



Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

WWW.RUEA.ORG



ISSUE NO. 605

JANUARY 2025



Randy Tidmore, Nancy Brock

*Moments
of The 2024
Reunion:
A Visual
Journey!*



*Johnnie Holmes,
Francis Domaratius*



David & Carol Slater, Carl Alford



*Pat Nicholaisen,
Pauline Montoya*



Dan & Natalie Petrovich



*Peter Angelos, Mike Rewolinski,
Ruth Morabito, Joan Smith*

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Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter

All articles submitted for publishing in the Newsletter are due in the Denver Office on **the 7th 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 7th are subject to be considered for the next Newsletter.

Newsletter articles may be sent by e-mail to John Chu at johnqchu@hotmail.com and ruaeaml@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
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GENERAL NEWS

WWW.RUAEA.ORG

Letter From The President



Ruth Morabito

Happy New Year, I hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas and welcomed 2025 in with health and happiness.

At the time of this writing, I have received my December newsletter and wow; check out the new members, 39 in the month of October.

Welcome to all!

I want to take a moment to congratulate the Denver office in completing the membership database transfer to the new web-based system. **Mal Malesardi** and **Virgil Gooselaw** stayed on track with this transition and went the extra mile to ensure it was smooth and pretty much transparent to our membership; I renewed my membership and loved how easy it was to complete. Thank you, Mal and Virgil, for all your dedication along with Arc 7 to bring this project to a close.

We received the very sad news that we have lost a beloved member of our newsletter team and friend, **Martha Gooselaw**. Martha was such a dedicated, caring and overall great person, I miss her already. Martha was so encouraging to me; she was a part of the proof-reading team for the newsletter as well as meticulously transcribing all your notes and letters for publication. I am thinking she was a miracle worker given some of our hand writing. Please keep the Gooselaw family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this season of loss.

January for me, brings thoughts of a new beginnings, continuing the good work from the previous year and an opportunity to be grateful for the full life I have been given. I wish the same to you and your loved ones.

Don't forget to put the 2025 Reunion on your calendar!

Take care,

Ruth Morabito
 RUAEA President



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



Hi Folks,
Following are some information
for next year's Reunion,
RUAEA'S 50th Year Golden
Jubilee 1975 - 2025:

▲ In Denver, at the Holiday
Inn, 3333 Quebec St., Denver,
CO 80207

- ▲ Saturday, September 27th – Wednesday, October 1st
- ▲ Rates are good Wednesday, September 24th – Friday, October 3rd

You can now reserve your hotel room using one of the following three options:

1. Use the link <https://bit.ly/3VpkoNF>
2. Call the Holiday Inn Hotel reservations department at 866-380-6850 and mention "RUAEA" or "Retired United Airlines Employees Association".
3. Scan the attached QR code with your smart device (phone, tablet, etc.)



The contract is for 2 persons per room and breakfast for 2, at \$139.00 per room plus tax at 15.75%. If other accommodations are needed, i.e. more per room or a Handicapped room, please identify those needs when making reservations.

Remember this is only for hotel reservation for the event, not for the 50th Jubilee; that information will be available in the June 2025 RUAEA Newsletter. Please make your hotel reservation ASAP as the space may be limited and it helps greatly in the planning process. Plan your 2025 vacation to be at the 50th Year Anniversary of RUAEA. More information will follow in the RUAEA Newsletter in the next few months.

Hank Gosselin
VP Conventions RUAEA

Changes in Payment process for Pass Travel Charges

Exciting news! You can now pay your imputed in-

come tax liability invoices with a credit card on the Your Benefits Resources website. Note: Debit cards **are not** accepted and there is a 3% surcharge if you use a credit card.



Check out United's W-2 pass travel tax reporting information page on Flying Together along with help resources like FAQs and how-to-guides by

going to
<https://ft.ual.com/travel/w2passtraveltaxreporting>.

How To Minimize Taxes on Your Estate? By Malcolm Horn, CFP®



How can I minimize taxes on my estate?

This question may seem simple, but the answer is not so easy. In fact, there are experts who make their living answering just this question.

Estate tax liability depends on the year in which you die and the value of your estate when you die. For instance, in 2025, the value of the estate on which the estate tax may be imposed (that is, estates in excess of the applicable exclusion amount), is \$13,990,000, plus any deceased spousal unused exclusion amount. After 2025, the amount is scheduled to be cut by about one-half.

Thus, you can minimize estate tax by reducing the value of your estate until it is below the applicable exclusion amount. There are many ways you can accomplish this. The best way(s) for you may not be the best ways for others and vice versa. (Note: We're discussing only federal estate tax here. Your estate may also be subject to state death taxes. See a tax attorney for more information about state death taxes.)

One way is to make lifetime gifts. Be aware, however, that certain lifetime gifts may trigger gift tax. Gifts that do not trigger gift tax include the following:

- ◆ Gifts made to U.S. citizen spouses and certain charities
- ◆ Gifts of \$190,000 or less made to non-U.S. citizen spouses (in 2025)
- ◆ Certain payments made for tuition or medical expenses on the behalf of others
- ◆ Gifts up to the annual gift tax exclusion amount of \$19,000 (in 2025)
- ◆ Gifts made that fall under the applicable exclusion amount (Note: Any portion of the applicable exclusion amount used for lifetime gifts effectively reduces the applicable exclusion amount that will be available for estate tax purposes.)

See a tax attorney for more information about federal and state gifts taxes.

Another common technique to minimize estate taxes is to transfer assets to an irrevocable trust. Such a transfer may be subject to gift tax on the value of the assets at the time of the transfer, but the assets, plus any future appreciation, are removed from your gross estate. There are many types of irrevocable trusts, each created for a

specific purpose. Be aware, however, that as the name implies, an irrevocable trust cannot be revoked or amended.

This is just a brief glimpse of some of the techniques used to minimize estate taxes. For more information, or to discuss how these techniques might apply to your own situation, you should consult a qualified tax attorney.

Talk to me or my team of Financial Consultants at ARIS if you have questions: 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.

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The Writer's Column

By Pete van Gillaue

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San Diego Historic UA Hangar on the Move!

In 1929, the SAN airport was born at its current location, on Pacific Highway. A terminal building and three other buildings were constructed. One building was built by Pacific Air Transport to be a terminal and hangar.

By the time the building was finished in May of 1931, four companies had joined to form United Airlines. The three other buildings, including the Ryan terminal were demolished in 1952 but the UA hangar was



moved about ½ mile west, near Harbor Drive. UA serviced the Boeing 247D, the Douglas DC-3 and DC-6 from the hangar. It had various other airport uses in the 1952-2022 time period, but then the airport was to expand again, to 30 new gates.

The plan was to demolish the hangar but various groups noted its historic status as the only building from the original airport, so it was disassembled piece by piece and moved again and reassembled with original parts at the intersection of Palm and Pacific highway, only 300 feet from its original location. This is a \$2.4 million project done by Soltec Engineering of San Diego who are committed to maintaining the historical authenticity while integrating modern updates to insure its long-term functionality.

The structure is on airport property, but outside of the ops area (AOA). The airport has not indicated planned use, but it is hoped some sort of aviation museum could occupy the hangar. Thanks to the airport for preserving this little piece of United history and legacy.

Picture 1 shows the original airport with the United Hangar. Photo 2 shows the Hangar in November, 2024, original windows and doors to come.



**United Launches New Seasonal Hub Just in the
(Saint) Nick of Time: The North Pole
December 4, 2024**



The holidays are always a Claus for celebration and ahead of what's expected to be the busiest travel period, United Airlines announced today the launch of its newest seasonal hub – the “North Pole” (JOY). United will transport deserving children and their families to the North Pole with direct “Fantasy Flights” from 13 cities around the globe and take the holiday spirit to new heights.

United’s Fantasy Flights are local, customized experiences for pre-selected children and their families to board a United aircraft headed for Santa’s hometown to make joy-filled memories. After a short trip, either in the air or on the ground, children arrive at the North Pole – a winter wonderland elf-iciently created by United airport employees and local volunteers who transform an average airport gate or maintenance hangar into a sea of twinkling lights, sparkling Christmas trees and Santa himself – along with his elves.

This year, United will transport a large number of children and their families on Fantasy Flight departures from 13 airports around the globe, including: Cleveland, Chicago-O’Hare, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Guam, Honolulu, Houston Bush, London, Los Angeles, Newark, San Francisco, Tokyo and Washington-Dulles. United Express operated airports across the system will also host Fantasy Flights.

- ▲ Honolulu (HNL), December 5
- ▲ Washington-Dulles (IAD), December 7
- ▲ Houston Bush (IAH), December 7
- ▲ Los Angeles (LAX), December 7
- ▲ London (LHR), December 7
- ▲ Chicago-O’Hare (ORD), December 7
- ▲ San Francisco (SFO), December 7
- ▲ Tokyo (NRT), December 8
- ▲ Cleveland (CLE), December 10
- ▲ Fort Lauderdale (FLL), December 10
- ▲ Guam (GUM), December 13
- ▲ Denver (DEN), December 14
- ▲ Newark (EWR), December 14

“The team made a list, I checked it twice and the answer was clear – with so many deserving children on the nice list this year, it only made sense to launch a seasonal hub in the North Pole,” said United’s Executive Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Kate Gebo. “We’ve stocked up on de-icing fluid

to fly from even more cities. United is honored to uplift children and their families through the joy of the holiday season. Making the North Pole closer than ever is one of the many ways we can show support for the communities where we live, work and fly.”

Santa and his elves, led by United team members, volunteer every year to build and staff Fantasy Flights across United’s global network, partnering with local nonprofits and hospitals in each city to create these special memories for kids and their families.

Make-A-Wish is partnering with United this year to send wish kids on select Fantasy Flights in Denver, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, and Guam. For those looking for ways to support children in need this season, this Giving Tuesday, United® is partnering with Make-A-Wish® to bring joy and hope to children facing critical illnesses. Donate miles or money through December 31, 2024, and United will match up to 5 million miles total and match monetary donations of up to \$500,000 total through travel certificates, doubling the impact and helping grant even more life-changing wishes. In addition, Illy coffee is offering a donation to Make-A-Wish on sales of cold brew throughout the month of December. Illy will donate \$1 for each cold brew sold on United flights, up to \$25,000, in support of the organization.

“The generosity of United and its MileagePlus members through the Miles on a Mission program is life-changing for wish kids and their families,” said Leslie Motter, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish America. *“These donated miles enable transformative wish experiences that bring hope, joy, and the strength to persevere during the most challenging times. We are deeply grateful for United’s ongoing partnership and dedication to making a lasting impact in the lives of children with critical illnesses.”*

The Fantasy Flights program is the story of how Good Leads The Way® for children in need. The latest installment in United’s award-winning Good Leads The Way brand campaign tells stories in a uniquely United way about how the world’s biggest airline creates all kinds of good, for all kinds of people, every single day. This chapter emphasizes that United’s network is designed around our passengers to give them the greatest flexibility and options for travel worldwide.

**More Than Half a Billion-Dollar Expansion &
Modernization Coming to
United’s Washington Dulles Hub
December 3, 2024**

United and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) today celebrated the airline’s growth and airport construction developments of the much-anticipated, more than half a billion-dollar Con-



course E that will transform the customer experience over the coming years at Washington Dulles International Airport. The 435,000-square-

foot, 14-gate concourse will include an expansive new United ClubSM location and state-of-the-art customer amenities that are expected to debut in late 2026.

The new Concourse E is made possible in part due to collaboration between United and MWAA, and local and federal funding such as grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for airport improvement projects that will help facilitate Dulles' expansion.

United is the D.C. region's largest airline, with more than 8,000 local employees and more flights and destinations than any other carrier. As part of United's ongoing growth and commitment to the region, United will open a new flight attendant training center in 2025, and the airline is expanding its network even further with exciting new destinations and is currently operating 25 percent more flights as compared to 2023.

"Washington Dulles has emerged as a global gateway and these new investments will help deliver the world-class facility that our employees and customers deserve," said United CEO Scott Kirby. *"Today is one of many milestone celebrations to come in United's long-term commitment in advancing our Dulles hub."*

United has invested more than \$32 billion across its business since 2021. This Dulles expansion and modernization follows similar investments at airport facilities in Denver, Houston, and Newark, and is part of the airline's United Next plan to invest in infrastructure, people, and technology.

"Dulles serves as a critical economic development hub for Virginia and helps travelers get where they need to go. I've been proud to help secure federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand the concourses, which will make traveling to and from the airport more convenient," said Senator Tim Kaine. *"I'm thrilled to celebrate the construction of this new concourse because it will enhance the experience of every traveler who walks through the airport. I thank United and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) for their partnership in this effort."*

"Every day, Dulles Airport serves tens of thousands of passengers coming in and out of the DMV region. I'm glad to see this major expansion build on the historic investments we've made through the bipartisan infrastructure law and support the construction of the newest concourse at Dulles," said Senator Mark Warner. *"I look forward to seeing Concourse E come to life with 14 additional gates that will increase flight options*

and state-of-the-art facilities that will improve the experience of air travelers."

New Concourse to Modernize Dulles ~ Construction is underway on the new Concourse E, which will exclusively house 14 dedicated United gates that will bring additional space to accommodate United Next's new widebody and mainline planes, which will continue to debut over the coming years.

The modernized concourse will greatly enhance the Dulles experience for United customers, including adding direct and easy access to the airport's existing Aero-train station that allows for smoother transport between the main terminal and other concourses. The United gates will feature the latest traveler amenities and technology, expansive gate seating, along with concessions and retail space.

The concourse will also be home to a new 40,000-square-foot United Club. This will be one of the largest United Club locations in the network and will subsequently increase the United Club square footage space at Dulles by 70%.

The 14-gate concourse is one phase of a long-term, multi-phase project for United's growth at Dulles that is part of MWAA's master plan for the airport's future.

"Washington Dulles International is a key economic engine for the National Capital Region, and United Airlines is our essential partner in the rapid and ongoing growth of the airport," said Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority President and CEO Jack Potter. *"United's commitment to Dulles – through its support of the new concourse, its long-term expansion plans, including new flights and destinations, investment in new training and technical facilities and the addition of thousands of local jobs – is a testament to the strength of our partnership in promoting regional economic growth and pursuing our mutual goal of providing world-class service to the traveling public."*

Expanded Flight Network Connects D.C. to Even More Destinations ~ United is the D.C. region's largest airline, offering more flights and destinations than any other carrier. As a result of its ambitious United Next growth plan, the airline continues to expand its flight network out of Dulles. To-date, United has grown to more than 250 daily departures with plans to grow to nearly 280 daily flights by April 2025.

This year, United launched 13 new domestic routes from Dulles – that is more new domestic routes than any other U.S. carrier has added from any U.S. airport this year. Among those new routes are the only nonstop service from the D.C. region to Anchorage, Alaska and Mobile, Alabama, as well as upcoming service to Palm Springs, California that begins December 19.

United serves as a crucial gateway between our nation's capital and the rest of the world, this includes nonstop service to over a dozen world capitals from Ac-

cra and Brussels to Mexico City and Tokyo and places in between. This summer, United will add a new world capital destination with the addition of its inaugural non-stop service to Dakar, Senegal* beginning May 2025.

As United's operations at Dulles continue to grow as a transatlantic gateway to the world, this summer United will be the first airline to offer the Washington region nonstop service to Nice, France and Venice, Italy.

Local Impact ~ As one of the largest employers in Loudoun County, United is an employer of choice for many across the Washington region. With its historic growth, in the last two years, the airline hired more than 30,000 people systemwide and plans to hire about 9,000 more in 2024, including more than 700 people in the Washington D.C. area.

United has called Washington Dulles International Airport home for nearly four decades and continues to grow and invest in the Washington region. United recently announced construction is underway to open a new 20,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Inflight Training Center near Dulles Airport in 2025. This facility is yet another example of United's commitment to provide the latest and most modern training resources and support for its people.

While United connects the Greater Washington region to the world, its more than 8,000 D.C. area employees are pillars in the communities in which they work and live. Year-round United teams volunteer to pack meals for local nonprofits, mentor area students about the breadth of career opportunities in aviation, and help raise funds for various local organizations, including nearly \$4 million to Washington area non-profits, partners, and organizations in 2023.

United also deepened its commitment in the region through D.C.'s sports culture, recently becoming the Official Global Airline Partner of the Washington Capitals, Mystics, and Wizards. United is also the Founding Partner of Monumental Sports & Entertainment's upcoming transformation to help revitalize downtown D.C. as a world-class sports and entertainment destination.

United's significant presence in the D.C. area allows the airline to serve as a critical partner to the federal government on national initiatives from its Dulles hub, including assisting the U.S. military in evacuating thousands of refugees from Afghanistan, as well as donating commercial flights to help deliver baby formula across the nation to American families during an unprecedented shortage.

*Pending foreign government approval



United Sees Nearly 30% Surge in Travel to European Christmas Markets November 19, 2024



United today reported bookings to European destinations are up nearly 30% compared to 2019 and up almost 10% versus last year, as more Americans opt to spend their holiday dollars on experiences. According to a recent Deloitte survey, consumer spending on holiday experiences is expected to rise 16% this year, while spending on physical gifts remain flat.

Europe's markets are a cultural tradition dating back hundreds of years, and millions of people from around the world visit them annually to experience festive offerings like mulled wine, artisan crafts, live music, picturesque scenery and more.

As the world's largest airline, measured by available seat miles, United is ready for its busiest holiday season ever and plans to offer nearly 60 nonstop flights each day from its U.S. hubs to Europe in November and December, more than any other U.S. airline. Connecting travelers can visit even more Christmas markets with United's partners, offering seamless connections through the air with Lufthansa Group or by rail with Deutsche Bahn.

"The European Christmas markets have become even more popular in recent years and no airline makes it easier than United to get away and visit for the holidays," said Darren Scott, United's Director of Atlantic and Hawaii Planning. *"Stay for a week or make it a long weekend with nonstop flights and easy connections to more than 130 European cities, including the legendary markets in Dresden, Strasbourg, Vienna and Cologne."*

United's Festive Holiday Schedule ~ United's most popular European destinations during the holiday period include London, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris and Brussels – and as the world's largest airline, United offers more nonstop flights to Europe than any other U.S. airline. Holiday schedule highlights include:

- ▲ Daily nonstop flights to 16 European cities with holiday markets from United's U.S. hubs, including Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Edinburgh, Zurich, Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Paris and more, and nearly 60 nonstop flights each day from U.S. hubs.
- ▲ More nonstop flights than any other U.S. airline to Frankfurt, Munich and Brussels.
- ▲ Only U.S. airline with year-round nonstop flights to Geneva and Berlin.

- ▲ Seventeen nonstop flights per day to London from United's U.S. hubs.

Travelers can visit even more European holiday markets thanks to United's Lufthansa Group partnership and Deutsche Bahn railway partnership that connect travelers to more than 130 additional destinations across Europe.

- ▲ Nearly 100 additional European holiday market destinations, like Cologne, Helsinki, Salzburg, and Strasbourg, that customers can visit with a simple one-stop flight from United's U.S. hubs.
- ▲ Nonstop flights to Vienna from the U.S., which is home to one of the most beloved European Christmas markets.
- ▲ One-stop flight to Dresden from the U.S., which is considered to have the first true Christmas market, the Striezelmarkt, first held in 1434.
- ▲ Trains to 28 cities in Germany and Switzerland, connecting customers to even more holiday markets once in Europe.

United Prepares for Busiest Holiday Period To-Date: United expects the 2024 holiday period to be its busiest yet, with around 25 million passengers, up 6% from 2023. Even with record passenger numbers, customers can expect a safe, reliable and efficient operation from the airline and support through its digital tools. United ranked first or second in on-time departures among the eight largest U.S. carriers for the last 5 months in a row, including during its busiest summer ever.

- ▲ *Weather preparedness:* The airline will prepare approximately 150 de-icing trucks to ensure aircraft are ready for flights despite lower temperatures.
- ▲ *ConnectionSaver:* United is the only airline that uses proprietary technology to determine the best time to hold a flight a few extra minutes so more people can make their connection, saving an average 2,000 connections per day since its launch in 2019.
- ▲ *Touchless ID:* Customers can use TSA Pre-Check Touchless ID to seamlessly drop off bags or make it through security in seconds with facial scanning technology. This offering is available at O'Hare International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, New York LaGuardia Airport, Salt Lake City International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.
- ▲ *Agent on Demand:* United's virtual, on-demand customer service tool lets customers video chat, text or call a customer service representative instead of waiting in line at the airport.
- ▲ *Personalized mobile app:* United is the only

U.S. airline with Live Activities that gives customers real-time access to their boarding pass, gate and seat number and countdown clock to departure on the home screens of their phone. They can also access directly in the app Terminal Guide for personalized instructions for navigating the airport and customer service.

- ▲ *Free family seating:* United is the first and only airline to offer a digital, dynamic seat map that allows children under 12 to be seated next to an adult in their party for free at the time of booking.
- ▲ *Real-time text updates:* United sends travelers text messages with personalized trip updates on everything from gate changes and boarding times to more specifics like aircraft swaps and weather events, now even including live radar maps.

Torgy's Travel Tips – January 2025 **What to see in Ireland**



Kathie Torgison

In the November issue I explained what a joy it was to take the ferry from Wales to Dublin. Now I'd like to acquaint you with some tips for discovering The Emerald Isle. There is something for everyone here, whether it is lush green landscapes with rock walls, foot-stomping live music, wild coastlines with castle ruins, Guinness beer or

Jameson Whiskey, sheepdogs rounding up the flocks, or understanding the division that separates the northern counties from the rest of the country, you will find there is always something that piques your interest.



Beginning your trip in Dublin affords you the opportunity to experience so much in a relatively small area. Dublin is a walk-able city with the River Liffey dividing the city roughly in half horizontally, east to west, with O'Connell St. bridging the river from the north to the south bank. A tram system named Luas



(Irish for *fast*) offers easy, economical routes throughout the city. Purchase your tram ticket before boarding from the vending machines at any stop. You don't need cash as credit cards are acceptable nearly everywhere. Tickets are valid for multiple trips within 90 minutes. Another fun way to discover the city is with the green double-decker sightseeing buses called *Do Dublin*. They offer a 1:45 hr. one-way circuit throughout the city beginning and ending on O'Connell St. The bus is moderated by informative (and sometimes comic) drivers who stop at 25 destinations including Trinity College, Guinness Storehouse, St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedral, Jameson Distillery, Dublin Castle, and Temple Bar. Tickets are valid for 24 consecutive hours, allowing you plenty of time to stay onboard for the whole loop first and then take a break to decide what stops you want to explore before re-boarding ... even the next day. See www.dodublin.ie for more information. And speaking of Trinity College, if you wish to view The Book of Kells (and/or the Long Room library), you must purchase your ticket in advance at www.visittrinity.ie. No tickets are sold at the college. The same rule applies to



the Guinness Storehouse Tour & Gravity Bar. Check out www.guinness-storehouse.com for ticketing information. The view and the beer from the Gravity Bar at the top of the Storehouse makes this a must-see for first time visitors. And nearly every pub offers "trad" music (live, local musicians) beginning at 9PM most evenings.

Venturing away from the city to experience the beauty and history of Ireland is easy. Dublin has 2 train stations: Connolly Station, Ireland's busiest train station, primarily serves routes north to south (Belfast, Derry, Waterford, Cork), while Heuston Station primarily serves the west coast and southwest (Galway, Limerick, Killarney). Railtours Ireland (www.railtoursireland.com) offers one-day, hosted, roundtrip tours for independent travelers, as well as multi-day trips if you have the time. The one-day trips generally depart Heuston station at 7AM and return to Dublin around 9PM. You reserve in advance for desti-

nations such as the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, the Wild Atlantic Way, or the Connemara Coast. After checking-in at a special booth in the station, you are escorted to reserved seats on the train and then met by a Railtours Ireland guide at the destination station. You then board a bus with other passengers for the entire day, stopping at major sights, with commentary along the way. Around 7PM you board the return train to Dublin. Entrance fees are mostly included but not food or beverages. Think of it just like a shore excursion from a cruise ship. It is definitely a great way to avoid rental cars with right-hand drive and navigating narrow, twisty Irish roads! And if you book 2 *different* tours, you'll receive a free Do Dublin pass, valid for 48 hrs! I booked 2 rail tours, one to visit the Connemara coast and Kylemore Abbey, and a second tour to the Ring of Kerry; reserving these tours in advance for a Tuesday and Friday left 48 hrs of free time in-between to use the Do Dublin pass. It worked like a charm.

I decided to switch transportation modes and try another one-day tour, this time by bus to Belfast and Giant's Causeway. After researching various companies, I chose Wild Rovers Tours (www.wildrovertours.com). It was great! Boarding the bus on O'Connell St was easy and 2 hours later we arrived at our first stop: Belfast. When you book the tour, you make a choice to visit either the Titanic Experience Museum or take a Black Cab Taxi tour of Belfast's divided city. The taxi tour was, by far, the highlight of our entire visit to the Emerald Isle. A local Irish driver escorts up to 4 people in his own traditional black cab and explains in great detail "The Troubles" and how the carving-off of 6 northern counties to be governed by the UK back in 1921 affects residents on a daily basis, even today. You will visit the famous murals that cover the walls separating the 2 sections of the city, as well as walking through the gates that close every evening at 6:30PM and do not reopen again till 6:30AM. These gates are closed all day on Sundays. The driver acquaints you with the political atmosphere and hopes for the future of a reunited Ireland. You are then returned to meet your bus at the Titanic Museum, which affords you time to see the shipyard exterior and some of the free museum exhibits inside. It's really like a bonus!

Leaving Belfast, you head towards the rugged northern Irish coastline to the Causeway Coast ANB (Area of Natural Beauty). Here lies the remains of 500 yr old Dunlace Castle, the historic seat of Clan MacDonnell. You are free to wander all around the grounds and ruins and capture panoramic views over the cliffs. If the weather cooperates, you may even glimpse the coast of Scotland in the distance.

Just a short distance to the east brings you to Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here are hundreds of vertical basalt columns that you have seen

in posters. Legend states that a giant named Fionn Mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCool) was challenged to a fight by another giant in Scotland named Benandonner, to determine who was greatest. The causeway was supposedly built from torn fragments of the coastline rocks fired into the water and walked upon by Finn MacCool. (There are several derivations of what happened next, depending on if you are Scots or Irish!) Scientifically, ancient volcanic activity created these flat-topped columns that stretch out into the Sea of Hebrides. Visitors are allowed to walk out onto the columns but be cognizant of the encroaching high tide which nearly covers them all, twice daily. It is quite a long steep walk down to columns (and an exhausting walk back up) but thank goodness there are little shuttle buses that constantly make the 1-mile loop from the road to/from the beach for the small sum of 2 Euros. It's worth it! And before you board bus back to Dublin, take the opportunity to eat some excellent Irish food at the nearby pub, *The Nook*.



Irish Rovers can take you on another enjoyable out-and-back one day visit south of Dublin to the Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough. You'll amble through the charming town of Kilkenny, with its 13th century Ross Castle, then enjoy a relaxing, contemplative

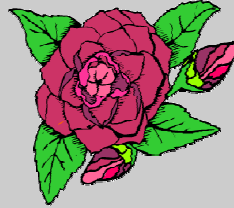
respice at the ancient monastic site of Glendalough, which translates as "the valley of the 2 lakes". Here you are free to roam through the silent ruins and sacred grounds and walk under trees of one of the last remaining Irish forests to shores of Upper Lake. The scenery is emotive, and some visitors come here for self-reflection and meditation classes. I had the solitude of the lake totally to myself for quite a while until a friendly dog begged me to play fetch with his giant "stick"! The last stop is Cullan's Hill Sheep Farm, the perfect ending for the animal lover, like me. Live demonstrations of working sheep dogs marshalling and corralling sheep at the farmer's command and learning about the management of these types of farms was riveting. And the cherry on the top was the opportunity to hold some of the lambs! Don't miss this.



I hope this overview of Ireland's treasures will resonate with some of you and your families. And if you're not fond of Guinness, ask for a half-pint of what's called "Guinness Black" - typically ordered for the ladies as it combines the sweetness of black current liqueur with the stout of Guinness. *Sláinte!* (that's "cheers" in Irish).■

LOCAL NEWS

ALABAMA



SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Joe E. Jones, Ret. ORDFO
12115 County Road 29
Clanton, AL 35045
(205) 646-3825
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-UNITEDS

Matalynne Wandel
Correspondent
matalynne@hotmail.com

Submitted by Dakota Morris

We had a great time at breakfast at T. C. Eggington's on Friday, November 22nd. The restaurant has been at the location of Alma School and just south of highway 60, for about 3 decades. We had 15 people in attendance. There were a few other diners near us, but we were quiet ... **not**. The food was good, and the serving size was more than enough; definitely shareable sizes. It was nice to see different items on the menu. Maybe you will join us for our next breakfast in January.

I want to remind you, next meeting is our luncheon at The Hub, on December 10th. This is our annual Christmas luncheon and the last event of the year. It's a white elephant gift exchange, you should bring an item you want to re-gift or something priced at \$15.00 or less. The item is per person if you want to participate and it should be wrapped. How this works will be explained to you at the luncheon. By the way, this was a suggestion by **Rosemarie Schaeffer**, thank you. There was a fire and this restaurant was burned, almost down to nothing but its brick. They have rehabbed it to be a lovely restaurant and sports bar. We have a private room and Rosemarie and I think you will like it. We order from the menu and separate checks, I'm unsure if there is an automatic gratuity or it's up to you. We'll

meet at 11:00 a.m. the address is 1925 S. Sossaman, Rd., Mesa, AZ 85209.

As usual, please respond to this email or to my mobile (602) 920-7785. Should I not answer please leave a message. Please RSVP by November 30th due to staffing concerns at the restaurant.

The plan for the New Year is to enjoy breakfast at a different restaurant each month. I will let you know where when I've made the arrangements. It would be nice for you to critique each restaurant and give feedback, if you will.

I thought you might be interested in this great deal I found on RiverCruiseUSA.com. To view prices, you may be asked to sign in or register on the site, <https://www.rivercruiseusa.com/fastdeal.cfm?tid=78230&source=emailFD>

Please take a moment to look at the American cruise trip I just found. So that you don't need to sign in as I did the cruise price is about \$3750. I know this is a steep price, but you don't have to pay for daily tours, and you don't have to fly overseas and need to have a one- or two-day hotel before or after the cruise. Plus, no passport required. This is a place to stay to think about. Share with me your thoughts.

Here is another river cruise I think you should take a look at. It has many things that are included in the cruise price. Personally, I like this trip. If you look at the prepaid amenities that are included in the price, it may feel better to pay the price. Look at Viking river cruise, Mississippi to see if that appeals to you. It includes air fare also on 18 January. I think this would be a very interesting cruise and the tours are included as you can see. I'm almost ready to sign up, this is a special price because it's a holiday sale. This information came from Mitch, who has joined me in finding new restaurants and fun things to do and places to go as a Re-United. I'm willing, how about you? We pay only \$25.00 to start the booking.

As usual, call and leave a message or text at (602) 920-7785 or email me at this email please only this way. I have another email address that some of you use but I don't look at that one every day.

From JoAnn Griffin: We are so happy to be back in the Valley and it was fun to see several familiar faces at breakfast. These are the dates for everyone to remember:

- ▲ January 1, 2025. Our \$10 dues are due before January 30th. I start compiling the directory to be printed for us by the end of February. So if there are any changes to your address, phone or email, please let me know in writing so I can correct the directory. Dues can be paid at the Christmas party, breakfast or lunch gatherings in January or mailed to the treasurer, **John Griffin**, 759 S. 76th Place Mesa, AZ 85208. Please make

the check payable to **John Griffin** and not to ReUniteds.

- ▲ Now our fun dates: March 8 2025. I have 28 tickets for the Silver Star Theater Matinee on that Saturday. Doors open at 11am. Buffet style lunch starts at 1130 and the live show is at 1pm. This show is a 50's & 60's jukebox show so it should be a fun one. Check out their web-site at silverstartheater.com. Tickets are \$50 which is the group price. Please let me know no later than February 22 if you plan to attend,
- ▲ April 9, 2025 is free lunch paid by ReUnited's at Birdies Bar and Grill at Fountain of the Sun, Mesa for current members only. You may bring a guest but non-members must pay their own checks.

I will send reminder emails for all 3 important dates. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

	<p><u>TUCSON</u> <u>ROADRUNNER</u> Pat Sommer Di Lallo, Treasurer 14740 N. Palmwood Dr. Oro Valley, AZ 85755 (520) 825-7370 rpdgarlic41@comcast.net</p>
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We are the Tucson Roadrunners, an active chapter. We meet for lunch at various Tucson restaurants on the 3rd Thursday of every month except in November and December, when it is the 2nd 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 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025! It's a wonderful time of the year, however, it is warm enough to have a nice walk in the park in the sun. The North-Staters celebrated the Christmas holiday with a luncheon/meeting and gift exchange. It was held at Kalico Kitchen in Chico with 15 members, spouses, and friends in attendance. When people walked in, there were Santa Claus gift bags on the table and lots of decorations. Christmas cupcakes awaited everyone for dessert!

Merritt Odor, our President, called a short meeting to order and thanked **Sharon Simonton** for arranging the restaurant and all of the goodies that were inside. Merritt asked if there were any birthdays or anniversaries coming up: **Katie Innocenti** had a birthday in November, **Vreny Grundherr** and **Mike Johnson** will be celebrating birthdays in December and **Merritt Odor** and **Sharon Simonton** will be celebrating birthdays one day apart in January. Some medical insurance were brought up and a discussion took place concerning Kaiser. All agreed insurance costs were up except for Aetna Medicare Advantage with United. The costs this year seems to have stabilized.

Merritt read a very funny Christmas Poem from the Sacramento Gold Diggers Newsletter. After lunch, we went right into our raffles.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was won by **Vreny Grundherr**. The lunch certificate was won by **Merritt Odor**. We had two extra raffles, a box of Joy Lynns Candies won by **Grace Franke** and a Hickory Farm gift box won by **Mike Johnson**. Dessert was passed out and then onto the game.

Our Treasurer, **Billie Jorgensen**, gave a short background presentation about the story for the gift exchange. The story's title was "My Favorite Airplane, The Right Beautiful 747". Everyone stands in a circle with a wrapped gift they did not bring. Every time the word right was said, the people moved the gift to the person on the right. Every time the word left was said, the people move the gift to the left! After awhile, the laughter starts and it can get a little confusing. I would like to share the story that Billie wrote. It was one of her best ones.

Since we're all in some form or other, airline people, I decided since it was left up to me to come up with a grand story, I will leave you wishing I'd left my writing skills right where they belonged, at home on my writing desk.

The very best most beloved airplane for me is the 747. Ever since it left the hanger in Everett, Washington on September 30th, 1968, it flew right into my heart! Right after I first saw it, I knew I had to ride on it as soon as possible. The only thing left was to decide where to go and when. The first chance I had didn't come until 1981 when I left SFO and flew to Honolulu on the William Patterson. Right then I knew it would not be my last trip.

Over the years my husband, Kent, left me to arrange our flight vacations and guess which flight I chose? That's right, any place the 747 might go. Then came the 747-400 in 1988. I was right in 7th heaven! Stepping on that plane, and turning left was a great thrill, as that meant we would be in Business or First Class. Or even better, was to step a little further into the plane and go right, which led right up the stairs to the upper deck and wonderful accommodations.

For some reason, I always liked to be on the left side of the plane, and my first venture upstairs was on the left. What a fun experience. The Flight Attendants actually brought the Prime Rib right to our seats, and we were left with the fun task of choosing which side to cut the meat, left or right! The next thrill on that particular flight was to look right as we were landing at Kai Tak Airport in Hong Kong. As I looked out my left window, there seemed to be buildings flying right at eye level. Wow!

Over the years there were lots of flights, not as many as a lot of people have taken, but whether it was left into First Class, or right all the way to Economy, I was a happy flyer. Now all I have left is to find another favorite airplane, and right before my eyes, it's the Triple 7!

We thanked Billie for the great story. A fun time was had by all.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Calendar:

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR





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.



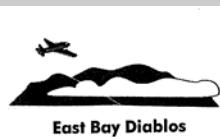
DESERT SUNBIRDS

Palm Springs Area
Thomas Sabo
sabo.thomas@yahoo.com

Sad news from the Desert Sunbirds; two of our longtime members passed away. **Dick Hopkins** on 7/27/24 and **Chuck Lamas** on 11/24/24. Our thoughts and prayers are with their widows, **Marji Lamas** and **Lois Hopkins**.

In addition, we just learned that **Robb Bohart** passed away December 2.

We try to meet on the 2nd 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 for details.



EAST BAY DIABLOS

Contra Costa County
Jan Soderstrom
30 San Piedras Place
San Ramon, CA 94583
(925) 833-9184
Janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com

Happy New Year to everyone from the East Bay Diablos group! As I write this on December 7, we in California are once again waiting for rains to reappear. Several weeks ago we had high winds, rain and flooding due to three back to back Bomb Cyclones. Now the ten day forecast shows no rain in sight.

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.

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. The following Monday was a conflict with the RUPA Christmas Luncheon. 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.

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 will order off the regular menu. It's sad to see a long standing tradition discontinued but we will still have a wonderful time. Everyone is in their holiday spirit and dressed in Christmas attire with a few antlers, Santa hats and necklaces of Christmas lights. We will still have a special raffle and collect for Toys for Tots. Because the new date of our meeting falls after the submission date of this newsletter article, I'll report on our Christmas luncheon in the next newsletter.

I have been talking with friends in other RUAEA chapters and they all report that the cost of eating out, even for fast food, has driven them away from restaurants. What used to be a quick stop while out running errands, or a relaxing dinner with friends and family, has now almost become a luxury. Restaurants have raised prices due to increased costs for wages and food. People are staying away due to higher costs and then restaurants are raising prices to make up for the smaller

number of customers. It's a vicious cycle and who knows where it will end. When you pay your bill, restaurants now prompt you for tips of 18%, 22% and even 25%. If you want to tip 15% you have to manually enter the dollar amount—guilt trip anyone? I recently went to my favorite Mexican restaurant for lunch for the first time this year. What used to be the two item combo lunch at \$14 was now \$21. Then add on 10% tax, tip of 15% to 18%, and the latest charge, 3% for using a credit card, and my lunch was \$30 out the door. The food and service was excellent as always, but sadly, this has now moved into the luxury category in my budget. Several of my friends have stopped eating out altogether. Having my friends validate my frustration makes me feel less of a cheapskate, thankfully!

And now for a PSA that I hope many of you will check out, consider buying, and find very useful. Since the beginning of 2024, I was practically homebound because I could hardly walk. Long story short, I ended up having right knee meniscus repair surgery in June and total right hip replacement in September. Thanks to excellent surgeons, physical therapists, and exercises, I am now walking again. One of my friends told me about this wonderful assistive device which she used on outings with her 99-year-old father. She brought it when she took me to doctor visits after my surgeries. It's a grab handle that slips into the car door handle so you have something to hold onto at arm level vs. having to grab onto a bar over your head inside the vehicle. I have affectionately named it My Gizmo. I bought it on Amazon for \$9.99; they also sell two for 17.99. The Kounatsuri brand is distinguished by the striped handle and a well defined "cut out" that fits the handle securely. You can search for it under "car door handle for elderly." It also has a seat belt cutter and a tip that can break a window in case you drive into a lake. Ha ha! But seriously, if it keeps one person out there from falling, it will be a godsend.

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 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. According to Feeding America, an estimated 160,000

military families experienced difficulty putting food on the table in 2020. Troops in junior enlisted ranks are especially vulnerable to food insecurity — almost 30% need help.

I would like to ask all of you to cut out coupons and mail them to me at 30 San Piedras Place, San Ramon, CA 94583-3018. 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 in coupons at least every other month so the troops have a longer time to use them. 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 current and expired.

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 December 7, I turned in 788 coupons. My total for 2024 is 16,005 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. All the coupon cutters are telling me that they are not getting coupons like they used to. It's really bad in the SF Bay Area and I'm glad that other areas of the country are still able to send 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 **Mary Brennan** in MN, **Marilyn Carle** in IL, **Ginger Dahlberg** in CA, **Francis Domaratius** in CA, **Marilyn Evans** in CO, **Martha Gooselaw** in CO, **Diane Griego** in CA, **Barrie Hooley** in IN, **Glenda Kennedy** in CA, **Marcella Kern** in NJ, **Carol Koslosky** in NY, and **Jim Taylor** in FL.

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

- ▲ Monday, January 6, 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 or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, January 3, 2025.
- ▲ 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

J a n S o d e r s t r o m a t
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 or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, February 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

Reminders:

- ▲ Send in your 2025 dues (\$15 per member, check made out to **John Garis**, Treasurer, 550 Compass Circle, Redwood City, CA 94065)
- ▲ 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's to 2025 - Yippee - We're still alive!

Ask for help if you need it!

Phone a friend who can't drive anymore

Play an instrument (a triangle or a kazoo?)

You can donate to a favorite charity

Never give up

Enjoy a good book

Walk in your nearby park for 20 minutes

Your time is precious, so treasure it

Eat a gooey Chocolate Chip cookie

Appreciate and thank your good buddies!

Remember to smile – it's really easy to do!!

Conundrum of the day: “Did you ever wonder why you never hear Father-in-Law jokes?”

My wish for you this coming year – Good Health and Happy Days.

Come join us if you are in town, all United and Continental retirees are welcome - we meet on the 4th 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
Placerville, CA
Jane Gibson
Secretary
tired-dogs@comcast.net

Can you believe it? November! Month number 11! Only one more month left in 2024! And so far, this month has been busy, busy, and busy. We started off with the “fall back” time change; we were able to vote this month; we have honored our veterans; some have experienced the first snow fall; Thanksgiving is just a week away – and, we had our final Hangtown Miners (official) meeting for 2024 this month. I'd say life is good!

Rudy Blazius extended our thanks to **Gina Kenworthy** for setting up this luncheon at the Olive Garden in Folsom. So many choices and all taste so good. Our servers were on top of things and had all 35 orders out to us in record time. It's a good thing they have a separate room for big groups and rest assured, we filled it up with bodies and lots of talking ... one thing this group isn't short of for sure! How blessed we are to have such good friendships.

No one has an anniversary this month. No guests joined us. **Pati Kenney** is our only November “baby”. She was wished a Happy Birthday, of course.

Rudy moved on to final year reports from our 2024 officers.

President ~ **Rudy Blazius** kept our sometimes a bit rowdy gang in check and the conversation moving along. Keep reading to learn about those conversations!

Vice President ~ **JR Heier** has sort of become our “go to” for insurance info and questions. UAL offers several different plans and providers. But, the general input seems to be that monthly benefits costs – no matter which company – will be increasing in 2025 ... some of them quite significantly. **John Woodward** tells us that his coverage has been “0” but he was informed that he will now be paying \$125 a month. Others are also looking at big increases. **Diana Bell** said hers has in-

creased too with Kaiser but she opted to stay with them as she has had good experiences so far. **Mike Thilges** shared that there are companies/groups who will act as a “go between” for you and the company. There were so many who gave their experiences and concerns that it was impossible for me to catch all that was shared. But, one of the main pieces of advice from JR is to be absolutely sure that if you have “pre-existing” condition(s) that they/you will be covered should you decide to change carriers. Not all do. Also, remember, if you leave UAL insurance coverage to try out something outside their list, you will not be able to return to your coverage with United – ever. Insurance companies are really strapped right now and looking for any and all ways to cut expenses. And, you must be an advocate with UAL. We used to have someone who you could call and get answers but that “number” seems to have disappeared so we are pretty much on our own. **Jane Gibson** relayed info from **Louise Ridsdale** that **Geoff** needed two tests done but the insurance company denied it. She was able to get a “real person” to talk to and they said that the company didn’t feel both tests were necessary. However, they said that if the doctor would call them directly and explain why both were needed, it could make a difference. She was able to get the doctor to call and explain why two tests and they approved the request. Geoff is fine, thank goodness, but it just goes to show that you have to be a strong advocate for yourself. All this is very frustrating. Aren’t these “Golden Years” supposed to be our time to relax and enjoy ourselves? Instead we continue to have to deal with ever changing policies. Don’t give up – there are still so many positive things in our lives – but, we do need to be diligent.

Treasurer ~ **Tom Kenny** caught us up on our banking account. We are looking good with our bank balance in place to be able to cover our wonderful December luncheon. With the starting balance he was able to give the Smith Flat House a deposit of \$750 with the balance for the lunches due when we have our luncheon on December 11th. **Suzanne Kenny** was accepting checks/cash for those who wanted to pay ahead.

Tom was hoping that there might be some tools donated at the Minden Reunion in September, a few but not much. Tom will be getting the tools and tool boxes put together soon so they can get to the college before the end of the year. We are not getting as many tools now, but then, our “pool” of retired mechanics in the area have pretty much been tapped. That doesn’t mean that we are ending the effort, just having to look under a few more rocks now. Tom does feel he will have enough tools to fill out 4 tool kits – pretty darn good, I’d say.

Don’t forget! Annual dues of \$15.00 are now being collected. If you wish to mail in your check, please

make it out to Hangtown Miners and send it to **Tom Kenny**; 3481 Parleys Canyon Road; Placerville, CA 95667.

Secretary ~ Okay, so **Jane Gibson** worked on our Hangtown Miners roster. I printed out copies and brought them to the meeting. Everyone there was able to take home their copy. I will bring them to our December luncheon and those who missed this month can get their copy then. Those who aren’t able to come in December, I will mail it to you. I need you to look over your information and let me know if there are any mistakes or changes you want to make to your info. I have been made aware that there are a couple changes reported to me already – so, please get out your roster and write in these changes: To **Lynette Ceci**’s info, her email address is lynnettemceci@gmail.com (you’re adding the “m”); To **Bill & Pati Kenney**’s, their zip code is 95672 – please change that! And **Thom Biro** is dropping the phone number on the list and please put in (530) 409-3875; that’s his cell and it’s with him all the time. Some of you may have gotten my (already) revised copy so the only change you’ll have is Thom’s number.

I also brought the sign up sheet for “Hosting” in 2025. I am very pleased to tell you that all the months are covered – Thank You!

Sunshine ~ **Suzanne Kenny** hasn’t had any reports of anyone experiencing difficulties. This is a good report! However, Suzanne has been busy getting things set up for all of us for our December luncheon – see below!

Old Business ~ Well, Rudy’s agenda list has quite a few items to cover on it. Let’s go thru it:

- ▲ Updated roster – Done.
- ▲ Toys for Tots – As you know we asked that you bring the toys you bought to be donated, taken to the Marines who will distribute them to local families. I’m pleased to tell you that we had quite a few come this month (the December luncheon is too late for distribution so November was the month to bring them in). **John Muir** and **Ann Marie Sutherland** got them delivered for us – Thank You! Done.
- ▲ December Luncheon – Suzanne was collecting from those who wanted to “pay ahead” and took their meal choice. I am putting the info below for those of you who weren’t able to be at the meeting this month. Be sure to either fill out the choice part of the return sheet or, at the very least, put your choice(s) on the memo line on your check. Done.
- ▲ 2025 Luncheon Hosting – Done.
- ▲ Food Bank Donation – just a reminder to bring your bag(s) of food to our December luncheon and they will be donated to local families who

may be experiencing some difficulties. Done (a little more on this below)

- ▲ UAL Medical discussion – Done.
- ▲ Vote on 2025 officers! Yes, you read that right – we took nominations last month for our officers for 2025. You had a month to consider if you think these nominees are the right people to run our Hangtown Miners for the next year. I guess we must be handling things well as you asked all of us to continue another year. So, **Jane Gibson** motioned this panel of nominees as officers for 2025: *President ~ Rudy Blazius, Vice President ~ J.R. Heier, Treasurer ~ Tom Kenny, Secretary ~ Jane Gibson and Sunshine ~ Suzanne Kenny*. Motion seconded by a lot of people, going to put **Diana Bell** down; Motion passed by unanimous show of hands. Thank you for your vote of confidence, we all will do our best to make you proud. Done.

New Business ~ Thom Biro wanted to pass along info about your passes which includes your “friends” passes. There are new regulations regarding these. If you have people on passes, they will have an easier time accessing booking/cancellation etc. You will too, of course, and I don’t have specific details so go to the UAL website and learn more. I understand that some of our members have “given up” using their passes – at least the standby. But, I have heard from other folks who have flown more recently on those kinds of passes and they said that there wasn’t a problem using them/ getting on the plane. Obviously, it depends on when and where you want/need to fly. We also have access to a discounted rate that gives us positive space assignment and many use those. The passes were one of the “perks” we looked forward to having in our retirement. I know that retiree support isn’t the same as it once was, but at the same time we don’t want to lose what you all worked so hard for in your younger days.

Rudy & Cindy have been married 57 years (!!!) and for many of those years they have been collecting Christmas cards. **Barbara Cunningham**, a member of East Bay Diablos, would love to take old or new Christmas cards off your hands! Knowing this, Rudy boxed up those cards and gave them to me to take to Barbara’s house – turns out she lives here in Livermore! I was happy to deliver them to her, tho she wasn’t home so I didn’t get to visit with her. Barbara gives them to a special education teacher who uses them in his classroom. His students make gift cards, which they sell at the school fundraiser. So, since we are just about to jump into the Christmas season, please save cards for her (no envelopes) and help out this project. You can bundle them up and give them to me and I will get them to Barbara. If you want to connect with her directly, her email address is barbjc1943@gmail.com. Cards from this sea-

son are so beautiful, it’s great to know they will find a new purpose.

Bill Kenny brought along a take home paper regarding Food Donations Recommendations: They are things to think about when you select items to bring to the December Luncheon. I’m going to just toss them all in a row here:

*A lot of Kraft Mac and Cheese gets donated. They can rarely use it as it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks. *Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of. *There is a lot of pasta sauce and spaghetti donated. *Canned soup and veggies are awesome but think about including a can opener or purchase pop tops. *Items such as Rice-A Roni are donated a lot but they need oil in order to prepare. Consider donating a bottle of salad oil too. *Spices or salt and pepper would be a real gift. *Tea bags and coffee are special when they get them. *Fresh produce and eggs are a luxury (in our case, we don’t bring perishables). *Seeds are a great donation in spring and summer when growing can be easy for some. *Cans of tuna and crackers are great food consider adding a jar of mayonnaise. *Hamburger Helper is often donated but they are unable to get ground beef. *They get a lot of peanut butter and jelly but rarely any sandwich bread. *Butter and margarine are greatly appreciated. *Dish soap/detergent is always appreciated. *Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that. *Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing. *Also, please consider donating dog and cat food. Some people have hit a temporary low point and don’t want to give up their pets but find that they have to choose to feed their families or their pets. Thank you, Bill for these suggestions.

I’d like to add that while wandering thru the grocery store, I noticed that items like little individual containers of fruit or applesauce would be a good idea. As mentioned above – pull top lids are such a convenience. Crackers can be combined with any meal. I haven’t seen the powdered milk for a long time, but will keep a look out for it (it is also good to have in your own pantry “just in case”). Honey is a wonderful, nutritious and versatile food that lasts forever. Hmmmm, thinking about things like jerky! Wow, there are so many things that can be portable, stay stable, be delicious. So next time you go to the grocery store, slow down a bit and really look at items that you may not normally buy for yourself, but would be a good food for someone who may not have the ability to cook a nice big meal but is hungry. Maybe baby formula! Oh, and please be sure to check on the expiration dates – the further out the better. While we may not be able to make everyone’s Christmas great, we can certainly help to make many better.

Sadly, Rudy needed to share with us the passing of

two UAL mechanics who you may know/have worked with; John Wilhoit has passed as well as Herb Wooten. We also have heard that **Dale Harper** is not doing well and on hospice in Oakdale. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

I do believe I have gotten to the bottom of Rudy's agenda page – busy meeting but a good one.

Rudy shared these funnies with us: Things You Need To Know If You Move To The South:

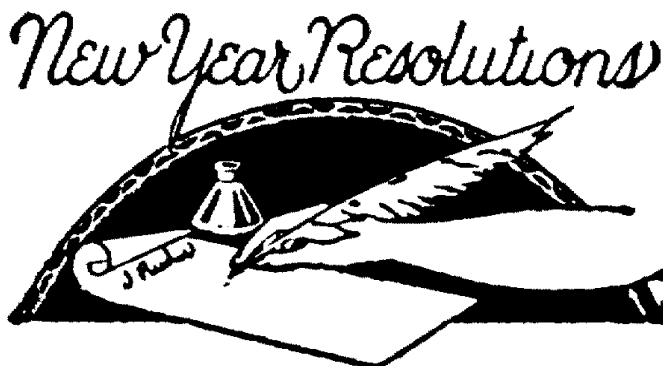
- ☺ A possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
- ☺ People actually grow, eat, and like okra.
- ☺ The word “jeet” is actually a question meaning, “Did you eat?”
- ☺ Y'all is singular. All Y'all is plural.
- ☺ You think that the first day of deer season is a national holiday.
- ☺ Fried catfish is the other white meat.
- ☺ Why did the chicken cross the road? To show that stupid possum that it can be done!

And with that, Rudy passed the baton to JR and our raffle started. **Chris Delfino** was the lucky winner of the donator's prize. We are very grateful to all who brought items. Thank You to: **Heier** – wine; **Kozelka/Barton** – wine; **Gibson** – scented soaps; **Blazius** – wine; **Fitzpatrick** – Santa jar; **Kenney** – bean bag toss and plates; **Trebnik** – coffee cups/tray; **Wolfram** – necklace; **Bell/Nielsen** – wine; **Kenny** – wine; **Garland** – playing cards; **Biro** – toiletries; **Ceci** – flowers; **Dellinger** – pomegranates.

Remember, we do not have a meeting or raffle at our December Luncheon at the Smith Flat House.

I don't know about you, but when we are getting close to the end of the year and prepare for two wonderful, busy holidays, I can get rather “mushy”. Thinking about the past months, looking at the calendar to write the Christmas letter and seeing what 2024 brought us, my heart just melts with all the highs and lows too. Speaking for Bill and myself, we are so very blessed; praying that all the conflicts in the world will find a way to peace. Snuggling up as the air gets more and more crisp; having so many good friends to share our lives. Yeah, we are very blessed.

Please, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay happy.



	<p><u>RESANS</u> San Diego, CA Barbara Drews Secretary sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com</p>
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There was a record turnout for our RESANS Holiday Lunch at Hunter's Steakhouse in Oceanside. A longer drive than usual for most of us but we had thirty two attendees. Among them was a friend of **Alex Cortez, Alejandro Fuente**, who is from Argentina.

Barbara Drews won the 50/50. **Debbie Taylor** told everyone how much she is appreciated and keeps in touch with anyone who is ill or going through a difficult time as well as those who have moved from the area and like to be in touch with their UA family in San Diego.

We have January Birthdays ~ **Betty Tomaino** on the 1st, **Helen Hutchinson** on the 5th and **Arnold Pollock** on the 20th. What a great way to start out the New Year!

We discussed our next breakfast in January and the majority voted for meeting on the 9th, the second Thursday as the first Thursday is the 2nd and no one wanted to commit.

Betty Tomaino was unable to attend due a cold and bad cough. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We plan to get together in the near future and set up a date for our Spring Fling Luncheon.

I want to announce that our 2025 Reunion will be held in Denver and the Hotel is the Holiday Inn on Quebec St. The dates are from September 27th through October 1st, 2025.

Calendar:

January 9 – Breakfast.

<p>SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS</p>	<p><u>SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS</u> Sacramento, CA Ron Bertacini Secretary sgd@surewest.net</p>
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We did not meet in November so we have no report for this issue of the Newsletter. We just want to wish all our RUAEA friends a Happy Holiday!





SAN JOAQUINERS

Rosie Walls
(209) 984-5672
jawrmw@sbcglobal.net

Submitted by Steve Foster,

Hello everyone,

We had a nice luncheon in Burson at El Torero Mexican Restaurant on November 14th. There were 12 regular RUAEA members and two guests of **Bob & Mary Brown**, Janice & Debbie Jo.

We brought up the information that RUAEA has a new President, **Ruth Morabito**, due to the death of **Don Burbank**. **George Midwin** is now the new Executive Vice President.

United is going to have new internet via Starlink Wi-Fi that is being rolled out for personal devices and seatback screens.

The 50th anniversary of RUAEA comes up in 2025 and the group is working on a location for this event and celebration of the milestone of RUAEA.

In the last newsletter, there was an article about United Expands Economy Cabin Wine Offerings with Debut of New Rose as of September 30, 2024 giving travelers more variety and better quality.

Also, it was brought up that paper boarding passes are being phased out, that using the United APP on your phone is preferred. Be sure to check this out.

Birthdays acknowledged in November: **Bobby Wood, Jacque Foster** and **Ginger Dumars**. Anniversaries: **Rudy & Elma Reyna**, and **Bobby & Eleanor Wood**.

The next luncheon will be our Christmas one at Firenze Restaurant in Oakdale on December 12 at 11am. We will also have an ornament exchange which is fun for all.

Remember there is no meeting in January of 2025. **Sandy Brooks** won the 50/50 drawing. The location of the February 2025 luncheon is yet to be determined. We did pass around a signup sheet for 2025.

We invite all retirees of United to join us at our luncheons.

Contact **Steve Foster**, sgoldwing@comcast.net, (209) 328-1210 or **Bob Scoble**, U079237@att.net, (209) 626-5308.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY

San Jose, CA
www.southbayruaea.org
George Midwin
1879 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose, CA 95124
midwin5u@hotmail.com



On Monday, December 2nd, we held our annual Christmas gathering. There were seventeen members in attendance and all had a good time. **Julie Midwin** provided Christmas candies and **Jean Jenkins** provided cupcakes which were arranged in the shape of a Christmas wreath, which was very nice. Unfortunately Jean was unable to make the gathering due to a pinched nerve and she was greatly missed. However, another member greatly missed was our beloved president, **Chuck Clayborn**, as he was in Arizona completing the purchase of their new residence. Unfortunately, Chuck will no longer be our president after many years having held that position. A huge "Thank You" to Chuck for his outstanding service as president.

With the departure of Chuck, we currently do not have anyone that would be able to take over his position. We discussed this situation and how to proceed going forward. There was no doubt that no one wants to see our chapter dissolve and so we will continue on, just not so formal. Meetings will become gatherings and still held at the Bill of Fare beginning at 10AM. **George Midwin** will send members an email prior to the date each month, so we can advise the restaurant the number that will be attending.

We will continue to have a summer picnic in June, the date to be announced in early 2025. We also discussed that as a chapter we do not have any funds coming in, as in the past when we held raffles each year.



One possibility may be that we ask each member donate \$10 a year as dues, but this is still open for more discussion.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and continued health through 2025. I encourage everyone to gather the first Monday of each month for breakfast at the Bill of Fare, with our first meeting scheduled for January 6th at 1000; **Chuck Clayborn** will be in San Jose and has indicated to me that he is planning to attend this gathering. Please come out and help us to show our appreciation for his tireless support these past many years.

Next month's luncheon will be on December 17th at Denny's in Cordelia, CA; 304 Pittman Rd.

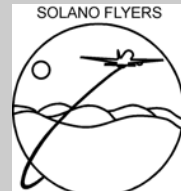
I told Sam not to sing but Samsung anyway.

COLORADO



DENVER MILE HIGHERS

Rich & Cleora Conner
(970) 660-7040
richcleora@gmail.com



SOLANO FLYERS
Larry Jackson
President
(707) 624-0030
larry-cindy@comcast.net

Submitted by Allan Pochop, apochop@aol.com.

The Solano Flyers met on November 19 at Cypress Hills Clubhouse. President **Larry Jackson** addressed the following member with alarming news; the following were sworn to secrecy: **Richard Cox, Eileen & Pad Gardner, Diosnel & Luci Perez, Chauncy Blaine, Rudy Arsaga, JoAnne & Bill Blizzard, Gene Boyce, and Allan Pochop.**

Birthday ~ Luci Perez.

Winner of the 50/50 was **Larry Jackson**. **Eileen & Pad Gardner** donated a Wok and a Beverage Dispenser, **Rudy Arsaga** took home the wok and the Beverage Dispenser went to **Chauncy Blaine**.

We had our Christmas party with 34 members in attendance; we had one guest, **Barb Donohue**, who works for UAL in Denver. There were gifts for everyone.

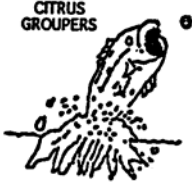
We are saddened to announce the deaths of two members: **Martha Gooselaw** and **Doug Colbert**, they will be greatly missed.

The 2025 RUEA Reunion will be held in Denver at the Holiday Inn on Quebec; September 27th through October 1st. Room rate is \$139 per night which includes breakfast and parking. We do need local volunteers for this event.

Our next meeting is January 2nd at 11:00 at Ted's Place in Commerce City. Address: 5271 E. 52nd Ave., Commerce City, (303) 287-7544.



FLORIDA

	<p><u>THE CITRUS GROUPERS</u> <u>THE VILLAGES</u> Julius "Joe" DiStaso (941) 661-2215 wopahofl@gmail.com</p>
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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.

	<p><u>THE ORLANDO</u> <u>REAL McCoy's</u> Elaine Tillman-Mannella 7307 Everleigh Court Orlando, FL 32819 (321) 287-4055 emt6250@yahoo.com</p>
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Our Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th which is past the deadline for the Newsletter so we will report this in next month's Newsletter. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year 2025!

We held our Christmas luncheon on December 6.

	<p><u>SW PELICANS DROP-INS</u> Ray Jensen (239) 634-2054 rmmjensen@msn.com</p>
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We had a very nice turnout with 13 attendees. This is an increase over our previous luncheons. All had a good time.

Our next get together will be on January 10th at LYNQ Restaurant in Fort Myers. All are welcome. If any one needs directions, please e-mail me at rmmjensen@msn.com.

Have a very nice Christmas and a Happy New Year!




	<p><u>TAMPA BAY CHAPTER</u> Trinity, FL Janis Lindstrom, Acting Secretary 587 Waterford Circle W. Tarpon Springs, FL 34688 (727) 934-1862 lindekatz@aol.com</p>
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Since our Christmas Luncheon at Outback Steakhouse is scheduled for December 11, which is past the deadline for the RUAEA Newsletter, we'll cover this meeting in next month's report.

Have a Very Happy Christmas and A Great New Year!


Calendar:

January 6 – IHOP, 10:30

	<p><u>TREASURE COAST</u> Stuart, FL Al Popek President ualpbi@att.net</p>
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There is no report this month from the Treasure Coast chapter of RUAEA.

IDAHO

	<p><u>BOISE GEMS</u> Shirley Dempsey rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com</p>
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There is no report this month from the Boise Gems chapter of RUAEA.



ILLINOIS



January 2025. Woweee! We made it, so far! I ask you this every year, so, here goes! What are you planning on doing in 2025? A trip? Moving? Maybe a new grandchild? New husband/wife? Getting rid of the old one? How about moving to a Senior Home? Not a bad idea, I moved in a few years ago. The best thing is no cooking! You usually get a nice breakfast, lunch or dinner. Some offer both, but that means more \$\$\$\$\$. Of course, you'll always bump into some weird, nosey and controversial people. Heck, I still remember that nasty little boy, Ed, in the second grade who treated me like poop. I was so quiet and scared of him, I never stood up for myself. Boy, I wish I could see him today; he wouldn't stand a chance with the older and wiser Jan. Anyway, If you're looking for a change or just downsizing, check out one of the Independent Living 'homes', they have games, trips, hobbies, cleaners, and exercise.

Our moon viewing this month should be nice and bright. The full moon is called the Wolf Moon on the 13th; no super moons until October, November and December. So you'll have to hang onto yourself until October 6th. The Wolf moon is called that because it's the first full moon of the year. The name comes from the tendency of wolves to howl more frequently in the winter months.

January's gem is the garnet; it's a beautiful dark red color symbolizing peace, prosperity, and health. It does come in other colors but the red is the most popular. The flowers this month are the carnation and the snowdrop. Even saying the name, snowdrop, sounds like a beautiful dainty flower, doesn't it? They are a strong flower sometimes popping up in snowy places, giving hope for Spring. It's around the corner, folks. Really! Carnations have a very beautiful fragrance and they last a long time. They come in a variety of colors and very pretty. Surprise your lady in the cold January.

Holidays in January are New Year's Day, of course; hangover day for those who imbibe. I don't think a little older people do too much drinking any more; maybe a little at dinner and then off to bed. Ever since the 20 year olds took over New Year's Eve, there's not much on for us; all that crazy music is not our style. Well, not mine. Dick Clark, Lawrence Welk and Guy Lombardo died, they took the good music with them. Auld Lang

Syne was the first song of the year; Guy's last New Year's Eve was in 1976, 48 years of welcoming in the New Year, hoping for the best. He died in 1977. Now we get modern jazz or hip-hop, and bands I don't know. Even in Chicago, with their beautiful fireworks display, they play Barbra Streisand singing, 'Happy Days are here Again'; not quite the same. Are we 'out of it'? I don't care, I love music and want my old songs. Auld Lang Syne is a Scots language, meaning, Times Long Past. It was written to say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new one hoping good luck, health and wealth. I think good health beats out all of them. Remember being young, we wanted wealth and buy, buy, buy. Getting older, we hoped for better luck and decisions, now we're sliding down 'the hill, and realizing our health is the most important. Every day is a surprise, isn't it? What's that pain in my left eye, or my right elbow, what's arthritis? The funny part is when we talk to our friends and mention all of these ailments, they say, 'oh, I had that last week, and my wife fell and broke her femur. I'm having knee surgery next week'. Knees and hips are big as we age, aren't they? Well, enough of that, just know, you are not alone, there are a whole bunch of lovely gray haired people in the same situation. I'd like to thank all of the younger people, mostly women, that help me open doors, guide my walker and smile with that understanding wink. 'My grandmother has that problem too, happy to help'. Thanks.

January 20 has two events, Martin Luther Kings' birthday, and the Inauguration. Kids will be off and the banks will be closed. Just a reminder, I think we all know what King did for the advancement of people of color. His 'I had a Dream' speech was very moving and quoted often, even all of these years later. His children have continued his work; he'd be proud of them.

Good news from the State Department for international travelers. If you renew your passport by mail, the wait is currently 6-8 weeks, or 2-3 weeks for expedited service. Now they are offering online renewals! How about that? They are handling approximately 2,000 applications per day. If you don't get it in one day, you have to try again another day. To start and get more details, go to 'MyTravelGovhomepage', selecting the sign in button, will take you to login.gov where you can sign in as an existing customer or create a new account. Our 'MyTravelGov' video explains how to create a new account. Try it, I copied this from an article. Hope it works for you. I didn't try it, so can't vouch for the directions. It sure would save time. If you want a passport book, it's \$130. If you want a passport card, it's \$30. If you want both it's \$160. Expedited Service is \$160. Bon Voyage!

Parties, parties, parties last month: The Union IAM 1487 had theirs on December 5, at the Seville. Great

meal, great raffle gifts, great to see so many friends. The Women's Committee of the Union put all 30 baskets together, so lovely, it was hard to decide which to take. There were 157 members present, nice crowd, wearing some of their finest finery. Many guys wore new T-Shirts with Santas or reindeers on them. **Dave Roderick** and his committee did a very fine job, again. Thank you all members, volunteers and very high-spirited guests.

The Skyliners had their luncheon at the Belvedere. There were 80 guests mingling and laughing, happy to see friends and coworkers from long ago. Everybody looked so good and young! We had Peter Oprisko as our entertainment. This was his second appearance and he didn't disappoint. Lots of Christmas and traveling songs. He brought his sense of humor with him and made everybody cheerful and pleased to hear the 'old songs'. **Jim Sommerfield** and **Renee Jakus** did a fabulous job planning the event. Thank you! Jim hasn't been feeling good the last month, maybe you could remember him in your prayers. He had a couple of brain-bleeds and has been hospitalized, and is having rehab sessions; he's been a huge help to us on the Skyliners board for years. I don't know what we'd do without him. Thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who volunteered with the name tags, raffle desk, greeters, and the Mainliner Club ladies brought in their merchandise for Christmas giving and ourselves. The ladies are **Jackie Monilaw**, **Wanda Phillips**, **Anna Marie Meyers**, **Janet Higdon**, **Lynn Hagele**, and **Margaret Long**. Also a big thank you to our Ms. Jack-of-all-trades, **Toni Van Kampen** for taking pictures and later posting them on our website, Chicagoskyliners.org. Check it out when you can.

The Northside breakfast had nine retirees, **Charlie Lewis**, **Jerry Tipperreiter**, **Ginny Vlach**, **Linda & Scott Ivie**, **Marian Osier**, **Marsha Sealock-Weber**, **Deb Jaret**, and **Dona Nefczyk**. Two of our regulars weren't able to be there, **Virginia Kondraros** had knee surgery, and **Dave Dunham** fell and had a few broken bones. Get better, see you soon!

The ORDMM mechanics breakfast had a smaller group since it snowed that morning. **Ron Geibel**, **Rich Protsman**, **Walt Chornomaz**, **Don Kramlich**, **Bud Lowe**, **Jim Vitte**, **Fred Seibert**, and maybe a few more.

The ORDMM foremen had another guest from out of town; **John & Pam Witkowski** drove into town from North Carolina and met us for breakfast at Elly's. **Tom Abraham**, **Bob Smietanski**, **Stan & Jen Chmielewicz**, **Glenn Hill**, and two newbies, **Deb & Craig Linkin-hoker**, and me. What a nice get together with new and old friends. That's what's so nice about these breakfasts and lunches, getting together and seeing old co-workers. Wish more people would join us at all of the meetings we have.

The RUPA lunch had 41 pilots, spouses and friends at Nick's in Crystal Lake, on November 12. In honor of Veterans Day, some of the pilots wore their uniforms from their service days, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Army and they fit! There was no speaker, so they passed around the Mic and each veteran got a couple of minutes to tell what they did during their time in the service, (everything?). Their next meeting will be February 14, at the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin. The speaker will be Captain **Greg Hammes** who will talk about his days flying with SFO Engineering. Be sure to let the 'bosses' know if you'll be there.

Some of our fellow co-workers flew West last month, they include **Robert Shriner**, **Rick Luoma** and **Judy Steidele**, ORDCS, **Ken Payne**, ORDCG/AF, **Walter Szymanski**, ORDMM, **Betty Mickula**, city/department unknown. **Martha Gooselaw**, wife of **Virgil**, DENMM. You probably know her name because Martha edited all the letters from retirees in the RUAEA Newsletter. I had the pleasure of talking with her almost every month when Virgil and I compared our deceased employees. They also joined the Northwest Loonies when we traveled to various cities in the Midwest. She was a gracious lady and lots of fun. Everybody loved Martha, you were lucky if you knew her. Many prayers of sympathy and strength for her family.

Other deaths of prominent people: actors Tony Todd (Candyman), Christopher Thom (One Life to Live), Earl Holliman (Giant), Sports, Bob Love (basketball MVP Bulls), Bobby Allison (NASCAR Hall of Fame), singers JD Souther (songwriter for The Eagles and Linda Ronstadt), Ella Jenkins (writer of children's songs), TV MC Chuck Woolery (Love Connection), writer Barbara Taylor Bradford (Woman of Substance).

Let's keep moving and stay healthy. You know how much I hate putting names in this column. We helped keep this airline run to what it is today, yes, we did. We did something good for many years. The truth about life is making it look easy.

Calendar:

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


IAM 1487 Lunch - 1487 Lodge, 11:00 A.M., 50 W Oakton St, Des Plaines (January 2) First Thursday. Hot dog day, compliments of the Lodge.

ORDMM Breakfast - Maxfield's, 9:00AM, Plum Grove & Schaumburg Rds. (January 16). Third Thursday.

RUPA Lunch - Golf Club of Illinois, 11:00 A.M., 1575 Edgewood Dr, Algonquin (January 14).



INDIANA

	<p><u>INDY RACERS</u> Indianapolis, IN Frank N. Ingegno (317) 428-7741 figenius@sbcglobal.net</p>
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Our latest chapter meeting was held on November 12th. I was unable to attend the meeting. I can only report that our Christmas Lunch is scheduled for December 10th at Applebee's in Avon Indiana. I have no other news to report.


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 2nd 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:

- **December 10**, Christmas Luncheon, Applebee's, Avon Indiana
- **January 14** at Emmy's
- **February 11** at Emmy's

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

MASSACHUSETTS

	<p><u>NOR'EASTERS</u> New England Dick Vee Vecchione 107 Bunker Hill Road Auburn, NH 03032-3521 (603) 264-3430 NH4Vee@aol.com</p>
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There is no report this month from the Nor'Easters chapter of RUAEA.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MICHIGAN

	<p><u>GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES</u> Detroit, MI Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann (248) 667-9258 bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net</p>
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There is no report this month from the Great Lakes Escapees chapter of RUAEA.

MINNESOTA


	<p><u>NORTHERN LITES</u> Minneapolis, MN Connie Glattly 82300 Wold Road Willow River, MN 55795 (218) 349-3972 crglatty@frontiernet.net</p>
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Our pal, **Lee Storlie**, past president of the Northern Lites and enthusiastic member of the Loonies, passed away suddenly Monday, November 18th at his home in Ames, Iowa.

Lee was a "people person", enjoying telling stories and making folks laugh. He took his job as chapter president seriously, always having interesting topics for discussion each month. His droll sense of humor and concerns for others were endearing qualities. He'll be truly missed.

Condolences may be sent to his daughter, Sally Clayton, 4723 Hemingway Drive, Ames, Iowa 40014. Lee's full obituary is in the Obits section of this issue.

NEBRASKA

	<p><u>OMAHA GOLDENEARS</u> Jan Cornish 4602 N. 134th Ave. Omaha, NE 68164 (402) 619-9927 kcornish6031@msn.com</p>
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There is no report this month from the Omaha Golden Ears chapter of RUAEA.



NEVADA



The Silverliners' annual Holiday Party was held on November 21, 2024 at the Durango Hills Golf Course in Las Vegas. A scrumptious luncheon buffet was enjoyed by nineteen attendees. A 50/50 raffle, Silent Auction and Gift Exchange ended a successful social event.

The Silverliners look forward to the coming year and extend an invitation to all Nevada UA/CO retirees to join us. For more information, please contact either **Arlene McCroy**, apolloguys@aol.com or **Mary Chandler**, honolulumary06@yahoo.com.



There were 14 members present at our November 12 meeting. Our meeting was moved to Tuesday this month because Veterans Day falls on Monday, November 11, and the Black Bear Diner gets extra busy.

We collected and totaled the cost for the December Christmas Lunch. We are looking forward to our annual event. Remember; wear your merry and bright Christmas attire to add to the atmosphere. We will do our 50/50 raffle, as well as have other goodies for the raffle.

The November birthdays are **Allen Robbins** and **Teresa Rhine**. The winner of the little fall critter was **Lynda Klemm**. Our very own treasurer **Kathy Robinson** won the 50/50 – wait, that's two months in a row!

There were 14 members present at our annual Christmas Luncheon held at Biscotti's at the Peppermill Resort/Casino. Everyone was dressed in their festive holiday attire. Aside from a few hiccups (2 members waiting for their meals), it was a very nice gathering. Everyone went home with two raffle goodies.

The 2025 dues will remain unchanged - \$5 pp or \$10 per couple. Dues will be collected at our January 13th meeting. The 2025 calendar of meeting dates will also be distributed at our January meeting. As agreed to today, our September meeting will continue to be at Murrieta's Mexican Restaurant and our Christmas Luncheon will continue at Biscotti's.

The December birthdays are **Nancy Scaife**, **Larry Leusing**, **Herb Klemm** and **Lynda Klemm**. I'm sorry but the winner of the 50/50 escapes my memory (because I didn't write it down!). As previously mentioned, everyone went home with at least 2 of our very lovely assortment of raffle gifts.

Our next meeting will be back at the Black Bear Diner on Monday, January 13 at 11:00 am. See you there.

Pictured Below (L to R):

Seated - **Linda Borchers**, **June Roe**, **John Roe**, and **Lynda Klemm**.

Standing - **John Zoboli**, **Norm Borchers**, **Larry Leusing**, **Pat Zoboli**, **Barbara Leusing**, **Kathy Robinson**, **Teresa Rhine**, **Herb Klemm**, and **Allen Robbins**.



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

Submitted by Frank Warzocha

Our meeting was opened with a flag salute by Pres. **Frank Worzocha**. We held the moment of silence in recognition of **Bob Fatovic** who passed away. He was with Aircraft Maintenance and the Auto Shop at Newark. 17 members attended our luncheon, the same number as last year. From March of 2024 to November 2024, we had an average of 16 attendees, way down from years ago when we had over 45 that I remember when I first joined after retirement. **Kathy Daily** gave a recitation from the American Legion about December 7, 1941; **Jeff Holder** won our 50/50.

Our waitress told us that it was her last day on the job and we collected some cash as she was very hard working and deserved a good send off, she was so thankful to us.

Our next luncheon will take place on March 26, 2025 as we're taking the Winter off due to the cold and weather conditions. I'll be collecting the dues which are \$10.00 to keep our door prize going, hopefully the meal prices will stay the same.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

From Marty Etler: Since December 7 is coming up shortly, following is my memory of this date: We lived in an apartment house on 26 Street and 10th Ave. in Paterson, New Jersey. On December 7, 1941, Sunday; everyone stayed home to listen to their favorite radio programs. I was all of 12 years old. I remember while listening, the announcer came on and said Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese aircraft with many casualties and more information will follow.

I then heard door slamming and people running in the hallways, I followed them and they went outside and my mother was right beside me. Everyone was asking where is Pearl Harbor and where is Hawaii, are Japanese soldiers marching up 10th Ave.? Nobody knew.

However, the next day all the students in the school were ushered in to the assembly Hall. There, on the stage was a huge radio and the principal came in and turned it on. We would soon hear President Roosevelt declare war on Japan. All of us jumped up and asked what we could do, and the principle just said we will

help the air raid wardens. That didn't come to pass, however, we collected aluminum pots and pans and subsequently taken by trucks to be melted down to make airplanes. I think Paterson collected enough metal to make 1000 planes.

Within a few days, United States was at war with Germany and Japan, the United States was not a sleeping giant anymore, it became the leader of the free world.

NEW YORK



BUFFALO CHIPS

BUFFALO CHIPS

Jerry Stevens
130 Countryside Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221-1308
(716) 418-6887
Jerste130@msn.com

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

On December 4th, we held our annual Christmas Party; we had a gathering of 34 on this special day.

Thanks to **Ed & Suzanne** for getting the table center pieces, baskets, and gift cards for our raffle and thank you, **Lee Ann** for contacting members to remind them to join us.

Winners of the Santa centerpieces were **Emma Milazzo, Pat Hannon, Ed Pozzi, Richard Holdsworth, and Joyce O'Donnell**.

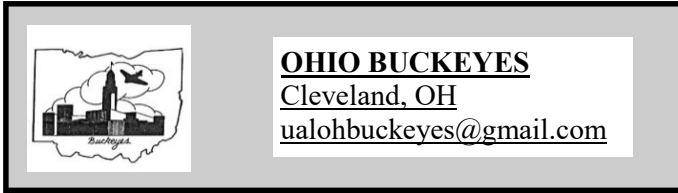
50/50 winners were **John Klos, Ray Forrester, and Suzanne Lagasi**. Raffle winners were **Lester, Suzanne, Donna, Ray, Joe, Ileana, Lee**, and a few more that I didn't get names – I'm sorry.

Happy birthday to **Madeline Klos, Margaret Hansen, Ann Hluboky, Peter Korsch, Maureen Pascale, Werner Buck, Helene Ammon, Donna Cardenas, Bernadette Halagarda, and Patricia Beamer**.

We will not have a meeting in January, so see you all in February.

Happy Holidays to all!

OHIO



On December 4th, members of the Ohio Buckeye's Chapter gathered at "Diamond Event Center" for their monthly lunch. We had 44 members that attended and had one heck of a good time. The decorations were so beautiful that many had to go among them to have their picture taken with friends. It was time for lunch; we said "Grace" (as always), and the food was served. It was fantastic as always; and so was the service. It is a wonderful place, and the owner did everything possible to make sure we enjoyed the meal and had a good time.

Looking back at our December 2023 luncheon, our President, **Dolly Taucher**, had then announced that she would continue as President for one more year. So, now, this luncheon we just had was her last as our President. But there is still work that needs to be finished, which means December 31, 2024, will be her last event as President. Dolly has given a total of 25 years of service as an officer to the Buckeyes: She served as Secretary for 3 years, Treasurer for 7 years and her last position as President for 15 years. Dolly has always said, she did not do all the work herself. She had a fantastic staff, and they all worked together to make the luncheons great. Their names in the positions they served as: *Vice President:* **Arlene Taylor, Barb Vauls, and Judy Spooner**; *Secretary:* **Mary Lou Kuretz, Kay Preston, and Judy McKnight**; *Treasurer:* **Steve Pytel, Tony Novak, Bernie Garrah, and Jackie Craig**; *50/50 Drawings:* **Bernie Garrah, John Kercel, and Jeff Spooner**. Last, but not least, the person I must not forget: My personal Assistant, **John Taucher**; he emails cards to all members for Holidays, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy & Healthy 2025 New Year.

OREGON



Our November lunch was great, 37 folks were able to make it; a very fun crowd. **Mel Martin** was our solo

male birthday, November 20. For the women, we had both **Anita Donaldson** on November 23, and **Paula Wanska** on November 4 (lunch winner).

Anniversaries ~ **Abe & Annette Knott** (55 years on 11/2) and **Roger & Juanita Null** (30 years on 11/14).

Door prize winner ~ **Louise Robillard**.

50/50 winner ~ **Carol How**.

It was a fun day and an early Thanksgiving lunch.

Unfortunately, we have some sad news to share. **Sandy Moore**, a retired Ramp Supervisor at PDXCG, passed away at home with his family around him on November 9th, 2024. He is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sandy courageously battled cancer for a few years. A viewing was held on November 18th at the Terry Family Funeral Home. There was a graveside service on November 19th, 2024, at Willamette National Cemetery. Cards can be addressed to his wife Betty and family at: 14205 NE Fremont Court, Portland OR 97230. (Sadly their son passed away on Saturday, November 2, 2024, one week before Sandy.)

Also, **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! There are some recycled funnies this month because they still make me laugh!

- ☺ The doctor that had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through the list, his eyes grew wide as he realized that Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills. "Mrs. Smith, do you realize there are birth control pills?" "Yes, they help me sleep at night." "Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep." The old lady reached out and patted the young doctor's knee ... Yes, dear I know that. But every morning I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old granddaughter drinks and believe me, it definitely helps me sleep at night."
- ☺ I rescue fabric trapped in the Quilt Shop. I am not a hoarder; I am a hero!
- ☺ The only thing you should stop wearing after age 50 is the weight of other people's opinions.
- ☺ Fortunately, for me a "silent night" is just a flick of the hearing aid switch away.
- ☺ It's National Margarita Day ... the perfect excuse to salt my glass instead of my sidewalk.
- ☺ Gift cards are a great way to say, "I don't really know you or what you like."

- ☺ A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing, and you experience the scent of fresh mown hay. In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread and cookies. I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.
 - ☺ There is so much pain in this world. Be the reason people still believe in good people.
 - ☺ I can't clean my sewing room because I get distracted by all the good stuff I find. The creative juices start flowing and the cleaning ceases.
 - ☺ Kind of funny how being old doesn't seem that old now that I am old!
 - ☺ I love sleeping but I never want to go to sleep early ... I stay up late every night, regret it every morning. Then do it all over again.
 - ☺ Sure, you can get your wife jewelry or an expensive purse or perfume for Christmas, but she will never forget the Christmas you got her a mop. Never ever! Just saying.
 - ☺ Studies show that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.
 - ☺ You know you're no longer in charge of your house when the dog decides what time you wake up.
 - ☺ Oh, the weather outside is frightful and our joints are not delightful, since it's got so darn cold, We Feel Old, We Feel Old, We Feel Old! I bet you didn't read that; you sang it in your head or even out loud.
 - ☺ I'm at the age where if you text me after 9PM, I'm texting back at 4:38AM.
 - ☺ Kids today: Finds out school is canceled via text. Me: Had to wake up at 6AM and watch bottom of the TV screen like a NBA draft.
 - ☺ Black Friday: because only in America people trample each other for sales exactly one day after being thankful for what they already have.
 - ☺ Lazy is a very strong word. I prefer ... Selective Participation.
- Until next month!

Calendar:

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

January 9, 2025, 2nd Thursday of every month.

PENNSYLVANIA



THE INDEPENDENTS

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

Hello from Philly! Another month has gone by. Our December Luncheon isn't until Monday the 9th and so still no new news to write about. I'll catch you up next month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family at UAL Philadelphia to all of You.



PITTSBURGH PIT-STOPPERS

Bill Chicots
2419 Rochester Road
Sewickley, PA. 15143
(412) 352-7375
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

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

WASHINGTON

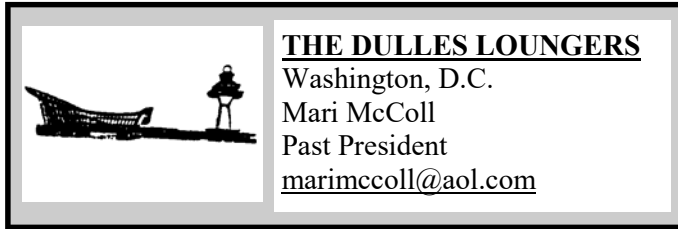


EMERALD CITY SLICKERS

Seattle, WA
Ken Storey
(206) 244-9026

There is no report this month.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



Submitted by Carl Alford,



Each November, for many years, the Dulles Loungers have chosen the Marines' Toys for Tots Campaign as its service project. As usual, the Corps was gracious enough to send two Marines to dine with us and collect our donations. This year, in addition to the many toys, we proudly donated over \$1150. It is always a treat to see the Marines in their dress blues. They seemed to enjoy their time with us as well, even volunteering to deliver our monthly door prizes to the winners among our 37 attendees.



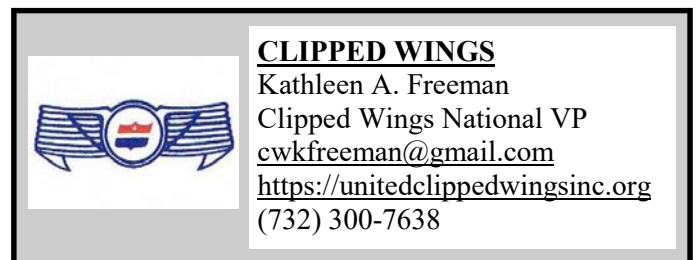
In honor of Aviation History Month, a Funko Pop Pan Am Stewardess figure was one of those prizes. Upon being selected as a winner, **Bob O'Roark**, our historian, chose this prize for the express purpose of passing it along to **Gunn Chencinski**. Although she retired from UA, Gunn began her aviation career with PA.

As our meeting was winding down, I went to get a closer look at the photo Sandra Eggleston held up showing Mari McColl in her first uniform. As luck would have it, almost all of our former flight attendants had similar photos of themselves in their first uniform and, as it should be, wearing a hat. Seeing their pictures was a sheer delight, which got even better when Gunn showed us one of hers. Lo and behold, it was one of her



wearing the same uniform as that on the figure. As if that wasn't way cool enough, it was a picture of her and her twin sister, Ann, when they appeared as part of a prize presentation on the TV show "Concentration" in 1970! With Gunn's permission, I am truly honored to be able to share it with you all below. That's it for this month. With the exception of July, August, and our year-end party in June, The Dulles Loungers meet the second Wednesday of each month at Golden Corral in Manassas at 11:30am. We welcome all UA family and friends. If you're in the area, please join us.

NATIONAL



Egg Salad Sandwiches in Japan and December Deadlines for 2025 Pass Travelers:

I know, you're wondering what one has to do with the other (more on the egg salad sandwich later). Well, if you're planning a trip to Japan with family or friends, and I suggest you do, don't miss the annual deadline (December 20) to register your traveling companions for 2025. There are now expanded options for pass riders which is a first in the airline industry.

All pass riders (except regular buddies) will be able to book United personal travel (NRSA) and my UAdiscount travel (if eligible) on the United mobile app!

This makes United the only airline that allows pass travel booking on the commercial app, as well as the only airline that allows pass riders to book themselves (app or web).

You will no longer have to be the "travel agent" for your pass riders. To book your pass riders they will have to have a Mileage Plus account. The steps are as follows:

1. Go to My Profile Tab in EmployeeRes
2. Click on the Manage profile link
3. Click on the Traveler profile tab
4. Click on the down arrow associated with your pass rider
5. Click on the Link MP account button
6. Enter their Mileage Plus number

7. Click Confirm

8. Click Close

I just did this for my two sons who are my Enrolled Friends and it was super easy. This is huge for us to be able to do this and what a privilege it is. Ok, now on to the egg salad sandwich in Japan☺.

Since I'm still flying and really have no plans to retire (even with almost 48 yrs.) there are just certain things in this career of mine that make me happy: Landing early, being released from duty after a cancellation, a hot bath with a glass of wine after an 18-hour duty day and an egg salad sandwich from 7-Eleven in Japan.

Convenience store food might not have the best reputation here in the United States, but in Japan, the 7-Eleven franchise offers quite a spread of widely-loved food options. One of the convenient grab-and-go meals available is the egg salad sandwich. The food starts with a fluffy, slightly sweet milk bread exterior, which is then filled with the soft, eggy filling.

The Japanese egg salad sandwich, or Tamago Sando, is a beloved snack and meal that has gained international recognition for its simple yet delicious flavor. Here's why it's so special. Key Elements:

- ▲ Soft Milk Bread: The bread used is typically a soft, fluffy milk bread that provides a perfect canvas for the filling.
- ▲ Creamy Egg Salad: The egg salad is made with a delicate balance of flavors, often featuring Kewpie mayonnaise, which is known for its rich and creamy texture.
- ▲ Subtle Seasoning: The filling is lightly seasoned with salt and pepper, allowing the natural flavors of the eggs and mayonnaise to shine through.

Why It's So Popular:

- ▲ Perfect Balance of Flavors: The combination of the soft bread and the creamy egg salad creates a harmonious flavor profile that is both comforting and satisfying.
- ▲ Convenience: It's a convenient and affordable option, perfect for a quick meal or snack.
- ▲ Cultural Significance: The Tamago Sando has become a cultural icon in Japan, representing the country's love for simple, delicious food.

If you're ever in Japan, be sure to try a Tamago Sando from a convenience store or a local bakery. It's a culinary experience that will leave you wanting more.

In closing, my advice is to get your family and friends enrolled before the December 20th deadline and come fly with me on our Haneda or Narita flights out of Newark Liberty International Airport.

Remember to check out Clipped Wings and all the wonderful things we get involved with on Facebook and our website at: www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org.

In Gratitude,■

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO RUAEA! We hope you will enjoy the activities and camaraderie. The organization would appreciate hearing from you on your renewal date

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

Darcy Banks, Lawndale, CA
Henry Bassett, Floral City, FL
Jenny Harris, Horseshoe Bay, TX
Mark Hedrick, Stuart, VA
Larry Levato, Westminster, CO
Connie Massey, Greenville, SC
Sheryl McLean, Mitchellville, MD
Linda Orlady, New River, AZ
Linda Pergola, Thornton, CO
Elizabeth Rieke, San Mateo, CA
Paul Skrudland, Des Plaines, IL
Shelia Thomas, Indianapolis, IN
Robert Villalobos, Long Beach, CA
Judy Williams, Laguna Niguel, CA■

CONTRIBUTIONS

The association acknowledges contributions to the postal fund from the following members:

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

Darcy Banks, Sharon Burbank, Georgia Del Castillo, Judy Downing, Sharon G. Dunham, Joseph Dzialo, Nancy F. Ellison, Gaylen Eslinger, Mary Ann Fazio, Roberta Fensch, Ardell Y. Furuta, Ronald J. Geibel, Judy D. Godlove, Virgil L. Gooselaw, William J. Grubb, John B. Hagen, Mark Hedrick, Paul R. Herbert, Rose B. Horton, Joan Howe, Robert G. Kaczor, Kehaulani E. Kelly, Lilly Kodama, John Kovacik III, Ruth J. Larson, Lacides Miranda, Sig Mueller, Frances Oda, Nadine L. Oest, Phyllis A. Potsic, Dorothy M. Reynolds, Elizabeth Rieke, Bonnie Ruliffson, Deborah Runyeon, Lowell Schissler, Sue Sealey, Dolores E. Spain, Susan E. Spieker, John G. Thomas, Shelia Thomas, Carl Vanderweyden, Sandra L. Wallstad, Joseph Walp, William Waring, and Richard A. Weiss.■

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, 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 – **Colbert, Douglas W.**, on 11/24/2024, DENCg, husband of Frances Colbert, 2525 S. Dayton Way, Apt. 1701, Denver, CO 80231

Spouse – **Gooselaw, Martha A.**, on 11/30/2024, wife of Virgil Gooselaw, DENMM, mother of three daughters, Dayna (Roberts), Deniece (Morris) and Dianne (Adkins), grandma of 10 grand children and 10 great grand children, 973 Uvalda St., Aurora, CO 80011

Retiree – **Herold, Acelee "Joe"**, on 9/13/2024, ORDMM, husband of Kathleen A. Herold, 411 E. Anastasia St., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Retiree – **Juris, Ronald**, 10/30/2024, HDQLZ, husband of Constance Juris (deceased), father of Christine Wietrzykowski, 39W651 Howard Square, Geneva, IL 61034

Retiree – **Miculka, Betty**, 10/11/2024, wife of Michael Miculka, 103 S. Avenue I, Shiner, TX 77984■

Lee Storlie Obituary



Leander (Lee) Norman Storlie, age 83, born January 31, 1941, in Lakeville, MN to Lester & Mildred (nee Henry) Storlie, passed away unexpectedly on November 20, 2024, in Ames, IA.

Lee was raised on the family farm in Elko, MN. He graduated from Lakeville High School in 1958. He started his career with Capital/United Airlines in February 1959. He met his future wife, **Diane Stevens**, a stewardess for United Airlines in 1961 and they married in 1962. They were married 52 years, until Diane passed away in 2015. Lee & Diane were blessed with their only child, Sally, in 1968.

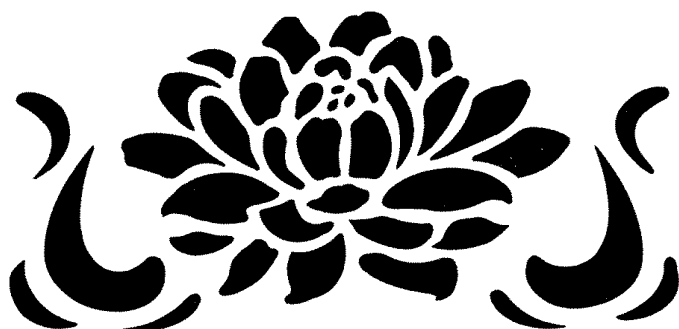
Lee absolutely loved people; he handled passengers throughout his career with the utmost of professionalism even when the passengers were lacking the same. To paraphrase Wm Butler Yeats, there were no strangers in Lee's life only friends that he hadn't met yet.

Upon his retirement in 1999 he went on to be the president of RUAEA Minnesota chapter *The Northern Lites* for many years. In 1999, his granddaughter, Brooklyn, was born and he quickly became wrapped around her little finger! He was so proud of her accomplishments and absolutely loved that she had become a MN resident!

He relocated to Ames, IA to be closer to his daughter and son in law in 2021 after over 55 years in his Burnsville, MN home. He thrived at Green Hills Retirement Community in Ames. He hosted three rock and roll music events, helped friends who didn't have family nearby and captured photos of all his favorite employees that he encountered on a daily basis! He loved when he had special visits from friends and family from across the US.

He is survived by his daughter, Sally (Rich) Clayton, Ames and granddaughter, Brooklyn Clayton of Eden Prairie, MN; sister Lorraine (Reinhold) Lemke, Northfield, MN; Sisters-in-Law, Eloise Knutson, Boyceville, WI; Eleanor Stevens, Jacksonville, IL; Nancy Smith, Eau Claire, WI; and Jeanne (David) Fox Hackensack, MN and many cousins, nieces, nephews and countless friends.

Lee was preceded in death by his wife, **Diane Storlie**; his parents, Lester & Millie Storlie; his brother and sister-in-law Dale & Barb Storlie and his brothers-in-law Bill Knutson, Dr. Tom Stevens and Tom Smith. Lee requested no services be held in his memory.■



Letters & Notes



We appreciate your letters and notes. Please keep them coming. Send them to:
RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207
-or- johnqchu@hotmail.com.

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

Paula Bloom, Maureen Curtis, Thomas D. Edwards, Blanche M. Eichorst, Mary Ann Fazio, Roberta Fensch, Christa K. Mann, Dorothy P. Reynolds, Mary Kathleen Robinson, Susan Spieker, Marcia M. & Bob M. Stanger, Melvin C. Stephens, Elizabeth Tinney, and Lucille White.

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.)

Ken & Judy Storey, 16039 12 Ave. SW, Burien, WA 98166

I really enjoy the RUAEA Newsletter, to read what other RUAEA Chapters are doing and the people in them. Judy & I had a great time at the San Diego Reunion. I do not miss de-icing airplanes one bit ☺.

Jan & Joann Butler, 811 N. 1st Street, Knoxville, IA 50138-1403

We haven't done any traveling this year due to various health issues for both of us. It is one day at a time!

Joann had 2 years in Communications, many in LAXCS; and finished 38 years in LAXFF. Jan started as Skycap at LAX and finished her last 5 years in LAXFF. We retired in 2003.

John "Scotty" Thomas, 810 Gonzalez Dr., Apt. 7K, San Francisco, CA 94132

Enclosed are my dues for another year of this wonderful Newsletter. I am celebrating my 65th year with UAL this year and it has been a wonderful journey. A big "Thank You" to the Newsletter staff!

Notes

Sharon Burbank

I have been inactive for a few years. I want to express my appreciation for the support that myself and my family received with Don's recent passing.

A special thanks to **Hank Gosselin, Ruth Morabito, and Virgil Gooselaw** for all the communication we received. Also to everyone who attended the celebration of life that was held at Wings over the Rockies on September 15th.

Both my daughter and myself attended the convention in SAN. It was great to reconnect with United friends.

Deborah Runyeon

I retired from my second career as a psychotherapist 2½ years ago. I am now traveling more (Iceland, Croatia and surrounding countries), reading more, painting more, gardening more ... it's great! I reconnect with former flying partners at RAFA meetings.

And I love reading about how other UA retirees are spending their time.

Virgil L. Gooselaw

My wife, Martha and I both had medical issues, but decided to attend the Convention/Reunion anyway. Everything was great and we got to visit with many old friends. I've found these RUAEA gatherings to be good therapy. Thanks to all that spent time and worked the Reunion, it is greatly appreciated. Wherever next year's Reunion will be, we plan to be there.

Thanks and Greetings to all!

Linda Pergola

Thanks for the invite Jane!

Dolores E. Spain

At 92 years of age, I am still an active member of the Ocala USCG AUX, holding 4 staff officer positions. As of August 28, 2024, I have served for 35 years supporting the USCG. I want to continue my RUAEA membership to keep up with UAL news.



Carl Vanderweyden

I've been retired for a year now. I worked at UAL for 36 years and to this day, I don't miss it! Staying busy with hobbies, grandchildren and travel. RUAEA is a great way to stay in touch with other retired coworkers.

Bonnie Ruliffson

I always look for people I remember. Sometimes I get lucky. I love reading about what's up with United and travel advice.

Gaylen Eslinger

We travel a lot over the USA and the World. Camping, hiking, working the ranches and donating as much time as we can to help our community. Attending concerts, plays, and fun events that keep us involved in the education system. So much to do!

Margaret (Peggy) Griffin

RUAEA ~ Thank you for being here for all the employees and keeping us informed about what is happening at UAL. As the communications person at the CHI-ORD Chapter at Clipped Wings, I pass this information to our members, as well as encourage them to join RUAEA.

Jenny Harris

I retired about a year ago and would like to reconnect with the industry. ■



The Contact Column



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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.

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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

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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

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United Airlines Historical Foundation

"Preserving the Past,
Inspiring the Future"

Stapleton Airport's Last Day By Terry J. Snyder, United Airlines Retiree



Stapleton Concourse B UA Employees

Mayor Wellington Webb

Stapleton Terminal Near A

Stapleton Concourse B Entry

The quiet before the crowds – crossing over the space-age pedestrian bridge from parking lot to terminal was a comfortable transition. For those dropped off at the terminal, they got to enjoy a section of the historical original edifice of pre-international Stapleton Airport adjacent to the control tower before arriving at the terminal ticket counter section. Airline offices took up the second floor of the Terminal, with retail shops and restaurants on the main floor.

You have to give Denver credit, they kept improving Stapleton pretty much up to its demise. United widened Concourse B and enlarged Concourse A for mainline jets. A mere few years before Stapleton closed, a new Concourse E was added to the northwest of the terminal, so customers didn't have to suffer as air travel increased dramatically into the 90s. Denver Mayor Federico Pena got the approvals for, and much of the construction of, Denver International out on the plains away from civilization (thus getting the new access highway named after him), but it was Mayor Wellington Webb who suffered the headaches for DIA's serious opening delays due to the baggage system fiasco. Truth be told, we employees were grateful for the 16-months of extra time at Stapleton. But by the time the new airport was ready to open, most folks were in a celebratory mood when Mayor Webb came out to bid Stapleton goodbye in front of many front-line airport employees.

(This article is part of a multi-part story that will be continued in the next few months.)

If you are interested in donating United or Continental memorabilia for the Historical Exhibit in rooms A102-A104 at the Training Center, please submit to **Judy Schweppe**, UAHF Secretary at 7401 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver, CO 80207. Aviation Scholarship Donations can be made directly to S.I.U: Southern Illinois University Foundation – Colyer Hall – Mail Code 6805 – 1235 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901. ■

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