

## May 2020 - News & Happenings



New England Section 99s

# Squawk

International Organization of Women Pilots

### Governor News



How time flies..... on the ground and in the air

It's been a privilege to serve as your Governor these past two years. The energy, enthusiasm, and competence of 99s Women Pilots always inspires me. Meeting 99s at the international level and from other parts of the country at the IBOD meetings in OKC has been a wonderful opportunity.

While in the throes of an unprecedented Pandemic, the 99s have shown their dedication and adaptability, meeting online informally and for our very first Virtual Section Meeting. Basically it went well (learning quickly how to proceed). Follow up on projects, member participation, scholarships and new officers is below.

At the Spring IBOD meeting I was asked to be a judge for the International Achievement and Merit Awards. With the 2020 International Conference cancelled, the winners will receive their awards in person next year along with the 2021 winners. Much to come (reinstated) which we missed this year.

Thank you all for your contributions, support and camaraderie these past few years and always. Congratulations to the New Officers!

At the close of our online Section Meeting, I opened a gift sent to me. A beautiful pillow, crafted by Sue Lin and assembled by Candie Oldham. Note the ENE in the proper place!

Thank you so very much.



I love the creativity and the thought!

**Blue Skies and Tailwinds!**

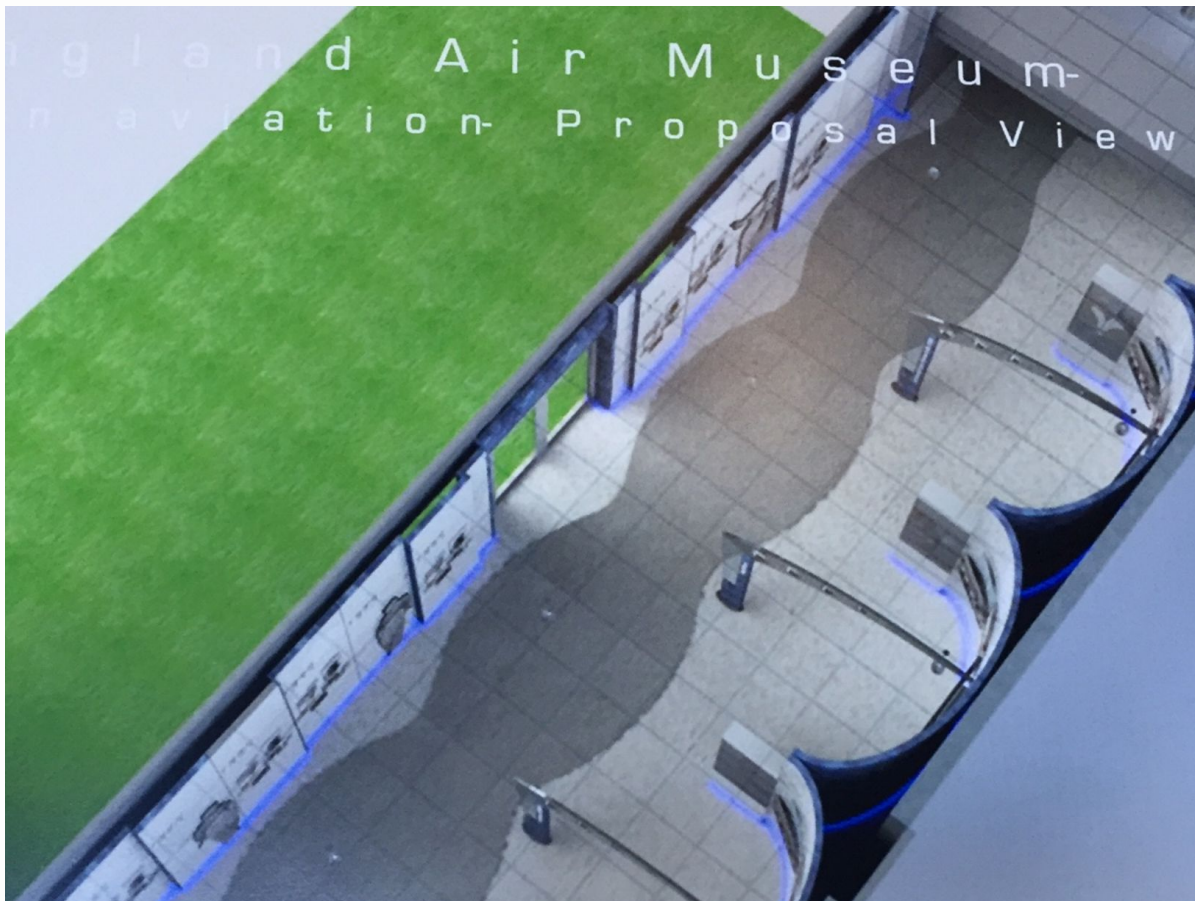
**Margot Cheel, (I.P.) New England Governor**

## Happenings

### New England Women in Aviation Exhibit - Update

by Ct 99s Peggy Loeffler

After many years of research and planning, "New England Women in Aviation", a permanent exhibit in the New England Air Museum (NEAM) in Windsor Locks, Ct, which will honor the many aviation achievements of New England women, will finally happen! Kathy Wadsworth (Ct 99), myself and the museum staff have come a very long way to meet the fundraising goal of \$150,000 to design, construct and install this comprehensive exhibit. To date we have raised almost \$95,000.



Soon there will exist, at NEAM, the largest aviation museum in New England, a permanent display which will include the story of the 99s along with the story of many other New England women who 'took to the skies' in one way or another. This will be the only exhibit of its kind and will recognize those women, from each New England state, who came before us and advanced the contribution of women in aviation history and industry.

Since the museum has been closed due to the pandemic, museum volunteers under the supervision of the designer/builder have taken advantage of the opportunity to begin site preparation without a disruption to the public. They have been removing existing ceiling material, installing electrical wiring and preparing the floor for carpeting. This will insure the safety of museum visitors who pass through the area when the museum reopens.





In 2006 when the project was in its early planning stages and the scope of the project was significantly less, a \$3000 contribution to the proposed exhibit was voted and approved by members at a New England Section meeting, with a restriction that the money be donated at the completion of the project. After a vote at the recent Zoom Section meeting on May 16, the restriction was removed to allow the money to be contributed at this time, instead of at project completion.



The \$3000 donation is appreciated, and now there is more opportunity for the New England Section 99s to invest in the exhibit further and be a significant part of its founding. Today the scope of the project is greatly expanded and the designer's renderings prove that it could be dazzling. It is my hope to create a multi-media,



interactive experience for the view that will celebrate our legacy and tell the stories of these amazing women and those to come in the future.

As always, I will keep the 99s informed of our progress as we move closer to our fundraising goal and advance into stages of exhibit design and construction.

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## 2020 ENE Scholarship Winners

by 99 ENE - Beth Young

With the threat of Covid -19 looming this Spring, we decided the safest action for our chapter would be to postpone or cancel the scholarship luncheon. While it was disappointing to all of us, we could not justify risking the lives of attendees to recognize our scholarship winners. In making this decision we exercised exceptional headwork as pilots, despite what our hearts wanted. We want to recognize the hard work and outstanding accomplishments of this year’s scholarship winners. We are continually amazed by the exceptional applicants who apply for these scholarships.

### The Jeanne Ohnemus/Cynthia Hurvitz Scholarship:

It is with great pride that we recognize **Cassie Tatro** as the 2020 winner of the Jeanne Ohnemus/Cynthia Hurvitz Scholarship. Cassie is a hard charging aviatrix with big dreams of one day flying a ‘luxurious private jet.’ She has a comprehensive plan with action items on how to achieve her dream. Having just turned 21 in April, Cassie was on track to have her commercial license by her 21st birthday before Covid -19 hit. She fell in love with aviation after attending air shows with her family as a young teen. Shortly after that she participated in the Young Eagles program and since then has been able to pay it forward by volunteering as a Young Eagles pilot. Cassie looks for opportunities to give back and has participated in Pilots N Paws and Angel Flights as a copilot. Cassie plans to continue working towards her bachelors degree at Fitchburg State University and will continue to build hours towards her dream job piloting a private jet.

### The William Bridge Honorary Scholarship:

We are proud to announce **Beth White** as the 2020 recipient of the William Bridge Honorary Scholarship. Beth’s interest in aviation stemmed from reading aviation pioneer Beryl Markham’s autobiography, *West with the Night*. In it Markham described her 1936 solo journey from England to Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia in her Vega Gull, The Messenger. Beth immediately signed up for a Discovery Flight at Vermont Flight Academy and it was “instant resonance—an infatuation with all things aviation from that point on! “ Beth graduated from Antioch University New England with a master’s degree in Environmental Studies and a biology teaching certificate. She spent a decade teaching high school and then pursued her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Beth is a school design coach who helps educators “transform their environments into places where every scholar is known well, loved, and encouraged to pursue their passions alongside mentors who are experts in the field of their interests.” Beth’s goal is to become a CFI and share her love of aviation with young people in Missisquoi and Swanton, Vermont region who would not otherwise **have access to flight training**.





Beth White and her dream maker "Charlie" on the day she solo'ed.

### **The Margot Cheel Honorary Scholarship:**

ENE Ninety Nines proudly recognizes **Alison Yusov** as the 2020 recipient of the Margot Cheel Honorary Scholarship. Alison wanted to fly since she was three years old but was told that pilots needed an engineering degree, so she never considered it a career option. When Alison started flight school to fulfill her lifelong dream, she realized perceived barriers to a career in aviation could be overcome and the decision to change careers made itself. Alison is currently working on her instrument rating and her five year plan includes completing all her ratings and getting hired on in a pilot position to build time and get her ATP. To quote Alison, "If Private Pilot is learning how to draw, Instrument is applying your new skills to become an artist. I can't help but smile to myself every time I fly the ILS to the crosshairs." Alison looks forward to participating in career days to spread the word that girls can be pilots, with or without an engineering degree!



Alison Yusov on the day she completed her Private Pilot Check ride

## Acknowledgements

A successful scholarship program requires outstanding leadership, keen planning and finely tuned administrative skills. We would like to recognize the hard work of our Scholarship Chair, **Julie Marron**. Without her dedication and the decisive work of the **Scholarship committee**, these awards would not be possible. Thank you all for serving the Chapter and creating flight opportunities for members who are following their dreams. We would also like to thank **Jeanne Ohnemus and Cynthia Hurvitz** for their philanthropic support of the scholarship program. Through their generous contribution we are able to award an additional scholarship.

Finally we would like to recognize the **2020 Chapter Honoree, Margot Cheel**, for her many years of aviation leadership and volunteerism. As she completes her tenure as Governor of the New England Section, we would like to thank her for her service and for continuing to inspire so many others to appreciate 'what we see' in the sky!

## Member News





Joanne Swanson, a 99 formerly in FI, now with Ct Chapter

“Joanne is a new participant in the 99's Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI), a mentoring program for women who are establishing their careers as a pilot. As flying isn't the only skill needed to succeed in aviation, the program strives to help participants develop leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills through giving back to the aviation community. Joanne recently obtained her commercial license and her next goal is to become a CFI. PPLI also helps you expand your network of women pilots, as there are participants from multiple countries. Living in Connecticut, Joanne was paired with a mentor who works as a CFI in Texas. Her mentor has been able to give advice on the CFI process, as well as help Joanne to develop short and long term goals through the "flight plan" activity that PPLI established. Joanne looks forward to continuing the 18-24 month program and becoming a mentor to someone else one day.

Pilots with at least a commercial license are encouraged to apply to PPLI as well as anyone who would like to become a mentor. The next application deadline is July 31.”

Submitted by Glenna Blackwell

Visit the PPLI website for more information: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/professional-pilot-leadership-initiative-ppli.htm>

## **First Ever Virtual Section Meeting**

Section Members on Zoom May 16, 2020 (One Screen)





37 New England 99s attended the **Online Section Meeting via Zoom**. We were pleased to have our 99s International President, Jan McKenzie, with us as the International Representative. Chapter and Governor Reports were posted prior to the meeting on the Section website. Each Chair gave a recap of their report as did Chairs for the Committee Reports. The treasurer report was able to be shown via the Zoom screen share and also 99s items for sale -now on the 99s website - were shown. With no in-person conferences at present, this is a way to introduce and sell items to keep supporting the scholarship funds.

As mentioned above, a vote was made to release funds (\$3000) now which were originally slated for the completion of the Women in Aviation Exhibit. Two new Committee Chairs have volunteered for open positions: Arlene Myers Alexander - AE Scholarship and Karen Mitchell - Aviation & Space Education.

**New Officers for 2020-2022** were announced by Nominating Chair, Glenna Blackwell.

**Mary Build, Governor Arlene Myers Alexander, Vice Governor Jaimie Rousseau Secretary Georgia Pappas, Treasurer Directors: Olga Mitchell, Constance Castillo**

As Glenna said: "I can't wait until we can have a real in-person celebration of outgoing officers as well as the new ones!"



## Airport Visit

Although not in a plane when visiting PYM, four 99s met to exchange gift items and to have lunch. The new PYM FBO is completed and beautiful! Unfortunately, the restaurant Plane Jane was closed but we ended up by the water in Plymouth Harbor for a picnic with social distancing.



Lt. Sue Lin, Margot Cheel (with gift pillow), Candie Oldham, Marta Monteiro      Gift Exchange in PYM parking lot

Candie Oldham did however find time to fly several times in her Mooney - once to Blairstown, NJ to meet a couple of friends. And....from Falmouth Airpark right here to PYM for a Flyout with other 99s from the Air Race Classic plus pilots from 5B6. 9 planes and 13 people flew in to PYM and had lunch. They made Plane Jane's day that day!



## Ongoing & Future Plans

### 99s Museum of Women Pilots Library Project

Reminder - While you are still at home, send along an aviation themed book to introduce youth 3-18 yrs to the the world of aviation and flying! The book can be historical or biographical, fiction or non-fiction, civil or military, aircraft- or airman-focused. Include, if you like, an inscription - your aviation job title, certificates held, an inspirational quote etc. A personal touch always perks interest..

Mail your book donation to: **The 99s Museum of Women Pilots, 4300 Amelia Earhart Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1106. via Media mail** (costs less than first class.)

### New England Fall Section Meeting

Plans are for **October 23-24, 2020** back at:

**Nonantum Inn, Kennebunkport, Maine**

(Maine's premier Inn. Special rates for 99s will still apply!)



Look to June 2021 for reschedule of the New England Let's Fly Now Event.

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## 99s International Conference & Career Expo -

Long Beach, Ca on the Queen Mary is rescheduled for **July 7 - 11, 2021**

**Beforehand:** Join the **2020 International Annual Meeting on Zoom July 11, 2020 11:30 EDT**

**Future International Conferences:** 2022 Charleston, SC 2023 Amman, Jordan 2024 Vancouver, BC



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**Governor - Margot Cheel** [margot@margotcheel.com](mailto:margot@margotcheel.com) **Vice Governor - Mary Build**  
[mary.build@gmail.com](mailto:mary.build@gmail.com) **Treasurer - Georgia Pappas** [georgiap99@me.com](mailto:georgiap99@me.com) **Secretary - Jaimie**  
**Rousseau** [jaimie.rousseau@gmail.com](mailto:jaimie.rousseau@gmail.com) **Director - Sue Lin, *ENE Chapter***

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**Our mailing address is:**  
14 Margin Ct, Cohasset, MA 02025

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