

WORLD WINGS

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

July-August 2021 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - From the desk of President Eva Condy

Hi Everyone,

"Summertime - and the livin' is easy..." Masks off, lipstick on, and relieved smiles everywhere! Everything in moderation of course, but happier times are definitely ahead. Naturally, at places where masks are still required, we will continue to wear them - we will grin and bear it a bit longer. But who will see our smiles?

We so look forward to seeing everyone again "up close and personal," and our opening day to do so is August 1st, when our gracious hostess Deborah Conklin is inviting us all to her beautiful garden for a party!!! Details will follow, but we are among other things scheduling a small "Silent Auction" to help provide funds for our charities. This will be our first in-person fund raiser in 2 years! In this vein, though, I again want to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity in the past. We could not meet, but our charities were still in need, and you came through! Thank you again.

We held our latest (maybe last?) Zoom general meeting recently, where future events were discussed. Check "Jot It Down" for details. In addition, a short unofficial survey was held with regard to scheduling a luncheon in a restaurant indoors (!), which seemed to be a welcome possibility. We are working on that, and will come back to you.

Edith is reporting that dues are still trickling in, but if you have not paid so far, there is still a short time left to do so. We do not want to lose you.

Barbara is scheduling her Pre Convention Party for October 10th and promises to check in with the Navy for definite news about her main entertainment, The Blue Angels!!!

Your board meets regularly and will continue to do so by Zoom. (Thank you, Edith)
International continues to keep us informed. Their big agenda right now is of course preparing for the Convention cruise. Sounds wonderful, and I am sure they will have a good attendance.

Until we see each other again, I wish you all a wonderful Summer! Stay cool, keep hydrated, and enjoy our beautiful California sunshine! Smile!

Love, Eva

Charity Corner - From Dorene Goad and Marilyn Porto

Doctors Without Borders/MSF

April 29 "Let's Talk Covid". There is a great divide of equity in providing vaccines world-wide. Just 0.3% of available vaccine is sent to low-income countries. This inequity prolongs the pandemic. Here's what we can do: contact your representative in congress and demand that the US government, the largest funder of vaccine production, force manufacturers to share their technology with other capable companies around the world. Also, individually, you can go into peoplevaccine.org to get involved. Have we learned from this situation to keep it from happening again? The DWB panel is optimistic that we have.

May 4. "Reflections on a Decade of War in Syria", Syria is not all one country. Assad controls the south, the Kurds the northeast and rebel forces and Turkey the northwest. Medical support workers are constantly on the move. When they reach relative safety, they set up emergency facilities. These are often bombed because it is believed they harbor insurgents.

Syrian people are now trapped as borders to neighboring countries close due to overcrowding, food insecurities, Covid19 and drought. The flow of aid through the Syrian government does not reach those that the UN intends and those who need it. The Syrian government is not willing to negotiate with DWB health teams. Over the past decade, 40% of the medical staff was lost. They either died or disappeared. Nevertheless, DWB will carry on with the work there with the support of the International community.

LifeMoves

May 11 "Corporate Leadership". LifeMove's aim is to eradicate homelessness, and their formula is working. Over the past 5-6 years, 14,000 people have found permanent housing, and 96% of those have stayed. The pandemic has emphasized homelessness. There is a need for corporations to get involved with funding and volunteers. Businesses can solve problems around the world. They need to solve issues in their own backyard. Cisco Corp. has pledged \$50 million over the next 5 years. Land is also needed for setting up modular shelters. Getting more corporations involved can be a game changer in solving homelessness.

Any charitable donations should be made out to World Wings, and sent to:

Edith Kipping

Be sure to make a notation in the Memo space telling Edith where you'd like it to go

World Wings International

International has been keeping us well informed via Jet Wings and the new and exciting adventure "Jet Reads". You can find all the details about the upcoming conventions, two cruises and one land based convention on the International website - there's lots of fun stuff on that website.

Next year's convention is a 12 day cruise from Boston via St. Lawrence waterway to Quebec from October 3rd to 15th, 2022. This includes a day and a half in Quebec before returning to Boston.

Then in 2023 reservations have been made from October 27th to 31st in Scottsdale, Arizona at McCormick Ranch with before and after trips to Sedona and Grand Canyon.

We thank The International Board for working so hard in planning these wonderful experiences for us, and hope to see a lot of you there!

You can keep up with all the happenings at International by signing on to the website. You will find lots of new features, and maybe even find some old friends you'd lost track of.

www.worldwingsinternational.net



Memories - From the Glory Days of Pan Am



We're still asking our members to submit biographies, or anecdotes from flying days. You may think your experiences were not notable, but if you think about it, we were ground-breakers. We saw places rarely seen by citizens of the USA. We saw Kalakaua Avenue before it became the Miami of the Pacific. We slept in palm thatched huts by a lagoon in Tahiti. We sat in the bar at Raffles sipping our Singapore Slings. We had midnight meals in bars who had resident "girls" in places like Anchorage and Papeete. We were often the only plane at an airport on a Pacific Island. We watched the progress of the building of the Sydney Opera House, we flew into dangerous war zones, and helped rescue hijacked planes that had been overtaken in a coup. These are all things that we took for granted, but in retrospect, we were pretty special. So - put on your Pulitzer Prize winning eye shade, sharpen that HB pencil, and go for it. We can help with composition if you just want to write bullet points.



Fabulous Festive Garden Party

August 1, 12:00 to 3:00pm.

It's time to break out of our Pandemic Doldrums and come share Deborah Concklin's lovely garden. We do request that if you have not been vaccinated that you wear a mask unless drinking or eating. But do let people know, so they can choose how close they can be to you, to feel comfortable that neither might be put at risk.

We are asking members to bring salads or finger foods. Deborah will supply the wine, soft drinks and water, and even dessert! Thank YOU Deborah!!!!

Cost is \$25.00, with checks made out to World Wings International, and there will be a Silent Auction, so bring you check books. You CAN pay at the door, but we need to know how many to expect, so we'll send out a reminder in a couple of weeks and have you reply to the email. Or you can pay ahead by sending a check, as usual to: **Edith Kipping**

Deborah's home is on a cul-de-sac with plenty of parking on the street.



In Memoriam

Thankfully we have no current SF Chapter Member deaths to report in this issue. Please keep us posted if you hear any news that might not have reached us

JOT IT DOWN

NOTE: Everything in Jot It Down is subject to conditions at the time of the planned event, so keep these dates and we'll let you know as we find out more.

Jot It Down	
August 1	Garden Party at Deborah's
Oct. 10	Pre-Convention Party at Barbara's
Oct 29 - Nov 7	Convention Cruise
Nov 12, 11:30	General Meeting. Divino, Belmont
Dec 11 11:00	Holiday Party - TBD

Scroll Down For Our New Feature



Pan Am and its Famous Passengers

Helene Hills (centre) schmoozes with half the Beatles in the First Class lounge



Helene, seated between two of the most recognizable faces ever

Tessa Phillips

Tessa Phillips (née Roberts) pictured with Paul McCartney. They were taken in the Caribbean in 1965 when the Beatles were there filming the movie "Help". Sadly, Tessa passed away in 2019.



Member Memories



Marilyn Porto

New York New York

For my first trip, as a Pan Am Stewardess, after proudly receiving my wings in July 1958, I flew a DC-6 from Idlewild to Paris. When I got there, I noticed - an American newspaper headline, "Marines Land in Beirut". This caught my attention, but didn't really concern me at the time - *UNTIL* - I was supposed to return home after my layover in Paris, but because of the problem in Beirut, Pan Am had agreed to assist with the removal of American women and children from Lebanon, so I got off-schedule and was re-routed to Beirut. When we landed there, it was frightening to see American soldiers encircling our aircraft, machine guns at the ready - for our protection - something I had never seen before - it was my first flight after all - but a sight I would see often in Vietnam a few years later.

The women and children were boarded as quickly as possible, filling every seat, and then some. As soon as we were fully loaded, we flew back to safety in Paris. We repeated this same rescue mission several times over the next few days, and on the last day, some of my crew were sent home. I was told I had a day in Paris, and then would be on call after that, so I took the train to see the Brussels World Fair, it was an exciting day. During the next few days I think I walked every wonderful street in Paris and couldn't believe how lucky I was to be doing so.

On the fifth day, I called Paris Ops to see when I was scheduled to fly home, but both they and NY Scheduling didn't know who I was!!!! Now I wonder how much longer I would have been there before they realized their mistake! They finally figured out that I was, indeed, a stewardess, and I ferried back to NY on the wonderful B-377 Stratocruiser, with only the cockpit crew as my passengers. I had the unique experience of sleeping in one of the pull-down berths that we've all seen photos of, but few have experienced.

On a flight from Lisbon to Accra, I was flying Purser, with two Stewardesses onboard. It was a night flight, so the passengers were all asleep, when I noticed the Engine 1 propeller had stopped. I went forward to report, but of course, they were aware, and not at all bothered because there were three more. Then another prop stopped, on the other side of the aircraft, so at least we were balanced. The cockpit seemed confident, and I hoped they weren't just acting that was so as not to scare me, but I had the stews go over all the emergency procedures just in case. THEN, we were almost in descent when the THIRD engine went dead! Somehow we landed safely on one engine, and the passengers, blissfully unaware of the drama, disembarked in Accra, none the wiser. I remember that one of the stews was very scared though.

San Francisco Here I Come

I transferred to SFO in 1962 for what was going to be just two years to see the beauties of San Francisco, Hawaii, Asia and Australia before returning home to New Jersey, but here I am, still here in California!!

The Vietnam R&R flights had a big impact on me. The GI's were always so happy when leaving for their fun-filled 5 days of R&R and so quiet and sullen when returning to an unknown future. I often think of them and wonder how many of them never made it home

Celebrities I Met

I had many celebrities onboard, but a few really stood out. Marlon Brando was flying in First Class on a 707 and let it be known he didn't want anything to eat or drink or to be disturbed. During the flight, he caught my eye, and I smiled at him, and he said, loudly "The whitest teeth in the Western Hemisphere!" I was floating on air for the rest of the flight!

I had Steve McQueen in FC on a 707 from LHR to LAX. After the meal service, he was in the circular lounge up front and told me he had just been in a movie called "The Cincinnati Kid", which was about a card player, and he didn't know how to play cards. So I sat with him for my whole rest time and taught him to play Gin Rummy. (In retrospect, he may have been putting me on and knew how to play). I never asked celebrities for autographs, but he said to me "I'm going to give you an autograph that you will not show to your husband". Then he wrote: "To Marilyn, Thanks for our many hours of passion! Steve McQueen". Of course, Joe loved it and we had many laughs about it.

Another one that stands out is when I had Elizabeth Taylor and her then-husband, Eddie Fisher, aboard in FC, and she had a very bad cold. Her violet eyes were incredibly beautiful. She had on a lavender outfit, and so her eyes were almost hypnotizing, they were so beautiful -- and that is even when she was so very sick. She and he couldn't have been nicer to the whole crew throughout the flight. I read in the papers that she was so ill that she had to have a tracheotomy in her hotel in London and was in the hospital for a while.

The highlight of my career, of course, is when I met my husband, Joe, when he was my passenger from SFO-TYO in 1965.

Thank you, Pan Am!



Me in the 60's



Me and Joe celebrating Valentine's Day