

Three Scholarship Award Winners Announced!

Lori Parker

Because of the incredibly hard working women of our chapter, our 49.5s, and the generosity of great friends of the VC99s, we have the opportunity to support three women in their flying goals.

We would like to send a special thank you to Michael Phillips, who donated his lecture fees to the winner of the Karen Johnson advanced scholarship.

The scholarship committee received many great applications, each one deserving of an award. Our six outside judges however had the challenging task of choosing the winners. The judges are men and women outside the VC99s, live outside the Ventura County area and independently make their choice.

One of the two student pilot awards went to **Traci Konas**. She first enjoyed the taste of aviation as a teen and intended on joining the Air Force to become a fighter pilot. Back then, women were told they couldn't fly combat, plus they said she wasn't tall enough. Life went on but her dream of flight never dimmed. She became of nurse, which gave her the funds and time to pursue her goal. Fast forward, she is working hard on earning her private and already has her IFR and Commercial in her sights. This award will support her to move faster on her flight plan of success.



At sixteen years old, our second student pilot winner **Lindsay Hadley** was asked by her mother if she wanted to take flying lessons. To her it seemed like a man's world and didn't think she could do it. Looking back she sees this as a missed opportunity. Now much later in life she has gotten a second chance through her husband Jim. He spoke with some of the VC99s at the Camarillo Air Show,

bought her an introductory flight and told her there are lots of women out there flying. Lindsay now flies two times a week at CP Aviation in Santa Paula. Lindsay recently attended a class given by the VC99s for student pilots on airport markings and signs and found the enthusiasm and inspiration very encouraging. Through aviation Lindsay says she has gained confidence in herself. She has over twenty hours of flight time, has soloed and passed her written exam.

The Karen Johnson advanced scholarship winner **Janeen Gaul** plans to use the funds towards her IFR rating. She got her license many years ago and flew for a few years before life necessitated putting aviation on the back shelf. She raised her two sons and pursued

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JANUARY 15**

Scholarships Announced

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her nursing career. She is now a Neo-natal Nurse Practitioner at UCLA and also teaches nursing classes through Cal State Fullerton. She started flying again once her boys were grown. She has since earned her tailwheel endorsement, completed the EMT program

and earned the Primary Smooth achievement award from the International Aerobatics Club. During the summer of 2017 she traveled to Talkeetna Alaska where she took bush pilot and sea plane lessons. She is an active member of the VC99s, serving on the board along with volunteering and attending many other Ninety-Nines events.

Congratulations to all our winners!



Making Garbage Fly: Mrs. Stiller's Aerospace Program

Alison Barker

We started the Make Garbage Fly competition at Aviation Career Day as a way for schools and teachers to teach aerodynamics and encourage students to experiment, be resourceful and have fun competing for cash prizes. I was thrilled to learn that Mrs. Gayle Stiller of Hillside Middle School in Simi Valley used the Make Glider



students learn about what's out there in this changing world. She says students don't know what they don't know and she wants to give them the chance to learn and grow.

Mrs. Stiller was filled with energy when she talked about her program and I could tell she

Fly competition as a class project and each of her students built a glider either on an individual basis or as a team. AND it paid off! Her students won 4 of 6 prizes!

I wanted to know more about this teacher that was doing such great things, so I stopped by her classroom to learn more. Mrs. Stiller has been a math teacher at Hillside for 20+ years. In 2003 she was invited to attend the US Space Camp Teachers Program in Huntsville, Alabama. With no prior experience in aerospace, she was so impressed by what she learned at Space Camp she agreed to bring it back to her school and start a dedicated Aerospace Program.

Open to 6th, 7th and 8th graders including special needs students, the Aerospace Program is graded on a pass/fail basis. Mrs. Stiller's objective is to have

loves what she is doing, truly likes her students and her students truly like her. Students told me that this program makes them excited to come to school. They look forward to learning more about the topics they are studying, they get hands-on and real-world experience plus they have FUN!

The aerospace program is all project based. Students build and fly Chinese Kites, Hot Air Balloons and Gliders. For their final project they are building Water Rockets in groups of 3. Each group must form a company to design, build and manage their rocket project. One student is the designer and launch director, one student is the project manager and one student is the budget director. They must come up with a team name, business

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Making Garbage Fly

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plan and scale drawing of their rocket. Each team manages a budget of \$1,000,000, learning to write checks and keep a balance sheet. On flight day they must check the wind and weather conditions to make sure the launch will be successful. Students are encouraged to follow directions and listen to instructions. In fact, if they fail to pay attention and need to ask Mrs. Stiller to repeat

instructions, they must pay her a \$3,000 consultation fee out of their budget.

Unfortunately, funding does not come from the school district. Educational grants are the key to starting and expanding special programs like this. When I visited the class, Mrs. Stiller was so excited because she had just received a shipment of 2 flight simulator stations complete with yokes and pedals. The simulators were

obtained by a CTE grant from the Ventura County Career Education Center and Civil Air Patrol. VC99 Robin Sullivan, who is a teacher at the Career Education Center, will be assisting Mrs. Stiller to learn how to operate the simulators, as she is not a pilot. Soon, aerospace students will be able to fly aircraft simulators right in the classroom. I wish I had a class and teacher like this when I was in middle school!

VC99



“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.” Brad Henry

2018 Ventura County Aviation Career Day

Alison Barker

The 5th annual Ventura County Aviation Career Day was on Friday, October 26, 2018. The weather was perfect with sunny skies, calm winds and no threat of rain.

427 middle and high school students attended from 14 local schools, plus we had a few home schooled families and some students whose parents brought them on their own. Students had the opportunity to visit 44 different exhibitor booths and talk to professionals in all areas of aviation/aerospace/STEM and also participate in hands-on exhibits and experiments. Students flew drones in our drone cages, built and flew paper and balsa wood airplanes, tried out high tech gadgets such as VR viewers, flew in airplane simulators, watched a demonstration of the airport fire and crash equipment and watched a flyover of vintage WWII aircraft courtesy of the CAF SoCal Wing. Many exhibitors also had raffle prizes such as introductory flights and simulator sessions, airplane models, and even a drone.

One of the highlights of the event is the Make Garbage Fly competition. Students build gliders out of recycled materials and bring them to the event for a fly off. The gliders must perform a 360-degree role, which teaches the students many aerodynamic and math principles. We were honored to have Mr. Si Robin of Sensor Systems, who is a pioneer in the aviation and aerospace industry, as our guest speaker. We also assisted in awarding the 6 trophies and \$950 in cash prizes to the winning teams and individuals. Parker Hannifin of Camarillo, Camarillo Recycling Ventura County 99s and Rotary Club of Camarillo donated the cash prizes to the winners. Thank you to Victoria Cabrera of the VC99s and her team of judges and volunteers for a successful competition!

Another highlight is the drone flying cages. Students get hands-on experience flying drones and trying to get them to go through hoops. We received a donation of drones and extra batteries so that as many students who wanted to fly would be able to. Royal High School's JROTC/Aerospace program provided assistance and expertise in the drone area. Super Pro Aerial and DGI also had large displays with their cool drones and UAVs.

I am thankful that Aviation Career Day can make a difference in student's lives by giving them a chance to explore so many careers in aviation and see what's out there that can inspire them. Thank you to the teachers who are inspiring our youth,

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Aviation Career Day

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and who bring their students to Aviation Career Day and thank you to all the exhibitors who volunteer their time to talk to students about their career and show them the cool things their careers have to offer.

I would like to thank the sponsor team of Aviation Career Day who met throughout the year to produce this event – Ventura County 99s, Ventura County Career Education Center, California Aeronautical University, CP Aviation, Ventura County Department of Airports and Commemorative Air Force SoCal Wing. I would also like to thank Rotary Club of Camarillo for supporting the event with a generous grant. Parker Hannifin Corp in Camarillo and Camarillo Recycling also provided generous prizes for the Make Garbage Fly competition along with being judges. Harris Water donated water bottles, Noah's Bagels (Victoria Rd) and

Café Ficelle donated breakfast items. Pizza Man Dan's was on site to provide Pizza to the hungry students and we had Jersey Mike's subs for the



exhibitor lunches. Lilian Darling Holt of the SFV99s was our photographer. Finally, it takes many volunteers to set up, clean up and run this event – we could not put on an event like this without their help – Thank you Volunteers!!! We are always looking for exhibitors, sponsors and volunteers to continue making this event available to students. Email vc99soutreach@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. More pictures and info can be found at www.facebook.com/vcaviationcareerday 

There's Always Someone to Congratulate in the VC99s

Traci Konas completed her First Solo flight on October 27, 2018.



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M E E T A M E M B E R

Ruth Charlesworth

I found home when I learned how to fly.

Aviation was not yet my dream as a child, being born and brought up in India in a community where people never used the word airplanes or female pilots

or even pilot for that matter. Back home the career was either engineering or being a doctor, for me it was to be a flight attendant. I never saw a pilot as a female person. I guess it was due to my lack of knowledge in aviation or just the community I grew up in. As a teen I worked as a model and actor until I was 20 and then for a job with Qatar airways as a cabin crew, I worked for them for three years and I realized it was not what I wanted, I wanted to fly, feel the controls, feel the airplane lift off. When I discovered my new wish for aviation, everything felt fresh. I got lucky, or maybe destiny had its way and I met a pilot at Qatar airways who offered to help me follow this dream.

Today I am married to him, joining the stereotyped cabin crew - pilot couple recipe!

I took my first flight in a EV-97 Eurostar with him in 2014. Since then I have never looked back. All these years I had been thinking about my purpose in life. I guess I had just discovered it. Ever since that day all I want to do is fly, although sometimes my bank account seems to disagree. I went to Turkey with him and watched him fly the Pitts S2B. I could see him tumble

and roll that airplane in ways I thought of as impossible, making me wonder how an airplane that was built to fly straight and level could dance in the sky like that. When he returned, He met a big smile on my face



and so many questions that needed to be answered. So he offered to take me for an aerobatic flight, and I loved every minute of it. Back then I was still working as a cabin crew, I remember studying about QNH and QFE on the jump-seat after the cabin service was done. We lived in Qatar while working for the airlines and he wanted to build his own airplane, so he

designed one and we built the kit in our hotel apartment where we lived. I remember we spent hours ironing the fabric. When he flew it the first time it was such a rewarding experience to see pipes and fabrics we put together fly.

There was so much to learn. And then the voyage to our



first Oshkosh airshow happened, I never knew how many people were involved in GA both men and woman. My man told me all about the airplanes he knew. It was the first time I saw Sean Tucker fly and I cried, overwhelmed. My love for aviation has grown a lot since then. Oshkosh is my favorite place to fall in love with aviation and reconnect with my dreams.

Fast forward two years later I found my way to a flight school in Santa Paula

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where I met Judy Phelps of course! I love how I can talk to her and she's there to guide me, I have never told her this before but I see her as my "aviation mom". When I initially started taking flight lessons there were days where I just couldn't get my landings right, and I spoke to Judy and she offered to do a flight lesson with me, we came back from the flight with much better landings this time and Judy made me take notes of all the things I should work on. CP Aviation is a great school if you are willing to give your your hundred percent and much more at times. It took me eight months to get my private pilot's license, I had to fly back and forth from Qatar every few months to stick with my job. I have learnt so much more than just flying.

I never thought I would have to make an emergency landing on my second solo cross country, thankfully I had some great mentors, my husband, Judy, Dan Gray and Berkely my instructor. On that day I realized the importance of trusting yourself and knowing how to think fast but never rushing. Flying has made me a better person.

The experience of flight is incredible. I don't think I have done anything else as interesting or as rewarding as this before. And I have so much more to look forward to, from getting my tail wheel rating and doing my first airshow, climbing up the wings of the Stearman and being the first female airshow pilot in India. Being a part of the 99's is such an inspiration. This is just the beginning of a new journey I can't wait to share.



Come From Away

Janeen Gaul

On the first of December a group of fifteen 99s and friends travelled to down town Los Angeles to see the play, Come From Away at the Ahmanson Theatre. Some went by car and some by subway. We gathered before the show for a lovely lunch at the Grand Café at the Omni Hotel. The Ahmanson Theatre is just a short walk from the Omni Hotel.

Come From Away is a wonderful musical play that tells the stories of several people who were flying across the Atlantic on September 11, 2001. Their flight was diverted to land in Gander, Newfoundland when the U.S. airspace was closed. The play is based on the true stories of many different people on that flight, and the people of Gander who welcomed, and cared for the passengers. Of particular interest to us, as female aviators, is

Beverley Bass, captain of an American Airlines Boeing 777 that was one of the 38 planes that landed in Gander that day. Some of us met and heard Captain Bass speak at the 99s International Conference in 2017 in San Antonio, Texas. She has had a remarkable career with the distinction of being the first female captain for American Airlines in 1986, and later that year she led the first all-female crew. Her story is highlighted in the play, Come From Away.



The stories of Captain Beverley Bass and her passengers are all very heart warming. We all enjoyed the show immensely! The run at the Ahmanson ends January 6, 2019, but there will be performances in Orange County February 5 – 17, 2019. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, you really should.



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Future VC99s' Meetings

- Jan 3 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Jan 15 **General Meeting** • 5:30, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Feb 7 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Feb 9 **Valentine Fly-In to KIZA** (if weather, Feb 16)
- Feb 19 **General Meeting** • 5:30, Santa Paula Airport, SZP
- Mar 7 **Board Meeting** • 6:00, Dept. of Airports, CMA
- Mar 19 **General Meeting** • 5:30, Santa Paula Airport, SZP



To see this, and earlier versions of our newsletter--in full color, or to learn more about the Ventura County Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, Inc. check out our website:
www.vc99s.com



The Ninety-Nines is the international organization of women pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.