

# Spaceport 99s

Judi Oswald, Chair

Marcelaine Winger Lewis, Co-Chair

Sandy Parks, Secretary

Bobbi Lasher, Scholarship Chair

TBD, Webmaster

Donna Wilt, Treasurer

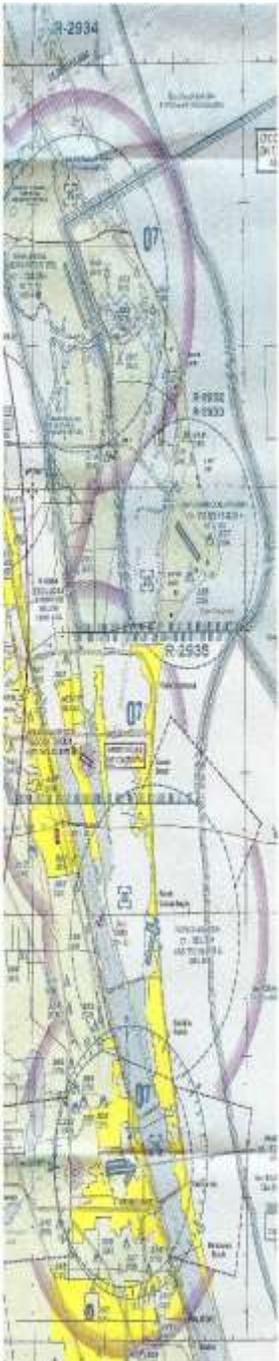
TBD, Membership Chair

Ellie Hoffman, Safety Officer

Mary Anne Demmer, Education Officer

[www.spaceport99s.org](http://www.spaceport99s.org)

*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.*



## 2024

### Future Meetings:

**April: No meeting so that we can enjoy Sun N Fun**

**May 11.** Pat Ohlsson has generously invited us back to her hangar on the Spruce Creek Airport for our May meeting. We will meet there at 10am for our meeting and lunch of pizza afterward. Our speaker will be Dr. Leo Murphy, Embry-Riddle professor, who will acquaint us with our 1<sup>st</sup> President of the Ninety-Nines, Amelia Earhart. You won't want to miss this. We will also be inviting the members of the Daytona Chapter to join us. A reminder and travel directions will be emailed to you in early May.

**June :** This will be our annual meeting and installation of officers for next year. We will meet at a local restaurant for lunch. All details will be sent to you in late May.

Our current officers, Judi Oswald, Chair; Marcelaine Winger, vice chair; Sandy Parks, Secretary; and Donna Wilt, Treasurer have all agreed to serve for another year. The Spaceport Chapter is in good hands!

**The Spaceport Chapter needs a Membership Chairman.** Can you fill this important role in our chapter? You do not need to be present at all the meetings for this important job. If new members do not feel welcome, we will never see them at a meeting. Here's what the job entails: Welcome, by email or phone, new members who have joined the chapter, names and contact info are provided by 99s HQ.

After each meeting, send an email to visitors who attended. Their info is collected on the sign-in sheet and can be sent to you if you were unable to attend.

Contact members who have forgotten to pay their International dues to remind them that dues are due

If you are willing to do this important job for our chapter, please contact Judi Oswald, Chair, at (321) 872-5621, or [oswaldrj@gmail.com](mailto:oswaldrj@gmail.com). Thanks!

## **Exciting News:**

### **Sandy Parks wrote:**

After a hiatus from book releases, I'm excited to reveal that I have a new website and a book as of March 15th. If you like adventure thrillers, where the ordinary world hides not so ordinary life, this story mixes mystery, technology, and a touch of romance.

A woman who doesn't die.

A human who isn't easy to kill.

A man who murders for power.

Dr. Mona Signoretti has the rare ability to shield her Infinitas life energy from others, making her appear human. She uses that talent by going undercover for a special FBI unit to investigate one of her species suspected of developing a deadly toxin to gain power in the human world. If she fails, not only are humans at risk, but also is the mission to save her race from destruction. When her role is discovered and her life-sustaining energy threatened, an all-too-human agent, Grant Thornton, is assigned to keep her alive—not an easy task in a world where enemies refuse to die.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> book in a series. It is suggested you read the books in order; To Die Again, To Kill Again and the newest To Conspire Again

All the above are available at Apple Books, Amazon, KOBO, and Barnes & Noble. You can find the links on my website and check it out at the same time! <https://sandyparks.com/Thrillers.html>

## **More exciting news:**

Many, many thanks to **Sandy Michelson**, for her very generous donation to the Spaceport Chapter scholarship fund. She has been a special friend to the Spaceport 99s for many years. Sandy is President of the Zonta Chapter of Melbourne. Sandy was recently honored by EveryThing-Brevard.com with the Legacy Leadership Award. The Spaceport 99s are truly blessed to have Sandy in our circle of friends.

## **Scholarships:**

**Spaceport Chapter:** This scholarship is for a woman pilot residing in the SE Section of the 99s to work toward an advanced rating. The award is \$2000. Deadline for applying is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The application is posted on our website, [www.spaceport99s.org/scholarships](http://www.spaceport99s.org/scholarships). If you know a woman pilot who is working on an advanced rating, pass this info along to her. She does not need to be a 99. The process and forms for applying have been updated and modernized. New, younger blood has taken over the controls. Check out the above link to see the results of their hard work. Thank you, Sandy Parks, Donna Wilt and Leonia Hunt for taking on this important job.

## **Other interesting Stuff:**

Over the last several years, 99s sponsor, SiriusXMAviation, has run a series of **weather webinars for pilots** but is aware that many questions deserve more attention. To help answer those questions, they're starting the '**Ask a Meteorologist**' webinar series. Dr. Scott Dennstaedt (CFI and former NWS meteorologist) will host the webinars and has started soliciting questions for the first webinar.

The webinar is on **May 8th at 7:00 PM EDT**, and pilots can register at [www.siriusxm.com/aviationwebinars](http://www.siriusxm.com/aviationwebinars).

**Please help by sending your weather-related questions and submitting them to [aviation.webinars@siriusxm.com](mailto:aviation.webinars@siriusxm.com).**

## **Member News:**

**Welcome:** to the following gals who have joined our chapter in the past six months:

Louisa Awesome, Ashley Erdogan, Patricia Gabriel, Eden Paulsgrove, Jodie Lyons, Amanda Patel, Grace Yoo, Jenna Elwood, Anastasia Semenov, Carrie Thompson, Monica Malveaux-Blasi, Jiyoung Kong and Elizabeth Hall.

We are happy to have you as members of the Spaceport chapter, and we are looking forward to meeting you. Our website is [www.spaceport99s.org](http://www.spaceport99s.org), please take a look at it to learn more about us.

**Mary Anne Demmer** had some scary health problems, but is now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Her email address is [mdemmer@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mdemmer@cfl.rr.com) , she will be happy to hear from you.

**February 2024 meeting recap:** On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ninety-Nines were the guests of the Melbourne-Orlando Airport Authority. A total of 17 Ninety-Nines, representing 6 chapters in Florida and 12 guests attended. Stephanie Betts from the Airport Authority was our tour guide. A chartered bus took us Backstage (inside the fence) of the airport. We were driven all over the airport, viewing new construction, and long established businesses. We learned about new projects which will be coming soon. The guests saw several planes landing and taking off from the runways. While the bus crossed an active run way, two small planes were stopped to make way for the bus. At the Airport Fire Station, we got off the bus to have a close up look at the sophisticated equipment used to battle aircraft fires. One of our group even got to ride in one of the trucks. We also met the fire fighters, who were proud to show off their trucks. From there we went to the Control Tower, where everyone was able to go into the tower cab and get a bird's eye view of the airport and surrounding area. Our final stop was the terminal where we were treated to a delicious buffet lunch in the Premium Lounge. Everyone was given a "goodie" bag from the Airport Authority. Thanks a million to Stephanie and the Airport Authority for this fantastic day!



Ninety-Nines and guests who had been Backstage at the Airport.

**Spaceport new fund raiser:**

Have you gotten your Challenge Coin(s) yet? If not, what are you waiting for? In case you missed it, here is the info about the coins and how to get one or more of your very own. The coins are even more elegant looking in person than in the pictures below.

FRONT



BACK



*The Spaceport 99s Chapter has designed and will be selling 99s Challenge coins, as shown in the picture. They are 1.75 inches in diameter, and cost \$15 each plus \$5 if they need to be shipped to you. All profits from the sale of these coins will be applied to our scholarship fund, which helps female pilots to reach their goal of becoming a professional pilot.*

*You can purchase one or more of these coins on our website, [www.spaceport99s.org/challenge-coins](http://www.spaceport99s.org/challenge-coins) or in person at a meeting*

For more information contact Judi at [Judi@spaceport99s.org](mailto:Judi@spaceport99s.org)  
Thank you, Marcelaine, for this fantastic idea!

### **Some interesting background information:**

The Chapter Scholarship is named for Mary Jeohrendt Blackwell and Anne Walker, early members of the Spaceport Chapter.

This is a summary of Mary's Aviation life, for those of you who did not know her.

Mary Blackwell Joehrendt was a flight instructor in Orlando, and was an active and supportive member of the Spaceport chapter. She served as the second chairman of the Chapter. She held a Master's Degree in education from the University of Maryland.

She held Single/Multi Engine, Land/Seaplane, GFI and ATP ratings. She was a CFII and Multi-Engine Examiner and the first person to be a MU2 (Mooney/Mitsubishi prop-jet) examiner in the USA.

She instructed and conducted Flight Tests from the Orlando Executive Airport. The "MARYB" approach fix on the Runway 25 Localizer was named in memory of Mary.

She conducted the first Safety Seminars in Orlando and was highly regarded by the FAA and the area GADO (now FSDO).

She was named "INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR" in May 1973 by the area GADO.

She was especially interested in promoting Aviation Careers for young women – regardless of affiliation.

Mary generously donated her knowledge and time to instruct and encourage the Spaceport Chapter members to work for higher ratings and to be safe pilots. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Mary was killed in September, 1973, while conducting a Multi-Engine flight test in a Beech Baron. The student died of a massive heart attack and fell against the controls. The plane crashed when Mary was unable to pull him away from the controls.

The Chapter wanted to do something to honor the memory of Mary, thus the scholarship was started in 1974. Anne Walker was also an active and supportive member of the Chapter. She served in all chapter offices. She was from Vero Beach, her sister Lavina Taber was also a member of the Spaceport 99s. Anne passed away in 1975

The following message was received recently and will add more knowledge about Mary.

*My name is Ashley McGuigan and, while I am not emailing in inquiry of the scholarship application per se, I have wanted to reach out for a number of years now with regards to Mary Blackwell Joehrendt. And I suppose to inquire if there is anyone still around who knew her, and Ed Joehrendt, who was my grandfather.*

*It's a round about connection, but I can tell what I know. My mother's maiden name was Judy Joehrendt. Her father was Ed Joehrendt. I always knew Mary Blackwell as Eds unmarried partner, but it seems to me they may have actually eventually married. My mom also very much cared for Mary from what I could gather. She was devastated after the accident - Mary was Eds second wife, and not my mother's mom. My mother passed away a few years ago, but I was told she inherited a pair of Mary's aviator sunglasses through Ed. Sunglasses that I now deeply treasure, and think about the history of whenever I wear them.*

*Anyways, my sister went on to work in the aviation/space industry coincidentally. She got her Masters at Embry-Riddle and now works for Blue Origin. I've encouraged her to apply for this scholarship but she doesn't have her private pilots license.*

*Like I said, I know this is a strange email to receive, but I thought it was worth making the connection. If there is anything to add to the story, or perhaps anyone who knew Mary and Ed, I'd love to be connected with them.*

*Thanks again,  
Ashley  
Ashley McGuigan, PhD*

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[ashleymcguigan.com](http://ashleymcguigan.com)

Bobbi sent Ashley the info above, and got the following answer.

*Thank you so much for this information. Mary sounds like an incredibly kind and community oriented person. I can see why my mother cared for her so much.*

*Please do let me know if your contact has any more to share. I appreciate the connection.*

*I should also clarify - my sister went to Embry Riddle, but it was remote and she now lives in DC. I had seen on one of the scholarship awards that NC was included in the geographic jurisdictions of the 99s and she used to live there as well. But it had slipped my mind that my sister no longer lived in NC when I wrote the original email. Regardless, I will forward to her your email and suggest to her there could be opportunity for outreach or other connection.*

*Thank you again,  
Ashley*

I thought that you might be interested in learning this additional info about one of the Spaceport pioneers.  
Bobbi