



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

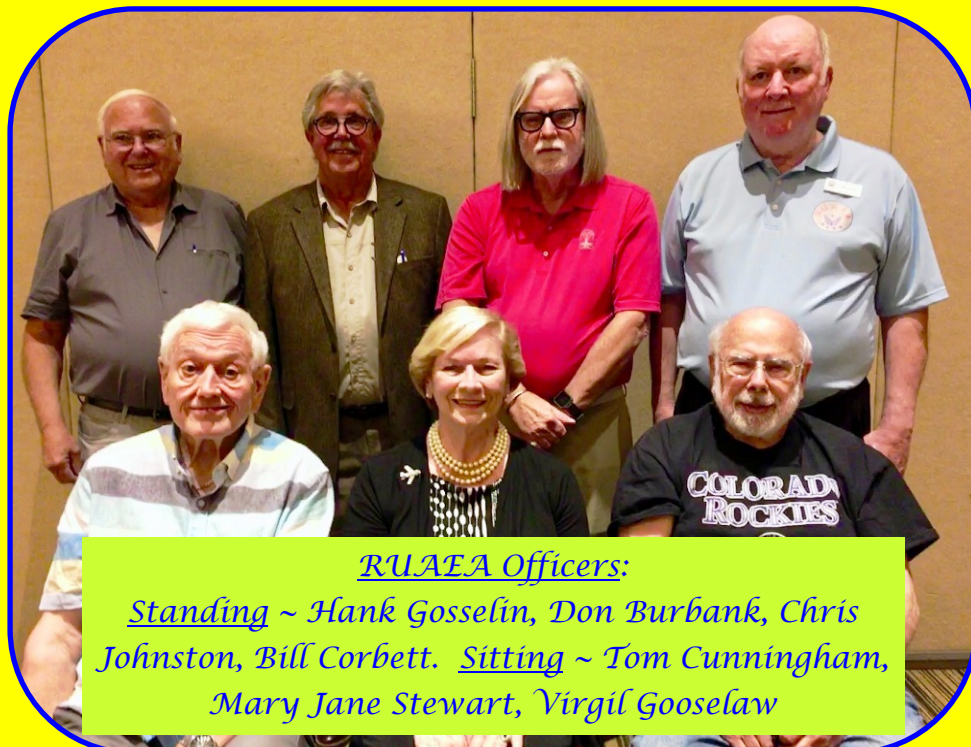
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ISSUE NO. 545

JANUARY 2020

## 2019 Denver Convention Memories



### RUAFA Officers:

Standing ~ Hank Gosselin, Don Burbank, Chris Johnston, Bill Corbett. Sitting ~ Tom Cunningham, Mary Jane Stewart, Virgil Gooselaw



Ray Shoults  
Nancy Bain



Bill & Kathy Corbett  
Marianne Zahnle and  
Jan Gawenda



Standing ~ Kevin Neal, Jeffrey Bates, Jacqueline Neal, Arthur Jefferson. Sitting ~ Eddye Dent-Whitaker, Betty Tucker, Evelyn Johnson, Lucille Simpson

# GENERAL NEWS

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## An exciting new chapter



The room was abuzz with excitement and anticipation as employees gathered at the Corporate Support Center (CSC) in Chicago on Thursday, (12/5/19), eager to hear from Oscar and Scott following the 12/4/19 announcement.

*“By now, you’ve all seen the news, and I’d just like to start by asking you to give your future CEO a big round of applause,”* Oscar said, and the audience greeted the request with hearty applause for Scott.

The two leaders hosted the event to give employees a chance to ask questions after United announced on Thursday that Oscar will transition to the role of executive chairman of the board of directors, and Scott will become CEO in May of 2020.

Oscar and Scott answered a wide range of questions, including about Oscar’s role as executive chairman, the reason behind timing of the transition and the future of United overall.

*“This airline, with the hubs that we have, ought to be the biggest airline in the world, it ought to be the most profitable airline in the world, it ought to be the best airline for customers and the best airline for employees to work for,”* said Scott. *“All of us, including all of you, are committed to making that happen.”*

*“It’s a bittersweet moment for sure, and my emotions rise every time I look around into the many faces around the company,”* added Oscar. *“We’ve been through a lot together, and this has become my family. I couldn’t trust any person more than I do Scott to take over and take care of our United family.”*

Following the event at Chicago’s CSC, the pair headed out to ORD, where they met with employees and answered questions. The trip was the first of many, as Oscar and Scott plan to visit many stations throughout the system over the next several months.

Thursday’s news sent a jolt of energy through all of United’s employees and across the aviation industry, too. The announcement was featured on numerous news outlets, including Reuters, the Chicago Tribune, Bloomberg and many more.

## Letter from Oscar (December 6, 2019)

To my United family

Yesterday, United made an exciting announcement about the future of our airline.

At the same time, I wanted to communicate directly to you, my United family, which it has been the honor of my career to belong to and lead.

As we conclude another outstanding year for United, I have chosen this time and place to begin a transition that will ensure stability and continuity of leadership and that we remain firmly upon the course we set out on when I first became CEO, which has delivered so much success for United and our service to our customers, as well as for each other.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> of next year, I will officially assume the role of executive chairman of the board of directors. And it is my privilege to announce that Scott Kirby will then become the next CEO of United.

Please join me in congratulating Scott and his family on this incredible professional achievement.

Let’s also send our deepest appreciation to Jane Garvey, who will retire from the board at the same time, culminating her more than a decade of exceptional service to our company, including serving as Chair since May 2018. Jane is a true pioneer of our industry. Her contributions and counsel, her wit and wisdom, have earned her the enduring thanks of a grateful United.

Now, I’d like to talk to you about what this news means for all of us as a United family, and why I believe this is the perfect time to begin this transition.

A seamless hand-off of leadership is the hallmark of a healthy, strong company, one that enjoys a unified consensus about its direction and optimism for the future.

We know from experience what it means to undergo a change of leadership during a time of disruption and difficult circumstances. We remember the uncertainty that hung over the direction of our company when we started this journey together in 2015. We will never forget what it took to right our ship and recover from years



- even decades - of events that had slipped us off course. It was truly an all-hands-on-deck effort. I want to thank every single one of you for what you did to serve the airline we love in its moment of greatest need and help steer us toward a better course.

It was then that I made a promise to myself that when my time in this job, which has been the honor of my career and a highlight of my life, came to a close - as all good things must - I would satisfy three criteria.

First, I wanted to be one hundred percent certain that my successor would be the absolute best person in our industry to lead United, bar none. I have no doubt in my mind that Scott is that person. There is no one I trust more to build upon what we've created together and guide United into the future.

Second, when the transition occurred, I wanted our new CEO to find an all-star team ready on day one to deliver on the key priorities of our business: execute on the next stage of our growth plan, drive forward our core culture of caring service and move full speed ahead on our customer-centered investment strategy.

That's exactly the kind of leadership team I see when I look across the immense array of talent that now exists at United at every level. There is simply no finer team in our industry and, of all the terrific legacies we've created, it is this deep bench of talent that will prove to be one of the most decisive advantages for United in the years to come.

Finally, above all, I wanted to be confident that I was passing forward a United that has its best days ahead of it, with a bright future squarely in the forward window.

I believe in my heart of hearts that all of these aspirations are coming to fruition at once. As we usher in a new decade - one in which we will celebrate United's centennial - now is the perfect time for us to start writing a new chapter in our story. It is a chapter I intend to help write with all of you in my new role as executive chair of the board.

The deep, personal relationship I've endeavored to foster with all of you is without a doubt my greatest source of satisfaction and what I most cherish.

That will not change.

I look forward to help shaping the course of United from my seat at the head of the board. Then, going out into the system to communicate it to all of you - as I always have.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to offer the first of what will be many heartfelt thanks.

Your dedication and devotion to your work are the bedrock upon which all of our success is founded. You've welcomed my family and me into your hearts and homes. You've kept faith with me through times of trial and triumph, and all the times in between.

Together, we created a new spirit of United. Keeping that spirit alive will be the work of all of us in the days and years to come.

**Gratefully,  
Oscar**

### **CLEAR now available at all hubs**



Exciting news for employees and customers: CLEAR is now available at all seven of United's hub locations just in time for the busy holiday travel season!

CLEAR, the secure identity company that uses biometrics to build a frictionless and secure world, opened its lanes at ORD on 12/3 and expanded its lanes to all United operated checkpoints in IAH on 12/6. DEN, LAX, SFO, IAD, and EWR already offer the technology.

Once at the airport, CLEAR members access security through a dedicated lane where they verify their identity with a tap of their finger or blink of an eye before continuing to physical screening.

As announced last September, as part of United's partnership with CLEAR, employees are eligible for an exclusive 3-month free trial and a discounted membership price of \$99 per year. Additionally, membership is complimentary for MileagePlus Premier® 1K® members and discounted pricing is also available at varying rates for other Premier members, U.S. United credit card holders and general MileagePlus members.

## **New planes! United orders 50 Airbus A321XLRs**



United announced an order to purchase 50 new Airbus A321XLR aircraft, which it plans to begin inducting into its fleet in 2024. The order enables United to begin replacing and retiring its existing Boeing 757-200 aircraft and further meet the operational needs by pairing the optimal aircraft with select transatlantic routes. United will continue to operate its 757-300s. The state-of-the-art A321XLR aircraft, which United expects to introduce into international service sometime toward the end of 2024, will also allow United to explore serving additional destinations in Europe from its East Coast hubs, EWR and IAD.

*“The new Airbus A321XLR aircraft is an ideal one-for-one replacement for the older, less-efficient aircraft currently operating between some of the most vital cities in our intercontinental network,”* said EVP and Chief Commercial Officer Andrew Nocella. *“In addition to strengthening our ability to fly more efficiently, the A321XLR’s range capabilities open potential new destinations to further develop our route network and provide customers with more options to travel the globe.”*

The next-generation A321XLR offers customers an elevated inflight experience and features modern amenities, including LED lighting, larger overhead bin space and Wi-Fi connectivity. United is in the very early stages of selecting features and amenities for this aircraft. However, the company does plan to feature an intercontinental configuration for the A321XLR.

Additionally, the new aircraft lowers overall fuel burn per seat by approximately 30% when compared to previous generation aircraft, enabling United to further minimize its environmental impact as the company moves toward its ambitious goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 50% relative to 2005 levels by 2050. United has been looking for Boeing 757-200 replacements for quite some time and is confident that the A321XLR is the right replacement aircraft, since it has better fuel savings, better economics and the right range for these specific transatlantic routes.

Additionally, United will defer the delivery of the Airbus A350s it ordered several years ago until 2027 to better align with its operational needs. By year end 2019, United will have approximately 800 mainline aircraft, a record for the mainline. United maintains a strong orderbook to meet its growing network and capacity needs and expect to take delivery of over 64 mainline aircraft next year, consisting of 787s, 777-300ERs, 737 MAXs, used A319s and used 737 Next Generation aircraft.

On the widebody side, United has taken delivery of 12 787-8s, 25 787-9s and nine 787-10s, with 13 787-9s and five 787-10s still on order. The company has accepted delivery of 18 777-300ERs and expects four more. United currently has 45 A350-900s on order. It also has more than 200 new or used narrowbody aircraft on order.

## **IAH’s virtual ramp tower gets the spotlight on ‘GMA’**



United took another leap forward in the name of airport modernization with the opening of its first-ever virtual ramp control tower at IAH, which was unveiled to the world on “Good Morning America”.

The virtual tower’s control room features a cluster of video screens with which our employees can monitor and control aircraft and equipment movements on the ramp thanks to a number of strategically-placed sensors and cameras. It will give United the advantage of increased visibility, especially during inclement weather, leading to improved taxi times, more efficient gate usage, quicker IRROPs recovery and a safer all-around ramp operation.

Back when it first opened, IAH Air Traffic and Ramp Systems Manager Daniel Reed said his team couldn’t wait to completely move from the traditional ramp control tower to the new virtual one. *“They’ll be working almost in an augmented-reality atmosphere, where they won’t even have to look down at a computer to do their work it will be so seamless.”*

Among several other benefits, Daniel said that infrared camera feeds in the virtual tower will help them safely move aircraft during even the worst storms and fog conditions, and he pointed out that having more eyes in more places on the ramp will give our air traffic control teams better situational awareness than they currently have.

United is the first commercial airline to adopt a virtual ramp control tower on this large of a scale. That's because United believes in its potential to help improve the company's operational performance and better ensure its employees' safety.

Check out features of the new technology on Flying Together.

### **Torgy's Travel Tips – January 2020** **New Zealand Adventure**



Last fall I took advantage of lighter loads and headed to New Zealand. I learned a lot along the way so this month I'd like to share some helpful hints in case your future agenda includes a trip to this beautiful, albeit far away, land.

First of all, choose the timing of your visit carefully. New Zealand is well noted for its gorgeous green hills and valleys dotted with sheep, as well as its fjords and alpine vistas. Well, those hills and valleys are green because of generous rainfall and the alpine vistas exist due to cold climates. Nevertheless, choosing the appropriate time of year to visit can make a big difference between euphoria and disappointment. We, unfortunately, were about 3 weeks too early even though it was nearly a month into spring when we began our adventure in New Zealand.

Auckland, which lies on the north island, is oriented eastward towards the South Pacific Ocean, not the Tasman Sea. This position, on the calmer side of the island, usually affords gentler winds, close access to sandy beaches and plenty of marine recreational opportunities. Waitemata Harbor contains the deep water port of Auckland and is the location of most all international ship traffic. If you are taking a cruise, you will dock here and are mere footsteps away from the central business district – no transportation needed other than your own two feet! The picturesque Ferry Building is the hub for ferry traffic to the nearby gulf and bay islands as well as the peninsular cities of Devonport, Birkenhead and Bayswater. It's a fun trip over to Devonport for a photo spot of Auckland across the water.



Visit Devonport Chocolates to see and taste the amazing chocolate creations of this popular family run business. (Their chocolate "high heels" are really something to see.) Another idea is a nice ½ day trip to Waiheke Island. Buy a ticket at the Ferry Building to Matiatia and then take the local bus, which meets all ferry arrivals, to see the quaint country villages or stop at your choice of several of New Zealand's wineries. You also have the option of purchasing a ferry ticket including a hop-on/hop off bus run by the company Fullers360.

The CBD (Central Business District) of Auckland includes the Ferry Building, the Britomart (train station and boutique eateries), Wynyard Quarter (restaurants and hotels surrounding the marina area) and the main shopping and business areas bordered by Queen Street, Customs Street and Karangahapa Rd (K'Road). The famous Sky Tower, the tallest freestanding structure in the southern hemisphere at 1076 ft, is a telecommunications tower completed in 1997. It houses 3 restaurants, one of which revolves 360°. The views are stunning on a good day, but the price is sky high!

We enjoyed nearly identical views for free by following the "Coast to Coast Walkway" beginning at the Ferry Building and concluding 10 miles away at Manukau harbor which opens onto the Tasman Sea. When you conclude the walk, you can boast that you walked all the way across New Zealand! Don't worry, there's ample bus service to reverse your route. And along the way, you'll discover Albert Park, the University of Auckland, the Domain, the War Memorial, popular rugby fields and Mt. Eden, where you can look down into the dormant volcano crater and outward across the city and harbor. Listen for the song of the beautiful Tui bird – you'll recognize this blue, medium-sized bird by the 2 white puff balls on its throat. And almost at the end of your walk is One Tree Hill (remember a song by Bono & U2 with this title?) One Tree Hill, which is spiritually significant to the Maori people, was tragically defaced by the felling of the one remaining tree October 5, 2000.

Transportation to and from Auckland Airport is easy using SkyBus, located just outside of Door 8 at the International Terminal. There is a white and red ticket booth at curbside and the wi-fi equipped white and red bus stops just a few feet away. Busses depart every 15min to the city.

A side trip from Auckland south to the Waitomo Glowworm Caves and the movie set of Hobbiton (from The Lord of the Rings) can be made in one day, although you might want to take a little more time and include



some time exploring the geothermal pools, mud baths and geysers in Rotorua. The Tamaki Maori Village or Te Puia are wonderful choices for a more in-depth exploration of the Maori culture.

The second largest city in New Zealand is Christchurch, located on the South Island. A series of earthquakes in 2010-2012 have tremendously impacted this beautiful small city on the Avon River. The largest quake killed 185 on February 22, 2011 and caused such severe damage that 1500 buildings were eventually demolished. We talked with locals whose homes collapsed on the low-lying plain just east of the city. That area is now off-limits to anything but grazing land. The once-beautiful Christchurch Cathedral is in the process of rebuilding, despite many setbacks. Not much can be seen as the perimeter is surrounded by high wooden fences.



But we did enjoy the small town of Dunedin on the South Island. In the early 1900's, Dunedin was the commercial center of New Zealand. The most photographed building in the whole country is the beautiful Dunedin Railway Station.

It is the home base for the Taieri Gorge Railway, which takes train enthusiasts on a 4½ hrs. roundtrip journey through 10 tunnels and across the famous Wingatui viaduct, the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest wrought-iron structure still in use in the world. Even if you don't take the train trip, do step inside the Flemish-Renaissance styled station and admire the architecture.

Dunedin is also a breeding home of the Royal Northern Albatross at Taiaroa Head.

These magnificent birds, with a wingspan of up to 12 feet, nest on the sloping hillside and can be seen during the breeding season of October and November from a secluded viewing platform at the Royal Albatross Centre there. We were lucky enough to view them from our ship as we sailed out of Dunedin. Watching these amazing birds attempting to make graceful landings after months on the wing was quite entertaining to watch!



And finally, Fjordland National Park, located at the extreme southwest corner of the South Island is the home of magnificent Milford Sound, and is probably the number 1 visited site. Unfortunately, the severe weather at all entry points into this huge area was so dangerous that even our local pilot, taken aboard the previous day to guide our ship for this segment, would not venture inside. Like I said, we were probably about 3 weeks too early.

Despite the weather, New Zealand is a beautiful country and one you need to add to your bucket list!

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



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

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

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

**Francis Domaratius**  
**Newsletter Manager**  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## ALABAMA



### GULF COAST (ALABAMA / FLORIDA)

George Atteberry  
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Jingle Bells were ringing at the Gulf Coast Chapter, with Santa arriving in time for the “Dirty Santa Game”. Your scribe, George, had his first choice stolen, right off, so he settled for a jug of booze to keep him warm.

Our President **Conrad Hamilton** gave us insight on the Mana organization's good deeds. Our group gave \$300 to their cause. They are able to feed most of the needy and homeless for pennies/day.

**Ray & Mai Owens** were not in attendance due to an illness, see you both next year. Those in attendance and staying in Pensacola during the winter were **Bill & Ann Delavan** (Ann stole my first pick during the DS game), **John & Myrl Eisinger** were decked out in Christmas attire, adding to the gaiety.

**Bill Hayden** was his steady self with the help of **Rita Toucher**, in administering the 50/50 raffle. **Rich Hurst** came in from the cold golf course to be with **Maureen**, during our fun time. **Ed Southworth** came along as well, however we were all relieved that he did not win the 50/50 again this month.

**Doug Kuykendall**, spouse **Diane** and **Forrest**, a welcome sight, due to moving to new “digs” near Orlando (Doug was the 50/50 winner).

**Jeanne & Norm Reinoehl** wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, as they exited. Toys for Tots received gifts from all present, as well. **Desneige Atteberry** was her happy self, with a nice bottle for the season received as her gift.

Come join us, first Monday of every month at the Cubi Café (with its entire memorabilia moved from the Philippines), Pensacola FL NAS Museum at 11:00AM.

### SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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There is no report this month from the Sweet Home Alabama chapter of RUAEA.

Due to declining attendance, we will now meet 4 times yearly. Our meetings will be the second Monday in March, June, September and December. As always, we welcome all retired United friends and their families to join us for fellowship and lunch at 11:30 at various Birmingham restaurants. For more information, call **Beverly Yeager** at (256) 775-1711.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Joe & Jane Jones** in Clanton for our Christmas celebration, at 11:30. Anyone needing directions can call Joe at (205) 646-3825.

## ARIZONA



### PHOENIX AZURES

Mike Richards  
Azures Past President  
Claudia Richards  
Azures Past Membership Secretary  
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Our group will meet again on December 13 for a Christmas/Hanukkah luncheon at Angela's Restaurant in Sun City Grand.

A hardy but somewhat smaller group still 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-UNITED'S**

Liz Tollefsen  
[tedtolle@aol.com](mailto:tedtolle@aol.com)



Happy New Year! We hope it will be a very good new year for all our Re-United friends. We never know for sure what the year is going to bring; so be thankful for all the blessings we have. We are fortunate to have such a nice group of people in our chapter; we all have a lot of fun together and enjoy meeting for our monthly breakfasts and lunches. We wish more people would join us. I'm sure there are a lot of retired United or Continental people around the Phoenix area who could join us. If you run into someone you worked with, please invite them to join us, and even tell them you will pick them up, if necessary. Sometimes people are reluctant to come by themselves, but if you offer to pick them up or meet them at the door; they may decide to take you up on your offer. We are a friendly group and know they will be happy they came once they made the effort to check us out.

Our weather here in the Phoenix area is usually great the next three or four months; there are a lot of new people moving into the area. Snowbirds, like us, love coming here, and being able to do a lot of outdoor things they can't do back home. We feel very fortunate to be able to be active with many activities available, if we want to take part in them. There are so many older people who are stuck living at home by themselves and can't get out; and if so, all they do is go to various doctor appointments. That's why, we need to continue being active and being out with our friends and family. That is what RUAEA is all about too. There are so many great people in the organization, from all over the United States, that love getting together as friends, and keeping active and passing important information about flying benefits and insurance etc. We enjoy going to the yearly Conventions to meet new and old friends, go on various city tours, and getting information about the various airline privileges we have, plus other benefits. So many retirees don't take advantage of the passes we've been given or too soon they have health issues, and can't travel.

Our November 11<sup>th</sup> Luncheon was held at the Boulders on Southern Restaurant in Mesa, hosted by **Dakota Morris-Terry**. It was Veterans Day, and our Vice President **Peg Snowdall** recognized those members who were Veterans. Only 14 members made it to the luncheon, but we still enjoyed the food and the company. One of our members had been injured recently, but he still managed to attend. What a faithful guy! We talked about our annual dues coming up January 1<sup>st</sup> and the upcoming Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Cottonwood Country Club in Sun Lakes. Our host is **Judy Burtner**.

Planned activities coming soon in 2020 are: Luncheon in January, hosted by **Dakota**, Silver Star Music Theater on February 14, Chicago Cubs/Sox game in March, and also a luncheon in March, hosted by **Jennifer Strohmaier**, and our annual picnic in April; plus, we also meet for breakfast on the fourth Friday of every month at the Black Bear Diner in Gilbert. Be sure and mark your calendars so you don't miss any activity.

We met for breakfast on November 22 and had 30 members attend. What a great bunch! Our President **Shirley Claggett** was back from their cruise, which they enjoyed. We talked about the Christmas Luncheon coming soon and also a lot of the members paid their annual dues to the Griffins, who just returned from being gone for the summer.

We recently were advised that one of our past members, **Liz Wilson**, passed away on November 14<sup>th</sup>. She and her husband, **Jim**, who also died quite a few years ago, lived in Sun Lakes, AZ together for quite a few years. He originally worked for United in Denver, Colorado.

The Christmas Luncheon on December 4<sup>th</sup> went very well at the Cottonwood Country Club. There were 27 members attending and enjoying the wonderful food and festive surroundings. Raffle prizes were 4 Gift Cards to Olive Garden Restaurant, a refund for their Christmas lunch that day, plus three other prizes as well! Everyone had fun. Thanks to **Judy Burtner** who did a great job organizing this favorite luncheon!

If you haven't paid your dues yet, remember they are due January 1 and are \$5.00 each. If you aren't available to attend any of our meetings, you can mail them to **John** or **JoAnn Griffin** at 759 S. 76<sup>th</sup> Place, Mesa, AZ 85208. If you have any changes in your address, e-mail, or phone, be sure and advise them, as we need



everyone's correct information for our membership directory, which is published early in the year, and available at our annual picnic in April.

Also, wouldn't you like to receive the RUAEA Newsletter every month and find out what's going on and keeping up what's new in traveling, and reading all the chapter reports about people you might have worked with, and wondered where and what's happening with them? You can subscribe for only \$30.00 a year, and can use a Visa, Master Card, or Discover Credit card online at [www.ruaea.org](http://www.ruaea.org), or you can mail your check to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433. Be sure to include your file number in all correspondence. If you have any questions regarding membership or the newsletter, you can contact the Membership Secretary, **Michael Malesardi** at (303) 780-5022 or by e-mail at [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net). Many people read the newsletter from cover to cover each month!

We have the following birthdays in January of our members: **John Gaudioso, Molly Norwood, Ferrol Hilsabeck, Judy McFarland, Barb Paymaster, and Dakota Morris-Terry**. Happy Birthday to all! There are two couples celebrating Wedding Anniversaries; **Dillon & Dakota Morris-Terry** and **Jay & Barbara Hartough**. Best Wishes to both couples!

#### Calendar:

**January** – Luncheon to be hosted by Dakota. More information will be forthcoming.

**January 24** – Breakfast at the Black Bear Diner, 1809 E. Baseline Rd. in Gilbert, starting at 9:15 a.m. Please let Vice President **Peg Snowdall** know by phone at (480) 396-3317, or by e-mail at [phomfeldt@cox.net](mailto:phomfeldt@cox.net), if you will be attending so she can notify the restaurant how many to plan for by January 22.

**February 14** - Silver Star Music Theater in Mesa, hosted by **John & JoAnn Griffin**, (608) 613-0090 or (815) 404-7979. More info to follow.



#### TALL PINES

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There is no report this month from the Tall Pines chapter of RUAEA.

Just a reminder to all, our meetings have been changed to the second Tuesday of the month - same time/same place, Lone Spur Café, 11 o'clock.

#### TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

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 [rpdgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpdgarlic41@comcast.net) or call either **Pat Di Lallo** (520) 825-7370 or **Sandy Lawyer** (847) 826-2640 for information.

We look forward to seeing you.

## CALIFORNIA

### CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATERS

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

### CENTRAL COASTERS



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There was no November meeting of our Chapter. I did receive an e-mail from the Denver office with a change in their e-mail address.

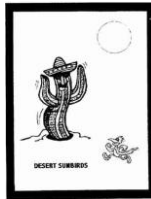
There was no news from our chapter so this will be a short report.

We will be having our December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at Bob & Marcia's home with all the food and Christmas cheer. I should have more to report at that time.

From our chapter to yours we wish you a joyous holiday and Happy New Year.

### DESERT SUNBIRDS

Palm Springs Area  
Chuck Lamas  
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There is no report this month from the Desert Sunbirds chapter of RUAEA. The chapter's Christmas Luncheon will be reported in next month's Newsletter.

### EAST BAY DIABLOS



East Bay Diablos

Contra Costa County  
Jan Soderstrom  
30 San Piedras Place  
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We met on December 2 at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill with 26 members in attendance. Our holiday party is our most special and favorite meeting of the year. We are a close knit group of friends and I can't think of a better way to start the holidays than to spend it with this great group. It was nice to have **Bobbie McPheeters** and **George Midwin**, our Regional Director, join us. We missed **Wilma & Joe Leather** who were visiting family in Idaho. **Jan Soderstrom** and **Tracey Blanchard** acted as cashiers. **Carol Parks** gave everyone a goodie bag with several pieces of candy.

Social hour was from 11:00 to noon and then we had lunch. As always, we had a wonderful meal. Zio Fraedo's is known for their prime rib, and the other entree choices, salmon and chicken cordon bleu, were also

excellent. Last year I said my prime rib was the largest piece of meat I've ever had. This year, when **George Midwin** got up to say a few words, he said the same thing!

After lunch, we held our raffle. **Barbara Underhill** won the money. We had a wonderful selection of prizes for our raffle - the ever present wine, spirits, Christmas decorations, candy and travel mugs. We collected Toys for Tots and **Diane Griego** delivers them to the local fire station.

Earlier this year, I advised everyone that the wonderful play *Come From Away*, based on true events following 9/11, was touring the U.S. through September 2019. Nominated for seven Tony Awards in 2017, it tells the tale of Gander, Newfoundland opening its homes and hearts to 7,000 stranded travelers. Wonderful news - the musical is again on tour now through September 2020. Go to <https://comefromaway.com/> and click on Tour. If interested, get your tickets now. I reserved a ticket for a June 2020 performance in San Jose and it was already quite sold out.

Our member **Rich Bouska** is also a member of RUPA (Retired United Pilots Association). Rich is responsible for organizing their cruise each year. Rich wants to spread the word that everyone is welcome, not just RUPA members. He says "the more the merrier" (and the larger the group, the larger the discount). (I went on the 2016 RUPA cruise from Boston to Montreal and had a wonderful time. A very welcoming and personable group I'd love to travel with again). Here are the salient facts: It's a 14-day cruise on Holland America, departing June 29, 2020 from, and returning to, Vancouver. You will see the Inside Passage, Ketchikan, Tracy Arm Fjord, Haines, Icy Strait Point, Inian Islands, Anchorage, Homer, Valdez, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, and Misty Fjords. For more information, please contact **Rich Bouska** directly at [rbouska1@comcast.net](mailto:rbouska1@comcast.net) or (925) 443-4339.

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

- ✓ Monday, January 6, 2020 at 11:00— Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mt. Diablo Street in Concord. We order from a set menu. Lunch includes soup or salad, choice of entrée, beverage, and choice of ice cream for dessert.
- ✓ Monday, February 3 at 11:00— Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mt. Diablo Street in Concord. We order from a set menu. Lunch includes soup or salad, choice of entrée, beverage, and choice of ice cream for dessert.

Every month, we have an ongoing book exchange. The leftover books are donated to Contra Costa County Library book sales. We collect both new and used Christmas cards which **Barbara Cunningham** donates to a local special ed teacher who uses them in his classroom. He has told Barbara he can use "all he can get." If you have cards you'd like to donate, please contact Barbara at [tbcunningham43@gmail.com](mailto:tbcunningham43@gmail.com) or (925) 846-8123 for more info. We also collect shampoo and other toiletries you collect on trips; **Diane Griego** donates these items to a wonderful domestic violence organization founded by one of our special UA ramp employees. Thanks to **Cheryl Kincaid** who brings items for this organization to almost every meeting.

### **GOLDEN GATERS**

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



President **Vera Kina** opened up our November meeting with her infamous duck caller whistle, it was, obviously, not working as attendance was quite low (I guess the "birds" did fly south after all) so those of you who didn't come to the meeting; you missed out on an outstanding Pot Luck Luncheon! Ginger stole the yummy corn casserole from two of those "birds" who flew north and moved to Idaho – just to let you know, we miss you **Don & Dorothy Reuszer**. 23 stalwart members Pledged Allegiance to the Flag, remembering our military and first responders. A short business meeting followed. We have paid our yearly 2020 rental fee for the Blue Bird Room here at the Foster City Recreation Center so if you live around here, come on by, we'd love to see you. Join in the fun, laughter, huge Bingo winnings, and some really good eats! We have a goodly number of Gaters' coming to the Christmas Luncheon, so by the time you read this you will have eaten your Thanksgiving Turkey, opened presents, refunded presents, and are eagerly awaiting the new year. Thanks to you all and a very Merry Christmas also.

Here's what we have planned for the next three months:



- December 11 – Christmas Luncheon at The Fish Market in San Mateo. Genes' phone, (650) 856-9738.
- January 27 - BYOBL – Brown Bag lunch day with Bingo
- February 24 - Chinese Cuisine – bring your chopsticks

Secretary Pro-Tem **Ginger Dahlberg** read the minutes for the October meeting – a minor correction was made with no one offering to take over the job. If you know anyone who needs some cheering up, let her know as phone calls or cards are easily done. Please look at your roster to see if it is correct; let Ginger know if there are any changes in your information.

Treasurer **Art Barrett** said that the account is doing well. Remember to send in your dues for 2020 so that we can include you in our roster.

Membership Secretary **Barbara Underhill** was able to get to the meeting today as her new “job” at the Polling Headquarters had a slowdown period. Work will pick-up again in the New Year – be sure to exercise your voting privilege, make her earn her wages! She wished **Ella Mae Donovan** a very Happy Birthday and hearty congratulations to **Art & Linda Barrett** who marched down the aisle 54 years ago. **Ben Vietz** dropped in at the Board meeting and brought us up to date on his medical situation. He had to leave as he tires easily and needed to get home to care for his better half, **Linda**, who has had some serious eye problems. So keep them in your thoughts as they need lots of TLC. **Pam Russell** escaped from the hospital and is home recuperating. Take care you all, stay well!!

Auditors **Gene Walter**, **John Bogdanoff** (in absentia) and **Helen Goodwine** have a sign-up list for the Christmas lunch, please call Gene if you want to come. His number is above.

Travel Coordinator **Ginger Dahlberg** – Don't forget the September 20-27, 2020 Princess 7 night cruise out of SFO to YVR and back to SFO. Got some dandy trips planned for next year – a day trip to the PRO-AM Golf tournament at Pebble Beach, a 7day/8 night Columbia/Snake River Cruise in June (selling out quickly,) a trip to Safari West, a Fall tour to Southern California. Get on her “Lets' Go” list so that when emails go out, you can send in your booking forms and money. Her address/email is above.

Historian **Jim Goodwine** had nothing to report.

Ticket Coordinator **Harriet Kunze** wants to thank all of you who generously donated food and toys for the coming holidays. Bingo winners were excited to rake in the money.

We bid a fond farewell to our beloved Beach Blanket Babylon, they are closing down their absolutely fantastic show at the end of December. **Francis, Veronica Domaratius, Ron & Barbara Bertacini** and **Jeannie Ramsey** came down from the Sacramento area to help us send off this delightful production. Over 150 of our “Lets' Go” travelers attended the shows. We still have our “It's Its’,” that San Francisco treat!

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

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

I guess you could say, “Let the countdown begin”! When November comes along, we know the trick or treat-ers are done – do you have some good candy left over? We are quickly advancing to one of the best meals we will have all year. Thanksgiving usually means a juicy (please, not dry) turkey with all the trimmings along with those favorite pre-dinner dips and the fabulous desserts. Definitely worth waiting 11 months to enjoy. Another great meal was the ones we were able to choose from the Olive Garden's extensive menu. **Ed & Lindalee Akin**, with help from their daughter, Julie, and **Suzanne Kenny**, set up a great luncheon for us all. **Bill Dinette** extended a big “Thank You” for all of the 31 members there. Bill shot out the birthday question to which only **Jim Raber** claimed, Happy Birthday to you, Jim. November doesn't seem to be a month that any of our members chose to tie the knot. We did say “Welcome” to **Dan Hacker**, a friend of **Irv Wolfram** and **Jim Raber** brought Harriette.

*President ~ Bill Dinette* updated us on items covered in the RUAEA newsletter.

*Vice President ~ Rudy Blazius* came with some info that you, as El Dorado County residents, may have already received regarding the new Vegetation Management & Defensible Space Ordinance?

*Treasurer* ~ **Tom Kenny** was not able to join us today, but his wonderful wife, **Suzanne**, brought his report to us. Thank you, Tom, for keeping on top of things.

*Secretary* ~ **Jane Gibson** reported that badges have been ordered. The company we order from had changed their ordering format, but they still had the old one on their website, just not the way they wanted it to be done now. We were finally informed of the change and sent the order and check but the badges did not come in by our meeting date. Oh, the price for the badges has gone up from \$7.00 to \$10.00 each. I will catch up with those who ordered in December (they came in yesterday)

I also passed around the sign-up sheet for our 2020 luncheons. We still have four months without a host. Consider hosting one of these months: January, July, September and November. The most crucial is January so please let me know which one of these months you are willing/eager to host! I'll have the sheet at our December luncheon too.

*Sunshine* ~ **Suzanne Kenny** let us know that **Jack Fitzpatrick** had his back surgery and is doing well. He "thought" he would be at this luncheon, but not up to it just yet. Jack, think positive thoughts and heal! Oh, and listen to what Judy says!

*Historian* ~ **Pati Kenney** has been extra busy this past month so she did not get anything new done with the books. I don't know if you're aware, but Pati teaches cooking and canning classes! The lady IS busy.

*New Business* ~ Benefits enrollment and UAL stuff.

*Old Business* ~ In November I posted the names of the members who were nominated for our officers for 2020. Bill opened the floor for any changes to the nominations. Since there were no changes suggested, **J.R. Heier** moved to vote on the said slate. Vote taken – 2 descents (**Bill Dinette** and **Pati Kenney**), motion passed. Your chapter officers for 2020 is: *President* - **Bill Dinette**; *Vice President* - **Rudy Blazius**; *Treasurer* - **Tom Kenny**; *Secretary* - **Jane Gibson**; *Sunshine* - **Suzanne Kenny**; *Historian* - **Pati Kenney**. Okay, folks sounds like we will have another good year!

**Bill Dinette** has taken on organizing our December luncheon. You should have received an email (or two or three) from him requesting that you let him know if you intend to attend this special luncheon. So far he has heard from 34! A few have already paid Bill the \$10.00 per person. Bill checked with the caterer and they need our final count by December 1, so if you have found that you will be able to join in, please let Bill know ASAP. After December 1, there will be no refunds even if you suddenly cannot be there.

Also, we forgot to remind you that, as we have done in the past, we will be collecting toys for local children. You don't need to spend a fortune on these toys, but while you're out and about, keep your eye out for something – any age will work – that will brighten a child's Christmas. Toys, or gift cards for local stores, will be kept in the El Dorado County. We also have the tradition of bringing food (or gift cards for a grocery store) to share. Please be sure that the canned goods are not out of date (expired); only non-perishable, please. Somewhere along the line, I heard that it is helpful if you choose canned goods that have a pull top – not everyone has a good 'ol can opener! This holiday time is one of giving and in doing so we receive so much in return.

Bill brought our meeting to a close and Rudy took over the "mic" for our raffle. **Diana Bell** was the lucky winner of the donator's prize. As always, a big "Thank You" for all who brought items for the raffle: **Blazius** – wall plaques; **Bauer** – jewelry; **Akin** – pomegranates and table decorations; **Biro** – wine; **Kenny** – Zebra popcorn; **Guinn** – stationary set; **Dellinger** – snack tray; **Dinette** – wine & persimmon bread; **Kenney** – stemmed plate; **Raber** – Salmon Creek wine; **Kozelka/Barton** – Liebfrankmilch wine; **Martin** - ??? gift; **Heier** – wine & glasses; **Gibson** – harvest pasta & cake mix.

## **REDWOOD EMPIRE**

### **RETIREES**

Santa Rosa, California  
Mary Wilson, Secretary  
3623 Aaron Dr.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
[marywilson333@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marywilson333@sbcglobal.net)



There is no report this month from the Redwood Empire Retirees chapter of RUAEA.



## **RESANS**

San Diego, CA  
Barbara Drews  
5642 Amaya Drive #99  
La Mesa, CA. 91942  
[sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com)

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and you are enjoying the quiet that comes after the busy Holidays. Our December events all happen after the newsletter is due so I will bring you up to date next month.

The birthdays for January are **Betty Tomaino** and **Arnold Pollack**. The best to them in the coming year!

**Jim Sheehan's** wife is recuperating from cancer surgery and we wish her a speedy and cancer free recovery.

**Bruce Shropshire** was in town for a few days, his mother-in-law is in the hospital and seriously ill. We were not able to arrange a get together but it was good to talk with him. It seems like yesterday he was with us in SANCS. Bruce is now working in Chicago.

Our Bio for January is **Helen Hutchinson**:

*"I was barely out of high school in England at 15 years old. At 18 years old, I emigrated to the United States. It was the same year President Kennedy was assassinated. Queens, New York became my primary residence for the next two years. I found a secretarial job in the Quality Control Department of Chiclets Chewing Gum in Long Island City.*

*Two years later I made the big decision to head West to San Francisco. I landed a Management job at Standard Oil Headquarters where I worked in the Publications/Human Resources Department in San Francisco where I was taught to spell in American! Four years later I moved to Redwood City and got a job with a Metal Detector Co. which was in the process of designing an Airport Security System, my contact to United Air Lines.*

*My career with United began in 1974. I accepted an entry level job in SFOEG Technical Publications, at the SFO Maintenance Operations Center. Two years later I wanted to expand my horizons and advancement at United, I interviewed for a Management position at the Jet Shop as an Engineering Technician. This included working alongside seasoned Engineers and Mechanics on the JT8D/CFM56/Airbus engines/accessories. Also Service Bulletins, FAA Airworthiness Directives, Mechanic interaction and early morning conference calls back East that addressed issues that had to be addressed every day. Engineering was on call 24/7.*

*Prior to my retirement in 2004, I had advanced to full responsibility of the CFM56 Maintenance Program on the CFM56 Engine Oil System, Fuel System, Pneumatics and Ignition Systems. I was subsequently promoted to become the UA Auditor for EP Airworthiness Directives for the JT8/CFM/A320 Engineering groups.*

*I retired in 2004 after 30 years of service with United and I now live happily in beautiful San Diego!"*

In closing, remember to bring an empty water bottle when you head to the airport. Increasingly, more airports are no longer selling bottled water. They are instead installing special dispensers to fill your water bottles.

Resans is looking forward to planning a great convention for you in 2020 and we hope you make plans to join us in San Diego!

## **Calendar:**

**February 6** – Breakfast at Pt. Loma Café, 4865 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA. 92106-2394, (619) 226-0255.

## **SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS**

Sacramento, CA  
Marji Gabert-Milam  
Secretary  
(916) 300-6570 (C)

**SACRAMENTO  
GOLD  
DIGGERS**



The Sacramento Gold Diggers held our December Christmas Party luncheon meeting on December 4, at The Clubhouse at Woodcreek Oaks Blvd. in Roseville, CA. **Ron & Barbara Bertacini** hosted this month's luncheon with input from **Terry & Penny Greenacre** and **Sonda Sandstedt**.



President **Jim Simon** welcomed everyone and thanked our servers for their excellent service. He stated that we have 45 members and 1 guest in attendance. Don Witt with the Toys for Tots Organization was our guest. Jim reported that **Terry & Penny Greenacre** will host next year's Christmas luncheon.

VPs **Vicky Enriquez** and **George Taylor** have nothing to report.

Secretary **Marji Gabert-Milam** reported 2 anniversaries for November: **Ed & Rose Rheam** and **Ray & Lynn Reinmiller**. There are no anniversaries for December.

Treasurer **Judie King** gave the financial report for December.

Sunshine **Angie Dellinger** asked us to contact her of any events that we may want the membership to know about. She has nothing else to report.

Historian **Stephanie Norton** has no Report.

Regional Director **Sonda Sandstedt** reported that **Phil & Ann Frank** have been ill and have not been able to attend or participate in our meetings. They are still fragile. We should send greetings for those who cannot attend. Changes to our enrolled friends' pass riders may be made this month. She explained the processes for making changes for 2020. Sonda also thanked the officers that served this year.

Roster **Jack Raynor** stated that he has current roster booklets. See him if you need one.

RUAEA Newsletter Manager **Francis Domaratus** reported he has not received the RUAEA December newsletter and he concluded that no members have received theirs. We are all still waiting. He also asked if any of us would be interested in attending the Crocker Art Gallery Exhibit and a special tour. Hopefully, we will get enough members that can take the tour; it sounds very interesting.

Jim introduced the new officers for 2020. President - **Dave Garland**, VP – **Terry Greenacre**, Secretary – **Laverne Hauble**, **Judie King** will continue as Treasurer. Jim also had Dave come up and read his cute turkey joke.

**Terry Greenacre** reported that we have the following hosts for 2020. January will be hosted by **Rose Wickstead**, February to be hosted by **Jim Simon**, March will be hosted by **Jack & Marge Raynor** and **Judie King** and will be held at Lincoln Chinese in Lincoln, CA, **Skip & Teresa Knapp** will be hosting in April. Please contact Terry if you are willing to host any of the remaining months of 2020.

Birthday rolloff for November was won by **Marge Raynor** and December was won by **Judie King** in a hard fought battle of the dice. Vicky and George completed the raffle for this month.

Pictures of the new officers for 2020 were taken.

Jim ended the meeting reading a beautiful poem that he wrote.

#### *Christmas Thoughts by Jim Simon*

*I've lost a few friends throughout this past year  
And that puts a downer on holiday cheer,  
But I tend to remember the good times we had  
When we all were together before things turned sad.*

*No one knows better how much one is missed  
When their name is no longer on the Christmas list.  
And also it's so hard to say a good bye,  
When the one who has left is not there to reply.*

*But somehow the meaning of joy and good cheer  
Still makes its presence to those that are here.  
And that in itself is a blessing I guess,  
For those friends here that we don't have to miss.*

*And to all of my friends that are still here today,  
I hope that you all ----- enjoy this holiday.  
And that in the end of this very next year,  
We can wish each other more holiday cheer!*

*Merry Christmas dear friends and family,*



## SAN JOAQUINERS

Rosie Walls

(209) 984-5672

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

I know that by the time you read this short article, the holidays will be over. We hope you all had a very happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, and of course a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

January is a dark month for our Chapter so we will not be meeting until February 2020. That seems like a long way off but time is flying by so it's just around the corner.

See you in February for Valentine's Day.

As always, we have our luncheon meetings on the second Thursday of each month, except for January. Our group is small but filled with happy, friendly people and we welcome visitors anytime. Our next luncheon will be at the Golden Corral in Modesto. They have a wonderful buffet and everyone walks away with a full tummy. Please call President **Steve Foster** (209) 328-1210 if you would like any information about our Chapter.

## SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY

San Jose, CA

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

George Midwin

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San Jose, CA 95124

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



The final planning for our annual luncheon has a number of members preparing the large quantity of raffle gifts. In addition, members are baking, cooking and making their favorite desserts, which then are bidden on at the event. Yours truly makes a mean fudge which has in the past generated a tidy sum for the chapter. This event provides our funds for the entire year. Our thanks to **Cheri Scales** for once again organizing this large event for the members and guests.

This month has seen two of our members having serious heart issues, requiring hospitalization. Both are now at home recovering and hopefully soon will be able to attend our meetings. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Members having a birthday in November included; **Bill Reichard, Karen Devlin, Bob Devlin and George Midwin.**

Happy Anniversary wishes went out to; **Tony & Sally Urso** and **Bill & Rosemarie Reichard.**

As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank our President **Marianne Johnson** for all her work on keeping the chapter going. It wasn't easy changing the venue for our meetings and we appreciate the effort she took, along with Vice President **Chuck Clayborn**. Chuck will now assume the role of President and from what we have seen of his actions this year, we are confident that he will do a great job. The remaining officer positions will continue to be held by those currently doing so. These include; **Cheri Scales**, Treasurer; **George Midwin**, Correspondent; **Maureen Snyder**, Sunshine Lady; **Vern Snyder**, Historian, the position of Vice President remains open for now.

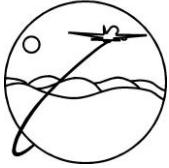
**Bill & Rosemarie Reichard** visited their daughter in Denver, trading in the California sunshine for some snow. **Marianne Johnson** flew to Denmark to attend her son's birthday celebration.

The winter weather is upon us, which will curtail outdoor activities. However, this will permit us to plan for events come spring. There is increased interest in visiting some of the local attractions in the valley, as well as participating in some events.

Hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and are looking forward to a great year.

We meet every Friday beginning at 0800, at the IHOP restaurant, on the corner of Miller Ave and Bollinger Rd in San Jose, not far from highway 85. Everyone is invited to join us.

SOLANO FLYERS



## **SOLANO FLYERS**

Allan Pochop  
119 Carlsbad Circle  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
(707) 447-4980  
[apochop@aol.com](mailto:apochop@aol.com)

November 20<sup>th</sup> found the Flyers at Bud's restaurant in Dixon where the food is outstanding, but one must arrive early because, "Hope", will not find you a parking space.

President **Poolos** was a no show; we assumed that he stayed home to start his generator, as the power companies were securing the electrical transmission lines in fear of high winds, perhaps that action prevented the burning of the last 27% of the state. Deno, hang in there, as the Flyers are pulling for you.

The following were in attendance to hear the important messages delivered by VP **Pochop**. As usual, all attention was focused on his eloquent speaking, so much that they all ignored the fire in the kitchen: **McKinley Nelson, Bill & Joanne Blizzard, Diosnel & Luci Perez, Robert Zirzow, Jack & Linda Hornfischer, Eugene Boyce, Allan Pochop, Nolan & Mary Untiedt and Dorthy Robinson.**

In the previous meeting, the Flyers approved that the Chapter would purchase lunch at the January meeting, this would be an incentive for new member signups, increase meeting attendance, with the insidious trap to collect annual membership dues.

Birthday ~ I cannot divulge the persons' names, per request of RUAEA, but we know who.

In January, there will be the election of new Chapter Officers: All positions are open, except Treasurer which remains with **Joanne Blizzard**.

We circulated the sheet for signups for the 2020 open officer positions; someone suggested that volunteering and placing a member's name not in attendance was in bad form. The VP thought it is delightfully devious and acceptable.

The signup sheet surprise, it came back with one name Sunshine Person: **Dorthy Robinson.**

50/50 Drawing: Winner was **McKinley Nelson**. The VP's ticket rigging scheme failed and all members enjoyed his hissy-fit.

**December 18** - Raul's Striper Cafe, 1720 Texas St., Fairfield.

## **COLORADO**

### **DENVER** **MILE HIGHERS**

Rich & Cleora Conner  
(970) 232-8050  
[richcleora@gmail.com](mailto:richcleora@gmail.com)

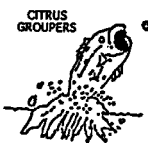


Our monthly breakfast was replaced by the Christmas Party on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The party was at Ted's Place Restaurant in Commerce City at 11:30; their prime rib dinner was served to all with reservations. Canned food was collected for the food bank.

Our next RUAEA breakfast meeting will be Saturday, January 4 at 9am at Ted's Place Restaurant in Commerce City. Address: 5271 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Commerce City. Phone: (303) 287-7544. Directions: Go North on Dahlia St. off I-70 to 52<sup>nd</sup> and turn back East to the address. Going West on I-70 exit on Holly St. and take the frontage road to get to Dahlia.



## FLORIDA



### THE CITRUS GROUPEERS THE VILLAGES

Julius "Joe" DiStaso  
(352) 775-8201  
(941) 661-2215  
[wopahofl@comcast.net](mailto:wopahofl@comcast.net)

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 [rcapozzi@rocketmail.com](mailto:rcapozzi@rocketmail.com).

### SAND"DABS"

Daytona Beach, FL  
Gloria Marcantoni  
(904) 940-9908  
[ddmgm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddmgm@sbcglobal.net)



Our Christmas Luncheon was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Smyrna Yacht Club, a beautiful setting on the inland waterway, and on a beautiful day. While we were enjoying our main course of prime rib and all the trimmings, we were also treated to a view of today's SpaceX rocket launch from nearby Cape Canaveral! The Falcon 9 rocket vaulted away from the Florida coast and climbed smoothly into orbit, putting a Dragon cargo ship on course for a three-day flight to the International Space Station. On board, 5,700 pounds of supplies, research gear and holiday gifts for the crew. What an amazing sight!

Our discussion was lively and we are all looking forward to the holidays, but also looking beyond into next year, we decided to change the date of our January meeting to January 9<sup>th</sup> instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We thought many people may still be busy with traveling or out of town guests. Vice-President **Steve Moddle** will follow-up with our President **Dick Coughlin** to make sure the necessary arrangements are made with Red Lobster.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Sand"Dabs"!

### Calendar:

**January 9** – 11:30 – Red Lobster, 3162 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL

**February** – 11:30 – Same as above



### THE ORLANDO REAL McCOYS

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

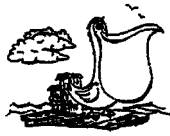
A festive and merry band of Real McCoy Revelers gathered at Maggiano's Little Italy on December 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our friendship and the holiday season. As in past years, we voted on the \$'s we would donate to our favorite charities as a group. In order to make the Newsletter deadline, I am ad-libbing ... so look for details next month!!

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year 2020 filled with good health, happiness and prosperity!

The Real McCoys meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Golden Corral on So. Semoran Blvd. Mark your calendar and join us – you'll be glad you did! Our first meeting of the New Year will be on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1300.

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

Margie Burg, Correspondent  
15791 Prentiss Pointe Circle #102  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 400-2544  
[burgmarge@aol.com](mailto:burgmarge@aol.com)



Our chapter Christmas party was held on December 6. A lively time was enjoyed by all. In addition to lunch and a 50/50 raffle, we passed gifts using the Wright family story. Every time (w)right or left was mentioned, the gifts were passed in that direction.

The 50/50 cash prize was won by **Stella McCaffrey**. Other winners were **Jerry Pryde, Kathy LaCombe, Margie Burg, Diane Roberts, Gary Crittenden, Ralph Thinnies, and Ray Jensen**. A holiday cake was purchased by the chapter, and the restaurant provided cutting and service.

**Kathy LaCombe** became a new member last month and was getting to know, and be known, by everybody. New members are always welcomed.

It was decided that many members wouldn't be back in town immediately after Christmas, so our next meeting will be January 17.

### **THE SAND DOLLARS**

Bradenton, FL  
Judy Macklin,  
840 Bird Bay Dr. W., #202  
Venice, FL 34285  
(941) 214-0252  
[judymacklin13@gmail.com](mailto:judymacklin13@gmail.com)



We were a slightly larger group at our November 2019 get-together. After **Ginger Hyde** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, she welcomed back our snow-bird members who have made it back to Florida, including **Vivian & Harvey Rucker, Vince & Norma Malena, and Jim & Shirley Razmus**. We're glad they made it back before any major snowstorms. Vivian reports that Harvey is now recovered and doing well. **Ginger Hyde** gave us the not-so-good news that **Gretchen Bulin** unfortunately had a fall at Thanksgiving which caused a collapsed lung for which she had surgery and is now in a rehab facility. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery, and hope we'll see her back at our monthly meetings very soon — we miss you Gretchen!

**Ginger Hyde** then described all the efforts she has been making to find us another great location for our Christmas Luncheon. Places we have gone to in previous years have raised their prices a lot, or have changed their hours, so our choices are becoming limited. After discussion (and thanks to Ginger for all her work) we accepted the higher prices and will have the party at University Park Country Club. She will be sending out details of the location and our traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange to all the Sand Dollars shortly, but save the date — Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our world travelers, **Bob & Lisa Young**, couldn't be with us as they were traveling — again! **Maria Santangelo** is on a trip to Nassau, and **Doug & Sandy Horuczi** are on a Country Western Cruise, so we will be expecting a vocal demonstration from them at our next meeting. **Bill & Inge Phillips** joined us today, but will shortly be flying to Santiago, Chile and then taking a month long Viking Cruise all the way up the West Coast of the America's as far as Los Angeles. What a fabulous trip that will be!

The Sand Dollars meet on the second Thursday of the month, October through May, and we love to welcome any visiting retirees or new retirees. For information call **Ginger Hyde** at (941) 360-6671, or email her at [drjekyl.hyde@aol.com](mailto:drjekyl.hyde@aol.com).

*... I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.*



### **TAMPA BAY CHAPTER**

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

There is no report this month from the Tampa Bay chapter of RUAEA.

#### Calendar:

**December 11** - Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday at the Outback in Trinity, 1:00 PM

### **TREASURE COAST**

Stuart, FL  
Mary Kay Wetherington  
(561) 345-6373  
[mwether7044@att.net](mailto:mwether7044@att.net)



The November meeting was held at Duffy's with 15 members and 3 guests in attendance. **Dave Damon** brought friends Linda and Hank. Hank worked for UAL in DEN and SFO. **Diane Brodis** brought **Bruce Jacobs** who worked at LGA. Welcome to Bruce, our newest member.

President **Al Popek** opened the meeting by leading everyone in The Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence in respect for **Betsy Damon** who passed away. She will be sorely missed.

Many thanks to **Carolyn & Dave Lindgren** who passed around the great pictures they took at our October picnic. They encouraged everyone to help themselves. We had a fabulous day at Dubois Park.

Dues were collected for 2020. Anyone who still needs to pay their dues should get them to **Carolyn Lindgren**, with checks made out to her.

There was a long discussion about the new health coverage from UAL beginning 1/1/2020. Many members talked about their recent travels and adventures.

**Al Popek** closed the meeting with one of his great jokes.

Congratulations to **Dave Damon** who won the 50/50. The Progressive will roll over since **Maureen Carragher** was not in attendance to accept the winnings.

There are no birthdays or anniversaries in December. We remember our dear friends who have passed, Betsy & Millie who were born in December.

Our Holiday Party is an event we all look forward to. It will be held again at The Twisted Tuna in Port Salerno on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Calendar:

**January 7** - Luncheon/Meeting, Duffy's South Stuart, 12:30

**February 4** - Luncheon/Meeting, Duffy's South Stuart, 12:30

**March or April** - Picnic TBD

### **GEORGIA**



**DIXIE FLYERS**

#### **DIXIE FLYERS**

Metro Atlanta Georgia  
Ron Heider  
195 Evergreen Terrace, Rm 414  
Stockbridge, GA 30281  
(470) 878-6132

Twelve Flyers and two guests, **Melba**, **Fred Cron**'s friend and **Janice Carter**, daughter of **Ron Heider**, met on December 4. **Fred Cron** said grace before the meals and **Ron Heider** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.



The 50/50 of \$12 was won by **Tony Carringer** who donated his winnings to the Promise Place, a shelter for battered and abused women.

**Richard Thompson** is having a pacemaker installed; hopefully, all goes well. **Eli Stewart** of Atlanta and Tampa ramp service passed on. **Earl Clore** of Atlanta/Tampa buried his second wife of two years recently.

**Terry Smith** of Atlanta/Tampa is doing paintings and murals and getting a good buck for some of his works. **Dink Hammer** and **Buck Bailey** of Tampa are not feeling the best.

**Carringer, Russo** and **Fran Broderson** all brought Christmas cookies. **Sybil Voss**, our sunshine lady, had one birthday card for December which was **Eva Mace**. Sybil has shingles in one eye and is unable to drive. She is moving into an assisted living facility in Dallas, Georgia. We wish her well.

Come to the Broadway Diner in Fayetteville, Georgia the first Wednesday of each month at 2PM. We all wish happy holiday season to everyone.

## HAWAII



### HONOLULU MENEHUNES

Patricia Thomson, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1709  
Honolulu, HI 96806-1709  
(808) 946-7847  
[HNLRUA@gmail.com](mailto:HNLRUA@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 [HNLRUA@gmail.com](mailto:HNLRUA@gmail.com) and we will email you the details.

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

### 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@cablone.net](mailto:brandyjake@cablone.net)

The Boise Gems wish our RUAEA Officers and Members a wonderful Holiday Season. We hope Santa Claus will not be putting coal in your stocking!

Our Christmas Luncheon was held at Bacquets French Bistro in Eagle, Idaho with about 14 of our chapter members in attendance.

At the present time the Boise Gems are not scheduled to meet in January, 2020. Should this change, members will receive an email; otherwise we will continue meeting every other month which means our meeting will be held in February. Date, time and location will be decided at a later date.

Rick, Bud, and Joe wish you a Merry Christmas! In the meantime, everyone stays healthy and Happy New Year too!

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO SKYLINERS

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

[Chicagomainliner.com](mailto:Chicagomainliner.com)

Jan Gawenda

(847) 437-7073

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



January 2020, yes, folks, 2020! Can you believe it? Lots going on, Martin Luther King Day on January 20<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl in Miami, February 2, the Democratic Convention, July 1-16, in Milwaukee, the Republican Convention, August 24-27, in Charlotte, NC. Summer Olympics in Tokyo, July 24-August 9. Also a big deal this year is the 2020 Census. It's very important to have the correct number of people counted in the country for having new schools, hospitals, public safety, Representatives, city planning, and government financial help. No questions will be asked about illegal or money earned. For the first time, the census can be filled out by questionnaires online, but there are worries about hackers and scammers, trying to get into the act. Why don't these people get a real job and stop trying to scam us? I got a call recently from Social Security telling me I had to call them immediately, and left their number. Scam. Also received one on Thanksgiving from Microsoft telling me of some emergency, that I had to send money, blah, blah, blah. I told them to go work at McDonalds, make some honest money, and hung up. Don't listen to these people; they are out for your money, plain and simple! The actual date of the census is April 1, 2020, how fitting, April Fool's Day to make sure nobody tells a lie as to how many people are in our home. I'll see what else we're going to have this year, at a later date. Don't want to get you all shook up the first week of the year. Some funny days this month include Cuddle Up Day, Squirrel Appreciation Day, Rubber Duckie Day, Play God Day, followed by Peculiar People Day. Maybe they should be on the same day.

The day of the Northside breakfast was rather cold; only a dozen people came out. Not much traveling going on, but plans were discussed about the holidays. We have new Skyliners members, **Ranjan & Pravina Thakkar**, **Nancy Lubera EXOBQ**, **Bharti Pathak**, EXOFA, **Deepak Desai**, EXOIA, **Margaret Longo** and **Marge Stamm**, CHIRR, **Victoria Gurnack**, **Kathy Cufar**, **David Nosek**, and **Carole Robbins**. Welcome and enjoy yourself with your new friends.

The Southside breakfast only had seven people. There were a couple of sickies, and not sure of the others. There was no raffle.

The ORDMM breakfast had about 15 people. **Bob Palm** and **Harry Kargenian** visited with **Jim Haslem**, he's in an assisted living facility. Jim said "Hi" to everybody. I received calls and emails from old friends, **Phil Elliott**, **Tom Wiley**, **Jack Schramm**, **Rich Bulanda**, and **Boris Spitz**. They wished us all a Happy New Year, and hoped we were all in good health.

IAM 1487 had 93 union members in its November Meeting. Lunch was **Dave Roderick's** famous Sloppy Joe sandwiches. The December meeting was held at the Seville Banquets in Streamwood. As usual, the gala was beautiful, food was great, and the raffle was overabundant. Almost 200 attended, everybody looked so elegant. **Karen Carney** and the planning committee certainly outdid themselves. It's always a joy to attend the Union's Christmas Luncheon. Most everybody brought perishable food items for a Food Pantry, or a cash contribution. Thank you for helping the less fortunate.

The Skyliner's Christmas Luncheon was at The Avalon in Elk Grove. **Virginia Monaco** did her usual magic to give the illusion of a Winter Wonderland. Her little elves were **Joan Teister** and **JoAnn Giannini**. The Encore Singers entertained and pleased the crowd of 150. The director announced they would be singing next year, we didn't even ask them yet. They love our group, they enjoy the enthusiasm and the participation of the audience. The food was delicious, and the staff was so helpful. No wonder we like going to both venues. Both places like United, treat us well, and help us keep the luncheon costs down.

It's time for a little 'selling' of our chapters. The Skyliners' dues are \$5.00 a year per family. They have four lunches a year, plus a special event during the year. Entertainment is performed at each luncheon. The IAM dues are \$10.00 a year, per family member. A meeting is held every first Thursday of the month. Each month the lunch varies, some the Union supplies it, other months, you bring your own. You had to be a member of IAM 1487 at some time in your career to join. Our last United club is the Retired United Airlines Employee

Association, RUAEA. It's a national organization for anyone who worked for United or Continental. The dues are \$30.00 a year. We have a convention once a year, usually in the fall, the location changes annually. We see people from all cities, all departments, many that we worked with in the past. We put out a Newsletter every month, which includes reports from about 50 of our different chapters, you'll see names of people that probably moved to Arizona, Florida, California, etc, that you worked with. New information is also given by the president and other board members regarding our flying privileges, health coverage, travel info and even recipes for fun, fast food. If you're reading this, you're already a member, but you could pass it on to your friends. Applications for all clubs are in the computer,

[Chicagoskyliners.org](http://Chicagoskyliners.org), [iamlocal1488.org](http://iamlocal1488.org), and [RUAEA.org](http://RUAEA.org). There's always the Mainliner Club that we remember from when we were working. They have trips to interesting places around Chicago, such as Lake Geneva, the downtown Museums, Disney on Ice, the Cubs/Sox game, and many more. They also sell United merchandise at the Reservation Center and at the Willis Tower.

Our friends that flew West were **Irene Beck**, ORDHN/ORDMK, **Lynda Oros**, EXOCS/EXOAO/IT, **Laverne Mueller**, EXOPW, **Erma Richardson**, CHIRR. Also gone from our world are Michael Pollard, Shelley Morrison (Rosario), Robert Walker Jr., Ron Leibman, and Chicago's Rev. George Clemens and Rev. Clay Evans.

Hopefully we'll all have a healthy, wealthy and fun 2020. At our age, we know the health issue is tenuous, we just don't know. But if the doctor says you need something, he probably knows more than you, just do it! That's what my doctor told me, I listened, and am better for it. My report is a little short this month because I was out of commission for a few weeks; I'll do better next month. Let's hope this new insurance won't disappoint us. We're going into new territory, where no man has gone before. Happy New Year, my dear friends!

#### Calendar:

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

Southside Breakfast - Jedi's Restaurant, 9:30 A.M., 9266 S. Cicero, Oak Lawn. (**January 28**). Last Tuesday of the month.

IAM Lodge 1487 - 50 W. Oakton, Des Plaines, (**January 2**), 11:00 A.M. First Thursday of the month.

RUPA Lunch - Golf Club of Illinois, 1575 Edgewood Dr., Algonquin, (**January 14**), 11:00 Cocktails, Lunch 12:00 lunch

**April 7** - Skyliner's Spring Lunch - The Belvedere, 1170 W. Devon Ave., Elk Grove, Tuesday, 11:00 cocktails, 12:00 lunch.

### INDIANA



#### INDY RACERS

Indianapolis, IN  
Frank N. Ingegno  
(317) 428-7741  
[figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net)

The RUAEA Indy Racers chapter November meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Emmy's Pancake House and Grill in Avon, Indiana. In attendance were **Hannelore Brabo**, **Mario Bregante**, **Bob & Ruth Duffy**, **Bob & Myrtle Duty**, **James Gibson**, **Frank Ingegno**, **Frank & Rita Prinz**, **Charles Theiss & son Anthony**. Guest **Jim Mathews** also attended the meeting.

#### Business items discussed:

1. The annual Christmas celebration lunch which is planned for December 10<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant, 3550 East 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240.
2. Members were requested to consider and suggest interesting local events/attractions that chapter members may want to visit as a group in 2020. Ideas will be further discussed at future chapter meetings.

3. It was suggested chapter members suggest different locations for the Christmas 2020 lunch. Maggiano's cost is excessive making finding another location desirable. Issue to be further discussed at future chapter meeting.

No travel events were discussed.

This month's 50/50 raffle was won by **Frank Ingegno**.

Our future RUAEA Indy Racers chapter meetings schedule for 2020 is:

- January, winter break, no meeting
- February, winter break, no meeting
- March 10, at Emmy's
- April 7, at Emmy's
- May 12, at Emmy's
- June 9, at Emmy's

If you are in the Indianapolis area during any of our meetings, please consider joining us. The lunch and conversation are both excellent. For more information please contact **Frank Ingegno**, [figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net).

## MASSACHUSETTS

### NOR'EASTERS

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



There is no report this month from the Nor'Easter chapter of RUAEA.

## MICHIGAN



### GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann  
(248) 667-9258

[bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net)

What a nice way to start off the holiday season with our December retiree luncheon. It was hosted by **Mary Moir** at the Pegasus Taverna in St. Clair Shores. Attending were **Mary Moir, Charm Nicoll, Trudy Hall, Marlene Heaney, Marcy Vance, Diane Decoster, Maggie Pringle** and **Gwen Dyc Schwendenmann**. The candy canes that Mary brought brightened the table and helped get us in the holiday spirit. Trudy surprised us with a pretty (and unique) handmade wash cloth/dish cloth. Thanks to all.

**Kathy Bowman**, DTWRR and DTWCS, passed away in November. Cards may be sent to her family: **Michael Bowman**, 3094 Alexander Road, Howell, MI 48555-9756. If desired, a donation to Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence ([www.adai.org](http://www.adai.org)) would be appreciated. Kathy had a service dog named Jackson.

**Bobbette Cook's** husband, **George**, passed away this past month. Bobbette worked at United in DTWRR. Condolences may be sent to her at 6330 Pembroke, Detroit, MI 48221-2431.

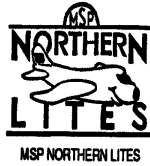
Wishing you all the blessings of this beautiful season, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



## MINNESOTA

### NORTHERN LITES

Connie Glattly  
(218) 372-3973  
[crglattly@frontiernet.net](mailto:crglattly@frontiernet.net)



Happy New Year, everyone! 2020 has arrived and the political trash-talking has started already. I'd like to find an island without any communication to wait out the following months until November 3, 2020, then pop up, cast my ballot and resume my life.

November's meeting devolved into a cozy little gathering of only seven Lites. The weather forecasted for that day included snow. Recent little snow events had snarled up the traffic so badly with so many spinouts that many of us decided to pass on our monthly visit with the group, yours truly included. **Joe & Arlene Kelley** made the trip to the Cities from Up North and reported that actually, the roads weren't too bad. Thanks to Mary B. for the synopsis by phone.

Speaking of the Kelleys, Joe must have decided one Sunday recently that the priest's homily was over-the-top boring, because he passed out. 911 was called and he made a trip to the ER but everything checked out OK. Had to have been the homily...

**Jack Spalding** caught a ride with **Rosemary Soltis** (our new President!) from out on the west end. Jack has now moved back from the Orlando area and is sharing the farm with his son, Carl and wife. I wish now that I'd made the trip down from my Up North abode that day... I haven't seen Jack in a great while.

News from **Al & Mary Kilian** is so-so; Mary is now confined to a wheelchair, so their getting out to join us for lunch is no longer practical. Al's brother now lives in an adjacent unit in their building, so he helps out if needed.

News from Florida of the **Eichackers** is also not good. **Chuck & JoAnn** could use some prayers.

**Lyle Gunderson** had to postpone his surgery due to complications from a fall. Poor guy cracked his leg bone in a couple of places and that bounced him back until he's physically able to withstand the surgery. **Sonja** could use upbeat phone calls or notes, that's for sure. Keep up the prayers, too.

One of our most reliable members, **Dick Haag**, has twice been almost the only one to venture out into bad driving conditions on Northern Lites Day, so he was waiting in his car to see if anyone else would show up. **Mary & Jim Brennan** made his eyes light up when they pulled into the parking lot at the Corral.

Lunch and meeting at 11:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at The Golden Corral, 3000 White Bear Ave., Maplewood, MN. (Directions: I-694 to Exit 50, south 2 short blocks to a strip mall on the left, next to Aldi's Market.)

## 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)



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

The Silverliners hold their meetings on the second Thursday of every even month. The meetings are held at Giuseppe's Italian Grill at 6065 Durango Road, Las Vegas, NV 89113. 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 is no report this month from the Reno Sierra Roundup chapter of RUAEA.

## 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)



In keeping up with our traditional meeting schedule, there will be no meeting in the month of November. However, a Christmas luncheon will take place on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM at Snuffy's restaurant in Scotch Plains. We will also be collecting Toys for Tots in memory of **Jerry Confer**. I hope everybody will generate a good excuse to make this meeting. In every case, there is nothing better than discussing old times with old friends.

\*\*\*\*\* From the great prophet Leroy: "*You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist!*".

## NEW YORK

### BUFFALO CHIPS

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



**BUFFALO CHIPS**

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

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



## NEW YORK METROS

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

By my count, we had 38 Metro attendees and guests at our Christmas luncheon (our regulars and our “picnic” and “holiday” members). The weather is gloomy, but the burning fireplace and Christmas decorations put us in a happy mood. We had lots of freebies to give away: Table centerpieces (**Donna Feingold, Margaret Hansen, Evelyn Schroeder, Kitty Richardson** and **Diane Carlson**), candles (**Frank Ferrara, Nick Manfredo, Helene Ammon, Suzanne Pozzi** and **Mike Schroeder**) and 50/50 (**Mike Manfredo** (\$50), **Kathy Statuto** (\$25) and **Emma Milazzo** (\$25)).

On a sad note, **Ed Pozzi** informed us of **Paul Cohen**’s death. Up until this past year or so, Lillian and Paul were almost always at our luncheons. Our prayers and condolences to Lillian and the family.

I almost hate to mention this, but I took a terrible fall on my way to meet my nephew, who emails the newsletter for me. Eight good Samaritans rushed to assist me. They wanted to call 911 or get me an ambulance or a cane. I know I’ll be aching later, but nothing was broken. I blame it on my dressy shoes, which I will not wear again.

Merry Christmas, happy Chanukah and a happy, healthy new year to all.

There will be no January meeting. See you in February.

## OHIO

### OHIO BUCKEYES

[www.ualohiobuckeyes.com](http://www.ualohiobuckeyes.com)

Judy McKnight

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



On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we gathered at the Diamond Event Center in Brunswick for lunch. Our hosts this month were **Barb & Frank Wachs**, and we thanked them for the great job they did. We had 46 members in attendance. This being November, some of our members have already left for “Sunny Climates”. And we have many members with health issues. So, our attendance is down.

After lunch we had our 50/50 drawing which **Bernie Garrah** and **John Kercel** handled. We had two pots. First winner was **Sue Broderick** and second was **Bernie Kazmir**. We had on display the American flag. We requested all the veterans to please stand to thank them for their service to our country. We said the Pledge of Allegiance and sang “God Bless America”.

We then announced the passing of **Ed Allen**. Ed was a Continental Airlines Employee. A loyal chapter member who attended all monthly events, if possible. We were told that Ed has been getting bad since July. No services were held here.

Illnesses include: **Frank & Janet Osborn** are having some problems. trouble with his eyes so he has stopped driving. **Steve Pytel** had surgery on his leg and is recovering.

Dolly had her computer hacked and has had a heck of a time getting it straightened out. So, a word of warning to everyone that has a computer ... keep it up to date with your virus protection and don’t click on any things from people you don’t know, also, anything from people that you do know and if they are asking you to do something involving money; I suggest that you think twice and call them to make sure.

We did celebrate Birthdays of people in attendance, **Carole Hamlin, Candy Kane, Carrie Kercel**, and **Beverly Templeton**. Yes, we Sang “Happy Birthday” to them.

And our Anniversaries included **Boyd & Mona Callender, Joe & Mary Kavcar, Ken & Gloria Roth**, and **Jim & Kathryn Webster**.

Hope everyone had a “Happy Thanksgiving”. Also, by the time you receive this Christmas will be over. Therefore, we hope everyone had a “Merry Christmas” and we Ohio Buckeyes wish all a “Healthy and Happy New Year”!

Calendar:

**February 5** - Fuji's, hosted by **John & Dolly Taucher**

**March 4** - Brown Derby, hosted by **Judy & Jeff Spooner**

**April 1** - Mahle's, hosted by **Gene & Jacki Craig**

**OREGON**



**OREGON DEW-ER'S**

Portland

Terry Hotchkin

20201 NE 179<sup>th</sup> Court

Battle Ground, WA 98604

(360) 687-3465

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

Fifty-three folks were able to join us at our November lunch meeting, including **Tony DaSilva's** daughter, Annette. It was another delightful gathering, which included honoring all the veterans in attendance and thanking them for their service. Lunch started late because one of the staff dropped our Watergate salad, a favorite of many, on the floor just as she was getting ready to set out the food. The kitchen staff was able to whip up another salad, but it took time. We all had a good laugh over the event and continued some fun conversations as we patiently waited.

Unfortunately, we have two deaths and a couple of illnesses to report:

- **Joe Alff**, age 86, retired PDXMM mechanic, passed away on October 18<sup>th</sup> after a month-long battle with osteomyelitis. There will be no service per his request. If you wish, cards can be sent to his wife **Betty**, at 10801 NE Weidler #205, Portland, OR 97220-3365.
- **Richard W. Wahlberg**, age 77, retired PDXOO Load Planner, died on October 21, 2019 in Vancouver, WA. No services are planned.
- **Susie Clack** fell at home on October 31<sup>st</sup> and broke her hip. For those who wish to send Susie a card of good wishes, she is now at Avamere Rehabilitation of Cascade Park Vancouver Operations, 801 Southeast Park Crest Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98683 and the phone number is (360) 260-2200.
- **Tom Walker** is still ill with Multiple Myeloma (cancer) and getting progressively weaker.

As usual we followed the "bad news" with some "good news":

- We are all here and looking good.
- **Terry Hotchkin** is not suffering as much with pain in her foot (due to surgery some months ago) and has been able to begin walking again.
- **Margaret Borbely** is recovering well from abdominal surgery
- **Anita Donaldson** is recovering well from her knee replacement surgery.

Our secretary elect had to resign due to health issues, but **Bob Pfeifer** volunteered to fill the position! Thanks again Bob.

Our president's quote of the month: *"As you get older, three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two"*. (Quote from Sir Norman Wisdom, British actor and comedian.)

*Anniversaries* ~ **Bill & Sara Petersen** and **Juanita & Roger Null**.

*Birthdays* ~ **Sara Petersen, Sarah Blare, Mel Marten** and **Bill Petersen**.

*Drawing Winners* ~ Lunch/Door Prize - **Pat Ogden**, Men's Birthday - **Mel Martin**, Women's Birthday - **Sarah Blare, 50/50 - Tina Lewis**.

Calendar:

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

**January 8** – A fun start to a New Year.

**February 12** - Guest speaker planned but not yet arranged.



## OUR CLUB

(Oregon United Retirees)  
Grants Pass, Oregon  
Gidget Walcha - Secretary  
(541) 474-6414



There is no report this month from the OUR Club chapter of RUAEA.

## 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)



Our last meeting was Veteran's Day. It was wonderful to honor our veterans in our organization. Our honored speaker was a wounded warrior; he is the grandson of our own **Walter Sonderman**. **Matt Sonderman** shared his experience after being wounded. All the hospitals took good care of him and Wounded Warriors and Operation First Response were a big help to his recovery. We were so happy to share time with him, his wife and two baby boys. We gave him a check for \$750.00 to be donated to Operation first response.

**Walt Sellenberger** won the 50/50. All lunches were paid from our dues.

Sending thoughts and prayers to **Gerhard Frey** as he recovers from heart surgery.

Our December meeting will be the last meeting till March.

### 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 Pittsburg 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  
[gllesse@aol.com](mailto:gllesse@aol.com)



Co-President **Ken Storey** led the November meeting with 36 retirees and guests gathering for lunch at Angelo's in Burien, WA. With no meeting in December (and perhaps dreaming of organizing a holiday event some time in the future), holiday greetings were exchanged, along with plans for Thanksgiving and members' preparing to welcome family from afar. We hope they all flew United.

Congratulations from us retired folks to the team of "Rampies" at SeaTac, who are the new Ramp Rodeo Champions! Have any of our own members participated in the past? See full coverage and photos at official UAL websites. We salute you hard-working Guys and Gals!

With **Fred & Bonnie Frey's** scheduling of some serious traveling in 2020, **Judy Storey** was chosen to fulfill the position of treasurer to take over in Bonnie's absence. Judy will join **Noreen Krawczyk** at the luncheon registration table – Judy's collecting lunch payments and dues while Noreen finishes up dealing with the restaurant over the weekend and being sure everyone gets what s/he ordered for lunch. It's a clever scheme, devised by Angelo's, for using different-colored sticky notes at each place to differentiate the entrée choices.

That's a reminder that dues are due - \$10 a year for membership in the Seattle chapter. Members then are entitled to receive *Contrails*, the chapter newsletter published and distributed before each meeting. We encourage membership in both the local chapter and in the national RUAEA organization!

The cost of luncheon meals goes up to \$18.00 in January. Members and guests are asked to plan their payments accordingly.

We welcomed **Dave Kidney** as the guest of **Rosa Koller** (both live in Shoreline). Dave worked at EXO before transferring to Sales at SEA. Though officially retired, Dave's latest career has him repositioning cars for a rental agency at the airport. He was a close friend of the late **John Blackman**, retired United VP and owner of Argosy Cruises, and spoke at John's recent funeral. Also new to the group was **Jay Holland** and his guest. We hope to see all of them back soon.

It was good to have **Ken Walters**, who had been missing for several months, with us, as well as **Betty Paul**, who has come more regularly. They had made up a regular "traveling threesome" before Vice President **Phyllis Bowman** was sidelined with a broken hip.

**Ed & Gay Liesse** loaded the back of their car with the last of donations for Toys 4 Tots and food items for Northwest Harvest, which supports a number of food banks in Washington. Everything was delivered and checks mailed the next day, with the chapter's cash donation combined with those from individuals. It was another successful drive.

The Liesses also delivered books donated by members to the King County Public Library.

**Ken Storey** shared details of his and **Judy's** fall trip, which started in Switzerland, and visited several sites that included a snack and cup of coffee at Starbuck's (where else?) in Interlaken. To celebrate Ken's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Storeys enjoyed a 15-day cruise on the Rhine and Moselle Rivers through France, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany – not necessarily in that order – that was enhanced by a stop in Belgium to visit graveyards and battlefields from World Wars I and II.

Something a little extra entertained the Emerald City Slickers in October and November. At the end of the October meeting, **Gary & Kathie Torgison** hurried off to the airport, with **Fred Frey** as their chauffeur, for a vacation trip to New Zealand. At the end of the November meeting, Gary & Kathie walked into the meeting right from the airport, luggage trailing behind them, just as everyone was leaving, so that Fred could drive them home. How's that for timing? Kathie is an extraordinary "Travel Organizer."

When **Fred Frey** and **Ken Storey** distributed the November door prizes and raffle winnings, **Tony Morella** earned a refund for his lunch and **Dan Miles** scored the 50/50 prize.

Though we wished you a Happy New Year in the December newsletter, we extend our Greetings and Best Wishes once again. Health and Happy Traveling in 2020 to all UAL and Continental retirees, their families and friends. In fact, let's make that to ALL.

Calendar:

**January 14** – Luncheon meeting at Angelo's

**February 11** – Luncheon meeting at Angelo's



**LILAC CITY FLYERS**

Sharon Holmes  
5120 N. Riblet View Lane  
Spokane, WA 99212  
(509) 924.4959 (H)  
(509) 953.5088 (C)  
[ghshic@quixnet.net](mailto:ghshic@quixnet.net)

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.**

**THE DULLES LOUNGERS**

Washington, D.C.

Mari McColl

Past President

[marimccoll@aol.com](mailto:marimccoll@aol.com)



Each month, I write the RUAEA newsletter article. Each month, **Cathy Gilbert-Silva** does the entire Dulles Loungers Newsletter. It is usually three pages long and in color. Each month, she encourages local members to join our national organization and praises our local volunteers. I'm in awe of the hours she must put into this project.

I was not able to attend the November luncheon, but once again, **Kerrie Schneider** took great notes for Cathy and me to build upon. There were 60 retirees and spouses in attendance. November is always a big month for us. This is the month that members bring in Toys For Tots. This year, we filled two full tables (the type that seats 6-8) and also contributed over \$1,000 in cash and checks. Two marines were in attendance: LCPL Anthony Santos and LCPL Annie Chung. There was a sign on each table honoring the Marine Corps for their service and dedication. **Ralph Baggett**, a retired marine as well as a United retiree, sat with our two young marines. Our chapter photographer was AWOL, so Anthony Santos filled in as the photographer of the day. During the luncheon, the two marines presented a certificate of patronage to the Dulles loungers for their years of participation in this program. At the end of the luncheon, the two marines and a few members carried the gifts to their car.

Our 50/50 is always a fun part of our day. The chapter's half (\$46) automatically goes to the Toys For Tots each year. **Linda Scriven** was the winner of the other half and donated her share (along with her own donation) to the TFT.

**Bill & Pat Mercier** returned to the fold after a long absence. They are both UAL Retirees, representing at least 3 different departments. They were welcomed by all.

In December, our charity will be *United We Care*. The Loungers have been contributing to this cause for three years now. When any member of our United Family needs help, we feel comforted to know that we were there for them.

In December, we will also have our usual Christmas carols led by **Angela Knight**. Angela's back up singers will be **Kerrie Schneider** and **Mari McColl** (moi). I believe that I have reported in the past, that *The 12 days of Christmas* is always challenging and fun. Each table is assigned a verse which they stand and sing. Then the entire chapter sings the chorus. It's fun, and sometimes funny.

That's the news from the Dulles loungers. Sending hugs to all!

Come join us, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at noon at the Golden Corral In Manassas, VA.

## NATIONAL

### CLIPPED WINGS

Peggy Griffin

CW Vice President

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



Hello RUAEA,

January 2020 ... Wow, moving on to another decade. 2020. What does this mean? Great eyesight? Another year older? A new phase of our life? Actually 2020 is the end of a decade, should we look back at all of our successes or look ahead at all the things we still want to accomplish? At Clipped Wings we do both. We have volunteered to help Special Olympics for the past 51 years, from day one! **Christel Ilg** from the CHI-ORD Chapter was there to help with the Swimming Event. **Marta Rash** and **Chloe Ann Brown** from MAL Chapter started the Parents Reception. Today, we donate money to the Parent Grants, to help families attend the event to watch their children perform. We have over the last 51 years raised millions of dollars to help support the games. Those are some of our past successes. Looking ahead to the next decade, it would be wonderful if we can continue our support of Special Olympic on every level; local, national and international.

Clipped Wings still has much work to do as we focus on Special Olympics and our various Chapter Charities. We are always looking for ways to raise money to help organizations that are working for the good of those people with Special Abilities. It is one of our "Forever" Goals. It brings us together as a "Comradeship" of former and current stewardesses and flight attendants.

So, what do we do in January? How can we make this Winter Month enjoyable? The Weather Service has predicted a bunch of storms bombarding the West Coast and continuing through the Mid-West right on to the East Coast. Many of our Chapters have book Clubs where chosen books are read and discussed. There is nothing like "cozying" up with a good book and watching the snow fall, then sitting around with others dissecting what the author was trying to convey. Our warmer Chapters are meeting at the Country Clubs or the Beach Clubs having their time together to discuss upcoming events.

Some of our Chapters take a break during the Winter months, they do not want to deal with the cold weather so they find warmer climates.

My January, many years ago, was spent skiing the Colorado slopes, days I miss. It is hard to ski the corn fields of Illinois. Sure, I have passes, I could fly back and enjoy Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Vail but that is just too much effort now that I am retired; today I would rather take a Caribbean Cruise, sit back and relax and read a book.

I hope you reminisce about your past successes but also, enjoy thoughts of what you can accomplish in the coming years. Happy New Year Everyone!

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!

**Wishing you all blue skies!**



## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **November 2019**:

Fielding, Jim, SFOFO, 11737 Bitola Drive, Odessa, FL 33556  
Gabriel, Nancy, SFOCS, 3312 Brittan Ave., Apt. 9, San Carlos, CA 94070  
Lilly, Charles, LAXMM, 17824 Newbrook Ave., Cerritos, CA 90703  
Stahl, Roger L., TPACG, 8515 Lincolnshire Dr., Hudson, FL 34667  
Tubbs, Jeanne, SFOSW, 1132 Tiffany Circle S., Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Zastera, Burt, PHLOZ, 144 Landing Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **November 2019**:

Shirley R. Alexander, Marlene E. Anderson, Joan L. Anderson, George Atteberry, Kenneth Bader, James Bicknase, Gelsomina R. Brock, Sonia Brousseau, Roy C. Brown, William R. Bruso, Janice Carroll, Geraldine Cavallo, Susan G. Christenson, Jeanne M. Clark, Kathleen Connelly, Jacqueline Corr, Georgia Del Castillo, Sophie L. Feaster, David Folkers, Janice F. Foster, Marilyn Fry, Jeanne Y. Betsy Hamblin, James M. Hartley, Mary S. Heath, William Hourston, Berdina E. Hyson, Darlene Ikeya, Raymond S. Kovall, Thomas Krause, Marjorie A. Kum, Gerald La Rocca, Thomas Lemasters, Jordan I. Levine, Charles Lewis, Charles Lilly, Carolyn D. Locke-Miles, Gus Harrison London, Manuel E. Lopez, Terry P. Lutz, John M. Lyon, E. Ann Mace, Eileen K. McCarthy, Linda McCormack, Anna A. McKenna, Bernie McManus, Bette J. Mock, Rollo G. Opp, Gary L. Opperman, Patricia Ortega, Sam S. Oshiro, Robert Palmer, Jane C. Perry, Rose Powell, James Reif, K. Martin Rice, Bonnie Ruliffson, Sue Sealey, Marshal G. Shepherd, Forester H. Sinclair, Franz Sonnberger, Joan Patricia Pat Spilotro, Cleve G. Spring, Fred Stang, Ellen F. Tansey, Roberta R. Tidmore, Bernadette Tomaszek, Patricia Tremont, Stanley T. Tsunemoto, Wm Nolan Untiedt, Brenda R. Vosnos, Casey Walker, Harold E. White, Charles R. Williams, Collene T. Wilson, Jean Winterstrom, Thomas S. Worsham.

## 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.***

Spouse – **Allen, Gail S.**, on 10/15/2019, wife of Warren J. Allen, INDND, 17744 N. Fiesta Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374  
Retiree – **Allen, George W.**, on 11/30/2019, SFOEC, husband of Bobbie R. Allen (Deceased), 2832 Camino Del Rey, San Jose, CA 95132  
Retiree – **Arnold, William R.**, on 11/25/2019, DENMM, husband of Sandy Arnold, 15363 Quivas St., Broomfield, CO 80023

Retiree – **Christenson, Larry D.**, on 9/10/2019, SLCCG, husband of Susan Lynn Christenson, 4396 S. 3150 W., West Valley City, Utah 84119  
Retiree – **Dean, Vernal C.**, on 11/27/2019, CVGOZ, husband of Bette Dean, 2 N. Wrenn Pl., Jackson Springs, NC 27281  
Retiree – **Hernandez, Ralph P.**, on 12/11/2017, SANCG, husband of Mary D. Hernandez, 5430 Baltimore Dr., Unit 80, La Mesa, CA 91942  
Retiree – **Mueller, LaVerne R.**, on 10/13/2019, WHQPW, wife of Erwin E. Mueller (Deceased), 380 Ambleside Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016  
Retiree – **Richardson Rosenberg, Erma L.**, on 10/2/2019, CHIRR, wife of Curt A. Rosenberg, 850 Woodlawn St., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

## Letters & Notes



Hi Members,  
I'm the person who edits the letters/notes you send for the Newsletter. Your letters 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/Notes 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:**

Patti Austin, Marian Black, Levita Burnette, Romeo Cerimele, Patricia Clayton, John Doherty, Ruth Duffey, Judy Giacobello, Nancy Haas, Richard Hayes, Carol Hetland, Homer Hudelson, Russell Jobst, Marylu Johnson, Agnes Jones, Robert Kaczor, Paula Kielas, Verna Lann, Gernot Luneberg, Robert Manalo, Jerry Meierkort, Sally M. Van Cleave Mendrella, David Perkins, Marcia Perry, Stephen Piceno, William Rankin, Edward Reynolds, Eugenia Richardson, Mary Robinson, Richard Slinn, Alan Stephenson, Edward Taylor, Jeanette Tomomitsu, Jean Winterstrom.

### **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.)*

### **Ron Bertacini – bertacini@surewest.net**

We recently lost two members that have contributed much to the RUAEA organization over the years. **John Koehl** spent many years with the Site Selection Committee for our conventions. He also served as Vice President of Conventions 1998-2000. I recall first meeting John at the BOS Convention in 1998 which was a

very successful convention. John was always available to fill in where needed at convention time, especially doing Late Tour Sales. John was a Navy veteran of WWII and had a long career with United. John worked in SFO and later in EXO in the contracts department with **Mort Wax**. John was very active in the Chicago Skyliners chapter. John had just turned 93 and ironically passed away on the first day of the Denver Convention, September 23, 2019. I was privileged to work with John on the Site Committee for a few years before he had to retire again due to health concerns. He will be missed by many in the RUAEA family.

The other member is **Ed Tolle** who passed away on October 11, 2019 at the age of 85. Ed was brought into RUAEA as our Corporate Liaison. Ed had retired from United in 2002 and had been an assistant to Percy Wood. Ed had many contacts in the Executive Offices and was able to establish a good relationship between the company and RUAEA. I believe that **Jim Fauber** had Ed get an agreement with the company at that time to provide RUAEA with the names and addresses of new retirees. Of course that all changed after the merger. I had the privilege of not only knowing Ed but working with him during tenure as RUAEA President. We had some very interesting meetings with upper management at the onset of the merger with Continental. Ed will also be missed for his insights and dry humor.

**Jim Simon – jimmyinc823@gmail.com**

I admired and respected **Ed Tolle** and felt a personal association with him as he supported me and the 20 of 24 members on the board that voted to pursue the cruise ship proposal on a future convention. Our discussions were brief during the times of board meetings but were very cordial and rewarding. He was impressive and always on point with topics on the agenda. It was a trait I very much appreciated and adopted when I was placed in the role of chairing a meeting. Ed was a true gentleman who was respected by those who were given an opportunity to work with him. I felt a personal sense of loss receiving the news of his passing as I believe so many others share in that venue. Ed was a caring and loving man.

**Lois Dick, 2310 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Unit 2, Longmont, CO 80503**

Thanks for all your hard work.

I am still living in Longmont in the Atvia Senior Living Facility. My husband Vic died in 1987.

I don't seem to recognize a lot of the names in the newsletter; but I enjoy the news.

It has been 6 years since I was able to attend any Denver activity. It still sounds like fun.

**Arthur Martin, 9586 Indigo Creek Blvd., Murrells Inlet, SC 29576**

Sorry I am late, a little extra for the postal fund.

It has been 21 years since I retired from IADRR.

The newsletter is the only link I have with United, and I look forward to reading it monthly.

Times have sure changed and everyone does a great job keeping me up to date.

**Bill Schuster, Porter Place, 1001 E. Yale Ave., Apt. 338, Denver, CO 80210**

Sorry it's too late. We sold our condo and moved into Senior Living at Porter Place in September. We both need a little more support these days.

Thank you for all that you do.

We have good memories of our days with UAL. We had lots of trips with family and friends and lots of activities in Hawaii.

**Henry Suta, 2896 115<sup>th</sup> Circle, Westminster, CO 80234**

I did not forget to pay my dues; I just forgot to get stamps for the envelope. The checks are in the vacation unit in SC just waiting for our return. Being late once in 20 some years is not bad.

We usually get to rest and relax at the beach, but not this year.

They put a new roof on all the units, our hot water burned out.

We are having an ongoing discussion with the HOA over all the dead plants from a disease known as Fire Blight.

The IRS refunded more money than I paid in. Anyone want to see my paperwork on that one? I just received a letter saying that they are not going to charge me interest as planned. However, they need sixty days more to get it figured out. I believe that means that they have yet to pin the blame on someone.

We are doing well and that is a relative statement.

## *Notes*

### **Ron Bertacini**

It is hard to believe I have been retired for 23 years and have attended 22 great conventions. The Newsletter staff needs to be commended on their excellent publication. I look forward to each issue.

### **Tom Heller**

Thanks for the fine newsletter with the updates on so many of my friends enjoying their retirement. I just passed the 25-year mark after 34 years at UAL.

### **Susan Jefferson**

I want to be connected to retirees because of the experiences we shared and they have helpful information to share.

When I told management I was retiring, (6 months ago) no one thought it was important to inform me what happens next! I was very distressed and disappointed. I asked a retiree and they told me they were not surprised and told me to call the benefits department. Local United management had no formal plan in place (to sit down with me). I had to figure it all out by myself.

### **Anne Jones**

22 years I have been retired! Wow. I used to think "They must be old" of those who wrote that. Well, old is only a number and a feeling. I have the number, but I feel like the day I started (well, almost).

I am thankful to be able to keep in touch and read about my UAL family, thank you RUAEA!

### **Ahmed Muftau-Lediju**

RUAEA means a lot to me because it will bring me closer to other retired members and to participate in the development of the association.

### **Jack Livesay**

I have been retired 25 years this year; it does not seem that long. Time flies when you are having fun. Sure do miss the old United travel policy. I don't know why it had to be changed when it was not broken. It was the best in the industry. With the CO free mileage program SA'S stand no chance of upgrades. UA charged a fee to upgrade. That was extra money for the bottom line. Example Average 3 free upgrades per flight @ \$50.00 that would be \$150.00 per flight and look how many flights UA has. I really enjoy the newsletter and the info it has in it. It is much easier than trying to find it on the website. I have had a few medical problems this year.

### **June Donahue-Regan**

We just sold our home and are moving into an active senior living environment. At our age it will be much better and we look forward to making new friends as well as living closer to family. I love the RUAEA newsletter and look forward to read about all the happenings.

### **George Schwind**

Thanks for your time and effort in producing the Newsletter. We look forward to its arrival each month. My wife, Lois and I just celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (September 11). Unbeknownst to us, our daughter put the word out on the internet that we would be celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and as a result we received 180 anniversary cards. Most were from people we do not know. This included airline personnel from a number of different carriers. Needless to say, we were surprised and pleased with the thoughtful acknowledgment of our lifelong commitment to each other. This experience to us validated the saying "Nothing touches the heart more than unexpected kindness". We were and are blessed.

### **Andrea Sewell**

This California girl has left Marian County and San Francisco behind and moved to Florida. My home now is a great continuing care community in Orange City, about a half hour southwest of Daytona Beach. I miss my United family.

**LIST OF IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

# Important Phone Numbers



*Updated 7/2017*

## **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** 1-800-334-0110

**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>

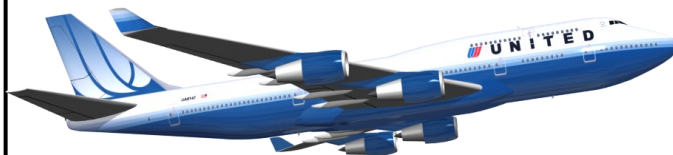
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# United Airlines Historical Foundation



**"Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"**

United Air Lines Modification Center

(Reprinted from "Flying Magazine" July 1944, Vol. 35,  
No. 1, pp. 52-54, 114 & 118) - Part 2 of 3

February in Cheyenne is cold and working on planes out-of-doors isn't fun. United had no hangar space for the new arrivals and, although crews occasionally did work on one plane at a time indoors, the arrangement was much too slow. The engineers still thought plane modification at Cheyenne was somewhat of a wartime freak and they made no immediate plans for future permanent hangars. Instead, they constructed a temporary lean-to against the leeward side of the main hangar. This was built at right angles to the wall and was large enough to house the noses of two planes from the wings forward. The planes were run in facing each other, separated by a wooden partition and covered with a wooden, sloping roof. A wall of canvas, which laced around the plane fuselages, extended from the roof's edge to the ground. Gas furnaces identical with those used in homes were installed on the ground near the tail of each plane. Heat from these was piped through a window in the fuselage. This heat would drift through the whole plane and eventually into the lean-to, creating a fairly comfortable working condition.

Modifications to make possible a later installation of the British bombsight was a bit tougher than revamping a ship's nose to accommodate cameras. It necessitated changing the plane's wiring system and completely remodeling the original supports which had been built in to house the American bombsight. In the absence of blueprints, the men clamped a British bombsight in place and built, piece by piece, the necessary supports to hold it firmly. The job of modifying measuring instruments to read in British units as well as American was comparatively simple. Small placards were printed with the British equivalents of American units and glued to the instrument panel alongside each instrument involved. On a fuel gauge reading in American units of measure the placard would read "100 gallons Am = 83.27 Imperial gals."

Changing the radio installations to suit British equipment necessitated removing most of the radio wiring plugs and supplanting them with plugs of a different size to fit British jacks. The installation of racks to hold flares and drift recorders was easy. Loops of strip steel were mounted on the sides of the fuselage. Below these, the men installed cups to house the nose of each flare. Chutes, resembling rectangular boxes with a reel of string at the top and a release catch for opening a small trapdoor in the bottom of the plane, were installed below the racks.

Work on six of the planes was finished in less than 30 days. Army pilots arrived and flew them to unknown destinations.

March blew in like a lion that year. With it came 17 more Flying Fortresses. This lot needed the same changes as the first batch of planes destined for Britain, plus such additional changes as the installation of more radio equipment, Aero-torque windshield wipers, application of British camouflage (for coastal patrol work), special antennae, installation of blackout curtains, British recognition lights and Very pistols. The new planes also needed fuel tank "sloshing". When aromatic fuel comes in contact with rubber bullet-proofing, the inner lining of the tanks swells up. United was instructed to slosh the inside of the tanks with a substance which would have no ill effects on either the fuel or the rubber. An agitating jig was constructed of welded metal strips and a heating device was set up to "bake" the liquid.

While the 17 Fortresses were still in the works, 16 more arrived from the factory. By this time, United had seen the handwriting on the wall and already made plans for increasing personnel and augmenting its Cheyenne hangar space. In March the Materiel Command authorized construction of additional hangar space and requested that United submit designs for the job, estimated to cost \$800,000. Subsequently, plans were submitted for more hangars which raised the estimate to nearly \$2,000,000. United was instructed to submit a complete list of all machinery, parts and other appliances needed to Wright Field within 48 hours. According to Long, catalogues, descriptive literature and other data on machinery were spread on the floors of United's Cheyenne engineering offices and the men worked from mid-morning until dawn the following day compiling a list of equipment. It was delivered to Wright Field before the deadline.

Army engineers broke ground for two new hangars in May, 1942. Each hangar was to be 400 feet long, 160 feet wide, 55 feet in overall height and each equipped with a two-story lean-to, 40 feet deep and 400 feet long. Included in the building project was an L-shaped employee cafeteria occupying 3,750 square feet and capable of seating 180 employees at a time, and an airplane parking area of 1,000,000 square feet. While waiting for construction to be completed, two outdoor production lines, illuminated at night with large flood lights, were set up. The first plane moved into the new hangars early in September. In August, 1943, ground was broken for another building to include a hangar, warehouse and garage, all under one roof. The new structure was to be 160 feet deep, 400 feet long, 55 feet high and equipped with a two-story lean-to 400 feet long and 80 feet deep.

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