

March/April 2025



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

PASSAGE TO INDIA

THE NINETY-NINES
INDIA AVIATION
CONCLAVE

p. 14

plus

2025 INTERNATIONAL
ELECTION

ESSAYS

GRASS ROOTS

Ninety-Nines Magazine

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International Organization of Women Pilots®

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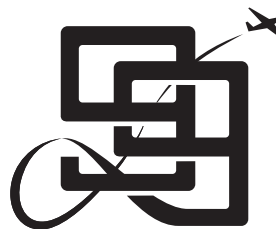
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The Ninety-Nines®
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promotes advancement of aviation through
education, scholarships, and mutual support
while honoring our unique history and sharing
our passion for flight.

Let's Get Social    

ON THE COVER

99s from around the world gathered to form two interlocking 9s,
with Rajasthani scarves in hand, making a living 99s logo during the
recent India Section Aviation Conclave. (Photo by Nivedita Bhasin)

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Friends of The 99s
New Horizons



Thank You to Our Sponsors



2025

MAR

- 7-8 **International Board of Directors Spring Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
✈ Info@ninety-nines.org
- 15 **West Canada Section Spring Meeting**
Manitoba, Canada via Zoom
✈ [Cindy Pang, westcanadasection99s@gmail.com](mailto:CindyPang@westcanadasection99s@gmail.com)
- 27-29 **Annual Women In Aviation Conference**
Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center,
Denver, Colorado
☐ wai.org
- 28-29 **Southwest Section Spring Meeting**
Laughlin, Nevada
✈ [Pat Chan, chiflys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:PatChan@chiflys@sbcglobal.net)
- 28-30 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**
Sulphur, Louisiana
Lake Charles Chapter
✈ [Sandra Leder, sleder99@yahoo.com](mailto:SandraLeder@sleder99@yahoo.com)
- 31 **Deadline:** For early registration –
2025 International Conference
Burlington, Vermont

APR

- 1 **Deadline:** First Wings Applications to
Chapter AE Chair (or Section AE Chair,
if there are no chapters)
✈ Apps@AEScholarship.org
- 1-6 **Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**
Lakeland, Florida
Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (LAL)
☐ flsynf.org
- 5 **The Ninety-Nines Trailblazer Luncheon
at Sun 'n Fun**
Cecilia Aragon, "Flying Free, from Fear to First"
11:30 a.m., Prop 75
For tickets visit Southeast Section EVENTBRITE page:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/southeast-section-ninety-nines-79941439173>
- 5 **Let's Fly Now Event**
West Houston Airport, Houston, Texas
Houston Chapter
✈ [LuAnn Pfeifer Cotton, luannpfeifer@hotmail.com](mailto:LuAnnPfeiferCotton@luannpfeifer@hotmail.com)
- 10 **German Section Meeting at AERO**
Lake Constance
Friedrichshafen, Germany
✈ [Ursula Hammer, u.hammer@t-online.de](mailto:UrsulaHammer@t-online.de)
- 15 **AE Scholarship Results Available**
- 25-26 **New England Section Spring Meeting**
Farmington, Connecticut
✈ [Margot Cheel, @margot@margotcheel.com](mailto:MargotCheel@margotcheel.com)
- 25-26 **Mid-Atlantic Section Spring Meeting**
Dover, Delaware
✈ [Rachel Anderson, rachelaleen27@gmail.com](mailto:RachelAnderson@rachelaleen27@gmail.com)

APR (cont.)

- 25-26 **Northwest Section Annual BOD Meeting**
Pasco, Washington
✈ [Beth Chapple, bethchapple@gmail.com](mailto:BethChapple@bethchapple@gmail.com)
- 25-27 **North Central Section Spring Meeting**
Iowa City, Iowa Chapter
✈ [Sue Glisson, smgflyer1@gmail.com](mailto:SueGlisson@smgflyer1@gmail.com)
- 26 **New York-New Jersey Section
Spring Meeting**
Elmira, New York
✈ nynj99s@gmail.com

MAY

- 16-18 **Southeast Section Spring Meeting**
Lakeland, Florida
✈ [Marilyn Shafer, probbmom@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynShafer@probbmom@gmail.com)
- 23-25 **East Canada Section Annual Meeting**
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
✈ [Adrian Zoe, zoe.adrian@yahoo.ca](mailto:AdrianZoe@zoe.adrian@yahoo.ca)
- 31 **Deadline:** For on-time registration –
2025 International Conference
Burlington, Vermont

JUL

- 9-13 **Ninety-Nines
International Conference**
Burlington, Vermont
Hilton Lake Champlain
☐ akatravelteam.swoogo.com/99s2025
- 15 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership
Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring
Fall Session
☐ ninety-nines.org/resources.htm
- 21-27 **EEA AirVenture Oshkosh**
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Wittman Regional Airport
☐ eaa.org/airventure

OCT

- 1 **Deadline:** First Wings Applications to
Chapter AE Chair (or Section AE Chair, if
there are no chapters)
✈ Apps@AEScholarship.org
- 23-26 **South Central Section Fall Meeting**
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Rio Grande Norte Chapter
✈ [Jo Cunningham, lucyfur@me.com](mailto:JoCunningham@lucyfur@me.com)

NOV

- 7-8 **International Board of Directors
Fall Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
✈ Info@ninety-nines.org

MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.
MAY/JUNE issue deadline: April 1.

Check the online calendar for the latest information.
☐ ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm



Robin Hadfield

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

Reaching New Heights Together

As we welcome the new season, I find myself reflecting on the incredible momentum The Ninety-Nines has built over the past year. Our community continues to grow, not just in numbers, but in spirit, strength, and purpose. Each of you plays a vital role in that growth, and I want to start by saying thank you.

Your passion for aviation, commitment to mentorship, and dedication to advancing women pilots are at the heart of everything we do. Whether you've inspired others at a local event, supported a fellow aviator, or simply renewed your membership, you are part of a legacy that has continued across generations for nearly a century. We honor the lives of members such as the recently departed Iris Cummings Critchell, an Olympic swimmer who learned to fly and went on to break barriers as a WAAF and WASP pilot during WWII: her courage paved the way for our youngest members today to pursue their dreams. As part of The Ninety-Nines, you belong to a global sisterhood of extraordinary women.

We've celebrated remarkable achievements recently. Our membership numbers continue to rise, chapter and section meetings are thriving, and we've been entrusted with generous bequests and donations to our Trusts, which will strengthen our mission for years to come. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we're also in the process of searching for our first Executive Director in over twenty years.

Congratulations to all of you who have reached new milestones in your aviation journeys! Whether it's Melanie stepping into the role of Chief Pilot, Teri completing her first solo, Sarah earning her Private Pilot Certificate, or Grace advancing her expertise with a CFII Rating, your achievements inspire us all. There are countless others who deserve recognition, and we couldn't be prouder of everything you've accomplished.

As scholarship announcements approach, I know it can be disappointing if you don't receive the award you hoped for. But I encourage you not to be discouraged. Many of our scholarship recipients applied more than once before they succeeded. Staying connected as a member not only keeps you eligible to apply again but also opens doors to mentorship, networking, and opportunities that often prove just as valuable as the scholarship itself. Your journey is unique, and every step you take with The Ninety-Nines moves you closer to your goals.

Recently, I had the privilege of flying with a new member who just earned her Private Pilot Certificate. Her enthusiasm was contagious and reminded me of the excitement and sense of possibility I felt when I first took to the skies. It's that spirit, alive in each of you, that makes The Ninety-Nines more than an organization. We are a sisterhood; bound by the skies we share and the dreams we chase.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to stay engaged. Attend a meeting, reach out to a fellow member, or invite someone new to join our ranks. Together, we can inspire the next generation of women aviators and honor the legacy of those who came before us.

Blue skies and tailwinds,

Robin Hadfield

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

Holding Short



Top: Inflight photo of Barbara Fricke and Peter Cuneo, Team USA-2. Bottom: Inflation and launch team with Barbara Fricke in the basket in front of the castle (now the administration building for the university).

Barbara Fricke Celebrates 10 Gordon Bennett Balloon Races

– Rebecca Burghy,
Intermountain Chapter

On September 14, 2024, cheering crowds waved lights and called good wishes as 21 gas balloons from 12 nations lifted off from the grounds of Münster Castle in Münster, Germany, heralding the start of the 67th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race.

For **Barbara Fricke**, Rio Grande Norte Chapter, and Peter Cuneo, Team USA-2, this launch marked their participation in 10 Gordon Bennett races, an astonishing record of rigorous preparation, meticulous planning, and sharp flying skills.

Overall, USA-2 had a fantastic flight from Germany across France and into Spain. The route passed into the southwest corner of France, avoiding

Paris airspace, and skirted Luxembourg to the south before crossing the Pyrenees into Spain. The backside of the mountains generated a lot of rotors and turbulence, which the pilots handled with aplomb.

“The first night aloft was simply gorgeous with clear skies, moonlight and bright stars,” Barbara recalls. “And the next morning revealed a rare sight – seven racing gas balloons and three hot air excursion balloons sharing the skies with us. A really unique and special experience.”

During the second night, USA-2 knew their route was taking them into Madrid’s restrictive airspace, making a landing likely. The Madrid airport was off limits, all the way up to 19,500 feet, and options were few.

“European airspace has gotten very complicated,” Barbara said. “Unlike flying in the U.S., we had to be in constant contact with ATC throughout the race, so the ADS-B Out unit we have on the balloon was really helpful as we adjusted altitudes for better winds. But our route options were definitely limited by airspace constraints.

After flying 1,379.34 kilometers, USA-2 made a fast yet perfect landing in strong surface winds in a farmer’s plowed field near Soria, Spain, located only 100 feet from the road. The chase vehicle was able to easily access and recover the balloon and its pilots – a welcome ending to the race.

While 15th place is not their best finish, both Barbara and Peter are pleased with their overall experience. “Every aspect of our event went well. The balloon was shipped and delivered without issue, our chase team was terrific, and the friendly camaraderie and support among the balloon racing community is always wonderful,” says Barbara. “We simply had a really nice race.”

Barbara is also pleased to note that she flew in both the 2004 race, when Carol Rymer was the first woman to win a Gordon Bennett, and now in the 2024 race, when Stefanie Liller of Austria became the second woman to win.



Left to right: Kathy Koshan, Maria Stiles (member from Tasmania), Australian Section Vice Governor and past AEMSF recipient Cathy Hobson, Australian Section Governor Dominique Estival, and Tessa Beyersdorff.

Southeast Section Visits Australian Section

– Kathy Koshan

Kathy Koshan, Southeast Section Life Member, visited Australia for six weeks in December and January and had lunch on Sydney Harbour with several members of the Australian Section. Kathy and her husband, Will, were invited out to Camden Airfield (west of Sydney, Australia) where both Cathy Hobson and Dominique Estival are instructors. They both play a large role in training and motivating young cadets with an interest in aviation to pursue their Private Pilot’s Licenses. We were invited to a hangar luncheon at Camden Airfield where they host the cadets on various weekends throughout the year, giving ground training and pre-flight instructions. Kathy also met Anne Carter-Coleman for lunch, who has an exemplary aviation background. Anne earned her Commercial Pilot’s License in the 1960s. She was an instructor and participant in the Powder Puff Derby along with numerous other global air races. She has won titles in Australian flying competitions, but her passion is supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who provide support for the families in outback Australia with medical, dental, and mental health care. It was such an honor to meet The 99s on the other side of the world who are carrying on the spirit of aviation.



Northeast Kansas Member Offering Light Sport Instruction

– Sara Tompson,
Northeast Kansas Chapter

Dena Stoltz and her husband, John, flew their new-to-them Flight Design CTLS home from Miami Executive (KTMB) to Lawrence Regional Airport (KLWC) in Lawrence, Kansas, an 1,140-mile trip broken up over five days for weather and maintenance issues (check out her Instagram posts). For those who don't know, the Flight Design is a European all-composite, light-sport aircraft. It's a responsive plane with great stall recovery and comes with a parachute system. (Chapter Secretary Sara Tompson got to fly in it on New Year's Day!) Dena's FlightPath LLC provides sport pilot instruction or rental in the plane at KLWC.



The first woman highlighted on the Grit and Lace Substack was Lydia Zvereva, Russia's first woman pilot. Lydia is shown here at the controls of a Farman airplane.

Trailblazing Women of the World on Substack: Grit and Lace

– Dr. Penny Hamilton, *Idaho Chapter*

Dr. Penny Hamilton invites everyone to subscribe to her Substack, *Grit and*

Lace, to receive free, weekly Sunday morning short stories about inspiring historic or contemporary women around the world – especially in aviation and space. Sign up here: gritandlace.com

Idaho Chapter member Dr. Penny Hamilton is a multi-award-winning aviation, western, and women's history writer, laureate of the Colorado Aviation, Women's, and the Authors Halls of Fame, and co-holder of a world's aviation speed record with her husband, Bill.

REPORTING POINTS & SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



Kensie Hewson.

Congratulations to Canadian Rockies Members

– Katie Paolucci Townsley,
Chapter Chair,
Canadian Rockies Chapter

The Canadian Rockies Chapter reports that **Kensie Hewson** got a position at Metroliner, and **Kim Williams** won the Volunteer of the Year Award from Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA).

Minnie Wade Memorial Scholarship Winner

– Kathleen Powell, Chapter Chair,
Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter would like to congratulate **Liucija Smaizyte Wright** on winning the 2024 Minnie Wade Memorial Scholarship. She obtained her Private Pilot Certificate in December 2024 and plans to use the scholarship to obtain a Seaplane Rating and then pursue her Instrument Rating. Liucija hopes to inspire other females to pursue careers in aviation, as well as donate her time for animal rescue flights.



Jenn Little of the Michigan Chapter completed her goal, having her CFI son do her sign off.

Michigan Chapter Members are Soaring

– Barb Vukits, Newsletter Chair,
Michigan Chapter

Anupama (Sigma) Kar received a 4.0 GPA during her first semester at Embry Riddle University. **Deborah Howell** completed her first solo in January. Debbie shared, "It was such an amazing accomplishment. I feel like The 99s played a huge part in my success." **Esme Lowry** received the 2024 ProAviSTEM Scholarship from the Grand Dames of Aviation. **Jennifer Little** is now a Private Pilot! Jen persevered through several challenges. She even traveled to Ocala, Florida, to complete her goal to have her son (who is a CFI) do her sign off.



AFRICAN SECTION MEMBER HONORED BY FORBES AFRICA MAGAZINE

– Ivana Alvares-Marshall, *African Section*

Congratulations to **Edith Mala Diop**, a trailblazing member of the African Section 99s, for her remarkable achievements and feature in *Forbes Africa* magazine. Edith, an Ivorian pioneer in aviation, continues to soar to new heights, recently earning an upgrade to Captain at Qatar Airways — an extraordinary milestone in an already stellar career.

As the youngest and first female airline pilot to fly in both Ivory Coast and Senegal, Edith's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Her accomplishments have shattered glass ceilings in aviation, paving the way for future generations of African aviation professionals.

Edith's contributions to the industry have been recognized with several prestigious awards. She has received the Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership Award in Transport and the Ivory Coast National Excellence Award in Air Transport, both of which highlight her dedication, skill, and leadership. Her elevation to Knighthood in the National Order of Ivory Coast further cements her place as a role model and national icon.

Her recent promotion to Captain on the Boeing 777 at Qatar Airways is a testament to her exceptional abilities and commitment to excellence. Edith's story is a beacon of hope and inspiration, proving that determination, hard work, and ambition can lead to extraordinary achievements.

The African Section 99s is incredibly proud to count Edith among our sisters. Edith's legacy undoubtedly inspires countless young women and men across Africa and beyond to pursue their dreams in aviation and beyond.

We salute you, Captain Edith Mala Diop. Keep flying high!

Life at the Movies

By Donna Miller, *Colorado Chapter*



I love going to the movies and the escape from reality they provide. I love how the scenery can be so amazing that it almost becomes its own character in the story. A movie I saw recently made me think about my own experiences and how they, too, can be as important as the characters.

If my life were a movie, my first flying job would have been a dragon to be slayed – something I feared but was determined to conquer. I left the simplicity and safety of my hamlet (Denver, Colorado) to face the dragons in a far-off village (El Paso, Texas). On the weekends, when I wasn't taking on the attacking reptilians, I was sharpening my sword (skills) by hurling winged creatures (skydivers) from my sky-bound vessel.

My next job's character would have been that of the patient and empathetic science teacher that everyone loved. I enjoyed the challenge of the course, and the campus was divine. I was flying the mighty Beechcraft 1900 out of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and while the days were long, the homework was minimal, which gave me time to enjoy the white sand. Of course, there were tests to pass (upgrade) and pop quizzes along the way (recurrent training). I could have easily lingered longer in this scene, but there were more experiences waiting for me, and they couldn't be delayed.

When I reached a major airline, it felt like this character was in a complicated relationship – the kind that takes the entire length of the movie and a full bucket of popcorn to work out. And never quite does. He was handsome, of course, but geographically unavailable, which made him not my first choice. We started dating, but circumstances beyond our control forced a sudden breakup (September 11, 2001). That made me want him back all the more.

During our long separation, I had several flings that were fun and served their purpose (I stayed current and qualified), but I always knew I'd go back to the complicated relationship in the end. We've traveled the world together in several different modes. There have been Boeings, Airbuses, and widebodies that circled the globe. It's been exciting and romantic. He wasn't jealous when I spent time with his fleet's WWII grandfathers (Bombers) or the hundreds of baby nieces and nephews at Oshkosh. At some point, he finally trusted me enough and allowed me to take his ride from the left seat. We've settled into a good life, this airline and me. I often see my first crush (hometown airline) on the ramp and wonder how life would have been had timing been different. Would I have been happier? I'll never know, but I'm happy to grow old with the airline I chose and the one who chose me. We're a pretty good fit for now.

I often think about what my next experience as a movie character may be. Perhaps I'll just wander into the next theater and see what's playing.

2025 International Election

Directors, Members of
Nominating Committee,
and Trustees

By Kathy Fox,
Chair of Election Procedures Committee



INTERNATIONAL ELECTION PROCEDURES

Voting will commence at 00:01 GMT on March 15, 2025,
and end at 23:59 GMT on May 1, 2025.

- The official ballot will be delivered in one of two forms: electronic or paper. If you choose electronic voting, you will receive an electronic official ballot at the email address on file with The Ninety-Nines. If you do not opt-in for electronic voting, you will receive an official paper ballot at the mailing address on file with The Ninety-Nines.
- PLEASE READ THE BALLOT CLOSELY AS SOME SECTIONS MAY BE RUNNING THEIR SECTION ELECTIONS AT THE SAME TIME.
- Delivery of paper ballots to your address may take several weeks depending on your location. If you do not receive a ballot, either via email or via regular mail, please contact Laura Ohrenberg at HQ: hqmanager@ninety-nines.org. Paper ballots must be mailed back and postmarked no later than May 1, 2025.
- The slate of candidates is prepared by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the bylaws and standing rules. Candidates for each position are listed in the order received by the Nominating Committee per the standing rules requirement.
- You may vote for up to the maximum number of candidates for each position by choosing from the nominated candidates, writing in a different candidate's name, or indicating that you are abstaining from voting. Ballot instructions will also clarify the criteria for spoiled ballots.
- Ballots are prepared in accordance with industry standard procedures for secret ballots and are distributed using current membership records maintained by The Ninety-Nines. No unique voting numbers list is kept.
- All ballots (both electronic and paper) are retained until after the next Annual Meeting.
- Please direct any questions about these procedures to Kathy Fox, Chair of the Election Procedures Committee at voting@ninety-nines.org.



CANDIDATE FOR
DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Madeleine Monaco *Chicago Area Chapter, North Central Section*

My long participation in almost every area of the Ninety-Nines activities has allowed me to learn and grow and I would like to continue to serve as Director.

I have a BA in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University. I have been CEO of a medium sized labor union IBEW 1220, Radio and Television Broadcast Engineers and developed many innovative projects for that body, negotiating contracts, conducting arbitration and grievance processes, and leading organizing campaigns.

I have been a CFI since 1982 and co-founded the pilots association at Palwaukee Airport. I have been a member of CAP, EAA, Illinois Aviation Forum, Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, and Illinois Aviation Museum. Serving in the past as an Alderman and an Airport Commission Member for the City of Prospect Heights, co-owner of Chicago Executive Airport, has enhanced my role as an airport activist.

I believe that members benefit more from an organization by participating. After winning an AE Scholarship I worked to pay back to AEMSf as a Trustee.

My philosophy and goals are personified by a welcoming attitude. An encouragement to all woman pilots to join, get active and find that their passion and sense of purpose will be rewarded by their involvement in aviation and the 99s.

My goal as Director would be to keep working to assure that every woman pilot knows about the 99s and considers joining in our valuable work – supporting women who fly.



CANDIDATE FOR
DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Carol Voss *Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast Chapter, Southeast Section*

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the International Director position. My affiliation as a student pilot with the 99s began in 1988, when we were not able to join as 99s, but only participate as a “66” of a local chapter. Since then, I have been an active member of four Chapters, and now a proud Life Member.

Currently I serve as Chapter Chair, Membership Chair and on Southeast Section’s Ways & Means Committee. Within my Chapter, I have held all officer positions, Section Meeting Chair, volunteered at the AirVenture 99s tent and the 99s House at Sun ‘n Fun, chaired our booth at the AOPA fly-in and have promoted the 99s at countless other aviation events. As a Director for two different Sections I served as the Awards Committee Chair.

I have been an officer in my local EAA chapters, a member of AOPA, WAI, AWAM, volunteered for the Air Race Classic, and have been a Pylon Judge for the National Air Race Championships in Reno.

There are so many reasons to be involved with the 99s, but the highlights for me have been the lasting friendships and introducing new pilots to the amazing 99s. Over the years, I have experienced so many improvements in our organization and look forward to working on our International Board in whatever capacity I can contribute and support. I would be honored to use my executive business experience and skills to serve as your International Director.



CANDIDATE FOR
DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Dina Dawod *African Section*

As Vice Governor of the African Section of the Ninety-Nines, I bring extensive experience and a deep passion for empowering women in aviation. I am a Commercial Pilot flying for a private airline in Egypt, with a proven track record of leadership and advocacy. With Africa having less than 1% of women as pilots, I have dedicated my career to advancing opportunities for women in our industry.

My contributions to the Ninety-Nines include raising awareness of the organization across Africa through participation in international aviation conferences as a panel speaker in countries such as Dubai, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Jordan, and Egypt. I have spearheaded outreach programs, including recent partnerships with AFRAA and EgyptAir, to inspire the next generation of female aviators. These initiatives reflect my commitment to expanding the presence and influence of the Ninety-Nines globally.

My philosophy aligns with the core values of the Ninety-Nines: fostering camaraderie, mentorship, and support for women in aviation. My goals as International Director are to increase global membership, particularly in underrepresented regions like Africa, by creating pathways for mentorship and education, enhancing visibility through strategic partnerships, and building a robust network of collaboration among members worldwide. Together, we can continue the Ninety-Nines’ legacy of excellence and inclusion. I am honored to seek your support for this position and remain committed to advancing our shared mission of empowering women pilots across the globe.



CANDIDATE FOR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO**Annie Wen** *Quebec Chapter, East Canada Section*

Annie Wen joined the 99s in 2013 after stumbling across an article on Amelia Earhart during flight training. When the chair of her chapter had to step down in 2014, she stepped up into the role, growing the Quebec chapter from a handful of active members to over 40 members in 2020, when she then joined the East Canada Section executive as the vice governor. She has since enjoyed connecting with the other chapters, and learning how the section operates.

Annie looks forward to the opportunity to serve at the international level, to connect with more chapters and to learn the responsibilities of each position as a member of the nominating committee.



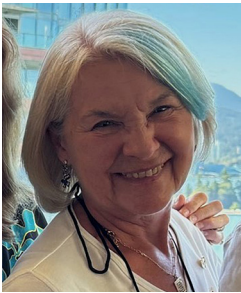
CANDIDATE FOR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO**Anele Brooks** *San Luis Obispo County Chapter, Southwest Section*

Amelia Earhart became one of my heroes when I was in elementary school and I found a book about her in the school library. Like most people I wondered and hoped she had survived when her plane disappeared in July of 1937. It was through that book that I was introduced to the Ninety-Nines.

Fast forward a few decades, I learned to fly. One of the first things I did was join the local San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Ninety-Nines. In 2015 I found myself the Chapter Chair. Once my terms as Chapter Chair ended I held the office of Chapter Secretary until June of 2024.

In 2021 I ran for Southwest Section Secretary. Serving on the Section Board was an eye-opener. Last Spring I was elected Section Governor. Our section supports 42 chapters of various sizes with various needs. Our volunteers are treasures! The International Nominating Committee's mission to find qualified, dedicated members to serve on numerous boards and trusts is crucial for our success and sustainability. Finding those women is an important process. It is critical that the people who are elected also serve as role models who inspire other members to get involved at ALL levels of the 99s. As an all-volunteer organization we rely on the commitment and expertise of our members to guide the organization in supporting our members and promoting all facets of aviation.



CANDIDATE FOR

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO**Jeanne Pierce** *Reno Area Chapter, Southwest Section*

I have been a member of the Endowment Fund Trustees since July of 2022 serving as Secretary for my term that ends June of 2025. During my term I have attended most of the International Board of Directors meetings in Oklahoma City. I have always considered the Endowment Fund an important foundation for our organization's long-term commitment to its members. Since I first heard the presentations by Mary Wunder promoting the fund and explaining its significance, I have been a monthly contributor.

It would be a great honor to continue my service to the organization for another term. Being part of the decision process that applies Endowment funds to the areas in our organization where it is most useful has been educational and rewarding. Exploring the possibilities of the areas where it could be applied is exciting to me.

I have held offices at the Chapter level and the Section level. This has been my first International role in the 99s and I hope I'm living up to the expectations of my members and dear friends, Penny Nagy and Linda Mae Hivert, who encouraged me to become involved at the next level.

I am currently retired, and more able to be of service. I hope my experience will continue to be a benefit.



CANDIDATE FOR

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO TWO**Deb McGee** *Iowa Chapter, North Central Section*

I started taking flying lessons at the age of 55 and joined The Ninety-Nines as a student pilot. I credit my membership in The Ninety-Nines and the encouragement I received from my sisters in flight for accomplishing my goal of obtaining my pilot certificate and continuing to also get my instrument rating.

As thank you to this wonderful historic organization, I have given back by serving my Iowa Chapter as Vice Chapter Chair, Chapter Chair, and Secretary. The North Central Section as Treasurer for two terms, Vice Governor, and Governor. I am currently serving as Immediate Past Governor and a member of the NCS Nominating Committee. During my term as Governor, I served as the International Council of Governors Spokesperson. I was a member of the International Election Procedures Committee for two years and continue to be a member of the International Tax Committee.

Although I am now retired, I hope to offer my previous work experience in the banking industry and investment accounting along with my experience gained through positions held with The Ninety-Nines as a value to the Endowment Fund as Trustee.



CANDIDATE FOR

AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM TRUSTEE

– VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Shannon Osborne *Greater New York Chapter, New York-New Jersey Section*

I grew up on a private airport with my first job at an FBO. This position greatly stimulated my interest and convinced me to pursue my pilot's license. Early in my aviation training I was introduced to the Ninety-Nines and joined the organization. I will always be grateful for the many friendships, support and opportunities that aviation has created for me.

In 2013 I retired and began to use the tools I developed during my career to work with various 501(c)(3) organizations to this day! My first adventure after retirement began with the Ninety-Nines where I served as chapter treasurer, chapter-chair, section secretary, section governor and now section treasurer. I have focused on organizing both chapter and section 501(c)(3) compliances and taking Girl Scout events learned in the New Jersey Chapter, creating ones in the GNY Chapter and NYNJ Section where we won the Brewers Award from the Civil Air Patrol.

From the Ninety-Nines I branched out to Air Race Classic where I was a Director, the International Forest of Friendship serving as Treasurer, and Patient Airlift Services where I was a co-pilot and auto-pilot. I have taken my experiences from professional career and used these skills with my newer aviation non-profit positions to help preserve and grow these aviation organizations, whom I consider my aviation family.

I remain appreciative for all those that served before me and support the growth and history of the Ninety-Nines. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as a Trustee of the sacred Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum by helping support and growing the mission.



CANDIDATE FOR

AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM TRUSTEE

– VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Jan McKenzie *Colorado Chapter, South Central Section*

While International President of The 99s from 2016-2020, I traveled widely and met 99s in many countries who all know who Amelia Earhart was. In America, she is still the most well-known and admired woman aviator of all time, inspiring countless young women to pursue careers in aviation.

It is an honor and a privilege for The 99s to celebrate Amelia's life and contributions to women and aviation by maintaining and improving her birthplace home as our museum. I plan to be active in pursuing our goals to restore, preserve, and enhance the Birthplace home. As the museum continues its mission to share Amelia's story and legacy with the world, I seek to support the efforts by visiting the museum often since I live only one state away.

I would also like to see every middle school in Kansas and near Atchison in Missouri learn about Amelia through school trips. While touring the museum, girls and boys will learn about overcoming difficulties and working hard to achieve their dreams. They will be inspired to develop their own life hopes and goals.

Working with the Atchison city Trustees and our 99s Trustees, we can and will make the Amelia Earhart Birthplace a world class museum and a treasured contribution to American aviation history. We will contribute to the mission of The 99s by highlighting our history and educating young people about the pioneering woman who dared to dream and took flight, overcoming all obstacles.



CANDIDATE FOR

AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND TRUSTEE

– VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Renee Burger Bowman *Minnesota Chapter, North Central Section*

My membership in the Ninety-Nines is one of my most enduring relationships. I joined long before my children, long before my own career as a professional pilot. The unwavering support of aviation pursuits among us has sustained me through furloughs and extensions beyond the flight deck. This loyal alliance compels reciprocity: I have happily served as able within my own chapter as activities coordinator, chair, aviation day coordinator, and active-as-able volunteer. Additionally, I have been or am a member of other aviation scholarship and education committees too numerous to list. Scholarship programs hold most dear in my heart. My career was fostered by them, most particularly the AESMF.

Through these opportunities I have gained inexplicable admiration for those who forged our current success. As a devoted member I would like to help honor their efforts into our future while securing recognition for the 99's within the industry. I am hopeful my experiences may be of use to the AEMSF board and I respectfully submit my request to join as a trustee. support for this position and remain committed to advancing our shared mission of empowering women pilots across the globe.



CANDIDATE FOR

AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND TRUSTEE

– VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

Judy Shaw *British Columbia Coast Chapter, West Canada Section*

Growing up I wanted to be a bush pilot but lacking the wherewithal and negative family support I opted for a career first in education and then finance. Nearing retirement, I sought out flying to relieve job stress and was persuaded to join a local 99s chapter with whom I found encouragement, opportunity and camaraderie. I have participated in many 'Women Can Fly' events, painted numerous compass roses, joined many weekend flyouts, served as chapter and section secretary, and am now nearing the end of my first term on the AEMSf board. It has been very rewarding to oversee as a 'Mama Bird', a group of First Wings progress through their training; their dedication and enthusiasm is infectious. I am seeking a second term to further contribute and participate in one of the very real benefits available to the 99s membership.



CANDIDATE FOR

MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS TRUSTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

Nobi Buntin *Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Southwest Section*

I am deeply honored to serve as a trustee of the Amelia Earhart Museum, joining an exceptional group of women dedicated to advancing aviation. With over 35 years as an entrepreneur, I bring extensive business acumen and leadership skills to this role that will help strengthen and grow the museum's impact. My journey in aviation began in 2016, and I currently work as a flight instructor and charter pilot in Northern California. The opportunity to contribute to the museum's mission feels particularly meaningful as we approach the 100th anniversary in 2029 - a milestone that will not only celebrate our rich history but also inspire the next generation of aviators. As a trustee, I look forward to combining decades of entrepreneurial experience and hands-on aviation knowledge with our shared passion for preserving and promoting women's achievements in aviation, ensuring that pioneers like Amelia Earhart continue to inspire future generations of pilots.



CANDIDATE FOR

MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS TRUSTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

Jeanette Burklund *Florida Suncoast Chapter, Southeast Section*

I am interested in a trustee position with the Museum of Women Pilots.

Since joining the 99s in 1995 – I have been an active member of the Florida Suncoast Chapter. During the first chapter meeting, I knew that I had found a group that loved aviation as much as I did. And I was impressed by the work that was being done to share that passion with the children in our area.

I'm currently the Treasurer for the Florida Suncoast Chapter and have held the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman. I have also served on the Aerospace Education committee, the Sun n Fun committee and been Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

I just finished serving two terms as the Southeast Section Treasurer and am a member of the 501c3 committee.

I am a Certified Public Accountant with over 40 years of experience in all types of organizations. I have done accounting work for many non-profit organizations over the years.

Along with the 99s, I am active with our local EAA chapter. Our EAA Chapter holds regular Young Eagles flight days. The Florida Suncoast Chapter holds an annual Girl Scout Aviation Day. Both of these events give me a chance to share aviation with young people. I take every chance I get to encourage girls and boys to go after what they want – that all things are possible.

I would welcome the chance to help increase the visibility and interest in the Museum of Women Pilots.

Thank you for considering me.



CANDIDATE FOR

MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS TRUSTEE – VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

Saralyn Patterson *Oklahoma Chapter, South Central Section*

My name is Saralyn Patterson, and I am seeking a position as Trustee for the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots. I am newer member of the Ninety-Nines, joining in August of 2024 with the Oklahoma Chapter. I have enjoyed attending board meetings with the Oklahoma Chapter, meeting women with similar passions, and learning of this opportunity to volunteer for the Ninety-Nines Museum. The museum is such an incredible collection of history and the timeless tales of flights! It would be an incredible opportunity to be able to support the museum and everything it represents through this position.

Aviation has always fascinated me! I grew up hoping to have the chance at a career in it and I'm very thankful that I am in a place that this is something I can now achieve. I have just gotten my Private Pilot rating in January of 2025. While I study and train towards an aviation career, I am currently working as an Accountant with the State of Oklahoma.

I would be honored for the opportunity to serve the museum, and the Ninety-Nines community as a trustee. The more I am learning about aviation, of the women that shaped the community, and the flights they made, I'm eager continue sharing the incredible heritage that is the aviation, through the Ninety-Nines. 🌟

A Passage to India

The Ninety-Nines India Aviation Conclave

By Bev Weintraub,
Greater New York Chapter



Ninety-nines members and their guests from around the world gathered for the India Section Aviation Conclave. Many historic and iconic sites were visited. Attendees are shown above enjoying the grandeur and craftsmanship of the Taj Mahal. (Photo by Bev Weintraub)

The Taj Mahal has been on my bucket list since I was five years old. So, when Ninety-Nines from around the world were invited to attend the India Section meeting in 2020, I was ready to go. Unfortunately, a global pandemic made travel impossible. The same was true in 2021, when the section was thinking about a second attempt.

Then, last year, India Section Governor and International Director Nivedita Bhasin announced that the meeting – now formally called the Conclave – was on for December 2024.

It was everything I had hoped for – and more.

Part industry conference, part sightseeing tour, the Conclave was an unparalleled opportunity to meet with aviatrixes from around the globe, learn how family-friendly policies made India a leader in promoting women in aviation, and immerse us in a dynamic 5,000-year-old culture.

And it was all led by a retired 787 pilot who, in 1989, had become the youngest female commercial airline captain in the world. Today, 15% of airline pilots in India are women – the largest percentage of any country and more than double the proportion in the United States.

Niv and her team outdid themselves in making us feel welcome and preparing an unforgettable nine-day excursion for about 120 women pilots from 15 countries: U.S., India, Canada, Germany, Nepal, Bhutan, Austria, Lebanon, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Colombia, U.K. and France.

The Conclave started with a meet-and-greet at our hotel in New Delhi and an all-day conference titled “Empowering Women to Soar,” which coincided with International Civil Aviation Day. There were panel discussions about women in the airline industry and pilot mental health; presentations about flying solo across the Seven Seas and making hair-raising approaches into an airport high up in the Himalayas; a speech by the minister of civil aviation; a dance performance about the stories of six warrior women who changed Indian history; and lots of time to chat.

It was a particular honor to meet Mohini Shroff, 88, who earned her Private Pilot License in 1965, co-founded the Indian Women Pilots Association, and was a founding member of the India 99s and remains a benefactor.

Then, on to the tour of the Golden Triangle – Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur.

Our sightseeing began with views of the presidential palace and government buildings, a World War I memorial and the 17th century Red Fort – one of many we would see during our visit. Then we were treated to an only slightly terrifying rickshaw ride, zigzagging through the narrow, crowded streets of the old market behind a man on a bicycle. Finally, we toured the Qutab Minar, an archeological site with structures, ruins, and artifacts dating as far back as the 4th century.

The next day, it was on to Agra and the Taj Mahal. Built by Shah Jahan as a tomb for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, it’s an enormous, incredibly beautiful structure with intricate inlaid marble and flowing Persian calligraphy. It was beyond anything I had imagined, and especially awe-inspiring considering the 16 years of manual labor it took to build the mausoleum, which was completed in 1648. The few hours we had to spend there were not nearly enough.

Leaving Agra behind the following morning, we stopped in the 16th century ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri, followed by a tour of an enormous bird sanctuary – a UNESCO world heritage site – with cormorants; cranes; gray, purple and black herons; kingfishers and robins (very different from those in the U.S.); many, many storks; snakebirds; white-breasted water hens; and fruit bats. The evening ended with dinner in the courtyard of a palatial, impossibly luxurious hotel, with bonfires protecting against the chill. As a traditional band of musicians played, some of our members danced with women who literally bore flames on their heads.

It was there, before heading off to Jaipur, that we all lined up on a broad patio the next day to form two interlocking nines, Rajasthani scarves in hand, making a living Ninety-Nines logo.

Back on the road, our next stop was the Abhaneri Stepwell. I was totally unfamiliar – I’d never even heard the word – but what an impressive sight! The stepwell is a large, square reservoir, about 130 feet deep, with interlocking staircases carved into the walls on three sides so the residents could climb down and draw up water. For a populace without a reliable water supply, it was a necessity. It’s an amazing exercise in precision engineering, all carved by hand some 1,100 years ago.

And then, Jaipur, the Pink City. The group members on my bus were treated to a surprising welcome to Jaipur moment: an elephant ambling down the side of the highway, with a full wedding party in tow (unfortunately, I wasn’t quick enough with my camera to get a photo). Jaipur was founded in 1727 by the ruling maharajah – and there is still a maharajah today, though the position is now largely ceremonial. The city has a wealth of palaces – a Water Palace suspended in the middle of a lake; a City Palace with courtyards, harems, and an observatory; a Wind Palace with a façade of colored windows and screens that allowed the cloistered women of the royal household to observe the outside world without being seen.

Nearby is the Amber Fort, which began in 1592 on the site of an earlier 11th century fortification. With a line of watchtowers to



Left: At Qutab Minar: Liz Booker, Florida Goldcoast Chapter; Terri Donner, Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter; guest Kimber Kessel and Bev Weintraub, Greater New York Chapter. | Middle: Niv and Mohini at opening ceremonies. (Photo by Bev Weintraub) | Right: Laurie Strand, Connecticut Chapter; Lori Plourd, Katahdin Wings Chapter; Bev Weintraub, Greater New York Chapter; Shirley Onacill, New Jersey Chapter; and Glenna Blackwell, Connecticut Chapter at farewell dinner, dressed in absolutely gorgeous saris.



Opposite: Many entertainment options included dancing while a traditional band of musicians played, along with women who literally bore flames on their heads. (Photo by Bev Weintraub)

Top: Most of the attendees of the India Section Aviation Conclave and their expert guides had a chance to gather for a group photo after a delicious buffet lunch of Indian specialties. | Bottom: Shirley Onacilla, New Jersey Chapter; Greater New York Chapter members Heather Mutterperl and Kelly Donovan; and Bev Weintraub, Greater New York Chapter during the India 99s Aviation Conclave.

rival the Great Wall of China, the fort is perched high on a rugged hill and contains a vast array of elaborate residential, ceremonial and official buildings once used by the ruling monarchs. There are breathtaking, elaborate gardens; a Mirror Palace, its ceiling and walls lined with glittering Belgian glass; and elephants to ride (though most of us didn't, as we were warned that it is considered animal abuse).

Some of us chose to get up early the next morning for hot-air ballooning: I preferred to sleep in.

Then it was back to New Delhi, where, after an exceedingly long bus ride, we were treated to a special film, presented by Women in Aviation India, celebrating "Team Ninety-Nines" and Niv in particular. The evening was capped off by the opportunity to dance with a troupe of six male dancers in the brightest pink-and-blue costumes.

Other entertainment included demonstrations of rug making, cloth block-printing and marble inlaying, and displays of gorgeous jewelry (along with a bit of a hard sell for big-ticket, high-priced items). Some of us also snagged the opportunity to have suits, shirts, and other items of clothing custom-made out of the most beautiful silks and delivered to the venue where we all gathered for the farewell dinner, dressed in absolutely gorgeous sarees.

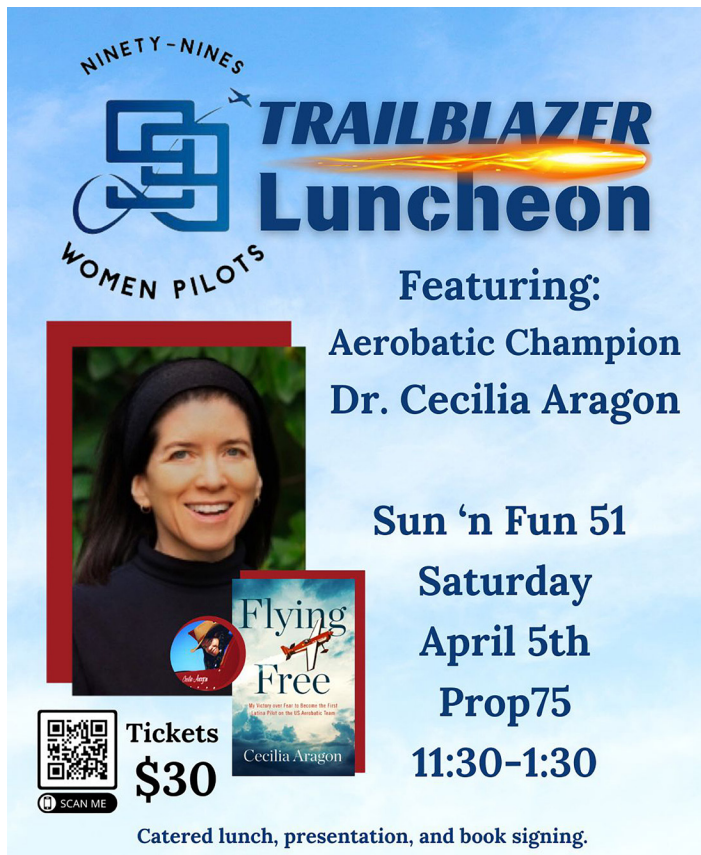
Throughout the tour, we saw wild monkeys, cows lazing and grazing at the side of the road – and blocking traffic – and small green parrots everywhere, not just in the bird sanctuary. In large cities and small towns, people were constantly on the move: riders on bikes, whole families clinging to each other on a motorbike, a dozen people jammed into a tuk tuk, workers standing in the backs of trucks, tour buses, and luxury cars all jammed together.

In the background, Niv and her team conducted interviews for print and television, making clear the contributions of women to aviation in India and around the world. We were proud to be ambassadors of that small but proud community. 🌊



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: THE NINETY-NINES TRAILBLAZER LUNCHEON AT SUN 'N FUN AEROSPACE EXPO HAS BEEN MOVED TO SATURDAY!

– Elizabeth Booker, Florida Goldcoast Chapter



NINETY-NINES
WOMEN PILOTS

TRAILBLAZER Luncheon

Featuring:
**Aerobatic Champion
Dr. Cecilia Aragon**

**Sun 'n Fun 51
Saturday
April 5th
Prop75
11:30-1:30**

Tickets **\$30**

Catered lunch, presentation, and book signing.

Dr. Cecilia Aragon is an award-winning author, airshow pilot, and the first Latina to earn the rank of Full Professor in the College of Engineering at the University of Washington. She's worked with Nobel Prize winners and has taught astronauts to fly. Her innovative research and a stint at NASA designing software for Mars missions led President Obama to call her, "one of the top scientists and engineers in the country." In addition to her love of math and science, she's passionate about helping others face their own fears and challenges to achieve their goals.

Join us for a catered lunch and presentation at Prop 75 at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, to learn how Cecilia overcame her paralyzing fear and self-doubt, adapted to fly and train as a competitive aerobatic pilot, and used mathematics to overcome the limitations of her Pitts S-1T to maximize the score of an impossible aerobatic competition sequence. Cecilia earned her place as the first Latina on the United States Unlimited Aerobatic Team, the "Olympics" of aviation.

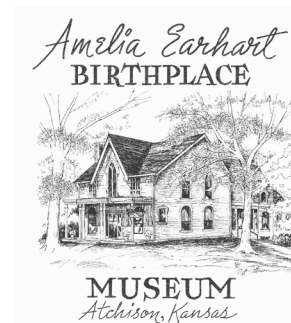
Cecilia's memoir, *Flying Free: My Victory Over Fear to Become the First Latina Pilot on the US Aerobatic Team*, will be available for purchase and book signing. *Flying Free* debuted on five bestseller lists and is the winner of the 2021 Nancy Pearl Award from the Pacific Northwest Writers Association and the International Latino Book Award Gold Medal for Most Inspirational Nonfiction in English.

Flying Free is the story of how Cecilia broke free from expectations and rose above her own limits by combining her passion for flying with math and logic in unexpected ways. You don't have to be a math whiz or science geek to learn from her story. You just have to want to soar.

We are still seeking three volunteers for the event (who will receive a complimentary lunch).

Email Subject: Trailblazer volunteer
to lizbooker@literaryaviatrix.com

For tickets visit Southeast Section EVENTBRITE page:
www.eventbrite.com/o/southeast-section-ninety-nines-79941439173



NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (AEBM) has some updates for 2025! Instead of free admission for 99s, which was only available in person, 99s can now use their membership perk globally! Members now get 10% off in the

AEBM gift shop. In person, tell staff that you are a 99, or use code "IAMA99" on our online store. Now, you can save on your favorite AEBM merchandise worldwide!

Additionally, the AEBM is having a new fundraising drive. The 99s are our most valuable and loyal supporters, and we want to say thank you with an exclusive gift. If you donate up to \$24.99 monthly, you will get an exclusive holiday tree ornament. If you donate \$25 or more monthly, you'll receive the ornament and an exclusive bag! Reach out to director@ameliaearhartmuseum.org if you have any questions!

Furthermore, the much-loved brick fundraiser has come to an end at the AEBM due to exciting new landscaping endeavors. Don't worry – your past bricks will still be on display! Going forward, we have a donor plaque pedestal inside the museum's entrance to proudly display the names of all our generous donors. Contact giftshop@ameliaearhartmuseum.org to order your plaque today!

Mika Schrader
AEBM Interim Manager
913-367-4217
www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org

Strive for Perfection, but Don't Be a Perfectionist



Tammy Barlette

*Tucson Chapter,
Founder and CEO of
Crosscheck Mental
Performance Training*

Tammy, a retired Air Force pilot with extensive instructor experience in the T-37, T-38, A-10, MQ-1, and MQ-9, understands the critical role mental performance plays in aviation. Her passion for teaching and belief in the transformative power of mental performance training drives her mission to help aviators enhance focus, reduce stress, and build confidence. These skills are not only essential for success in the cockpit but are also crucial for maintaining peak performance in every aspect of aviation.

When I was a little girl, my mom used to introduce me as her “little perfectionist.” I stood there, beaming with pride, because perfection was the gold standard, right? The best of the best. But over the years, I’ve learned that perfectionism isn’t the same as being perfect: In fact, it can be a serious detriment to performance. In aviation, it can even become dangerous.

The turning point in my understanding came while reading *The Confident Mind* by Dr. Nate Zinsser. In it, he states, “Research shows that the highest achievers in any given field are those with only moderate levels of perfectionism. Those with the highest levels of perfectionism are only moderate achievers because the anxiety they feel over making mistakes prevents them from taking timely action.” When I read that, I thought, I do not want to be a moderate achiever! I’d wager that most pilots feel the same way. After all, we operate in a world where precision and excellence are expected. But perfectionism? That’s a different story.

Take a pilot’s crosscheck as an example. If a pilot is fixated on holding altitude perfectly, there’s a high likelihood they’re over-focusing on one parameter and missing critical information elsewhere – airspeed, heading, power settings, radio calls. This narrow focus disrupts the balance of the crosscheck and increases stress. The result? A cascade of errors.

Now consider a steep turn, a maneuver every pilot is familiar with. The best pilots don’t aim to hit perfect parameters; they aim to stay within a reasonable margin (plus or minus a set amount on airspeed, altitude, and bank angle). Why? Because maintaining a window of parameters allows the crosscheck to flow smoothly. The pilot who insists on absolute perfection often spends too much time fine-tuning one aspect of the turn, leading to deviations elsewhere and an exhausting struggle to catch up. Meanwhile, the pilot with a healthy approach to imperfection expends less mental energy and maintains better overall control.

This lesson applies far beyond steep turns. Pilots must embrace the idea that perfection is neither realistic nor productive. Aviation is about striving for excellence, not flawless execution. When we chase perfection too closely, we risk missing the bigger picture – situational awareness, decision-making, and ultimately, safety.

I’ve coined a personal mantra that I repeat often: Strive for perfection, but don’t be a perfectionist. This means setting high standards and reaching for ambitious goals but also allowing room for error and growth. Mistakes are inevitable in aviation and in life. What matters is how we respond to them – learning, adapting, and improving.

So, the next time you catch yourself beating yourself up over a less-than-perfect performance, take a step back. Ask yourself: Did I learn something valuable? If the answer is yes, then you’re on the right track.

Stay tuned for a future column where I’ll explore how to move forward after making mistakes. Until then, remember: Progress, not perfection, is what keeps us flying high. —



Empowering Africa's Next Generation of Aviators

By Ivana Alvares-Marshall, *African Section*

In an inspiring initiative to nurture Africa's future aviation professionals, the Youth Programme was launched in November as a collaborative effort between the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the African Section of The Ninety-Nines, EGYPTAIR, and the Egyptian Ministry of Civil Aviation. This event, held in Cairo, brought together 50 bright young girls for an immersive experience designed to spark interest in aviation and showcase the dynamic opportunities within the industry. The school that participated is the Al-Asmarat Compound Mokattam, which is built by the Tahya Misr Fund – an initiative launched by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi after he became President in 2014. His goal for the fund was to service the poor, sick, and marginalized people in Egyptian society with donations from Egyptians and businesses.

Morning Session: Exploring EGYPTAIR's Legacy and Innovation

The first day of the Youth Programme took place at EGYPTAIR's headquarters, where participants were introduced to the airline's remarkable history and technical expertise.

The day began with a guided tour of the EGYPTAIR Museum, led by Mr. Mahmoud Moeaz. Here, the participants learned about the airline's legacy, exploring exhibits that chronicle its journey from inception to its present-day operations.

This was followed by a visit to the Engine Overhaul Complex at EGYPTAIR Maintenance and Engineering. Under the guidance of expert engineers, the participants witnessed the intricate processes involved in maintaining and overhauling aircraft engines, offering them an up-close look at one of aviation's most critical aspects.

The Afternoon Session: Hands-On Learning at the Egyptian Aviation Academy

The afternoon session brought our participants to the Egyptian Aviation Academy, where they explored the technical and operational facets of aviation.

The day's highlights included a session on aviation simulators, led by the aviation simulator department. Here, young participants experienced what it feels like to control an aircraft in a highly realistic simulator environment. In addition, they attended informative speeches and presentations by the President of EGYPTAIR Aviation Academy Capt. Waleed Soliman, Dina Dawod from the African Section of The Ninety-Nines, and Maureen Khaonge from AFRAA, who all shared insights on careers in aviation and the importance of diversity in the field.

Further activities included a session on first aid conducted by the Emergency Training Department, and a visit to the Cabin Crew Emergency Training Facility where participants explored

the critical duties and emergency protocols handled by cabin crew members.

This impactful event would not have been possible without the generous support of Minister Sameh Elhefny, Chair and CEO of EGYPTAIR Holding Yahia Zakaria, AFRAA Secretary General Abderahmane Berthé and Maureen Khaonge, and Vice Governor of the African Section Dina Dawod.

Special thanks to Dina Dawod for her exceptional organizational efforts in coordinating the event, including meals and transport for the participants.

Africa's aviation industry is poised for significant growth, and youth outreach programs like this play a pivotal role in addressing the impending skills gap. By 2030, the sector is expected to face a shortfall of skilled professionals across various aviation disciplines. Initiatives like this one ignite a

passion for aviation in young minds, providing them with a clearer pathway to careers in the industry.

This event not only showcased the possibilities within aviation but also reaffirmed the importance of collaborating to nurture the next generation of African aviation leaders. The Youth Programme stands as a testament to what can be achieved when organizations come together with a shared vision: Empowering the youth and securing the future of aviation. With the success of this event, plans are already underway for similar programs to help continue inspiring Africa's youth. By investing in today's young minds, we're ensuring a thriving aviation sector for tomorrow.

For the 50 young participants who walked away with new skills, insights, and dreams, the sky is no longer the limit – it's just the beginning.



Flying the Velis Electro

By Catherine Check, *British Columbia Coast Chapter*

The Velis Electro is the world's first type-certified electric airplane, and there are now three of them in Canada. Sealand Flight is the first flight school in the country to offer primary flight training on an electric airplane. The school's intention is to tangibly reduce emissions from flight training, navigate regulatory hurdles in adopting sustainable aviation, and provide students with the benefit of leading-edge technology.

Flying the electric aircraft differs from the standard piston aircraft because the Velis Electro is simpler to understand and learn, providing students more time to focus on preparing for their solo. Since there's no carburetor, the students don't need to familiarize themselves with effects such as carb ice or adjusting the fuel/air mixture for altitude.

The training is fairly similar to a piston aircraft, although due

to the simplicity of the electric aircraft, a student can complete their solo flight faster. At 9.7 hours of flight time, I was able to solo and become the first Canadian to learn how to fly and solo in an electric airplane.

I truly believe in the objective of the Velis Electro and would highly recommend that any new student pilot begin their flight training on an electric aircraft. After recently switching back to a piston aircraft to finish my training, I understand that the transition is fairly easy. Since the electric aircraft was simple to learn, I was able to spend more time studying ground school, which ultimately gave me more confidence before my solo flight.

This was an incredible opportunity, and I'm thrilled to be a part of this new generation of aircraft.



Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing
Copyright: Becky Aikman 2025
ISBN: 978-1-63557-656-6
Available on Amazon
Release Date May 6, 2025

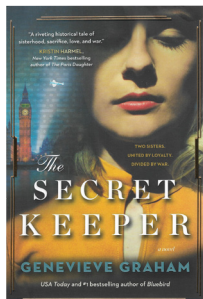
SPITFIRES – *The American Women Who Flew in the Face of Danger During World War II*

Author: Becky Aikman

Spitfires is a book chronicling the events following the American women who flew for the British Air Transport Auxiliary during WWI. If you are expecting a story similar to that of the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) or the WAFFS (Women Airforce Ferry Service), you are not going to get it. The British experience was far different, and Becky Aikman does a masterful job of recreating and sharing it.

These women, some of whom were recruited by Jackie Cochran and some who traveled to England on their own, all had their licenses, and many were some of the most extraordinary pilots of the time. All in all, 27 American women flew for the ATA. Aikman “features” nine of those women, weaving together information from journals, ATA records, previously published memoirs, and interviews with surviving family members. She has painted some of the most complete “snapshots” of the experience and the personalities that I’ve ever read. I was fortunate enough to have known some of these women – and we are fortunate enough to have Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford (San Diego Chapter 99) still with us.

Aikman’s Acknowledgements, Bibliography and Notes section is extensive and goes a long way to show just what fine research she’s done. I was fortunate enough to get an Advanced Reading Copy of the book, so the Index section was not finished. The book will be available on May 6. My advice – go pre-order this book NOW. This book is a necessary addition to your library featuring women’s flying roles in WWII.



Publisher: Simon & Schuster Canada
Copyright: Genevieve Graham 2024
ISBN: 978-1-9821-9698-1
Available on Amazon

THE SECRET KEEPER (Historical Fiction)

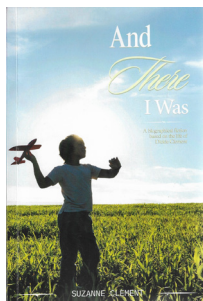
Author: Genevieve Graham

I am not a huge fan of “fictionalized” accounts of historical events. However, I will make an enthusiastic exception for this book.

This is a story of two Canadian sisters – twins Dot and Dash, who go down similar roads in helping their country during WWII. They both start out in the Women’s Royal Canadian Services – WRCS (also known as the WRENS.) Then one sister decides that flying holds more love than the intelligence work and joins the Air Transport Auxiliary. Their paths in the story diverge – come together – and diverge again. This is a very well written chronicle of family dynamics under the best and worst circumstances possible.

The Secret Keeper is also one of the best history lessons I have read describing the Canadian experience during WWII. As an American, I am always a bit taken aback at what I didn’t learn in history class. As an American learning about the history of one of our neighbors, this book was an extraordinary opening of a chapter I had no idea existed. I knew about the Air Transport Auxiliary, but I knew nothing about the WRENS and the intelligence service work. One of the most eye-opening parts of the book for me was the Notes to Readers where Graham does an exceptional job of condensing this part of Canadian history. And, as she says, “Think about the countless secrets that have been kept over time. All the things we were never supposed to know.” And then, “The history behind the Secret Keeper was irresistible.” I am tremendously happy that she didn’t resist!

The story is wonderful and the history behind it is beyond eye-opening. This book is a must read.



Publisher: BeyondPublishing.net
Copyright: Suzanne Clement 2024
ISBN: 978-63792-782-3
Available on Amazon

AND THERE I WAS – A biographical fiction based on the life of Dickie Clement

Author: Suzanne Clement

This book “reads” like the best collection of hangar stories ever. *And There I Was* feels like discussion and story sharing at a Saturday morning airport coffee session where you get to know who a person really is. Suzanne Clement put together the stories from her husband’s life – flying and otherwise – into a collection of experiences that ends up being a wonderful memoir. However, it also means more to me. A while ago, I got an email from Suzanne asking me if I remembered her husband, Dickie. While looking through material she had found a note that I had written to him in 1994 – two years after the small plane crash that killed my husband. Dickie Clement was the man who had tried to pull my husband’s body away from the burning wreckage and I wanted him to know how much I had appreciated his efforts. She wanted my permission to include the contents of that note in the book. I am honored that he kept that note and that it is a part of the story she wrote about him. It’s a satisfying read for anyone who has experienced the love and pain and ups-and-downs of living a life in the world of aviation.



Dr. Rachael Ferraro
Senior AME,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
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The Female Flight Physical

Let's talk about the flight physical, specifically as a female pilot.

When I first thought about writing this, I spent some time narrowing down the topic and figuring out the best approach. I realized it might be helpful to focus on how to best prepare for the elements of the exam that might feel, well, a bit awkward.

First, let's clear up some confusion. According to the AME guide published by the FAA, breast exams are not required unless indicated by your past medical history or current symptoms. The same goes for pelvic and rectal exams. Yes, those exams are listed on the form, but unless there's a reason to perform them, the guide tells us to mark "normal" without conducting the exam.

Let's discuss chaperones. Not all offices have the staffing for one, and my office happens to have a male medical assistant. If you feel more comfortable, bring a friend to the appointment as your chaperone, or ask the office ahead of time if they provide one.

Now, let's tackle a common concern: the EKG. I know how awkward it can feel as a woman because those leads are placed in some pretty sensitive spots. So, how can you make this process more comfortable?

I've found that wearing a wireless sports bra makes a big difference. Not the super-tight, high-impact kind that's hard to get on and off – I'm talking about one with moderate support that can be easily adjusted for lead placement without exposing you too much. Six of the 10 leads are placed around your chest, with two centered between your breasts and four just under your left breast. The sports bra can even help hold the leads in place and doesn't interfere with the reading.

If you're still not comfortable with that, consider wearing a loose-fitting, open-front button-down shirt. I offer disposable capes to my female pilots, but not all AMEs do, so it's worth planning ahead.

Prefer to get your EKG elsewhere? That's an option! You can have the test done by your primary care provider or another clinician if it's performed no earlier than 60 days before your flight physical. Just make sure it's a 12-lead EKG. It must have your identifying information on it including your full name and date of birth.

Another question I'm asked is whether your shirt needs to come off for the heart and lung exam. The short answer? No. While it's best to listen to these sounds through bare skin, that doesn't mean you have to be topless. Lifting the bottom of the shirt or sliding the stethoscope under a shirt collar works well. I offer a disposable open front cape in my clinic, and it doesn't hurt to ask your AME if they do as well.

Now, let's talk about the urinalysis. For this, the FAA is looking for the presence of protein and glucose. This helps detect conditions such as uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension or kidney disease. A standard urine test is not an observed urinalysis and should be done privately in the restroom. To make this as smooth as possible, stay hydrated and, if you can, avoid scheduling the test while menstruating. I get that it's not always avoidable, but minimizing the chance of contamination can save you some stress.

Lastly, scars or tattoos. We're trained to ask about these, even in hidden places. If you'd rather not show a specific area, just let your AME or medical provider know. Depending on the location, a description or even a photo might suffice.

I hope this helps you feel more prepared and confident for your next flight physical. If you have questions or want to share ideas for upcoming articles, I'd love to hear from you. After all, this column is for you.

Send your questions or suggestions for upcoming articles to info@aviatemedical.com.

(Disclaimer: This is general information and not medical advice. Always consult your AME or medical provider for personalized guidance.)

Places to Go & Things to Do



Left: The Eero Saarinen terminal and hotel design has won many awards. Top right: The 1960s-era Sweet 'N Glow beauty salon. Bottom right: Mary Bryant, Terri Donner, Lori Plour, Glenna Blackwell, and Laurie Strand enjoying a relaxing moment at the Connie Cocktail Lounge.



Mary Bryant
Florida Suncoast
Chapter

Mary has been a pilot and 99 for over three decades. She holds ATP, CFII, MEI, and CE500 Ratings. She is an aviation business owner, aircraft owner, and active pilot. She loves to fly and is always looking for places to go and things to do; suggestions always welcome! marybryant100@gmail.com

If you ever have a few hours between flights at JFK or, better yet, an overnight, be sure to check out the TWA Hotel located across from the JetBlue gates. I've briefly stopped in for a drink at the hotel's space-age designed bar, but I didn't realize the extent of the hotel's attractions until I stayed overnight. Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter member Terri Donner and I had a morning flight to India for their section meeting, and we didn't want to risk missing our connection. As a result, we completed the legs from Florida and Ohio the night before. Terri suggested staying at the TWA Hotel. Several more 99s had connections through JFK on the way to the meeting in late November, so we agreed to meet and enjoy the hotel's offerings.

We had a wonderful dinner at the Paris Café after enjoying drinks in the famous Connie Cocktail Lounge. "Connie" is the fond name of the historic Lockheed Constellation airplane on display in the courtyard. It's been turned into a bar so, of course, we enjoyed a drink. After dinner, we found the fabled infinity pool on the roof. Despite the near-freezing weather, folks were enjoying a plunge in the swirling vapors. Being a Florida girl, it didn't appeal to me, but it was interesting to witness. Also on the roof is a small bar reminiscent of a ski chalet, complete with a fireplace, tables at which to linger or play games and a view overlooking the airport.

The space-age styled lobby and corridors are full of historic information about Howard Hughes' involvement in TWA and aviation. While walking through the halls and common areas,

you'll pass his office, along with many artifacts and notes on the history of the period. There is a 1960s-era beauty salon, working pay phones, and an entire room devoted to the game of Twister. Although the hotel rooms are modern and comfortable, the public areas of the hotel exude the bygone era when flying was glamorous and an adventure. The second floor houses a display of TWA officer and attendant uniforms. It's unbelievable how tiny these women were, with strict weight and behavior regulations enforced. And, of course, marriage ended an attendant's career. One attendant uniform even had a flap to cover the TWA logo so that a smoker could hide her association with the airline and avoid embarrassment if she chose to smoke. What a different world it was – and how far we have come.

In addition to the high-end primary restaurant and Connie Cocktail Lounge, there is a spacious bar in the lobby and a food court that offers good coffee, smoothies, salads, wraps, along with other snacks and food. Take time to explore the entire place and you'll find many smaller, more private areas to sit and talk, or even possibly attend to neglected emails and correspondence. A variety of period equipment and furnishings are scattered throughout, and we enjoyed documenting our trip with photos in the old cars located in the check-in area.

Whether you only have a couple of hours or can spend the night, a visit to the TWA Hotel is fun and an interesting stop during your travels.

Milestones

Alana Bicoy

CFI
– Old Dominion

Marilyn Handschiegel Black

Private
– Chicago Area

Alexis Burgess

Commercial
– Orange County

Lindsey Chen

PIC, Embraer 145 Type
– Orange County

Rita Daniels

Multi-Engine
– Orange County



Victoria Delshire

Commercial
– Minnesota



Angela Drabek

Instrument
– Oklahoma

Ann Marie Edlin

Instrument
– NOLA



Amanda “Mandy” Ehrler

Solo
– Wisconsin

Kensie Hewson

Multi-IFR, Seaplane
– Canadian Rockies



Katia Holmes

Private
– Keystone



Deborah Howell

Solo
– Michigan



Jennilee Huculak

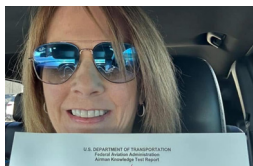
Multi-IFR,
Intermediate Airline
Transport Rating
(IATRA)
– Canadian Rockies

Andrea Huguenin

Private
– NOLA

Kendra Huttema

Commercial
– Canadian Rockies



Cyndi Ice

Advanced Ground
Instructor (AGI)
– Oklahoma

Holly Intravia

Solo
– Eastern New England



Taylor Ivins

Instrument
– Alabama



Ellysia “El” Jackson

Instrument
– Mt. Shasta



Raj Karwa

Commercial
– Lake Tahoe

Sydney King

Instrument
– NOLA

Mona Knock

CFI
– Chicago Area

Jennifer Little

Private
– Michigan

Jill Mann

Citation Sovereign
Type Rating
– Chicago Area



Kim Marcell

Instrument
– Minnesota



Megan McArthur

Commercial, AGI,
Instrument Ground
Instructor (IGI)
– Chicago Area

Lauren

Menkemeller
Multi-Engine Add-On
– NOLA



Julie Mohamed

Commercial,
Multi-Engine
– Minnesota



Rachel Morrow

Seaplane,
High-Performance
Endorsement
– Michigan



Deriene Nickisch

CFI
– Midnight Sun

Kim Olson

CFI
– San Diego

Air Reed

Instrument
– NOLA

Isabella Rigatos

Private
– Chicago Area



Erin Riley

Private
– Michigan



Vanessa Sampson

CFI
– Minnesota



Vanessa Schultz

Private
– Midnight Sun

Crystal Simon

Solo
– Wisconsin



Sri Harshini Suresh

Solo
– Keystone



Sydney Swartz

Instrument
– Wisconsin



Brooke Walker

Multi-Engine
– Alabama

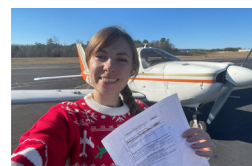
Ciara

Weatherspoon

Private
– NOLA

Eden Witt

CFI
– Wisconsin



Liucija Smaizyte

Wright
Private
– Alabama



Julie Paasch
Mount Tahoma Chapter

Do you have a question that you've always wanted to ask a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE)?

Email Julie Paasch at askadpe99@gmail.com

Your question may be answered in the next issue!

I heard that now the CFI Certificate doesn't have an expiration date. Can you explain the changes?


Effective as of December 1, 2024, the new Certified Flight Instructor regulations took effect. There were a few changes, and the details can be found in Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61. Some of the highlights include removing an expiration from the CFI certificate, allowing a grace period to renew the privileges, and changing the requirements to teach first-time CFI applicants.

One of the reasons why the FAA decided to change from an expiration to a recency-based certificate was to save money. They had to print certificate cards and send them every 24 calendar months to hundreds of CFIs every year. Another reason was to align the CFI Certificate with the other pilot certificates which require a recency of experience. Any CFI Certificate earned after December 1, 2024, will not have an expiration but will have currency requirements due every 24 calendar months. This is very similar to the way the CFI Certificate has been renewed in the past. Privileges can still be renewed by passing a practical test, achieving the required pass rate as a company check pilot, flight instructor for a Part 121 or 135, or through the numerous other options for currency listed in 14 CFR Section 61.197. One of the more overlooked ways to renew is using the FAA-sponsored pilot proficiency program, such as the WINGS program. CFIs must complete at least 15 flight activities, evaluate five different pilots, and provide necessary endorsements in the pilots' logbooks. As an active CFI, you're helping your students become involved in the WINGS program while renewing your recency for your CFI privileges.

Due to the change from expiration to recency experience, when you sign your student's logbook, it will look slightly different. This information can be found in Advisory Circular 61-65J. The new AC took effect on October 30, 2024.

We've all heard stories of the CFI who forgot to renew their certificate. They often have a feeling of shock followed by dread as they realize they forgot to renew a couple days after it's expired. In the past they would've been stuck retaking the CFI practical test again (cue the tears), but thankfully, the FAA has provided some flexibility in this area. The new regulations offer a three-month grace period to renew privileges after the recency has expired if a Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic is completed. This is a great reprieve. However, if you allow the three months to lapse, then you'll have to complete one of the reinstatement privilege requirements listed in 14 CFR Section 61.199.

Another update to the regulations is the experience required to teach first-time CFI applicants. In the past, 400 hours of dual given were required but that has been reduced to 200 hours. In addition, they added a pass rate. All the details are in 14 CFR Section 61.195.

The FAA implemented some great changes to the CFI Certificate. Review 14 CFR Part 61 for all the details. Make sure to keep up on your recency requirements and fly safe! 



AFRICAN SECTION

The African Section had an incredible experience attending Aviation Africa Summit & Exhibition 2024. Over the course of two amazing days, the section members had the opportunity to inspire the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.

The event kicked off with a Girls in Aviation Day outreach initiative, where they took 30 girls from Aurora High School in Soweto, South Africa, to the South African Airways (SAA) Museum at Rand Airport (QRA). The aim was to provide these young girls with a comprehensive introduction to aviation, showcasing the wide range of career paths available. They toured the aircraft and listened to talks from both pilots and engineers. Dina Dawod, Marilyn Subermoney, and Ivana Alvares-Marshall shared insights from a pilot's perspective, while Judy, a former SAA aeronautical engineer and knowledgeable tour guide, passionately discussed her engineering career and shared her knowledge about the aircraft displayed.

The girls were also treated to gifts and a KFC meal, making the day extra special. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all African Section members who sponsored and made this event possible. A special shout-out to Anele Nala, who worked last-minute miracles by organizing the school and transportation. Anele, an African Section member, was inspired to become a pilot after attending a similar outreach event at the very same museum back in 2007. Initiatives like these are vital in encouraging the youth to dream big and aim high.

We extend our deepest gratitude to The South African Airways Museum Society for hosting us and being part of this incredible journey to inspire the future of aviation.

– Ivana Alvares-Marshall

Grass Roots



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

Thirty-one 99s gathered at a local restaurant recently to celebrate our chapter and friendships and to raise money for our Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of The 99s Scholarship Fund through a silent auction. Each year, our chapter awards at least two scholarships to aspiring aviators in the Delaware Valley, and we hope to continue this practice! Members donate items of any value for the auction, and the fun is bidding (and out-bidding) for items of interest. In addition to our luncheon and silent auction festivities, we honored four chapter members who've each been 99s for over 50 years: Ginny Fanfera DeGrands, Diane Hastings, Nancy Gaynor, and Laura Poppel.

- Mary Ellen Morris



Dr. Sandra J. Leder (right), Hunter Bernal, and Sydney Lavoi are pictured by the Christmas tree at the Freeman Jet Center at Lake Charles Regional Airport (KLCH).

LAKE CHARLES CHAPTER

Hunter Bernal, Banquet Speaker

Dr. Sandra J. Leder, Hunter Bernal, Sydney Lavoi, and Cathie Cox were on hand to decorate the Christmas tree at the Freeman Jet Center at Lake Charles Regional Airport (KLCH). Dr. Leder loaned her collection of airplane ornaments to the FBO to decorate the tree. Sydney is a student at Louisiana Tech majoring in aviation and Hunter is a CFII. Sydney trained with Hunter for her Tailwheel Endorsement.

Dr. Leder, Chair of the Lake Charles Chapter and Vice Regent of the Louisiana Bayou Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented a certificate of appreciation from the DAR to Bernal for his fly-over during the dedication of the memorial of Gerstner Field at the Veterans' Memorial Park in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Bernal is scheduled to be the banquet speaker at the South Central Section meeting in Lake Charles on March 29, 2025. This is in keeping with the theme: "Lake Charles Aviation, for Freedom and Beyond." Ninety-Nines will learn about the importance of Gerstner Field during WWI and view the memorial on the tour. A visit to Chennault Field (25TX) will highlight the importance of that base during the Cold War and include a visit of two industries located there today. Bernal will discuss the future of electric airplanes and talk about the charging station located at Lake Charles Regional Airport.

The Section Meeting will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Sulphur, Louisiana, March 28-30, 2025. For any questions about the meeting contact sleder99@yahoo.com or 337-478-5974.

- Dr. Sandra J. Leder



Left: 99 Jamie Swanson teaching the flying companion course. | Right: 99 Grace Kohlert (center) at the Fly America table.

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

Aviation Expo 2025

The Chicago Area Chapter began assisting the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Division of Aeronautics Safety Office, to put on an IFR/VFR Safety Seminar with a flying companion course about 50 years ago. In January, our chapter produced the event, chose the venue, lined up the educational speakers, arranged for FAA Wings credits, provided publicity, invited aviation businesses and charities to help funding by purchasing table space, designed a new flying companion interactive four-session experience (Jen Markovska and Jamie Swanson), and presented Aviation Expo 2025 to the public.

Thirty of our Chicago Area Chapter members worked to make the pieces come together: Karen Ballard, Krista Coltrin, Jaleesha Conner, Kathryn Crihfield, Mary Lou Erikson, Jill Feldman, Lillian Fifer, Gabby Fullilove, Kadijah Hall, Susan Hillman, Larisa Kano, Donna Klein, Mona Knock, Grayce Kohlert, Cynthia Madsen, Jennifer Markovska, Megan McArthur, Lisa Mitchell, Madeleine Monaco, Kathryn Morrissey, Laurie Mule, Susan Musacchio, Ellen O'Hara, Erica Okwuazi, Dinah Spadoni, Jamie Swanson, Vickie Szewczyk, Shelley Ventura, Corie Wild, and Shona Williams.

Noted speakers from the local aviation community covered a weather presentation on winter flying/icing conditions for both IFR and VFR pilots, a comprehensive IFR review for the instrument pilots, and included an ATC TRACON veteran controller, an AME, a presentation on exquisite landings, an interactive session on opportunities that come with earning a Private Certificate, and a problem solving presentation on system malfunctions. The intention is to provide quality educational content to improve and enhance the proficiency of pilots in our geographic area and to provide

their non-pilot passengers with knowledge to increase their comfort during flights with their pilot. There were upwards of 300 people attending the programs.

Vendor Chair Mary Lou Erikson sold more than 30 table spaces for charitable organizations and aviation businesses. These funds pay for the hotel room rental and are supplemented by some generous donations from IDOT and others. Cynthia Madsen and Karen Ballard recruited new 99s, and our vendors increased membership, sales, and public relations visibility. This event was well presented, well respected, and well worth the effort it takes to put on. One attendee commented, "Kudos! The Chicago Area Chapter has again stepped up to present one of the best aviation educational events around. Thank you!"

Vickie Szewczyk did a presentation on The 99s at the request of the Zonta Club in our area. It was a video call meeting and went very well. Vickie prepared a PowerPoint presentation on our activities during 2024 and shared it with the members.

Vice Chair Larisa Kano and her husband, Yosh, opened their home for a wonderful Chicago Area holiday party. We ate, drank, and were merry! There was such a terrific array of food for our potluck supper. It was a wonderful time to visit with friends both old and new. For a December day in Chicago, the weather was good too!

Katy Crihfield and her partner, Kurt, began operating a flight school at Campbell Airport (C81). K2 Aviation had a table at the Aviation Expo. Get on Katy's schedule if you want to train for your Private Certificate at Campbell.

Gabrielle Fullilove recently was crowned Miss Illinois Women with Wings and will compete in the Miss Women with Wings pageant this April.

- Diane Cozzi

Grass Roots



Top left: Hannah Whelan and Abigail Dang working together to wrap the boxes. | Top Middle: Kai Bathazar-Chang and Rachel Huff-Wagenborg boxing cookies. | Top right: Michelle JoAnn and Rachel Huff-Wagenborg delivering to employees working at Wheeler's tower.

Bottom left: (back row) Zonta Volunteer, Denise Smith, Michelle JoAnn, Lilinoe DePonte, Linda Weiland, Meredith Grimmer, Karen Foissotte, Janell Pitts. (front row) Hannah Whelan, Shealin Johnson, Abigail Dang, Kai Bathazar-Chang, Erin Mason. | Bottom middle: Michelle JoAnn and Rachel Huff-Wagenborg delivering to Kristine Cunningham and employees working at the tower at Honolulu International Airport (PHNL). | Bottom right: Annie Domko and Richard McGinty, Dillingham UNICOM saying thank you!

ALOHA CHAPTER

The 99s Spread Holiday Cheer with Annual Cookie Caper Event

The Aloha Chapter proudly hosted their annual Cookie Caper event this past holiday season. Continuing a festive tradition of gratitude, members of the Aloha Chapter gathered to box and deliver homemade holiday cookies to Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities across the Pacific Islands.

The Cookie Caper, a long-standing tradition for the chapter, is the organization's way of showing appreciation to the dedicated ATC personnel who play a vital role in aviation safety year-round. This year, members baked and packaged hundreds of cookies, spreading holiday cheer to controllers who work long hours to ensure the safety of pilots and passengers in the skies.

"This event is one of our favorite ways to give back to the aviation community," said Rachel Huff, an Aloha Chapter volunteer. "ATC teams are an essential part of every flight, and this is our way of saying thank you for their hard work and dedication."

The festive deliveries were made to ATC facilities on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and Guam with members personally handing over the boxed treats to grateful recipients. The Cookie Caper exemplifies the spirit of camaraderie and service that is central to the group's values.

For more information about the Aloha Chapter and their community initiatives, please visit <https://www.instagram.com/alohachapter99s/>.

- Michelle JoAnn



Top: Midnight Sun Chapter members gathered for a potluck dinner at Kate Lamal's home to celebrate the Winter Solstice. | Bottom: Midnight Sun Chapter members at the Children's Museum for their Aviation Super Saturday event.

MIDNIGHT SUN CHAPTER

December and January were busy months for members. We held a small fundraiser for our local charity, the Door which is a shelter for abused and homeless 12 to 18-year-olds.

On December 21, with only three hours, 20 minutes of sunlight, we held our annual Winter Solstice Potluck Dinner at Alyssa Rittel's home. We celebrated the return of longer sunlit days with sledding and the city fireworks display.

Our January 11, annual Holiday Potluck Dinner was celebrated by most members at Kate Lamal's beautiful log home. Of note, Vanessa Schultz, who recently earned Private Pilot certificate in December (shown standing third from left in top photo), drove 10 hours through ice and heavy snow from Kenai to Fairbanks, Alaska, to attend this event with fellow 99s, then turned around to drive back the next day. Now that's a loyal member!!

January 18 brought Midnight Sun members to the Children's Museum for their Aviation Super Saturday event. The event was spearheaded by AEMSF winner Alyssa Rittel (shown in top and bottom photos wearing glasses). Activities included making paper airplanes, coloring pictures of pilots and planes, learning about clouds, reading charts, flight following, and pretend taxis, takeoffs and landings.

Also, throughout the month of January, Chapter Chair Phyllis Tate (above in front row, third from left) gave one to three brief speeches per week about her early-day northern Alaska female pilot paintings to student groups on field trips to our local aviation museum.

- Phyllis Tate



Top: Members at the Winter Business and Holiday Party on December 15, 2024, Front row: Cheryl Daml, Melissa Aho, Lisa Karan, Jan Moll. Second row: Tracy Davenport, Marcy Drescher, Emma Gaustad Hanson, PingPing He, Jennifer Lewis, Brenda Hanson, Chris Kocinski. Back row: Guest Martha Whiteaker, Mary Baumgart, Andrea Wildenberg, Ellen Quist, Majel Baker, Becky Juarez, Kim Marcell, and Laura Pham. | Bottom: Members at the Tree of Hope on December 7, 2024.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

After a busy summer, the Minnesota Chapter remained busy in the fall with a Zoom meeting on the ATC presented by Heather McNevin on November 7, 2024. Our own Brenda Hanson and Brenda Frye, from the Iowa Chapter, hosted a North Central Section Tea and Trivia charity Zoom event on November 12, 2024. We continued to support the Tree of Hope, which took place this year at the Atlantic FBO at the Anoka County Airport (KANE) on December 7, 2024. Our members helped collect, organize, and distribute toys to children in 38 hospitals, 10 Ronald McDonald houses, and a women's shelter over the holidays. We held our last event, the Winter Business and Holiday Party, on December 15, 2024, at the Atlantic FBO at the Anoka County Airport. Chapter awards were given to Ellen Quist for the Most Minnesota Airports Landed At in 2024 and Brenda Hanson for the most Minnesota 99s Activities Attended in 2024.

We also wrapped up the year by celebrating the accomplishments of Julie Mohamed on her Commercial Multi-Engine, Victoria Delshire on her Commercial, Kim Marcell on her Instrument, and Vanessa Sampson who earned her CFI.

- Dr. Melissa Aho



Left: Rachel Lindvig flew Michigan Flight Museum's impressive WWII warbird Douglas C-47D Skytrain, "Hairless Joe," to deliver gifts for children and youth in foster care. | Top right: Kim Fanelli flew her Cirrus SR20 to deliver gifts for children and youth in foster care. | Bottom right: Sarah Haskett, shown here with her Air Race Classic teammate Timber Dawson, shared her experiences as a first-time racer in the 2024 Air Race Classic during a recent chapter Zoom meeting.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Michigan Chapter members have stayed busy participating in monthly Zoom meetings, volunteering on behalf of our organization, and continuing to pursue their aviation goals.

We're so proud to have been represented by Michigan Chapter members Kim Fanelli and Chapter Treasurer Rachel Lindvig who volunteered on December 7, 2024, for Operation Good Cheer. Managed by Michigan's Child and Family Charities, Operation Good Cheer coordinated a statewide gift-giving program for children and youth in foster care. Over 20,000 gifts were delivered via flights from Oakland County International Airport (KPTK), located in Waterford, Michigan, to 6,700 children throughout the state. Rachel flew the impressive WWII warbird Douglas C-47D Skytrain "Hairless Joe," owned by the Michigan Flight Museum, to Padgham Field Airport (35D) in Allegan, Michigan. Kim flew her Cirrus SR20 to West Michigan Regional Airport (KBIV) in Holland, Michigan. Kim and Rachel were among more than 225 pilots who donated their time and aircraft to deliver the amazing number of gifts to so many deserving children and youth across Michigan.

Our monthly Zoom meetings continue to provide members with opportunities to see each other, celebrate each other's accomplishments, as well as conduct chapter business. Following the conclusion of the business portion of our meetings, we have an aviation-related presentation or discussion. In January, member Sarah Haskett shared her experiences as a first-time racer in the 2024 Air Race Classic. Sarah raced with Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter member Timber Dawson as Team #9, "SkyMoms." Our February presentation featured a discussion of the book *The Six*, led by Chapter Secretary Frances Rose. The author, Loren Grush, tells a powerful story of the first six women who joined NASA's astronaut corps in 1978, detailing their challenging and groundbreaking experiences.

– Barb Vukits



Top: The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter holiday party. | Bottom: Recipients of the Kentucky Bluegrass Advanced Rating Scholarships for 2024 left to right: Timber Dawson, Tiffany Meredith, Madeline Elliott, and Chloe Park

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter Holiday Party was held at Landis Lakes Clubhouse in Louisville, Kentucky, on December 14, 2024. We enjoyed playing our “Snoop” gift exchange game, a delicious Mexican lunch with desserts, and connecting with our members.

Recipients of our Kentucky Bluegrass Advanced Rating Scholarships for 2024 included from left to right: Timber Dawson, Tiffany Meredith, Madeline Elliott, and Chloe Park. Also awarded was Brooklyn Richendifer (not pictured).

– Susan Glisson



Top: Maui Chapter’s Christmas cookie delivery to Windward Aviation. | Bottom: Maui Chapter during the Kahului Airport (PHOG) tower Christmas cookies delivery.

MAUI CHAPTER

On September 8, 2024, 99s member Reverend Dr. Kimberly Fong hosted a Disaster Relief and Healing Lū’au at the Po’okela Church in Makawao, Maui, Hawaii, for the families impacted by the Lahaina fires. The Maui Chapter was honored to participate.

This event created a space for families to connect with each other, receive healing prayer, ask questions of the mayor, enjoy entertainment, and be showered with love and donations.

We all enjoyed the colorful designs of the paper airplanes as gliders and spirits soared over the slopes of Haleakala. 99s members helped the keiki (kids) to navigate to spot landings on a towel runway, challenge their skills on our flight simulator, and receive prizes. Maui Chapter member Hema Subbaratnam taught chair yoga to the adults.

Everyone agreed this was a peaceful and amazing event. The kids were engaged in activities while parents connected with each other and relaxed. There was a wonderful lū’au with delicious Hawaiian food and live music. The 99s were happy to support and be part of an event that helped families on their journey to restoration, rebuilding, and recovery. Mahalo to Reverend Dr. Kimberly and the Po’okela Church family for their thoughtful efforts and for including us.

Maui Chapter members gathered again during the holiday season to treat their local air traffic controllers at Kahului Airport (PHOG) to cookies.

– Shannon Christensen

Grass Roots



TREASURE COAST, SPACEPORT, & DAYTONA CHAPTER

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, members from three chapters came together to paint a compass rose at Valkaria Airport (X59) in Valkaria, Florida. The three chapters included the Treasure Coast Chapter (Fort Pierce), Spaceport Chapter (Brevard County, Orlando, Sanford), and Daytona Chapter (Daytona, Leesburg). The compass rose is beautiful. Many thanks to Naiara Petralanda, from Daytona, who oversees airmarking. She kept us all organized.

Thanks to all who came out: Cristina Gouin, Gavin Gouin, McKenna Stapleton, Jenny Joerres, Denese Schmedeman, Andrew Schmedeman, Denise Rosenberg, Sandy Parks, Naira Patralanda, Donna Wilt, Christine Keefe, Paul Maudrie, Reg Oswald, and Judi Oswald. Finally, much appreciation to Airport Manager Adam Hied, who provided coffee and donuts for breakfast and catered our lunch from Panera.

- Judi Oswald



Joyce Parker instructs a few of the members of the all-female chapter of Scouts of America at the Combat Air Museum.

NORTHEAST KANSAS

On January 18, Joyce Parker was a guest speaker at the Scouts of America Aviation Merit Badge class held at the Combat Air Museum at Topeka Regional Airport (KFOE), sponsored by Kevin Drewelow, Museum Director. Seven girls from the all-female chapter of Scouts of America from Bonner Springs, Kansas, were in attendance along with three parents. Joyce shared her military and aviation stories with the girls, encouraged them in their future aviation pursuits, and answered a myriad of questions from girls and parents alike. Joyce also had the privilege to give an instructive session to a few of the girls on the museum's flight simulator.

- Sara Tompson



Our newest Life Members

Carol Kerner
Greater St. Louis Chapter

Toni Marina
Keystone Chapter

Martha Matthews
Iowa Chapter

Dianne Rosenberg
Spaceport Chapter

Tania Shaum
Indiana Dunes Chapter

Joanna Bergey Shisler
Keystone Chapter

Phyllis Wells
Pikes Peak Chapter



Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

Rhonda Ashby
Southaven, MS

Cortlan Bainbridge
Des Moines, IA

Col. Brennan Callan
Louisville, KY

Sarah Pagano
Midland, MI

Andre Paquet
Donnacona, Quebec

Donna Remillard
Kankakee, IL

Genevieve Rosenbalm-Bainbridge
Des Moines, IA

Emmanuel Colon Toledo
Las Vegas, NV



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.

Charles John Kamphausen Jr
49½ of
Cecelia Stratford
Ventura County
Chapter
November 1, 2024

Barbara Manson
Fort Worth Chapter
November 19, 2024

Constance Breien
Monterey Bay
Chapter
December 5, 2024

Rebecca Burghy
Intermountain
Chapter
December 6, 2024

Margaret Brennan-Maxey
Mount Shasta
Chapter
December 7, 2024

Jody McCarrell
Past President
Oklahoma Chapter
December 12, 2024

Dr. James Kimball
49½ of
Mary Ellen Kimball
Iowa Chapter
December 17, 2024

Mary Ellen Kimball
Iowa Chapter
December 20, 2024

Anne Baddour
Life Member
Eastern New
England Chapter
January 12, 2025

Dorothy Plummer
Delaware Chapter
January 12, 2025

Sue Ehrlander
Atlantic Chapter
January 9, 2025

Cecile Hatfield
Life Member
Florida Goldcoast
January 19, 2025

Iris Cummings Critchell
Life Member
Long Beach Chapter
January 24, 2025

Lois Watson
Life Member
Treasure Coast
Chapter
January 25, 2025



THE NINETY-NINES 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 9-13, 2025 | BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Hosted by the New England Section



JOIN US!

July 9 – 13, 2025

HOTEL CHAMPLAIN BURLINGTON
Curio Collection by Hilton



SNEAK PREVIEW – You will not want to miss the International Conference Opening Keynote on Thursday, July 10 at 8 a.m. **USAF Colonel Laura Caputo**, Commander of the 158th Maintenance Group for the National Guard's F-35 Fighter Jets, will present "Crushing Goals with Mentorship and Grit."

Registration is OPEN - the link is 99sconference.org



The Ninety-Nines Membership Benefits

Give back with every purchase

We are offering members of The Ninety-Nines and Friends of The 99s \$100 off the Lightspeed Delta Zulu. Use promo code **99s100**.



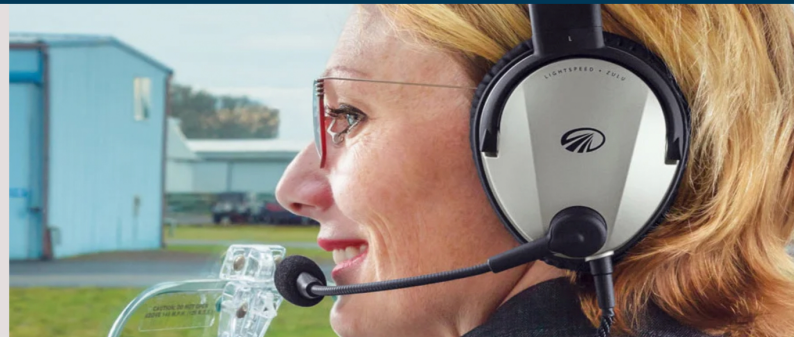
When you purchase a Lightspeed Delta Zulu or Zulu 3 ANR headset through the link below, Lightspeed will donate 10% of your headset purchase to the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund. Your investment in top-tier aviation gear also helps fund the dreams of aspiring female pilots—it's a win-win for you, the Ninety-Nines and the future of flight!

<https://go.lightspeedaviation.com/ninety-nines>

Exciting News for Ninety-Nines Members!

Ninety-Nines Quarterly Drawing

Enter to WIN a Lightspeed Delta Zulu ANR headset each quarter!



Lightspeed is thrilled to partner with The Ninety-Nines for an exclusive quarterly giveaway of our cutting-edge Lightspeed Delta Zulu headset! Every three months, we'll randomly select one lucky Ninety-Nines member to receive a free headset—just for filling out a simple entry form!

- You must be a current Ninety-Nines member to participate.
- Fill out the entry form. The link is available in the February 2025 Straight & Level e-newsletter in the Members Area at www.ninety-nines.org

Our first winner will be announced at Sun 'n Fun 2025, but you don't need to be present to win!