

THE SOUTHWESTERLY

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Southwest Section of the Ninety-Nines

Arizona - California - Hawaii - Nevada - Utah

FALL 2026

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

As the host Section, it was such a pleasure to welcome so many members of our section and our first-time attendees to the International Conference in San Diego this year! I had the chance to connect with many of you and also meet the new International Board. Overall, the conference was a resounding success, with lots of positive comments about the location and speakers. The San Diego Chapter did an outstanding job, and everyone agreed that the conference attendees had a fantastic time and found it to be a truly valuable experience. A huge thank you to the San Diego Chapter and the chapters who hosted the Hospitality Suite!

I'm now in my second month as Governor, and we have a list of tasks lined up that I will share with you at our next Section meeting. I'm really looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Section meeting in Las Vegas, from September 25th to 27th, at the Palace Station Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you haven't already, please register on our website at SWS99s.org under Events.

The Board and I are eager to hear your questions, thoughts, and ideas. Please email me at governor@sws99s.org.

Luz Schaible



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sept 25-27, 2026
Fall Section Meeting
Las Vegas, NV
Host: Las Vegas Chapter
[Conference link](#)

January 27, 2027
Winter Workshop
San Carlos, CA
Host: Santa Clara Valley
Chapter

Section Officers 2026- 2028

Governor:

Luz Schaible - Ventura County

Vice-Governor:

Stephanie Corbell - Ventura County

Secretary:

Claudia Maciel – Monterey Bay

Treasurer:

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Samantha Resop - Phoenix

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Samarra Dalrymple - Fullerton

Nominating Committee:

Donna Harman - Mt. Shasta
Tee Frisby - San Diego
Laura Del Favero - Santa Clara Valley
Mary McMahon - Coyote Country

The Southwesterly

Editor

Laura Del Favero

Santa Clara Valley

southwesterly@sws99s.org

Editorial Policy:

The Southwesterly is the official publication of the Southwest Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., a non-profit organization (IRS code 501(c)(3)).

Neither the editor, the Southwest Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc., nor its board of directors is responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any content in this publication. The opinions expressed in the articles presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and shall not be construed as representing the policies or opinions of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.

Southwest Section Committee Chairmen and Board Liaisons 2026-2028

Flying Activities:

Airmarking
CWAA
Young Eagles
Flying Activities

Ilse Hipfel, San Gabriel Valley
OPEN
OPEN
Pat Gregory, Santa Clara Valley

Education & Chapter Development:

Air & Space Education
Fundraising
Membership

Sue Kerr, Mt. Shasta
Susan Liebeler, Ventura County
Claudia Maciel, Monterey Bay
Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley

Communication:

Southwesterly Editor
Social Media/PR

Laura Del Favero, Santa Clara Valley
Stephanie Corbell, Ventura County
Kelsey Webb, Bay Cities
Jeanne Fenimore, San Fernando Valley
Susan Tilley, Santa Clara Valley
Maki Honda, Santa Clara Valley
OPEN
OPEN
Mary McDonald, Bay Cities

SWS Webmaster- Interim
SWS Web Team
SWS Web Team
SWS Web Team
SWS Website Advisor

Awards:

Awards Chairman
AE Scholarship

Linda Mae Hivert, Reno Area
Lori Parker, Sedona Red Rockettes
Ceci Stratford, Ventura County
Wendy O'Malley, Bay Cities
Dot Norkus, San Diego
Marcie Smith, Santa Clara Valley

Other Scholarships
WPOY

Pilot Careers:

OPEN

History:

Historian /Scrapbook
Oral History

Natalie Hurrell, Las Vegas
Pat Chan, Bay Cities
OPEN
OPEN

Forest of Friendship

Administrative:

Tax Compliance
Bylaws

Barbara Crooker, Mt. Shasta
OPEN

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SWS MEMBER MILESTONES



Bridgett Higgins, Monterey Bay - Commercial
Cherie Scalzi, Sacramento Valley - Private
Dawn Bender, Orange County - Airline Dispatcher Cert.
Jazmin Brookes, Private - Orange County
Krista Williams, Reno Area - Private
Naphtael Jean-Charles, Orange County - First Solo



Doreen Joseph, Sacramento Valley - Private



Amber Hartenstine, Antelope Valley - Private



Ciara Alvarez, Sacramento Valley - Private

Please send flying accomplishments with optional picture to
southwesterly@sws99s.org.

SEPT
25-27

2026 Fall SW Section Meeting

Join us September 24-27, 2026, at Palace Station Hotel & Casino for a weekend of camaraderie, aviation, and Southwest Section fun. If you've been thinking about attending, now is the time to make it official:

[Register for the Section Meeting:](#)

<https://conferences.sws99s.org/events/2026-fall/>

Be sure to complete your registration by August 25 before regular registration closes.

OCT 1

Student Pilots - The application deadline for the Fall First Wings Award is October 1

[Award descriptions and application instructions](#)

OCT 15

990-N tax forms due October 15

Instructions for filing the IRS Non-Profit Form 990-N are available on the International website in the members-only section.

You will need to log in to view these detailed instructions:

<https://members.ninety-nines.org/members/?fuseaction=Library&ViewID=115>

JAN 1

Amelia Earhart Scholarship applications are due January 1

Applications and instruments are in the members-only section of the website. Find them here

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/amelia-earhart-scholarships-awards.htm>

SOUTHWEST SECTION ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

By Pat Chan, Bay Cities Chapter

The Ninety-Nines (99s) Oral History Program began with a donation from 99s Past President Geraldine Mickelsen, Sacramento Chapter and the work of Oral Historian Judy Logue, Wyoming Chapter. The Southwest Section (SWS) Oral History Program evolved from The Ninety-Nines Oral History Program in 1988.

Judy Logue became the 99s Oral Historian in 1987. Her first recordings were interviews of twenty-six 99s charter members. Then she interviewed early women pilots, Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) women pilots and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS).

To expand the program throughout the 99s, Judy organized the Oral History Seminar that was held on August 7-8, 1988 in Oklahoma City, OK. To make it convenient for attendees the seminar was scheduled to take place just before the 99s International Conference at Shangri-La, OK.

Pat Chan attended Judy Logue's Oral History Seminar. Soon afterwards, Dorothy Robinson and Pat Chan became Oral Historians for the 99s Inc. and the Southwest Section. Their collection, of about 170 oral histories, were recorded from 1988 to 2017.

Initially the "99s Oral History Guidelines, 1984" was referenced to conduct the interviews. As times changed the process changed. Interviewees were asked to bring memorabilia to their interview sessions. Sometimes conversations between two or more people were recorded. No time limits were established to allow for their stories to be told.

Before recordings began, copyright agreements were signed by the interviewers and interviewees. Everyone agreed to transfer ownership of the oral histories to The Ninety- Nines, Inc.

The interviews were mostly recorded within the Southwest Section. Recordings were made in living rooms, airport lobbies, airplane hangars, conference rooms and anywhere else that was workable.

In 1998, I was in Southern California to record oral histories. I had a rental car and a list of names and addresses of those who had agreed to be interviewed. Then there were times when a chapter would host recording sessions. One of those sessions was in 2015, when we gathered into Fran Bera's hangar at Gillespie Field, El Cajon, CA.

What people managed to do in their lives, for the love of aviation, was pretty amazing. Just to fly was far more than what most people could do. Whether it be in private or commercial aviation, the sky was the same for everyone.

There were so many stories either to be in awe of or to celebrate everyday lives. **One 99 set out to break 1,000 aviation records.** She was disappointed because she was only able to break over 600 aviation records. **Another 99 was competing in an air race when she heard distress calls**

SOUTHWEST SECTION ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM, CONTINUED

from a new racer. Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) could not hear the distress calls, so the 99 held back from the race to relay calls between the racer having problems and ARTCC.

Can you imagine, during World War II times, being a Chinese 99 flying a C140 home after a section meeting? Then having to make an unscheduled landing at a Southern California military air base. Well, it happened. She said she was greeted by someone with a gun, who escorted her to a room. She was very nervous and spoke with a Chinese accent. She thought he was going to shoot her. Someone asked if she knew Amelia Earhart. She said yes and named other 99s. They smiled, gave her fuel for her C140 so she could fly home.

To be born a member of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma in 1936, would you have thought that you would move to California and become a flight attendant for Trans World Airways (TWA)? But you wouldn't stop there. You had to be a pilot, flight instructor, Powder Puff Derby air racer, hot air balloon pilot and be a founding member of the Orange County Chapter of the 99s.

How about being **a 99 who coordinated the aviation department of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA.** In 1941, you were named the "Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year". With two others, you founded the Women's Professional Golf Association in 1944. You were a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA). In 1952, you were hired as a golf consultant for the movie "Pat and Mike", starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. You continued flying to win the 1963 All Women Transcontinental Air Race.

Those were stories from Marie McMillian, Joan Steinberger, Katherine Cheung, Madine Pulaski, and Betty Hicks.

When Dorothy Robinson died in 2021, at her bequest, her set of oral history recordings was delivered to the 99s Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City, OK.

Now the goal is to transcribe and then edit each oral history into small introductory videos that can be made available through a website.

Further information about the 99s Oral History Program can be found in the following 99 News magazines:

1. The 99 News, January 1987, "The Oral History Program", Judy Logue, page 10
2. The 99 News, January 1988, "President's Message, Visions", Barbara Sestito, page 4
3. The 99 News, January 1988, "Oral History Program In Place", Gene Nora Jessen, page 10
4. The 99 News, January 1988, "International Board of Directors Report - Fall Meeting", Joyce Wells, page 15
5. The 99 News, February 1988, Calendar of Business Meetings, August, Judy Logue, page 3

PRESIDENT'S

Message

Visions

During this Holiday Season I would like to share with you some recent thoughts and images I have had.

The members of the International Board met in Oklahoma City this November. As my plane touched down at Will Rogers Airport, I looked in the direction of our Headquarters Building, as I usually do. The sight astounded me. Standing next to our 1-story building was a magnificent 2-story building. It was really there, almost completed, waiting for everlasting records and evidence that we are what we say we are: The Ninety-Nines, International Women Pilots.

The closer I got to the building, the more I realized what a fete we had accomplished. We had started a project and brought it to successful completion within 3½ years. The project was completely funded before we started construction — something you should be very proud of. As I toured the not quite completed structure, I had fun visualizing in my mind the things that would occupy each area.

The entry that will contain the Wall of Wings — the tribute to those that gave so much to this project. The office space so badly needed by our staff. The membership records area — the hub of our very existence. The Resource Center — at last — a proper place for our precious historical information and items. Contained in the Resource Center is the Archives Room. This room is equipped with air conditioning, lighting, humidity and fire



extinguishing systems to protect our records and documents. It was built to conform to the latest standards for archival areas. I have looked around our present facility and have seen boxes of things, stored as best we can, and now know their wait is over. We now have room for this and much, much more. I hope every Ninety-Nine knows and understands your information and documents and items of memorabilia are wanted and appreciated.

The library and research area — we have over 400 books — many signed, first editions. The Jerry Cobb collection contains 25 volumes, mostly signed first editions personalized to her. Also in this area will be the Gerry Mickelson Oral History Program. This is a state-of-the-art collection of Oral Histories prepared by Judy Logue. Funded by the vision and generosity of Gerry, this collection, of video and oral tapes of many of our members of longstanding, is completely indexed and retrievable. A researcher's dream . . .

This issue marks the last issue for Editor, Mary Fletcher.

Mary is now Governor of the Southeast Section and has a full-time position as Production Manager for the ST. PETERSBURG TIMES. Mary was instrumental in many changes and innovations in THE 99 NEWS since October, 1986. She singlehandedly produced the monthly issues of the NEWS. Production of the February issue will commence the editorship of Robyn Sclair. Robyn's family has been involved in the publication business for many years and currently own the WESTERN FLYER. Robyn has been a contributing editor as well as co-owner of that publication. She has an extensive background in writing and editing and will be a great asset to THE 99 NEWS.

The conference area will enable our Board to function without interrupting the office staff. This area is also used for meetings, and the AEMSF Trustees when they meet. As I continued my tour I looked at all the wonderful areas to be used to display our things. Since most of our AE memorabilia will be displayed in Atchinson, much of our space will be devoted to our other members: by career, by project, by event, by accomplishment, by historical significance — the ways are endless. What fun it would be to see a display of women airline pilots, or see an area devoted to the premiere woman pilot in each of our member countries.

I had to stop. I still had another floor to tour. The second floor was added to our building in rough form, because it was economical to do so now. It was not meant to be completed at this time. But it is there, for you, when the time comes — awaiting your visions and your imagination.

Throughout the world, the Holiday Season means many things to many people. It is a time for caring and sharing, no matter what your personal religion or beliefs. From our house to yours, I wish you joy, happiness, world peace and forever blue skies.

Barbara Sestito, President

Oral History Program In Place

by Gene Nora Jessen

Due to the generosity of Past President Geraldine Mickelsen and the perseverance of Historian Judy Logue The Ninety-Nines Resource Center's Oral History Program is now in place and available to researchers in Oklahoma City.

Geraldine Mickelsen has funded two phases of the program including extensive recording and viewing equipment. Actually, "oral history" is almost a misnomer since the majority of the histories now include video.

The track record on oral history programs in museums is not a proud one. Most start with great intentions and the oral histories are gathered and then filed. They are almost inaccessible to researchers since they are not indexed and researchers have little interest in plowing through an entire interview not knowing what the subject matter might be. What has made The Ninety-Nines' program state-of-the-art is that

the hundreds of hours of interviews have been transcribed in a key-word-summary. For example, if a researcher desired information on the 1929 air races she could ask the computer for that subject and she would be provided with the names of the oral histories containing information on the 1929 air races and the exact spot in the oral/video history where the reference could be found. Browsing through the oral histories is addictive.

Our historian Judy Logue conceived the program, researched and selected the equipment, conducted most of the histories herself and supervised their transcriptions. Judy is like a kid in a candy store (or maybe a 99 in an airplane store) when she talks of the people she's been privileged to meet as she recorded them for history. The first phase of her program was to interview all of the remaining twenty-six charter 99s. She then moved on to other early women pilots and ATA women

and WASPS. Along the way she's interviewed contemporary women of note.

One immediate goal is to secure long-term funding to continue what has been so successfully launched. In the meantime Judy is planning an oral history seminar to be held in conjunction with our 1988 convention. It is hoped that each section will be represented at the seminar so that regional people can conduct interviews. There's been a large frustration factor due to awareness of the numbers of people who should be interviewed along with a lack of funding and time to get to them all. Regional oral history specialists can make a contribution in preserving the stories of women of note in their area — while at the same time reaping the inspiration of these contacts. ■



3RD SEMI-ANNUAL P-51

POKER NIGHT



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
★ 5 – 10PM ★



ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO THE 99S
AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

SONOMA JET CENTER
REDWOOD HANGAR
6000 FLIGHTLINE DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA



SANTAROSA99S.ORG/POKERNIGHT2026/



CHAPTER NEWS

Fullerton Chapter

During the last few months, the Fullerton Chapter members have enjoyed several fly-ins and events, which included a Tour of Lyons Air Museum at Orange County Airport; a tour of the Coast Guard Air Station in San Diego; a Poker Run hosted by the Rio Colorado Chapter; a fly-in weekend to Paso Robles; an Aerobatic demo flight by "Art of Flight" at French Valley Airport (F70) for anyone who wanted to try this sport; the Winter Workshop hosted by the Palomar Chapter; and the Spring Southwest Section Meeting in La Quinta, where our Chapter received a 2nd-place Airmarking award. Other events included: The Fullerton Airport Day where our chapter provided airplane rides in support of our scholarship fund. The rides were so popular the line had to be cut off due to the airport getting ready to end the days event; and an Installation ceremony held at Doheny State Beach at the end of June to install officers for the next term. After the ceremony, Madona Ray, our chairman, offered surfing lessons to anyone who wanted to try it. Congratulations to the Incoming Board and to those who tried surfing for the first time. "What fun!"



Lyons Air Museum at Orange County Airport for a docent led tour



Fly-In to Montgomery Field for a Tour of Coast Guard Air Station San Diego



Fly-In to Lake Havasu for the Rio Colorado Chapter Poker Run



Fly-In to Paso Robles. (Pictured are Nathaly, Lia, Cameron, Denise)



Fly-In to French Valley Airport (F70) for an Aerobatic Demo Flight



Southwest Section Winter Workshop (three members from Fullerton Chapter attended)



Southwest Section Meeting in La Quinta. Pictured are Kim Ernst, Cameron La Font, Madona Ray, Ilse Hipfel presenting the 2nd Place Airmarking Award



Fullerton Chapter Installation of Officers at Doheny State Beach. Pictured are: Keeli, Lauren (LA Chapter) Cheri, Dana, Cameron, Aly, Jamie, Yolanda (LA Chapter). Madona, Sabrina, and Kim E.



Surfer Girls are: Sabrina, Madona, Lauren



Fullerton Airport Airplane Rides by Fullerton Chapter. Proceeds to support our scholarship fund.



Donna Gale Crane-Bailey

Monterey BayChapter

Donna Gale Crane-Bailey, 84, of Aptos, California, passed away after a long struggle with cancer on July 20, 2026. She was born on November 14, 1941, in Bend, Oregon. Her parents, Margret Crane and Steven Crane passed some time ago.

Donna pursued a variety of occupations, including insurance underwriter, psychometrician, special program evaluator, writing evaluator, magazine editing, paté business owner, and performance-based assessment scoring contractor. The latter business included travel over the entire state of California, a venture made much more convenient and enjoyable through aviation.

“... The last of life for which the first was made” best describes her love affair with aviation. After a brief flirtation with flying in her early twenties, she finally surrendered to its lure and took to the air in her fifth decade.

Donna was an instrument rated private pilot who called Watsonville, California her home base. Flying since 1989, she accumulated over 2000 hours of flight time. Upon completing her ratings, she quickly moved up to the 1961 Cessna 210 that she and her husband flew frequently. Not stopping there, she also enjoyed experiencing flight in other aircraft ranging from Piper Cubs to Citations.

She was very active in the local aviation community, developed the first noise abatement brochure for the Watsonville Airport and was a member of the Airport Advisory Committee for the City of Watsonville for many years. In 1999 she was a member of a group of people who took over the Watsonville Air Show and Fly In when it was abandoned by the previous sponsors and remained on its Board of Directors for several years. She was passionately involved with efforts to keep the community aware of the value of the airport and to counteract efforts to close the only remaining airport in Santa Cruz County by speaking at city council meetings, on the air and to various community groups.

Shortly after she obtained her pilot certificate, she joined The Ninety-Nines, an international women pilot's organization founded by Amelia Earhart, and has actively participated in the organization and its mission to promote aviation. She has been Chairman of the Monterey Bay Chapter, Vice-Governor and Governor of the Southwest Section, Chairman of the International Publications Committee and an elected member of the International Nominating Committee.

Through her involvement with the Monterey Bay Chapter, she taught aviation-related classes to homeless children, Girl Scouts, 4-H and at Flying Companion Seminars. She introduced children and adults to the wonders of flying during many chapter events and was able to share her love of flight with handicapped passengers as well.

She had many aviation adventures including flights throughout the western United States and Canada. She flew to Alaska and northern Canada several times via both routes through Canada-- the Alaska Highway and the Trench. It was after one of these trips that she and another 99s member applied for and received an Amelia Earhart Research Scholarship Grant to learn more about the history of women bush pilots of Alaska.

Besides flying to Alaska for fun, she enjoyed air racing and participated in the Great Pumpkin Classic and Palms to Pines air races. She loved to take people who have never flown, show them what it's like and create an interest in flying.

NEW HORIZONS

Donna Gale Crane-Bailey

Monterey Bay Chapter

The love of aviation was deeply embedded in Donna and she devoted the best years of her life to advancing it. In 2007 she was honored for her contributions to aviation as an inductee to the International Forest of Friendship, a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace.

Donna is survived by her husband Delbert D. Bailey, her daughter Megan Bailey-Jacques, stepson Tristan Bailey and her grandchildren Abigale Jacques, Emma Jacques and Nicholas Jacques and her brothers Steven Crane and Douglas Crane, and her nieces Dawn Lilly, Teresa Atkins, Sarah DeDonato and nephews Jason Davidson, Ian Crane and ten grand nieces and nephews. Her sister Candice Davidson passed some time ago.



Shirley McFall

Orange County Chapter

Shirley joined The Ninety-Nines and the Orange County Chapter on December 10, 1990, and many of us had the opportunity to get to know her. Shirley's personality was larger than life, and she was a constant presence at our Ninety-Nines events. She will be greatly missed.

Here is a link to her memorial pages that the Orange County 99s put together:
<https://oc99s.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Shirley-Mc-Fall-Special-Edition-In-Loving-Memory.pdf>



Lois Brown

Lake Tahoe Chapter

Lois Brown charter member of the Lake Tahoe Chapter passed Friday, July 30, 2026 in Reno, Nevada at the age of 91. She was inducted into the Forest of Friendship in 2002 along with her husband.

**The Santa Clara Valley Chapter invites you to
the 2027 Southwest Section Winter Workshop on Saturday, January 30, 2027**

The workshop will be held at the Skyway
Center at the San Carlos Airport (SQL).

More information and registration information
will be available soon.



Upcoming SWS and International Meetings



Date	Meeting	Host/Location
Sept 25-27, 2026	2026 Fall SWS Meeting	Host: Las Vegas Chapter Location: Las Vegas, NV Registration link
January 30, 2027	2027 SWS Winter Workshop	Host: Santa Clara Valley Chapter Location: San Carlos, CA
April 2-4, 2027	2027 Spring SWS Meeting	Hosts: Marin County & Santa Rosa Chapters Location: Petaluma, CA
Sept 10-11, 2027	2027 International Conference	Location: Sydney, Australia



OUR MISSION — THE NINETY-NINES® INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS® PROMOTES ADVANCEMENT OF AVIATION THROUGH EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MUTUAL SUPPORT WHILE HONORING OUR UNIQUE HISTORY AND SHARING OUR PASSION FOR FLIGHT.



SOUTHWESTERLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Feb 20 submissions due for the Spring issue
May 20 submissions due for the Summer issue
Aug 20 submissions due for the Fall issue
Nov 20 submissions due for the Winter issue

This newsletter is a publication of the Southwest Section of the Ninety-Nines.
Forward submissions and photos to be included in the upcoming newsletter to
southwesterly@sws99s.org

Editor
Laura Del Favero
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

