



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

[WWW.RUAFA.ORG](http://WWW.RUAFA.ORG)



ISSUE NO. 606

FEBRUARY 2025



## United Airlines Historical Foundation

"Preserving the Past,  
Inspiring the Future"

### Stapleton Airport's Last Day

By Terry J. Snyder, United Airlines Retiree

**D**etermined to avoid the regrets expressed in the classic Joni Mitchell song lyric, "you don't know what you've got till it's gone", I made a point to capture the essence of Stapleton Airport the day before all operations switched over to Denver International Airport, February 27/28, 1995. It was important to me to capture the airport full of activity, because it was such a major player in my and my family's quality and pace of life. It represented my career supporting crew training and operations at United Airlines, as well as our family's favorite activity, flying to our hearts' desires on our treasured airline passes. We spent so much time at dear old Stapleton that Concourse A ended up being where our youngest son took his first steps in '91!



*Concourse Crowd*



*Concourse B Farewell*



*Stapleton Tarmac*

# GENERAL NEWS

[WWW.RUAEA.ORG](http://WWW.RUAEA.ORG)

## Letter From The President



**Hello to all,**

February, it's the shortest month of the year and I am going to use that as an excuse to keep my message short as well.

It might be winter but the RUAEA community is buzzing with all kinds of activities, check out the many chapter reports on what's happening around the country. The RUAEA Executive Committee will be planning the Spring Board meeting for March, focusing on the upcoming Reunion in Denver, September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. I personally am working my way through a pre-spring-cleaning project and visiting family as I can.

I want to extend a special thank you to all those individuals that contribute articles for the Newsletter, independent of the Chapter reports, the website support that keeps it ticking along, as well as those correspondents for providing updates on what's happening in their areas.

The RUAEA Organization is far reaching and takes quite a few contributors to keep it going, and as always, we are looking for anyone that might want to step up and join the fun as a volunteer. Just let me know and I will connect you with the right resource to find out what's open, what's coming up and listen to ideas.

Take care,

**Ruth Morabito**  
**RUAEA President**

## Letter From The Vice President - Conventions RUAEA's Golden Jubilee



Hi Folks,

This year, our Reunion will mark RUAEA 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee, the date will be September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. It will be held in Denver at the Holiday Inn East, 3333 Quebec St., Denver, Colorado 80207.

The Denver United Airlines Flight Training Center (Denver TK), where we plan to have a tour, is across the street from the hotel, it is within walking distance. The old Stapleton Air Traffic Control Tower is also close by and opens for tours.

There are many shopping and restaurants nearby, Central Park - Town Center – The Shops at Northfield – Quebec Square. The Stapleton Airport is now called the Central Park Neighborhood, it was changed from Stapleton to Central Park in 2020.

The RUAEA Denver Chapter, The Mile Highers, recommend the following attractions that Reunion attendees may consider doing while visiting the Mile High City:

### Denver Area:

- ▲ Historic Union Station
- ▲ Denver Art Museum
- ▲ Denver Botanic Garden
- ▲ Forney Transportation Museum
- ▲ Denver Fire Dept Museum
- ▲ U.S. Mint, the largest producer of coins in the world
- ▲ American Museum of Western Art
- ▲ Colorado History Museum
- ▲ Molly Brown House
- ▲ Wings Over The Rockies Aviation Museum
- ▲ Numerous Breweries and Whiskey Distillery Tours

### Outlying area:

- ▲ Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater

- ▲ Mother Cabrini Shrine
- ▲ Buffalo Bills Grave and Museum
- ▲ Colorado Train Museum in Golden
- ▲ Garden of The Gods, Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs
- ▲ Coors Brewery in Golden
- ▲ Idaho Springs
- ▲ Georgetown Loop Railroad
- ▲ Central City & Blackhawk Gambling
- ▲ Eisenhower Tunnel
- ▲ Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park
- ▲ Manitou Springs - Cave of the Winds
- ▲ 7 Falls, Old Colorado City, Olympic Museum
- ▲ Wild Life Experience, Keenesburg

The above are just a few attractions that may interest you during your stay. We are still in the planning stages for tours and activities. We plan to have 2-3 Bus Tours available for you to join other Reunion attendees.

Our main activities at the hotel will be; Nightly Hospitality Room with a cash bar, Raffles and door prizes, RUAEA business meeting and the ever-popular Benefits Panel. As in past Reunions, two fun nights are planned for you, the first on September 30<sup>th</sup> with a theme of Colorado Country Night, featuring appetizers, entertainment, Cash Bar, door prizes and closeout of our raffles. This will be your chance to listen to and dance to country music, along wearing your favorite western or country garb. The second night is our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee, a sit-down served dinner with entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure, and cash bar throughout the evening.

Also included in the Reunion's daily activities, we will have Mainliner Clubs and Clipped Wings Charity items for sale, The UAL Historical Society display; 50/50 raffle, Special raffle, and Silent Auction. Watch for the display of nightly door prizes.

Yes, a lot are being planned for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Hopefully, many of you can join us. Much more information will follow in the coming Newsletters and online at [ruaea.org](http://ruaea.org).

I, along with our Executive Board and regular Board Members invite you to join us at this special event. We look forward to seeing members, their family and friends from all United Retiree Organizations, RUAEA, RUPA, Clipped Wings, RAFA and ARECA.

**Hank Gosselin**  
**VP Conventions RUAEA**

### **How Often Should You Review Your Estate Plan?**

**By Malcolm Horn, CFP®**



**ALLIANT**

Retirement and  
 Investment Services

*How often do I need to review my estate plan?*

Although there's no hard-and-fast rule about when you should review your estate plan, the following

suggestions may be of some help:

- ▲ You should review your estate plan immediately after a major life event
- ▲ You'll probably want to do a quick review each year because changes in the economy and in the tax code often occur on a yearly basis
- ▲ You'll want to do a more thorough review every five years

Reviewing your estate plan will not only give you peace of mind, but will also alert you to any other changes that need to be addressed.

There will be times when you'll need to make changes to your plan to ensure that it still meets all of your goals. For example, an executor, trustee, or guardian may change his or her mind about serving in that capacity, and you'll need to name someone else.

Other reasons you should do a periodic review include:

- ▲ There has been a change in your marital status (many states have laws that revoke part or all of your will if you marry or get divorced) or that of your children or grandchildren
- ▲ There has been an addition to your family through birth, adoption, or marriage (stepchildren)
- ▲ Your spouse or a family member has died, has become ill, or is incapacitated
- ▲ Your spouse, your parents, or other family member has become dependent on you



- ▲ There has been a substantial change in the value of your assets or in your plans for their use
- ▲ You have received a sizable inheritance or gift
- ▲ Your income level or requirements have changed
- ▲ You are retiring
- ▲ You have made a change in your estate plan (e.g., you created a trust or executed a codicil to your will)

While trusts offer numerous advantages, they incur up-front costs and often have ongoing administrative fees. The use of trusts involves a complex web of tax rules and regulations. You should consider the counsel of an experienced estate planning professional and your legal and tax advisers before implementing such strategies.

Need to schedule time to review your estate plan? My team of Financial Consultants and I are available to help anytime: [aris.alliantcreditunion.com](http://aris.alliantcreditunion.com).

Content in this material is for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results. All indices are unmanaged and may not be invested into directly.

The information provided is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax planning or legal advice. We suggest that you consult with a qualified tax or legal professional.

Used with permission from Broadridge.

**Financial professionals are registered reps with, and securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker/dealer (member FINRA/SIPC).** Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Alliant Credit Union (ACU) and Alliant Retirement and Investment Services (ARIS) **are not** registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using ARIS, and may also be employees of ACU. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, ACU or ARIS. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

**Not Insured by NCUA or Any Other Government Agency | Not Credit Union Guaranteed | Not Credit Union Deposits or Obligations | May Lose Value.**

### **United Announces Accelerated Timeline for Starlink's Industry-Leading Connectivity in the Sky** **January 5, 2025**



United Airlines today announced an accelerated timeline to bring Starlink – the world's fastest, most reliable connectivity in the sky – to United travelers around the world.

The airline now expects to begin testing Starlink next month with the first commercial flight anticipated to take off this spring on a United Embraer E-175 aircraft. United now plans to outfit its entire two-cabin regional fleet by the end of this year and have its first mainline Starlink-enabled plane in the air before the end of this year.

Ultimately, United will add Starlink to its entire fleet.

Access will be free for all MileagePlus customers and includes game-changing inflight entertainment experiences like streaming services, shopping, gaming and more. Membership to MileagePlus is also free and people can sign-up now at [united.com/starlink](http://united.com/starlink).

*“We have a lot planned for our MileagePlus members this year and adding Starlink to as many planes as we can – as quickly as we can – is at the center of it all,”* said Richard Nunn, CEO of United MileagePlus. *“It’s not only going to revolutionize the experience of flying United, but it’s also going to unlock tons of new partnerships and benefits for our members that otherwise wouldn’t be possible.”*

Last September, United signed the industry's largest agreement of its kind with SpaceX to bring Starlink to its entire fleet. And starting in a few months, the airline's customers will enjoy the same high-speed, low-latency internet service in the air that they enjoy on the ground. This gate-to-gate connectivity will enable experiences in the sky at scale that no other major U.S. airline provides, on seatback screens and personal devices simultaneously.

MileagePlus was recently rated the world's best airline loyalty program and includes the following features:

- ▲ Free to join, for all customers
- ▲ Free to earn miles
- ▲ Miles never expire
- ▲ No blackout dates for award seats – if there's a seat open you can buy it with miles

- ▲ Just about anything you can pay for with cash at United, you can buy with miles (seats, wifi, snacks, etc.)
- ▲ And United became the first major U.S. airline to allow members of its loyalty program to pool their miles with family and friends into a joint account.

On an average day, about 31,000 United seats are filled by MileagePlus customers using their miles – that’s the same as filling about 100 Boeing 777 aircraft. During the summer of 2024, more than three million MileagePlus customers flew on award tickets.

### **United Integrates Apple’s New Share Item Location Feature for AirTag** **December 12, 2024**



United today announces the integration of Apple’s new Share Item Location feature for AirTag into its mobile app, a move that’s expected to drive a much-improved customer service experience for the fewer than 1% of customers whose bags arrive on a later flight.

Now available with iOS 18.2\*, Apple’s Share Item Location feature enables United customers everywhere who travel with an AirTag or Find My network accessory to privately, securely, and seamlessly share the accessory location with the airline’s customer service team to help locate their luggage in the event that it is mishandled.

While more than 99% of customer bags flew with – or even beat – their owner to their destination so far this year, this new digital innovation is the latest example of United’s infrastructure, training and technology investments geared towards making travel easier and bag handling more seamless, especially when plans don’t go as expected.

*“For years, every customer has been able to track the journey of their bag through the United app as it is scanned on and off the plane, and previously, they didn’t have a way to directly share their AirTag information with our baggage team,” said David Kinzelman, United’s Chief Customer Officer. “Now, Apple’s new Share Item Location feature will help customers travel with even more confidence, knowing they have another way to access to their bag’s precise location with AirTag or their Find My accessory of choice. They can easily and securely share that with us in the United app, and our team can use the location information to find the bag and get it reunited with its owner much more quickly.”*

United offers all customers the ability to track their bags directly in the United app, giving them peace of mind throughout the entire travel journey. Now, customers will be able to generate a Share Item Location link in the Find My app on their iPhone, iPad, or Mac for an AirTag or Find My network accessory, and share that with United to help locate a misplaced item more quickly and securely.

Here’s how it works:

- ▲ In the event a bag doesn’t arrive to its final destination, customers can file a delayed baggage report in the United app, and those who travel with an AirTag or Find My network accessory can additionally now create a Share Item Location link in the Find My app on their iPhone, iPad, or Mac, and add that to the delayed baggage report in the United app.
- ▲ Once the report has been submitted, authorized United customer service agents will receive the Share Item Location link and be able to view the location of the item on an interactive map. The map will automatically update when a new location is available and show a timestamp of the most recent update.
- ▲ United will use the shared location to more quickly find delayed bags and reunite them with customers.
- ▲ For customers’ privacy and security, the shared location will be disabled as soon as a customer is reunited with their bag, can be stopped by the customer at any time, and will automatically expire after seven days.

Share Item Location is built on the Find My network, a crowdsourced network of over one billion Apple devices — including the 120,000 iPhone, iPad, and Mac deployed by United — that use Bluetooth wireless technology to detect missing devices or items nearby, and report their approximate location back to the owner. The entire process is end-to-end encrypted and anonymous, so no one else, not even Apple or Find My Network accessory manufacturers, can view an item’s location or information.

To experience the new feature, customers should verify that their iPhone is running on iOS 18.2 or later\* and that their United app is up to date. For customers without the United mobile app, they will receive an automatic text notification with information to track misplaced luggage and add a Share Item Location link for their AirTag or Find My network accessory.

For years, United has led the industry on adding game-changing innovations and policies across the airline to help customers self-serve and increase transparency, including:

- ▲ *Live flight updates for iPhone and Apple Watch:* United was the first U.S. airline to support Live Activities for iPhone, allowing customers to get live, personalized flight notifications for details such as countdown to boarding, gate number, seat, bag tracking and more right on their iPhone Lock Screen or Dynamic Island – all without opening the United app. Similarly, with Live Activities on Apple Watch, customers can access important flight information right from their wrist. The live updates have helped millions of travelers since last year especially during peak travel times.
- ▲ *Bag drop shortcut:* United travelers can skip the check-in line and drop off bags in under a minute at the designated bag drop shortcut location at the curb or in the lobby by checking bags in the app before arriving at the airport. New this year, travelers who opt-in to TSA PreCheck® Touchless ID can drop off their bags in seconds by leveraging facial scanning technology at Newark International Airport.
- ▲ *Real-time weather delay updates:* Earlier this year, United started texting real-time radar maps to help customers understand how inclement weather in one part of the country can impact a flight elsewhere. United is the first and only U.S. airline currently providing its customers these kinds of specific messages, and the airline is sending them with assistance from gen AI tools.
- ▲ *Automatic rebooking assistance during flight disruptions directly in the app:* When travel doesn't go as planned, customers will get alternate travel options automatically served to them in the app. Saving travelers about 15 minutes in line on average, the tools help them get back on their way more quickly after a flight disruption or cancellation. Plus, only United offers Agent on Demand – allowing customers to scan a QR code or use the United app to video chat, text or call a customer service representative instead of waiting in line at the airport.

For more information, download the United mobile app, and view media assets.

\*Apple's Find My Share Item Location Feature is available on iOS 18.2, iPadOS 18.2 or macOS 15.2.

### **Sweet Skies Ahead: United Serves Up Magnolia Bakery Banana Pudding on Flights** **December 5, 2024**



Magnolia Bakery, one of America's most-cherished bakeshops, announced today that Magnolia Bakery's Banana Pudding will now be available on select United flights nationwide.

The bakery's Banana Pudding Wafer Cookie Bits is now being served in United First® on flights more than 901 miles. Served in individual, 3-ounce cups, this new Banana Pudding is made with real bananas, whipped to perfection, and inspired by Magnolia Bakery's World-Famous Banana Pudding.

This is the first time Magnolia Bakery desserts are being served onboard a commercial airline, made possible through its latest launch of its frozen-to-thaw Banana Puddings. This new line allows for the fresh bakery bite to be experienced anytime, anywhere – including at 30,000 feet.

*"The only thing more iconic than Magnolia Bakery's Banana Pudding is enjoying that pudding at 30,000 feet in United First – we know our customers are going to love it,"* said Aaron McMillan, United's Managing Director of Hospitality Programs. *"We're changing the way travelers eat and drink onboard, offering more variety and more elevated options with partners like Magnolia."*

*"As an avid traveler and baker, I know what an important role food can play in your travels, which is why I'm so excited to bring this new, innovative product to thousands of adventurers each year,"* said Bobbie Lloyd, CEO and Chief Baking Officer, Magnolia Bakery. *"This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration for Magnolia Bakery and we could not be more thrilled to be working with United. Our team worked for three years to develop this new Banana Pudding and we're delighted for guests to get a sweet taste of this beloved dessert in the skies."*

*"Over the past few years, we've worked to bring the best of Magnolia Bakery to customers across the country in new, unique ways. Today's announcement marks one of our most exciting product launches to date — bringing banana pudding to new heights onboard United. This is the first stop of many to bring Magnolia Bakery to new places in new ways,"* said Eddie Revis, Chief Commercial Officer, Magnolia Bakery.

This collaboration is the next step in Magnolia Bakery's ambition to fully transform from "a New York treat to an anywhere eat." Recently, the brand has expanded its footprint with its first location in LaGuardia Airport, exclusive dessert offerings with Doordash, pop-ups and brand collaborations.

For more information, visit [United.com](https://United.com) or [MagnoliaBakery.com](https://MagnoliaBakery.com).

About Magnolia Bakery ~ Magnolia Bakery is the iconic bakery born and baked in New York City that's known for its classic American desserts, including its World-Famous Banana Puddings, cakes, cupcakes, and brownies. Magnolia Bakery baked goods are made with an obsession to detail to ensure every bite is a whimsical delight. Since opening its first bakery in NYC in 1996, Magnolia Bakery continues to expand with many of their best-selling products available in all lower 48 states and in over 30 bakeries internationally; a thriving eCommerce business; Banana Pudding Cookies in four delicious flavors in grocery stores nationwide, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and on DoorDash; and its new frozen-to-thaw Banana Pudding line available on DoorDash, GoPuff, Wonder and Amazon Fresh. For more information, visit [www.magnoliabakery.com](http://www.magnoliabakery.com).

### **So Simple From Sheryl**



It is still football season so I thought you might enjoy a new snack to have while watching the game. It is easy to make and enjoy at home or take to a football party. Super Bowl will be here before we know it.

#### **Buffalo Chicken Dip:**

2 cups chicken breast, shredded\*

½ cup hot sauce

½ cup ranch dressing

8 ounces cream cheese, shredded

1 and ½ cups cheddar cheese

Green onion, chopped for garnish (optional)

Boil chicken breast until done. Remove from water and allow to cool. Shred using a knife and fork or tear with your hands. While the chicken is cooling, mix together cream cheese, hot sauce and ranch. Fold in shredded chicken and 1 cup cheddar cheese. Spread evenly in an oven safe dish or pie pan. Top with ½ cup cheddar cheese. Bake at 400 for 15-20 minutes until cheese is bubbly and browned. Serve with Frito or Tostito scoops and/or carrot and celery sticks.

\*You can also use rotisserie chicken, discarding the skin and shredding the meat.

Enjoy and may the best team win.

### **Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter**

All articles submitted for publishing in the Newsletter are due in the Denver Office on **the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month**. This includes chapter reports, letters for the "Letters" Column, obituary listings (***Note:** Rules for submitting an obituary notice is listed in the Obits section of this Newsletter*), and in general, any item for inclusion into the current Newsletter. All items received after the 7<sup>th</sup> are subject to be considered for the next Newsletter.

Newsletter articles may be sent by e-mail to John Chu at [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com) and [ruaeal@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaeal@qwestoffice.net). If sent by U.S. Mail, address to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd, Denver, CO 80207-2433. Please allow for postal delay. We cannot extend the deadline!

*Please note that all submitted articles are subject to editing and approval by the Newsletter Manager. Once they are published in the RUAEA Newsletter, they become the property of RUAEA. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed in the Newsletter.*

**John Chu**

**Newsletter Manager - [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com)**



# LOCAL NEWS

## ALABAMA



### SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Joe E. Jones, Ret. ORDFO  
12115 County Road 29  
Clanton, AL 35045  
(205) 646-3825  
[autiger@centurytel.net](mailto:autiger@centurytel.net)

We meet every three months for lunch at various restaurants in Birmingham and invite all retired United employees and their families to join us. For more information, you may call me at the above phone number.

## ARIZONA

### PHOENIX RE-UNITED'S

Matalynne Wandel  
Phoenix, AZ  
Correspondent  
[matalynne@hotmail.com](mailto:matalynne@hotmail.com)



### Submitted by Dakota Morris

I want to thank you all for coming to our last luncheon of the year; I hope you had a nice time. Most everyone liked the venue and would like to return there. The white elephant was fun and a little confusing at times.

I reviewed all of the survey results and some of the comments were that it was too far, that is to say "the venue is too far" from where they live. If anyone wants to make a suggestion of a restaurant, anywhere, please let me know. I want everyone to have a say about our restaurant choices. This is a request I have made before. We are not limited to the far East Valley.

Our next luncheon is on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Buca di Beppo at 11 a.m. The location is 1730 S. Val Vista, Mesa, AZ 85204 in the Dana Park strip mall. We have been there before; it is in the strip mall where Barnes & Noble and AJs are located. South of highway 60 at Val Vista on the West side of the street before Baseline going South. Let me know if you have any questions about the directions.

I will write to you later as to where the next breakfast will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>, so you can make your plans for this.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, January, 10<sup>th</sup>.

### TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

Pat Sommer Di Lallo, Treasurer  
14740 N. Palmwood Dr.  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755  
(520) 825-7370  
[rpdgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpdgarlic41@comcast.net)



We are the Tucson Roadrunners, an active chapter. We meet for lunch at various Tucson restaurants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month except in November and December, when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. All retirees are welcome to join us.

If you would like to attend our luncheons, you can e-mail **Pat Sommer Di Lallo** at [rpdgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpdgarlic41@comcast.net) or call either **Pat Di Lallo** (520) 825-7370 or **Sandy Lawyer** (847) 826-2640 for information.

We look forward to seeing you.



## CALIFORNIA

### CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATERS

Chico, California  
Sharon Simonton, Secretary  
P.O. Box 2257  
Paradise, CA 95967  
(530) 990-0936  
[sbsimonton@comcast.net](mailto:sbsimonton@comcast.net)



There is no report this month from the California NorthStaters chapter of RUAEA.

Our next meeting/luncheon will be held at Vittles in Anderson on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 AM. **Vreny Grundherr** volunteered to set up the arrangements.

#### Calendar:

**January 22** - Wednesday, 11:30 AM, Vittle Restaurant in Anderson. If you are traveling in the area, please come and join us!

### CENTRAL COASTERS

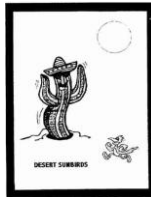


Mike Zoldak  
President  
537 Morning Rise Lane  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
(805) 473-2908 (H)  
(408) 396-5605 (C)

There is no report this month from the Central Coasters chapter of RUAEA.

### DESERT SUNBIRDS

Palm Springs Area  
Thomas Sabo  
[sabo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:sabo.thomas@yahoo.com)



There is no report this month from the Desert Sunbirds chapter of RUAEA.

We try to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month; if you are visiting the Palm Springs area, we would love to have you join us. Email [sabo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:sabo.thomas@yahoo.com) for details.

### EAST BAY DIABLOS



Contra Costa County  
Jan Soderstrom  
30 San Piedras Place  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
(925) 833-9184

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone from the East Bay Diablos group! As I write this on January 7, we in California are once again experiencing crazy weather. I'm beginning to think that "average" and normal" weather conditions are a myth. High winds in Southern California have started wildfires and even in Northern California we've had winds gusts as high as 80MPH. It still throws me having to submit my articles so early in the month! I just finished filling in my 2025 calendar and here I am wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

Our group holds in person monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month all year long. The restaurants are still dealing with staff shortages, so we have to give them a count beforehand for our meetings. If you are going to attend our meetings, you must RSVP prior to the meeting. I have put the dates of our upcoming meetings and the RSVP deadlines below. We alternate between the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord and the Lazy Dog Restaurant in Concord. We like The Old Spaghetti Factory because they have both a regular and a senior menu with reduced portions and soup or salad, ice cream and beverage included. They also reserve a room for us. We went to the Lazy Dog for the first time in September. Everyone enjoyed it so that is now our other “go to” restaurant. We average about 14 people at our meetings throughout the year, but more members come to our summer picnic meeting which is a catered BBQ luncheon at a member’s home. Social hour starts at 11:30 and our meal is typically served an hour later.

Our president **Russ Kennedy** starts our meetings by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. At every meeting we have a raffle for money and door prizes. We pay two dollars for three tickets. The door prizes are whatever people are inspired to bring.

Our December meeting, normally held on the first Monday at Zio Fraedo’s in Pleasant Hill, was moved to Tuesday, December 10 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord, for several reasons. With Thanksgiving falling so late this year, several members were still traveling on December 2. Everyone present at the November meeting was available on December 10, so that became our new meeting date. We also changed the venue for our Christmas luncheon. Because the new date of our meeting fell after the submission date for the January newsletter article, I’m reporting briefly on our Christmas luncheon in this newsletter.

For years, we have met at Zio Fraedo’s in Pleasant Hill for a delicious banquet of Prime Rib, Salmon or Chicken Cordon Bleu. As with all restaurants these days, prices have gone up a lot, and this year’s price was going to be \$65.00 per person. The members voted unanimously to forego the banquet and go to the Old Spaghetti Factory instead where we ordered off the regular menu. We collected for Toys for Tots and had a special raffle where everyone brought a very nice gift. **Tracey Blanchard** won the money. **Wilma Leather**, as always, made lovely favors for everyone. This year’s creation was a Snowman ornament. His face was white tongue suppressors, with a carrot for his nose, eyes that moved, and a black hat with holly and berries for decoration. How she comes up with these novel ideas every year is amazing! We missed **Carol Parks** who was home enjoying a delicious diet of liquids only in preparation for back surgery the next day. Her surgery was successful and it was great to see her at our January luncheon, walking well, and in a lot less pain.

Our January meeting was held on January 6 at the Lazy Dog Restaurant in Concord with 11 members in attendance. We were missing several of our regulars for various reasons. **Joe & Wilma Leather** were visiting family in Boise, **Diane Griego** was visiting a friend in Oregon, and **Tracey Blanchard** was “wintering” in Maui. She reported that she spent a memorable New Year’s Eve watching fireworks on the beach from her lanai. **Arnold Hansen, Jr.** was feeling under the weather and **Russ Schleske** could not attend because his wife was ill. We hope they are feeling better soon. **Barbara Cunningham** could not attend because she was helping take care of her daughter who had a horrible accident at SFO. Her daughter fell at the top of an escalator and fell all the way to the bottom. She broke her knee and ankle in the process. She had surgery on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and is now in a full leg cast. She will be off work until June. Please keep Barbara and her daughter in your thoughts and prayers.

**Rich Bouska** conducted the raffle. My ticket was the first one drawn so I won the money, and the subsequent winners each took home a bottle of wine. When our meals came, we clinked glasses and made a toast, to our friendship and a New Year of good health for all. As we were getting ready to leave, **Rich Bouska** asked me, “Did you realize everyone left last month before they brought the ice cream?” (The senior meals come with ice cream for dessert). He was the last one to leave and there was a delay in bringing out the ice cream. With a perfectly straight face, he said, “So, I had to eat all of them.” My jaw dropped and I said, “All of them?” He finally told me he was kidding but he really had me going for a minute!

**Barbara Cunningham** is collecting both new and used Christmas cards. She donates them to a local special education teacher who uses them in his classroom. He has told Barbara he can use “all the cards he can get.” The students make gift cards, which they sell at the school fundraiser. If you have cards you’d like to donate, please contact Barbara at (925) 846-8123 or [barbjc1943@gmail.com](mailto:barbjc1943@gmail.com) for more information, or mail them to her directly at 1782 Calle Del Rey, Livermore, CA 94551-3985. This teacher needs just the cards, no envelopes. The money they raise is for special outings like field trips and other enrichment activities for the special needs students.

**Jan Soderstrom** is collecting coupons for the charity Support our Troops. This is a service project of her Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. I would like to renew my request to have you cut out coupons and mail them to me at 30 San Piedras Place, San Ramon, CA 94583-3018. One thing we can all agree

on is that the cost of groceries has skyrocketed in the last year or so. Unfortunately, manufacturers are cutting back on the coupons they are issuing, especially on food items, just when people need help the most. So anything we can send to the troops is greatly appreciated—food, nonfood, baby and pet; and both current and expired. This is such an easy thing to do to support our troops. For the price of a first class stamp, you can get about 90 coupons in an envelope. The coupons have to say Manufacturer's Coupon. If they come in a strip, please cut them into separate coupons. The collected coupons are then distributed to overseas military personnel for use in their commissaries. The commissaries honor them for six months after the published expiration date so expired coupons can be sent too. However, please send me coupons at least every other month so the troops have a longer time to use them. Please help me spread the word about this worthwhile project. The number of coupons in the newspapers has dropped dramatically so the only way we can maintain our level of support is if more people send me coupons. Ask your friends and neighbors, and the people at your RUAEA meetings, to send me coupons as well.

I am so grateful for the kindness of all the RUAEA members who are helping me with this project. I have been turning in coupons every month since May 2022. On January 7, I turned in 508 coupons. Thank you so much to the members in my local RUAEA chapter and to members from all over the country who are sending coupons. If it weren't for the RUAEA folks from all over the country sending me coupons, my chapter would have very few coupons. This month I received coupons from **Tracey Blanchard** in CA, **Ginger Dahlberg** in CA, **Marilyn Evans** in CO, **Diane Griego** in CA, **Glenda Kennedy** in CA, **Marcella Kern** in NJ, **Margie Klaus** in NV, **Carol Koslosky** in NY, **Samantha Koslosky** in MD, **Betty Ogburn** in NJ and **Russell Schleske** in CA.

Our meetings are the first Monday of the month and we meet all 12 months of the year. Upcoming Meetings: Please join us!

- ▲ Monday, February 3 at 11:30. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mount Diablo Street, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:30. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) by Friday, January 31.
- ▲ Monday, March 3, 2025 at 11:30. Lazy Dog Restaurant, 1961 Diamond Blvd in the Willows Shopping Center, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:30. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, February 28.
- ▲ Monday, April 7, 2025 at 11:30. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mount Diablo Street, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:30. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, March 28.

Until next month, take care and do everything you can to stay healthy! Best wishes to everyone for a happy holiday season, and a New Year of good health and many memorable moments with family and friends.

### **GOLDEN GATERS**

SFO – Bay Area  
Ginger Dahlberg  
821 Magellan Lane  
Foster City, CA 94404  
(650) 224-1865  
[gingersfo@aol.com](mailto:gingersfo@aol.com)



Reminders: Send in or give **John Garis** your 2025 dues (\$15 per member, check made out to **John Garis**, Treasurer, 550 Compass Circle, Redwood City, CA 94065) Cash is fine also.

Our meeting times are 10:00am to 12:00noon – we leave for the restaurant at 11:30am, our upcoming meetings:

- ▲ January 27 – Meeting in the Wind Room above Foster City Library / Lunch Lazy Dog in Bridgepoint
- ▲ February 24 – Meeting in the Wind Room above Foster City Library / Lunch BJ's in Bridgepoint
- ▲ March 24 – Meet in the Wind Room above Foster City Library/Jacks', El Camino & Hwy. 92, San Mateo

See's Candy discount available now in Sequoia Station, Redwood City (not So. SFO) – show UAL ID.

Here we are wrapping up 2024. We had a short meeting where we sang Happy Birthday (no one would admit their age) to **Carol Slater** in November and December babies: **Gary Chong** and **Jerry Marsala**. 51 year November anniversary congrats to **John & Xenia Bogdanoff**. We had our usual raffle with **Gary Chong** and **Al Durr** garnering the money.

Most members have avoided the Flu/Covid/RSV bugs – do get those shots as the bugs are rampart around here! Our last regular meeting was in November but we did get to celebrate the Christmas holidays on December 9<sup>th</sup> with a very tasty lunch at Bellinis' Italian Restaurant in Foster City. Several members dragged out their Christmas sweaters, some funny, others colorful. If you are in the area, the food is great and the staff is very attentive. We were lucky that we could order off the menu, Salmon, Pasta dishes and specials of Steak and (my favorite) Lamb Shanks. Seen enjoying the festivities were **Gary & Ellen Chong, Lydia Rolfe, Al Durr, Linda Kasarda, Dee Peters, Bob Donovan and Frank Minnick.** Several round tables with lots of laughter: **John Garis, Carol** and hubby **David Slater, Vera Kina, Barbara Underhill, Patricia Niland, Andy King, Eliza Garza, Ginger Dahlberg,** and **Jerry & Pat Marsala.** Santa had lottery tickets at each place setting ... no one got the \$5000 grand scratch-off. Oh well, maybe next year? The treasurer handed out \$10 to each attendee as a 'thank you' for their support. Now that's a rarity ... getting money back!

Encourage any of your UAL/CO retirees to join us – it is good to get out, enjoy some good conversations, good food and to smell the flowers! Our area is a melting pot of many countries so we have a plethora of great restaurants: Thai, BBQ, Hot Pots, Italian, Chinese, Mediterranean (great Pizza,) good old 'Merican food, IHOP for breakfast and good pancakes, Japanese (soon to open in the Bridgepoint area,) and many places to shop and spend your money!

Conundrum of the Day: “Do you ever think that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue?”

Come join us if you are in town, all United and Continental retirees are welcome - we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 10:00am in the Wind Room at the Foster City Library, corner of Hillsdale Blvd., and Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404. Note: Our mailing address is UAL-SFO Bay Area Retirees, c/o **Ginger Dahlberg**, 821 Magellan Lane, Foster City, CA 94404.



#### **HANGTOWN MINERS**

Jane Gibson

Placerville, CA

Secretary

[tired-dogs@comcast.net](mailto:tired-dogs@comcast.net)

Are you ready? Less than 4 days to Christmas - 10 days to the last day for 2024 – and to top it all off, today is the first day of winter! Yup, the days will begin to get a little bit longer!

Are you all ready for Christmas? I think we are, though, I seem to get a “whoops” moment and need to do something I forgot. We don't do the meal prep any longer – passed that spatula on a few years ago. We are fortunate, both our daughters are really good cooks! Well, however you spend the last part of this year, have a good time and be safe.

Our last luncheon for the year was at the Smith Flat House again. We may spend a touch more for our meals (isn't everything going up and up?) but it is well worth it. We have a completely separate room that is very warm and cozy. We chose between prime rib and salmon. Both were delicious! Our meals are served quickly and were enjoyed by all. **Rudy Blazius** gave a big “Thank You” to **Suzanne Kenny** who made all the arrangements with the restaurant, and **Jane Gibson** who put together the table decorations and take-homes. This year, Jane put together gnomes for each person along with a cloth sack with candy inside. The table decorations were Santa sleighs with fun things inside. We did a draw for those – six members took them home.

Since we don't have a regular meeting at this luncheon, Rudy just spoke briefly and wished everyone a wonderful Christmas celebration and to have a safe and sane New Year's celebration. I don't get a sense that too many of us go out partying on New Year's Eve these days!

I do have one reminder: If you haven't paid your dues for 2025, please put that on your “To Do” list. Make your check out to Hangtown Miners for \$15.00 and send it to **Tom Kenny**; 3481 Parleys Canyon; Placerville, CA 95660.

Our first luncheon for 2025 will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> (mark your calendars as it is the third Wednesday) and we will be getting together at Mimi's Cafe in Folsom.

Have a safe, healthy, fun time as you celebrate the end of the year; see all of you next year!





## RESANS

San Diego, CA

Barbara Drews

Secretary

[sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com)

I am wishing everyone a great 2025!

The year is starting out quietly at this end. Those of us down here in San Diego are not used to the cool weather, fog and mist that we have been getting lately and I know I am not the only one that has been doing a lot of reading. This is a great time to get caught up on all the good books that are out there.

The birthdays for February are **Louie Semon** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Paul Zadrozny** (15<sup>th</sup>), and **Calvin Iida** (28<sup>th</sup>).

**Joan & Paul Zadrozny** have moved into assisted living in Oceanside. They are close to family and we will miss not seeing them as often at our breakfast as it is a long drive coming down the busy freeway to Pt. Loma.

Our January breakfast was on January 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the conflict with New Year's Eve. I don't have a lot of news for this issue.

The 2025 Convention/Reunion will be held in Denver this year and I will keep you advised on the details as I receive them.

### Calendar:

**February 6** - Breakfast at the Pt Loma Cafe, San Diego; 10:00AM. If you are going to be in town, send me an RSVP and we would love to have you visit us!

## SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS

Sacramento, CA

Ron Bertacini

Secretary

[sgd@surewest.net](mailto:sgd@surewest.net)

## SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS



The Gold Diggers met at Casa del Lago in Granite Bay where we had 18 members and two guests: **Donna Shaw** guest of **Sidnee McKinney** and **Patti Midtlyng** guest of **Barbara Bertacini**. President **Jim Simon** opened the meeting after a very nice buffet lunch, thanking **Barbara & Ron Bertacini** for making the arrangements and our servers. Jim also thanked the members for their contributions for the raffle and all the generous donations for Toys for Tots.

Officer reports began with VP **Barbara Bertacini** reporting that we are set for the beginning of 2025 with **Veronica & Francis Domaratius** hosting January at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville and **Jim Simon** hosting February at Lucille's BBQ in Rocklin. The Café del Lago seems popular and we will probably meet there again early next year.

Secretary **Ron Bertacini** reported that his records showed no anniversaries in December but that there was one in November when we did not meet, **Rose & Ed Rheam** with 72 years which brought on some applause. Treasurer **Robin Garland** reported that the chapter is still solvent thanks to income from the monthly raffles. Sunshine Lady **Angie Dellinger** reported that long time member **Dan Figueroa** had passed away and she sent a sympathy card to **Rosemary**. Historian **Francis Domaratius** had nothing new to report other than 'we are all 'still making history'. Regional Director **Dave Garland** reported that the RUAEA Reunion for 2025 will be in Denver at the Holiday Inn near the Flight Training Center and the planning process has begun. The RUAEA Site team got another great rate \$139 plus tax which includes breakfast for two and free parking. Hotel reservation can already be made, check [ruaea.org](http://ruaea.org) for more information. Dates for the Reunion are September 27 to October 1, 2025 with the rate being available from September 23 to October 3, 2025.

Jim asked if anyone had any old business ... nothing and then any new business ... nothing again. Jim moved on to the birthday roll off with and there was only one birthday in December, **Francis Domaratius** ... he rolled the dice and received his small reward. Jim relayed a review of how the airline industry has changed over the years with mergers and some just going out of business. We finished with our monthly raffle with many great options.

Jim mentioned that he had not heard from anyone about taking on the job of President and that he would really like to step down. Both **Francis Domaratius** and **Ron Bertacini** volunteered to take on the job. Jim put it to a vote of the members and Francis will assume the Presidency for 2025.

We wish our RUAEA family a Happy and hopefully prosperous New Year ... let 2025 be good to all of us.

Jim's comments about the airline industry piqued my interest to dig a little deeper with some of the following. Going back to 1961 when Capital Airlines merged into United Air Lines.

**Allegheny Airlines** ~ 1972 Mohawk Airlines was acquired by Allegheny Airlines which became US Air in 1979 then US Airways in 1997. PSA (Pacific Southwest Airlines) merged with US Air in 1988. Piedmont Airlines merged into US Air in 1989 America West Airlines merged into US Airways in 2007 and US Airways merged into American Airlines in 2013. Ironically, America West management took control of US Airways and then US Airways management took control of American Airlines.

**Continental Airlines** ~ Texas International Airlines merged into Continental Airlines in 1981, as did Peoples Express in 1987 and Frontier Airlines in 1987 and New York Air in 1987 then Continental would merge with United Airlines in 2010. This was to be a merger of equals but Continental's management took control of United Airlines.

**Delta Airlines** ~ Northeast Airlines merged into Delta in 1972 then Western Airlines would merge into Delta in 1987 and lastly Northwest Airlines would merge with Delta in 2010. Delta would also pick up much of the assets of Pan American in 1991 including the Atlantic routes.

**Eastern Airlines** would go out of business in 1991 and Continental would pick up many of its assets and many of its employees. Another irony was that the Eastern pilots were on strike when the company ceased operations and there was a 'classic' photo of an Eastern pilot carrying a sign "We Won!"

**Lake Central Airlines** would cease operations in 1968.

**Pacific Airlines, Bonanza Airlines and West Coast Airlines** merged into Air West Airlines in 1968 and later became Hughes Airwest Airlines in 1970 and then became Republic in 1980 and finally merged into Northwest Airlines in 1986. North Central Airlines bought Southern Airways in 1979 and would become part of Republic Airlines.

**TWA** (Trans World Airlines) began as Transcontinental and Western Air would merge into American Airlines in 2001 due to financial problems.

**Midway Airlines** ceased operation in 1991.

**Pan American Airways** acquired National Airlines in 1980 in an effort to have domestic feed for its international routes. Financial difficulties gave to the company selling its Pacific Division to United Airlines in 1985. In 1989, the company tried to take over or merge with Northwest Airlines but failed. In 1991, it ceased operations with Delta acquiring much of its assets and the Atlantic Division, American and United took over much of its Latin America Division.

**Braniff Airlines** took over Mid-Continent Airlines in 1952. With deregulation, Braniff tried to expand rapidly and it ended up costing them. Howard Putnam was the CEO when things started to go bad. Howard had started as a sales rep for Capital Airlines and moved on to United Airlines with the 1961 merger. Howard moved on to be Group Vice President of Marketing with United. In 1978, he became President and CEO of Southwest Airlines. In 1981, he became the CEO of Braniff. Story has it that Howard was led to believe that Braniff was not having financial problems when he was offered the CEO position. In 1982, the company ran out of cash and ceased operations.



### **SAN JOAQUINERS**

Rosie Walls

Secretary

(209) 984-5672

[jawrmw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jawrmw@sbcglobal.net)

### **Submitted by Steve/Jacque Foster**

We got together on Thursday, December 12 at Firenze Italian Restaurant in Oakdale. **Bob & Mary Brown, Anita & Mike Millard, Bob & Ginger DuMars, Don & JoAnne Nesja, Al Savare, and Betty & Chris Fountain** joined us for a lovely luncheon. Unfortunately, **Bob & Sandy Brooks** were not able to join us because Bob was ill. **Bob & Eleanor Wood** didn't join us either due to Eleanor being ill. **Bob & Pat Scoble** were on a Panama Cruise. We missed them all, but it was a nice time together. The food and services were great.

Birthdays were **Mel Oberg** and **Betty** turns 101 on Christmas Eve. Anniversaries are **Bob & Mary Brown,** and **Bob & Sandy Brooks.**

We talked about travels that we have enjoyed after retirement, different parts of the world and USA. Many are staying home for Christmas, some have family coming from out of town.

Looking back, in December 2002, United Airlines filed Chapter 11.

We also had an ornament exchange. We tabled the discussion of donations to charities until the February meeting.

Reminder, there is no meeting in January 2025. We don't have anyone signed up to be the host for February 13, so location TBD. March 13, **Don & JoAnne** are the host. May 8<sup>th</sup> is hosted by **Bob & Mary Brown**. June 12 host is **Chris Fountain**. August hosts are **Millard/DuMars**. Dues for 2025 are \$7.50 per person.

If anyone from out of town would like to join us for one of our meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month), please contact **Steve Foster**, [sgoldwing@comcast.net](mailto:sgoldwing@comcast.net), (209) 328-1210 or **Bob Scoble**, [U079237@att.net](mailto:U079237@att.net), (209) 626-5308.

Also, we wish everyone a Very Happy New Year!

### **SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY**

San Jose, CA

[www.southbayruaea.org](http://www.southbayruaea.org)

George Midwin

1879 Foxworthy Ave.

San Jose, CA 95124

[midwin5u@hotmail.com](mailto:midwin5u@hotmail.com)



Today, we said good-bye to our dear president, **Chuck Clayborn**. During the past five years, Chuck has been the glue that held our chapter together; his tireless efforts to schedule meetings and set up adventures has kept many of us going. We will miss his bright and cheery personality and discussions on 'Today in History'. He kept us informed as to the latest happenings in the aviation world and stimulated conversations. Although he did not volunteer for the position, he selflessly assumed the role, in an effort to keep the chapter solvent, year after year. Today, we presented Chuck with a plaque donated by members as a symbol of our deep appreciation for his outstanding leadership.

With the captain no longer on the bridge, the ship is simply floating in the sea, without a true direction. There are no icebergs ahead presently, however, we will encounter fog and will need all eyes as lookouts. It does appear that at this time, not a soul has sought to assume the helm. No need to reach for the life jackets just yet, we can continue gathering on a monthly basis, the first Monday of the month at Bill of Fare and see where the ship is headed. Although I may not communicate as often as Chuck had done, we can assume that a get-together is planned.

Chuck has turned over to me hundreds and hundreds of photographs dating back many years of the Southbay RUAEA chapter. I can organize them and eventually make them available for everyone to look over and reminisce about the members of the past and chapter functions.

Reservation has been made for our annual Vasona Park picnic, on Monday, June 9. Please put this date on your calendars. Also mark your calendars for RUAEA's Reunion in Denver, on September 27 - October 1. This will be the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of RUAEA; more information to follow in future newsletters.

SOLANO FLYERS

### **SOLANO FLYERS**

Larry Jackson

President

(707) 624-0030

[larry-cindy@comcast.net](mailto:larry-cindy@comcast.net)



**Submitted by Allan Pochop, [apochop@aol.com](mailto:apochop@aol.com).**

The Solano Flyers met on December 17 at Denny's Restaurant in Cordelia. In attendance were President **Larry Jackson, Diosnel & Luci Perez, Chauncy Blaine, Rudy Arsaga, Richard Cox, Eileen & Pad Gardner, Gerald Williams, JoAnne & Bill Blizzard, Frank Uhl, Stewart McCale and Stewart McCale, Jr.**

**Birthday ~ Luci Perez.**

Winner of the 50/50 was **Larry Jackson**. **Rudy Arsaga** took home the Air Fryer and the Buffet Warmer went to **Gerald Williams**.

Next month's luncheon will be on January 21<sup>st</sup> at Denny's in Cordelia, CA; 304 Pittman Rd.

## COLORADO

### DENVER MILE HIGHERS

Rich & Cleora Conner  
(970) 660-7040  
[richcleora@gmail.com](mailto:richcleora@gmail.com)



Chapter President **Paul Goodyear** mentioned that the 2025 RUAEA Reunion in Denver needs volunteers to chair various committees and volunteers to staff the Reunion. They need to know who the volunteers will be by March.

The Reunion Hotel Room rate is \$139.00 a night which includes 2 breakfasts per night and parking. The final night of the Reunion will feature a banquet with entertainment; one of the tours being considered is a visit to the TK Denver Flight Training Center.

If you are able to be a volunteer for any position, please let Paul Goodyear know. Date of the Reunion is September 27 through October 1.

This month, our 50/50 winners are **Kathy Sibley, Tammi Thompson, Ginger Spate, and Ron Delautre.**

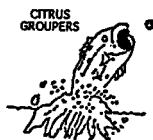
Our next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at Ted's Place in Commerce City. Address: 5271 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Commerce City, (303) 287-7544.

## FLORIDA

### THE CITRUS GROUPEERS

#### THE VILLAGES

Julius "Joe" DiStaso  
(941) 661-2215  
[wopahofl@gmail.com](mailto:wopahofl@gmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Citrus Groupers chapter of RUAEA.

If anyone has questions or would like to join our group, please contact our president **Joe DiStaso** at [wopahofl@comcast.net](mailto:wopahofl@comcast.net).

### THE ORLANDO

#### REAL McCOYS

Elaine Tillman-Mannella  
7307 Everleigh Court  
Orlando, FL 32819  
(321) 287-4055  
[emt6250@yahoo.com](mailto:emt6250@yahoo.com)



Our December 2024 highlights included a wonderful Christmas Luncheon on December 10<sup>th</sup>, with great food, conversation and Christmasy attire, along with nice pictures of everyone in front of the Xmas Tree!

December Birthday Balloons to **Maureen Sterinsky** and **Jane Houston**! And a Big 69<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Cake, Candles, and Kisses to **Ted & Charlotte LeGrand** on December 31<sup>st</sup>! Cut it a bit close there, Ted. Ho ho!

**Ernie & Cheryl Vosges** missed the party by one day ... Ernie landed in the hospital ICU. A month later, just as our January 7, 2025 meeting was beginning, Ernie is still at Advent South on Rollins Street. Please send cards to them at: 2904 Birmingham Blvd., Orlando, FL 32829; [ocean2900@att.net](mailto:ocean2900@att.net).

President **Al Fields** opened the meeting with the Pledge and extra prayers for **Ernie & Cheryl Vosges**. He then asked for **any and all** volunteers for the Board positions and the room at Denny's grew strangely silent. As we are normally a chatty group, this confirmed that the current officers will remain chained to their positions! ☺

Treasurer **Linda Agnello** reported that we are solvent and then reminded us that she is currently collecting our Annual Dues of \$20 for the year. It's **never** too late to join this crazy group! In fact, today, a new member, **Willie Hernandez**, who retired from MCOCG in 2003 joined us for lunch, along with his son, Larry. Willie's address is: 2419 Josefina Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744; [ZUREK2530@aol.com](mailto:ZUREK2530@aol.com).



Secretary **Elaine Tillman-Mannella** updated the info on Ernie & Cheryl (see address above!) Cheryl fainted in the hospital and had surgery to remove a blood clot in her lung – All's good now! Ernie's CT scans are "stable", he has a trach as of 1/6, and a mild form of dialysis to keep his kidney function good, and Cheryl is praying this will be the last setback. She says, "*God's at the wheel on this rough and bumpy road. He knows how fast or slow we need to go and He never gets lost.*" Prayers Please and Thanks.

### **SW PELICANS DROP-INS**

Ray Jensen  
(239) 888-2744  
[rmmjensen@msn.com](mailto:rmmjensen@msn.com)



Our normal meeting on the first Friday of the month is right after the New Year so we changed our January meeting date to the second Friday. With that change, the meeting is after the deadline for the RUAEA Newsletter so we will report this in next month's Newsletter.

The holidays were great, no hurricanes.



### **TAMPA BAY CHAPTER**

Trinity, FL  
Janis Lindstrom  
587 Waterford Circle W.  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688  
(727) 934-1862  
[LindeKatz@aol.com](mailto:LindeKatz@aol.com)

Eight members attended our Christmas Luncheon. On January 6, we had 3 people at our monthly breakfast. We had a very social meeting. As usual, we talked about UAL and wished Happy New Year to each other.

### **Calendar:**

**February 3** – IHOP, 10:30

**March 3** – IHOP, 10:30

### **TREASURE COAST**

Mary K. Wetherington  
(561) 345-6373  
[mwether700@gmail.com](mailto:mwether700@gmail.com)



It is with deep sadness and regret that I inform our members of the passing of our beloved President, **Al Popek** (PBI). He had been fighting an illness he acquired on a cruise in November and had been hospitalized since. After fighting it since then, he passed away on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

His wife of over 50 years had preceded him in death in 2023.

Our prayers go out to him and his family.

The Treasure Coast Chapter has sadly lost many of our members, including our Vice-President, **Bob Langevin**. We intend to continue meeting quarterly, currently at Carmine's in Palm Beach.

All of us wish everyone a Blessed and Healthy New Year!

### **IDAHO**



### **BOISE GEMS**

Shirley Dempsey  
[rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com)

There is no report this month from the Boise Gems chapter of RUAEA.

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO SKYLINERS

[www.chicagoskyliners.org](http://www.chicagoskyliners.org)

[Chicagomainliner.com](http://Chicagomainliner.com)

Jan Gawenda

(847) 917-9586

[jawenda@gmail.com](mailto:jawenda@gmail.com)



February—Love, politics, Ground Hog Day, and cold! What more could we want? Well, more of something warm. We survived the holidays, didn't we? Put up decorations, took down decorations, some people will still have them up until February, but only have the red lights up.

Some will keep them up until March, when they will only have the green lights. By April, they'll add bunnies. April 20 is Easter, why can't they just keep that holiday on some steady date, like the last Sunday of March. Are you getting a little slower now after you've reached a certain age? Many of my friends have, including me, it's a little sad to know we're not jumping up and running around as before. A bit disconcerting, isn't? I'm not used to only having one thing to multi-task, and only going about 30 miles an hour, but at least I'm still moving! I really miss my shopping jaunts, Woodfield, Oak Brook, the Outlet Malls, for good merchandise at lower prices. I'll miss my car someday and my impulsive trips to Lake Geneva. Love Wisconsin!

I tried to find the real history of St. Valentine, seems it's a myth that has grown from a very thin history of the man. He was a celibate priest that was persecuted and jailed, by the Romans because he secretly married couples in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century who wanted a Christian marriage. If a man was married, the emperor Claudius didn't make him join the army. Therefore, Valentine helped out the couples and married them in secret. While he was in prison, he wrote a letter to a friend and signed it, 'From your Valentine'. Over the years this gave birth to the tradition of sending lovers cards, candy, teddy bears and flowers. (Hallmark got involved in there somewhere). Pope Galesius made February 14 a day to commemorate Valentine and helping couples marry. Then in the Middle Ages, Chaucer, (yes, that Chaucer), recorded it as a romantic holiday. So, the true origins of this holiday have disappeared behind cards and candies with hearts, but he does sound like a nice guy who wanted to help out others, that's why he's a saint.

The full moon this month is on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and is called the Snow Moon, I guess for obvious reason ... February has very heavy snow in the Northern Hemisphere. Thank God it's a short month! It's sometimes called 'micro moon', which means it appears slightly smaller and dimmer than a typical full moon, because it's passing the earth at its farthest distance in its orbit.

The February flowers are the violet and primrose. The tiny woodland plants appear as purple, colorful slippers on the landscape. Wild violets show off their purple-blue petals and heart shaped leaves, along with the primrose, a small perennial woodland plant, that also blooms in the wintertime; strong little plants. The birthstone is the gorgeous purple amethyst. Others prefer the jasper or the jade. I think I like the amethyst because it's purple, just like the flower, color coordinated month!

The Northside breakfast of December was canceled because of weather. **Dave Dunham** came because he didn't get my email in time. An unknown woman showed up because I didn't know she was coming, no RSVP to me. That's why I like responses. Let's hope for no snow this month. Encourage your friends who don't belong to the Skyliners to join. Go to [chicagoskyliners.org](http://chicagoskyliners.org), fill it in, send \$10 to **Tom Pelc**, and you can help keep our chapter alive. Remember 10-15 years ago, we had over 350 members? Our Christmas Luncheon at the Itasca Country Club had so many people, they had to open their extra room to accommodate us. Our last one had 80 people. We know a lot of the decrease is attrition; death, moving, physically unable to get around, so many reasons, but we need the younger, new retirees to know about us. United doesn't give us a list of the new retirees any more, so we can't notify them. Do you know any new retirees? Advise them of us and keep them part of our company club. Thank you.

The ORDMM mechanics had a nice crowd, **Walt Chornomaz, Cas Paprocki, LB Neal, Don Kramlich, Bill Durr, Fred Seibert, Jim Kraft, Bob Palm, Harry Kargenian, Frank Wenig, Ron Geibel, Boris Spitz, Don Matker, Jim Vitte, Rich Protsman, and Dean Hackenberg**, all serviced beautifully by Ruthie, our honorary mechanic. She knows everybody's order. Even puts the hot sauce in front of those who need it. Plus she takes the pictures of 'the guys' so I know who's there, and she puts up with all of us. Hooray for Ruthie!

The ORDMM foremen had a smaller group, **Glenn Hill, Bob Smietanski, Stan Chmielewicz, Sue & Bart Kendall**. Our waiter there, Abraham, has been serving us for many years. He, too, knows all of our orders. Funny, both of our servers don't know our names, but instead, know our orders. Tom is a waffle, Jan is an egg croissant with fruit, Jim is eggs and bacon with extra coffee cream, Frank is crispy bacon and over easy eggs, with onions in his hash browns, etc. but Stan changes his mind every month.

The January IAM 1487 lunch was attended by 70 retirees. A hot dog lunch was sponsored by the Union. **Dave Roderick** announced that the February lunch will be Brown Bag/Bingo day. The Chinese lunch normally held in February will be moved to March. There will be a \$5.00 charge, for which you can order and pay this month. Dues for 2025 are \$15 per person; you can pay then or send it to the club at 50 W. Oakton, in Des Plaines, 60018. Make check payable to, LL1487 Retirees Club. Dave also said that there have been a few new members the last few months. That's great! Anyone that was in the union can come to the meeting and join that day.

I had the pleasure of speaking with a few of our members that I haven't seen in a while, or at all. With my name on the top of this column, many people call or Email for help or just to say 'hi' and a few 'thank you's'. Isn't that nice? That's why I should keep up to date on my flying info. They are **Helen Kaspari**, from EXO, **Norm Wilkinson** and **Clyde Johnson**, from Operations Planning, **Russ Cormier**, from EXO Flight Ops, **John Wade**, OPB Dispatch, **Ann Mahoney**, ORD Customer Service, **Don Matker**, ORD Maintenance, **Joan Teister**, ORD Kitchen, **Marcie Moller**, ORD Air Freight, **George Haupt**, from ORD kitchen planning, whom I met at a RUPA lunch, and **Joan & Bud Ayers**, BAL Manager, whom we met at the Loonies trips in the Midwest. Also **Carol & Sam Geiger**, from GRR, where he was the Manager. Sam was in ill health the last few years and did pass away on Christmas Day. All great people and I am honored to know. They're doing well and say, Hi!

An update on the western entrance to ORD that is still being constructed. The I-490 toll way project is still two years away from being finished. The roadway will connect I-90 in Des Plaines to I-294 in Bensenville. A portion of the road under construction runs along side the western border of the airport. Crews are working on an entrance from the road directly into the airport. This will be great for those of us living West, North, and South of ORD who have to drive all the way around to the East entrance. This will also build economic development west of the airport.

Also, we have an update on the Real ID necessary by May 7. Illinois residents who are 18 and over must show a Real ID, a passport or other federally approved ID to board domestic flights or certain federal buildings beginning by then. As of now, this date still stands, but it has been delayed so often, we wonder. So don't wait until the last minute, go to a DMV office, bring your valid license or state ID, USA passport, or one from a foreign government. When the TSA gives the approval, you'll be ready.

Extra news from the TSA, United has implemented 'Touchless ID', a facial recognition system aimed at expediting travel for TSA PreCheck members. Right now, it's only available at ORD and LAX airports, allowing participants to go through security and baggage check-ins without showing ID or boarding pass. To use this, United passengers must enroll in the UAL's app using their passport and Known Traveler Number. Users opt-in to facial recognition ID verification when booking flights from supported airports. TSA PreCheck members flying on UAL can then verify their identity at security checkpoints and baggage drops simply by scanning their faces instead of showing boarding passes or physical ID's. How far we've come!

One more United story, it started in August, UAL's basic economy customers can use online check-in, but they need to provide a credit card to pre-authorize \$65 that the airline can charge if you bring a carry-on to the gate. That's \$40 checked bag fee and \$25 extra gate handling fee. I'd rather go with the 20% ticket, can carry on for \$00.

There are some new laws in Illinois that could affect your life. Check on [ABCNews.go.com](http://ABCNews.go.com). There are 300 of them, check them out.

Some of our coworkers that flew West last month include, **Linda Bonnet**, ORDSW, **Roland Krepps**, **Willie Hayward** and **Jim Steel**, EXOKF, **Michael Densford** and **Gary Olson**, ORDCG, **Annie Dodson**, ORDCS, and **Ralph Scriven**, ORDCS/IADCS.

Personalities that have left us are, actors, Michael Cole (Mod Squad), Olivia Hussey (Romeo & Juliet), Angus MacInnes (Star Wars), Linda Lavin (Alice), John Capodice (Ace Ventura), Poet, Nikki Giovanni, Sportscaster Greg Gumble (CBS), Singer Wayne Osmond (the Osmonds), the one and only, Peter Yarrow, from Peter, Paul and Mary, Richard Parsons, media executive CBS, Time Warner, Citigroup; Charles Dolan, founder of Cablevision and HBO), Amazing Kreskin (mentalists, appeared on Carson), and Jimmy Carter, 39<sup>th</sup> president, Nobel Prize, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

This year started out with so much hope for peace and happiness. Unfortunately, that didn't happen because of violence in our world. We pray for all the families affected because of death, injury and the witnesses to all

the carnage. We also hope that anyone else with similar thoughts would realize these actions do not solve any problems, but cause great heartache to all of us. Be careful when you go out anywhere, big or small towns are not exempt from evil. Please, God help and bless us all.

Calendar:

Northside Breakfast - Rose Garden Restaurant, 9:00AM, 800 E. Higgins Rd., corner of Higgins and Scott St., Elk Grove, **(February 13)**, second Thursday of the month.

IAM 1487 Lunch - 1487 Lodge, 11:00 A.M., 50 W Oakton St, Des Plaines **(February 6)** First Thursday.

ORDMM Breakfast - Maxfield's, 9:00AM, Plum Grove & Schaumburg Rds. **(February 20)**. Third Thursday.

RUPA Lunch – Nick's Pizza, 11:00 AM, 856 Pyott Rd., Crystal Lake **(March 11)**.

INDIANA



INDY RACERS

Indianapolis, IN

Frank N. Ingegno

(317) 428-7741

[figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net)



Our most recent chapter meeting was our annual Christmas lunch meeting held in December. This year, we had it at Applebee's Restaurant. Attending in the photo above, from left to right: **Anthony Theiss** (son of **Charles Theiss**), **Allan Miller** (IND computer tech), **Charles Theiss** (IND & SFO stores), **Bob Duty** (INDAF, SFOOV), **Myrtle Duty** (Bob's wife), **Susanne Ingegno** (Frank's wife), **Sharron Miller** (Alan's wife) and **Frank Ingegno** (OPBEG, INDIQ, SFOIQ, SFOOV). It was nice meeting and socializing with members and their wives.

We wish all a happy and healthy New Year. We are hopeful that 2025 will bring an increase in Indy Racers chapter membership.

The RUAEA Indy Racers chapter is always open for new participants/members. Any United/CO retirees living in the Indianapolis area are welcome to join. Come check us out at one of our monthly meetings. We always enjoy meeting new United friends. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. Location of our meeting is Emmy's Pancake House and Grill, 7508 Beechwood Center Road, Avon, IN 46123, (317) 272-7200.



Our future meetings schedule:

- **February 11** at Emmy's
- **March 11** at Emmy's
- **April 8** at Emmy's

For more information, please contact **Frank Ingegno**, (317) 428-7741, [figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net).

## MASSACHUSETTS

### NOR'EASTERS

New England  
Dick Vee Vecchione  
107 Bunker Hill Road  
Auburn, NH 03032-3521  
(603) 264-3430  
[NH4Vee@aol.com](mailto:NH4Vee@aol.com)



I spoke to Nor'Easter member **Helmut Umbley** about future plans for our next meeting luncheon. The funds set aside by our deceased treasurer, **Bill Vanderwal**, have finally been given to us by his niece who has been taking care of his finances.

We are spreading the word to our members; hopefully, we will have a get-together in March or April. So far, winter has spared southern New Hampshire and the Boston area; we have very little snow and so far, not all that cold.

I will inform the members as soon as we make plans. Stay well, all!

## MICHIGAN



### GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

Detroit, MI  
Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann  
(248) 667-9258  
[bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net)

We welcome 2025! A new year, a new beginning!

We currently have no luncheons planned, however we are always looking for someone to host. You pick a restaurant (making sure they give separate checks), date and time; advise the restaurant the final count a couple of days before so that they can properly staff. How nice it would be to see some of our old friends again. Contact **Marguerite Venn** at [mptv85@gmail.com](mailto:mptv85@gmail.com) to claim your date.

**Marguerite Venn** underwent successful pacemaker surgery in November. Unfortunately, she experienced some complications weeks later and had to be hospitalized. She is now home and doing very well. You can contact her at 14118 Rockland, Redford, MI 48239.

**Linda Ward's** dear friend and partner, **Donnis Reese**, passed away on January 2. She was a beautiful person with zest for life. Rick and I were fortunate to attend her ordination to the Episcopalian priesthood years ago. She and Linda would attend a luncheon whenever they were in town.

Linda is having health issues and is on oxygen. But she is the same old Linda with a positive attitude. You can get in touch with her at Brentwood, 1111 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street, #329, Lincoln, NE 68510.

Thought for the month: *"Kindness is not an act, it's a reflection of your soul."* And, *"Sorry I'm cranky; I'm going through my terrible 80's right now."*

We lost many of our United family last year. Let's strive to make this a healthy happy year.

## NEBRASKA



### OMAHA GOLDENEARS

Jan Cornish  
4602 N. 134<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68164  
(402) 619-9927  
[kcornish6031@msn.com](mailto:kcornish6031@msn.com)

There is no report this month from the Omaha Golden Ears chapter of RUAEA.

## NEVADA

### LAS VEGAS SILVER LINERS

Arlene McCroy  
[apolloguy@aol.com](mailto:apolloguy@aol.com)



There is no report this month from the Las Vegas Silver Liners chapter of RUAEA.

The Silverliners extend an invitation to all Nevada UA/CO retirees to join us. For more information, please contact either **Arlene McCroy**, [apolloguys@aol.com](mailto:apolloguys@aol.com) or **Mary Chandler**, [honolulumary06@yahoo.com](mailto:honolulumary06@yahoo.com).



### RENO SIERRA ROUNDUP

Pat Zoboli  
5860 Lone Horse Drive  
Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 856-2044  
[zobolilady@aol.com](mailto:zobolilady@aol.com)

There is no report this month from the Reno Sierra Roundup chapter of RUAEA.

## NEW JERSEY

### THE GARDEN STATERS

Newark, New Jersey  
Marty Etler  
Brandywine Room 115  
814 Wyckoff Ave., Mahwah, NJ 07430  
(551) 795-7266  
[MartyEtler@outlook.com](mailto:MartyEtler@outlook.com)



Due to inclement weather, we do not meet during the winter months so there is no report this month from the Garden Staters chapter of RUAEA. Following is another excerpt of Marty Etler's trip down memory lane:

One day when I came into work, my chief said we have a DC-6 down in Bradley Field, Connecticut. He told me and my partner to get some parts, take the pickup truck and head up there right away to fix it.

It took us a couple hours but we finally got there and found the plane. We checked the logbook to see what the complaint was, we put a brand-new set of spark plugs in and change the distributor, we ran it, and it ran like a top.

We called both Newark and San Francisco line maintenance to let them know that the plane was back in service. Just as we were packing up and about to leave, a Navy A4-D plane comes alongside of us. It was a single engine piston plane, but it is a big engine. Frankly, I don't know what they use it for. Anyway the pilot gets out, sees us, and asks us for some help.

Of course, we asked what happened, and he said I lost all my hydraulic fluid and now I'm on emergency air for my brakes. Normally, we don't do any maintenance without being authorized, however, after we agreed, he did show us how

the cowling came off on the side of the engine. When we opened it the whole inside was covered with hydraulic fluid. Sure enough, I saw what the trouble was, it was a broken rubber hose from his hydraulic pump, and easy fix. However, we still have to clean out that whole accessory compartment.

We went up to the base supply and we found a kerosene pump and a rubber hose, and we fixed everything up for him. However, I told him, that he has to get refilled with hydraulic fluid. One thing that they taught me in aviation school, the Navy uses a blue fluid, and everybody else uses red, and under no conditions do you ever mix them up. You will destroy the system. Therefore, I told him to call Pawtuxit Road Island, his base, and tell them to bring the proper fluid.

I told him to get his guys to fill the system, and then run the engine and exercise all the controls, and he would be good to go. He thanked me and my partner very much. He then asked if there is anything he should sign for charges. I said are you Navy or Marines, he said Marines, I said in that case, all our labor was on the house. We wished him well and left, when I got back I told my chief the whole story and he said, "you did good Ollie".

## NEW YORK

### BUFFALO CHIPS

Jerry Stevens  
130 Countryside Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221-1308  
(716) 418-6887  
[jerste130@msn.com](mailto:jerste130@msn.com)



**BUFFALO CHIPS**

There is no report this month from the Buffalo Chips chapter of RUAEA.

Any one visiting or planning a visit to Buffalo/Niagara Falls can contact me for information on our lunch meetings. We meet four times a year, usually the first week of March, June, September and December.



NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

### NEW YORK METROS

Donna Feingold  
(516) 679-9152  
[djf509@aol.com](mailto:djf509@aol.com)

We have made it through 2024, I hope 2025 will be a healthy and peaceful year for us.

Celebrating January birthdays are **Michael Schroder, Julie Carnevale, Jason Weiner, Ona Weiner, Carol Cenkus and Joseph Lilly.**

Happy 2025 to all!

Calendar:

**February 5** – Meeting.

## OHIO

### OHIO BUCKEYES

Cleveland, OH  
Susan Broderick  
President  
[broderickual62@aol.com](mailto:broderickual62@aol.com)



The cold and snow have hit Ohio for the last week and the weatherman say there is more headed our way.

The Ohio Buckeyes Chapter met in December but will not meet again until March 5, 2025. We are taking January and February off and, based on the weather, it was a good choice.

Our next meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Sully's Irish Pub at 117 W. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio; starting the St. Patrick's Day month in a good way. We will meet at 11:30AM with lunch at 12:30PM. 50/50 tickets will be available.

We are having a change in leadership in 2025 and hope we can keep up with the past leadership team. **Susan Broderick**, CLERR, CLECS, CLEOZ, OPBOP, EWRSS, EWRCS, EWRSW, IADSW, IADOO, IADOZ, WHQCG, will be taking over the reins, along with **Sharon Minnelli**, CLERR, DTWRR, CHIRR, ORDCS, CLECS.

If you are interested in joining our group, we have a \$5.00 membership charge. If you are already a member and do not receive an e-mail with information for the March 5<sup>th</sup> event, please contact Susan at [broderickual62@aol.com](mailto:broderickual62@aol.com). We would love to have a nice size group in March.

Looking forward to a great year!

## OREGON



### OREGON DEW-ER'S

Portland  
Terry Hotchkin  
(360) 907-3868  
[tthotchkin@gmail.com](mailto:tthotchkin@gmail.com)

We had 36 people attend our December luncheon. As usual, the food was great; the conversations and laughter even better. It was **Chris Korbe's** birthday, and he won a free lunch. **Yvonne Wright** won the free lunch for the women's birthdays, and **Lori Wicker** won the free lunch door prize. **Bob & Karen Pfeifer** celebrated their December anniversary.

**Frank Bullis** retired from PDXCS, passed away on November 20, 2024. A service was held on December 1, at Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

And now for a little humor, with some philosophy thrown in occasionally, to make your day pass with a little more fun! But first a winter tip to pass along: Sidewalk De-Icer: For icy steps and sidewalks, mix 1 teaspoon of Dawn dishwashing liquid, 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol, and ½ gallon hot/warm water and pour over walkways. They won't refreeze. No more salt eating at the concrete in your sidewalk/steps.

- ☺ Is there a rehab for fabric addiction? Asking for a friend ...
- ☺ You know you are old when a recliner and a heating pad are your idea of a hot date.
- ☺ Not to brag but I was alive when you could slam the phone down to hang up on someone. It was spectacular!
- ☺ Recent doormat seen in my neighborhood:
  - ★ Keys
  - ★ Glasses
  - ★ Phone
  - ★ Debit card & purse
  - ★ Turn Off Iron & Stove(How brilliant is that!)
- ☺ Some days I amaze myself, other days I put laundry in the oven.
- ☺ A duck flew into my Jeep this morning and now my front windshield is quacked up!
- ☺ According to my height to weight ratio, I should be 9 feet 4 inches. So, my weight is really okay, it's my height that's the problem!
- ☺ I just saw 3 people jogging outside and it inspired me to get up and close the blinds.
- ☺ After all the eating I did over the holidays, I am happy to report that my socks still fit!
- ☺ One way to find out if you are truly old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you're still young. If they panic and start running to you, you are definitely old.
- ☺ I wonder what electric eels were called before electricity was invented ... ?
- ☺ Don't expect any new year's resolutions from me. I intend to remain the same sarcastic, fun-loving delight you've all come to know and love!
- ☺ Remember when people had diaries and got mad when someone read them? Now they put everything online and get mad when people don't.
- ☺ A few weeks ago, I was singing "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth" and now my Facebook is littered with dentist ads!
- ☺ I hate it when people accuse me of lollygagging when I am quite clearly dilly dallying.
- ☺ Just because I like to walk around in my underwear, eating Doritos, does not make me strange. You folks in aisle 4 just need to stop staring.
- ☺ Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary? And on the Virgin Isles? Same thing – not one canary there either!



- ☺ Have you noticed that the older you get, the tighter they put lids on jars?
  - ☺ Wisdom not necessarily comes with age. Sometimes, age shows up all by itself.
  - ☺ The day they handed out patience, I left because it was taking too long.
  - ☺ It's been a bit of a strange day! First, I found a hat full of money. Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar ...
  - ☺ As I get older, I think a lot about the hereafter ... I go into a room and then wonder what I'm here after.
  - ☺ An Indiana man followed what he thought was a Chinese spy balloon for 194 miles before he realized it was bird poop on his windshield, not a spy balloon. I can only imagine.
  - ☺ Dear friends older than 37: You don't have to put 2 spaces after the period anymore. That was for the typewriter era. You're free.
  - ☺ Me: How much is the rent for this gorgeous apartment? "Sir, this is a liquor store."
  - ☺ There are people who didn't listen to their teacher's grammar lessons, and they're driving me nuts.
  - ☺ I woke up this morning determined to eat right and exercise but that was 6 hours ago ... when I was younger and full of hope.
  - ☺ The older I get, the older "old" is!
  - ☺ Respect old people. We graduated school without Google or Wikipedia!
  - ☺ Folgers got it wrong. The best part of waking up is going back to bed after you pee.
  - ☺ One of these days I'm going to get it together. But not today, or tomorrow. The next few weeks are pretty full too.
  - ☺ Enjoy life! You never know how much time you have left.
- Until next month!

#### Calendar:

Meetings at Colwood Golf Center Grill – Social Hour 11:00AM, Lunch served at noon

#### **February 13**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### **THE INDEPENDENTS**

Gail Bradley  
225 Elm Avenue.  
Media, PA 19063-5740.  
(610) 358-3498  
[gailpbrad@icloud.com](mailto:gailpbrad@icloud.com)



Hi again from Philly and Happy New Year!

We had a good 2024 and it seemed to go by too fast; there were happy times and some sad times, but as always we work through them.

Hopefully, all of you are well and looking forward to new adventures with families, friends and loved ones in 2025.

We have no luncheons until April even though some of you do.

We love reading all the reports from different chapters; some are very inspiring. So until next month, stay healthy, safe, and happy!

#### **PITTSBURGH** **PIT-STOPPERS**

Bill Chicots  
2419 Rochester Road  
Sewickley, PA. 15143  
(412) 352-7375  
[firechief158@gmail.com](mailto:firechief158@gmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Pittsburgh Pit-Stoppers chapter of RUAEA.

## UTAH

### SALT LAKE RETIREES

Rich Papworth  
[pappys72@hotmail.com](mailto:pappys72@hotmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Salt Lake Retirees chapter of RUAEA.

## WASHINGTON

### EMERALD CITY SLICKERS

Seattle, WA  
Ken Storey  
(206) 244-9026



There is no report this month from the Emerald City Slickers chapter of RUAEA.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### THE DULLES LOUNGERS

Washington, D.C.  
Mari McColl  
Past President  
[marimccoll@aol.com](mailto:marimccoll@aol.com)



There is no report this month from the Dulles Loungers chapter of RUAEA.

## NATIONAL

### CLIPPED WINGS®

Kathleen A. Freeman  
Clipped WingsNational Vice President  
EWRSW - Active  
[cwkfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:cwkfreeman@gmail.com)  
<https://unitedclippedwingsinc.org>  
(732) 300-7638



**New Travel in the New Year and Perhaps a New Career** ~ As we begin to look toward a new year, United will be kicking off new routes that will give more of our customers and employees a direct link to new destinations! With the offering of dozens of new travel options, United continues to build on their strategy of safely connecting and uniting the world. Think of travel to Brazil, Ghana, India, Nigeria, South Africa, UAE, Philippines and so many more destinations.

United's new routes highlight the continued expansion of their network that builds upon their strong global presence. For these new routes to succeed, United relies heavily on the revenue from these international customers. One of the ways in which United can continuously outperform competitors and win new customers is to promote cultural awareness and acceptance within our organization and among our employees.

No one is better equipped to deliver genuine hospitality and create a welcoming environment for passengers from diverse backgrounds than our flight attendants. With their global experiences and interactions with passengers from around the world, flight attendants play a crucial role in showcasing the best of our company's culture and fostering a sense of belonging for all travelers. Do you know someone of any age and background

who would be interested in a career as a flight attendant? Potential candidates need to possess the ability to put safety first, have a people first demeanor, be flexible and enjoys being a team player, if you do direct them to [united.com/careers](http://united.com/careers).

As retirees and senior employees who are still flying, we have an opportunity to pass along our magnificent experiences in aviation and in particular, as flight attendants traveling the world. Being a flight attendant has not only opened the world to me but the relationships I have formed along my 48 years+ has opened my eyes to helping others and it is through Clipped Wings that I know I can continue my flight attendant relationships and philanthropic work long past when I decide to hang up my wings. But for now I get to do both and I am immensely grateful to both United Airlines and Clipped Wings.

Happy New Year!

Check us out: Facebook: [@Clipped Wings@ Chat Corner](https://www.facebook.com/ClippedWings). [www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org](http://www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org). Instagram: [clippedwingsual](https://www.instagram.com/clippedwingsual).

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **December 2024**:

Lyle Bleeker, Allen, TX  
Donald Crenshaw, Woodstock, IL  
Melvin Lahucik, Orland Park, IL  
Kimberly Montgomery, Aurora, CO  
Jack Montgomery, Aurora, CO  
Robert O'Hara, Orlando, FL

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **December 2024**:

Shirley R. Alexander, George Atteberry, Kenneth Bader, Sina H. Beck, Sonia Brousseau, Robert C. Bryant, Levita J. Burnette, Patricia Clayton, Kay Collier, Russell F. Cormier, Francis Domaratius, Mark Elston, Valentin Garmasch, Bernice Hannan, Arnold H. Hansen, Linda I. Harris, Harold W. Hedrick, Mary C. Hill, Robert V. Keefe, John E. Klos, Thomas Krause, Melvin Lahucik, Penny Mabe, Leslie Mace, Herlinde Mandala, Samuel A. Margolis, William C. Mayer, Linda McCormack, Sig Mueller, Gordon J. Myers, Judi Nelson, Connie R. Nelson, Kay E. O'Brien, Louise O'Connor, Richard Protsman, Arnold A. Schaezke, Irene Scheuerell, Nalini M. Shah, Kenneth A. Storey, Linda Tilford, Stanley T. Tsunemoto, Sophie C. Wajda, Ronald Winegar, and John Witkowski.

## OBITUARIES

**Obit Notice Policy:** *Death notices sent to the Denver Office for publication in the Newsletter Obituary Column will be accepted only from a family member or personal representative in **writing**.* The notice sent concerning the deceased must include:

- 1) Deceased's First and Last Name & Date of Death
- 2) File Number (if the deceased was an employee)
- 3) Last Station worked
- 4) Surviving Spouse or Next of Kin (if applicable)
- 5) Address

In addition, contact information must be included for one sending the information. If the obituary is received hand written and it is not legible, it will not be published until a clear and readable document is

received in the Denver Office. The information may be sent by email (preferred) at [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net), or US Mail. Sorry, the information will not be accepted over the phone.

***Please note that the above policy only applies to death notices submitted to be published in this section of the RUAEA Newsletter.***

Retiree – **Geiger, Charles “Sam”**, on 12/25/2024, GRROZ, husband of Carol Geiger, father of Cynthia (Jim Steele) Geiger and Catherine (Jay) Schripsema, 5959 W. Lyn Haven Dr. SE, Kenwood, MI, 49512

Spouse – **O’Connor, Louise**, on 12/12/2024, wife of William W. O’Connor, SFOEA, 2524 Tuolumne Dr., Chico, CA 95973

Retiree – **Sorensen, Dick H.**, on, 12/22/2023, DENRR, husband of Karon S. Sorensen, 23689 E. Otero Dr., Aurora, CO 80016

Retiree – **Shriner, Robert Wayne**, on 9/25/2024, ORDCS, husband of Judith Shriner, 7819 Torino Ct., Lincoln NE 68516

**Allan Joseph Popek**, age 80, of Stuart, Florida, passed away peacefully at Broward Health Medical on January 1, 2025. Devoted husband of 55 years to Janice (deceased). Devoted father to Daniel Popek and Tammy Papp, and cherished grandfather to Joan and Spencer Papp.

Born in Queens, New York, Allan was a Navy veteran and worked for United Airlines for over 40 years (PBI). He was President of the RUAEA Treasure Coast Chapter. He was known for his kindness, caring and sense of humor. He was passionate for traveling, acting, his religious faith and family.

He is survived by son, Daniel, daughter, Tammy, sister, Deborah Estes and brother-in-law Gerald Estes, niece, Jennifer Griffith and spouse, Chad Griffith and nephew, James Estes.

A graveside service was held Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Fernhill Memorial Gardens & Mausoleum, Stuart, Florida.

Condolences can be sent to: The Popek Family, 1714 S.E. Lafayette Street, Stuart, Florida, 34997.

## Letters & Notes



**We appreciate your letters & notes. Please keep them coming. Send them to:**  
**RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207**  
**-or- [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com).**

**WE HAVE RECEIVED GREETINGS & THANKS FOR THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**



Rosemarie Aiken, Sina Beck, Patricia R. Clayton, Robert Keefe, Thomas W. Krause, Ann E. Mace, Rafael C. Madrigal, Herlinde Mandala, Arno A. & Betty L. Schaetzke, James T. Sullivan, and Myriam Lubin Tashima.

**WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM:**

*(Although we welcome the statements expressed in the many letters submitted, the comments & opinions expressed are not necessarily the convictions of the organization.)*

**Judith Evans, 8105 W. Nantucket, Wichita, KS 67212**

I really wish I could find out where I can find what the code after a station code stands for – like SFOPK or LAXCS. I know the city code but what do the last two letters stand for? Please publish this sometime. Thank you!

**Response from Membership Manager Mal Malesardi:** *We'd like to request that any member who may have this list, please send it to us. Once we receive it, we will publish it in the Newsletter.*

**Dave Detwiler, 284 Kelley Rd., Connellsville, PA 15425-9716**

My label wasn't red but my time is up according to the date on the label so it is time to pay up as they say.

I have not been able to volunteer at the Flight 93 Memorial this year at all because health issues have gotten in the way. I've had 4 trips to the ER this summer which ended up getting a new aorta valve put in my heart in August. My wife had a stroke in May which required a couple weeks hospital stays and a couple of months of rehab after that.

We have both decided that getting old is definitely not for wimps, no siree!

Anyway, we both look forward to getting the Newsletter each month and usually read it from cover to cover. Keep up the good work there to keep us old folks informed of the goings on with the rest of the retirees,

**Gene Pashby, 3400 Gonzaga Pl., Santa Clara, CA 95051**

I retired on 12/1/89 from SFO Maintenance Base after 34 years and 10 months in various jobs in SFOOV and SFOEG. My goal has been to have retirement time equal working time and I made it. Of course, I had to live to be 97 years old to do it.

*Notes*

**John E. Klos**

I'm working at church events, and I'm a member of Knights Of Columbus Honor/Color Guard, attending events for them; working up schedules for volunteers at church, etc, etc, etc.

**Jacqueline Kudron**

I was appointed Vice-Chair of the General Aviation Committee at NGPA, and elected Vice-President of EAA Chapter 43 in Broomfield, CO. Both in the last three months

**Nalini M. Shah**

Thank you all for your dedication to this Newsletter! I'm enjoying retirement and family.

**Gordon J. Myers**

I am currently a licensed Massage Therapist for People and Small Animals. I'm active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**George Atteberry**

I commute to FL from IN during winter; had my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in SAN with all my family except one son who was away.

**David Thompson**

I am a widower now, my love passed in 2019. Beverly had 42 great years of service with United and I had 36. We married in MSP 4/13/1963. Bev transferred to MSP from CLE and I transferred to MSP from MDW.

We were like nomads with our two daughters. We were in HNL, DEN, FSD, IAD; Beverly came full circle starting in May of 1952 at DCA and retired at IAD May of 1994. Along the way, our fellow employees were like family you spend so much time with them at work.

**Lee A. Janes**

I retired in 1997 and am busy doing hiking, yoga, etc.

**Robert C. Bryant**

I love getting UAL news and updates for travel, etc.

**Kay Collier**

Thank you for continuing this great publication in print! Love having something to hold vs. staring at a computer screen! Also, enjoyed meeting many of you at the San Diego reunion! Happy New Year!

**Linda McCormack**

Keep up the good work. I love reading all the new information on UAL.

**Penny Mabe**

I love traveling and hearing of others adventures.

**DON'T MISS IMPORTANT PHONE  
NUMBERS ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

# The Contact Column



## **United Airlines Benefits Center (Central Time)**

1-800-651-1007 (M-F 7AM - 7PM).

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

For Traditional Medical, HMO or Insurance questions;  
report death of retiree or spouse; change of address & other  
forms.

## **United Employee Service Center**

1-877-825-3729

1-847-825-3729 - International Use

## **United Pass Line (1-866-359-3727)**

For flight information and to list or change listing

Password for Pass Line –your birthday, mmddyy

\$25 fee to create new booking

## **Employee Travel Center**

- ▲ Visit Flying Together for travel policies at  
<https://ft.ual.com/travel/passriderslandingpage/retiree>
- ▲ Submit questions using Help Hub at  
<https://helphub.ual.com>
- ▲ Search “Employee Travel Inquiry”
- ▲ Chat with a team member using a virtual chat assistant  
from any Travel page on Flying Together

## **United Airlines Technical Service Desk**

**1-800-255-5801**

For Flying Together password assistance

*\*Do not use for pass travel questions\**

## **Insurance Questions-see number on back of your insurance card**

**PBGC** - for all retiree pension questions

1-800-400-7242, <http://www.pbgc.gov>

## **Social Security Administration**

1-800-772-1213, <http://www.ssa.gov>

## **Alliant Credit Union**

(800) 328-1935 or (773) 462-2000 (24-hours, 7-days-a-  
week except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day)

<http://www.alliantcreditunion.org>

Malcolm Horn, CFP®, Financial Consultant

Alliant Retirement & Investment Services

(O) (773) 462-3669; (C) (720) 249-8050

(F) (773) 462-3669, [mhorn@alliantcreditunion.com](mailto:mhorn@alliantcreditunion.com)

## **Medicare Hotline** 1-800-633-4227

## **CVS/Caremark (Pharmacy)**

1-844-635-3401

## **VSP Vision Care (Pacific Time)** 1-800-877-7195

(M-F 6AM-8PM, Sat 7AM-8PM, Sun 7AM-7PM)

**PRESIDENT**  
Ruth Morabito  
(970) 901-9088  
[ruaea\\_Pres@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea_Pres@qwestoffice.net)

**SECRETARY**  
Mary Jane Stewart  
(724) 745-8703  
[stewartmaryjane@aol.com](mailto:stewartmaryjane@aol.com)

**TREASURER**  
Chris Johnston  
[ruaeatreasurer@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaeatreasurer@qwestoffice.net)  
(317) 694-4406

**AIRLINE LIAISON**

**ASSISTANT TO THE  
V.P. CONVENTIONS**  
Ron Bertacini  
[bertacini@surewest.net](mailto:bertacini@surewest.net)  
(916) 832-5775

**DIRECTORS**  
Rosalie Tripicchio

Dave Garland

**Position Open**

Chuck Cole

**Position Open**

Jackie Monilaw

**EXECUTIVE V.P.**  
George Midwin  
(650) 670-2587  
[ruaea\\_VP@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea_VP@qwestoffice.net)

**V.P. CONVENTIONS**  
Hank Gosselin  
(253) 653-5946  
[henrygosselin@comcast.net](mailto:henrygosselin@comcast.net)

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Virgil Gooselaw  
(303) 963-6690  
[vgoose@comcast.net](mailto:vgoose@comcast.net)

**SITE SELECTION  
COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
Dave Garland  
[dave\\_garland@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_garland@yahoo.com)  
(650) 776-7824

S. Calif. East Region  
[rosalie.tripicchio@gmail.com](mailto:rosalie.tripicchio@gmail.com)  
SE Meets West Region  
[dave\\_garland@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_garland@yahoo.com)  
NW CA - Hawaii Region

Northwest Region  
[slc2ctc1@gmail.com](mailto:slc2ctc1@gmail.com)  
Florida - Georgia Region

Midwest Region - Cactus  
[jmonilaw@gmail.com](mailto:jmonilaw@gmail.com)

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGER** - Michael Malesardi  
E-Mail [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net)  
Phone (303) 780-5022

**NEWSLETTER MANAGER** - John Chu  
E-Mail [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com)  
(303) 810-6586

**WEB MANAGERS** -  
Jim Sommerfield  
E-Mail [jsommerfield@aol.com](mailto:jsommerfield@aol.com)  
(847) 895-8014 - M-F, 9:00AM-5:00PM Central Time

Toni Van Kampen  
E-Mail [tonivk@gmail.com](mailto:tonivk@gmail.com)  
(847) 806-1371 - M-F, 9:00AM-5:00PM Central Time

The Retired United Airlines Employees Association (RUAEA) is an IRS Code 501 (c) (3) organization. RUAEA Newsletter (USPS #009-922) is published monthly by Retired United Airlines Employees Association, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver CO 80207. Subscriptions are through membership in the association. Periodical postage is paid at Denver, CO Postmaster, send address changes to: Retired United Airlines Employees Association Newsletter, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433

You now have four ways to renew your RUAEA membership or donate to the Newsletter postal fund. The credit card option is available online at [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org). Mail your check to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433.



**INCLUDE FILE NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE**

For all Membership & Newsletter Circulation issues, please contact Membership Manager:  
**Michael Malesardi .**  
Phone Number: (303) 780-5022  
-or-  
RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433  
Email: [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net)

	<u>Membership Dues</u>		
	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Canada/Mexico</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
One year	\$30.00	\$47.00	\$52.00

*Additional \$5.00 per year for both paper and Web deliveries. Note that this option is not available for Life Members.*  
Applications can be obtained via email, US mail or from [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org). Send your dues to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433. Or, pay your dues online with credit cards (Visa, MC, Discover Card) at [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org).

If it's time to renew your Membership, your Newsletter may contain one of the following Red Messages:

**"IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP."**  
**"DISREGARD THIS MESSAGE IF YOUR DUES ARE ALREADY PAID".**

**"YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL EXPIRE UNLESS YOUR DUES ARE RECEIVED."**  
**"PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DUES PAYMENT AT THIS TIME."**  
**"DISREGARD THIS NOTICE IF YOUR DUES ARE ALREADY PAID."**



## Check your mailing label for Renewal Information

### \$30 Domestic Subscription

<https://ruaea.org/join-ruaea.asp>



You now have four ways to renew your RUAEA membership or donate to the Newsletter postal fund. The credit card option is available online at [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org). Mail your check to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433.



Page 1

Another reason for feeling such affection for Stapleton was the nearly seamless access to our flights of fancy. Living 20 minutes to United's Flight Training Center where I worked, from our Aurora Village East neighborhood, we could be actually be on a flight an hour after deciding and packing for it. It only took minutes to catch an employee bus from the DENTK parking lot, a few minutes ride to the terminal, and a few more through simpler security back in the day. Not that we cut it that close very often – we pulled it off enough times it became legend in our own minds! So it was, on Stapleton's last day, having had a few occasions to drive way out to DIA for an air show and a United Way charity flight auction, that I was already missing the convenience. But it was the history and intimacy of good old Stapleton that I hoped to preserve as I snapped photos of its going away party that day. ■



*Bus Route 2*



*Concourse B View*



*Flight Training Center & Concourse E*