



# Ninety-Nines

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

*November/December 2020*

## Elise Wheelock

*She Took Off with The Ninety-Nines  
and Landed at Piper Aircraft*

*Story on Page 10*



# **Ninety-Nines**

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

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Marion Jayne was the recipient of The International Award of Achievement for Contributions to The Ninety-Nines. She and her daughter, 99 Patricia Jayne Keefer, won the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) Gold medal for Arc en Ciel's 1994 Round the World Air Race.



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The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots invites you to a virtual Mercury 13 60th Anniversary Celebration featuring Wally Funk and Gene Nora Jessen on February 17.



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To honor Barron Hilton's legacy as a supporter of aviation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has awarded a half million-dollar grant to The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund. The grant will enable the Ninety-Nines to increase outreach activities, develop more high-quality pilot proficiency education programs

## On The Cover

Elise Wheelock, member of the Old Dominion Chapter, has come a long way in the six years since she took her first flight at a Women Can Fly Event. With many impressive experiences in-between, Elise now has an exciting career with Piper Aircraft, including being the demo pilot for Piper's newest training aircraft, the Pilot 100/100i.

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Although many are familiar with Pilots N Paws dog rescue, there's a lesser known organization that is dedicated to saving endangered sea turtles. Sugarloaf Chapter member Brenda Tibbs recently flew a rehabilitated sea turtle, Pistachio, to his new home at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago



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The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees recently announced the recipients of the 2020 Fall Fly Now Awards. This session, they were pleased to be able to make 14 awards for a total of \$62,000. The recipients are from 12 different Chapters, representing eight Sections in four countries.

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The Ventura County Chapter announced the new Susan Liebler Student Pilot Milestone Scholarship. Susan has been head fundraiser for the International 99s and a mentor to other 99 Chapters. Right, Susan, makes friends with the Geico gecko at The 99s booth during last year's EAA fly-in.



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## The 99s Mission Statement

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

# CALENDAR

## 2021

### JANUARY

- 31 **Deadline for Submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) application for Mentoring Spring Session.** For more information, go to [www.ninety-nines.org/resources.htm](http://www.ninety-nines.org/resources.htm) or email [mentoring@ninety-nines.org](mailto:mentoring@ninety-nines.org).
- 31 **Deadline for 2021 International Awards Submission.** For more information, email [Awards@ninety-nines.org](mailto:Awards@ninety-nines.org).

### MARCH

- 19-21 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### APRIL

- 1 **Australian Section Annual Meeting**, Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia.
- 8-11 **Southwest Section Spring Meeting**, Nugget Hotel Casino, Sparks, Nevada, hosted by the Reno High Sierra Chapter. Depending on the status of the virus, there will be a tour of Top Gun at NAS Fallon.
- 13-18 **Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**, Lakeland, Florida.
- 23-24 **New York-New Jersey Section Spring Meeting**, Oneonta, New York.

### JUNE

- 4-7 **New Zealand Association of Women in Aviation Annual Rally**, Motueka, New Zealand.
- 5 **New Zealand Section 99s Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, Motueka, New Zealand.

### JULY

- 7-11 **2021 International Conference and Career Expo on the Queen Mary**, Long Beach, California.
- Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**, Lakeland, Florida.
- 31 **Deadline for submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application** for mentoring Autumn Session. For more information, go to [www.ninety-nines.org/resources.htm](http://www.ninety-nines.org/resources.htm) or email [mentoring@ninety-nines.org](mailto:mentoring@ninety-nines.org).

### AUGUST

- 13-15 **Palms to Pines Air Race**, California to Oregon.
- 14 **42nd Annual Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally, Sundance Airport**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



*First Canadian Chapter members Akky Mansikka, left, and her friend Mary Norman, look forward to another season of flying adventures.*

### SEPTEMBER

- 17-18 **Forest of Friendship Celebration – World Friendship through Flight**, Atchison, Kansas.
- 24-26 **99s Fly-in**, McKeller-Sipes Airport (KMKL) Jackson, Tennessee. Registration is free for the weekend of events. There will be both camping under your wing and a block of hotel rooms available for a nightly rate. Enjoy aviation competitions, educational seminars, movie nights, fun, food, and camaraderie. Rental aircraft available for currency flight instruction and night currency.

### DECEMBER

- 4-9 **India Section Conference**, New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Ninety-Nines are invited to experience the sights, sounds, flavours, and history of “Incredible India” through a six-night/seven-day program, beginning and ending at New Delhi. The itinerary includes an exciting tour of the three most fabled cities of India — the capital city of Delhi (where the old culture and architecture coexists with the new), Agra (for its famous Taj Mahal), and Jaipur (popular for its handicrafts and UNESCO World Heritage sites). For those interested, send a message to Governor Nivedita Bhasin to be added to the India Section 99s Conference WhatsApp group.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Whatever has happened in the past year, the New Year brings fresh beginnings. Exciting new experiences and relationships await. Let us be thankful for the blessings of the past and the promise of the future." — Peggy Toney Horton*

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time. We face a blank canvas, full of possibilities, hopes and dreams. During the first month or so, many people make resolutions for the new year, determined to continue good practices, change undesired behaviors, accomplish personal goals, or otherwise improve their lives.

Since the very start of The Ninety-Nines, our members have accomplished many personal goals. Personal goals can lead to great accomplishments!

In the early days, because aviation was so new, many personal goals became world records and "first-to-do" feats. We celebrated the accomplishments of Amelia Earhart, Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Pancho Barnes, Bobbi Trout, Elinor Smith, Dorothy Rungeling, and many other pioneering members. Later, Jacqueline Cochran, the WASP, the Mercury 13, Geraldine (Jerrie) Mock, Eileen Collins, Nicole Malachowski, Ida Van Smith, and a myriad of determined Ninety-Nines blazed their own historic paths. This past November, we cheered the first operational flight of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, which carried 99s member Shannon Walker to the International Space Station (ISS), where she will assume the role of ISS Commander in April.

Not all aviation dreams lead to world records and "first-to-do" feats. And that's okay. But all of us have done something extraordinary: we became pilots. Most pilots aren't women; most women aren't pilots. Yet something deep inside pushed each of us to the edge and convinced us to take that leap and earn our wings. That's something to celebrate!

I challenge you to accomplish a new personal goal in this new year. Pursue a new certificate or rating, get a checkout in a different aircraft, challenge yourself in an air race, fly to a new airport or a long cross-country, take some aerobatic lessons. You don't have to take to the sky to achieve a new personal goal: Take an online safety course, share your love of aviation with a group of schoolchildren, tell a group of senior citizens about your flying adventures, write an article for your Chapter's newsletter, suggest a great guest speaker for your next Chapter meeting... the list of opportunities is endless.

But whatever you do, don't sit still. Push forward! You've got a blank canvas in front of you, full of possibilities, hopes and dreams. Do something amazing!



**Corbi Bulluck**  
International President

*"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style."*

*— Maya Angelou*



*Many of our Ninety-Nines are recognized for their impressive accomplishments:*

*Left, in 1932 Louise Thaden and Frances Marsalis set a new women's endurance flight record of 196 hours, 6 minutes.*

*Right, Shannon Walker was selected as a NASA astronaut in 2004. She launched on her first mission into space on June 25, 2010 onboard Soyuz TMA-19 and spent over 163 days in space.*

*What will your accomplishment be?*





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# The 99s Museum of Women Pilots Invites You to the Mercury 13 60th Anniversary Celebration

## Wally and Gene Nora – 60 Years in Retrospect

*By Sarah Byrn Rickman, Ninety-Nines Museum Trustee, Pikes Peak Chapter*

**J**oin Ninety-Nines Wally Funk and Gene Nora Jessen on Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Central Standard Time for our stellar 60th Anniversary Salute to the Mercury 13 — the women pilots who successfully passed the same physiological screening tests as the space-flight-bound Project Mercury astronauts. That's how it all began.

Prepare to meet, greet, listen to, and celebrate with Wally and Gene Nora — brought to you up close and personal via your home computer.

Emcee is Janet Ivey of the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Janet's Planet*. Janet is all about space exploration and space travel. She is especially fascinated with the Mercury 13 and their story. She is president of Explore Mars, Inc. and serves on the National Space Society Board of Governors.

Eileen Collins is our Keynote



*Wally Funk.*

Speaker. The first woman to fly as the space shuttle commander, this now retired astronaut, USAF Colonel, former military instructor and test pilot is THE woman to introduce Gene Nora and Wally.

Also welcome a next generation astronaut hopeful, Alyssa Carson. An outstanding young woman pilot and a Ninety-Nine Fly Now winner, she's a member of the NOLA Chapter. Alyssa is the author of *So You Want to Be an Astronaut*, a "reach for your dreams" book for young people.

You will want to hear what Wally and Gene Nora have to say to Janet, who looks forward to interviewing them live and on screen. Tune in,



*Gene Nora Jessen.*

listen to Wally and Gene Nora's stories — told in their own words — as they mark this, the 60th anniversary of the Mercury 13.

Tickets will be available through Eventbrite.com. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students through 12th grade. Look for final details on 99s websites and social media, and other aviation sites. For more information, email [99sMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:99sMuseum@gmail.com). Please help promote this event for the MWP.

# The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund Receives a Half Million Dollar Grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation



*By Mary Wunder, Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund Chair, and Susan Liebler, Ninety-Nines Fundraising Chair*

To honor Barron Hilton's legacy as a supporter of aviation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has awarded a half million-dollar grant to The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund of The Ninety-Nines. The grant will enable The Ninety-Nines to increase outreach activities, develop more high-quality pilot proficiency education programs, and share the group's passion for aviation and The Ninety-Nines with others.

In addition to his success as a businessman and entrepreneur, Barron Hilton was a great friend to aviation. During his World War II Navy service, Hilton took private flying lessons and earned his single-engine license. At age 19, he earned his twin-engine rating at University of Southern California Aeronautical School. As a longtime aviation enthusiast, Hilton was a major supporter of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program which encourages aircraft owners to give rides to youngsters to introduce them to the joy of flying.

The Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight Gallery is funded by the Hilton Foundation with the hope that future generations of young people let their own dreams soar to new heights.

The Ninety-Nines share the goal of the Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight program and are deeply grateful that the

Hilton Foundation honored Barron Hilton's love of aviation with this generous grant to The Ninety-Nines Endowment Fund. With this grant, the Endowment Fund principal exceeds \$3.1 million! Income from the Fund is used to provide financial support for The Ninety-Nines.

About the Hilton Foundation: The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help individuals throughout the world living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage. The Foundation invests in 11 program areas, including providing access to safe water, supporting transition-age foster youth, ending chronic homelessness, hospitality workforce development, disaster relief and recovery, helping young children affected by HIV and AIDS, and supporting the work of Catholic sisters.

In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$2.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.8 billion in grants, distributing \$110 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2019.

Foundation assets increased from approximately \$2.9 billion to \$6.6 billion following the 2019 passing of Barron Hilton who, like his father, pledged virtually his entire estate to the Foundation. For more information about the Hilton Foundation, please visit [www.hiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hiltonfoundation.org).



# Marion Jayne — Award Of Achievement For Contributions To The Ninety-Nines

*In an inexplicable error in the last issue, we unfortunately excluded one very important Ninety-Nines Awardee and her honor: Marion Jayne, recipient of the International Award of Achievement for Contributions to the 99s. Following is the tribute to Marion as intended for the September/October issue.*



At age 39, Marion and husband George started flying to reach equestrian business commitments faster. Five years later, she was the 12th woman to earn an ATP with ASMEI/CFII/Commercial credentials. Skills were honed and friendships formed in continent-spanning 99-sponsored races. Suddenly a single mom of three at 44 after the death of her husband and nearly financially destitute, she became a self-made businesswoman by building an indoor tennis club. Only race sponsorships enabled her to keep the Twin Comanche.

Asked at a 1994 Round The World Air Race interview why she competed, Marion answered, “To show that women have a place in aviation.” She and her daughter, 99 Life Member Patricia Jayne Keefer, won the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) Gold Medal in that race of 21,000 sm in 12 flying/24 elapsed days. Marion and her daughter, Nancy Jayne Palozola, were the first mother-daughter team to race around the world and won second place flying 16,000 sm in 1992.

Marion gave back by founding/co-founding five pioneering aviation businesses: first speed cross-country race open to all pilots; Air Race Classic; Grand Prix; U.S. Air Race, Inc. ([www.us-airrace.org](http://www.us-airrace.org)) as first race with N-number-specific handicaps; Tailwinds, Catalog of the Skies, ([www.tailwinds.com](http://www.tailwinds.com)).

Solo, she hand-flew a Mooney over the Atlantic in the 1980s in 13 hours. In 1990, she soloed the Atlantic in a 51-year-old Bonanza for start of the London-Sydney Vintage Air Rally. Two 99s joined her in London. After Marion’s team won the first ten legs, the competition was ended but the flying continued. Marion won the most cross-country pilot-skilled speed air races in different aircraft, from a borrowed Civil Air Patrol 172, a rented Cherokee, a Tiger, a Meyers 200D, and a Bonanza, to her famed Twin Comanche. Marion is the only U.S. pilot, only twin-engine pilot and only woman to have raced twice around the world. She has been honored with/at: 99 Extraordinary Achievement Award; 100 Aviation Heroes for 1st Century with Wright brothers, Earhart, Lindbergh, etc.; International Forest of Friendship for Illinois/Texas; Women in Aviation Pioneer Aviation Hall of Fame; The 99s Museum of Women Pilots; International Women’s Air & Space Museum.

Ohio 99 Jeanne Wolcott wrote at Marion’s death, “Whenever I saw Marion’s achievements, I felt like they were the accomplishments of all women pilots.”

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## Julie Clark Honored as Distinguished Stateswoman of Aviation

For more than a century, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) has recognized the very best in American Aviation, and one of our members was recently honored as one of the best. Placer Gold Chapter member Julie Clark received the 2020 Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman and Stateswoman of Aviation Award.

Julie Clark was recognized for her decades-long contributions to the art of aerobatic airshow flying, inspiring millions of fans who have witnessed her expertly choreographed routines, and for blazing a trail for women in aviation as one of the first female pilots to be hired by a major U.S. airline.

Former Distinguished Statesman George Carneal, who nominated Clark for this award, noted that “Julie Clark’s superlative contributions to the art of aerobatic airshow flying spanned decades of accident-free hours and thrilled millions of fans by her innovative, skillful, and elegant airshow routines. Julie’s extraordinary achievements as a premier pilot also included her status during a career of 30 years as one of the first women to be hired as a pilot by a major airline and then as a captain.”



Placer Gold Chapter member Julie Clark received the 2020 Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman and Stateswoman of Aviation Award.

Other awardees were Brigadier General John Allen, USAF (Ret.); Einar Enevoldson; David Franson; Colonel and Doctor Kathryn Hughes, USAF (Ret.); and Michael Quiello.

The 2020 class of Distinguished Statesmen and Stateswomen will be honored on a date and location to be determined.

— National Aeronautic Association



## HOLDING SHORT

### Perseverance will lead to payback



*To keep it short, my family and I lost our house in the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa. At the time, I owned an events business and have been in this industry for 12 years.*

*After the fires everything was put into perspective, and I realized I wanted to do something I had dreamed of but never thought possible...become a pilot and eventually get a job with CalFire or the likes so I can give back to the community and protect homes like they do now with all these wildfires. I wanted to do something that made a difference.*

*So I sold my company one month later, took six months to travel and heal, and as soon as I came back, I began flying. I have obtained my private certificate, instrument rating, commercial and CFI in a year and nine months and am excited and grateful for all that has happened and all I've done over the past two years.*

*Out of the fires and the loss of everything I owned came a life change that I'll forever be grateful for. Thanks again, and I appreciate the opportunity of being a part of such a wonderful organization.*

*Cheers!*  
*Kristen Stimpert*  
*Santa Rosa Chapter*

### Fanni's sparkling flight across the pond

On a wonderful Saturday in mid-September, around 30 female aviators gathered for a fly-in into Reichelsheim Airport (EDFB) in Germany. Organized by German Section member Andrea Amberge, a group of Finnish, African, Arabic, Austrian and German Section members gathered to listen to my adventures in form of a presentation about crossing the pond from Austria to London Ontario, Canada, in a Diamond DA42.

— Fanni Pajer, Austrian Section



### Ana and Capt. Fred invite you to Aviation Theater

Southwest Section member Ana Province and her 49½ “Capt. Fred” invite you to explore their YouTube channel “Aviation Theater.” Ana and Fred are co-producers of an award-winning series of aviation education and history-based programs. Ana hosts an episode that highlights the Girl Scout Aerospace merit badge. Other episodes feature women in aviation history, as well as more recent aviation heroes. Ana is an award-winning Aviation ambassador, a winner of The 99s President's Award and has been honored in the U.S. Congress for promoting women in aviation.



*To be entertained and informed by Ana and Fred's productions, go to YouTube.com and type in Aviation Theater.*



Back: Marylou Pohl, Jan McKenzie, Beverly Sinclair.  
Front: Vanita Gallo, Anita Hessin and Margot Plummer.

### Happy 100th Anita!

A few of us celebrated Anita Hessin's 100th birthday on November 3. Anita's son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Polly Hessin, had cake for the event. We had the best time, and Anita was so happy we came.

— Margot Plummer  
Colorado Chapter



## **Only Six Years Ago, Elise Wheelock Took Her First Flight. Look At Her Now!**

*By Elise Wheelock  
Old Dominion Chapter*

I'm a 22-year-old University of North Dakota (UND) graduate and the Product Marketing Coordinator for Piper Aircraft. I took my very first flight only six years ago at a Women Can Fly event organized by The Ninety-Nines to introduce more girls to aviation.

With me, it worked! Since that flight, I've earned my private certificate (both in airplanes and gliders), as well as earned commercial certificate, multi-engine and instrument ratings.

I've also earned my flight instructor and instrument instructor certificates, and a type rating in a Citation jet. I won the National Aerobatic Championships in the primary category in 2017.

I'm still not sure how I got here. After my first flight, I pursued my private pilot certificate with help from the Fly Now! Scholarship. I was also an Amelia Earhart Memorial Fund Scholarship recipient. I have to thank The Ninety-Nines for my career as a pilot, not only for the scholarship money but for convincing my mom that flying was safe enough for her 15-year-old daughter.

After getting my private certificate, I decided to continue my education at UND. There I had the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree (which my parents insisted on), while simultaneously earning all my pilot certificates (which I insisted on).

There were other benefits to UND that I did not expect: I joined and competed with the UND Aerobatics team, which was a life-changing experience; I made a network of friends and acquaintances that has been hugely beneficial in my career; I even got my job at Piper because of UND.

I first came to Piper as an intern in the summer of 2018. At the time, I was between my junior and senior years at UND. An internship seemed like a good idea, and the east coast of Florida sounded a little warmer than North Dakota.

My internship at Piper was only two months, just long enough to get to know the company and the people I'd work with. Several months later, I returned to Piper as a full-time employee. I still had no idea what I was getting into. A few highlights included qualifying to fly each of Piper's currently



produced aircraft; representing Piper at trade shows and career fairs; flying with customers when they arrive at the factory to take delivery of their new planes; and working on product development and improvement.

I have been incredibly fortunate in the adventures I've had along the way. As the demonstration pilot for Piper's newest training aircraft, the Pilot 100/100i, I visited flight schools across the country. I traveled for about three months, personally logging more than 250 hours on our demo plane. I visited 33 states and even more flight schools. I had the opportunity to give hundreds of demo flights. It was the best way to see the country!

As a demo pilot, I got to show off my favorite aircraft to a diverse group of people. I flew with pilots and non-pilots from all walks of life and experience levels. The one thing that was consistent was their universal love of flying and the excitement we shared to get to fly a brand-new model of aircraft.

There are a few demos that stick out in my mind. I was on my very first demo tour, heading west. The first stop was a tiny town in Arkansas where I did demos with eleven flight instructors.

The very first demo, I was sitting in the left seat (customer preference). I was incredibly nervous, and though I gave a passenger brief, I forgot to specifically mention the top latch on the door. On takeoff, the door popped open, and he reached up and closed it. I thought nothing of it. When we landed, it turned out that the door latch had broken, and we were stuck in the plane! Luckily, there were plenty of people around to let us out and fix the latch, but it was a humbling experience for my first demo.

In January, Piper announced the Garmin Autoland system, which safely flies the Piper M600/SLS to a runway in case of pilot incapacitation. For that demo tour, I aided in ferry flights, coordination with control towers, social media presence, and planning. I got to watch the airplane select a runway, fly itself autonomously to the runway, and land. The system even puts

down gear, flaps, and tells the passengers what it's doing.

When I'm at the Piper factory, I work on product development, marketing, and aircraft delivery coordination. Most recently, I have been delivering aircraft to flight schools that are unable to pick up their new aircraft due to COVID-19 and the resulting travel restrictions and quarantine rules.

The people are what makes this industry amazing. There have been so many individuals who have helped lift me up and pushed me to succeed. I don't come from an aviation family, so the people at the airport where I learned to fly became like a second family to me.

I got a tailwheel endorsement, my first aerobatic ride, and a glider certificate just because I was around a lot. One of the most important people to my development as a pilot and as a person has been my "grand-pilot" Ken.

We worked together at the flight school. He'd split shifts with me so I could go to my community college classes, and when he wasn't working, half the time he'd come in anyway, just to make sure I was getting along okay and to establish his position as the official "airport bum."

He was the one who heard all my crazy career ideas, made me get my tailwheel endorsement, took me on my first glider flight and pushed me to get my glider rating. No one else has ever told me what to do so consistently, and so kindly, even when their advice is usually ignored the first 10 times.

He bought me an adventure flight in a helicopter when I graduated from UND, just to get me hooked on my next rating, and has always kept track of me no matter what state I am in.

People are the most important part of any industry,

but I am convinced the aviation industry has kidnapped the cream of the crop. Thank you to all the people who have supported me, encouraged me, and given me their time, energy, and flown with me.

I am so grateful, and so excited to pay it forward to the next batch of young aviators!



*"I flew with pilots and non-pilots from all walks of life and experience levels. The one thing that was consistent was their universal love of flying and the excitement we shared to get to fly a brand-new model of aircraft."*



# **You Fly WHAT?**



*Rescued sea turtle Pistachio smiles for her official portrait.*



*Sugarloaf Chapter member Brenda Tibbs invites Pistachio on her first plane ride. Photos this page by Brenda Tibbs.*

## **General Aviation to the (Turtle) Rescue**

*By Kelli O'Donnell, Florida Suncoast Chapter*

While the non-profit Pilots N Paws transports dogs, did you know there is another non-profit that transports sea turtles? Well, there is, and there is a need for more general aviation volunteer pilots. Here's a story of some of our 99s being involved in the Turtles Fly Too (TF2) mission to coordinate and facilitate the use of general aviation to transport endangered species, develop critical response teams, and to educate the community on conservation of marine life.

Pistachio, an endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, came to the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, Florida, for rehabilitation in 2011 due to being a victim of a boat strike. It was later determined her serious injuries prevented her from being re-released into the wild. Pistachio was in the care of the Florida Aquarium while she waited for her permanent home to open up. Once Brookfield Zoo near Chicago, Illinois, responded to the re-homing request, coordination between

multiple federal and state agencies and TF2 occurred to secure the required endangered species transport permits. Further conversations with FBOs, sponsors, volunteers, and TF2 pilots occurred to make the flight happen.

On September 9, 2020, Brenda Tibbs, Sugar Loaf Chapter member and owner of Bravo Flight Training in Frederick, Maryland, answered the endangered species call. An avid lover of aviation and sea turtles, she knew she had to get involved with TF2 when she first heard of the organization in 2014.

Brenda hadn't been able to participate at first due to the logistics of transporting many sea turtles at once or carrying the large crates some turtles needed. However, Brenda was determined to participate and even went so far as to fly down to Florida earlier in the year to attend a TF2 pilot thank you fly-in organized by Kelli O'Donnell, Florida Suncoast Chapter Vice-Chair and TF2/NOAA Fisheries Southeast

liaison. There she met in person with Kelli and Leslie Weinstein, TF2 founder and president. Continued conversations with TF2 and her flight school's addition of a Twin Tecnam P2006T finally gave Brenda the opportunity to participate in a transport flight.

Brenda flew from Frederick, Maryland, to Tampa, Florida, to pick up Pistachio from the Florida Aquarium staff. She then transported Pistachio to Chicago, Illinois, where she was met by Brookfield Zoo staff. Brenda also used this time to work with her co-pilot instructor on her MEI.

"The best part of this trip was seeing how happy Pistachio was in her new home. I would not have believed you could tell if a turtle was happy before this experience, but I know for sure you can tell when they are unhappy! Pistachio was quite unhappy on our first descent for fuel!"

Brenda originally became a pilot after watching IMAX movies at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She saw how people used planes to help endangered sea animals and has wanted to do this for 20 years. She was finally able to help an endangered sea turtle with this flight, and she can't wait to do it again. Kelli hopes to fly a mission with Brenda in the future as well.

"2020 has been a crazy year. But in all the craziness, I got to do an amazing thing and help a sea turtle get to her new home in Chicago.

It was definitely the highlight of my year!"

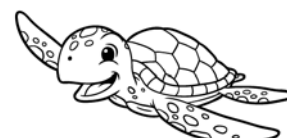


**Above, Florida Aquarium staff member gets Pistachio ready for her airborne adventure. Below: Pistachio undergoes a pre-flight check up by a Florida Aquarium vet.** Photos courtesy of The Florida Aquarium; "selfie" pic opposite page by Brenda Tibbs.



In addition to sea turtle transports to different facilities, potentially many cold-stunned sea turtles will need to be flown from the northeast to the southeast for recovery and rehabilitation this winter. TF2 needs more "Turtle Fliers." Feel free to contact Kelli O'Donnell at Kelli.

ODonnell@noaa.gov, for more information on how to participate or go to [turtlesflytoo.org/volunteer](http://turtlesflytoo.org/volunteer) and sign up to be put on the volunteer pilot list. In my opinion, this is one of the best cross-country flights you can take. Building hours while saving an endangered species, now that's something to put on the resume.





# fly now Winners!



## High Fives for 14 Fall Fly Now Recipients!

*By Jacque Boyd, Chair, Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund*

**T**he Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustees are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Fall Fly Now awards. This session, we received 37 applications requesting a total amount of \$175,000. We were pleased to be able to make 14 awards for a total of \$62,000.

Our 14 recipients are from 12 different Chapters, representing eight different Sections in four countries.

The 99s Fly Now program pays for specific Milestones along the road to the completion of the initial rating. This year, all the requests were for the Private-Airplane certification.

Our grassroots approach within the organization begins at the

Chapter level. And once again, the Trustees would like to extend a special thank-you to this group's Mentors. The Mentors play a particularly crucial role in the success of this unique program. The Mentors, while not necessarily from the same Chapter as the applicant, help provide guidance and support. Each recipient must report to the Trustee serving as Mama Bird. Trustee Linda Mae Hivert is the Fall Fly Now Mama Bird. Questions and concerns for this group may be addressed to her.

Dorothy Berthelet, the AEMSF Treasurer, works with each recipient concerning any payment questions or requests.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

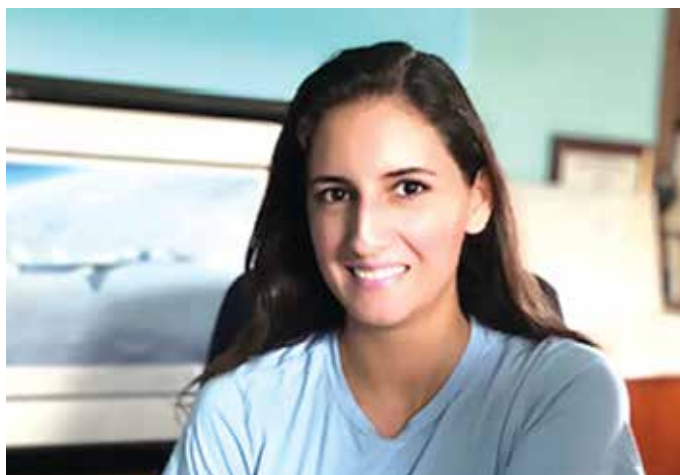


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### **CLAUDIA ASMUSSEN**

**San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section  
Mentor — Teresa McClellan**

Proud to be a student pilot and the San Diego Chapter Events Chair for The 99s, I left my home in Germany, dedicated to become a professional pilot. It is pure joy that gives me a smile to my heart when I get into an airplane. I want to connect people and be the helping hand as an air medical transport pilot. I am truly grateful for the support from the Fly Now award of The 99s, my mentor Teresa McClellan, my flight instructor John Steinberg, and everyone who is part of my adventurous journey.



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### **NATASCHA CLINE**

**Florida Goldcoast Chapter, Southeast Section  
Mentor — Myra Bugbee**

I'm from Homestead, Florida. Aviation has been a lifelong passion of mine. Eight years ago I began taking flight lessons. However, within those eight years, my husband and I started a family, which slowed down my progress of obtaining my pilot certificate. Now, my children are old enough to attend school, which has freed up time for me to work on my certificate. Currently, I am training at the Pilot Training Center of Homestead under the direction of Yogini Modi. I am beyond honored to have been selected for the Fly Now award.



---

## **SAMANTHA DANIELLE DAVIS**

**Tennessee Chapter, Southeast Section**

**Mentor — Sophia Conerly**

I am a student at Carson-Newman University and a student pilot at Morristown Flying Services Inc. I will be graduating college with highest honors next month, so I can finally pursue my flight career with undivided attention. I will use this award to finish my private pilot training, and then I plan to acquire my instrument multi-engine ratings and commercial certificate. I would like to become a banner tow pilot or an airline commuter pilot to build hours, while my end goal is to fly as a cargo pilot.



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## **REBECCA DELL**

**Fort Worth Chapter, South Central Section**

**Mentor — Wendy Turner**

My first single-engine flight took me over the lakes and mountains of central Japan. I then met and started dating a young Texan. After relocating to Texas, my interest in flying blossomed. I began training towards my private pilot certificate in May 2020. I am excited to be volunteering as part of the Fort Worth 99s Chapter Education Outreach Committee. I feel privileged to have the support and motivation from The 99s community and plan to use the Fly Now award to complete my private pilot certificate while encouraging others to start their flying journey.



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## **CAITLIN EVANS**

**Florida Suncoast Chapter, Southeast Section**

**Mentor — Janice McWilliams**

I'm originally from Indiana but currently live in Florida. I became interested in aviation at a young age, and after high school I became a flight attendant for Silver Airways to start my aviation career. I'm finishing my college degree while working in general aviation. After receiving my private pilot certificate, I want to continue my flight ratings as I navigate which pilot career path I would like to pursue. Words can't describe how grateful I am for this opportunity, and I look forward to being able to mentor future Ninety-Nines!



# *fly now* **Winners!**



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## **MICKEY FEARN**

**Eastern Idaho Chapter, Northwest Section**

**Mentor — Kelli Gammons**

As a career wildland firefighter, I have always admired the pilots working above me, but I never thought I could possibly be one until I was working a fire in Wyoming. I heard a female voice over the radio, a pilot of a helicopter working the line with bucket drops. Something clicked, and I realized if I want it, I just have to do it! I got my first taste of flying that fall and fell in love. I plan to take my fire career to the skies. I am so grateful for The 99s.



---

## **SALLY FRAKES**

**Florida Suncoast Chapter, Southeast Section**

**Mentor — Kelli O'Donnell**

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing is impossible for you. This is my story. I began training in 2000 while I was a flight attendant and soloed in 2001. A turn of events kept me from moving forward in aviation at that time. After completing my MBA, I have worked in an industry outside of aviation. Now, once I obtain my PPC, I will work towards my instrument rating to work in rescue and recovery. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, very thankful for my 99 sisters, and aspire to pay it forward!



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## **MEAGAN HUERTA**

**Florida Firstcoast Chapter, Southeast Section**

**Mentor — Jessica Mendez**

I am a San Diego native who grew up as a creative writer and became enveloped in the variety of stories aviators carry with them. I served in the Coast Guard on a cutter and was the "aviation fuel queen." After getting out, I began training in Florida and intend on being dual-rated to eventually fly for EMS/MEDEVAC. I'm working on my A&P and founded the local "Joystick Newsletter" that promotes my fellow aviators and their small businesses. I hope to open my own flight school that offers interdisciplinary programs so we can fly creatively and resourcefully!



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## **ALICE MCILROY-FOSTER**

**New Zealand Section  
Mentor — Bianca Barbarich-Bacher**

I am a 19-year-old learning to fly at the International Aviation Academy of New Zealand (IAANZ) based in Christchurch, New Zealand. The 99s have been part of my journey from the very beginning, starting with my trial flight with instructor Bianca Barbarich-Bacher, the current 99s New Zealand Section Governor. Before flying, I experienced great success becoming a New Zealand Field Hockey Representative. I am so excited to put in the work and enjoy the milestones that will challenge me throughout my aviation career. I have already achieved my first solo at the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School!



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## **JISOO OH**

**Daytona Chapter, Southeast Section  
Mentor — Virginie Rollin**

I was born and raised in South Korea but moved to America 12 years ago. I discovered my love for being in the air when I first tried paragliding six years ago. However, my passion for aviation started shortly after I became a licensed skydiver. I fell in love with flying through skydiving and realized I wanted to dedicate my life to being in the air, which quickly translated into my pursuit of aviation. I am very grateful to receive this award and excited to continue my journey of becoming a commercial pilot.



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## **CHIOMA OKORO**

**British Columbia Coast Chapter  
West Canada Section  
Mentor — Caroline Kolasa-Scott**

In 2014, I decided to be an airline pilot after undergraduate courses in aerodynamics further solidified my aviation interests. I am beyond thrilled, thankful and honored to be a recipient of this award from The 99s. I am grateful to my mentor, the BC Coast and African Section 99s sisters for the incredible support. After earning my private pilot license, I will proceed with training for a commercial pilot license with multi-engine ratings, alongside my continuous involvement in the advancement of aviation and inspiring the next generation of aviation professionals, especially females.





# *fly now* Winners!



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## **AMELIA REDD**

**Utah Chapter, Southwest Section**  
**Mentor — Francine Garcia**

In 2019, a dream took flight and soon became a driving force. I quickly began my private pilot training. In no time I was flying, pursuing a dream that brings me so much joy and a sense of adventure. I soon became acquainted with The 99s, for whom I am so grateful. These women inspire, encourage, and support like no other. I cannot express enough gratitude for these women and this organization. After earning my private certificate, I plan to go after instrument rating and commercial certificate. I hope to inspire other women to keep their dreams aloft.



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## **ANNA RUBIANES**

**Bay Cities Chapter, Southwest Section**  
**Mentor — Lydia Jo Royaute**

In 2017, I became a flight attendant for United Airlines and quickly fell head over heels with aviation and the airline industry. I am forever grateful to have found such a genuine and inspiring community in The 99s and especially within my Chapter, Bay Cities 99s. With the gracious support of the Fly Now award, I will be able to maintain my momentum to complete private pilot training — the first step toward achieving my ultimate dream of becoming an airline pilot. Thank you so much, Ninety-Nines!



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## **LAMIAE ZEJLI**

**French Section**  
**Mentor — Amandine Hivert Vignes**

I am extremely honored to be one of the recipients of The 99s Fall Fly Now award. Ever since I was a little girl, I had my head set on the stars. I am a Moroccan National currently living in France. I started flight training last year and have been enjoying every minute of it! I can't wait to get my PPL so I can become a mentor and encourage other women to pursue the incredible adventure of flight, just as Amelia Earhart did. I'd like to thank the French Section members, especially Laurence and Amandine, for their precious help.



BY DONNA  
MILLER

*International  
Careers  
Committee*

## Flight 101

*If a bird that could fly only wished for flight as it sat on a limb...before long it would be unable to fly. Same goes for anyone wishing for anything...if all they do is wish.*

— The Universe (Mike Dooley)

**W**hen the pandemic first began and we went into lockdown, I rode my bicycle on a trail near my house where a mother owl sat in a nest. Every day I watched the owl and learned that she had been sitting on three eggs. For the next several weeks, I watched the nest as the babies grew, anticipating the day that they would fly. However, they didn't just stand on the edge and fly away.

Long before they were ready, they stretched their stubby, downy wings and then went through the motion of flying before settling back into the comfort of their nest. And they grew. Pretty soon the nest got crowded, and I knew from having two siblings myself that eventually one of them was going to have to leave.

And one did. It jumped out of the nest and fell to the ground while flapping its wings. It eventually climbed back into the nest and tried again. And the others did too. One day, two of the owlets were on a branch in another tree and, eventually, the whole family was gone. They indeed learned to fly and decided to find residence elsewhere.

What I learned from watching this drama unfold is that all along these owlets were preparing. As we look at our own futures and decide what we want to do with our lives, preparation is critical. We have so many choices, but sitting on

a limb and wishing will not make it so. Little steps every day toward our goals will get us that much closer. Bigger strides will get us there faster, and even if we have uncertainty, doing something is better than not doing anything.

I know of women who launched headlong into careers only to learn that their heart wasn't in it. Was it a mistake? Not necessarily. What lessons did they learn along the way that served them well when they DID get on the right path? Aren't they further ahead than the ones who are still sitting on the limb, wishing they could fly?

During this time of COVID-19, it's easy to sit on the limb since there may be restrictions to what you could otherwise do. But you can stretch your wings. You can prepare and study and network and learn. You can research companies and ask questions. This really is YOUR time. There are fewer distractions and there is more time to contemplate. (Some branch sitting time can be helpful and even therapeutic if you use it wisely!)

It will be interesting to see what we do when the pandemic ends. There will be those who are ready to spring off the branch, and those who have been sitting there too long and will be unable to move. It's our choice. Which owlet are you?



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**Check out the CFI Registry!**

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Looking for an instructor in your area?  
Visit The 99s homepage, and click on **FIND AN INSTRUCTOR.**  
<https://www.ninety-nines.org>



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Inspiring Women Pilots  
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### Editor's Note

*Due to continuing restrictions essential to helping control COVID-19, many of the scheduled activities we usually cover are cancelled. This will provide extra pages to devote to interesting members and creative activities related to The 99s. If you have an idea for a submission, please contact Publications Chair Lori Plourd, [99spubschair@gmail.com](mailto:99spubschair@gmail.com), or Danielle Clarneaux, Editor, [danclar@comcast.net](mailto:danclar@comcast.net). We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all good health.*

# AE Birthplace Museum Update

## AEBM Says Goodbye to Two Outstanding Trustees



**T**he Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum has accepted retirement of two of its long-serving Trustees, Frank Carpinelli and Carole Sutton.

**Carole Sutton** served on the board for 24 years. Her service as an Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum trustee started when The 99s received an endowment to purchase Amelia's first home. There was much maintenance and restoration to take place. Carole was with the Trust at the time funds were being raised to acquire furniture and appointments to depict the home in the time period of when Amelia was born and lived there with her grandparents. She has been integral in raising funds to acquire details large and small for the museum, writing grants to have a new roof installed and donating merchandise, such as labeled bottled water, airplane key chains and airplane backpacks for children, just to name a few.

Carole received her private pilot certificate in 1972, and her commercial certification and crop dusting endorsement in 1974. She was the first certified female crop duster in Nebraska and the second in Kansas. She received an AE Memorial Scholarship for her Instrument rating in 1977. Carole and her husband Stuart managed the airport in Belleville, Kansas, along with a crop dusting business.

Carole held every office in her Nebraska 99s Chapter, as well as all offices of the South Central Section, including Governor from 1994-1996. She received the International 99s Award of Achievement for Contributions to The 99s in 2013. Recently she was influential in The 99s applying for the PPP money that The 99s and Trusts received in 2020. She also worked on the AE Luncheon and Vintage Fashion Show to commemorate Amelia's 100th birthday. She arranged for a picture of Amelia taken by Amelia's personal photographer, Albert Bresnik, to be taken into space by his grandson, NASA Astronaut Randy Bresnik. It was returned to the Museum with autographs of astronauts on that launch.

**Frank Carpinelli** has held the position of Trustee since 2012, with eight years as Chair of Maintenance Committee. A highlight of his time on the committee was replacement of electric-powered HVAC units with extremely high-efficiency models, new storm windows, and extensive insulation and repairs in the basement. In 2014, he began the multi-year process of applying for a federally-funded Heritage Trust Fund Grant administered by the Kansas Historical Society through its Historical Preservation Office (HPO) in Topeka, Kansas, for \$46,080, with \$11,500 matched by the Birthplace Museum and The 99s. The grant was approved in 2015, and it was 2017 by the time all construction work and paperwork were completed.

Between 1964 and 2007, Frank served alternately as a teacher in the English Department at St. Benedict's College, moving on to chair the department, then became the Public Relations Director during St. Benedict's College merger with Mount St. Scholastica College (which became Benedictine College), as well as serving on the college's budget committee, serving as CFO, and finishing his career as an English teacher. He was also elected to the Atchison City Commission and was Chair of the Atchison Parks Board.

The knowledge and experience Frank brought to the Board was invaluable in maintaining the Museum.

— Ann Shaneyfelt, Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Trustee



## AEBM and Willow Celebrate Aviation at the Museum

**T**he Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum and children's book publisher bLOOturtle recently presented a weeklong celebration of aviation education and hosted Willow Willpower.

Willow is a children's book character created to inspire children to follow their dreams and ambitions. She is represented by a doll who has been flying around the world with 99s members. This special week, Willow finally got to meet her heroine Amelia Earhart. Willow also visited Muriel, the Lockheed Electra at the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum.



During AEBM's celebration, youngsters were invited to meet Willow and learn about Amelia and aviation. They met with women pilots, including San Diego Chapter Ninety-Nine Emmy Dillon, a CFI, commercial pilot and air racer. Emmy also serves as Treasurer of the AEBM Board of Directors. On hand to teach and inspire was Claire Schindler, a flight instructor and event coordinator for Sky Kids, a self-esteem and confidence building organization for special-needs children.

— Heather Roesch, 99s Museum of Women Pilots



# Happiness Is A New Milestone!

**Yana Belazorava**, Instrument, Chicago Area  
**Summer Benjamin**, Private Glider, Reno High Sierra  
**Donna Bookout-Coe**, Private, Columbia Cascade  
**Sarah Bottom**, Private, Tailwheel endorsement, Bay Cities  
**Jana Brandt**, Private, Arkansas  
**Rachel Cuthrell**, Commercial, Treasure Coast  
**Sharon Dhillon**, Commercial, Seaplane, Spaceport  
**Deb Edwards**, Instrument, Seaplane, Commercial, Canadian Rockies  
**April Heppner**, Private, Reno High Sierra  
**Abby Hettinga**, Commercial MEI, Columbia Cascade  
**Alexandra Hodgson**, Private, Monterey Bay  
**Abby Hutton**, High Performance and complex endorsements, Arkansas  
**Sofia Inhauser**, Instrument, Treasure Coast  
**Brittany James**, Solo, Arkansas  
**Katerina Johnson**, Solo, Antelope Valley



*Sherry Ann Ketcham, CFI, CFII, Bay Cities.*

**Carla Ladner**, Private, Lake Charles  
**Laura Laster**, ATP, Texas Dogwood  
**Gayla Leary**, Private, Texas Dogwood  
**Jenna Lohneis**, Instrument, San Fernando Valley  
**Diane Marquardt**, Private, Rio Grande Norte  
**Laura Matheson**, Commercial, Eastern Ontario  
**Charlotte Mays**, Private, Kitty Hawk  
**Shokoufeh Mirzaei**, CFII, San Fernando Valley  
**Serena Morse**, Private, Reno High Sierra  
**Nana Obayashi**, Instrument, Kitty Hawk  
**Kelli O'Donnell**, Seaplane, Florida Suncoast  
**Celeste Pearce**, 777 rating with American Airlines, Connecticut



*Kensie Hewson, Recreational Pilot Permit, Canadian Rockies.*

**Amanda Perez**, Private, Arkansas  
**Jessica Phinney**, Private, West Virginia  
**Julie Powell**, Solo, Arkansas  
**Yuko Query**, CFII, Spaceport  
**Genae Randall**, Commercial, Kitty Hawk  
**Nancy Rice**, Private, Texas Dogwood  
**Courtney Robson**, A320 Type Rating, Kitty Hawk  
**Jaimie Rousseau Cimabue**, Tailwheel, Eastern New England  
**Lydia Royaute**, Private, Bay Cities  
**Jan Squillace**, CFII, Kitty Hawk  
**Antoinette Stevenson**, Private, Spaceport  
**Joanne Swanson**, CFI, Connecticut  
**Sophia Taylor-Home**, Private, Monterey Bay  
**Jordan York**, High Altitude Endorsement, Kitty Hawk  
**Hailey Zirkle**, Commercial ME, Seaplane, Arkansas



*Michele Ewing, Tail Wheel Endorsement, Columbia Cascade.*

# Over 100 Ninety-Nines Have Graduated from the PPLI Program

By Adair Jacobs, First Canadian Chapter

**T**he Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) is a formal mentorship program available to members who hold a commercial pilot certificate, are actively flying and strive to advance their aviation career.

Since its implementation in 2004, over 100 Ninety-Nines have graduated from the PPLI, and more than 250 women have been involved in this volunteer-based program. Comprised of three phases, participants commit to a minimum 18-month timeline as they develop a formal “flight plan” to outline their goals and strengthen leadership capabilities. Unlike many mentoring programs, the PPLI participation requires growth as members transition from the role of mentee to mentor.

Mariko Duskow supports firsthand how her participation in the PPLI increased her confidence on the flight deck and thwarted imposter syndrome while networking with fellow Ninety-Nines. Currently volunteering in the capacity of a mentoring coordinator, Mariko has been involved with the program since 2016. Typical of many aspiring airline pilots, Mariko began her flight training journey in a collegiate program where, upon completing her certificates, she worked as a flight instructor for over three years.

Displaying a strong work ethic, Mariko moved on to work with a mainline passenger airline as a new hire instructor, then quickly filled the role of First Officer. By age 30, she upgraded to the position of Captain on the Airbus 320. Her age, coupled with

*Having been a participant in the Professional Pilot Leadership program, Mariko Duskow is now a volunteer for the PPLI.*




her career success, led to the all-too-common imposter syndrome many women pilots face in the aviation industry. In addition to questioning where she fit in, Mariko also feared reaching a plateau and asked herself “what now?”

While attending the annual Women in Aviation International conference, looking to establish stronger relationships with like-minded aviatrixes, she came across The Ninety-Nines and was immediately drawn to the PPLI.

During Mariko’s involvement as a participant, she took advantage of the program’s structure to work on her assertiveness, interview skills and updating her logbook. She attributes her current confidence in her professional career to the relationships she developed within the program. Graduating in 2018, without hesitation, she chose to continue her involvement as a volunteer. Expressing her excitement to see her peers succeed, Mariko explained why she has remained active as a volunteer throughout the years, “I want to help other women, cheer them on and help them step outside of their comfort zones.”

To learn more about the PPLI, visit <https://www.ninety-nines.org/professional-pilot-leadership-initiative-ppli.htm> or send an email to [mentoring@ninety-nines.org](mailto:mentoring@ninety-nines.org).


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## Ventura County Chapter

For the Ventura County 99s, 2020 was our 20th anniversary of providing Pilot Proficiency Classes for the aviation community. The classes are the place to be to increase knowledge for pilots of all levels with some of the best instructors in the entire country. It is also the social event of the year for many pilots, providing them a chance to get together, share ideas, and have fun while learning.

2020 started out to be our best year ever for the Pilot Proficiency Class series. Classes were standing room only, and we had the best lineup of instructors yet.

This success is due to the hard work and determination of one especially important member of the VC99s, Susan Liebler. Did you know Susan has her own Wikipedia page? She is an attorney, businesswoman and a former commissioner of the United States International Trade Commission in the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

She is also the head fundraiser for the International 99s and a mentor to other 99 Chapters. Her accomplishments are too numerous to mention them all. We have been so honored to have her as part of our Chapter since she received her pilot certificate at age 55. We want to recognize her fundraising efforts during 20 years of organizing the Pilot Proficiency Classes, the silent auction at Wings Over Camarillo Airshow, as well as the silent auction for International 99s that is held at Oshkosh.

The money Susan raises each year goes into our scholarship fund. Therefore, to honor Susan Liebler, this year we are proud to announce the first-ever Susan Liebler Student Pilot Milestone Scholarship award. This scholarship, up to \$3,000, is available for student pilots flying out of Ventura County Airports.

Applications are available on our website at [vc99s.org](http://vc99s.org) and will be accepted from November 1-15. Just last year alone, we awarded



*The Ventura County Chapter announced the new Susan Liebler Student Pilot Milestone Scholarship. Susan, above, makes friends with the Geico gecko at The 99s booth during last year's EAA fly-in.*

\$18,000 in scholarships to women learning to fly, women getting back into flying and women advancing their ratings.

The first recipient of this scholarship was Autumn Chenett, who was presented the award during the Christmas Zoom Holiday Party on December 15.

— Carolyn Brown



*San Gabriel Valley and Fullerton Chapters painted an 80-foot Compass Rose at the approach end to Runway 21 of Chino Airport.*

## San Gabriel Valley Chapter

The members of the SGV99s, along with members from Los Angeles and Fullerton Chapters, painted an 80-foot Compass Rose at the approach end to Runway 21 of Chino Airport in Southern California.

The painting was done on two consecutive Saturday mornings in 100-plus degree temperatures. This is not something we normally do in the summer, but Chino had a time constraint and had to get it done quickly. Lots of water and masks were present to satisfy health and safety regulations.

San Gabriel Valley members and friends helping out were Traci Rodriguez, Loreen Wynja, Virginia Harmer, Sonia Jimenez, Linda Rever, Sindie Dear, Samonae Carter, Carol Joyner, Mia Noriega, Sarah Flores, Shanna Crawford and Cathy Jameson. Members joining us from Fullerton were Dana Glidden, Denise Jennings, Lucrecia Castellon, Cassandra Castillo, and Samarra Dalrymple. Members from Los Angeles were Megan Kojimo, Erika Jancso, Kristin, Jen Butler, Nora Feddal, and Eve Lopez.

— Virginia Harmer

# GRASS ROOTS



Northeast Kansas Chapter members tour the in-progress Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum and enjoyed a closeup of the Lockheed 10 Electra. From left, Chapter Chair Laura Burnham, Tammy Willits, Ann Shaneyfelt, Sara Thompson and Cheri Thompson. Far left is Karen Seaberg, Earhart Festival Chair.

## Northeast Kansas Chapter

The Northeast Kansas 99s were honored to be invited by Makinzie Burghart, Development Director, to a behind-the-scenes tour of the under-construction Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum at Atchison's Amelia Earhart Airport (K59).

Makinzie is reaching out to 99s Chapters, as our organization is involved with the museum in various ways, and of course the museum enhances the attraction of Atchison, Kansas, since the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum and the International Forest of Friendship are located there.

On November 7, Chapter members Chair Laura Burnham, Ann Shaneyfelt, Tammy Willits, Cheri Thompson and Sara Thompson drove to the museum. Amelia Earhart Festival Chair Karen Seaberg gave us a detailed tour of Muriel, the Lockheed 10 Electra airplane that is very similar to Amelia's model and is the centerpiece of the Museum.

The 1935 plane has been lovingly restored over the

years by volunteers. It is back to its original beautiful aluminum skin, though it is rather thin and fragile now. We also had a great preview of all the under-construction displays from Allison Balderrama, the Director of the Museum and also the Archivist. Many of the displays will be interactive, including a fun-looking riveting game.

The amazing day ended with lunch brought in by Makinzie and further discussion of the museum and its beautiful building that is also the new home of the local FBO. The museum hall of the hangar has a window into the pilots' lounge of the FBO, with a sign "Pilots Working," so real-life pilots will be on display. We joked that any of us who fly in and use the lovely lounge will have to be on our best behavior.

Ninety-Nines Chapters and other private groups of 10 or less can have similar tours of the museum. Contact: [ameliaearhartmuseum.org/contact-us](http://ameliaearhartmuseum.org/contact-us).

— Sara Thompson, Northeast Kansas Chapter Secretary

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## Arkansas Chapter

While COVID-19 is making in-person meetings challenging, the Arkansas Chapter has been staying in touch by Hangar Flying over Zoom. Our members have been staying very active as pilots!

Please join me in congratulating Arkansas Chapter members on their latest aviation accomplishments, as we all hold each other up with our continual encouragement.

- Julie Powell soloed in June. We encourage you to keep going.
- Amanda Perez is now a full-on certificated private pilot whom I personally encourage to go flying with me soon. We can flip a coin for PIC.
- Hailey Zirkle earned both her commercial multi-engine

rating and seaplane rating this summer. Hailey has added splash-down capability to her list of talents.

• Jana Brandt also became a certificated private pilot. We are very proud of you and look forward to your flying adventures.

• Abby Hutton earned her high performance and complex endorsements. We admire your dedication — keep going.

• Brittany James soloed in May. We celebrate with you and anticipate all your next accomplishments.

To all our inspiring pilots, great job and blue skies!

— Kristi Tidwell



## San Diego Chapter

On September 28, Leslie Day, Frankie Clemens and Annelie Brinkman visited Jean Landis, San Diego Chapter life member and WASP. It was Jean's 102nd birthday. She currently resides at Lantern Crest Senior Living in Santee, California.

Jean was surprised and happy to see us, and we spent about an hour chatting with her, asking her about her past and her life and letting her know that we miss her.

Jean broke her hip in January 2019 but has recovered nicely except for vertigo that requires her to use a wheelchair. She is otherwise still very spry and loves to reminisce about her very interesting past.

You can Google her name and learn more about her fascinating life.

— Annelie Brinkman



*Celebrating Jean Landis' 102nd birthday are, from left, Leslie Day, Annelie Brinkman, Frankie Clemens and Jean, seated.*



*Olivia Corriveau was recently honored to receive the Jazz Pathway Award for Professionalism and Diversity.*

## Montreal Chapter

The Montreal Chapter and East Canada Section wanted to share exciting news. Our member, Olivia Corriveau, was honoured to have received the Jazz Pathway Award for Professionalism and Diversity.

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to safety, leadership and professionalism by a full-time student who has self-identified as aboriginal, a person with disability, a visible minority or female.

The Jazz Pathways is a program where certain university/college aviation schools across Canada are selected to form a partnership with Chorus Aviation (Jazz, a commuter for Air Canada). The schools select the most deserving students to receive the award, and they have the chance to get a direct interview with Jazz after finishing their integrated ATPL program.

"I am grateful for being part of an incredible aviation community that is supportive and dedicated to growing and helping one another," said Olivia. "This journey has been synonymous with hard work, perseverance, lots of studying, sacrifice and most of all, fun and love of the adventure. The 99s is filled with incredible women who are equally as passionate, and I am grateful to share the love of aviation with you all! Surround yourself with people who constantly challenge you to be a better person and who support you through thick and thin."

Olivia was also a past winner of The 99s AEMSF Fly Now award and is the current Montreal Vice Chair.

— Robin Hadfield

# GRASS ROOTS

## First Canadian Chapter

It'll take more than a pandemic to dampen the holiday spirit of the First Canadian Chapter! Over 20 members gathered virtually for a Zoom Christmas party on December 8, which was full of laughter, fellowship, and good cheer.

Attendees also enjoyed aviation-themed trivia on the Kahoot app, questions about their own flying experiences, numerous toasts, and a friendly festive sweater contest. In the wake of this success, the Chapter looks forward to a Valentine's party in the new year!

We wish our sister 99s a healthy and happy 2021 and hope to be together again as we ease out of the global pandemic.

— Adair Jacobs



*The Spruce Goose is an example of the diverse aviation information provided on the Kahoot app.*

## Aloha Chapter

The Aloha Chapter 99s and the Hawaii 50 Chapter of Women in Aviation International set forth to bring Christmas spirit to the neighboring islands of Hawaii and their children. The Chapters delivered gift cards to teens and toy donations to children across the state using training flights and volunteer pilots.

“Our Chapter mission is really best summarized by the

International Chapter,” says Tanya Rames, vice chair of the Aloha Chapter. “We strive to promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight. Passion is the key word there. Our passion for flying makes all of this possible.”

In response to the pandemic, a group of ambitious women aviators sewed masks since March and transported them along with other essential items to the outer islands of Hawaii.

Aviators will utilize their skills once again to move mountains and share Christmas cheer! With the help of a little over a dozen pilot volunteers and a small fleet of single engine airplanes, there is certainly enough passion to go around and make a significant impact on the homeless youth of the neighboring islands. The combined efforts of the two Chapters focused on providing donations to 200 homeless teens on the Big Island (Project Hawaii) and a dozen children in need on Lanai (Lanai Child Welfare Services). They have set an ambitious goal to raise \$4,000 so each child knows they haven't been forgotten.

“I never thought that my flight training would be able to bless other people,” says Abigail Dang, Aloha Chapter Secretary and 18-year-old private pilot. “When I wanted to become a pilot, I thought that training was just training, but the amazing thing about the Aloha Ninety-Nines and the local aviation community is that training can be a vessel for so much more. It can really branch out and bless other people.”

Aloha Chapter Chair Nobu Buntin says “It is such a phenomenal honor to receive support from not only the local community, but we have received donations from the mainland, United Kingdom, Japan and China!”

Nobi encourages you to learn more about the Aloha Ninety-Nines and their mission, by visiting their website at AlohaChapter99s.org and following Instagram @alohachapter99s.

—Nobi Buntin



*Aloha Chapter members brought Christmas joy to many children and teens.*



## Chicago Area Chapter

The Chicago Area Chapter held its first non-virtual event since Covid-19 virus struck, and it was a wonderful success.

On a beautiful, sunny August day, Secretary Cynthia Madsen hosted our event at Bult Field in far south suburban Chicago. The FBO is part of the prior Bult family mansion, a truly lavish facility.

Cynthia provided all we needed to make a great fly-in happen. All we had to bring was our main dish to grill and ourselves. We had large areas both inside and outside, and most of us barbequed and ate our lunches in the cool shade of the patio.

All of us were mindful of social distancing and wearing masks.

Attending were Leire Kennedy and her 3-month old future 99, Amaya; Vickie Szewczyk; Chapter Chair Eva Kozlowski and her best guy, Ted; Treasurer Colleen Murphy; Diane Cozzi and her guy Roger Kelly; our Vice Chairman Mona Knock; Bult Airport student pilot (and soon to be 99) Shaunte; Membership Chair Karen and Gene Ballard; student pilot, Hannah Wilson; Larisa Kano, new solo pilot Alyssa Kano and Yosh Kano (our 49½ of the year); Susan and Victor Zurcher; Madeleine Monaco; and Diana Austin from the Indiana Dunes Chapter.

Four planes flew in. Mona flew her Piper, Sue and Victor Zurcher flew in from Casa de Aero in their 172, the Kanos flew in from Dacy Airport in their 172, and Madeleine



*Chicago Area Chapter members enjoyed a fly-in and barbeque at the Bult family mansion, a part of Bult Field.*

brought Hannah, Eva and Ted from PWK in a flight school 172.

We had door prizes. An unexpected gift is always fun, and Cynthia brought enough for everyone. There was an opportunity to visit the on-site WWII Museum.

Afterward, those who remained used the 30-seat theatre to watch the movie *Flyabout*, an inspirational documentary by 99 Monika Petrillo about her flight around Australia's perimeter.

— Diane Cozzi



*Enjoying a post-meeting lunch are, from left, Lorianne Carver, Wendy Oliver (guest), Meagan Harr, Janice Pelletti, Gracey McKinney and Adrienne Smith.*

## Appalachian Aviatrixes

The Appalachian Aviatrixes met October 24 to conduct strategic planning for the coming year. A new program about aviation for high school age young women was discussed and will be put into motion for the spring.

Scholarships and upcoming elections were also planned. After the meeting, Janice Pelletti conducted a short program, testing member knowledge about some of the women pilot pioneers. She also explained the upcoming Museum of Women Pilots program on the Mercury 13. Meagan Harr reminded everyone of the Mercury 13 documentary now available on Netflix.

After the meeting, 99s and 49½s enjoyed a grilled lunch.

— Janice Pelletti

# GRASS ROOTS



*From left, back row: Samantha Sabyan, Nicole May, Andrea Meruelo, Emery Reid, Christine Wall, Sarah Byrn Rickman, Sherry Sherman, and Sarah Tobin. Front row: Zoan Harclerode, Diane Gillings, Nayomie Burns, Nichole Marcus.*

## Pikes Peak Chapter

We've had a busy two months. In August, we didn't let the smoky haze change our plans for a fun trip to Capulin Volcano National Monument. We had two planes. Zoan Harclerode and Sarah Tobin were our pilots in command. In Sarah's plane, Di Gillings and Patsy Buchwald were passengers, and Andrea Meruelo and Dave, Zoan's husband, flew in Zoan's plane.

Sarah arranged for a courtesy car for the 30-minute drive to Capulin Volcano National Monument. It is an extinct cinder cone volcano. We drove to the top and then took a short hike on the Crater Vent Trail to the bottom of Capulin's crater. On our return to the airport, we stopped for a New Mexico Hatch Green Chili burger.

On September 12, 20-plus individuals came out to Ernie and Andrea Meruelo's hanger at Meadow Lake Airport (KFLY) near Colorado Springs to celebrate the Chapter's birthday. We had 12 Ninety-Nines members and prospects, five children, two husbands and one boyfriend.

Volumes containing our Chapter history lay on long tables for us to leaf through. Familiar and non-familiar faces popped up in photos, depending on how far back one chose to look.

To my surprise, I found a copy of a letter signed by Wilbur Wright, dated May 30, 1899. I really want to find out who Iris was, to whom the letter was addressed, and who donated that letter to our Chapter.

— Sarah Byrn Rickman

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## Orange County Chapter

The Orange County Chapter held its October meeting at the residence of Jessica Yant. Observing Covid protocols, we made our way down the red carpet to her outside theater for the night. It was a cool evening, and we enjoyed cool weather refreshments: tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches! Connecting computer to

projector, we watched the excellent film, *Mercury 13*, that followed the 'other' astronaut candidates, all female.

These adventurous women underwent the same tests and procedures the men did, often scoring better. The film contains many interview excerpts and clips, and gives a fair idea of the intensity and complexity of the testing.

There was much nodding from the 'timeworn' Chapter members during the testimony at Senate hearings in which males decided that females did not have 'the right stuff' to be astronauts or to even continue the testing program. Many of the younger members were awakened to the prejudices and discriminations their older sisters had coped with, worked with, and succeeded.

Discussion after the film included sharing some personal experiences, as well as talking about Wally Funk, who is still trying to get into space.

Info on the Mercury 13 can be found at <http://mercury13.com>.

— Shirley McFall



*Orange County members enjoy movie night.*



## Long Island Chapter

The Long Island Chapter had a good turnout for our September meeting. More and more members like the conference calls. As a result of becoming so tech savvy, seven members Zoomed into the NY-NJ Fall Section Meeting the following weekend.

A few of our members are actually flying too. Janie Frazier Daly wrote that the flight school is doing very well, and she has some new students.

Naomi Littles is doubly fortunate. Besides learning to fly an airplane of her own choosing, she spends her days or nights working in aviation as a flight attendant for Republic Airways, a regional carrier based out of LGA, New York. She currently has 23 hours of flight time and is studying for her written exam while looking forward to soon making her first solo flight. Naomi's goal is to be an animal rescue pilot. She is still deciding if she wants to be a commercial airline pilot or perhaps a charter pilot.

Rachel Siegel, another student pilot in our Chapter, is now in Daytona Beach, Florida, attending the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for her bachelor's degree, as well as flight instruction for private pilot and beyond.

The "preflight" is a bit more effort now. In a school where many people are in and out of the same airplane constantly,



*Long Island Chapter member Naomi Littles at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, Long Island, New York.*

masks of course are required everywhere on campus and in the airplane. Antibacterial wipe down procedures start with the outside of the plane and move to the inside. Dorms have their regulations also: Your roommate is now your new family. Covid statistics are published weekly. — Patricia J. Rockwell



*Dea Payette, Rachel Sullivan, Lynne Bunn, Beverly VanderWall, Lynne Hsia. Pat Paschall, Marie Andrews, Donna Webster, Elaine LeCain, Janice Sullivan*

## Bakersfield Chapter

The Bakersfield 99s finally got together with our Antelope Valley 99s sisters. Our last fly-in was cancelled due to quarantine. Gusts kept some of us from flying in, but it was a beautiful day for lunch in Tehachapi, California.

—Dea Payette

**Has COVID-19  
Got You  
Down?**

**Drop In On  
These 99s Social  
Networks**

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- Twitter: [twitter.com/TheNinetyNines](https://twitter.com/TheNinetyNines)
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- Yelp: [www.yelp.com/biz/the-ninety-nines-oklahoma-city](https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-ninety-nines-oklahoma-city)
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# Ninety-Nines Fly-By Honors Local WASP Lorraine Yonally

By Amanda M. Stahl, M.D. and Harriet Bregman



WASP Lorraine Yonally.

Originally numbering over 1,100, only approximately 30 WASP are still believed to be alive today. One of them is right here in Albany! Lillian Lorraine Yonally, World War II WASP, is still rocking it at the age of 98!

In her heyday, Lillian flew 17 different types of aircraft, including the B-25 bomber. She now lives at a skilled nursing facility, The Eddy Village Green, in Cohoes, New York, just northeast of Albany International Airport.

The NY-NJ Section received a request from Lynn Yonally, Lillian's daughter, to do an honor flight over Lillian's residence. Mary "Willy" Mattocks, Western New York 99s Chapter Chair, arranged for the flight, working for nearly three months with other 99s and airport officials. A total of seven airplanes participated in the honor flight on Tuesday, September 15.

A public relations event featuring the Albany Airport Authority, the FAA, the media, Lillian's family, and some local 99s was held the afternoon before the flight.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the group of ten 99s and two 49½s from

the New York-New Jersey Section conducted the honor flight for Lillian over The Eddy Village Green nursing home.

Lillian was apparently so excited she sang the *Star-Spangled Banner* and asked if we were coming back to do it again the following day!

We lifted our wings, and in turn, our spirits, on that beautiful day in September. Long live Lillian, a true aviatrix!



Seven 99 pilots and three 99 co-pilots participated in the Fly-By. From left, Peg Weiss, Linda Cioffi, Mary (Willy) Mattocks, Frances Englund, Amanda Stahl, Harriet Bregman, Natacha Martin, Carol Keinath, Rosanne Isom and Lisa Hotung.

## Books



### Higher Faster Longer *My Life in Aviation and My Quest for Spaceflight*

By Wally Funk As Told To Loretta Hall

Foreword by Eileen Collins

ISBN: 978-1-64970-461-0

Traitmaker Books, Franklin, TN

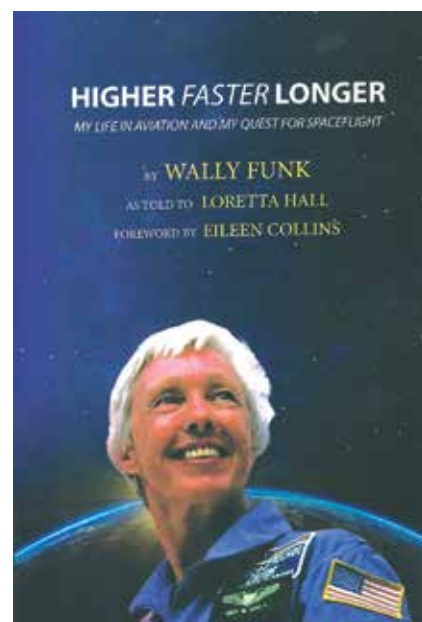
Available on Amazon.com

By Jacqueline Boyd  
Senior Book Review Editor

This book is not about Wally. This book is a conversation *with* Wally and feels truer to her than anything I've ever read. This book is Wally talking about Wally.

Wally does not trust easily, especially when it comes to someone writing about her. I can think of no one better to build trust with than Loretta Hall. Loretta and I are both members of New Mexico Press Women, and I think she's done a better job of building that trust than anyone I've seen yet.

Thanks to Wally for sitting down, talking, and sharing. Thanks to Loretta for listening and helping build one of the best profiles I've ever read. I believe you'll feel the same after reading "Higher, Faster, Longer..."



# LETTERS

## Apologies to Mrs. California American

I am so very grateful for the inclusion into *The Ninety-Nines* magazine!

There is a correction, though. I am Mrs. California American, which is a preliminary to Mrs. World. The National pageant has not yet occurred, it is scheduled for January 2021 in Las Vegas. If I win that competition, then I move on to Mrs. World in Sri Lanka.

Thank you again!

— Dea Payette, Bakersfield 99s Chapter Chair

*Congratulations on your recent title win, Dea, and our apologies for incorrectly stating that the next phase of competition had already occurred.*

## Donna Miller Is an Inspiration

Since becoming a 99 several years ago, it has been Donna Miller's column in the Careers section I have most enjoyed. Often I cut the column out and save it, reading it when I feel overwhelmed and a little discouraged with flying. The column you wrote about "wanting it enough" has been on the wall above my desk for years.

Over the last few months, I have taken the advice you so generously shared and have applied it to my own life. Your column in the September/October 2020 issue was particularly moving; in fact, I felt like you were almost writing it with me in mind! The mentee you wrote about and I are very similar right now, a little out of focus with aviation and finding it challenging to be motivated to continue our pursuits towards flying jobs.

I work as a customer service representative for a regional airline and have been furloughed since March 2020. In the spirit of goals and continuing to work towards them, I took advantage of the time away from work and completed my commercial pilot licence in September!

I am not sure how often you hear from readers, but I wanted to reach out and let you know how much I look forward to your column and how much your thoughtful words motivate and inspire me. I hope your articles continue for a long time to come, as they truly are my favourite part of the magazine!

As you wrote, "Times will get better," and I truly appreciate the impact your writing has had on my career planning during these strange times.

—Laura Matheson, Eastern Ontario Chapter

# NEW HORIZONS

*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:*

**Mary Anglin**, December 1, 2020  
Michigan Chapter

**Elaine Chase**, December 6, 2020  
Sutter Buttes Chapter

**Vici DeHaan**, June 30, 2020  
Colorado Chapter

**Carole Gamble**, March 1, 2020  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

**Janet Green**, October 24, 2020  
Past President, Mississippi Chapter

**Patty Mitchell**, Dec. 3, 2020  
Northwest Section Governor, Big Sky Chapter

**Nellie Margaret Reynolds**, October 15, 2020  
Life Member, Indiana Chapter

**Audrey Schutte**, October 31, 2020  
Life Member, Mt. Shasta Chapter

**Ros Sexton**, September 27, 2020  
Australian Section



## Friends of The 99s

**John Aunins**, Waban, Massachusetts

**Jim Beyer**, Bellevue, Nebraska

**Caroline Brown**, Montclair, New Jersey

**Shirley Burch**, Yuma, Arizona

**Joshua Colucci**, Indianapolis, Indiana

**Oliver Evans**, Vancouver, BC, Canada

**Kevin House**, Canandaigua, New York

**Drew Hurley**, Port Orange, Florida

**Myah McCormick**, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Man Pang**, Burnaby, BC, Canada

**Carlee Wagner**, Covina, California

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