

Golden Gate Gazette

The Kiwi Club is a unique philanthropic, social group made up of current and former Flight Attendants. FLIGHT ATTENDANTS SHARE A BOND THAT LASTS A LIFETIME . We bring you together-The Kiwi Club.



Happy Kiwi July



From our National President Melissa McGrath:

This is a remarkable year of milestones. As our nation celebrates 250 years independence, we honor the spirit of freedom, service, and community that has shaped America for generations to come.

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Kiwi Hostess Photos



Hostess - Emily Garvik



Hostess - Beth Norris



Hostess - Anne Fatooh



Hostess - Junior Turpen



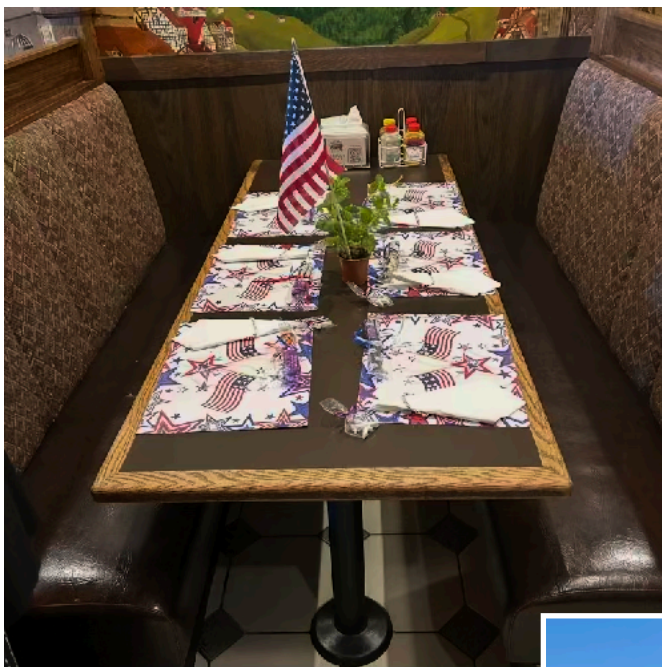
Kiwi Luncheon Photos



Thank you to our Fabulous Four!

Hostesses: Anne Fatooh, Emily Garvik, Beth Norris and Junior Turpen

The 4th July is perfect time to celebrate with friends, family and Kiwis. This month's Golden Gate Kiwi luncheon/meeting, was no exception. The entire private room was decorated in red, white and blue decor, celebrating the spirit of the 4th of July. The Fab Four created a festive venue using American Flags and matching place mates with bracelets as napkin holders. Each Kiwi received a Dark Chocolate Almond Biscotti with a red, white and blue bows tied around each one. Also, there were adorable tiny white chocolate Airplanes, adorned with bows, hand made by Dorothy Oliveira, AA-SFO-Flight Service. (prior to the base closing).



Meeting/Luncheon held at:

Harry's Hofbrau
1909 El Camino Real
Redwood City, CA



Kiwi Luncheon Photos



Nancy Riley Blasingame-guest
Kay Middleton-GG Treasurer



Joyce Adkins



Marcia Rodger



Caroline Womack
GG Parliamentarian



Casey Bode GG President
Paula Grosse - Past Secretary



Gladys Kupper - GG Secretary
Paula Schmichrath-guest &
Co-chair 2028 Kiwi Convention



Kiwi Luncheon Photos



Diane Brenden & Getty Reeves-guest



Linda Lorenz



Paula Grosse



Julie Griffen Haley-Editor/Photographer
Diane Brenden & Paula Grosse



Carol von Raesfeld



Paula Schmickrath



Beth Noris, Francis Loh-guest & Janet Loh



Willie, Maui, Julie Griffen Haley & Judy Ender



Kiwi Luncheon Photos



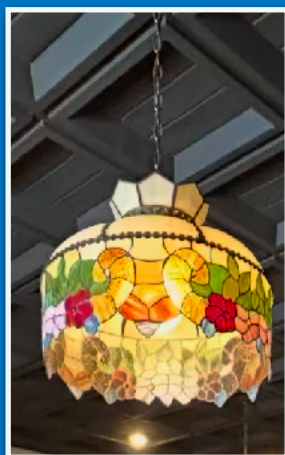
Dottie Kaiser-guest, Kathy Peck, Anne Fatooh-Hostess and Linda Kralik-GG Vice President



Sheri Goggans, Leslee Maggiora-guest, Jenny Syracuse Maddox, Carolyn Booker and Janet Jones-guest



Judy Ender and Ginny Cowan



Judy Cadet, Nancy Riley Blasingame and Lynn Rieger



Join us: **August 12, 2026, from 11:30am to 2:30pm.**

Don your favorite sombrero and amble on over to **Novato** and join Kiwis Joyce Adkins, & Lynne Rieger for our Golden Gate Kiwi Meeting & Luncheon at **Maya Palenque, 349 Enfrente Road, Novato Ca. 94949. 415-883-6292**

Let's keep up the camaraderie. See you then.



Kiwi Group Photo



Golden Gate Kiwi Group Photo July 8, 2026

Left to right, 1st row: Hostess-Beth Norris, Carol von Raesfeld, Guest Hostess-Anne Fatooh, Joyce Adkins, Paula Grosse, Hostess-Junior Turpen, Dottie Kaiser, Casey Bode-GG President, Gladys Kupper-GG Madame Secretary, Julie Griffen Haley-GG Editor/Photographer, Francis Loh-guest and Judy Cadet.

Left to right, 2nd row: Carolyn Booker, Guest Hostess-Emily Garvick, Sheri Goggans, Paula Schmickrath-guest, Linda Kralik, Guest Jenny Syracuse Maddox, Diane Brenden, Nancy Riley Blasingame-guest, the side of Susan Crawford, Lynn Rieger, Kathy Peck and Janet Loh.

Thank you Golden Gate Kiwis for attending July's Kiwi Luncheon/Meeting!

Getting to Know You

“Getting to Know You” is a featured article highlighting a different Golden Gate Kiwi member each month. This month the Gazette is delighted to highlight GG Vice-President member, **Kinda Kralik**. Thank you Linda for participating. See page 10 to learn how you may participate too!



Have you recently traveled near or far? What did you see or do?

Some of my most recent travels have taken me to St. John (US Virgin Islands), Lisbon, Portugal, then a cruise to Rome, Horseback riding safari in South Africa (Ant's Lodge, very highly recommended!). In my many travels, I have covered all but one of the continents (Antarctica); yet, there is still so much to see and do.

What was your favorite layover?

My flying days were over well before American Airlines began its surge into international flying. Therefore, my favorite layover was SYR. Yes, that would be Syracuse, New York. It was not for the beauty of the town, nor the upgraded amenities of the Hotel. It was the length of time we spent there. Yes, 33 hours, and oh the fun we had. At Christmas, we even decorated a tree in one of the crew rooms. Yes, those are fond memories!!

What was your favorite Flying memory?

Being introduced to my future husband at a layover in Detroit.

How many years did you fly? Where were you based? What base was your favorite?

Seven Years, that included my maternity leave of absence. My First Base was LGA for 7 months, then transferred to SFO. I loved SFO even though I was third from the bottom on the seniority list! SFO was a very small base and it was very intimate compared to the size of LGA!!! It also was very close to my parents' home in Santa Rosa which was very helpful.

What do you like about the city/town that you live in? What don't you like?

I currently live in a golf course community and have been here for over 40 years. It is, also, the township where I grew up. Strange to come back, but it has been wonderful. There's not anything I don't like about living in this community.

Do you have any pets?

Regrettably, I do not have any pets. Maybe, some day soon.

Do you enjoy cooking or baking? Have you tried a new recipe? Will you share?

Having run a successful catering business for more than 7 years I guess you could say I like to cook and bake. And yes, I try new recipes. I recently make Green Chili Verde from a recipe from Mark Miller, a fabulous New Mexico restaurateur, using 4 types of fresh chilis. My Super Bowl party was much more fun than the game!!!! LOL! And I do share recipes.

Favorite Restaurant

Frankly, I do not have a favorite restaurant. I am usually disappointed with restaurant food because they take shortcuts which spoil the end result. When I cook, I do not take shortcuts. Therefore, I like my cooking better than most restaurants. Now, that being said, I do not do Chinese or Japanese and always enjoy going to those eateries.

Do you have a hobby or sport, old or new, that you enjoy?

Golf, Tennis, Swimming were my go-to sports. Golf was mostly a vacation sport shared with my 9 handicap husband. He was a good sport having me play with him. At one time I had a 21 handicap, then along came the children and no longer had the time to put into the game. So, I took up Tennis. In our home in Portola Valley, we put in a private tennis court and enjoy hours of fun with guests and fellow tennis enthusiasts. When we moved to Blackhawk, I continued playing team tennis. I became so involved I qualified as a U.S.T.A. official. I was the official at many of the age group tournaments held in Northern California. Swimming has always been a part of my life. At the age of 7, I joined a newly formed swim team in Danville. I continued swimming USAA (it was called then) until my sophomore year of high school. The family had moved to Santa Rosa and I couldn't find a swim team or coach I liked; therefore, ending my chances of Olympic Gold!!! (LOL)! Now I just swim for myself to keep in shape.

In addition, to those outside activities, I love to sing. I have been a member of The Blackhawk Chorus, since it's inception in 1991. I have sung in three chorus sections: Second Soprano, Tenor and currently second Alto. I love every minute and have enjoyed traveling both domestically and internationally, my favorite was singing in the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica at The Vatican. Keep pinching myself, saying "This little cowgirl from small-town USA singing here?" It was incredible.

Outside of GG Kiwi, do you currently volunteer or work? Share a little about it.

I am celebrating my 39th year as a Real Estate Broker. I continue to work with a few select clients and have recently formed my own brokerage: Blackhawk Broker Associates. In addition, I sit on several boards representing my community.

Do you participate in the GG Kiwi Book Exchange Club?

No, I do not. I read every night in bed, sometimes falling asleep with my iPad in my lap and my glasses on! But I have stopped reading hardbound or paperback books for several different reasons. Now I only read from my telephone, if killing time in the car, or my iPad. My favorite author was Dick Francis. I mean who could not love mysteries surrounded by horse stories??? Yes, mysteries and all sorts of military/action books. Not the usual Book Club material.

Are you watching a new TV Series or Movie? What do you like or don't like?

I think I am in love with Justin Hartley, star of the TV series Tracker, my new favorite show as well as High Potential. I am looking forward to a new series, the CIA, starting the end of February and another western type show, US Marshalls.

I have followed the original NCIS for all of their 19 seasons and it never disappoints. All of these shows have wonderful supporting casts which make the show!

Do you have tips to pass on about health or money savings?

Stay healthy and practice what Warren Buffet just said about investing. "Don't let your emotions be your guide when looking at investments. Study the market, learn the company you are looking to invest in and diversify your investment."

What 3 things would you like to do most in 2026?

Travel to see: The Great Wall of China, The Moroccan Blue City, Adriatic Coast.

Getting to Know You

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR: Julie Griffen Haley

"The GG Gazette created a new column, 'Getting to Know You.' Each month, a GG Kiwi member is highlighted, sharing their interests and hobbies with the group. By doing so, the entire group bonds more deeply and finds common interest they did not know before. It is a big hit!

Since then, we are delighted to report that the GG Gazette has highlighted: Casey Bode-GG President, Diane Brenden, Marcia Rodger, Susan Crawford, Jo Policastro, Linda Kralik-GG Vice-President. Next month we'll be highlighting Carol Womack-GG parliamentarian.

Please consider participating by emailing your answers to any of these questions to: topazjulie@aol.com
Subject line, "Kiwi GG Gazette." No need to type in the questions; just use the #1-15 and type your answer.

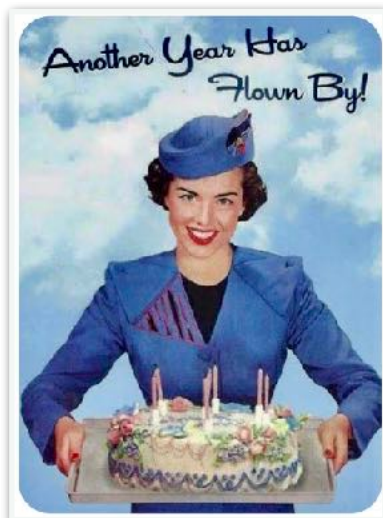
- 1) What AA class were you in? How many years did you fly? Domestic or International?
- 2) What was your favorite layover and why?
- 3) What was your favorite flying memory?
- 4) Where were you based? If were you based at more than one base, which one was your favorite?
- 5) What do you like about the city/town that you live in? What don't you like?
- 6) Do you have a favorite Restaurant? What do you like about it?
- 7) Have you recently traveled near or far? What did you see? What did you do?
- 8) Do you enjoy cooking or baking? Have you tried a new recipe? Will you share it?
- 9) Do you have a hobby or sport, old or new, that you enjoy?
- 10) Outside of the GG Kiwi Club, do you currently volunteer or work? Share a little about it.
- 11) Do you have any Pets? If so, what kind and how many do you have?
- 12) Do you participate in the "GG Kiwi Book Exchange Club?" What is your favorite book?
- 13) Are you watching a new TV series or Movie? What is it that you like or don't like about it?
- 14) Do you have tips to pass on about health or money savings. If yes, what?
- 15) What 3 things would you like to do the most in 2026?



We proudly recognize 100 years of American Airlines - a century of connecting people, places and memories around the world. As former and active American Airlines flight attendants, this anniversary holds a special place in our hearts. It not only celebrates an extraordinary company; but, also the people who dedicated their careers to caring for others and creating lifelong friendships along the way.

The Kiwi Club is proud to celebrate this historic anniversary. Our shared heritage reminds us that the greatest journeys are built on connection, service, and commitment to one another. Here's to honoring our past, celebrating the present, and looking forward to adventures still to come.

Mellisa McGrath-President
The National Kiwi Club



Happy Birthday Kiwis

Shirlee Albright
Diane Brenden
Beverly Chapin
Susan Crawford
Judy Ender
Marsha Rogers
Jan Zeppegno

Meeting Coordinator Opportunity:

Carol von Raesfeld has graciously performed as our Meeting Coordinator for many years, and we are extremely grateful to her outstanding service and dedication to the GG Chapter Kiwi Club. Thank you Carol, so very much.

GG Kiwis, this is your opportunity to interact with your Kiwi Chapter on a more meaningful way.

Reach out to Casey: 415-300-6370
caseyairstew@mac.com

Kiwi Convention 2028

The lovely Paula Schmickrath came all the way from Tennessee, to attend our July Golden Gate Kiwi Luncheon/Meeting.



Paula is Co-Chair along with Connie Melby Nemes, for the 2028 National Kiwi Convention, being held at the beautiful city of Palm Springs, CA.

Paula shared exciting news about the 2028 Kiwi Convention!

Such as the dates:
May 3rd 4th & 5th 2028

We are staying at:
The Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa
41-000 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

The Convention theme is:
Old Hollywood Glamour.

There will be lots to see and do with our Kiwi friends. We look forward to more exciting information as it comes in. I'm sure we will be informed as to how we can support this wonderful event.

Thank you Paula and Connie



July In Attendance:

Joyce Atkins,
Nancy Riley Blasingame-guest
Casey Bode
Carolyn Booker book
Diane Brendan
Judy Cadet
Ginny Cowan
Susan Crawford
Judy Ender
Anne Fatooh
Emily Garvik
Sheri Goggans
Paula Grosse
Julie Griffen Haley
Janet Jones-guest
Dottie Kaiser-guest
Linda Kralik
Gladys Kupper
Francis Loh-guest
Janet Loh
Linda Lorenz
Jenny Syracuse, Maddox
Leslee Maggiora
Kay Middleton
Beth Norris
Kathy Peck
Getty Reeves-guest
Lynn Rieger
Marsha Roger
Paula Schmickrath-guest
Co-Chair 2028 Kiwi Convention
Junior Turpen
Carol, von Raesfeld
Caroline Womack

Congratulations to GG Chapter Members:

Julie Griffen Haley & Gladys Kupper

Julie has accepted a support position at National, as the new Social Media Content Creator/Brand Builder for The Kiwi Club-AA Facebook page.

Gladys has accepted a support position at National as the new Social Media Monitor - Manager for The Kiwi Club-AA Facebook page.

In addition to their new National posts, Julie will continue as GG Editor/Photographer & Gladys will also continue to serve as the GG Madam Secretary. What an exciting venture for the both of you.

What way to go, you both rock!



Kiwi News

2026 Board Members Golden Gate Kiwi Chapter

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Editor/Photographer

Golden Gate Gazette
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209-986-3601

AA Graduation Staircase Photo

The Kiwi Club has a special project underway to obtain Staircase/Graduation photos to retain in our archives. We'll, also, be adding them to the memories section of thekiwiclub.org website, as well as, having them available to share. We would love to have yours!

Many of us remember that day so clearly; standing together in uniform, newly graduated, proud of our wings and ready to begin our flying careers. At the time, it may have felt like just a class photo. Looking back now, it was the beginning of friendships, travels, stories, and memories that stayed with us for a lifetime.

Please take a look through your photo albums, files, drawers, and keepsake boxes. If you can find your graduation staircase photo, send a copy and include whatever information you have...your name, class date or year, names of classmates, any memories connected with the photo.

Photos are part of a shared American Airlines story that we would love to preserve together.

Please send to:

Jill Rohan thekiwiwebmaster@gmail.com

Mary Thrasher thekiwiclub@comcast.net

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