

ARE YOU READY FOR OUR 21ST CONFERENCE?

Aviation *for* Women®

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

The official publication of Women in Aviation, International®

**WAI
Road
Trip!**

**SILKE
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**ONE WISE
WORD
SPEAKS
VOLUMES**



Ferrara Airfield on Sunday morning

AVIATION AND WOMEN IN EUROPE

*Buongiorno, ciao, grazie, andiamo—*OK, that is the extent of my Italian vocabulary, but it did not prevent me from having a wonderful time at a couple of women + aviation events in Italy.

I attended the 5th Aviation and Women in Europe (AWE) Conference in Ferrara, Italy, organized by **Michelle Bassanesi** (WAI #8195). The AWE Conference was scheduled concurrent with the EAA Chapter N.459's fly-in in Ferrara.

The theme of the conference was "Courage to be the Change." Friday evening's Welcome Dinner was at the Aero Club Restaurant. It was fantastic to sit at dinner and speak with people from Spain, Norway, Ireland, Germany, Italy—a multitude of accents and cultures.

Saturday morning we heard guest speaker **Rodolfo Galli** who spoke about home-built aircraft construction and regulation in Italy. Then **Giancarlo Zanardo** showed videos of various aircraft replications he has built and flown.

Both of these presentations were in Italian so **Luca Salvadori** translated.

Patricia Campos Domenech (WAI #41726), the first and only female helicopter and jet pilot in the Spanish Armed Forces, told her story of deciding to go into the military to become a pilot. Her advice—"you have to try."

Dorothy Pooley (WAI #39411) from the U.K. gave a most inspirational presenta-

tion for "Change for the Better." She told about her journey through life to get to the position now of being the owner of Pooley Flying and she specializes in the instructing of flight instructors.

Monica Passuello spoke of her job as an ULM Flight Instructor for FLARE, Italian Flight Design dealer.

Kristiina Tervo (WAI #820), currently instructing civil and military crews in Dassault Falcon 7X at CAE Burgess Hill, U.K. center, spoke about the importance of safety and training and her career in business and corporate aviation.

by **Betty Huck**

Annabelle Burroughes (WAI #42651) shared her stories about aerobatics in her Bucker Jungman and the joys and problems of building an RV 7 with her friends. She currently is selling business jets with Jet Finders Limited.

Umberto Guidoni, a Reserve Officer in the Italian Air Force, spoke about Italy's involvement in space. He spoke about his NASA mission in 1996 as a Payload Specialist on STS-75/TSS-1R—Tethered Satellite System and in 2001 on the Space Shuttle's STS-100 mission.

Karen Kahn (WAI #1254), one of the first women to be hired by a major air-





Donatella Ricci, Betty Huck, Charlotte Costantini at FlyDonna



Caposile Airfield as we arrived for FlyDonna



The 3rd annual FlyDonna banner signed by participants



Giovanna Liverzani, Fiorenza de Bernardi (Italy's first woman airline pilot in 1967), Maddalena Schiavi, Sarah Cappelleffi

line in 1977, shared secrets from her 29 years in an airline cockpit on ways to get ahead and bolster your confidence, assertiveness and leadership skills.

Three students attended the conference on scholarships. The winners and their sponsors were **Luca Guidoni**, sponsored by **Karin Muller** (WAI #7884), **Federica Ercolani**, sponsored by **Trish Beckman** (WAI #17), and **Rachel Gibson**, sponsored by **Women in Corporate Aviation** and presented by **Tim Kirkwood** (WAI #2339).

Sunday I was off to the Ferrara Airport for my transportation to my next international event. All I knew was that a **Carlo Pallaoro** was going to pick me up in an R-44 gray helicopter to go to the FlyDonna at the Caposile Airfield—I could handle that. Dr. Pallaoro (Specialista in Chirurgia Plastica in Padova and a sponsor of FlyDonna) provided me a trip of a lifetime flying over the Italian countryside and cities at just a few hundred feet! We flew over the Po River and over Lido Is-

land with its beautiful beaches, which put me close enough to see the infamous skyline of Venice in the distance.

We flew into this beautiful little airfield with airplanes, gyros, helicopters, colorful booths, umbrellas for shade, and tables set for lunch. As I got out of the helicopter the *WeFly!* Team was taking off for their air demonstration!

FlyDonna is an international meeting for women pilots. The idea was to create the opportunity for pilots from every aeronautical activity to meet each other, to exchange experiences, and to discover new friendships. This was the third FlyDonna event organized by



Donatella Ricci (WAI #44165). I met **Fiorenza de Bernardi** from Roma, who was a 2002 inductee in the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame. I met women military pilots who had flown into the event and even talked with a young U.S. military man who was there to support his girlfriend who is in the Italian military. I talked with **Samantha Cristoforetti**, an Italian fighter pilot accepted in the space program. I chatted with **Diana Ferrero** from Italy, **Ingrid Hopman** from Austria, and **Helga Wimmer** from Germany.

The afternoon was filled with celebrating, with presentations of certificates for participation, and the signing of the FlyDonna logo banner.

Ah, Italy. Thanks to **Giorgia Bordon**, a young pilot from Caposile, for translating some of the banter of the wind down party for me. Thanks so much to **Charlotte Costantini** (WAI #40933) for inviting me to FlyDonna and spending the day with me.

And thanks especially to **Michelle Bassanesi** and **Donatella Ricci** for making me a part of this year's happenings—two events that I will never forget! I encourage everyone—both International and U.S. WAI members—to check out the web sites for both of these events next year —www.aweu.org and www.flydonna.it. Ciao. ➔