

Women in Aviation Museum Highlights

The Ninety-Nines

1. In August 1929, at the Women's Air Derby (coined the Powder Puff Derby), a group of female pilots who shared a common bond decided to formalize their group. They sent out an invitation to join their group on October 9, 1929, and held their first meeting on November 2nd, 1929 at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, NY. The meeting was led by Amelia Earhart, who was later elected the first president. Of the 117 licensed women pilots of the day, 99 became charter members of the organization and took the name from their number. The original purpose of the Ninety-Nines was for the mutual support and advancement of female pilots, "good fellowship, jobs, and a central office and files on women in aviation." Today, membership has grown worldwide from 99 to over 5,100 hailing from 44 countries.

The Hempstead Plains Gallery

American women took an active role on Long Island in the development and promotion of aviation alongside their male counterparts.

2. Bessica Raiche – 1910 – First solo flight by a woman in the United States (as declared by the Aeronautical Society of America). The plane was built in Bessica's home in Mineola and her flight took off from the Hempstead Plains.

3. Blanche Stuart Scott – 1910 – The first American woman to fly solo from the Hempstead Plains (not officially recognized by the Aeronautical Society of America).

4. Harriet Quimby 1911 – The first American woman to obtain a pilot's license and first woman to successfully fly across the English Channel in 1912.

5. Matilde Moisant 1911 – The second American woman to earn a pilot's license at the Moisant Aviation School in Hempstead, Long Island.



Harriett Quimby was a modern woman in a not-so modern age.

The Golden Age Gallery

The Golden Age Flying truly came of age as the technology of aircraft underwent a revolution, turning flying from a dangerous sport to a viable commercial industry.

6-1. Elinor Smith - 1928 – The youngest licensed pilot in the world at 16. She also flew under all four river suspension bridges, – a feat never accomplished by another pilot. Broke several altitude and endurance records. Resided in Freeport, Long Island.

6-2. Evelyn de Seversky - A popular and respected pilot in the 1920s and 30s who kept at least one aircraft at Roosevelt Field, Long Island. She was a test pilot for the Seversky Aero Corporation, founded by her husband Alexander.

6-3. Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman - (January 26, 1892 – April 30, 1926) was an American civil aviator. She was the first female pilot of African American descent and the first person of African-American descent to hold an international pilot license.

6-4. Anne Morrow Lindbergh - (June 22, 1906 – February 7, 2001) American author, aviator, and the wife of fellow aviator Charles Lindbergh. An acclaimed author whose books and articles spanned the genres of poetry to non-fiction, touching upon many topics including the role of women in the 20th century.

6-5. Beryl Markham - (October 26, 1902 – August 3, 1986) was a British-born Kenyan aviator (one of the first bush pilots), adventurer, racehorse trainer and author. She was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. Markham chronicled her many adventures in her memoir, *West with the Night*, published in 1942.

World War Two

From 1942 to 1945, while men fought on the battlefronts of WWII, over 18 million American women filled civilian and military positions created as the country shifted to wartime.

7. & 8. "Rosie the Riveter" & Civilian Women Who Served on the Homefront During WWII - most of Grumman's 25,000 employees, half of them women, worked tirelessly in aircraft factories and shipyards, producing much needed fighters, bombers, and battleships.

9. Willa Beatrice Brown - (January 22, 1906 – July 18, 1992) was an American aviator, lobbyist, teacher, and civil rights activist. She was the first African-American woman to earn her pilot's license in the U.S. and the first African American pilot of the Civil Air Patrol in 1942.

10. Unique Opportunities for Women - America changed forever during World War Two. As the armed forces filled its ranks with manpower, industry filled its jobs with womanpower. Had it not been for this infusion of enthusiastic and skilled labor, the war would have been far more difficult to win.

11. The WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) - 1942 – Dec. 1944, the first American women to fly military aircraft for the US Army Air Force on the US homefront.

The Jet Age

As commercial aviation grew on Long Island, membership in the Ninety-Nines grew to large numbers both nationally and worldwide, and roles for women in aviation increased as stewardesses, air traffic controllers, in administrative support roles, and the general aviation industry.

12. Bonnie Tiburzi, is an American aviator. In 1973, at age 24, she became the first female pilot for American Airlines and the first female pilot for a major American commercial airline. At the same time she also became the first woman in the world to earn a Flight Engineer rating on a turbo-jet aircraft.

13. U.S. Air Force Pilot Kim Campbell was decorated for piloting her A-10 Thunderbolt II back to base in southern Iraq after taking heavy anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) damage in aerial combat over Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Exploring Space Gallery

Long Island had a major influence on the American space program.

14. Sally Ride (May 26, 1951 – July 23, 2012) was an American astronaut and physicist. She joined NASA in 1978 and became the first American woman in space in 1983. At age 32, Ride was the youngest American astronaut to have traveled to space. Many of the people attending the launch wore T-shirts bearing the words "Ride, Sally Ride", lyrics from Wilson Pickett's song "Mustang Sally".

15. Long Island Astronauts include Ellen Baker (Queens), Mary Cleave (Great Neck), and recent candidate Jasmin Moghbeli (Baldwin).

16. Mae Jemison is an American physician and NASA astronaut. She became the first African American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on September 12, 1992. She carried a photo of aviation pioneer Bessie Coleman with her.

Reckson Center Atrium

17. Long Island Air & Space Hall of Fame (2nd floor) - Short biographies about Long Island native aerospace pioneers Nancy Leffenant-Colon, Ellen Baker, Elinor Smith, Mary Cleave, Harriett Quimby, Betty Gillies, Alicia Patterson and Connie Mancuso.

18. Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran (May 11, 1906 – August 9, 1980) was an American pilot and business executive. She set many records and was the first woman to break the sound barrier on 18 May 1953. She was a pioneer in the field of women in aviation and one of the most prominent racing pilots of her generation. She is best known as the wartime head of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) (1943-44) in which about 1000 civilian American women ferried planes from factories to port cities in non-combat roles. Sitting in the rear seat of this blue and gold consolidated Model 2 Fleet, Cochran learned to fly here on Long Island at the Roosevelt Aviation School in Mineola. Although unconfirmed, Jackie may have flown this very plane.

Women in Aviation

~ Self-Guided Tour ~

November 2019

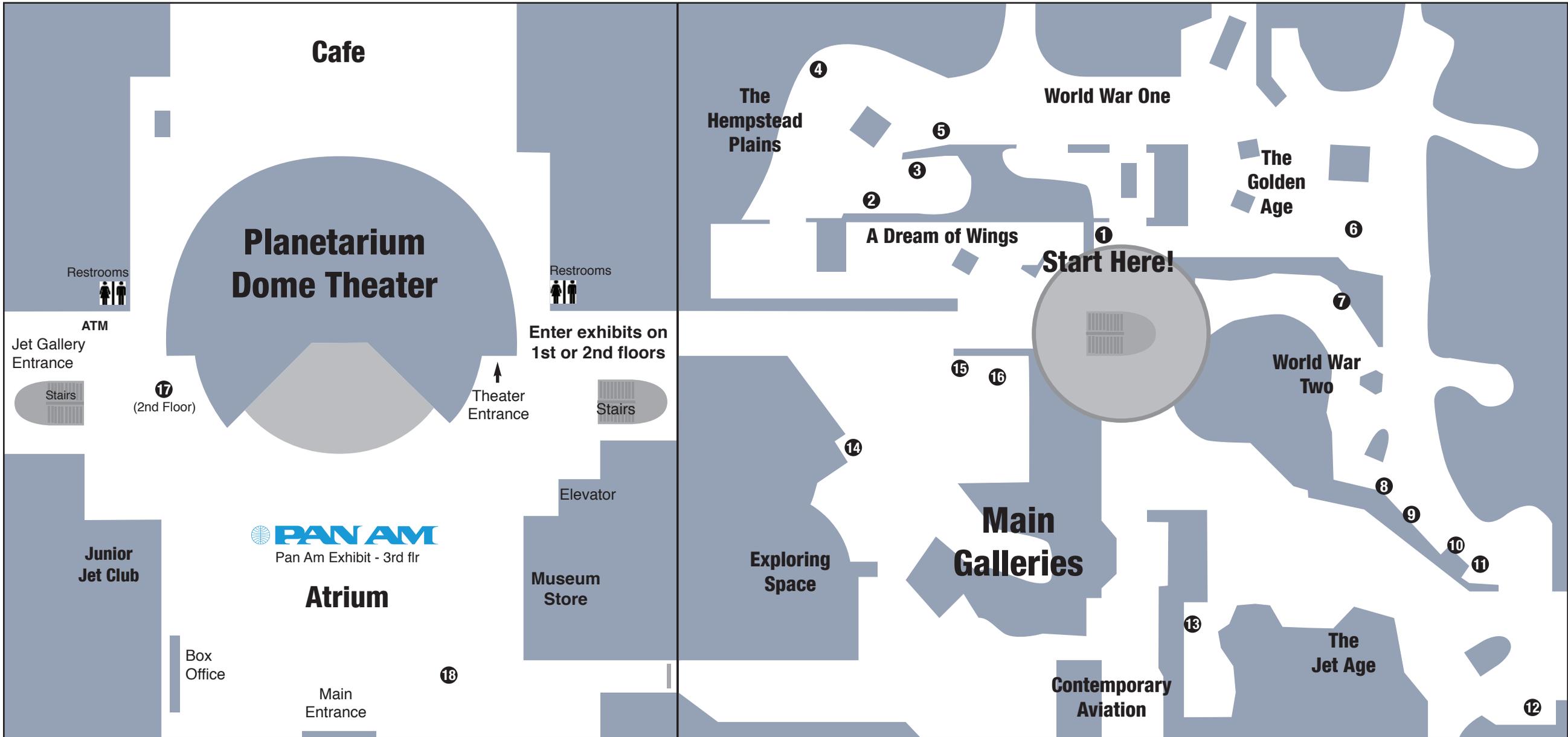
In celebration of National Aviation History Month and the 90th Anniversary of the Ninety-Nines' International Organization of Women Pilots first meeting (Nov 2, 1929) at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, NY, the Cradle of Aviation is celebrating the achievements of women in aviation through the years with this self-guided tour.



www.cradleofaviation.org/99s

"In accomplishing the feat of flying, women broadened the traditional boundaries that had been set for their gender, attaining a sense of competency and achievement, contributing significantly to the progress and cause of aviation from its dawn to the present day."

– Julia Lauria Blum
Museum Archivist and Curatorial Assistant



MUSEUM HOURS

Hours	Summer Hours	Theater Hours
Tuesday - Sunday	Open 7 Days	Please see website
9:30AM to 5:00PM	9:30AM to 5:00PM	for show times.

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