

Spaceport 99s

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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.

Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®, International Organization of Women Pilots®, are represented in all areas of aviation today. And, to quote Amelia, fly "for the fun of it!"

SPRING 2025

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

Holiday Party, January 11 This was a busy day for chapter members. Our Holiday Party was hosted by Sandy Parks. We started a little earlier in the day this year. After all guests arrived, we started the festivities with our gift exchange. All participants received very nice gifts. A total of 11 members and 1 guest attended.



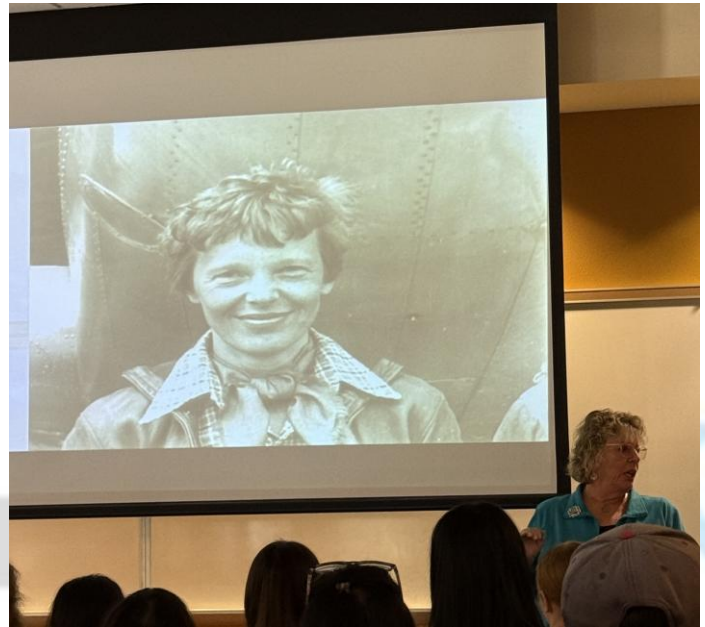
Then we all adjourned to the kitchen to fill our plates with a delicious dinner and dessert. Of course, there was a lot of hangar flying and good conversation also. Shortly thereafter, we joined in putting Sandy's kitchen back in order, well, almost in order.

By now, it was 1 pm and a handful of us had to leave. Our Chapter had been invited by the local Zonta chapter to join them in a program they were giving to local school girls who are enrolled in the STEM program. Zonta celebrates Amelia Earhart each year in January to commemorate Amelia's becoming the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to US mainland. The theme of the program was "Reaching New Heights, Women in Space". Nine special women, including our Ellie Hoffman, gave short presentations about Amelia, and how she influenced their lives or how Zonta helped them and influenced their lives.

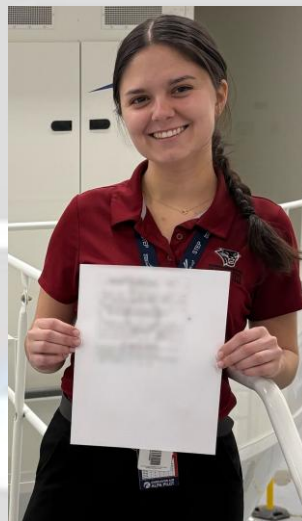
Ellie showed a short video "What is a 99" made by Robin Hadfield, then Ellie told about herself and how important being a 99 is to her. She opened up for questions from the girls and there were several very good ones, including "how did you learn about the 99s?" Ellie's answer, "I saw Bobbi Lasher's picture in the newspaper with the plane that she built." One of the Zontians said "I want to hear more about Bobbi building her plane". Bobbi stood and said, "I'm not the only one here who built a plane, Donna Wilt also built a plane. Bobbi and Donna each talked about their experience building a plane, each took a different path. We also told about Young Eagles Flights and Eagles flights given by the EAA chapters. I think the three of us made a big impression on the girls and the adults in the room.



Amelia enjoying her day at Zonta



Ellie talking about Amelia and the 99s



Jacqueline Figueredo the FIT female instructor that we recognized with the plague and \$250 award at the October meeting, earned her ATP and is now training with SkyWest.



Amber Brierly was the winner of our Spaceport scholarship in 2023. Here's her latest news.

"Super grateful to be able to receive not only my first Type-rating, but in one of my favorite jet airplanes. It's crazy to think that back in 2018, I was at an FBO in Toluca, Mexico - training for Signature when I first saw the Legacy 500 up close. Now, I'm sitting here with a PIC type officially attached to my pilot certificate.

I love my job! The team at Flight Safety are rockstars."

Compass Rose Painting, Feb. 18th

We had an excellent turnout for the compass rose painting.

We had people from 3 chapters:

1. Fort Pierce - Treasure Coast Chapter
2. Brevard county, Orlando, Sanford - Spaceport Chapter
3. Daytona, Leesburg - Daytona Chapter

Thanks to Naiara Petralanda who really knew what she was doing and kept us all organized.

I went back to see it on Sunday and it really looks good!



A Rose starts to take shape



Work in Progress



The finished Compass Rose at Valkaria Airport, February 18, 2025

Ellie Hoffman: had knee replacement on February 6th. She is doing Physical Therapy as prescribed and is doing well.

Sad news:

Dolores Vitullo passed away at home on February 17th. Dolores was our Chapter Chair 2004 – 2006.

Judy Tokar went to new horizons on December 9, 2024. Judy was a devoted 99 and allowed the Spaceport Chapter to meet in her hangar at Spruce Creek many, many times.

Upcoming events:

March 8th: Regular meeting at FIT Aviation, Melbourne Airport. Sandy Parks will tell us about how she researches for her aviation novels and, hopefully, when we can expect her next book to be released.

April 1-6, Sun-n-Fun, Lakeland, FL.

April 12th: NO Spaceport 99s meeting this month.

May 10th: Regular meeting at Spruce Creek Realty in Pat Ohlsson's hangar. Our very special speaker will be Dr. Leo Murphy, who will tell us about the Night Witches. If you've never heard of the Night Witches, these were Russian women who flew combat missions in World War One. You won't want to miss this presentation.

June 14th: Spaceport 99s Annual meeting, at a restaurant to be determined,

June 17 – 20: Air Race Classic.

Volunteering opportunity: The Spaceport Chapter needs a webmaster. Our webpage needs sprucing up and a new look. If you have any experience in this area, PLEASE volunteer. We need you!

Special news:

Blue Origin says its next spaceflight will make history.

With celebrities such as Katy Perry and Gayle King on board, the all-woman crew will journey into space when the New Shepard spacecraft takes off from the west Texas desert this spring. The company says it's the first all-woman flight since cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova's solo spaceflight in 1963.

On board will be: Aisha Bowe is an entrepreneur, former NASA rocket scientist and global STEM advocate. "Every step of my journey, from community college to NASA, entrepreneurship and now space, has been about showing that no dream is out of reach. Flying alongside these remarkable women, we are expanding the art of the possible," she said.

Kerianne Flynn has spent the last decade focused on nonprofit work and film production. In 2024, she produced the film "Lilly," telling the story of the activist whose Supreme Court case led to the passing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009.

Gayle King is a journalist and cohost of "CBS Mornings." She said, "To take on a new adventure at this point of my life is exciting to me."