



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

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



ISSUE NO. 561

MAY 2021

## *Local Chapter Meetings During The Pandemic*



### Phoenix Re-United's

**Front Row (L to R):** Dakota Morris-Terry, Pat Nicholaisen, Cindy Hilsabeck, Ginny Rockenhauser, Pauline Montoya, Rita Zarek, Peg Snowdall, and Kay Weber. **Back Row (L to R):** John & JoAnne Griffin, Donna Pedone, Fred Rockenhauser, Ron Paluch, Shirley Claggett, Ted Higley, Jay Hartough, Ted & Liz Tollefsen.



### Sierra Roundup first meeting in 364 days.

**From L to R:** Pat Zoboli, Kathy Robinson, Larry Leusing, Lynda & Herb Klemm, Allen Robbins and John Zoboli.  
Not pictured is our photographer Barbara Leusing.

# GENERAL NEWS

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

### Letter from the President



Hi Everyone,  
I would like to talk about a few problems that RUAEA is going through right now. First, we would like to have a convention but have no idea how many of our friends will show up. It is critical to have some idea for the hotel in San Diego. By then, we will have had our vaccinations so COVID will not be a problem. Please let your chapter President know or let me know, email [don8585@comcast.net](mailto:don8585@comcast.net) or call (303) 495-9941 if you will show up. It will be like always, the middle or late September. Next subject is that our wonderful people who manage the newsletter would like to take a break and train, or educate somebody else to do the newsletter for a while. I'm unable to tell you how much they mean to this organization. There are not enough words to express my thanks towards all three of them. Francis, Veronica and Martha, thank you for everything you do and we hope that somebody will step up and let you show them how the newsletter is put together and how it functions. Lastly, we have had a lot of discussion about changing RUAEA's name and logo to enhance growth and popularity; but due to COVID and the state of the airlines during the last year, we are not doing well.

If we are not able to pull out of it, we will have to make some large changes. So please think about coming to the convention and volunteering to help with the newsletter and other functions that we do. We are not able to do all of this without your help.

Contact me for suggestions, or help in volunteering.

Don Burbank  
RUAEA President

### Slow USPS Service Continues

We can't do anything about the USPS so we ask for your assistance. When possible, please communicate using email. If that isn't an option, make sure your writing is legible. We all, especially Martha will greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for realizing that we are not responsible for the newsletter arriving late.

### Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, United!

April 5, 2021



April 6 marked our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we have a lot to celebrate despite the turbulence we've experienced during this pandemic. As always, we have seen

the power of our people uniting together to face the trials and come out stronger.

We are proud of the history that has laid a solid foundation for us as leaders in the aviation industry – and beyond. Our successes have been a direct result of the hard work you dedicate yourselves to every day and our collective commitment to excellence.

As we reflect on 95 years, we are hopeful for the next 95 years and what we will accomplish together. We see brighter skies ahead and charting new paths: Setting the standard for sustainability in flight and continuing our important work on expanding diversity, equity and inclusion in aviation.

In an effort to protect the precious artifacts that can help make our legacy come alive for the next generation of airline workers, we are working on establishing the United Airlines Legacy Foundation (UALF) - a 501 (c) (3) that will serve as a historical archive of all things United. Keep an eye out for more information about UALF in the coming weeks.

### Cleared for takeoff at JFK

March 29, 2021



For the first time in more than five years, a United plane took off – once again – from JFK (New York-Kennedy), marking a much-anticipated return to the busiest airport in the tri-state

area.

*"I'm thrilled to be here with you all and welcome you to our return to JFK – a statement we at United have been waiting to say for years!"* said Global Line Stations VP David Kinzelman as he welcomed customers, employees and members of the media at the gate ahead of Flight 523 taking off from JFK to SFO. *"Tonight, United is officially putting all three New York-area airports back on the map for our customers."*

We celebrated the special occasion with gate events on both coasts. Earlier in the day at SFO and LAX, employees and customers also partook in gate celebrations ahead of Flight 514, LAX-JFK; and Flight 520, SFO-JFK.

Our return to JFK reflects not only our strong commitment to the New York City-area, but a continuation of aggressively and strategically managing the impact of COVID-19 by increasing service to and from the places where customers want to fly.

The news is just as exciting for New York City-area employees, particularly those returning to the station since our departure.

*“It’s very emotional for me because it is where my career started with United in July 1994. I was heart-broken with us leaving in 2015,”* said JFK Lead Customer Service Representative Barbara Deow-Duviella. *“Returning means reuniting with some of my JFK colleagues, not just United employees but also some of the vendors that are still in Terminal 7.”*

Like Barbara, JFK Customer Service Representative Floretta Kapoor is thrilled to be back to where her career began and to be reunited with colleagues. *“Being back and working with my co-workers again ... it’s like we were never apart!”* she said.

*“It will be great to get back to where it all started for me with PanAm,”* added JFK Lead Customer Service Representative Patrick Murray. *“And the short commute will also be great!”*

The new service between JFK and our LAX and SFO hubs will operate out of Terminal 7 using the re-configured Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, offering customers an extended premium cabin featuring 16 additional United Business class seats – providing all-aisle-access seating – bringing the total premium cabin seat count to 46. The aircraft will also feature 22 United Premium Plus seats, 47 Economy Plus seats and 52 Economy seats.

*“We strongly believe and have great hope that United will become the number one coast-to-coast premium service once again,”* said JFK Lead Customer Service Representative Rocio Mac Pherson, who worked at the station for 20 years prior to United’s departure.

We are currently flying one round-trip flight, five days a week to LAX and SFO, with plans to double the number of flights as demand grows. Tickets are now available for purchase on United.com.

### **Better Boarding resumes April 15** **April 1, 2021**



As travel demand continues to recover, we’re adapting our policies to meet customer expectations while continuing to make safety the top priority. The next step in that process is a return to Better Boarding –

our five-group, two-lane boarding process – starting April 15 in most stations.

Last year, we temporarily switched to boarding from the back of the aircraft to the front to improve social distancing during boarding. Now that more customers are returning, this can result in customers gathering in the gate area to wait near the boarding door for their row to be called, ultimately defeating the social distancing purpose of back-to-front boarding. We’ve also found that back-to-front boarding can take longer and that the process can feel disorderly for customers. We know from recent surveys that an orderly boarding experience is one of the things our customers value the most. We also know that our Premier customers value early boarding.

We have proven the safety of our travel experience – even when the plane is full – through cleaning, on-board HEPA air filtration, and mask requirements. Nothing about United’s CleanPlusSM commitment or mask requirement is changing.

Over the next two weeks, our teams will prepare for Better Boarding by getting signage and stanchions in place. We’ll also update digital signs at gates and other places that mention boarding, as well as customer communications such as pre-departure emails.

With the busy summer travel season coming up fast, now is the time to make the boarding experience as pleasant as possible for our all of our customers.

### **Behind the scenes of IAH’s** **new Baggage Handling System** **March 30, 2021**

The IAH Terminal E Baggage Handling System (BHS) project recently transitioned from Phase I to Phase II of its construction plan, bringing the project one step closer to completion. This new baggage system is the first of its kind in the U.S. and a major step in our efforts of focusing on our customers by offering more efficient and dependable systems that make up the travel experience.

The new “E side” bag room includes state-of-the-art technology, including nine carousels with corresponding high-tech displays, a four-loop sorting system using conveyors versus tilt trays and baggage ergonomic makeup carousels to keep the bags moving prior to being placed in carts. The new technology will allow 10,000 bags an hour to be processed.

It also includes an employee break room with updated amenities, including a view of the E terminal and customer access road.

Phase II, scheduled to be finished by mid-2022, will see the completion of the legacy bag system and the installation of the modern system, including 10 additional carousels. As this is ongoing, the construction of the

Early Bag Storage (EBS) system will continue outside of the bag room. The EBS building will be over the roadway, exiting the airport and will store up to 3,300 bags utilizing the new technology – allowing for the flight schedule to increase without increasing the overall size of the bag room to accommodate the additional volume.

Once fully complete by 2023, the new automated, quadruple-loop, belt conveyor sortation system will include a conveyor more than 25,000 feet long and will boast the most advanced technology of any baggage system in the U.S.

### **Change fee waiver extended** **March 31, 2021**



To continue to provide our customers more flexibility in managing their travel plans, we are extending our Basic Economy (BE) change fee waiver through April 30. The waiver was set to expire March 31.

We are also extending our waiver for most tickets purchased for travel from international destinations to May 31 to help customers manage international requirements and restrictions.

While the waiver for Basic Economy tickets is in place, customers will be able to change their flight to a new Basic Economy ticket. Customers who want to buy out of Basic Economy to a standard Economy ticket will continue to pay the buyout fee of \$45/\$100 per flight.

### **Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors**

An advertisement for Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors. It features a photo of four smiling seniors. The text reads: "HELPING YOU Find Your Path Home", "Our experienced Senior Transition Specialists are here to help you:", a list of services including Senior housing choices, VA Aid & Attendance, Medicaid applications, Home care services, Traveling Notary, and Senior real estate specialist, and contact information: "Please call or visit us online today to get started! 303-371-4100 • h2h4seniors.com 9725 E. Hampden Ave., Ste. 100, Denver 80231".

**HELPING YOU Find Your Path Home**

Our experienced Senior Transition Specialists are here to help you:

- Senior housing choices
- VA Aid & Attendance
- Medicaid applications
- Home care services
- Traveling Notary
- Senior real estate specialist

Please call or visit us online today to get started! 303-371-4100 • h2h4seniors.com  
9725 E. Hampden Ave., Ste. 100, Denver 80231

**Our New Normal:** As more and more businesses begin re-opening, travel increases and people plan long awaited vacations, and the world tries to return to some sense of “normal”, you may find yourself feeling anxious, unsure, or confused. Or maybe you are feeling a sense of relief, excitement, and happiness! Whatever feelings you are experiencing, none of which are wrong by the way, one thing we can all collectively agree on is the world prior to March 2020 no longer exists. Our lives have been transformed in ways that we could not possibly have imagined. We are now forced to find that “new” normal. Maybe you are concerned about yours

or a loved one’s physical health, or maybe you are nervous about socializing after months of self-isolation. Whatever your reasons for feeling nervous about society starting up again are, it is not unusual – and you are not the only one.

Many people think that the word that refers to a state of being normal is “normalcy”. But “normalcy” did not assume its current meaning until Warren Harding used it (incorrectly) in a speech during his 1920 presidential election campaign. His slogan was “Return to Normalcy”, a plea to return to the way things were before World War I.

From 1914 until 1919, the world suffered through a Great War and a horrific multiyear pandemic. People yearned for a “normal” world, i.e., one that resembled that before the war, and that is what Harding promised. Harding won the 1920 election with >60% of the popular vote and with 404 electoral votes. At the time, it was the most lopsided victory since the advent of the two-party system. People simply yearned for “normalcy”, again, and we were willing to listen to anyone who promised that.

As restrictions are lifted and our freedom returns, some of us are surprised to find we are not quite as excited for things to go back to ‘normal’ as we thought we would be. In fact, we are feeling kind of anxious about life post-lockdown (and not just because we will need to wear shoes and sit in traffic again). Here are some tips to help you through this time of transition:

**Start Small and Take it Slow:** Some people cannot wait to pour into bars and restaurants and kick-start their social calendars, but if that is not you, that is okay! Give yourself time to get back to a life where you left the house and saw other humans. Socialize slowly with just a few friends at a time. Visit quieter cafés and restaurants before hitting up the hot spots.

**Consider Your New Priorities:** For some people, self-isolation was the catalyst for self-discovery. It forced us to pause and look at how we spent our time, energy, and money when things were “normal”. Maybe you do not miss the things you thought you would? Maybe you would rather socialize in the outdoors than on a night out? Maybe you have realized how much you value alone time? Now’s the time to create new priorities and habits that align with the life you want to live moving forward.

**Talk About Your Fears:** Literally everyone in the world has been impacted by this. If you are feeling anxious or finding it hard to adapt to the latest lift in lockdown restrictions, chances are some of your friends, colleagues, family members, and neighbors are too. The coronavirus is sure to be a key topic of conversation in many social circles for a while and talking about your fears and concerns may help you understand and process things.

We have been on lockdown for months, and it is going to be a big adjustment to go back to “normal life”. So, don’t feel pressured to jump right back into exactly how things were before. Find your “new normal”.

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### **Torgy’s Travel Tips – May 2021** **When and Where Can You Travel 2021**



**Kathie Torgison**

OK, by now most of us, in our age bracket, have had the opportunity to receive the Corona virus vaccine. Opportunities for people younger than us are opening up and hopefully the vast majority of US residents will be vaccinated in the coming weeks and months. The percentage of those vaccinated in the US far exceeds those

in many, many other countries around the world: Germany, France, Italy and Australia are just a few who lag far behind, at this point in time. Some others, such as the UK and Israel, are ahead of the US. So, what does that mean for the travel industry and specifically, what does that mean for those of us who are itching to travel? Read on for an overview of where things stand at the moment. ***(As always, keep in mind that this article was written in early April and changes are inevitable.)***

**Air Travel:** The CDC announced on April 2, 2021 that domestic US travel is safe for those who are *fully vaccinated* (meaning 14 days beyond after the final injection). Domestic travel is defined as all US states and territories. Be aware, however, that state and local restrictions still must be followed, such as the necessity to test and/or quarantine in several locations. It is pretty much imperative that you carry a smart phone with you in order to maneuver check-in, bag tagging, TSA screening and boarding processes. In order to eliminate contact, airport touch screens at most airlines have been modified to read your phone’s apps and screenshots – no more typing on the check-in screen. The TSA now requires you to insert your driver’s license into a card

reader which reads it and spits it back out to you. When boarding the flight you scan or show your electronic boarding pass to the gate agent. Blocked middle seats are now a thing of the past. Even Southwest Airlines has reverted back to boarding 30 vs. 10 passengers at a time. Close quarters in those lines, for sure! At United, be sure you have the latest version of the United App on your phone to avoid problems. At the time of this writing Apple phones need v 4.1.12 and Android phones need v 4.1.13. Note: If you use an older phone that cannot process these new versions, the only way to access your reservation/listing is to type: <https://eres.ual.com> and sign in as usual. Of course, masks are required in airports and onboard flights. Food purchased onboard UA flights is now only available if you have pre-stored your credit card within your Mileage Plus profile.

So where can you fly? Within the US, there are still restrictions to at least 13 states. The most complicated destination is Hawaii, although the island of Kauai has just reduced their restrictions as of April 5<sup>th</sup>. Broadly stated, all Hawaii destination airports require inbound passengers to enroll in the “Hawaii Safe Travels” program. First, book your flight then schedule a Covid-19 test within 72 hrs. of your departure. Next, register this activity into the Safe Travels website. United and Alaska Airlines now issue wristbands before the Hawaii flight departs, which pre-clears the arriving passenger from arrival gate procedures if their Safe Travels profile is complete. If your Safe Travels profile is incomplete, you will not receive a wristband and will undergo screening at the arrival gate in Hawaii for proof of Covid test results. Those contemplating a trip to LAX from outside the state of California, please be aware of the need to self-quarantine for 10 days after arrival. Even though California has just announced that some sports and concert venues will be opening, only vaccinated California residents will be allowed to enter. Additionally, “no hotel or lodging entity in California shall accept or honor out-of-state reservations for non-essential (i.e. tourism or recreation) unless the reservation is for at least the minimum time period required for quarantine and that the persons identified in the reservation will quarantine in the hotel until after that time period as expired”, per the California Department of Public Health. New York and New Jersey have similar requirements, as do Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island.

International destinations are literally “all over the map” and the vast majority of those are still closed to non-essential travel. Popular countries for US travels such as France, Italy and Germany are nowhere close to relaxing entry requirements. The United Kingdom however does allow inbound travel from the US but there are severe quarantine restrictions and expensive penalties. Because Mexico does not require Covid testing to

enter, *leaving* that country requires a negative Covid test to return to the US and to most any other country. A recent ABC news report documented a US couple honeymooning in Cancun for seven nights. 72 hours before their flight back to the US they got tested, as required, in preparation for their return flight. The groom tested positive. They were forced to stay, at their own expense, an additional 10 days.

Consult these resources for more info:

- ▲ [united.com](http://united.com) >travel info>see what's open for travel
- ▲ [ft.ual.com](http://ft.ual.com)>travel>travel news>destination travel guide
- ▲ [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

**Cruises:** It almost goes without saying, but based on the information above, if you can't get to the port, how can you go on a cruise? The CDC recently updated its Framework for a Conditional Sailing Order and declared no departures from any US port will be allowed until Nov 1, 2021. Royal Caribbean has announced their first departure of any of their ships will be from Israel with Cyprus and Greece on the itinerary. Again, that's great news, but how do you get there? P&O Line has also announced resumption of service, **but** only for UK residents. All of the following cruise lines have announced that proof of vaccination will be required when departures are eventually allowed: American Queen Steamboat, Celebrity, Crystal Cruises, NCL, Norwegian/Hurtigruten, P&O, Regent 7 Seas, Royal Caribbean, SAGA and Virgin. Holland America and Carnival are still reviewing the issue.

**Tours:** Ground tour operators are hoping to cash in on the pent-up travel market and you may have seen or received email ads with tag lines like "Travel with Confidence", indicating that changes and cancellations are allowed without penalty if you get your deposit in now. Buyer Beware: Be sure to read the tiny, fine print. Most of these require a deposit at the time of booking and full payment a minimum of 6 months before departure (for tours departing in 2022). Upon closer inspection, you may find that a change or cancellation within those 6 months, is generally non-refundable or, at best, a travel credit for future use is the only compensation. What is just as worrisome is the potential for some of these operators to declare bankruptcy if their 2022 season is still fraught with Covid problems.

In summary, it appears that proof of vaccination is the key to opening up the travel industry. A Vaccination Credential Initiative for US residents is currently being explored by a coalition of The Mayo Clinic, Microsoft and 225 other organizations in the private sector. Other countries, including the European Union, are pledging to release digital certificates that would allow for summer travel. Eventually, we'll find a way to make travel safe again. It can't come soon enough!

## Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter



Francis Domaratius

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

Newsletter articles may be sent by e-mail to Francis Domaratius at [ruaeaneewsletter@surewest.net](mailto:ruaeaneewsletter@surewest.net), John Chu at [johncchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johncchu@hotmail.com) and [ruaeanal@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaeanal@qwestoffice.net). If sent by U.S. Mail, address to RUEA, 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 RUEA Newsletter, they become the property of RUEA. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed in the Newsletter.

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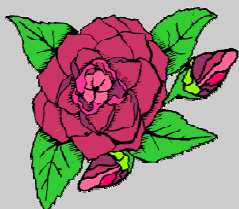
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*Also an added benefit to receiving the Newsletter on the Web is that back issues can be accessed.*

*To sign up for the Web, go to [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org) and follow the instructions.*

# LOCAL NEWS

## ALABAMA



### SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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Our Birmingham chapter meets 3 times yearly but due to the Covid virus, we are still reluctant to meet at a restaurant. With more of our members getting the vaccine, we hope to meet again in June. For more information, call **Joe Jones** at (205) 646-3825 or email me at [autiger@centurytel.net](mailto:autiger@centurytel.net).

## ARIZONA



### PHOENIX AZURES

Mike Richards  
Azures Past President  
Claudia Richards  
Azures Past Membership Secretary  
[lgamfr62@gmail.com](mailto:lgamfr62@gmail.com)

There is no report this month from the Phoenix Azures chapter of RUAEA.

We meet for Breakfast on the second Wednesday of every month at Tivoli Gardens. Anyone in town is welcome. Please call **Sherry Muoio** in advance, if you wish to join us, (623) 572-4828.



### PHOENIX RE-UNITEDS

Liz Tollefsen  
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Happy May! This is the month we celebrate Mother's Day on May 9 and Memorial Day on May 31, both important dates! It's still spring, but it feels like summer here in Arizona. We've been having weather in the 90's and 100's already, but we don't dare to complain as we know it's a lot different elsewhere. A lot of the people who stay here all year round don't like it when it gets too warm early, that means a lot of hot weather to

put up with all summer. They learn how to cope with Mother Nature. Most of the Snowbirds have flown out, but we still have quite a few of our members who stay here all year long. We normally get together once a month over Breakfast each month, but this year we haven't, because of Covid-19, but, hopefully we will be able to soon. We were glad to have **Kay Weber**, who lives in Apache Junction at our recent luncheon. She has moved around quite a bit, but feels happy where she is now. She enjoyed being with us and hope she'll come again whenever we meet again, hopefully not too far off in the future.

We got some sad news recently from **Rosemarie Schaeffer** about her husband, **Kris**. He has had a lot of problems recently and passed away on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We don't have any information on any service yet. Cards can be sent to **Rosemarie Schaeffer**, 7928 E. Pueblo Avenue #47, Mesa, AZ 85208.

We got a notice that the RUAEA Convention in San Diego is in the planning stages. No contract has been signed with a hotel yet, but plans are for mid-September. If the convention is a go, the June issue of the RUAEA Newsletter will contain all the information about the Convention as far as hotel, tours, meetings, get-togethers, banquet, and entertainment, etc. Be sure and look up all the information provided, and make plans to definitely go! We hope to have a good crowd attend. It's been too long since we last got together. We need to meet again! Mark your calendars now, so you don't miss out. Even though we are retired, we keep busy and get involved in many things and wonder where the time went!

We have the following birthdays in May: **Bill Betz, Oscar Aguilar, John Griffin, JoAnne Griffin, and Kathy Brigante**. Happy Birthday to all of you! We have two couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversary in May; **Valerie & Bob Forsberg** and **Ginny & Fred Rockenhauser**. Congratulations go out to both couples!

Please keep in touch with our officers, so we know what's happening with you. We really care about all of our United friends, and can't wait until we can see each other real soon!



### TUCSON ROADRUNNER

Pat Sommer Di Lallo,  
Treasurer  
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We are the Tucson Roadrunners, an active chapter. We meet for lunch at various Tucson restaurants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month except in November and

December, when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. All retirees are welcome to join us.

If you would like to attend our luncheons, you can e-mail **Pat Sommer Di Lallo** at [rpddgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpddgarlic41@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**  
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There is no report this month from the California NorthStaters chapter of RUAEA.

#### Calendar:

Next meeting, time and place TBD




**CENTRAL COASTERS**  
Avila Beach, CA  
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Another month of shut in; needless to say, there hasn't been any news from our members. As for us, it has been 3 weeks since our last vaccine so it should be safe enough to go out a little bit more. We still don't associate with our friends even though they have gotten all their shots. As for me, I got a haircut after being without one for an entire year. I told my Barber about it and that I won't stay away this long again as long as they are able to stay open.

My grandson and his girlfriend have a job with a surf school in Maldives. I had no idea it is so far away. I found it on a map and it is south of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean. They flew from SFO to Doha. Where the heck is Doha? Again I located it just east of Saudi Arabia on an island airport called Qatar. The non-stop flight from SFO is over 14 hours. I've traveled to Europe before but never further east than Paris.


I learned something from my daughter who does our grocery shopping. I needed an item that could be purchased locally and not available in a grocery store. She got on her cell phone and found the item and bought it. I asked her why she didn't go to a local store and her reply was that she avoids stores and besides this item will be sent within two days and free shipping. With so much online buying, it's no wonder local stores are closing down. I'm used to checking out what I was buying first, but this Covid virus has changed all that and it's convenient too. The item she bought was a protective cover for my cell phone. It did arrive in two days and I now have it on my phone in case it gets dropped.

This virus is called the C-Nile virus! A lot of us have already been inflicted with this disease and unfortunately as we age, it gets worse.



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



**EAST BAY DIABLOS**  
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Hello again to everyone in RUAEA Land from the San Francisco East Bay. I hope you all are doing well and enjoying this lovely time of the year.

The Covid vaccine is becoming more available in CA and people 16 years of age and older can now sign up to be vaccinated. As I write this on April 7, my county, Contra Costa, has just moved to the Yellow Tier, the third of four tiers. The county next door, Alameda, moved to the Yellow Tier a week ago. More businesses are open with fewer restrictions, but masks are still required everywhere.

**The musical 'Come From Away'** ~ In 2019, at one of our in person RUAEA meetings (which seems like ages ago), **Cheryl Kincaid** raved about this musical which she had just seen in San Francisco. Based on the book *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim Defede,

it tells the story of the tiny town of Gander, Newfoundland who took in 7,000 stranded passengers after 9/11. The minute the dates of the 2020 tour were announced, I bought a ticket for San Jose in June. Well, of course that performance was cancelled. A few days ago, I got great news. The tour has been rescheduled and they are having performances this year. Hooray! I now have a ticket for San Jose in July. For the San Jose performances, people have until early May to request a refund if they don't want the rescheduled date, so seats will be opening up. Here is the link to their website. I hope a lot of you will be able to get tickets. <https://comefromaway.com/tickets.php?content=tixtour>

**Libraries** ~ Please help spread the word that libraries are open for borrowing materials, and have been for months all over the country. I recently talked to someone who did not know this! My county library calls it Front Door Service; others call it Curbside Service etc. Patrons reserve the books online, and then pick them up outside when the books come in. Another person I spoke with voiced concern about touching the books. When books are returned, they are quarantined before library staff handles them and puts them back in circulation. Some libraries have 24/7 book returns, others have specified hours. Check website for details.

And now, with things opening up even more, my county library has started "Grab and Go Service." Hooray! Patrons will be allowed in the library for an hour to return and check out items, and to browse materials. Check your library's website for hours and amount of time allowed inside the library. And check again before you go, because things are changing frequently.

Did you know that California residents can get library cards for any library in the state? I learned this in my last book club meeting. I have cards for four area libraries but thought it was just a local reciprocity agreement. The lady who shared this info is an avid reader and genealogist and has cards for 19 libraries! The rules are different in every state, so check with your local library to see what other libraries you can use. Ebooks are wonderful in that you can download the book to your device and it saves you a trip to the library.

**Book Corner** ~ March was Women's History Month. The librarians at Contra Costa County Library put together a wonderful list of books celebrating women. [www.ccclib.org/womens-history-month/](http://www.ccclib.org/womens-history-month/)

There is something there for everyone. I have reserved two of them! Code Name Helene is based on the real-life story of socialite-spy Nancy Wake, who killed a Nazi with her bare hands and went on to become one of the most decorated women in WWII.

The Last Bookshop in London is also during the WWII era. It's August 1939 and Grace Bennett is working at a bookshop in Central London. Through blackouts and air raids as the Blitz intensifies, Grace discovers the power of storytelling to unite her community. A love

letter to the power of books to unite us, to hold the world together when it's falling apart around our ears.

**Warning About Salmonella Outbreak Among California Songbirds** ~ In February, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife reported an outbreak of salmonella, primarily on California's Central Coast, the San Francisco Bay Area and Sierra Nevada communities. Pine siskins, a species of finch that winters in California, is the primary species affected by the outbreak. The disease has also been reported in smaller numbers of lesser goldfinches and American goldfinches.

Salmonella has a high mortality rate and most birds die within 24 hours of infection. Sick birds often appear weak, have labored breathing, and may sit for prolonged periods with fluffed or ruffled feathers. Birds become infected with Salmonella when they ingest food, water or come into contact with objects (e.g., bird feeders, perches, soil) contaminated with feces from an infected bird.

Salmonellosis is almost exclusively reported from locations with bird feeders where birds congregate and are in close contact with each other. Residents can help reduce disease transmission by removing bird feeders and bird baths. Disposable gloves should be worn and hands should be thoroughly washed after disposing of dead birds, and handling of bird feeders and bird baths. Salmonella can spread to humans and pets. If you come across a dead bird, dispose of it immediately to avoid contact with other birds or household pets. State and federal wildlife agencies recommend regular cleaning of bird feeders to prevent outbreaks. They also encourage using feeders made from non-porous materials like ceramic, metal and plastic rather than wood, which can harbor bacteria and other diseases. Bird watchers can keep nectar feeders for hummingbirds out, but they also need to be cleaned regularly.

Salmonella outbreaks among pine siskins occur to a certain degree every year, but apparently this year's outbreak is particularly severe. A friend first told me of this in late February. I have left all my bird feeders empty since then, and have not put out my finch feeders at all this year. To date I have found one dead pine siskin in my front yard, which I disposed of properly.

On April 1, the CDC announced that it is investigating the salmonella outbreak, which has sickened 19 people in eight states - California, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington State. Those infected ranged from 2 months to 89 years of age and eight people have been hospitalized. Public health officials interviewed 13 of the people sickened with salmonella—nine owned a bird feeder, two had had contact with a "sick or dead bird", and 10 have pets that could have had contact with wild birds. Source: Axios.

**The Ongoing Giraffe Rescue In Kenya** ~ Slowly but surely, the eight Rothschild giraffes stranded on

Longicharo Island are being ferried across Lake Baringo to the Ruko Community Wildlife Conservancy. Conservationists the world over are heralding this rescue for many reasons. The giraffes were starving because rising waters had reduced their foraging area from 100 to 8 acres. Rothschild's (Nubian) giraffe numbers have plummeted by 80%, leaving only 3,000 in the wild today.

Relocating the giraffes has many logistical challenges. David O'Connor, president of Save Giraffes Now, calls the custom built barge an engineering marvel. The rectangular steel structure was designed and built specifically to carry tall, heavy giraffes. The barge floats atop a series of empty drums for buoyancy. Reinforced sides keep the animals from jumping out while the barge is gently maneuvered by boats. Although giraffes could swim the mile across lake Baringo, it's not an option because the lake is infested with crocodiles.

In December 2020, the first rescue was Asiwa, a female giraffe, who was stranded alone in a marshy part of the island with no food sources. Convincing the gentle giant to get on the barge was not easy. After several attempts to lure Asiwa aboard the ferry with mangoes and other treats failed, the scientists had no choice but to lightly sedate her. However, it is not the preferred method for giraffes since the change in blood pressure could damage their brains, or they could choke on their own saliva. *"It's not like an elephant or a rhino where you just dart it, it flops over, and it's fine,"* O'Connor said. After Asiwa was sedated, the rescuers quickly guided her onto the barge. To ensure Asiwa would not panic, they covered her head with a burlap hood and put socks in her ears to block out sound. *"The wonderful part was watching her gently amble off the boat once the blindfold was released as if nothing had happened,"* said photographer Ami Vitale who documented the rescue. *"It really was a scene that could have been biblical."*

The following day, a young giraffe named Pasaka was ferried away in a similar fashion. A third giraffe, a male named Lbarnoti, was rescued on January 27, 2021. However, unlike Asiwa and Pasaka, he was eager to get on the barge and munch on delicious acacia pods during the entire journey! On March 3, a fourth giraffe was successfully rescued, a female named Awala,

While the conservation team is thrilled with the fourth successful move, five more giraffes remain on the island and must be rescued soon. The ground crew has been slowly training the remaining giraffes to be comfortable on the barge, luring them on to the boat with mangoes and acacia seed pods.

This group includes Nkarikoni's calf Noelle, who was born at Christmastime and would be the youngest ever moved in this rescue operation. Young giraffes are particularly susceptible to predators, a lack of food and other dangers. About half of all giraffe calves don't live to their first birthday, and two calves on the island already have been lost. *"We're thrilled Noelle is healthy*

*and developing nicely – she is now 7 feet tall! – but we must continue to keep her safe until she is big enough to move, which is thankfully fast approaching,"* said Susan Myers, the founder and CEO of Save Giraffes Now. *"Once we rescue them, that's not the end of it,"* says O'Connor. That's actually just the beginning of trying to repopulate the entire Western Rift Valley with this type of giraffe, where they became locally extinct 70 years ago.

**Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier** ~ We have a very important commemorative event coming up on November 11, 2021 at 11:00 AM in Washington, D.C. - the National Commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Commemoration will take place not only at Arlington National Cemetery but also at parks, cemeteries, military installations and at America's Rose Garden in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Several years ago, my local DAR chapter was fortunate to have a former tomb guard, known as a Sentinel, speak at our meeting. Sentinels are hand-picked. Their training is rigorous and serving as a Sentinel is a high honor. The Society of the Honor Guard is coordinating the Centennial Celebration.

On March 20, I attended a webinar presented by Robert Martin, Jr., the President of the American Rose Society (ARS), entitled "The Rose of the Unknown Soldier." Bob has written many books and hundreds of articles on roses; and has given hundreds of presentations to local societies and district meetings. He is known for his extensive rose knowledge, impeccable research, and wonderful deadpan humor. During the opening remarks, it was noted that members of The Society of the Honor Guard, ARS and DAR were in attendance. Bob was introduced by Marilyn Wellan, ARS Representative to the Centennial. The webinar was a fabulous blend of history, patriotism and rose information. It was recorded and is now available on Youtube under "American Rose Society" (not ARS) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2nuKCR4cf8>.

After the webinar, I contacted Ms. Wellan for more info. Early in the planning for the Centennial, the Society of the Honor Guard contacted DAR and ARS and asked them to partner with the Guard to commemorate the Centennial. The main initiative for DAR and ARS is to encourage the creation of 'Never Forget' Gardens across the country. As DAR members and chapters become interested in creating 'Never Forget' Gardens in their home gardens or in public places such as historic cemeteries, memorial sites, military installations such as VA facilities, ARS is providing information on how to create those gardens.

Between the three organizations, there is a plethora of information, which is being updated often. You may want to bookmark their websites and check back often.

The Society of the Honor Guard website is [www.tombguard.org](http://www.tombguard.org). In the upper right, clicking on

Menu will take you to Centennial information. As you scroll down the home page, you will see "Latest News" on the left which is being updated frequently. For example, on March 18, the Oregon State Society of DAR announced that they are planning a 'Never Forget' Garden at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinic in White City, OR. This will be the first such garden located at a VA facility in the US. Planting will begin in April and the site will be dedicated on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The ARS website is [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org). Under America's Rose Garden, choose 'Never Forget Gardens.' The "Choosing Plants" document lists plants and what they symbolize. The "Recommended Roses" doc lists roses whose name relates to the mission of the Society of the Honor Guard, as well as roses recommended by ARS for their strong growth habit. The "Rose of the Unknown Soldier" PowerPoint doc is an abbreviated version of the webinar presentation of the same name. Individual gardeners are also encouraged to plant a "Never Forget" Garden or even a single rose from the suggested list. Under "Find A" is a list of local rose societies and Consulting Rosarians who can give you advice on which roses grow best in your area. Consulting Rosarians are ARS members who have passed a test and provide information free of charge as a public service.

Until next month, as always, take care and do everything you can to stay healthy!



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

Here we are, the Easter Bunny has come and gone (into hibernation) leaving our grandkids on a sugar high. Lady Bird Johnson wanted us to plant wild flowers – we did, and from what I understand, Texas is covered with Blue Bells and we, here on the left Coast, have an abundance of flowering trees, tulips popping up and daffodils doing their thing! It's April and it's supposed to bring April showers but there is not a drop of rain on the horizon. We are in for a water shortage and it looks like water rationing will be on the agenda. Blue skies and temperatures in the 70's and 80's – terrific time for us get that exercise in. Mother Nature certainly is playing havoc with the weather – snow, tornadoes, high winds, and high fire warnings. We are truly blessed with good weather. We are coping and are looking forward to our restaurants opening up – indoor eating has some restrictions but people are coming out in droves and enjoying


being with friends, good eats too! Yosemite has opened up as well as Disneyland down south. Salmon and crab season is in full bloom and with our sour dough bread it makes for a fantastic meal. So come see us – we are gearing up for a dandy summer and want you to help us enjoy it.

The Golden Gaters Board members held a short meeting last month. Still no word of our facility opening up for our meetings, so keep your eyes peeled for more information in the Newsletter. We are looking at various ways that we can get together – if you have any suggestions, let us know!

**George Midwin**, our West Coast RUAEA director, has asked us to get him a "tentative" list of members who might be attending the RUAEA Convention in September. A specific date has not been set (not Labor Day weekend) – more than likely mid-September for 4 days. The hotel is Dana on the Bay in San Diego with pricing in the \$124 per night range. This includes free parking and resort fees waived. More information will be in the June Newsletter. An email was sent to our members with this information and a request to let **Ginger Dahlberg** know if you will be attending. Our email address list is very limited so if you are reading this, please share this with other UAL retirees and let Ginger know of your plans and how many rooms you will need. Her email is above.

Not much to report, we all seem to be in the same boat - wait and see and be patient. Most of us have received our Covid shots, getting an appointment has been a challenge with some people driving miles away for an appointment. Hang in there dear friends and know that we are thinking of you and hope you are doing well. So - go out and smell the roses, watch the sunset, finish up those chocolate Easter eggs, air-hug your friends, phone that special friend and know that we are still United!

Come join us if you are in town, all United and Continental retirees are welcome - we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 11:00am at the William Walker Recreation Facility, 650 Shell Blvd., (Shell Blvd. and East Hillsdale Blvd.), Blue Bird Room, Foster City, CA 94404. Note: Our mailing address is: UAL-SFO Bay Area Retirees, c/o **Vera Kina**, 203 Emerald Bay Lane, Foster City, CA 94404.



**HANGTOWN MINERS**  
 Jane Gibson  
 Secretary  
[tired-dogs@comcast.net](mailto:tired-dogs@comcast.net)

Well, Top of the Mornin' to all of you! Are you wearing green? It is that time of the year - Saint Patty's Day. Now, if you find someone isn't wearing green, be gentle when you give that pinch! My kids were brutal

with those pinches. I contend that I always have green - my eyes are hazel! I do believe we have members who have the Irish in their blood - **Kennys, Kenneys (?) and Fitzpatrick's**, any more? Are you going to prepare the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage meal? Green eggs in the morning? Well, however you may participate in this "holiday", have fun!

Sending out congratulations to **Dave & Robin Garland** (21 years) and to **Kerry & Ann Kozelka** (38 years). My records also tell me that **Dawn Martin, Cindy Blazius, Linda Dinette**, and **JR Heier** all celebrate their birthdays in March, Happy Birthday! If I missed anyone, sorry! You're included too.

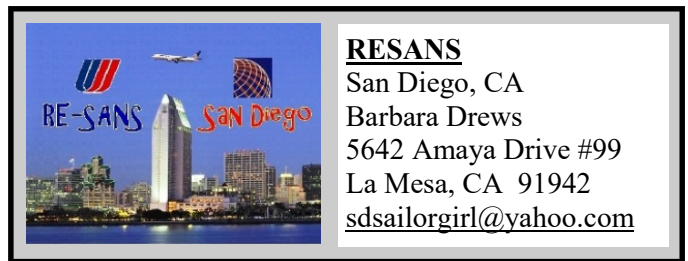
It's hard to realize this, but March of 2020 was the last time we were able to get together. The past 12 months have been long, tiresome, frustrating, but necessary. Hopefully the worst is behind us and we can, once again, focus on a bright year before us. Well, it may be hard to believe, but, Saturday is the First Day Of Spring! Yippee! Okay, so there's snow in some of your yards, but the calendar says Spring is just days away; I'm ready to go with that idea.

I didn't receive anything to share from our President **Bill Dinette** this month. I hear that flights are picking up some, so that's good for the company and us.

Our treasurer, **Tom Kenny**, has been busy keeping our finances in order. Bank statement as well as the members list are available. If you still need to send in those dues, please write a \$10 check to Hangtown Miners and mail it to **Tom Kenny**, 3481 Parleys Canyon, Placerville, CA 95667. It is important to send your dues in because if you don't do it soon, you could be dropped from our members list and that would be awful!

Our Sunshine lady, **Suzanne Kenny**, has been trying to keep track of all of you, making sure you're all doing well, staying well. Drop her a line, dial up a call, let her know what's going on with you and yours.

Okay, so, after conferring with our board members, we have come to the conclusion that it is a better plan to wait a bit longer before we resume our monthly lunches/meetings. It's a bummer, but, while things are beginning to reopen, we sure aren't back to "normal" quite yet. Even if we could find a restaurant that has inside seating, they still aren't allowing groups larger than 6! So, April is out, keep your fingers crossed that May will find us all together, enjoying delicious meals, talking and laughing again!



It is a beautiful Sunny day here in San Diego and I hope everyone is out enjoying themselves. We have changed to a lower level in our Covid score and we are beginning to open up, everyone is getting out and socializing. It is mind lifting and those I meet say they feel better and even sneak in some hugs.

We have some birthdays for May and I hope they are all able to get out and have a Special Day! **Barbara Drews** (May 9<sup>th</sup>), **Robert Taylor** (May 13<sup>th</sup>), **Ray Wood** (May 17<sup>th</sup>), and **Ed Taylor** (May 30<sup>th</sup>),

I have no news to report so I am continuing writing about plants. As I am writing, I am looking out at my beautiful Geraniums with their faces to the sun and I believe they are smiling!

Finding food ... There is a plant called Cuscuta Pentagonia, a spindly orange plant that can grow up to three feet high. What is so unique about this plant is that it has no leaves. It lacks chlorophyll so it cannot turn light into sugars and the oxygen so it can't carry out photosynthesis as most plants do. It gets its food from its neighbors. It is a parasitic plant. In order to live, it attaches itself to a host plant and sucks the nutrients by burrowing an appendage into the plants vascular system. The Dept. of Agriculture considers this a noxious weed, a nuisance to farmers.




The "dodder plant" as it is commonly called has very specific and refined culinary taste. As the seed grows, it moves up the stem of its host and rotates in small circles, probing the surroundings. If it happens to be near a tomato plant it will bend and grow in that direction until it finds the tomato leaf. It will wrap itself around the stem of the tomato and into the tomato plant stem and begins siphoning off the sugars and other nutrients it needs to keep growing. As the Dodder plant thrives the tomato slowly starts to wither. It is believed they are able to determine hundreds of chemical smells given off by other plants and they grow toward it. It will also grow away from something it doesn't like. Wheat is repulsive to the plant and it will grow away from it.

As you observe the plants and all that is growing in your yard and garden, take a minute to observe them and admire them for not only being attractive and providing food but for the complexities of their survival.

Calendar:

**Pending** – Breakfast at Pt. Loma Café, 4865 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA. 92106-2394, (619) 226-0255.


 <p><b>SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS</b></p>	<p><b><u>SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS</u></b>          Sacramento, CA          Laverne Haubl          Secretary  <a href="mailto:lhaubl@sbcglobal.net">lhaubl@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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There is no report this month from the Sacramento Gold Diggers chapter of RUAEA.

 <p><b>SAN JOAQUINERS</b></p>	<p><b><u>SAN JOAQUINERS</u></b>          Rosie Walls          (209) 984-5672  <a href="mailto:jawrmw@sbcglobal.net">jawrmw@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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There is no report this month from the San Joaquin chapter of RUAEA.

If anyone would like any information about our chapter, please contact our president, **Steve Foster**, (209) 328-1210, and he will be able to give you the information about our chapter. We are a small group of very friendly people and we would love to see you.

 <p><b>SOUTH BAY UNITED AIRLINES RETIRES</b></p>	<p><b><u>SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY</u></b>          San Jose, CA  <a href="http://www.southbayruaea.org">www.southbayruaea.org</a>          George Midwin          1879 Foxworthy Ave.          San Jose, CA 95124  <a href="mailto:midwin5u@hotmail.com">midwin5u@hotmail.com</a></p>
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We now hold two Zoom meetings each month, organized by our president **Chuck Clayborn**. Additionally, our members who join in have increased with 17 and 15 members at each meeting. We were excited to see **Louis & Jean Marcolina** after a long absence at one of the on-line meetings. Also it was great to have **Jay Cacioppo** tuning in, although he did have some technical issues that hopefully can be overcome by our next meeting. We haven't heard from **Helen Seidel** and it was mentioned that she possibly moved to somewhere in

Texas. Everyone seems to be fine, but tired of being shut in and not meeting in person. Our county has gone into the Orange tier, so that is good news. Maybe we can move to the Yellow tier, without having to go back to Orange, this time. The flip flopping certainly has created havoc with local businesses. Most members have had at least the first vaccine, although others still face some difficulty with the distribution system. With the increase in manufactures and availability this should permit all to get the vaccine soon.

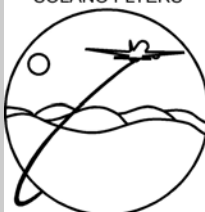
Birthdays celebrated include; **Irene Lloyd; Rosie Reichard; Sally Urso; Jene Jenkins; Hiroko Caster; Kathy Mazzola; and Gayle Moorhead**. If only we could have met in person, imagine all the cake!

**Dave & Robin Garland** celebrated their anniversary, as well as **Keith & Anne Olthof**.

Members expressed their interest in the changes being implemented at United and are waiting for the day to be able to board a plane and head off to their favorite vacation spot. A couple members have met the requirements to go to Hawaii and have enjoyed being in another place other than here. Yours truly can't wait to be able to go to Australia and visit my granddaughter.

It was reported that Holders in Cupertino is under new management and that they are open negotiating with us regarding meeting once again at their restaurant. This could be good news as some of the staff is looking forward to serving us once again. Stay tuned.

Everyone stay safe and remember to watch for the emails from Chuck regarding our Zoom meetings; if you need any assistance with Zoom, give me or Chuck a call. We look forward to having more people in attendance.

 <p><b>SOLANO FLYERS</b></p>	<p><b><u>SOLANO FLYERS</u></b>          Allan Pochop          119 Carlsbad Circle          Vacaville, CA 95687          (707) 447-4980  <a href="mailto:apochop@aol.com">apochop@aol.com</a></p>
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The Solano Flyers had a great luncheon at Bud's Restaurant in Dixon with the following members in attendance: **Frank Uhl, Bill & JoAnne Blizzard, Pad & Eileen Gardner, Diosnel & Luci Perez, Stewart McCale, Bob Ritche, and Allan Pochop**.



VP Pochop brought the meeting to order and requested a round of appreciation for Treasurer **JoAnne Blizzard**. In the Navy, all personnel that are assigned to commission a new ship or aircraft squadron are known as

“Plank Owner”. JoAnne, a “Plank Owner” with the Solano Flyers.

It pays to be a winner, ask **Bob Ritiche** as he took the 50/50 money home.

On April 21, the Flyers will be at Denny’s Restaurant at 1701 E. Monte Vista St. Vacaville.


*Meditation? That’s better than sitting around doing nothing.*

## COLORADO

	<b><u>DENVER</u></b> <b><u>MILE HIGHERS</u></b> Rich & Cleora Conner (970) 660-7040 <a href="mailto:richcleora@gmail.com">richcleora@gmail.com</a>
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There is no report this month from the Denver Mile Highers chapter of RUAEA.

## FLORIDA

	<b><u>THE CITRUS GROUPERS</u></b> <b><u>THE VILLAGES</u></b> Julius “Joe” DiStaso (352) 775-8201 (941) 661-2215 <a href="mailto:wopahofl@comcast.net">wopahofl@comcast.net</a>
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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](mailto:wopahofl@comcast.net) or **Rich Capozzi** at [rca-pozzi@rocketmail.com](mailto:rca-pozzi@rocketmail.com).

	<b><u>THE ORLANDO</u></b> <b><u>REAL McCOYS</u></b> Elaine Tillman-Mannella 7307 Everleigh Court Orlando, FL 32819 (321) 287-4055 <a href="mailto:emt6250@yahoo.com">emt6250@yahoo.com</a>
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The very first outing of the Real McCoys Chapter of RUAEA was held on April 6, 2021 at Cypress Grove Park on Holden Avenue from 11AM to 2:30PM under beautiful sunny skies and warm Florida temps! We are truly blessed. Present were 24 members and 3 guests and 2 new members recently retired – **Sen Lai** (MCOCG)

and **Ted LeGrand III** (MCOCG). Welcome! The 3 guests were **Cynthia LeGrand**, **Carl Fitch** and **Scott LeGrand**, so you might say, it was a LeGrand day for a picnic! Ho!


Who else was there you ask: **Angel Montalvo**, **Ted & Charlotte LeGrand**, **Stan & Barb Halterman**, **Joe & Barb Fitak**, **Cliff & Jerry Hill**, **Ken & Shelby Michels**, **Loretta Finn**, **Linda Agnello**, **Connie Lenard**, **Patti Clark**, **Diane Lewis**, **Al & Lois Fields**, **Rich & Cathy Llewellyn**, **Ernie & Cheryl Vosges**, **Jim Mummah**, and **Elaine Tillman-Mannella**.

There are many in our United family that we need to cover in prayer, today and every day. This getting’ old ain’t for sissies ... Please take time to reach out and check in with the folks you used to sit with at lunch or breakfast meetings and make sure they are ok. You’ll be glad you did.

One bunch of Birthday Balloons was given out – **Loretta Finn** will be celebrating on April 10<sup>th</sup>! Yay!

And **Connie Lenard** couldn’t believe that she’s been retired 3 years yesterday, April 5<sup>th</sup>! Time flies.

It was decided by those present, since we couldn’t decide where to have our next meeting, that we have a repeat of today! We will be gathering on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Grove from 11-3pm and will hope to make a decision then on where to meet in June!

	<b><u>SW PELICANS DROP-INS</u></b> Margie Burg, Correspondent 15791 Prentiss Pointe Circle #102 Fort Myers, FL 33908 (239) 400-2544 <a href="mailto:burgmarge@aol.com">burgmarge@aol.com</a>
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There is no report this month from the SW Pelicans Drop-Ins chapter of RUAEA.

	<b><u>THE SAND DOLLARS</u></b> Bradenton, FL Judy Macklin, 840 Bird Bay Dr. W., #202 Venice, FL 34285 (941) 214-0252 <a href="mailto:judymacklin13@gmail.com">judymacklin13@gmail.com</a>
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There is no report this month from the Sand Dollars chapter of RUAEA.





The Tampa Bay Chapter met on April 5 at Anderson Park with 10 members and 2 guests; **Beverly Stahl** and Peggy's Fur Baby. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. **Bob Lindstrom** said Grace before our Picnic Luncheon.

Our April/Spring Picnic was delicious, there were all kinds of goodies and naturally Fried Chicken. We all enjoy being outside and being with our friends.

We had a very short meeting; there was no birthday or anniversary.

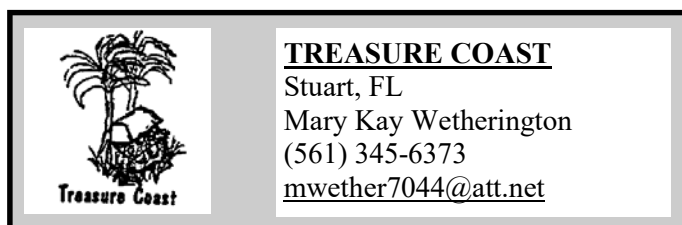
We talked about Covid -19 vaccines, we all have gotten them and are very happy about that.

We discussed UAL business and held the 50/50; there were 2 winners .

Meeting closed.

#### Calendar:

**May 3** – IHOP, 10:30, hope to see you there.



Florida has welcomed in a warm Spring and lower COVID-19 numbers. Patience was wearing thin for many of us as we awaited our vaccine appointments. Now our children and teen grandchildren are eligible as well. "Herd Immunity" is our goal and it can't come soon enough. I heard today that the CDC says, if we are fully vaccinated, we can now travel, with caution. I, for one, am not quite ready to do so. I'm hoping to travel in the fall after the normal summer surge.

I had shared, in my last newsletter, that I had some issues with my Aetna coverage, i.e. Preferred Providers and Formulary and Non-Formulary Drug Coverage. Thank you to the RUAEA members that reached out to me with possible solutions. We are indeed a family working together. I certainly appreciate your input.

After being on the phone with CVS for one and a half hours and being transferred four times, I was told "thank you for your patience, we'll get back to you". I'm still waiting. They had switched a med I had been using,

successfully, for many years. After having an allergic reaction to the new med, I needed to be put back on the previous one. They explained to me that they always look for a more economical avenue. They, evidently, got a better deal with a different drug company. I'm hoping for a successful conclusion. I had been told by an RUAEA member that we have an "enhanced prescription drug program that has no restrictions". There are some restrictions after all.

I didn't get much input for the newsletter from our membership this month. I will share who did reach out.

From **Sharon Kirk**: *"I adopted a little dog on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. She is a Biewar terrier. It's pronounced beaver. It's a very rare breed. It's really a Yorkie but it's black and white instead of the blond, tan, silver color. I named her "Pippa". She's about 4 lbs. I dog sit my son's dog which is a boxer ridgeback mix. She is 85 lbs and terrified of Pippa. I guess you could say she is the CEO of the house. She came in and just took over. Funny thing about dogs, they don't seem to think size matters. With just one bite, Bella could end Pippa's reign of terror.*

*My son, Eric, and I are still working on his house. We tiled his patio and had it screened in. That's it for now until the money tree blooms again.*

*Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and Passover. Can't wait to see everyone again".*

**Bob Langevin** writes, *"Sandy (Ruggiero) and I drove over to FMY to visit friends that live there, for a few days and to see (with our friends) a Boston Red Sox Spring Training Game at Jet Blue Park.*

*We are flying non-stop FLL-LAS (yes, we're trying again) on Jet Blue on April 6<sup>th</sup> thru April 9<sup>th</sup> and returning on United SA.*

*A very long-time friend of Sandy's and her husband are coming down from RI on April 28<sup>th</sup> to visit and stay with us here in Palm City until May 10<sup>th</sup>. The husband, Arthur, loves to golf and we live on a beautiful 18-hole golf course.*

*We are doing well (Thank you Jesus), enjoying life, going to Happy Hours, having lunch and dinner with friends ... But Are Extremely Careful With Everything That We Do. We both have had both our COVID-19 shots. Hope that all is well with everyone and their families and friends and hope that we'll all be together once again soon for our monthly RUAEA luncheons".*

President **Al Popek** writes, *"I want to thank everyone for your calls, prayers, emails and cards with wishes for Janice's speedy recovery. It really means so much to the both of us for all your support during these troubling times. It is most appreciated.*

*It has been four months since her stroke. Who knew how intense the recovery would be and how slow the process is to get back to some form of normal. I still only get to see her once a week for half an hour, but that is supposed to improve in the near future. I was able to get*

her on a list at the beauty shop which will be opening soon. She is anxious to get her hair styled. I'm sure that will give her a lift and help her feel better.

I still haven't heard back from my third appeal with the insurance company. I'm sure time is running out to have to make a choice to either have her go into long term care at the rehab or try to have her come home and see what can be accomplished here.

On a sad note, our cat Chester couldn't wait any longer for Janice to come home and went to "kitty heaven" last week. He was 18 years old and is missed terribly.

It is with deepest regret that I have received the following information from **Frank & Janice Wise's** son Frank Jr. Frank and his son-in-law died in an automobile accident here in Florida. Jane survived the crash and is now in rehab. They were traveling to get their COVID-19 vaccinations".

A Celebration of Life Catholic Mass will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00a.m. at Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, Palm Beach Gardens Florida. His obituary can be viewed at <http://www.aycockfuneralhomejupiter.com>.

Frank worked at the Palm Beach Airport coming from Pittsburgh, where he also worked as a Customer Service Representative. He and Jane had been married 66 years. They had five children, twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Frank was a Marine serving during the Korean war. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Wise family and heartfelt wishes to Jane for a full recovery.

May birthdays include **Fran Student, Jerry Zadar, David Lindgren** and **Tom Odom**.

### HAWAII




**HONOLULU MENEHUNES**  
Patricia Thomson, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1709  
Honolulu, HI 96806-1709  
(808) 946-7847  
[hnlruea@gmail.com](mailto:hnlruea@gmail.com)

Aloha! The Honolulu Menehunes is an active chapter and we meet for lunch at various Honolulu restaurants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of February, June, and September. All retirees are welcome to join us. If you are planning to be in Honolulu and would like to attend, just send your email address to [HNLRUEA@gmail.com](mailto:HNLRUEA@gmail.com) and we will email you the details.

We look forward to seeing you in United's Little Corner of the World!


**for Mom**



**PAU HANA KUPUNA**  
(Hawaii, The Big Island)  
Ann Eaton Medve  
P. O. Box 190726  
Hawi, HI 96719  
(808) 889-1636  
[annmedve@icloud.com](mailto:annmedve@icloud.com)

Aloha from The Big Island! Pau Hana Kupuna is a very old RUAEA group which has become moribund. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to help me get things going again ... lunch meetings, potlucks, good times, and more. If you are interested, please send your email address to [annmedve@icloud.com](mailto:annmedve@icloud.com) and/or call **Ann Medve** at (808) 889-1636.

### IDAHO



**BOISE GEMS**  
Shirley Dempsey  
[brandyjake@cableone.net](mailto:brandyjake@cableone.net)

The Boise Gems did not meet in April and we are also considering canceling the May get-together. Currently our three leaders, **Rick Dempsey, Joe Varady** and **Bud Peters**, are currently in discussion as to when our group can meet once again.

When they reach a decision, members will be contacted.

### ILLINOIS



**CHICAGO SKYLINERS**  
[www.chicagoskyliners.org](http://www.chicagoskyliners.org)  
[Chicagomainliner.com](http://Chicagomainliner.com)  
Jan Gawenda  
(847) 437-7073  
[jawenda@gmail.com](mailto:jawenda@gmail.com)

May—Pretty little May. I say that every May because it's true. The flowers are blooming with wild abandon. Somebody should name a flower that, Wild Abandon, something that would cover a whole area of your yard or planter. Yes, I'm a Gardener, a Green Gardener, love watching the pretty little buds rising from the brown dirt, and opening to see glorious shades of yellow and gold hidden inside with outer blossoms that are totally different colors; purple or red with bright crimson or white innards. Then they just flourish all over the place, reaching up to the deep blue sky ablaze with sunshine, or

spreading out over every nook and cranny of a rock garden, you just can't stop those blossoms, and who wants to? The bees need them, we need them. Otherwise we'd be as gloomy as we are in the winter, ugh! Other gardeners include **GINNY VLACH, LILLIAN MALLSTROM**, my sister, **JEAN**, and **PETER GROPP**, the Bromeliad King.

After all these years on earth, I think we know why somebody called it May. It May be cold, it May be hot, It May even snow, it May have tornadoes or hurricanes or flooding. Or it May be just about the prettiest month in the calendar. Actually, it was named for the Greek Goddess Maia, the goddess of Fertility. The birthstone is Emerald, and the flower is the Lily of the Valley. My grandmother had a bed of the lilies with purple violets. It was stunning. She had a very green thumb, most of us picked up that trait, not my mom, but she had other qualities, she was our princess. May includes Mother's Day when we celebrate with our Moms and remember our Mothers who have passed. It ends with Memorial Day when we honor and mourn all the members of the military who died while serving our country.

Our breakfasts have not enticed many people. Possibly with the holiday and weather, our regulars have stayed home. Oh, there were a few sickies around, too. Even I had a procedure done to make my life and body better. I'm ok and healing very nicely. My doctors are very happy, some have called me a Tough Old Broad, I agree. I'm too young to be in a chair or bed for the rest of my life. While I'm on the subject of healthcare, I have a few comments. Since I cannot mention hospitals or other names, for fear of being sued, I'll just say, the state of healthcare is slowly going down the toilet. Ever since these Health Systems have taken over, bought out our dependable, stable hospitals, I find many people are feeling the same. I went to the hospital in my town, the place I've had most of my surgeries, therapies and tests, for the last 40 years. This time, the nurses and aides were rude, uncaring and acted as if I was bothering them. The long sighs when I asked for a Kleenex was a big giveaway. These corporations are also pretty nasty to the doctors who have signed up with them, my doctor being one of them. When he signed a contract, he had to stay with them for two years. After that, he could leave, but had to move ten miles away from the hospital. Since then, he has moved back to our area, but did lose a few patients in the meantime, plus it caused a lot of confusion and heartache. I've talked about insurance coverage before, apparently, that's not getting better either, I've heard of so many people not being covered for mammograms, MRI's and other tests, or they must pay upfront. It's just not pleasant to be sick, need medical help, and have to go through rejection at this time. It's too much on the mind.

I heard from some very nice UALer's last month, they wanted us to know they are still breathing, having fun and to say hello to their old friends. Some of them are **Dee Pettis, Joan Teister, Virginia Monaco, Jerry**

**Tippereiter, Ruth Opitz's sister, Helen, (Ruth is fine), Don Burbank, Virgil & Martha Gooselaw, Francis & Veronica Domaratius, Eileen Starkey, Mike Obert, Carol Faust, John Schnittker, Edie Heisler, Dieter & Jan Schmidt, Joe & Susan Shearin, Bill Corbett, Mila Walker, Walt Fink, Bruce Carey, and Joan Anderson.**

Easter had such beautiful weather this year, I heard about many getting together with their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. A few ladies had tears in their eyes because they got to see the kiddies they haven't seen in almost a year. They had many holidays to celebrate on that one day. If the reduction of Covid cases continues to diminish, I think all of our prayers will be answered.

A couple of months ago, I mentioned how our grammar and vocabulary is getting lost on the young. I had to talk to a health professional last week for some services. She was a young girl, of course, we dinosaurs are retired, but when I answered her questions, she answered, Puuuurfect!, or Gotcha, Willya, Dontcha, plus, at the end of the sentence, her voice went up a bit. Just think, she could be our mayor or senator someday. All the people will be talking the same, too. Horrors, let's not forget the dropped prepositional phrases, and not knowing the differences of the To's, Theirs, Than/Then, Are/Our and more. Ahhhh! My Catholic nuns would be cracking knuckles every day with their notorious rulers. Forget politics, we'll be ruined by bad grammar and spelling!

My cousin, Michelle, is a professor of Leadership at Northwestern University. She also writes a column for an OpEd Project with the school. She can write about any subject she wishes.

Her topic last month was, looking at the pandemic from the point of view of the old and very young. Her mom, my aunt Gen is in a retirement home in Chicago. She suffers from dementia and failing health. Michelle gets to visit her once a week, bring flowers, and lattes, they sit and pass the time talking, or just sitting. Anyone who has been through this will understand.

I'm going to print it as she wrote it. "The most poignant moments of this past year for me have been not being able to hug those loved ones who don't understand why we can't hug: my now 88 year old mother with advanced dementia, and my now 18 month old step-granddaughter. My loved ones at the bookends of life, they don't understand the pandemic or have the language to discuss it. But they do still want to hug. Before the lockdown began, my husband and I were six months into loving, holding and hugging our little Emiliana. Once the lockdown began, we had masked visits with social distancing, no touching, no hugs. Since then, we've had our shots, we've had visits, with hugs, with masks, and look forward to a time when she can see us, and our smiles, without them.

Then there's my mother, with whom I have an extraordinary bond. Over the past 19 years of her signifi-

cant medical issues, I vowed I would always be there for her. And then the pandemic came. She lives in skilled nursing, so I was not able to see her for a long time. Because of her dementia, she hasn't used a phone for about four years. We tried video visits, but it was hard for her to grasp. Being in her room for over a year, with no social activities or communal dining, has kept her physically safe, but doesn't help cognitive decline. Last summer, I had the joy of outdoor visits. Masked, at least six feet apart, for 30 minutes. I could be there to see her eyes light up when she saw me, but I couldn't touch her. The hardest moments were when she stretched out her arms to me and said, 'Why won't you come to me?' Trying to explain pandemic, safe distance, etc. felt hollow, knowing it didn't make sense to her. I could see the confusion and pain on her face, that I wouldn't come closer to her. I didn't want her to see me cry, so I held back my tears 'till I left then wept in my car. Just recently, I was able to see Mom in her room, and touch her, for the first time in almost a year. I brought flowers and lattes, she smiled. I took her hand in mine, and she put her other hand on top. My mother, who as a journalist, was a woman of words, doesn't talk much these days, but our hands together spoke volumes. Sometimes you don't need words, if you can be present, and if you can touch."

I wanted you to read Michelle's story, it's something that so many of us have been going through this year, in various degrees. This has been an awful experience for all of us, I always felt so sad for the couples that couldn't see each other before one of them passed away. That was just cruel on the part of the hospitals or homes. What difference would 10 minutes make to say goodbye to a loved one, who didn't have Covid. Not for me to say, but sorry if you had to endure that.

Our friends who went to the Great Beyond, and flew West were, **Bob Heydon**, ORDFO, **John Koehl's** wife, **Katey**, **William Thompson's** wife, **Mildred**, ORDMM, **Terry Pearson**, ORDCG, father of **Chris**, **Walter Schlamp**, OPBCM, and everybody's friend, **Ralph Brick**, OPBOP, and SOC, father of son, **Jeff**, in PHX. Also gone from our world are Roger Mudd, NBC, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, boxer, Elgin Baylor, basketball player, G. Gordon Liddy, authors, Beverly Cleary and Larry McMurtry, actors Jessica Walters, Yaphet Kotto, Paul Ritter, gorgeous George Segal, James Levine from the Met, designer Elsa Peretti, Chicago's own Bill Campbell, Channel 7 reporter, and Mike Hamernik, Channel 9 weatherman.

I think it's time to see if we can venture out to breakfast. Per Arlington Heights mandate, Elly's is allowed 10 to the long tables, or five each to the round tables. Of course, we will wear masks unless we're eating or drinking. By seeing how many are brave enough to venture out, we can judge if we'll be able to have our Summer Luncheon sometime in the next three months. So many have already had at least one of the vaccine shots, it

sounds like the situation is getting better. Of course, this is today, as I'm writing my column, who knows what JB will edict by May 12. We have to start somewhere, and I think we're at a good time to start.

*You can't always control who walks into your life, but you can control which window you throw them out.*

#### Calendar:


Northside Breakfast - Elly's Restaurant, 8:30 A.M., 372 E. Golf Rd., Arlington Heights, IL (**May 12**). Second Wednesday of the month.

Southside Breakfast - Jedi's Restaurant, 9:30 A.M., 9266 S. Cicero, Oak Lawn. (**May 25**). Last Tuesday of the month.

IAM 1487 Monthly Meeting, IAM 1487, 50 W. Oakton Ave., Mt. Prospect, (**May 6**) 11:00 A.M. I received word from the Union, they will definitely be meeting on 4/1.

The RUPA lunches might resume in July, we'll wait and see how things advance in Illinois.

### INDIANA

	<p><b><u>INDY RACERS</u></b>          Indianapolis, IN          Frank N. Ingegno          (317) 428-7741  <a href="mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net">figenius@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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Good News! Covid vaccines have been available for persons 60 and older throughout March in Indiana. By now, members who want the vaccine should have been able to get vaccinated. With that I am happy to announce that we will resume our chapter meetings on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be our first meeting in over 6 months. It'll be great to be getting together again.

We're planning to discuss resumption of chapter events and outings. I hope to have more event and member activity details for future newsletters.

As always, the RUAEA Indy Racers chapter is always looking for new members. Any United/CO retirees living in the Indianapolis area are welcome to join our chapter. Just come to one of our monthly lunch meetings to meet our members. The more members we have the more fun things we can do.

We also welcome visitors. When visiting Indy, consider joining us at one of our meetings for lunch and conversation. We always enjoy meeting new United friends.

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. Location of our meeting is Emmy Pancake House and Grill, 7508 Beechwood Center Road, Avon, IN 46123, (317) 272-7200.


Our future meetings schedule for 2021.

➤ May 11 at Emmy's

- June 8 at Emmy's
- July 7 at Emmy's
- August 10 at Emmy's

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

## MASSACHUSETTS

	<p><b><u>NOR'EASTERS</u></b>          New England          Dick Vee Vecchione          107 Bunker Hill Road          Auburn, NH 03032-3521          (603) 264-3430  <a href="mailto:NH4Vee@aol.com">NH4Vee@aol.com</a></p>
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Greetings to all!

I have been trying to locate **Audrey Joyce**. Well, I found out that Audrey passed away on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Audrey worked in BOS sales and spent several years in assisted living in Merrimack, New Hampshire. Audrey, a good friend, was always the life of any party. A great person who will be sorely missed!


I finally got my first COVID-19 shot, by the next newsletter, I'll have both. Nearly all Nor'Easters I've talked to have got one or both shots. If everyone gets them, we will definitely hold a Christmas party this year.

May's birthdays ~ **Ron Heisler, Joan Meister, Patty Flanagan Mix, Andy Montalto, Jayne Regan, and Lewis Shakley.**

May's anniversaries ~ **Bob & Susan DePippo** (37 years), **Mary Beth & Staley McDermet** (50), **Thomas & Lillian Snyder** (33), **Bill & Elaine Vanderwal** (51).

Calendar:  
None

## MICHIGAN

	<p><b><u>GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES</u></b>          Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann          (248) 667-9258  <a href="mailto:bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net">bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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We are looking forward to having our monthly luncheons start again next month. I'll keep you posted with details as they become available.

Several of our retirees from DTWRR or their family members have undergone surgery recently or have medical issues. Please keep them in your prayers and positive thoughts.

Thoughts for the month: *Everyone carries a heavy burden. Be gentle with each other* ~ Matthew Kelly

*I have learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back* ~ Maya Angelou. (Hopefully we will be able to do that soon.)

## MINNESOTA

	<p><b><u>NORTHERN LITES</u></b>          Connie Glattly          82300 Wold Road          Willow River, MN 55795          (218) 349-3972  <a href="mailto:crglatty@frontiernet.net">crglatty@frontiernet.net</a></p>
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Easter weekend was glorious this year! Given the fact that this is, after all, the Great Frozen Tundra, temperatures in the 70's are practically unheard of here at Easter. Actually, I can't remember the last time the "Littles" weren't wearing coats and galoshes, definitely mittens, to hunt for Easter eggs. That is, if it wasn't snowing or blustering. This part of climate change is OK by me.

I talked to **Jim Simon** recently and am gratified to know that he misses us and all the fun we all had in the Midwest, especially the Northwoods Loonies twice-annual get-togethers.

I heard from **Nel Brawner** who's being a good girl (yeah, right, I questioned that, too) and staying healthy and safe. She has been doctoring both at Mayo and the University for a chronic disease called Padgett's. She's so lucky to have her niece, Eva, nearby.

**Mary & Jim Brennan** are preparing to move back to the Lake any day now from their winter digs in the Cities.

Through the grapevine, I heard that **Lee Storlie** is planning to sell his home and move to Iowa to be near his daughter's family. He's dealing successfully with some health issues that cropped up.

I am an email pen pal with **Gordy & Lou Olson, Janet Meyer, Arlene & Joe Kelley, Janice (Dr.) Meyer, Bud & Jo Ayres**, so I'm in frequent contact with them ~ all's well on those fronts.

Those of you who are part of **Dale Harper's** email community may have seen the obituary for **Roger Kerr**, who died recently. Rog was a good guy who worked the counter and gates with us and got caught up in the layoffs during the early 80's. He wound up finishing his career at the Madison station. I stayed in touch with him for many years but his battle with cancer put an end to that several years ago.

FYI, our previous meeting venue, The Golden Corral, has closed its doors. If we ever get to have meetings

again, we might have to do it at someone's home! The hit the hospitality industry has taken along with ongoing restrictions is causing me to wonder if we'd be able to find a place to meet that everyone will be comfortable with. Last year's picnic at the **Brennans** (catered, outdoors) was great fun and might be the way we'll have to continue the Northern Lites.

Stay in touch!

### NEBRASKA



**OMAHA GOLDENEARS**  
 Jan Cornish  
 (402) 571-6031  
[kcornish6031@msn.com](mailto:kcornish6031@msn.com)

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

### NEVADA



**LAS VEGAS  
SILVER LINERS**  
 Don Rutkowski  
 8517 Lynhurst Drive  
 Las Vegas, NV 89134  
 (702) 300-4038  
[geodon1192@gmail.com](mailto:geodon1192@gmail.com)

Right now, here in Nevada, the State is trying to get out the COVID Vaccine to all who want it with no limit on age. The State increased the number of locations here in Southern Nevada and has on hand the 3 types that are FDA approved. We the Board of the Silverliners are reviewing the Directives from the Governor's Office and hoping soon we can all get together again. Directive right now states, indoor private social gatherings are restricted to 25 or fewer persons. The Directive also requires 6 foot spacing and masks are mandatory unless eating. So, we will watch and wait for an increase in the numbers. The Board will look at and consider a date later in the year which at that time most restrictions may be lifted and we can get together.

Not much else to report on, activities have been limited and remain quiet and members have not passed on any personal information except for our Treasurer **Jeannie Rolland**. Jeannie became a grandmother when her daughter Laura had a baby girl named Gianna. Laura, while pregnant had the COVID Virus and pulled through it and her daughter Gianna arrived healthy.

The Silverliners will try and hold their Luncheon Meetings on the second Thursday of every even month. The next confirmed Luncheon is not yet determined or planned. Once we get this COVID problem under control and things start opening up we the Board will get together and plan the Luncheon. The Luncheon meetings will be held at Giuseppe's Italian Grill at 2630 W Horizon Ridge Henderson, NV 89052. If you are in Las Vegas and or planning a trip here you are more than welcome to come to our meeting and visit with our members, you may even know or worked with one of them. Email **Don Rutkowski** at [geodon1192@gmail.com](mailto:geodon1192@gmail.com) or call him at (702) 300-4038 we will be glad to see you.



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

There were 8 members at our March meeting at The Black Bear Diner, the first one since our last meeting on March 9, 2020.

2021 Dues are now being accepted. The cost remains \$5/person. Please send them to **Kathy Robinson**. We received a thank you note from the Northern Nevada Food Bank for our December donation.

We have requested reservations for our Christmas Luncheon for Monday, December 6, 2021 from 11 am to 2 pm. We are waiting for confirmation from Tamarack Casino.

We were saddened to report the loss of two of our long time members. **William (Bill) Royal** passed away on January 4, 2021. He is survived by his wife **Bonnie**, 3 sons and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **Maurine Williams** passed away on January 6, 2021. She is survived by her sons, her sister and several grandchildren. A few years ago, Maurine had left us the album she had been keeping of photos of the Sierra Roundup through the years. Both will be missed by all.

January, February and March birthdays were celebrated by **Mary Withers, Duncan Scaife, Kathy Robinson, Donna Reid, Bill Perkins, Norm Borchers** and **Gary Wendland**. The 50/50 raffle was won by **Barbara Leusing**.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 12 at the Black Bear Diner.

*Happy Mother's Day*



## NEW JERSEY



### THE GARDEN STATERS

Newark, New Jersey  
Marty Etler  
15-12 Elmary Place  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-2403  
(201) 797-6610  
[vietler@verizon.net](mailto:vietler@verizon.net)

Our faithful correspondent, **Marty Etler**, is recovering from retinal detachment surgery. At this time, he is unable to write for us. But, Marty sends wishes for good tidings and great expectations to all.

As he celebrates his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, we wish Marty a very happy birthday, and, a very swift recovery from the surgery.

## NEW YORK



### **BUFFALO CHIPS**

### BUFFALO CHIPS

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

Caroline Manelski  
94 Erin Lane  
Setauket, NY 11733  
(631) 928-5766

There is no report this month from the New York Metros chapter of RUAEA.



## OHIO



### OHIO BUCKEYES

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

Well, we are moving right along into Spring. The Ohio Buckeyes have things planned for the next few months. Our President Dolly has been working right along with Vice President Judy in setting up a couple of luncheons and a couple of fun activities. We are going to the Shale Creek Golf Club for a luncheon on May 5<sup>th</sup> with spaced seating and we will be wearing masks except while eating. We are looking forward to a good turnout since it's been over a year since most of us have not seen each other. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we are going to the Diamond Event Center in Brunswick (a big place that has wedding receptions, etc.).

We are waiting for final confirmation of both July and August. All set up, but depends on government restriction. Hopefully, we will know by mid-April. We have set up both months which are: July 7<sup>th</sup> - we are planning a cruise on the Nautica Queen. And of course, August 4<sup>th</sup> is our yearly picnic at the Chalet in the Metroparks. Hope all will work out because hopefully by then we all will have been vaccinated, and will be in good health with protection.

We wish everyone who had birthdays and anniversaries in the previous months belated wishes. By the time you receive this newsletter Easter will be in the past. But May brings us Mother's Day. We hope all mothers have a good day. At the end of May is Memorial Day. This Memorial Day is really the time to celebrate being an American. We pray for Our Country to continue in the spirit of what it means to be an American. We are the United States of America. We have fought for our country, and many have given their lives for our freedom. It is a day to remember all those that have sacrificed their lives so that we may continue to be free. We pray for all America. We Ohio Buckeyes want to wish everyone joy with a lot of fun on Memorial Day. Of course, that is followed by the celebration of the birth of our Nation, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This year marks 245 years of our Country's Freedom. May God Bless America, our Home Sweet Home.

We want to give a big Thank You to our Secretary, Judy for writing the newsletter articles, even when there is not much to say. Also, to all United Retirees, we pray for your Health and Safety.



## OREGON



### **OREGON DEW-ER'S**

Portland  
Terry Hotchkin  
20201 NE 179<sup>th</sup> Court  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
(360) 687-3465  
[thotchkin@gmail.com](mailto:thotchkin@gmail.com)

We are getting closer to being able to gather again! I do hope that all of you have had your vaccines by now. That will definitely be a pre-requisite to joining us when we are able to meet again.

In the meantime, another dose of humor, with a little bit of philosophy thrown in, to help lighten your mood. Enjoy!

- ☺ Can we start the weekend over? I wasn't ready!
- ☺ Exercising would be so much more rewarding if calories screamed while you burned them!
- ☺ I'm pretty sure my guardian angel just sits there watching me, while rolling her eyes and painting her nails.
- ☺ Nurse came in and said, "Doc, there is a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible. What should I tell him?" The doctor said, "Tell him I can't see him today." (groan)
- ☺ Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.
- ☺ The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
- ☺ I don't know if my pants are feeling loose because I am losing weight, or the elastic is finally giving up on the fight.
- ☺ An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20 feet behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?" No reply. He moved to 10 feet and inquired again. No reply. 5 feet not a word. A few inches behind her ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey?" His wife said "For the forth time, yes."
- ☺ I'm not sure if life is passing me by or trying to run me over!
- ☺ I remember asking my teachers when I would ever need the math they were teaching me. Not one, not a single one of them, said I would need it to teach my son during a plague.
- ☺ Your inability to grasp science is not a valid argument against it.
- ☺ I don't need to know the entire plot of 2021; I just need to understand if I should buy skincare and sweatpants or a purse and some shoes.

- ☺ Even before the pandemic, I'm at a place in my life where errands definitely count as "Going Out!"
- ☺ Keep calm and be crazy, laugh, love and live it up because this is the oldest you've been and the youngest, you'll ever be again.
- ☺ At times I think to myself, "Drop the book and get stuff done!" Then, I laugh and turn the page.
- ☺ Reading won't solve your problems; but then again, neither will house-work.
- ☺ Just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "what sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?" Apparently 'fresh eggs for sale' wasn't the answer.
- ☺ I'm at the age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my sense of humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.
- ☺ I think I have an urge to clean the house today. Wait, no. False alarm!
- ☺ Do you ever feel like your body's "check engine" light has been on and you're still driving it like, "nah it'll be fine"?
- ☺ Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done!
- ☺ When you can't control what's happening, control the way you respond to what's happening, for that is where your power is!
- ☺ If you didn't hear it with your own ears or see it with your own eyes, don't invent it with your small mind and share it with your big mouth.
- ☺ Holding a grudge is like allowing someone else to live rent free in your head.
- ☺ Hold your wife's hand when in the mall because if you let go, she'll start shopping. It looks romantic but it's actually economical.
- ☺ Research has shown that laughing for 2 minutes is just as healthy as a 20-minute jog. So now I'm sitting in the park laughing at all the joggers.
- ☺ I tried being normal but I didn't like it so I went back to being me!
- ☺ I love waving at random people, because you know for the rest of the day they're trying to figure out who the heck you were.
- ☺ Why is it so much easier to fall asleep on the couch unintentionally than to fall asleep in bed intentionally?
- ☺ Wondering whether the glass is half empty or half full is missing the point. The glass is refillable!
- ☺ I woke up today determined to eat less, drink less, and exercise more, but that was a few hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.

Again this month, I am closing with a beautiful Haiku, author unknown, discovered by member **Kathy Russell**:

*We isolate now  
So when we gather again  
No one is missing.*

Remember: Also highly contagious is – Kindness, Patience, Love, Enthusiasm, and a Positive Attitude. Don't wait to catch it from others, be the carrier!

**Calendar:**

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

**PENNSYLVANIA**



**THE INDEPENDENTS**  
Philadelphia, PA  
Joyce W. Lindenmuth  
Wesley Enhanced Living  
100 Halcyon Dr., Room C-107  
Media, PA 19063  
(610) 521-2291  
[joycewildenmuth@gmail.com](mailto:joycewildenmuth@gmail.com)

There is no report this month from The Independents chapter of RUAEA.



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

**PITTSBURGH  
PIT-STOPPERS**

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

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



**TENNESSEE**




**TENNESSEE ROCKY TOPS**  
Carolyn Hartshorn  
5957 Warrenpark Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37912  
Home (865) 951-1198  
Cell (303) 886-9537  
[carolynhartshorn@aol.com](mailto:carolynhartshorn@aol.com)

There is no report this month from the Tennessee Rocky Tops chapter of RUAEA.

For Luncheon/Meeting's location, please contact Carolyn at the above phone number.


**UTAH**



**SALT LAKE RETIREES**  
Rich Papworth  
[pappys72@hotmail.com](mailto:pappys72@hotmail.com)

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

**WASHINGTON**



**EMERALD CITY SLICKERS**  
Seattle, WA  
Gay Liesse  
104 South 296<sup>th</sup> Place  
Federal Way, WA 98003-3626  
[glliesse@aol.com](mailto:glliesse@aol.com)

While Spring is working its magic across the country and preventive vaccinations are becoming more available in the efforts to thwart the spread of COVID-19, Pacific Northwest weather waffles between bright and sunny days, with promises of warmth on the horizon - and cool, breezy, cloudy days, sometimes with the realized threat of rain. We still are unable to meet as a chapter and members are leery of large groups. You don't suppose the age and health of members could be an influence, do you? Even of those who have received their recommended anti-coronavirus injections, many are reluctant to brave the odds. We still have high hopes for an Emerald City Slickers outdoor barbecue at the end of summer and will be keeping an eye on the statistics and updated recommendations from the authorities.

Unfortunately, our membership rolls have been decimated this month. In lieu of one last Member Profile from a past issue of *Contrails*, we devote this month's column to several United retirees, who have moved on to Friendlier Skies. Though not all were members of our Seattle chapter, we recognize that someone may recognize a name. In alphabetical order ...

**Phyllis Bowman** passed away March 24, after a few years of residence in a care home, following a fall and complications from a broken hip. While Phyllis may not be well known to many in the UAL retirement community-at-large, she was a big factor in the Seattle chapter. Phyllis continued her membership and participation in the Emerald City Slickers even after the death of her husband, the late **Herald Bowman**, (SEAGQ) in 2017.

For many years Phyllis served as vice president and membership chair of the Seattle chapter and seldom missed a meeting. She was front and center, as she distributed door prizes and announced winners of the 50/50 raffle. She also made sure there were plenty of wine bottles on the door prize table. Phyllis spent hours and years making sure that the chapter newsletter was published and distributed to dues-paying chapter members, gathering members of her work crew for the project. She persuaded her friend and neighbor **Vicki Shumaker**, who was not connected to United, to edit the newsletter for the past several years, even after Vicki retired to California. Phyllis contributed financially to the newsletter, in addition to her publication duties. Though unable to be with us over the past few years, Phyllis will be well-remembered by chapter members.

**Bob Brumfield** (SEACS), who is undoubtedly better known to RUAEA members in general, died March 2. He had been forced to give up bus travel to luncheon meetings when he moved to a health care facility several years ago. Bob spent his United career in Customer Service, beginning in Denver, then New York City before coming to Seattle, where he retired in 1992 after 39 years with United. During his career, Bob met many celebrities, especially in New York, and became acquainted with Eleanor Roosevelt, who always looked him up when she was at the airport. He also was proud of the fact that it was his idea to name the non-stop NYC-Las Vegas flight 711. That often drew passengers who saw it as a "lucky" flight. After retirement, Bob worked with the late **Rita Reynolds** to establish the retiree travel desk, which functioned successfully for 16 years until the Continental merger. He also wrote travel articles for the RUAEA national newsletter. Adding his voice to the Seattle Men's Choir was a special pleasure.

**Fran Christensen** also recently passed away. Fran worked for United for 29 years at PDXHH, PDXRR and SEARR. She is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. Her husband **Kenneth** preceded her in death.

**Walter John Eck** died at the age of 91 on February


22. Though his newspaper obituary does not give much information about his career with United Airlines, Walt worked for the company for 39 years. He was an Oregonian with a degree in chemistry, and first worked for UAL in Portland. The company transferred him to Seattle in 1975. Walter was well-known for his love of music and participation in church choirs in Portland, OR and Bellevue, WA with his wife **Shirley**, who passed away in 2017 after 50 years of marriage. Trains were another interest and he often worked at a local garden railroad. **Walter Eck** was a well-rounded retiree.

**Carol Soffel** (SEARR) passed away March 10 after a long illness and a lengthy hospitalization for multiple health issues. Before illness struck, she was an active participant with the Emerald City Slickers and had served as secretary. Carol and her husband, **Kent**, were avid boaters and each winter decorated their boat in Christmas finery to join the Argosy Christmas Ship. They often invited friends to join the parade and many fellow Slickers were treated to their warm hospitality for a festive evening on the water. Let's hope there is more cheerful news to report in the June issue!

May is the month to celebrate mothers and we hope *your* big day is super special. **Happy Mother's Day!**


#### Calendar:

No gatherings/meetings scheduled

	<b><u>LILAC CITY FLYERS</u></b> Sharon Holmes 5120 N. Riblet View Lane Spokane, WA 99212 (509) 924.4959 (H) (509) 953.5088 (C) <a href="mailto:ghshic@quixnet.net">ghshic@quixnet.net</a>
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The Lilac City Flyers in Spokane are no longer meeting on a regular basis. If you are a United or Continental retiree in the Spokane area or visiting in the area and want to meet other retirees, contact **Sharon Holmes** at the information above.

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

	<b><u>THE DULLES LOUNGERS</u></b> Washington, D.C. Mari McColl Past President <a href="mailto:marimccoll@aol.com">marimccoll@aol.com</a>
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Seems that what is always on our minds these days is the cursed pandemic. This is with good reason, of

course, but there is light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel, so to speak.

Here in Virginia, I believe the government is doing an excellent job of rolling out the vaccines. My husband, Dan, and I received ours in February and March and feel a great relief. I have spoken with friends in other counties who also have been vaccinated and the system seems pretty consistently done with ease in a rather efficient manner. As of next week, the vaccine will be available to everyone in Virginia who is 16 or older. We are still double masking and still washing our hands often, but still have a sense of relief and freedom.

Easter was lovely this year since we felt free to celebrate with our “core” family. What a difference a year makes. On Easter morning 2020, my grandson came over and hid Easter eggs. Shortly afterwards, my granddaughter came over with her husband and their then 6 year old daughter. Dan and I stood on the front porch and watched as little Audrey scurried around excitedly searching for the eggs. We blew kisses and yelled our “love you’s”. This year we sat down to a meal together. This year we got our cuddles.

**Cathy Gilbert Silva** has been working hard on updating our Dulles Loungers Membership Directory and was able to distribute it this past week. She did a very professional job and it is so appreciated.

**Janelle Melgaard** had back surgery and has had problems with the healing. Janelle and her husband, Tom, were both CSR’s at Dulles. If you would like to send a card to Janelle, her address is 19655 Blue Ridge Mountain Rd., Bluemont, VA. 20135-2009.

**Dale Harper** writes a newsletter that is always very informative regarding UAL. His most recent newsletter had some very interesting facts regarding our cargo business. He headed one fact: One Year Later - 11,100+ cargo only flights. On 3/19/2020, ORD to FRA departed with an empty passenger cabin but the cargo hold was full. It contained 29,000+ pounds of cargo. Did you know that United was the first commercial airline to transport COVID-19 vaccines? Since then, UAL has delivered approximately 10 million vaccines. These cargo shipments have done a great job of keeping our business afloat. If you know a member of Team Cargo, please be sure to thank them for going-the-extra-mile. This took a lot of hard work and creativity.

While we are giving thanks for hard working people, I would like to introduce to you the volunteers who keep our chapter together: Our President is **Cathy Gilbert-Silva**. **Judy Dunlap** is our Treasurer.(she has served under 3 of our 4 Presidents.). Our local historian is **Bob O’Roark**. **Jon Beckett** is the chapter photographer and our Sunshine Committee consists of **Mary Beth Collins** and **Ruth Blackwell**. Then we have a Mix-and-Match Committee: **Kerrie Schneider**, **Cheryl MacDonald**, **Gunn Chensinski**, **Kathy Suggett** and **Janet Klinger**. These are the “go to” gals. If the chapter needs anything,

they do it. Our 100ish members are grateful to this entire group.

Until next month, mask up and stay safe.

## NATIONAL



### CLIPPED WINGS

Barbara Dunkelman

Clipped Wings Vice President

[barbdunkelman310@gmail.com](mailto:barbdunkelman310@gmail.com)

Hello RUAEA,

This will be my last article from the sunny south, as I will be heading home to the north. A lot of good things are happening to many Americans, as the vaccine is becoming available to a larger group of people. I hope most of you readers have at least gotten one vaccine.

Many Chapters are doing Zoom meetings and more people seem to be attending the meetings. Hopefully with the arrival of Spring and the beauty that comes with it, we will be able to start meeting in person. Our Jewish friends have been celebrating Passover from March 27-April 4, with Easter to follow on April 4. We wish everyone a happy holiday, with the hopes that you were able to celebrate with family and friends.

I am happy to report the terrific news, because of the recent UAL retirements; our membership is seeing some growth even during this Pandemic. Denver in particular has seen a significant increase in membership. Hopefully, all of our Chapters will see major growth this year as we start in-person meetings this summer ... if the Covid numbers are down and states/areas allow more in person lunches.

The 2020 convention in Portland was postponed due to Covid, but I am happy to report that all things are on track for the 2022 convention. I know it seems like a long time away, but they are planning the same agenda, so let us all try to attend in 2022! One of the many agenda items planned is Oktoberfest Fun Night. The convention team is finalizing their plans for that fun night. Most of the work has been done but they are seeking a spirited PDX member to champion this fun night! A Travel Desk leader will be available to assist with tours and pass out maps to the attendees looking to do a bit of sightseeing.

If you know any former or current UAL/CAL Flight Attendants that would like more information about Clipped Wings, they can find us at [www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org](http://www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org). We are a fun group even when we are apart and zooming!■



## 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 **March 2021**:

Armstrong, Tom, 5367 Badger Lane, Frederick, CO 80504  
Borys, Patricia, CHIRR, 7940 W. 101<sup>st</sup> Place, Palos Hills, IL 60465  
Brunetta, Victoria, 23 S Manorecliff Place, The Woodlands, TX 77382  
Byrnes, Glenys C., DTWRR, 24720 Woodcroft Dr., Dearborn, MI 48124  
Garcia, Raul, 27 Brandon Hall Dr., Apt. B, Destrehan, LA 70047  
Goodyear, Paul D., DENMM, 5351 S. Lewiston Ct., Centennial, CO 80015  
Greubel, Susan, DENSW, 6942 Quail St., Arvada, CO 80004  
Leddel, Susan, 2413 Oak Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
McClellan, Jim, 22746 E. Ottawa Place, Aurora, CO 80016  
Theofanis, James, ORDMM, 2921 Kelly Dr., Elgin, IL 60124■



## 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 **March 2021**:

William F. Alenson, Thomas H. Barnes, Carolyn N. Baumgartner, Everett M. Bell, Harry A. Benson, Karl Besteder, Joseph M. Boberek, John P. Bogdanoff, Patricia Borys, Mary G. Brennan, Kathleen J. Brown, Robert C. Bryant, Carolyn Bullington, Carol J. Cersosimo, Robert H. Craig, David J. Cranfield, James Dite, Helen E. Fambrough, James E. Fauber, Alan Fields, Joseph C. Fitak, Paul L. Gajdosik, Janice Gawenda, Virgil L. Gooselaw, Susan Greubel, James M. Hartley, Jesse Hicks, Ray D. Hoover, Richard T. Kato, Marcella Kern, Harold F. Klobe, Nora M. Kocsis, Carl Kole, Norma M. Kopel, Robert O. Levy, Janet I. Lutus, William R. Mansur, Jose L. Martinez, Steven Mayo, William McBride, John D. Muir, Robert M. Newlands, Betty J. Opbroek, Ruth D. Opitz, Margaret A. Parry-Buske, Richard R. Pendleton, Dolores N. Pitts, Elaine E. Podzamsky, Ann S. Pumphrey, Reuben Rivas, Janet E. Rodriguez, James A. Rotella, Gary S. Sakuma, Sonda L. Sandstedt, Rechie S. Santander, Edward D. Schroeder, Margaret Selland, Arc Seven, Tony Sipes, John T. Small, Jean J. Smith, Nancy M. Snediker, Pascal C. Soriano, Lee Storlie, William T. Thompson, Mary E. Betty Tomaino, Richard S. Walcha, Dolores C. (Dee) Whately, Anne Wilberton, Doris Ann Williams, Catherine Wilson, Fred S. Wise, Rudolph P. Wolf, Arnold M. Wong.■



## OBITUARIES

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

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

In addition, contact information must be included for one sending the information. If the obituary is received hand written and it is not legible, it will not be published until a clear and readable document is received in the Denver Office. The information may be sent by email (preferred) at [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net), or US Mail. Sorry, the information will not be accepted over the phone.

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

- Retiree – **Baesel, Gary W.**, (Date of passing, unknown), LAXCS, 14416 Firmona Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260
- Retiree – **Brick, Ralph L.**, on 3/18/2021, OPBOP, husband of Mary Jo Brick, 10545 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Ln., Gainesville, FL 32606
- Retiree – **Brock, Gelsomina** (nee' **Ritaco**) "**Jessie**", on 8/31/2020, WHQFA, wife of James Brock (deceased), 5225 Wilson Ln. Suite 334, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
- Retiree – **Donovan, James J.**, on 3/12/2021, SFOIQ, husband of Margery A Tumbleson Donovan (deceased), 410 Avila Rd., San Mateo, CA 94402
- Spouse – **Iffert, Karen "Casey" Carlson**, on 1/4/2021, wife of Sylvester C. (Sy) Iffert, SEAFO (deceased), 111 West Highland Dr., Suit 2W, Seattle, WA 98119
- Spouse – **Koehl, Kathleen M. (Mershon)**, on 3/22/2021, wife of John M. Koehl, WHQPP (deceased), 2 Pepperell on Asbury, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
- Retiree – **Preston, Donald**, on 12/13/2020, DTWCG, husband of Selma Preston, 4915 Britni Way #105, Zephyrhills, FL 33541
- Spouse – **Thompson, Mildred F.**, on 1/3/2021, wife of William T. Thompson, ORDMM, 1802 Thompson Lane, Centerville, TN 37033■

## Letters & Notes



Hi members,  
I'm the person who edits the letters and notes you send for the Newsletter. Your letters and notes are of interest to retirees and especially those with whom you once worked, they are greatly appreciated. When you send them, you can make my job easier by making them as legible as possible.

Martha Gooselaw - Letters Editor  
7401 MLK Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80207-2433  
[marthagoose@comcast.net](mailto:marthagoose@comcast.net)

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

Bill Alenson, Paula Wanska, John Bogdanoff, Helen Burtner and Ruth Opitz, James Dite, Leslie Doughty, Julie Felix, LaVerne & Len Haubl, George Horiuchi, Patricia Lionberger, Janet Lockhart, William McBride, John Muir, Herta Orszula, Frank Osborn, Marge Parry-Buske, Clifton Reik, Reuben Rivas, Janet Rodriguez, Rechie Santander, Stephen Steers, Eva Torres, Doris Williams, and Fred Wise.

### 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.)*

### Jay Cacioppo, 3215 Cheshire Dr., San Jose, CA 95118

Here it is, already the end of March and I have been retired for 20 years. How did that happen? Oh yeah, I am told that things really do go faster when going down the hill.

It has been a great ride though, this retirement.

I have spent lots of time with family, especially our 4 grandkids. Covid did slow that down a little. Thank goodness it seems to be slowing down some now.

I have been keeping up with friends, reading, photography (a little), tending to house/yard work, etc. This is probably like every other retiree, most likely.

However, these past few years I have found myself doing a lot of self-evaluating; probably because I realize it is time to also be thinking about the kind of legacy I will be leaving. My mother told me once, "Everybody leaves a legacy, make sure yours is honorable".

What a great experience it has been for me getting to know and work with so many wonderful people. One thing I have always commented on and still tell people; United has the absolute best mechanics in the world. When working in their skill/expertise, there is nothing they can not accomplish. I have seen major aircraft parts manufactured, re-furbished, repaired, and/or replaced with skill that was quite impressive.

It is hard to not think of certain people who are good examples of this. In the photo accompanying this letter is just such a guy.



**Daryl Davis** is the kind of person who could work in any location and job skill United has, and be limited only by what goals he placed on himself.

I wanted to call Daryl out specifically because he has, over the years, and I have known him since 1964, taken the dictionary defined science of "mechanics" and turned it into an art form. Whether he was working 727 landing gear lock down drag braces for United or building trestles, landscaping and putting town buildings together for his model railroad (his retirement project); you can bet the structure was never going to fail.

His wife, Helen recently commented to me, after dismantling his project due to his advancing Parkinson's, "I have learned that Daryl builds things to never come apart. One building or tower took him over 3 months to complete and as I took it down, it broke my heart".

We can not know what we all have in our futures. Wouldn't it be great if we could just build our days like he built everything?

Talk about a good honorable legacy!



**Arthur Jefferson, 1116 N. Canton Rd., Canton, MS 39046**

My wife and I are well. We thank God for His Blessings in times like these.

We are able to go and do some things.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the next convention.

**Martha Mott, 2910 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy #106, Henderson, NV 89052**

I appreciate the reminder that this is my month to renew. I just wasn't sure.

I have enjoyed the newsletter's way of coming up with various stories and jokes when the chapters have no reports. Everyone is doing a great job!

**Notes**

**Rajashee Ambegaoker**

Thanks for all RUAEA organizers and volunteers for keeping the Newsletter going. I appreciate all the information you give to retirees regarding United Airlines, benefits, resources etc. Thanks again.

**John Anders**

I am 84 years old now. I keep busy as a Handyman helping neighbors, friends and relatives.

**Patricia Borys**

United gave me the opportunity to do what I love. I am separated from the company now and will be listed as retired at the end of the year. I am looking forward to joining RUAEA.

**Victoria Brunetta**

I just retired from United/Continental and joined RUAEA.

**Robert Craig**

Thank you for keeping us connected with United and supplying information.

**David Cranfield**

I am still hanging in there, covid free and retired for 20 years.

**Raul Garcia**

I just took paid leave of absence that leads to full retirement at 9/1/22, but I have departed the company as of 3/11/21.



### **Susan Grebel**

I miss being an employee and the people I worked with. I have been busy working around the house. I want to go see my grandchildren in Miami.

### **Harold Klobe**

The best! I have enjoyed the ability to keep in touch and the conventions. I am proud to have served on the BOD for many years.

### **James Rottella**

We are able to see what is happening with people we once worked with and keep up with what is new.

### **Jack Seal**

I renewed my membership and just found out that my wife has Alzheimer's.

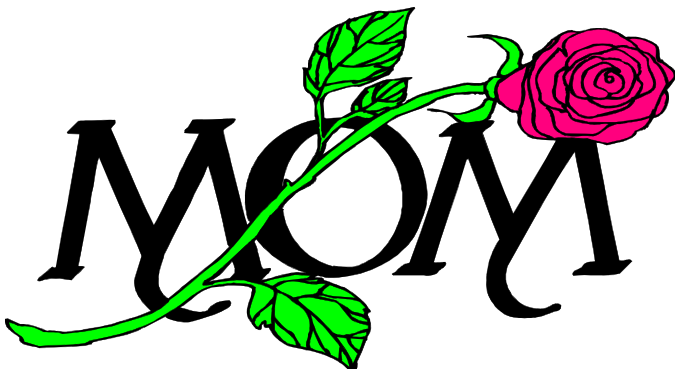
### **James Stevens**

I worked in the turbine shop for 34 years. I retired from UAL in 1994. I lived in Arizona, then Idaho and now Missouri. I am 85 and still doing fine.

### **Betty Tomaino**

Thank you so much for our wonderful Newsletter. 2020 was a very trying year, but we survived.

Those of us in San Diego are hoping to be able to host our convention this year that was postponed from last year. Stay safe and wear your masks. ■



## **Important Phone Numbers**



*Updated 5/2020*

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

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

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

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

### **United Employee Service Center**

1-877-825-3729, [esc@united.com](mailto:esc@united.com) (email)

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**

1-877-825-3729, [ETC@united.com](mailto:ETC@united.com) (email)

### **Flying Together Help Desk**

1-800-255-5801

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

### **Aetna Medicare Advantage** 1-866-246-8088

### **BC/BS** 1-800-535-9825

### **PBGC** - for all retiree pension questions

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

### **Social Security Administration**

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

### **Alliant Credit Union**

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

<http://www.alliantcreditunion.org>

Malcolm Horn, CFP®, Financial Consultant

Alliant Retirement & Investment Services

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

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

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

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

1-844-635-3401

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

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

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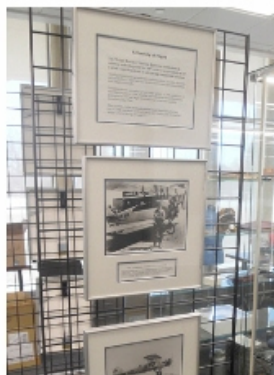
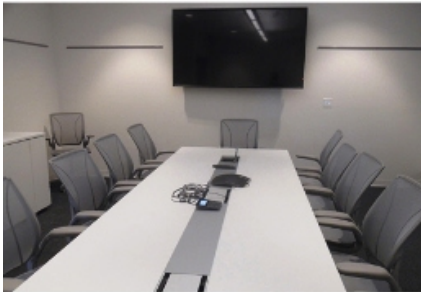


## United Airlines Historical Foundation

"Preserving the Past,  
Inspiring the Future"

### United's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday - April 6, 2021.

The Denver Flight Training Center's Building Maintenance Department has installed Display Cases for part of the Historical Society's collection. UAHF volunteers **John Williams, Judith Scheppe, Bonita Ades, Laura Coats** and **Marvin Berryman** under the supervision of **Tom Goodyear**, have assisted in transforming the once Empty Room into a History Museum.



*By Marvin Berryman DENTK Retired.*

UAHF is accepting donations of United & Continental Memorabilia. Please mail them and/or your tax-deductible (\$) contributions to: **UAHF, Tom Goodyear, 7401 Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver, CO 80207.** Visit our website at [www.uahf.org](http://www.uahf.org). ■

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## The Writers' Column ~ UAL Operation Into The Vietnam War By Dick Wicklund - SFOMM Retired

I don't recall the UA Historical Foundation issuing past articles regarding UAL flying support into the Vietnam War. Attached are photos of the first arrival flown into Saigon and I thought it well to pass on the remembrance.

At an early date after the war started, I took a trip to Vietnam. The destination was by flying the first of a DC-8F cargo to supply at Saigon. Going en route, we first stopped at Clark Air Force Base (CAB) in the Philippines. Then shortly later MAC extended a firm up contract with UAL. This then started regular flights to CAB, Vietnam or other local regions. To ensure flight reliability in these foreign areas, the company placed maintenance reps to all of these locations. Then the first person to stay at CAB was from SFOMM, **Chuck Woodfall**. After he stayed awhile, he returned home and I then went back to CAB and stayed there for a period of time. Soon afterwards a number of maintenance staff from SFO made it to CAB and then each one would fly a trip into Vietnam or some other region. Some of those that I remembered were **Charlie Edwards**, **Bill Hale**, **Jim Siciliano**, **Clarence Siem**, and **Mike Takamatsu**. Also, I remember for managing the station at CAB was **Claude Yeo** from LAX Air Freight. After the early 1960's a major Army buildup occurred adding DC-8 passenger type aircraft for



sending combat troops. Our missions then made it into some dangerous air force bases. One particular hotspot flown in was Bien Hoa AFB, with Viet Cong in the area. Their attacks from close by distance was common at times, we heard gunfire on occasion. I think it was very commendable to all this crew in their devotion during our time of danger. Commendations should also be awarded to the UAL men and women who flew into this wartime environment. These flight crews provided excellent UAL service flying into Vietnam with many Army troops going both in and out. My apology is for many of the flight crew people that I know I have failed to name in this article. Also, I should have mentioned the service of the now long past Flight Engineers & Navigators. They were there for every flight in these past overseas operations.

