

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.



September



The Golden Gate Chapter gives a HUGE thanks of gratitude to Hosts Kay Middleton and Robert Blackwood for our annual Kiwi La Fiesta and Trash to Treasure Event.

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Kay's designer garden backdrop continues to mature and thrive under Robert's TLC.



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Gail Oney-guest and
Cindie Simpson



Julie Griffen Haley and Linda Kralik



Bev Chapin, Linda Lorenz and Kathy Peck



Gladys Kupper

Golden Gate Gazette



Joyce Adkins, Cassandra Spittler
And Marsha Rodger



Judy Cadet, Sheri Goggans, Emily Garvik,
Beth Norris and Caroline Womack



Willie & Maui



Cindie Simpson and Casey Bode

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Karen Snyder and Marsha
Rodger in the background



Julie Griffen Haley
and Kathy Peck



Jo Policastro and
Guest Crystal Wright



Judy Cadet



Judy Crouch

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Trash or Treasure



Judy Crouch got a Halloween Mask



Judy Cadet got sexy bra!



Crystal Wright, Jo Policastro, Judy Crouch,
Gail Oney, Caroline Womack & Cindy Simpson



Cassandra Spittler and
Bunny Sommer

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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, Julie Griffen Haley GG-Editor and this 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?

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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 **Caroline Womack-Golden Gate Parliamentarian**. Thank you Caroline for participating.

How many years did you fly? What class did you graduate from?

Caroline flew for 42 years, 6 months, graduating in class 66-7. During her length of service, Caroline was a Domestic and an International F/A. She flew from 1966-1977, as a domestic F/A, then she was both a Domestic and International F/A from 1974-1985 and finishing her 42+ year career flying Internationally from 1985-2008.



Caroline Womack

Where were you based? Which base was your favorite.

Caroline started her flying career in SFO. She became qualified as an International F/A and flew SFOI. Then she transferred to LAX and later on, decided to transfer to IOR, which by far was her favorite base. I can imagine why, the flying out of Chicago was fantastic.

What was your favorite layover and why?

Caroline's favorite layovers were Rome and Delhi — she especially enjoyed learning the language, then using it while walking and riding in tuk-tuks. That's amazing.

What was your favorite flying memory?

Because of Caroline's flying opportunities were vast: Her some of her favorite memories were when she was living and studying language and agriculture in Italy. She studied at 3 different language schools - one school was actually in a castle, another was at the University in Perugia.

Caroline also lived on an agriturismo to study the language and learn about Olive culturing through the native farmers. A unique and rare cultural experience.

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Getting to Know You

Caroline also joined AAI (Airline Ambassadors International), working with orphaned children at the “ECOHOME” in Nepal. AAI What a meaningful experience.

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

She lives in San Carlos - it is small and has great public transportation - She walks to town in 20 minutes, bus, train, and BART to the city in an hour.

Unfortunately it has become very popular due to the closed town blocks filled with coffee shops and restaurants and the kids are rather entitled so they ride their E bikes on the sidewalk rather than down the middle of the street which is upsetting for some of our elders with walkers, canes, and infirmities.

Do you have a favorite Restaurant? What do you like about it?

Carolines favorite restaurants would be Greek: Kokkari Estiatorio in SF and sister: Evvia Estiatorio in Palo Alto - channelling her Greek Father's Heritage -- Spartan from Laconia --- 8 generations ago.

Have you traveled recently near or far?

Her travels are commuting to BNA to visit her daughter, spending traditional Christmases in Ireland and London -- her Mother's heritage — and travelled to Italy to take her daughter to the University and agriturismo farm and to Greece to continue studying her heritage.

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

Caroline loves to cook and try new things -- lots of Moroccan with homemade preserved lemons -- sharing always!

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

Caroline enjoys her garden and keeping the traditions going -- taught by her Mother and Grandmother. Now she trying to teach her daughter what they taught her -- though the South is very much different than California!



Getting to Know You

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

CERT -- Community Emergency Response Team is Carolines' volunteer passion. Working with the local fire and police departments to be prepared for a disaster -IN EVENT: flood, fire, quake --Full-out disaster response skill practices: planning, preparation of shelters, search and rescue, fire safety, team organization, disaster medical options.

Do you have any Pets? If so, what kind and how many do you have?

At this time Caroline has No pets at present, but she grew up with ducks, chickens, dogs, cats, horses.

Do you participate in the "GG Kiwi Book Exchange Club?" What is your favorite book?

Kiwi Book Exchange - is a yes for Caroline, her favorites are historical and biographical

Are you watching a new TV series or Movie? What is it that you like or don't like about it?

Although she's not much of a movie buff --- she loved the Michael Jackson story!

Do you have tips to pass on about health or money savings. If yes, what?

Tip for health is to live each day and experience and learn everything you can from friends, Family -- and foes. Good Advice.

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

After getting a new hip in September: Caroline's goals are to:

Travel more --

Visit friends in Switzerland and Italy --- possibly Delhi --

Be a better friend and stay in touch with my U.S. friends ---

Able to do so with the Kiwi Organization.



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The “Heroes” We Will Never Forget

On the morning September 11, 2001, 33 fly crew members from American Airlines and United Airlines reported for ordinary domestic flights. Eight pilots, 25 flight attendants. The youngest was 24 years old.

One picked up an extra shift for a sick colleague. One had volunteered for the trip. Two of them were married to each other, and were working the same flight.

They fought with all they had. AA Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney stayed on the phone with the ground, calm enough to give seat numbers that identified the hijackers. UA Sandra Bradshaw told her husband the crew was preparing hot water to fight back. CeeCee Lyles reached her husband to say she loved him and their children.

None of them came home. These are their names from AA.



GG Kiwi Member Paula Grosse
Created these Beautiful 9/11
Memorial Trees.

American Airlines Flight 11, which struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center: Captain John Ogonowski, First Officer Thomas McGuinness.

Flight Attendants: Barbara Arestegui, Jeffrey Coleman, Sarah Lowe, Karen Martin, Kathleen Nicosia, Betty Ong, Gene Roger, Diane Snyder, and Madeline “Amy” Sweeney.

American Airlines Flight 77, which struck the Pentagon: Captain Charles Burlingame, killed the day before his 52nd birthday. And First Officer David Charlebois.

Flight Attendants: Michelle Heindenberger, Jennifer Lewis, Kenneth Lewis and Rene May.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS LATER

Every Airline Crew Room In AMERICA Still Remembers

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We Will Never Forget You Betty Ann Ong An American Hero



Betty Ann Ong was 45 years old and a flight attendant with American Airlines for 14 years. On the morning of September 11, 2001, she was working a board American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles. After the aircraft was hijacked, Ong was in the rear of the plane when she used an Airhone to contact American Airlines' reservations office in Cary, North Carolina.

At approximately 8:20 a.m., she began calmly reporting what she knew. "The cockpits not answering," she said "Somebody is stabbed in business class... I think there's mace... that we can't breathe. I don't know, I think we're getting hijacked." With information from fellow crew members, she continued relaying details about the emergency, including location of injured people and the cockpit situation. Her call provide provided American

Airlines and others on the ground with some of the earliest detailed information from aboard, a hijacked aircraft.

Ong, remained in contact with American Airlines personnel as Flight 11 continued towards New York. The 911 commission later recognized her remarkable professionalism and compassion shown by Ong and her fellow crew members.

At 8:46.40 a.m. Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Betty Ong and everyone else on board were lost.

Today, Betty Ong is remembered for her calm voice during one of the most confusing moments of that morning. Betty Ann Ong foundation continues her legacy, and Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center in San Francisco bears her name. Betty Ong. Flight Attendant. Sister. Daughter.

A woman whose professionalism and courage are still remembered.

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GG-Julie Griffen Haley's 1st National Board Meeting



L/R 1st Row: Linda Radke-Vice President, Melissa McGrath-President, Wanda Kromer-Treasurer, Kathy Kuzminski-2nd Vice President, Martha Cunningham-Secretary,

L/R 2nd Row: Jill Rohan-Webmaster, Sam Gooch-Adviser, Julie Griffen Haley-Social Media Manager and Stephanie Butler-Adviser.

Next meeting will be **October 14, 2026**
11:30-2:30

Rosso Pizzeria, 53 Montgomery Dr
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Jo Policastro and Susan Crawford
will be our hostesses.

Seating is limited to 30 people.

Mail your \$45.00 check by October 9, 2026 to:

Jo Policastro

1230 (A2) Washington Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

For questions jpolic7595@gmail.com
414-385-1252

Septembers Kiwi Meeting:

Joyce Atkins
Mike Ambrosi
guest of Karen Snyder
Robert Blackwood
guest of Kay Middleton
Casey Bodie
Jan Bryan
Judy Cadet
Susan Crawford
Judy Crouch
Anne Fatooh
Emily Garvik
Sheri Goggans
Paula Grosse
Julie Haley
Linda Kralik
Gladys Kupper
Linda Lorenz
Kay Middleton
Beth Norris
Gail Oney
guest of Cindie Simpson
Kathy Peck
Jo Policastro
Marsha Rodger
Karen Snyder
Bunny Sommer -
guest of Jane Lloyd Wiborg
Cassandra Spittler
Caroline Womack
Crystal Wright
guest of Jo Policastro
Jan Zeppego

Thank you for Attending!

2026 -2028
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Happy Birthday
Wishes go to:

Sherry Goggans
Linda Lorenz
Jenny Maddox
Nancy Swift
Sandy Woods

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MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2026 Kiwi held at the La Hacienda of Kay Middleton Danville

Hosts: Kay Middleton and Robert Blackwood

President; Casey Bode welcomed members and guests and gave an Enorme Gracias (a great big thank you) to Kay and Robert for co-hosting our

Kiwi La Fiesta - Trash & Treasure event. Kay's designer garden backdrop continues to mature and thrive under Robert's TLC.

There was a heat advisory for Danville today which we completely ignored. Thanks to Kay's beautiful sky high trees casting long shadows over her garden, we safely enjoyed our fab time together. In addition, she set up two tall misting fans at the both ends of her patio. We love you, Kay!

Vibrant colors of Mexican mini sombreros adorned our heads;
large sombreros and serapes adorned our tables.

Mike Ambrosi, Karen Snyder's husband, was on reserve and worked the bartender position on this flight. He remained at the bar until yours truly mentioned that the cocktail portion of the flight was over.

Please go to your assigned first class seat and enjoy a delicious lunch with your gorgeous wife and he did. Thanks, Mike!

Our over-the-top homemade Mexican-themed luncheon included: Kay's world-famous chicken enchiladas, esquites (corn salad), jicama salad and a spectacular fruit platter with appetizers of Texas caviar and guacamole to pair with our margaritas.



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MEETING MINUTES

Casey opened our mini meeting and asked that we focus on our 9/11 Tribute for the ones we lost with 30-seconds of silence. She read two moving articles dedicated to 9/11. Printed on page 11-12 of this months GG Gazette.

There are many young people born before 2001 who knows so little of this terrible event. We need to tell them as a way of honoring our fallen heroes as our true first responders. Never Forget!

Paula Grosse created a pair of two lovely three-foot white trees hung with white paper doves. Each dove held the names and flight number of each F/A who perished in 9/11. One was for AA; the other for UA.
Thank you, Paula, for your thoughtfulness.



Treasurer Kay Middleton reported that we had a very successful Trash n Treasure event again this year. Thank you all for your generosity! We Are Amazingly Awesome!

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Gladys Kupper
Madame Secretary