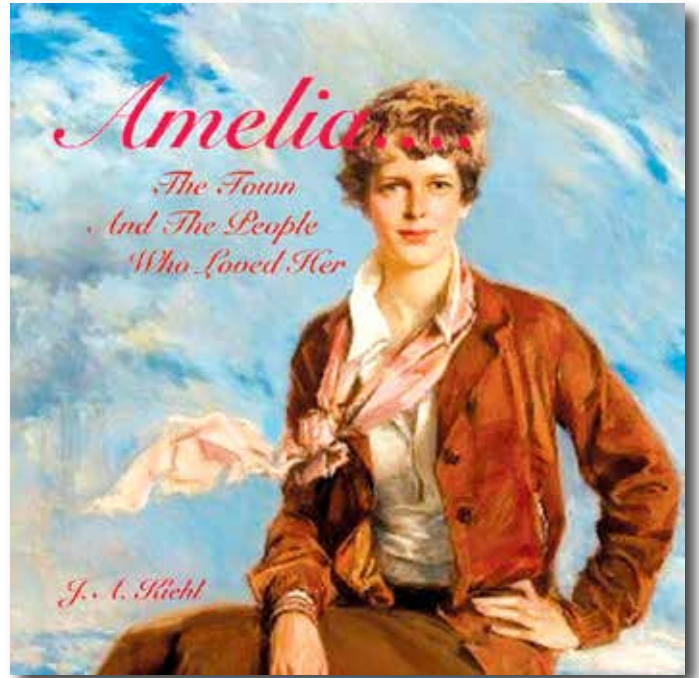
### What readers are saying about “Amelia”

*“This is a book that every Amelia fan should read. If you want to know where the soul of Amelia lies you’ll want to start here. I am a big fan of books that tell little known stories and facets of Amelia’s life and you certainly can’t get any better than this. I highly recommend that you go out and pick up this wonderfully informative and beautifully written book.”*

— Chris Williamson, Film Executive,  
“Chasing Amelia”

*“Of the many books written about Amelia Earhart, this one is totally unique. It is the lovingly told story of Amelia’s early childhood days in the small town of Atchison. Written from the author’s perspective, who was also born and raised in Atchison and grew up idolizing Amelia. She was fascinated with Amelia’s early years and her eventual fame as a pioneer in women’s aviation. A history of the town of Atchison and the many pictures enhances the town, and Amelia and her family enhance the story. Definitely worth a read!”*

— Pamela K. King, Retired Librarian,  
Phoenix, Arizona



*“I truly enjoyed the new book. The most interesting and fascinating part for me has always been Amelia Earhart herself – the real historical personality behind the famous public figure and her legend. Whatever we do and achieve in our lives, we all are shaped by our childhood – the people, the places and circumstances that surrounded and formed us. That’s why this book is so good, precious and illustrative for an AE admirer and researcher, as it presents exactly these important things in Amelia’s life: where, how and surrounded by whom she grew up, and how she became that Amelia Earhart who did what she did, inspiring so many people. This is a fascinating read that I would recommend for everybody.*

— Oleksandr “Alex” V. Mandel, PhD, Associate Professor of Biophysics, Odessa National Medical University, Odessa, Ukraine

To order online, go to [www.Blurb.com/Bookstore](http://www.Blurb.com/Bookstore). Cost of the book is \$85.99 plus shipping from Blurb.

For those who would like a signed copy, please contact J.A. Kiehl at [windsorgateliteraryltd@gmail.com](mailto:windsorgateliteraryltd@gmail.com). The author will sign a copy and mail it to you. U.S. purchases of a signed copy are: \$85.99 plus \$6.45 tax, \$4.00 shipping, \$3.00 handling. Total = \$99.44

International purchases of a signed copy are: \$85.99 plus \$6.45 tax, \$23.00 shipping, \$4.00 handling. Total = \$119.44 (USD)



Jeannine Wyatt, who writes under the pen name of J.A. Kiehl, is a Trustee of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, shown in the background. Jeannine also grew up in Atchison, where she first became fascinated with Amelia.