

July/August 2023



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

**SAVING
PUPPIES**
ONE FLIGHT
AT A TIME

p. 8

plus

FIRST WINGS AWARDS

**2023 INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS**

**EXCITEMENT
IN ATCHISON**

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Publications Committee

Lori Plourd, *Chairperson*

Jacque Boyd, Corbi Bulluck, Rebecca Burghy,
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Linda Horn, Elizabeth Karpiloff, Susan Larson,
Donna Miller, Shannon Osborne, Julie Paasch,
Janice Pelletti, Kate Scott, Sara Thompson

Kirn Creative, *Creative Direction*

International Headquarters/ Ninety-Nines magazine

4300 Amelia Earhart Dr, Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1140 USA

Mail: PO Box 950374
Oklahoma City, OK 73195-0374
Phone: 405-685-7969
or toll free 844-994-1929
Fax: 405-685-7985
Email: 99s@ninety-nines.org
Website: ninety-nines.org

Article Submissions

Visit www.ninety-nines.org for info
or email news@ninety-nines.org

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2023

JUL

- 8 **ZOOM Induction Ceremony for New Officers & Trustees Board Members**
 ☞ 7 p.m. EDT, Link will be published in the July Straight & Level e-newsletter
- 20 **Earhart Family Dinner**
 Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
 ☞ Reservation form found in the June issue of Straight & Level e-newsletter
- 24-30 **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin
 EAA AirVenture - Whittman Regional Airport (OSH)
- 31 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Autumn Session
 ☞ ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
 ✉ mentoring@ninety-nines.org

AUG

- 11-12 **Palms to Pines Air Race 2023**
 ☞ www.palmstopinesairrace.com
- 25-26 **International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 ☞ info@ninety-nines.org

SEP

- 15-16 **Forest of Friendship "World Friendship through Flight"**
 Atchison, Kansas
 ☞ ifof.org
- 28 **Southwest Section Fall Meeting**
 -OCT 1 Ventura Harbor, California
 ✉ Pat Chan, chiflys@sbcglobal.net
- 29 **New York-New Jersey Section Fall Meeting**
 -OCT 1 Elmira, New York
 ✉ Frances Englund, fenglund@yahoo.com
- 29 **North Central Section Fall Meeting**
 -OCT 1 Columbus, Ohio
 ✉ Paula Rumbaugh, paulapilotosu@gmail.com
- 29 **South Central Section Fall Meeting**
 -OCT 1 Fort Worth, Texas
 ✉ Laurie Adams Peake, laurie@lacreativeonline.com

OCT

- 4 **Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum**
 Presenter Ronda Crossland explains her AE-themed escape room
 ☞ ameliaearhartmuseum.org
- 6-8 **Mid-Atlantic Section Fall Meeting**
 Chantilly, Virginia
 ✉ Laura Savino, bigplanet747@gmail.com
- 6-8 **Southeast Section Fall Meeting**
 Huntsville, Alabama
 ✉ Janice Pelletti, jopelletti@gmail.com
- 13-14 **New England Section Fall Meeting**
 Southbridge, Massachusetts
 ✉ Mary Build, mary.build@gmail.com
- 27 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
 -NOV 2 Jordan
 Hosted by the Arabian Section
 ☞ 99sConference.org

DEC

- 31 **Deadline:** Intent to Seek Election
 ☞ ninety-nines.org/members
- 31 **Deadline:** Proposed Bylaws Changes to Present at the 2024 Annual Meeting
 ✉ Juliet Lindrooth, Chair
governingdocs@ninety-nines.org

2024

JAN

- 31 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Spring Session
 ☞ ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
 ✉ mentoring@ninety-nines.org

MAR

- 1-2 **International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 ✉ info@ninety-nines.org

JUL

- 3-7 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.
SEPT/OCT issue deadline: August 1.

The President's Message



Robin Hadfield

President
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.
president@ninety-nines.org

Wow Wow Wow!

It's truly astonishing how quickly a year has flown by since I assumed the role of President of The Ninety-Nines. Reflecting on this past year, as I've engaged with our members and collaborated on numerous projects, one thing has become abundantly clear: our members demonstrate remarkable dedication through their extensive volunteer work, shaping us into the extraordinary organization we are today.

In every conversation and interaction, I've witnessed firsthand the immense amount of time our members selflessly contribute to various roles within our organization. The unwavering commitment and their tireless efforts truly make The Ninety-Nines thrive. It is through their passion and enthusiasm that we continue to make a positive impact and uplift the aviation community.

Whether it's volunteering at events, mentoring aspiring pilots, organizing educational initiatives, or undertaking administrative responsibilities, our members consistently go above and beyond to ensure the success of our organization. Their contributions are the driving force behind our accomplishments, and it's their dedication that allows us to fulfill our mission and create a supportive community for women aviators.

Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones and created opportunities for growth, empowerment, and camaraderie among women aviators worldwide.

In the past year, our membership has experienced remarkable growth, with nearly 500 new members joining our organization. Looking back five years, our overall membership has increased by an impressive 1,679 individuals. These numbers stand as a testament to the value and impact we bring to the aviation community. However, it's important to reflect on the potential growth we could have achieved if we hadn't experienced member attrition.

Retention remains a key focus for us moving forward. As we embark on a new fiscal year, your passion and support continue to be the driving force behind our success.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your outstanding contributions. It is because of you that The Ninety-Nines remains an exceptional organization, empowering female pilots in aviation and fostering a vibrant community that inspires and uplift one another.

I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation for your taking the time to participate in The Ninety-Nines mid-term (odd-year) election of Officers and Trustees. Your active involvement helps to shape the future of our organization. I would also like to thank the dedicated Nominating Committee members who diligently sought out exceptional candidates for the election, and whose hard work and commitment to identifying outstanding individuals greatly contributed to the success of the election process. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the Election Procedures Committee members for their meticulous efforts in ensuring proper tallying of our election results.

To celebrate the induction of our elected Officers and Trustees, we will be hosting an Induction Ceremony on Zoom, and I extend an invitation to all of you to join us.

Please save the date: Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 7 p.m. EST | 6 p.m. CST | 5 p.m. MST | 4 p.m. PST | 11 p.m. UTC.

The meeting link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81492696726?pwd=bVhQN3FhTjljeVRmSHJqWklSUWRVQTo9>

I hope you will join me in extending a warm welcome to our incoming leaders. This is a great occasion for us to provide our wholehearted support for the new Officers and Trustees.

For detailed information on the election results, I encourage you to read the Election Procedures Committee report by Chair Kathy Fox. You can find it further along in the magazine.

Congratulations to all the elected individuals. We are truly fortunate to have such exceptional leaders joining our team, and I have full confidence that their passion and expertise will make significant contributions to the continued growth and success of our organization.

As a closing comment, thank you to the members who have already started sending me photos which will be used in our annual video. While the Annual Conference is not until the end of October this year, it's never too early to start collecting the photos and short videos you take of yourself or your sister Ninety-Nines.

Here are a few samples.
Send your photos to:
president@ninety-nines.org

– Robin Hadfield





Deb Henneberry, Greater New York Chapter; Laura Savino, Old Dominion Chapter; and Terri Donner, Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter.

PURDUE AVIATION DAY 2023

By Deb Henneberry

Purdue Aviation Day was held on April 15, 2023. Organized exclusively by student leaders within Purdue University's School of Aviation & Transportation Technology, Purdue Aviation Day (PAD), seeks to bring the industry and the Greater Lafayette community together in one big celebration of aviation. Deb Henneberry was in attendance as a faculty member (Assistant Professor) in Purdue's School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. Laura Savino, a Purdue alumna, was a guest speaker at the event, and Terri Donner was invited by Olivia Parmenter, a fellow North Central Section 99s member from the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter and current Purdue student.

Modern and historical military and civilian aircraft were on display for attendees to view. The U.S. Army's Golden Knights performed a skydiving demonstration. Purdue Aviation Day dates back to 1911, with 2023 marking the second year of the event since the pandemic.



DEA'S GOT IT COVERED!

Southwest Section Member **Dea Payette** (known as 'Cooper the Pilot') had a photo shoot with the FAA and will be on the back cover of a future issue of the FAA Safety Briefing newsletter. They also filmed her experience in the hypoxia simulator (PROTE, portable reduced oxygen training enclosure) at Sun 'n Fun for their social media sites. The FAA encourages other pilots to take the course to experience hypoxia.



A special photo: Israel from the air. Photography: Lior Armiev

THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AERIAL DEMONSTRATION - HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY ISRAEL!

By Ruth Assis, *Israeli Section*

The State of Israel celebrated its 75th Independence Day.

This year's aerial demonstration was held under the theme "Together All The Way." The part of different and diverse groups in Israeli society was emphasized in the common Israeli story.

Flybys are a highlight of the annual celebrations. As part of the guiding theme, the central flight passed over sites that represent a contribution to the community of unique groups in society.

This year over 100 fighter jets, helicopters, tankers, transport aircraft, and RPAs took part. The Israeli Air Force, several civilian planes, and dozens of pilots from foreign air forces – including from the U.S., Italy, U.K., and Germany – took part in the flyover. This represents the cooperation between the countries and their unique relationship with the State of Israel.

As The Ninety-Nines Governor of the Israeli Section, I had the honor and pleasure to fly in this aerial demonstration for the second time in a row.

As a pilot, I've flown to beautiful places in the world and in amazing locations all around the globe, yet to me, the most exciting experience was the privilege of participating in the aerial demonstration in honor of our beloved country's Independence Day.

I thank God for giving me the right and privilege to do that.

On the ground, Israelis flocked to national parks, beaches, and open areas for traditional barbeques and picnics. My family also waited on the ground to see me flying in a structured flight and to catch a good picture from the ground, before I disappeared into the blue.

Touch & Go



Madeleine Monaco (on right) receiving her Chicago Executive Airport "Airport Spotlight" award.

Madeleine in the 'Airport Spotlight'

Chicago Executive Airport (KPWK) created a program called Airport Spotlight, which recognizes people who soar above the ordinary in their work or enjoyment of the airport. Their recent honoree is **Madeleine Monaco**, a longtime flight instructor on the airfield as well as an advocate and goodwill ambassador for general aviation. As a volunteer, she tirelessly knocks on doors to raise funds for aviation scholarships. And as a leader, she drives participation in the annual Aviation Expo in support of free WINGS seminars for pilots and their flying companions.

Madeleine is an active member of the Chicago Area Chapter, where she has held various leadership roles, including as a past member of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Trust. She is also a founding member of the Chicago Executive Pilots Association and has served as president, board member, and scholarship chair. We're recognizing Madeleine as one of the outstanding members of the Chicago Executive Airport community. Thank you for your continued support of general aviation in and around the airport. Your spirit and devotion to the airport are truly admirable and deserving of our recognition.

Ask a DPE



Julie Paasch
Mount Tahoma Chapter

***Do you have a question
that you've always
wanted to ask a DPE?***

Email Julie Paasch at
askadpe99@gmail.com

Your question may be
answered in the next issue!

For how long are federal aircraft registrations valid? I've heard that the duration has changed.

This is an important question and often asked on check rides. One of the required tasks in the Airmen Certification Standards (ACS) for both the Private and Commercial Pilot check rides includes aircraft airworthiness requirements. Your examiner could give you an airworthiness scenario to test your knowledge in this area. In addition, if you're ever ramp checked by an FAA inspector, this is one of the documents they'll verify is valid and in your aircraft.

Effective January 23, 2023, the FAA extended aircraft registration certificates from three to seven years. In the past, when someone registered their aircraft, they would use the aircraft registration application as a temporary certificate. This was normally valid for 90 days until they either received the permanent certificate or if the application was denied. Now the registry will no longer issue letters of extension and removed the time limit for them to respond. The aircraft registration application is now valid for 12 months while the registration is either pending and approved or the application is denied by the FAA. Due to the extended time period for processing, it is important for the aircraft owner to follow up to ensure they receive their actual registration certificate prior to the 12-month expiration.

There will still be aircraft that have the three-year expiration. Make sure to check the registration of the aircraft that you are flying that you are flying to verify the expiration date. Current aircraft with registrations that expire after January 23, 2023, will automatically be extended an additional four years. A new certificate with the new expiration date will be sent to the aircraft owners.

If you have any questions, email me at askadpe99@gmail.com. Good luck to those with upcoming check rides!



Saving Puppies

One Flight at a Time

By Marilynn Schuyler, *Bay Cities Chapter*



Donna Clark (left) with the Soul2Soul Rescue organization, along with pilots Dale Sumersille (center) and Sheila Jessup (right) with five Shepsky pups.

If you love flying and you also love animals, have you ever wondered what it would be like to enjoy both at the same time? Pilots N Paws is one such organization that can feed both of your passions. But it's not for the faint of heart. This 501(c)(3) nonprofit facilitates the rescuing, sheltering, and adopting of animals that would otherwise be put down. Volunteer pilots provide rescue flights, overnight foster care or shelter, and other activities related to adoption.

Sheila Jessup, a fellow Bay Cities Chapter member and meeting host extraordinaire, has flown several of these flights and loves it. She first discovered the organization in a newspaper article and was immediately drawn to it. "People are okay, but animals are unconditional," she said. "Animals haven't done anything in this world that warrants some of the behaviors they have experienced."

The shelters are overwhelmed, and the pandemic exacerbated the problem. People who were forced to work from home thought it would be a great time to adopt a pet to keep them company. When they returned to work, many people sent their pets to shelters. Some shelters, like the East Bay SPCA, have a no-kill policy. But other shelters end up euthanizing animals due to capacity constraints.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), about 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized each year in the U.S., which includes about 670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats. Estimates by the organization called People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the number is even higher – at three million cats and dogs.

It would be a simple matter if all the people interested in adopting an animal were located near an overcrowded shelter, but this is not always the case. And sometimes a flight makes more sense than driving. This is where Pilots N Paws comes in. They provide an online "meeting place" for volunteers engaged in rescuing, sheltering, and adopting animals, and volunteer pilots willing to transport animals.

Sheila began volunteering with Pilots N Paws right after getting her Private Pilot Certificate. She was not yet a certificated pilot when I flew her to a chapter meet-up at the Hollister Airport on July 25, 2020. She earned her Private Pilot Certificate in March 2021 and bought a 1980 Cessna Stationair TU206/G (dubbed "The Madam") in February 2021. She has been rescuing animals using the Pilots N Paws discussion board ever since.

Recently, Sheila took "The Madam" from Livermore, California

(KLVK), picked up a dog – Snooki – from Vacaville, California (KVCB) and flew to Whiteman in Los Angeles, California (KWHF). Then she flew to Apple Valley, California (KAPV) to pick up a German Shepherd and her puppy plus a mutt named Jenny. She got out just before a thunderstorm rolled in. “The Madam” doesn’t like hot starts! These rescues were dropped off in Willows, California (KWLW), and then “The Madam” was flown back to Livermore (KLVK). But this amount of hopping is not typical. Usually only one mission a day is flown.

Most of her passengers have been cats and dogs, but she once transported a possum that needed medical attention. She finds it helpful to have another pilot along on these excursions, and Dale Summersille, Sacramento Valley Chapter, and former member of Ventura County Chapter, often comes along for the ride. Dale, who started volunteering in December 2021, sees this as an opportunity to do good with a plane. “It’s not just poking holes in the sky,” she explains, “I get to combine two of my loves: flying and animals.”

Dale’s mom always wanted to fly, but she passed away at an early age, and she regretted not pursuing her dream of earning her Private Pilot Certificate. Dale took her first private plane

flight in 2012 with CP Aviation out of Santa Paula Airport (KSZP) and felt her mother’s presence in the clouds as she flew over Ventura Harbor, with the Channel Islands in view. She started working on her certificate right after that and is scheduled for her check ride in July 2023.

In June of 2022, Sheila and Dale transported two Siberian huskies, named Hudson and Tara, from Fresno Chandler Executive Airport, Fresno (KFCH), to Weed, California (just north of Mt. Shasta) so that Goliath Mountain Rescue could have time to find their forever homes. Hudson was pulled from the Visalia shelter on his last day and Tara came from the Kerman shelter, near Fresno. During the flight, Hudson just wanted to kiss everyone and Tara just wanted to sleep.


In July of 2022, Sheila, Dale, and Rebecca Erb – Bay Cities 99s members – took “The Madam” from Livermore (KLVK) to Modesto City-County Airport-Harry Sham Field, California (KMOD) to pick up five three-month-old Husky/Shepherd (Shepsky) puppies and take them to Roseburg, Oregon (KRBG). It was more than a handful to handle them. Thank goodness for the crates. During this trip Dale met one of the rescue volunteers and later adopted her own puppy named Kai from that rescue.

You don’t need to own your own plane to fly with Pilots N Paws; however, if you are renting, you need to ensure that this is an approved activity. Pilots N Paws will provide crates, leashes, and doggie bags for you. Your pilot’s insurance covers the mission and pilots are expected to cover the costs for fuel and/or plane rental.

Tiffani Shiro, Sacramento Valley Chapter, started flying rescue missions about eight years ago, after earning her Private Pilot Certificate at age 42, relying in part on scholarships through The Ninety-Nines. Flying rescue missions provided Tiffani with substantial cross-country time and the experience needed to complete her IFR Rating. Tiffani said that flying rescue missions also forces one to be flexible, learn about new airports and the various approaches. She has also improved her ADM (aeronautical decision-making) because there are often special instructions for the care and transport of the animals. It also provides great experience in briefing the human attendees accompanying the animals.

Tiffani offers the following tips for flying rescue missions:

- Ensure you have contact information for the pick-up, drop-off, and ground contact people
- Bring snacks and water for yourself and passengers (including animal passengers)
- Plan for it to take longer than expected (i.e. add an hour to the beginning and end)
- Know where you are going to meet at the airport – use a very specific location
- Research the airport thoroughly before departing
- Bring sheets/towels to cover upholstery in the plane
- Bring ice packs, wrapped in towels, to keep animals cool (most sleep in the plane)

How does one get involved? Go to Pilot N Paws website (www.pilotsnpaws.org) and sign up! You will be asked to provide information, such as how far you are willing to travel, and other criteria. Then you will start getting e-mails. Be sure to read the details and determine whether you want to accept the mission before committing to it. 



Tiffani Shiro enjoys a snuggle from a rescued pup.

SPRING 2023 FIRST WINGS AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to the 15 student pilot members named recipients of the Spring 2023 First Wings Awards. Those women represent 14 different chapters in 10 separate sections.

They represent the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and Hong Kong.

The First Wings Award is a progressive scholarship of up to \$6,000 towards an initial Pilot Certificate. Awarded each spring and fall, First Wings payments are based on specific flight training milestone achievements, which are:

- Written exam \$500
- Solo \$2,500
- Long cross-country \$2,000
- Private certificate \$1,000

For the Spring 2023 cycle, the AEMSFT Trustees were able to fund these awards in the amount of \$58,500. Several winners have already achieved their milestone awards.

Originally, the scholarship was not milestone-based. The awards for our student pilot members began in 2001 as the New Pilot Award of \$1,500, which was increased to \$2,000 in 2012. In 2013, the award was renamed the Fly Now and was worth up to \$3,000 based upon specific milestone completions. Soon after, the award amount was doubled, increasing the value to the current \$6,000, and most recently, it became the First Wings Award.

Our grassroots approach within the organization begins at the chapter level. One of the biggest changes leading to the most success was the addition of a mentoring process. The follow-through and open exchange between the recipient and their mentor is hugely important. Many of the mentors in this award cycle are past winners of the New Pilot, Fly Now, First Wings, and AE Flight Training Awards. Once again, the Trustees would like to extend a special thank you to the mentors of our winners who have a special means of giving back to The Ninety-Nines.



Jalyna Cook

Chapter: San Diego | **Section:** Southwest | **Mentor:** Debbie Balsley

My name is Jalyna Cook and I'm a student pilot with just over 20 hours training at Ramona Flight Training Center. My dad was a pilot when I was a kid and I find so much happiness flying and learning about aviation. I knew when I started flying in my dreams, it was time to start studying. I work in health IT and hope to eventually combine my education, expertise, and newfound passion to instruct the next generation of aviators. Obtaining my Private Pilot Certificate is the first step in a lifelong aviation learning journey.



Tikvah Karnes

Chapter: Treasure Coast | **Section:** Southeast | **Mentor:** Cristina Gouin

My love of aviation started very young. My dad, who is a pilot, took me on my first flight when I was three months old and I've been dreaming of the skies ever since. I live in Fort Pierce, Florida, where I volunteer at Missionary Flights International. I take flight lessons at Clear Flight Aviation with my instructor, James Howard, at KFPR, and was able to do my first solo on my 16th birthday. My end goal for aviation is to be a missionary/humanitarian pilot and mechanic.



Diane Lambert

Chapter: Mid-Columbia | **Section:** Northwest | **Mentor:** Lynn Harbinson

I discovered the joy of flying after raising seven children with my husband. Today, I'm a student pilot, college teacher, and technical editor for an environmental cleanup company. My favorite hobbies are attending fly-ins and chasing \$100 hamburgers with my husband. After finishing my Private Pilot Certificate, I plan to certify as a ground instructor and earn my Instrument, Commercial, and CFI Ratings so I can help others learn to fly. As a first-generation woman pilot, I want to show my daughters and granddaughters that they can do this too!



Micaehla May

Chapter: Tucson | **Section:** Southwest | **Mentor:** Kristi Weber

Before I got bitten by the flying bug, I was spending countless hours in pursuit of a Ph.D., focusing on medical optics. Now, sick with the will to fly, I find I need to fit flying into my schedule. To my surprise, flying has helped all aspects of my life by teaching me about self-confidence, risk management, organization, and community building. Once I earn my Private, I plan on sharing my love of aviation with friends and family while continuing to work on further ratings and certificates.



Anastasia McCune

Chapter: Colorado | **Section:** South Central | **Mentor:** Amanda Willson

I discovered my passion for aviation in my early 40s. I have a successful career in instructional design and teaching adults; using that experience toward becoming a CFI and professional pilot feels like a natural, wonderful progression. I am also passionate about bringing aviation curricula to the high school level. I am grateful for the support and inspiration The 99s have provided in showing that it's never too late to begin a pathway into aviation. I'm so excited to continue this next chapter of my life's work!



Cloe Grace McDowell

Chapter: Phoenix | **Section:** Southwest | **Mentor:** Sara Mazzarella

This award makes my journey in aviation even more worth it and proves that God's timing is never wrong. My aviation journey has been a process; it took me over two years to get a medical waiver for my vision astigmatism. I plan on finishing my Private Pilot Certificate with Red Rock Flight School in Arizona and this award makes that possible. It has been an amazing experience volunteering with the truly inspiring women of my chapter. I am ecstatic to one day become a mentor for a woman who needs a medical waiver just as I did. Thank you, 99s!



Jessika Michalski-Blair

Chapter: Maple Leaf | **Section:** East Canada | **Mentor:** Brenda Jolly

My name is Jessika Michalski-Blair, and as an aviation enthusiast, a mother of two and a wife, I am thrilled and honoured to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund's First Wings Award. I've always had a love of flying. I spent nine years as a flight attendant before being furloughed in 2020 due to the pandemic, when I took a leap of faith and contacted my local flight school to begin my journey. My goal for 2023 is to attain my Private Pilot Certificate, Night Rating and begin working toward my Commercial Pilot Certificate.



Jadyn Miller-Klein

Chapter: Colorado | **Section:** South Central | **Mentor:** Corrie Stevens

I have been in and out of airports my whole life, from traveling to seeing family! Throughout these beautiful trips, I gained the aviation glow. I plan to continue pursuing my aviation career by going to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where I'll be getting a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science and continue to get my Professional Pilot Certificate to someday fly internationally for the airlines. I've had the most amazing experiences from different aviation communities, but The 99s has truly given me the most wisdom and support to achieve my dreams. So, thank you to all The 99s!



Keerthana Nair

Chapter: Manitoba | **Section:** West Canada | **Mentor:** Katie Penner

I am so grateful to be a First Wing Award recipient. My love for airplanes began at a very young age and I always dreamt of becoming a pilot. After graduating from high school, I moved to Canada from India to start my flight training. I am currently working on my Private Pilot Certificate and plan to get my Commercial Pilot Certificate as well. I want to inspire young girls out there to dream big and chase their dreams to soar in the sky just like how other women aviators have been my inspiration growing up.



Wendy Rover

Chapter: Columbia Cascade | **Section:** Northwest | **Mentor:** Linda Worden

After a 30-year career as a professional henna artist, my aviation journey began at age 51 via an invitation to join a private pilot ground school course with Joby Aviation. After taking a discovery flight, I decided that flying was something I could and would do. My aviation goals are to get my CFI and CFII Ratings, share the joy of aviation by teaching others to fly, and eventually work in the eVTOL industry. I am happy to be an active member of my 99s chapter, and grateful to be chosen to receive the First Wings Award.



Evie Sapp

Chapter: Kentucky Bluegrass | **Section:** North Central | **Mentor:** Terri Donner

Hello, my name is Evie Sapp and I'm an incoming Freshman at Eastern Kentucky University! I'm excited to be able to continue my aviation achievements thanks to The 99s. I've been working toward my Private Pilot Certificate for some months now and getting closer to my check ride in the next month. I plan to attend ECU and apply for the UPS Pilots internship as I want to fly for UPS as my career. All thanks to my friends, family, and The 99s, I'm one step closer to my dream.



Nadia Solano Rodriguez

Chapter: Chicago Area | **Section:** North Central | **Mentor:** Christine Albertson

My name is Nadia, and before last year, I honestly didn't even know female pilots existed. I'm a Mexican woman who learned English and earned an industrial engineering degree from my small hometown university. I came to the U.S. because I longed to travel and wanted a better future for myself. I'm currently an au pair to three boys in Illinois. My host family took me for a ride in an open-cockpit biplane when I first arrived, and I felt so much freedom. I am in Part 141 flight training and hope to fly professionally one day.



Allison Tsay

Chapter: Eastern New England | **Section:** New England | **Mentor:** Susan Benua

I was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, and have been living in Boston, Massachusetts, for over 6 years. While I'm an electrical engineer by training, I first fell in love with aviation while working for Lockheed Martin. After my first discovery flight in a Piper Warrior, my passion for the industry quickly became my North Star, inspiring me to pursue a dual master's in aerospace engineering and business administration at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In my free time, you can find me kayaking on the Charles River or exploring aviation and aerospace museums across the country.



Frances Velazquez Mercado

Chapter: Old Dominion | **Section:** Mid-Atlantic | **Mentor:** Carolyn Hunker

I was born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico. I became interested in aviation almost by accident and I'm so happy I did. I have a bachelor's degree in applied meteorology from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus. I've served as a flight service specialist, a general aviation sales consultant, and an aviation weather subject matter expert. I plan to help others understand weather information as a certified flight instructor. I love being a pilot and cannot wait to fly myself and my family everywhere.



Dorothy Yu

Chapter: First Canadian | **Section:** East Canada | **Mentor:** Wendy Cragg

Before my passion for flying was ignited, I was a pianist, teacher, and graphic designer. After the pandemic, I decided to switch careers to become a commercial pilot. Being a member of the First Canadian Chapter has cultivated a sense of belonging, encouraged professional and personal growth, and allowed me the opportunity to create lifelong connections with others. I'm grateful and honored to be a recipient of the AEMS First Wings Award as it will bring me one step closer to starting my new career and becoming an ambassador of The 99s, inspiring the next generation of female pilots. 🌟

FOLLOW THE NINETY-NINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Get in a laugh or find some motivation!

Make sure to follow us on TikTok to see the videos our social media team creates. **We like to follow the trends, create content for pilots, and also cater specifically to our Ninety-Nines.** You can come to us for a quick laugh or a burst of motivation! Check out our most popular video. Just scan the QR code below to go to our account!



See what your fellow 99s are doing!

Instagram is our primary platform for sharing what our chapters are doing around the world. Send us your **pictures to be featured** on our account! We also hold **live interviews** with a notable member once a month and **commemorate our members' accomplishments** once a month! Scan the QR code to stay up to date with your sisters.



Share all things Ninety-Nines!

Facebook is where sections and chapters from all over the world announce **scholarships, upcoming webinars, races, and meetings**. Members are also showcased for achievements, and special aviation-related locations and flights of interest are highlighted. You can also ask your fellow 99s for **advice or motivation** by posting in our private group. Scan below to stay in the loop!



TikTok



Instagram



Facebook

2023 International Awards



2023
INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS

The 2023 International Awards will be presented on October 28 at the Awards Banquet during our Conference in Jordan. In addition to the awards listed here, the Award of Inspiration (recipient selected by the International Board of Directors) and the President's Award (recipient selected by our International President) will also be presented.



FRANCOIS LEH

Award of Merit

There aren't many people who can say they've dedicated their life to aviation, but Francois Leh is one who spent most of his adult life devoted to teaching, mentoring his students, and shaping them into the pilots that they are today. Regardless of a student's age, race, or gender, Francois was one of the most invested, caring, and talented flight instructors out there.

On November 25, 1945, Franc was born at an Austrian refugee camp for displaced persons in post World War II Europe. His family – which included five brothers and two sisters – settled in France, where he learned French and English in addition to his native German tongue. Franc soon became known as "Francois," renamed by the French schools. Francois – with his curious mind – had a love for all things outdoors including hiking, skiing, and cycling. In his late teens and early 20s, Francois journeyed around Europe with his skis, eventually making his way to Canada to study physics at McGill University. During this time in Europe, he started flying hang gliders while the sport was still in its infancy. Ever curious, the physics of flying, astronomy, and celestial navigation fascinated him.

In 1972, Francois became a citizen of Canada, the first and only country in which he has been a citizen. Francois worked as a draftsman for Canadair, helping design aircraft structures, then for a short time as a foreman on a construction project in Saudi Arabia. Upon his returned to Canada in the mid 1970s, Francois hitchhiked from Montreal west to Vancouver to be by the mountains to ski, cycle, and plant trees.

Francois's aviation career really started from the ground up in aviation terms. He taught hang gliding in the Swiss Alps during the 1970s and started teaching full time on motorized aircraft in 1980s. While teaching in ultralights, Francois perfected the fine art of forced landings and then expanded his skills in more reliable certified aircraft, earning his Glider, Private, and Commercial Pilot Licence and Flight Instructor Rating with Gretchen Mathieson at the Pacific Flying Club. While instructing at Boundary Bay Airport (CZBB) from 1985-1999, Francois earned a Class 1 Instructor and Aerobatic Instructor Rating and became a Transport Canada designated flight test examiner. Francois was in high demand as an instructor's instructor at various schools on the field.

For a brief time from 1999-2000, Francois worked with Bombardier Aerospace, where he was a flight instructor for the Canadian Armed Forces. However, his passion for the variety offered by the civilian training environment led him back to the west coast where he helped The Professional Flight Centre at Boundary Bay Airport (CZBB) in Vancouver grow from having only a single C152 to become one of the largest flight schools in the province. After eight years of managing a large training facility, Francois' desire to get back to grass roots flying and focus on teaching essential stick and rudder skills in a mountain environment became a reality. In May 2008, Francois finally accepted Colette Morin's open invitation to join her Glacier Air team at Squamish Airport (CYSE) in Squamish, British Columbia,

where he was able to spend more time with each student in the mountains, teaching tailwheel and aerobatics. Francois held the position of Chief Flight Instructor at Glacier Air until 2018, then taught ground school up until March 2020, when he retired due to health issues.

Francois has always been dedicated to educating everyone, from curious young children to flight students on their first flight to airline pilots and everyone in between. He's always been an avid supporter of women in aviation, believing women often made better pilots than men and encouraged girls to participate in the aviation industry. Francois's dynamic personality, enthusiasm for teaching, and over 14,000 hours experience in light aircraft over 45 years has positively influenced thousands of pilots who now fly professionally for major airlines, regional airlines, corporate, float and bush operations, flight instructing, and personal fun around the world. He set high standards for flight training and would not compromise on quality. To this day, former students, friends, and colleagues continue to call Francois for advice, to thank him for the training they received that saved them in an emergency, or to simply share a beer and fond memories.

In November 2020, in recognition of his endless achievements and continued influence, Colette Morin and the British Columbia Aviation Council established the Francois Leh Flight Instructor Scholarship for flight instructor students, to be annually awarded to a flight instructor candidate who shares Francois' passion and dedication to teaching, never-ending curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning.

Francois is truly humbled by the recognition of The Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots and is honored to receive the 2023 Award of Merit from The Ninety-Nines International Awards Committee.

2023 International Awards



JO-ANN MILLESS PRATER

Award of Achievement for Humanitarian Effort

Jo-Ann Milless Prater is a twin, born on a farm near Groveport, Ohio, on November 16, 1938. She currently lives with her husband in Upper Arlington, Ohio.

Jo-Ann graduated from the Grant Hospital School of Nursing in 1959. After working there as a staff member for a year, she

became a flight attendant for American Airlines. On her days off, Jo-Ann worked as a nurse at Booth Memorial Hospital in Queens, New York City.

After marrying in 1962 and becoming the mother of three children, Jo-Ann continued her nursing career. She began taking flying lessons at nearby Lunken Field (KLUK) in Cincinnati, Ohio, and became a private pilot.

She, with her family, moved to Upper Arlington in 1972 where she continued her nursing career in Columbus, Ohio, and where she became a member of the Scioto Valley Chapter.

After retiring from nursing, Jo-Ann was recruited by the International Health Service (IHS) in 2002 to work as a volunteer with one of the surgical teams that IHS annually sends to Honduras for two weeks in February. Jo-Ann did not miss a single mission until the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic caused IHS to temporarily suspend its operations in Honduras.

In her service with IHS in Honduras, Jo-Ann was most often assigned to the surgical team based at Puerto Lempira,

located in an area known as La Mosquitia, which was named for the Miskito people living there. Because the entire area is only accessible by boat and air, IHS medical teams are based in the surrounding villages to treat the native population, and when patients require surgery, transport them to Puerto Lempira. IHS and the Missionary Air Group, which also does volunteer work in Honduras, agreed to cooperate in this venture. Jo-Ann's Scioto Valley Chapter agreed to purchase aviation fuel to help sustain this vital service.

Members of the Scioto Valley Chapter, The 99s, and husbands including her own, have also joined Jo-Ann over the years volunteering with IHS. Some have worked with her in the operating room while others have served on medical, eyeglass, and dental teams based throughout Honduras.

Jo-Ann's nursing license has lapsed; however, she is considering volunteer work in some other capacity with IHS. She is still active in her community and is a long-time member of the staff at the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University and on the Executive Committee of Upper Arlington Progressive Action.



JOY PARKER BLACKWOOD

Award of Achievement for Contributions to the Ninety-Nines

In 1982, Joy began training for her Private Pilot Licence with Toronto Airways, at Buttonville Municipal Airport (CYKZ) in Markham, Ontario, Canada. She became the first "66" of our First Canadian Chapter. She turned those numbers upside down in 1983 and became an enthusiastic 99s member, thanks to the mentorship

of the then First Canadian Chapter Chair, Shirley Macdougall.

Joy became an active member in the chapter and section, and at the international level. As a marketing and events production professional, she led and participated in many activities such as poker runs, annual meetings, section meetings, air bears, Air Race Classic, seminars and Operation Skywatch. Joy organized events for the East Canada Section members at both New York City and Las Vegas conferences. She was Co-Chair for the 1995 conference in Halifax, Canada, and Chair of the 2016 conference in Ottawa, Canada. Joy became Chapter Chair in 1984 and Section Governor in 1986. She rewrote Chapter and Section operational guidelines, job functions, and bylaws. As Governor, she added the category of military member to our international applications, implemented the annual Governor's Service Award for the East Canada Section (winning this award in 1996), and was elected an International Director in 1998. Joy served as a member of the International Finance Committee, Co-Chair of the first International Long Range Planning Committee, and Chair of Headquarters Operations, overseeing policies and procedures, SOPs, staff job descriptions,

guidelines, and the change to the Executive Director. The Grievance Committee formulation of SOPs was thanks to Joy's efforts, and she led a seminar to develop our first Mission and Vision statements. She was Council of Governors Spokesperson in 1997 and designed and implemented the initial Council of Governors policies and procedures manual. Joy also initiated marketing and public relations guidelines for trade shows, air shows, media relations, and advertising and served as an AEMS Trustee and Chair over a span of nine years.

In 1998 she was part of the first all-99s Canadian Precision Flight Team that competed at the World Precision Flying Championships in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2003, Joy was inducted into the International Forest of Friendship. In 2009 she became a Founding member of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation in Toronto, serving as Vice President and President – all started by a team of local 99s. Today the foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization that hosts the annual Elsie awards gala that has upwards of 500 people in attendance.

Joy says, "Thank you to my 99s sisters and the International Board of Directors for this very prestigious honor."



MARY BUILD

Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation

Mary has filled all chapter positions in the Katahdin Wings. She served as Section Treasurer for six years and as well as Section Vice Governor, and is now completing her second term as Governor of the New England Section. This past year she was the spokesperson for the Council of Governors, encouraging our leaders to lead and not be doers: Trying to do it all leaves out all the other members who want to participate.

Mary began flying at age 47. She was already a successful career woman. She now has over 6,300 hours total time in ASEL, ASES, MEL, Instrument, as a CFI, CFII in 36 different model airplanes: a Citabria, Cessnas (from 120s to 402s), Bonanza A36, King Air (two years as First Officer), Pipers and RV-12. She is a FAASTeam Representative presenting many safety seminars specializing in mountain flying and seaplane operations. Two of those seminars were presented at EAA's AirVenture Oshkosh in 2019. She is also a former designated pilot examiner. She is often seen volunteering at Ninety-Nines' booths at the International Seaplane Fly-In in Greenville, Maine, and at Oshkosh. One of the events she loves to organize is the section's Treasure Hunt, which occasionally runs in the fall. She gathered twelve pilots to fly leased Cessna 182s in Africa on a flying safari. She has flown the Air Race Classic twice and judged it four times.

Her latest accomplishment has been publishing a book, *Finding Myself In Aviation*. Readers have been quick to request speaking engagements, which continue to result in selling additional books. She has been a signing author at Oshkosh and The Ninety-Nine's Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Mary presented an interesting 99s' webinar during which she talked about the different forms of flying she has experienced (including wheels, skis, and floats), starting her own seaplane business, scenic flights, flying Part 135, and flight training. At the Brandy Pond seaplane base, she sponsored a seaplane expo for thirteen years with speakers, multiple vendors (including the Katahdin Wings) and at times up to 125 attendees who either flew in or drove. 🐾

Invitation to Submit

NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The International Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for five prestigious awards to be presented by The Ninety-Nines, Inc. at the 2024 International Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The deadline for submitting nominations is **January 31, 2024**.

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT (for Ninety-Nines)

Three Awards of Achievement may be presented for:

- Contributions to The Ninety-Nines
- Contributions to Aviation
- Humanitarian Efforts

Who May be Nominated? An individual member of The Ninety-Nines (living or deceased); a group of Ninety-Nines; or an organization within The Ninety-Nines, such as a Chapter, Section, Committee, or Trust. An individual recipient must be a current member, or have been a current member at the time of her death.

AWARD OF MERIT (for non-Ninety-Nines)

Recognizes a significant contribution to any facet of aviation, such as aviation or aerospace education, aviation science, aviation history, aviation commerce, aviation legislation, etc.

Who May be Nominated? An individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM AWARD (for non-Ninety-Nines)

Recognizes support provided to The Ninety-Nines by an individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. The contribution may have occurred in the past or present, as a single action or a series of events.

Who May be Nominated? An individual (male or female, living or deceased), or an organization. The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.

Who may submit nominations?

A Ninety-Nines Chapter, Section, or Trust.

How to nominate: Submit a one-page letter, signed by two officers or trustees (as appropriate). The nomination must include the name, address, and telephone number of the nominee, or the nominee's next-of-kin if the nominee is deceased. Up to three additional pages of substantiating material may be attached to the letter.

Email your nomination to **Awards@ninety-nines.org**. Nominations should be received by the deadline, Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

Note: Previous nominees may be resubmitted.
Questions? Email Awards@ninety-nines.org



The Museum's centerpiece is "Muriel" — the world's last remaining Lockheed Electra 10-E aircraft — identical to the plane Amelia piloted on her fateful round-the-world flight. Photos courtesy Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum.

Excitement in Atchison

The new Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum

By Rebecca Burghy, *Intermountain Chapter*

Every pilot has a bucket list of significant aviation events and sites to visit such as AirVenture Oshkosh, the Reno Air Races, the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, or the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. After my recent travels, I recommend adding Atchison, Kansas, to your list.

The Ninety-Nines have deep ties to Amelia Earhart and Atchison, yet I'd never visited her hometown. When the request came to attend the grand opening of the new Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, I quickly packed my bags for a journey into her life, ready to learn more about the internationally famed aviatrix who blazed so boldly across early aviation and helped found The Ninety-Nines. A daring, determined woman who continues to inspire the world today.

Having flown commercially into Kansas City, I rented a car for the 45-minute drive to Atchison, determined to learn more about Amelia, her hometown, and the overall area. Like any

good journey, this one was full of unexpected surprises, the first being the beauty of picturesque rolling hills and sheer bluffs along the Missouri River, encompassing both Kansas and Missouri. So much for flat Kansas! And who would have guessed the Missouri side of the river is dotted with antique shops, wineries and tasting rooms? The friendly staff at Riverwood Winery educated me on unique grape varieties and the burgeoning wine industry in both states.

Springtime sparkled in pleasing views of farm fields stitched with neat rows of little green shoots and pink cherry blossoms under a pale blue sky. Atchison was larger than I expected, a quietly prosperous city of tree-lined streets and stately Victorian homes, including the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, owned and operated by The Ninety-Nines. The magnificent buildings and campus of the historic Benedictine College are situated nearby, as is the stylish Santa Fe Depot, Visitor Center and Atchison Rail Museum.



Visitors can try their own navigation skills to pilot a virtual reality recreation of Amelia's historic 1932 flight across the Atlantic Ocean. (This is a ticketed experience.)

The downtown core is thriving, as locals have made good use of the vintage brick buildings for thriving restaurants like Willy's Sports Pub, or the popular Theatre Atchison's live performances, plus numerous other shops and businesses. The castle-like U.S. Post Office is a white limestone beauty with round towers and original woodwork. The hotels are nearby, making driving and parking easy, but it was more fun to put on my walking shoes for exploration and exercise. Keep an eye out for busy train traffic as distiller MGP has a large granary operation here, and trains are constantly moving. I met and talked with many people, finding that the second, very pleasant surprise was how welcoming people were, offering not just surface courtesy but genuine warmth, assistance, and kindness.

On the outskirts of Atchison, near Lake Warnock, is the International Forest of Friendship, a joint effort of the City of Atchison and The Ninety-Nines. The Forest is a living memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace, planted with trees from all over the globe in honor of pioneers, pilots, astronauts, and other honorees whose names line the pathways through the trees.

With its history clearly in view, it seems that Atchison in the early 1900s must have been an ideal place to stoke young Amelia's appetite for adventure, as the rich history of Indian tribes, Lewis and Clark's expedition, westward migration, and the arrival of the railroads were relatively recent events that spoke excitingly of exploration, action, and accomplishment.

Winding along a country road just northwest of the city, I found the sign for Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport (K59) on the crest of a broad hill. Turning in, I couldn't help but smile; it's the perfect pilot's airport with a long expanse of runway, clusters of hangars, airplanes in the tiedowns, great views, and no restrictive fences. Dominating the airport is the big, brand-new Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum (AEHM), well-marked with signs and airplanes. A tall bronze statue of Amelia stands at the museum entrance, and a digital Amelia greeted me in the lobby when I arrived for a personal tour.

I was delighted to see Museum President Karen Seaberg, and to meet the amazing Makinzie Burghart, Director of Development, and Executive Director Mindi Love Pendergast, as well as other team members. Their infectious enthusiasm and passionate

determination in the creation of the new AEHM generated such an atmosphere of excitement, we were all smiling.

Museum centerpiece "Muriel" gleamed bright aluminum under the lights, the only remaining Lockheed Electra 10-E in the world, identical to the aircraft Amelia flew on her final flight. Makinzie provided a terrific tour, sharing the incredible amount of thought and planning that went into creating such a stellar facility. The entire hangar is beautifully decorated with an Art Deco motif and strong colors. Starting at an early point in Amelia's childhood, the interactive, compelling displays lead through her youthful adventures and on to her record-setting flights, and the factors affecting her last flight. Visitors are encouraged to touch, push, pull, swipe, and pose as they explore the mechanical workings of aircraft and engines, a holographic career experience, a riveting challenge, and so much more. Adventure surprise number three: This modest museum in the quiet Kansas countryside is top-notch and exceptionally well-executed with state-of-the-art technology, virtual reality flying, and a strong STEM focus. Children and adults alike will thoroughly enjoy every part of their visit.

Pilots, here is the icing on the cake of your visit to Atchison and K59: the new airport terminal is built right into the museum hangar with shared viewing windows, and is complete with comfortable seating, a nap room, and a pilot briefing room. Meeting space is available, the restrooms serve both the terminal and museum, and you simply walk down to the hall and turn the corner to enter the museum side. Fuel is available as well, and a new runway is planned in the next few years.

The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum is the vision of local pilots Ladd and Karen Seaberg, who established the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation to inspire future pilots and industry leaders with Amelia's worldwide aviation legacy. Many years of tireless effort, along with the support of the city and people of Atchison, private and corporate partners, and the State of Kansas, finally came to fruition in early 2023. On April 14, a large crowd gathered from near and far to celebrate the museum's grand opening. Airplanes flew overhead as Atchison Mayor Lisa Moody, U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, U.S. Representative Jake LaTurner, and Kansas State Representative John Eplee joined Amelia's great-nephew Bram Kleppner, his daughter Gabrielle, and Museum President Karen Seaberg for the ceremonial cutting of the red ribbon.

If you're flying to Oshkosh or taking a vacation trip this summer, make time for a stop in Atchison. You'll be glad you did. 🍷



Amelia Earhart's great-nephew Bram Kleppner and his daughter Gabrielle pose for a photo with "Muriel."

ODE TO THE GIFT OF FLIGHT

– By Dr. Amanda Roberts, *Rio Grande Norte Chapter*



I'm Dr. Amanda Roberts, a student pilot flying with Air Prometheus in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I was born in Malawi, Africa, into a loving British home, grew up in Europe and Hong Kong, and attended Harvard University, Berkeley, and Stanford.

I'm an eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) trauma psychologist and practice telemedicine throughout much of the

United States. My work is another driving lifelong passion, and I've launched a global initiative designed to deliver trauma training to paraprofessionals in resource-poor areas of the world with the intent of providing hope and relief to many who have been left behind.

I began my flight training in the Spring of 2022 and have just purchased a Cessna 210 which I plan to fly as copilot with my partner to the Yukon this summer and then Mexico as part of Flying Doctors of Mercy on medical missions. I'm also a senior member of the Civil Air Patrol Santa Fe wing. My goal is to become a mission scanner as part of the Emergency Services Division and thus serve the surrounding communities in need. I'm part of the Rio Grande Norte Chapter and delighted to meet so many inspiring, courageous, and awesome women.

I hope that my article not only reminds those who are more seasoned pilots of the miracle and gift of flight but inspires and encourages those who are beginning their journey towards becoming accomplished aviators.

How I feel about flying; It is all about love and fear.

In my lifetime I've come to know fear and I've always run towards it rather than away. It stalks us all and invites us toward courage. If we dare. Fear as I put on my skydiving gear. Fear as I work in the emergency room. Fear of public speaking. Fear of learning to rock-climb. Fear of confronting another when they do not want to hear one's words. Fear of learning to fly a plane. I was made for overcoming fear as it looms. Since we became sentient, we gazed up at the sky and wished we could soar above ourselves and join the birds of the air. We now live in a time where this, at last, is possible and what an honor such an enterprise is. Humans have mastered the art and the age-old dream of flight. Now I too aspire to be a master of this art and its hard science as I become a disciple of flight. I'm joining a tribe of like-minded intrepid souls that dare to do what was once the impossible.

At the outset of every day, my first action is to look up at the sky and I ask, "Is this a good day to fly?" The excitement begins the moment one begins to drive to the airport. The ritual of preflight planning, checklists, weight and balance, and ensuring the airworthiness of the aircraft are primers for the pilot mindset. Cool headed, calculating, disciplined, and precise with a spirit that will take one through any kind of peril are essential prerequisites along with a courageous heart and fixed determination.

"Cessna N8415M at two zero, you are cleared for takeoff, right turn approved." "415M cleared for take-off, right turn approved."

The moment the throttle engages and I lightly press the right rudder, I feel the roar and thrust of the engine, I'm captivated and transfixed by the intoxication I experience each time as the wheels leave the ground lifting a couple thousand pounds of metal into the air. I'm

free from my lowland worries and cares and can only be here right now focused and, in the flow, where time stands still.

I taste eternity in the now and revel in the complete freedom of focused alert attention to every dial, every movement of the airplane, every sound, and every visual delight outside with eyes scanning my visual field.

The air is holding me and I dance to the music of the spheres and feel the symphony flow through me. I'm at one with my flying machine. I'm in her and she is in me. I take care of her and she takes care of me. If I vigilantly obey the laws of physics, I'll stay alive – but if I challenge them with the hubris of Icarus, I won't.

I'm both bold and very afraid and know the fragility of life but must push on and conquer my fear. When one knows that life could be snuffed out at any moment and one knows this fully, that is the moment one really begins to live. There is that twist in my gut and the pounding of my heart in my oh so mortal chest that reminds me of the magnificence of being alive as my breath flows through my veins.

I'm sitting in my chair in the sky, but only for a short while as my fuel supplies allow. I must listen to the song of the engine, the smell of the oil, feel the kinetics of the airplane's g-forces, and interpret the language of her systems. I scan the windshield and my eyes flow over the dials, always thinking, always aware, always planning what comes next with grease stains on my fingers.

To be a pilot is hard and terrifying, it asks for much but gives way more. Only those that attempt this journey can know how much of one it requires and it calls to me like the sirens' song that I cannot resist. I will keep going back for more.

Oh, I've escaped the iron-clad bonds of Earth and defied the laws of gravity and sped audaciously across the sun-kissed air as a soaring eagle that knows no limits. With my heart in my mouth and that all familiar pounding of my chest, I dare to cross the sky tearing a hole through the air as an uninvited trespasser. I taunt gravity and her inexorable indifference and look death squarely in the eye and shudder.

If my father can face the mortal enemy on the beaches of Normandy and prevail, then I can face my own fears and conquer them in the sky.

From stalls and steep turns to all high-altitude maneuvers and crosswind landings. Watch me week by week as I methodically overcome and master each difficulty, little by little with that thousand-yard stare. I follow my brave comrades, the pilots that have come before me and pave the way for those that will come after me.

I've dared to cross the sky and defy my nature. Like Prometheus we stole technology from the Gods and harnessed it for the best in us. I, too, trespass heights I was never designed to enter. On borrowed time and borrowed space I must remember my place and never squander this privilege.

And then out of nowhere, I'm jolted by a thermal and the plane sinks along with my heart. Then the radio explodes with voices and commands from the tower I can hardly decipher as my brain is flooded with tasks and information and I'm once more pulled towards excellence. With flight one never rests. With flight one must always improve.

I must discipline my thoughts, emotions and physiology and comply with the task no matter how I feel.

Oh, make me a pilot and a good one!! It is like a fire in the belly that burns and cannot be extinguished. I'll never quit. I'll never yield and failure is never an option. At times embarrassed and always humbled, I continue to push through each barrier even when my body says "no." Never underestimate what it takes to be a pilot. There is a reason why 85% of students fail to complete their training. Even

to this day, most pilots are men and few are women. The cockpit was always a symbol of male power and men sought to exclude us and failed. This is another layer of trespass for a woman such as me. I've an additional layer of difficulty now that I'm now well over 60 years old.

I'll do whatever it takes to master this craft. I'll put in the hours and the study and it will come slowly. I'll stay patient and determined. I commit to putting in the work with all my resolve. I'll not yield until I'm triumphant in my efforts. And then there will be more and more. I've cried and I've raged, I've doubted, and I've sweat. But mark my words, I'll succeed.

I'll become a different person with a different brain and I'll never yield and I'll always remain humble.

I've done a thousand things that few will ever do or feel. I'm soaring and in communion with all that is. I'll fly cross-country. I'll fly over the mountains and I'll explore to my heart's content.

For me, flying is also about character, love and passion, a great love affair of the spirit, not a mere prosaic past-time or hobby.

Adventure with a capital "A" is my signature as it always has been since I was a young child. And once I land, all that I want is to fly again. I belong in the sky as a pilot, invisibly bound by my new-found ardor.

Mara, the one that attempted to obstruct the Buddha. You who enjoy dispensing your torments. You come unbidden each time I fly. I see you and you appear to me as fear.

You will not conquer me. I'll face you down until you are weakened and do not dominate. You visit me as an uninvited guest. I'll banish you each time you appear until you fade away and I no longer hear or see you. I've dared to touch the face of God and know it to be true. Blessed be for the gift of flight; once you know it, you are changed forever. 🐉

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Looking forward to seeing you on the shore of the Dead Sea in Jordan!

October 27 to November 2, 2023

Conference:
October 27-29

Post-conference Tour:
October 29 - Nov 2

Webinar
Wed, July 12 at 7 pm Central

"Planning Ahead for Your Adventure in Jordan"

Minnetta Gardinier,
99s Vice President

*Link will be published
in the July Straight
& Level e-newsletter.*

New Conference session added
Sat, October 28 at 9 am

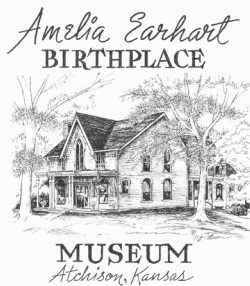
"Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and What It's All About"

Louise Cullinan - Pilot, Frontier Airlines
Past Chair, ALPA Critical Incident
Response Program Committee



Reports

COME EAT WITH AMELIA'S FAMILY!



On July 20, 2023, three of Amelia's grand-nephews will visit the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum to enjoy a dinner. A handful of guests will have the opportunity to dine with the family members in the Formal Dining Room of the house.

The evening will include two events. At 5:30 pm, a cocktail hour will be held for the three grand-nephews and twenty guests. Tickets for the cocktail hour are

\$100 per person, with drink tickets included. At 7 pm, following the cocktail hour, a formal dinner will be held. The dinner will include the grand-nephews and seven guests. Dinner tickets are \$5000 per person or \$9500 for a couple. Dinner will be catered by Piropos Restaurant of Kansas City.

Amelia Earhart herself had no biological children, but her younger sister Muriel did. Muriel and her husband, Albert Morrissey, had two children; three of Muriel's grandchildren will be in attendance at this dinner. Brothers Bram and Caleb Kleppner, and their cousin Jim Morrissey will regale guests with tales of their great aunt Amelia that they heard while growing up. As well, they will share memories of their other family members that lived alongside Amelia, including their grandmother Muriel.

Staff of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum will also be in attendance. Executive Director Heather Roesch is "beyond excited to spend the evening with Amelia's family at their familial home. I can't wait to hear the stories of their lives and of Amelia and Muriel."

Reserve your spot soon, space is limited and spots are filling up quickly.

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
223 N. Terrace St. - Atchison, KS 66002

(913) 367-4217 | www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org
aemuseum@gmail.com

2023 INTERNATIONAL ELECTION

Directors, Nominating Committee Members, and Trustees



This mid-term election included two Director positions, two members of the Nominating Committee, one Trustee each for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSF) and the Endowment Fund, and two trustees each for the Museum of Women Pilots (MWP) and the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM).

The 2023 election was held from March 15, 2023, to May 1, 2023. There were 7,007 eligible voters. ElectionBuddy was used as our service provider, and they managed all paper and electronic ballots.

1,154 ballots were returned or 16% of the total distributed, including 1,069 electronic and 85 paper ballots. There were no spoiled ballots.

Submitted by Kathy Fox, *Chair, Elections Procedures Committee*

Elected were the following:

DIRECTOR



Janet Patton
Ambassador Chapter,
South Central Section



Nivedita Bhasin
India Section

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Mae Marquet
NOLA Chapter
Southeast Section



Karissa Davan
Katahdin Wings Chapter
New England Section

TRUSTEES



Helen Consolino
Phoenix Chapter
Southwest Section
AEMSF



Brenda Thibodeau
Katahdin Wings Chapter
New England Section
Endowment Fund

MWP

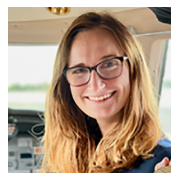


Tweet T. Coleman
Daytona 99s Chapter
Southeast Section



Dianne Earhart
Greater St Louis Chapter
North Central Section

AEBM



Emmy Dillon
San Diego Chapter
Southwest Section



Lindsey R. Dreiling
South Central Section
Air Capital Chapter

Milestones

Abby Awosanya

Instrument
– Maryland

Amanda Barker

Private
– Florida Suncoast



Kelly Barrick

CFI
– Washington DC

Maddy Bloom

CFII
– Orange County

Alexis Burgess

Private
– Orange County

Michelle Burklund

Private
– Florida Suncoast

Jacqueline Cako

Commercial
– Phoenix



Chloe Clark

Solo
– Tennessee



Grace Coleman

Solo
– Hampton Roads



Katie Commendatore

Private
– Eastern New England



Lucia Crete

Private
– Connecticut

Timber Dawson

Instrument
– Kentucky Bluegrass

Michelle Dennis

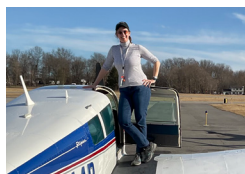
Private
– Phoenix

Laura Doherty

Commercial
– Connecticut

Kori Estep

Solo
– Kentucky Bluegrass



Elizabeth Karpiloff

Complex &
High Performance
Endorsement
– Greater New York



Sarah Krammen

Commercial
– Lake Tahoe



Karen Mitchell

Multiengine CFI
– Eastern New England



Raleigh Offenbacher

Commercial
– Arkansas

Emily Pagano

Instrument
– Phoenix

Cindi Pokorny

Private
– Wisconsin

Allison Ranzau

Solo
– Kentucky Bluegrass

Anna Rubianes

Instrument
– Phoenix

Amy Schwartz

Commercial
– Phoenix



Natalie Tevebaugh

Private
– Oregon Pines

Kacy Thompson

Commercial
– Kentucky Bluegrass

Christina Williams

Tailwheel
Endorsement
– Hampton Roads

Careers



Crews

By Donna Miller

Recently I had two almost exact flying scenarios with absolutely opposite outcomes. It got me thinking about how you approach a situation that really matters. Let me explain. I am a commuter, meaning that I live in Denver, Colorado, and my base is Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas (KDFW), so in order to get to work, I non-rev (fly for free in a seat in the cabin) or jump seat (ride in the flight deck). Both times, all the seats were taken and I was relegated to the flight deck, and in both cases the plane was an Airbus A321, which is the plane I fly.

The first flight was going well, and we started our descent into KDFW. We were at 10 degrees Celsius and descending into visible moisture. Per the manual, it's time to turn on the engine anti-ice (it's like cowl heat for jets). I waited to say anything, giving the pilots time to work that into their flow, but they hadn't. I calmly asked, "Engine anti-ice?" "Naw, we're good. It's not below 10." The captain waited the requisite amount of time to maintain his "man card" (10 seconds maybe) and then turned on the anti-ice. He might have heard me roll my eyes from my jump seat behind him. Clearly, he's got it all under control and doesn't want my input.

The very next week, the exact same scenario presented itself, but after introductions and a little small talk, this captain casually asked me how I would handle the situation of a jump seater texting while taxiing in after a flight. He added, "Technically, they're part of the crew, so I think they should hold off, but they're not a required crew member..." I agreed, although I understand that as a commuter, you always want to get a jump on any gate changes or arrange transportation when you arrive, so you would be tempted to pull out your phone. As we were descending into KDFW into visible moisture at 10 degrees Celsius, I again waited, and then asked, "Engine anti-ice?" He immediately turned on the switches and thanked me for being on top of it. I felt like I was part of the crew. It made me want to continue to contribute when I could (without butting in) and maintain situational awareness from my bird's-eye view in the jump seat.

I have a friend who, when she takes her kids flying, pays them a quarter for every airplane they point out in the sky. My friend Kerri suggests giving them a dollar if they can identify the make and model. Is a ten-year-old a required crew member? Of course not, but they can save your life when you're descending into a busy uncontrolled airport. Besides, it keeps them engaged and feeling like part of the crew. If she took my first captain's approach, her kids would probably just check out and break out their tablets and earphones. They wouldn't have the shared experience of the flight and she would miss out on having very affordable spotters.

It's something worth pondering next time you go flying. A little Crew Resource Management goes a long way, whether they are designated crew or not.



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Publishing Pty Ltd
ISBN: 978-1922539618
Available on Amazon

ISLAND GIRL TO AIRLINE PILOT:

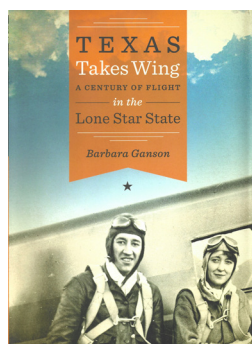
A story of love, sacrifice and taking flight

Author: Silva McLeod, First Female Tongan Airline Pilot

This book was sent to our Editor, who passed it along to me for review. It's one of the most stunning, brutally honest memoirs I've ever read. Silva McLeod is the first Tongan woman to fly for an airline, but this story is so much more than a chronicling of that accomplishment and her love of flying. She takes us through a cultural divide, a racial challenge with a mixed marriage in Tonga and Australia in the 1980s, her husband's health challenges, and being a mother of two small children all while negotiating the road to becoming a pilot. She is blunt, and her language is colorful.

This story was new to me. We have such an enormous amount of information on social media platforms that I'm always a little surprised when the familiar bubble bursts and a story like Silva McLeod's appears. This book broadens horizons in a huge number of ways. Read it!

– Reviewed by Jacque Boyd, *Rio Grande Norte Chapter*



Publisher: University of Texas
Press, Copyright 2014
ISBN: 978-0292754089
Available on Amazon

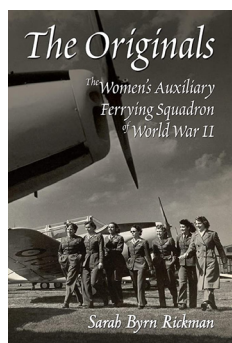
TEXAS TAKES WING:

A Century of Flight in the Lone Star State

Author: Barbara Ganson, Florida Goldcoast Chapter

This book has been in print for a while, but it's worth a second look now. A friend sent it to me because Jean LaRene Foote, one of The Ninety-Nines charter members, is on the cover. The bibliography and appendix sections are reason enough to make this a part of any aviation collection. Ganson deftly crosses the line between a good read and a scholarly non-fiction work. The book profiles pilots, manufacturers, airlines, airports, and space organizations. Texas is a major platform for the aviation world, and this book covers it all. It's a great reference and a really interesting read.

– Reviewed by Jacque Boyd, *Rio Grande Norte Chapter*



Publisher: Braughler Books
Copyright 2001
ISBN: 978-1945091384
Available on Amazon

THE ORIGINALS:

The Women's Auxiliary Flying Squadron of World War II

Author: Sarah Byrne Rickman, Pikes Peak Chapter

A good book deserves to be reviewed more than once. If you missed the earlier review, I am very pleased to recommend this book for your reading pleasure. Courageous women pilots should not be forgotten.

Sarah Byrne Rickman, with assistance from Nancy Bateman Crews, has written a wonderful book about the first American women to fly military aircraft in wartime. Their service in delivering warplanes from factories to distribution points throughout the country is enthralling. They faced weather, untried aircraft fresh off the assembly line, and male officers who didn't think women belonged in the left seat.

The original 28 WAFS preceded the WASP (Women's Army Service Pilots), started by Jacqueline Cochran. They did not seek publicity; they wanted to fly. The book not only tells their story but includes brief biographies of each of these women. I cannot recommend it highly enough. Come fly with The Originals!

– Reviewed by Angie Slingluff, *Rio Grande Norte Chapter*



GERMAN SECTION

Yearly Meeting

The German Section met at the beginning of April to plan for 2023 and elect a new governor team. More than half of our members accepted the invitation to the airfield in Hildesheim, Germany (EDVM), despite the weather being completely unsuitable for arriving by airplane. For the second time, we had the pleasure of being guests at the wonderful Aviators Farm of Thomas Schuettoff in Hildesheim. His Aviators Farm became the official home base of the German Section in 2022.

The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the fascinating talk by Fanni Pajer, who has completed ferry flights all over the world for Diamond Corp., Austria, in recent years and told us about three ferry flights, ferrying DA42s (single pilot, twin engine) from Vienna to Japan. The insights into the world of a ferry pilot were highly exciting and entertaining. From the extensive flight planning, which is essentially in the hands of the pilot, to the seemingly simple everyday questions: where and what do I get to eat when I have to leave the hotel very early in the morning, how do I find a coffee to take away, and what is there to eat in the evening when the kitchen of the next hotel has already closed after completing all entry and customs formalities? Even the toilet question is not always easy to answer, either on the ground nor in the air.

More existential, however, are the questions of whether a planned stopover can be canceled due to good tailwinds up to that point and whether it is preferable to navigate a bad weather front or risk violating the airspace of a large Asian country? All three ferry flights took place during international restrictions due to COVID-19. While the more direct flight path over Russia was still possible during the first flight, Fanni had to take a detour via a southern route – across countries like India and Pakistan – on her second and third flights, which repeatedly presented her with major challenges in the small twin-engine and with limited altitude clearances due to monsoon season. We all cheered with her and rejoiced when she was able to hold her young son, with whom she chatted daily, in her arms again at home.

This talk and the experiences of the last year gave us enough topics of conversation for two wonderful evenings with a self-catered buffet and one or the other glass of wine, water, juice, or schnapps.

The official general assembly on Saturday was also successful. A wide variety of activities were planned for 2023, including our traditional flight safety training sessions in the spring and fall. The Thea Rasche Grant, named after the only German founding member of The Ninety-Nines, supports aspiring female pilots and will continue in 2023. The funding amounts that Ninety-Nines can apply for have been increased. Last but not least, we are pleased to have elected a new section Governor: Sabina Jaeckel-Engler. Sabina together with Ute Hoelscher, Vice Governor, will now lead

our organization with the support of our proven governor team. Sabina lives in Berlin, but she is an American who grew up in Florida. We thank her very much for her great commitment and look forward to a new flying year.

– Ursula Hammer (German)
and Sabina Jaeckel-Engler (English)



Members of the New York-New Jersey and Mid-Atlantic Sections enjoyed their lobster roll fly-out.

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY AND MID-ATLANTIC SECTIONS

Members of the New York-New Jersey and Mid-Atlantic Sections recently enjoyed their first lobster roll fly-out of the season.

On April 13, Linda Evans, Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter; Cynthia Lee, Delaware Chapter; Lorraine Denby, New Jersey Chapter; Amy Myzie, New Jersey Chapter; and Shannon Osborne, Greater New York Chapter, flew in from airports in Delaware and New Jersey. They met at Groton-New London Airport's (KGON) FBO Modern Aviation in Groton, Connecticut. The ladies borrowed the FBO's courtesy car to venture out to the nearest lobster shack and enjoyed a New England perennial favorite, the lobster roll. They try to schedule one or two of these fly-outs annually.

Members of the sections also enjoyed another treat: a flyout on April 21 for lunch at Sky Manor Airport (N40). Eastern Pennsylvania 99s met up with Greater New York 99s. After lunch, Juliet Lindrooth, Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, took her Grumman Tiger to its home and Linda took her C182 to its home. We all then drove to the historic grass airfield, Van Sant (9N1), where Juliet keeps two vintage airplanes. She treated the members to flights!

– Shannon Osborne

Grass Roots



Hannah Garner, Arkansas; Camelia Smith, Arkansas; Bill Smith; Allison Schlotthauer, Oklahoma; Teresa Camp, Oklahoma; Scott Simmons; Trina Southard, Oklahoma; Clark Southard; Bill Camp; Jody McCarrell, Oklahoma; Laurie Peake, Dallas, South Central Section Governor; Ron Crumley; Julie Hall-den Boer, Oklahoma. Not pictured: Stephenie Roberts, Texas Dogwood.

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION

On April 15, Ninety-Nines from the South Central Section including Arkansas, Oklahoma, Dallas, and Texas Dogwood Chapters painted a giant compass rose at the J. Lynn Helms Sevier County Airport (KDEQ) in De Queen, Arkansas. This airmarking project honors local pilot and former Ninety-Nines International President Jody McCarrell. The professionally surveyed compass rose benefits the aviation community by providing a calibrated location to swing a compass on an aircraft.

Community member Dr. Jason Lofton had the idea to honor Jody with a compass rose at her home airport. Scott Simmons and Dick Tallman helped coordinate The Ninety-Nines' effort with the airport construction project at the Sevier County Airport. A special design element was added to the compass rose to recognize Jody's 2002-2004 presidency.

The Ninety-Nines continue to paint beautiful and useful compass roses at airports all over the country today to carry on tradition. Arkansas native and Ninety-Nine Louise Thaden was one of the women hired by the Airport Division of the Bureau of Air Commerce in 1935 to do airmarking as an aid to navigation. Arkansas Ninety-Nines Airmarking Project Chair Julie Hall-den Boer said, "We're excited to share this compass rose with the aviation community and honor one of our Ninety-Nines leaders, Jody McCarrell."

- Julie Hall-den Boer

South Central Section Spring Meeting

This year's South Central Section meeting in El Paso, Texas, was a total blast!

April 20 began with a small cocktail party hosted by Suzie Azar with about 20 people who enjoyed getting acquainted.

Friday, April 21, about 50 Ninety-Nines and guests arrived in El Paso. The Chapter Chair Meeting and the Board Meeting took place that afternoon at the Radisson Hotel. In the evening, everyone enjoyed a Welcome Reception, along with a plentiful hospitality room which was available all weekend.

Saturday, April 22 began with a productive South Central Section breakfast meeting with everyone at the conference room upstairs in the War Eagles Museum in Santa Teresa, New Mexico.

The states that were represented at the South Central Meeting were: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Oklahoma with other locations joining in over Zoom.

We were able to watch touch and go's through the wall of windows throughout the meeting, which was quite entertaining.

Each chapter was able to give a recap of what they have been up to in the past year. Here is an example that came from Austin Hill Country (AHC) Ninety-Nines:

"Let's begin with a 2022 chapter recap. We rebooted the newsletter; added new chapter members to the AHC executive board (which brought renewed energy); held events in-person or on Zoom almost monthly; members represented us at the Fall South Central Section Meeting; started a chapter history preservation project; had speakers that covered topics on the WASP, radio communications, emergency survival planning, international fun flying, the ICON A5 seaplane; volunteered at Young Eagles Days, Girls in Aviation Day, Air Race Classic stops; and spread holiday cheer to our local airports."

After the morning meeting, the group was given a tour of the War Eagles Museum, which was guided by special museum docents with great knowledge of the entire place. This was followed by a wine tasting and luncheon at La Viña Winery in La Union, New Mexico.

That evening, everyone regrouped in the ballroom back at the Radisson in El Paso, where they had Mexican food and great conversation. The guest speaker of the evening was Kelly Latimer who is Retired Air Force, former combat pilot, and now Director of Flight Test for Virgin Galactic. She was informative and inspirational for all of us.

There were some very young recipients of scholarships who came to the party, even all the way from Dallas, Texas.

There were silent auction items and door prizes for many lucky members in attendance.

A great time was had by all and we're thankful to the gracious hosts in El Paso, Texas.

- Christine Gardy





CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

Girl Scout Aviation Day 2023

The Chicago Area Chapter's recent Girl Scout Aviation Day was clearly one of our best ever! The event was held at southwest Chicago's Lewis University, and utilized the university aviation building classrooms, airport, and hangar. Co-chairing the event were 99s Jill Feldman, Megan McArthur, and Ellen O'Hara. The weather turned out to be perfect and enabled much of the program to be held outdoors. Approximately 110 Scouts (age 9 to 17) attended along with about 55 parents and Scout leaders.

Linda Millon and Shona Williams handled registration and distributed information packets to all the Scouts. The Aviation merit patches were given to the Scout leaders to be awarded at the completion of the program. The Scouts were divided into teams, each with a 99 to lead them to the various stations. Those leaders were: Ana Adona, Karen Ballard, Denise Daichendt, Kayla Greco, Nadia Solano Rodriguez, and Shelley Ventura.

Stations included: Forces of Flight, presented by Katy Carihfield and Maggie Sampson; Communication, by Eva Kozlowski and Erica Okwuazi; Navigation, on the flight simulator; Airplane Mechanics (where Scouts actually had a chance to do some safety wiring), by Jill Feldman and guest Jodie Gawthrop; Tour of American Airlines MD-80; and Pre-flying an Airplane (where three planes were available: a Cessna 150, a Piper Archer, and a Piper Warrior), demonstrated by Ellen O'Hara, Gracie Barbour, Annalise Eure, Shona Williams, and Tina Willman-Hammar.

After a break when lunch was provided, arranged by Ana Adona and Megan McArthur, the career panel was set up. Sitting on the panel were: Tina Willman-Hammar, airline pilot/former charter pilot; Shona Williams, flight attendant; Jodie Gawthrop, A&P mechanic/dispatcher; Katy Carihfield, military pilot/CFI; and Annalise Eure, flight paramedic/skydive pilot. The career panel turned out to be immensely popular, with the Scouts asking many good questions.

And through it all, our crackerjack "Mona/Lisa Photography Team" (of Mona Knock and Lisa Mitchell) captured all the fun!

Diane Cozzi helped coordinate the volunteers. A total of 22 chapter members volunteered for the event, aided by another five friends and family members: Matt Brown, Keirn Gawthrop, Anthony Greco, Callum Hammar, and Kaela Daichendt. Lewis University volunteers for the day included: Dean of Aviation, Eric Jones; Jarrett Schiedemeyer, working the school's flight simulator; Ava Albright, conducting the MD-80 tours; plus Martina Barnet and Emma Burton. The university staff, 99 Christine Albertson, and friends and family provided extra help wherever needed. The History of Flight was displayed on an exhibit by Ellen O'Hara and Jill Feldman. All STEM facets were covered.

Member News: Emily Mueller accepted a job offer at Mokulele Airlines in Hawaii. She is "so, so excited," and will be transferring to the Aloha Chapter. Chicago Area is so sorry to lose her but we know the Aloha Chapter will give her a big welcome!

– Diane Cozzi

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

The Washington DC Chapter celebrated our 90th anniversary! As one of the oldest chapters in The Ninety-Nines (1933), we honored the amazing women who came before us (four were original Charter members of the Ninety-Nines: Nancy Hopkins Tier, Betsy Kelly Weeks, Blanche Noyes, and Fay Gillis Wells), as well as the amazing women of today. The venue was an outdoor party at the home of Pat and Harry Kraemer with many Washington DC members attending, including past officers and Barb Rohde (Chair emerita) bringing the birthday cake. We were delighted that the Mid-Atlantic Section Governor, Lin Caywood (Sugarloaf Chapter), and Brenda Tibbs, Chair of the Mountaineer Chapter (West Virginia) and founder of Bravo Flight Training, joined us in the celebration. The chapter was awarded a Certificate of Honor for 90 years of service.

– Pat Kraemer



Grass Roots



The Aloha Chapter 99s Beach Cleanup on Earth Day. Left to right: Michelle JoAnn, Caitlin Thomas, Alexandra Murdoch-Haig, Shealin Johnson, Hannah Whelan, Abigail Dang, Meredith Grimmer, Rachel Huff-Wagenborg, Giuliana Modesti, and Kanani Keliipuleole.

ALOHA CHAPTER

Earth Day Beach Cleanup and Social Gathering on Saturday, April 22, 2023

On a lovely Saturday afternoon on the eastern shore of Oahu, the Aloha Chapter gathered for the first board meeting of the new term and subsequent chapter (and family) inclusive beach cleanup on Waimanalo Beach to celebrate Earth Day. As a Cessna was practicing slippery-eights over the bay, and jets arriving from the west coast flew directly overhead on approach to Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (PHNL), a Hawaiian-style potluck took place to fuel us all up for the trek down the beach with gloves on and bags in hand to clean up this popular stretch of paradise.

Though many, including myself, expected to find larger debris to remove off the beach, the eastern shores of our islands receive a huge amount of microplastics that are moved along by the ocean currents until they run ashore on our beaches. Therefore, our bags of trash and debris were not particularly voluminous, but filled with smaller particles that the many willing and working hands did collect! In addition to the 15 or so female aviators present, there were half a dozen children of Aloha Chapter members who helped as well, between catching waves at the shore break, which Waimanalo is known for!

As a new member myself, I was pleased to meet so many long-standing members and some other new members just starting on their pilot journey! This family-friendly beach event seemed to serve as an open house for longtime and new members to drop in, meet and connect, and give back to our community, all at once. And as we made our way down the beach, the casual observer often asked us what we were doing and with which organization, giving us wonderful opportunities to share who we are and promote The 99s in our community! Fun in the sun, community service, family, food, friendships, and a shared love of aviation all came together on this cheery spring afternoon!

– Meredith Grimmer



Janice Pelletti, Chloe Clark (Tennessee Chapter), Raquel Magana. Not pictured, Meagan Harr.

APPALACHIAN AVIATRIXES CHAPTER

Members of the Appalachian Aviatrixes Chapter enjoyed a great day at Tri-Cities Airport (KTRI) on May 27, 2023. Taking advantage of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) visit to the airport over Memorial Day weekend, they staffed their chapter booth and sold items to benefit their scholarship fund. Popular items included t-shirts designed by chapter member Megan Armstrong, airplane jewelry made by the chapter, aviation scarves, and local bakery rolls.

– Janice Pelletti

COLORADO CHAPTER



Jane Link (Chapter Chair) and Makayla Galler with soccer drone. (Photo by Margot Plummer)

The Colorado Chapter is excited to announce the Ruehle Award, made possible by a generous donation from longtime Colorado Chapter member Jane Ruehle, given in honor and memory of her husband Walt Ruehle. This new scholarship opportunity is offered to support a Colorado woman pilot to earn an advanced rating.

In April, chapter members enjoyed a presentation with David Ulane, director of the Colorado Department

of Transportation Division of Aeronautics. Attendees learned of the robust and varied reach of the aeronautics division for the state. Colorado is uniquely situated to welcome aircraft from afar to complete high altitude testing in a resource-rich area. Other exceptional programs include the surplus airport equipment program, as well as the mountain automated weather observing system program. Innovation and leadership within the agency have contributed to successes with the FAA weather cam program. Ongoing projects include studying and planning for alternative fuels as well as evaluation of the remote tower project at Northern Colorado Regional Airport (KFNL).

In May, chapter members attended the Aviation Career Symposium at the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight Centennial Airport location. In advance of a trip to represent the United States at the World Drone Soccer Championship, chapter member, Makayla Galler and other local pilots, provided a demonstration of drone soccer that earned admiration and fascination. Makayla served as team captain for the delegation to the competition in South Korea.

– Lydia Baldwin



FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER

Girls Take Flight at Oshawa!

On Saturday, April 29, the First Canadian Chapter of The Ninety-Nines and the Durham Flight Training Centre hosted the annual Girls Take Flight event at the Oshawa Executive Airport (CYOO).

We feel that part of the reason that so few of pilots are women is the perception that aviation is for males. By inviting girls to the airport to an event filled with female pilots and other aviation and aerospace professionals, we hoped to spark an interest and show them the career possibilities. If they can see it, they can be it!

Even though the weather did not allow the discovery flights, the event was an amazing success! We had more than 1,300 visitors, 36 indoor exhibits and activities (staffed by almost 250 people), and eight aircraft and other vehicles on display outside.

Exhibits represented all aspects of the aviation and aerospace industries, including airlines, colleges, the military, engineering companies, and many others. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) brought an F-18 cockpit simulator in which visitors could sit. Other activities included a 360 degree virtual reality experience, a scavenger hunt, 'Talk Like a Pilot', and an introduction to airport circuit procedures.

The speaker program consisted of six inspiring women talking about their careers in aviation and aerospace, including airline pilots, an air traffic controller, an aviation mechanic, an aerospace engineer, and a military pilot.

Porter Airlines brought a Q400 airplane and Jazz brought a CRJ200 jet, which they opened up for tours, and allowed participants to sit in the cockpit. Despite the rain, there were lineups all day long to get into those airplanes. And there were other aircraft and vehicles on the ramp, including classic airplanes, a helicopter, and a military armoured vehicle.

It was thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors and the more than 100 event volunteers that made it possible. Of those 100 event volunteers, more than one third are members of The 99s.

The Girls Take Flight (girlstakeflight.ca) website has a list of all the exhibitors, activities, speakers, and aircraft that were at the event. Photos, too!

Here is an example of the feedback that we received from guests, "We had an absolutely fantastic time at your event. Both of my children loved it. I enjoyed seeing all those women who are doing such amazing work. It is encouraging for my children to see that girls really can do anything!"

– Lesley Page



Ninety-Nines working the breakfast, left to right, are Barbara Strachan, Mary Bryant, Terry Carbonell, and Luna Mallah (not a 99).

FLORIDA SUNCOAST CHAPTER

The Florida Suncoast Chapter held a very successful and fun pancake breakfast March 11 at the Wimauma Air Park (FD77) in Wimauma, Florida. One of our newest members, Christie Catteuw, a student pilot at Wimauma, conceived the idea. Christie, our Vice Chair Amanda Barker, and other members planned the event and marketed it on social media. Local pilots flew in for the breakfast and to view the vintage warbirds the airport manager put on display for the day. The Florida Suncoast Chapter sold 55 tickets and received several donations, making it a great fundraiser for our chapter.

– Janice McWilliams

NORTHEAST KANSAS

On May 20, 2023, three of our Northeast Kansas Chapter pilots participated in the annual Youth Aviation Camp at Lawrence Regional Airport (KLWC). CFI Dena Stoltz provided rides in one of Hetrick Air Services' Cessna Skyhawks and Cindy Copeland-DeVan and Tammy Willits helped organize the kids' activities and lunch. This year Eurotech Helicopters hosted the event in their hangar and on the tarmac. Our chapter provides a gift certificate for a discovery flight at a later date for one of the participants who demonstrates special interest and involvement in the camp. This year's winner was Emma Brown

– Sara Tompson



Dena Stoltz, Cindy DeVan, discovery flight winner Emma Brown, and Tammy Willits in front of the Eurotech hangar.

Grass Roots



North Central Section meeting attendees gather at the Rosie the Riveter statue.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter hosted the North Central Section (NCS) Spring 2023 meeting in Clarksville, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky, on April 28-30. The theme was the 'Call to the Post in Kentuckiana' where 99s would enjoy a Kentucky Derby flare. The blustery, rainy springtime weather interfered with the general aviation intentions of at least half of the planes, so the resourceful 99s members loaded up their cars and followed Plan B on the interstate.

Upon arrival, we were saddened to learn of the tragic fatal aircraft accident of Michigan 99s member Sandy Denton and her husband Bob while flying from Florida to the NCS meeting. Sandy had pumped life into the Michigan Chapter in recent years and will be sorely missed. We were happy to have 58 NCS members, six other section members, and 15 guests in attendance.

Friday evening opened with a social event attended by 76 total 99s and guests at the Derby Dinner Playhouse for a performance of "Margaritaville." We got an honorable introduction to the audience of being members of the International Women Pirate's Association, which brought a roaring response from the audience. Then the announcer corrected himself and gave us due credit for our piloting status. Before the night was over, we were all singing our favorite Jimmy Buffet songs and a few were looking for their "lost shaker of salt" after a few featured beverages.

Saturday took on the standard footprint of breakfast roundtable special interest groups followed by the business meeting. A moment of silence was recognized for the passing of 99s and loved ones and especially Sandy and Bob. A nice tribute was made to the couple by International Vice President, Minnetta Gardinier. Chapter Chair reports were full of interesting activities for the past year and Chicago Area's Chair Madeleine Monaco read her report in rhyme. International Director Janet Patton reported on the recent Spring International Board meeting in Oklahoma City. Business was concluded right on schedule so that the afternoon tours would begin on time after lunch.

Attendees crossed the Ohio River into Louisville and had the choice of touring the Stitzel-Weller Distillery or the Louisville Slugger Museum. Everyone gathered on their way back to the hotel at the recently unveiled Rosie the Riveter statue to hear 99s member and real-life daughter of Rosie, Vickie Croston, Houston Chapter, tell of her mother's relevance to the World War II war efforts. Rosie had lived in the area and actually earned her Private Certificate after the war. The statue is so unique, shaped like a giant picture frame and a great place for a group photo or many chapter and special group combinations.

At the evening banquet, attendees were encouraged to arrive in their personally decorated, aviation themed Kentucky Derby hats. There were many lovely creations, a tough job for Janet Patton to

judge, but the top honor went to Kentucky Bluegrass member Beth King for an incredible depiction of the infield at Churchill Downs and Runway 24 at Bowman Field: horses and an airplane on the top that rotated due to the installation of a clock motor attached to the second hand. We were pleased to have Florida Goldcoast member Myra Bugbee enlighten us about the Let's Fly Now program to take females of flying age on their first airplane ride.

The Hospitality Room was popular all weekend with sales and an author's table featuring Kentucky Bluegrass member Lauren Settles autographing her children's book, *Could I Be a Pilot; Evie's Journey to Becoming a Pilot*. It was nice to see our NCS meeting numbers grow again.

In May, we met at the Breckinridge County Airport (I93) to meet the Breckinridge County High School aviation club members. The new club is primarily freshmen students and is fortunate to have a teacher with a Private Certificate and a very involved retired airline pilot mentoring them. The airport has a nice flight simulator that the kids can use and they are seeking funding for the students to get started in their flight training. Three local pilots took every single aviation club member and their parents up for a short ride to introduce them to the possibilities that await them. They were glad to hear that there was a shortage of pilots and their futures were bright.

- Terri Donner



Back row: Dana McLaren, Nancy Burton, Tina Hartlaub, Crystal Simon, Niki Gaskins, Bridgett Cornett, Mary Lou Schroeder. Front row: Mandi Neumann, Laurie Probst, Cindi Pokorny, Teri Jaeger.
Not pictured: Astrid Melms

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

April 29 was a low ceiling IFR day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of 48 sixth through twelfth grade girls who attended the Girls on the Fly event at the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Organized by Cindi Pokorny, a Ninety-Nine (and newly minted private pilot), this event allowed girls to meet and work with mentors while exploring many facets of aviation. Twelve members of the Wisconsin Chapter facilitated one of the four learning experiences the girls rotated to throughout the day. In addition to building a flyable remote-control airplane, the girls learned about The Ninety-Nines organization and spent time talking with chapter members about their aviation dreams and aspirations. It was a highly successful event. Because of the demand, the event is scheduled to be held again in October and the Wisconsin Chapter will be returning to help inspire the next generation of women pilots.

- Laurie Probst

Our newest Life Members

Joanne Alcorn
Florida Heartland
Chapter

Sharon Bowlin
Pikes Peak Chapter

Mary Crawford
Florida First Coast
Chapter

Elizabeth Dinan
San Luis Obispo County
Chapter

Carolyn Dugger
Monterey Bay Chapter

Mary Girouard
Southeast Section
Chapter

Kay Harmon
Monterey Bay Chapter

Charlyn Hospers
Ambassador Chapter

Betty Thomas
Golden Triangle 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 of their contributions to our organization.

Edith McNamee
Life Member
July 5, 2022
Bakerfield Chapter

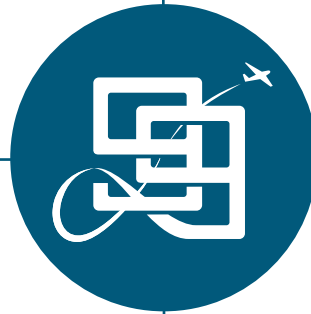
**Nancy El Hajj
(Foster)**
August 9, 2022
Spaceport Chapter

Leslie Farrell
October 24, 2022
Florida Goldcoast

Dale Roger-Jones
January 27, 2023
Australia Section

Patsy Ann Conway
Life Member
March 31, 2023
Spaceport Chapter

Sandy Denton
April, 26, 2023
Michigan Chapter



Thank You to Our Sponsors



Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

Amir Ahmed
Redondo Beach, CA

Karen Anderson
Shelby Township, MI

Lynn Anderson
Shelby Township, MI

Keith Buckingham
Camarillo, CA

Anthony Greco
Bartlett, IL

Mercurios Hanna
Torrance, CA

Will Hemphill
Suwanee, GA

William Huth
Gulf Breeze, FL

Stephen Lambert
Richland, WA

Jack Lewis
Dallas, TX

Joshua McGrew
Winfield, WV

Jaidan Millar
Inglewood, CA

Becky Morreira
Oregon City, OR

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THE NOLAs ARE COMING FOR **AVIATION WEEKEND** IN ATCHISON!

You can also count on 99s members from South Central, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and New York-New Jersey Sections.

Come celebrate at this Aviation Weekend in Atchison, Kansas

The International Forest of Friendship

September. 15-16, 2023

Atchison, Kansas

the birthplace of Amelia Earhart

What happens in Atchison during Aviation Weekend?

You can check in with us at the Cocktail Party.

**Friday
Sept 15**

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum will be open for admission.

3:00 p.m. The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum will be open for tours until the Cocktail Party starts.

5:00 p.m. Friday Evening Cocktail Party at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, 223 N. Terrace St, Atchison KS 66002.

**Saturday
Sept 16**

10:00 a.m. Induction ceremonies at the Forest.

12:30 p.m. Luncheon with keynote speaker Janet Patton
Luncheon will be held at Elizabeth's, 121 N. 5th Street, Atchison KS

**Join us
for some
*Sisterhood!***

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