

Profile

Meet the profiler



Photo submitted by Steve Fought

Phyllis Moses, contributing writer for City Week, is an author and aviation fan.

By STEVE FOUGHT

Meet Phyllis Moses. Phyllis has been introducing folks to City Week readers since May, and we thought it was high time we gave Ms. Moses herself a proper introduction. So read on and meet this author, poet, aviation enthusiast and volunteer.

Aviation is at the center of Ms. Moses' life story. She found her love of flight through her Uncle Phil — a barnstorming pilot who ran guns down to Honduras, and rum on the way back during the prohibition era. When the roar of engines signaled his arrival home, the young folks would run and hide — but young Phyllis ran out to meet him. His sense of adventure was infectious — and the aviation bug bit Ms. Moses on their first flight together.

The writing bug bit her, too, at an early age. She was the editor of her high school newspaper and went on to write several books and articles on aviation such as *Oliver, Wilbur and Me*, a book of historical fiction about a young man, Joshua, who met up with the Wright Brothers at just the right time at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

She once interviewed pilot Elinor Smith, who flew her Waco-9 under four East River bridges in New York. During preflight, Charles Lindbergh stepped up

onto the wing and gave her a little push of encouragement, "Good luck, kid, keep your nose down in the turns." More recently, Phyllis interviewed four female naval aviators during operation Desert Fox — from the deck of the aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise. That article was about promoting women in aviation, making Americans more aware of their bravery and encouraging young women to follow in their flight boots.

She loves Sun City, serves on the communication committee and thrives on the social interactions which are our hallmarks. But her interests aren't confined to Sun City. She has been instrumental in encouraging young writers in our area, and promoting reading in our schools. She is a driving force behind the Hill Country Book Festival — in particular in establishing this year's theme "Unleash the Magic," for children and youth.

I'll also say that any introduction of Ms. Moses would be incomplete without saying a few words about her husband, Brian. He is a pilot, of course! Ms. Moses says he gives her the motivation and encouragement to write, is the source of accuracy and confidence in her writing and is her partner in all of life's adventures. They have two aircraft hangared here in Georgetown — a Piper Vagabond and a Globe Swift (two very appropriate names).