



Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

WWW.RUAEA.ORG



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Sharing Ice Cream on Coronado:
Michael Toschak and Dee Peters

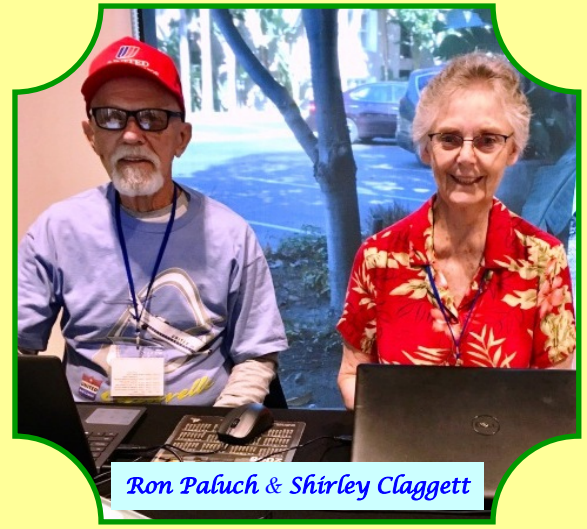
Fun Times At The 2023 RUAEA San Diego Reunion!



Retired Presidents Committee (RPC): *Standing*
ℳ to ℛ: Dan Petrovich, Don Wolfe, & Gary
Peterson; Sitting ℳ to ℛ: Ruth Morabito, &
Marian Bruns



Reunion Committee Members (*ℳ to ℛ*): Betty Tomaino,
Suzanne Owen, Rosalie Tripicchio, & Rosina Krefft



Ron Paluch & Shirley Claggett



Women Veterans: Pat Nicholaisen & Joyce Spivey



Francis Domaratius, Joan Smith, & Carl Alford

GENERAL NEWS

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A Message From The RUAEA Executive Vice President



As we bring 2023 to a close and move into 2024, we have an opportunity to reflect upon the history we've created and to plan for the future.

RUAEA is an organization dedicated to bringing people together, whether through our Newsletter, hosting the Annual Conference/Reunion or communicating with the local chapters across country. This is something we've been doing for 48 years!

I would like to invite you to join me in sending a big "Thank You" to those who so generously share their time and talents in support of our "Mission". It would not be possible without you!

Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year to all!

Ruth Morabito
RUAEA Executive VP

Letter From The Vice President - Conventions



Hi Folks,

For your information and action: I have the details that you can use to book room at the Dana Hotel for our 2024 Reunion from 9/27/2024 to 10/2/2024. You can use any of the following three options:

1. Scan the attached QR code with your smart device (phone, tablet, etc.)
2. Use the link <https://bit.ly/3GuIFdd>
3. Call the Dana Hotel reservations department at 800-445-

3339 and mention "RUAEA" or "Retired United Airlines Employees Association".

Remember that our \$135.00 room rate comes with 2 free breakfasts per room night, free parking and waived resort fee; this rate is good 3 days before our Reunion and 3 days after.

I do not negotiate upgrade rates; the hotel controls that, depending on the type of upgrade you wish and availability. Also, if a handicapped accessible room is required; I do advise that you upgrade to this at the time of booking; further into the year, that option may not be available.

The Dana has a 48-hour cancellation policy. As in past years, I'm asking everyone who plans on attending the Reunion to book your room as soon as possible. This allows me to monitor the number of room nights reserved, as our contract is based on room nights. I have had to increase that over the years to accommodate the demand; at some point, I may not be able to that as we get closer to our event.

Again, please book your hotel room as early as possible. The 2024 Reunion is in the early planning stages, so you can't register for the event until May. Much more information will be in our Newsletter and website in the coming months.

Hank Gosselin
RUAEA VP Conventions



From The Denver Office

It's the Holiday Season and we want to say to all members and friends, enjoy your time with your friends/loved ones. We look for a peaceful and prosperous 2024.

The Denver Office has had many changes over the years. We have migrated from a manual operation to a computerized state of the art publishing. Not only is the Newsletter put together using computers but handling, filing, printing and mailing is now automated. This also includes handling of credit cards. The main database located in United Airlines Training Center houses the total membership records and is used to manage the systematic membership records for renewal and the mailing program.



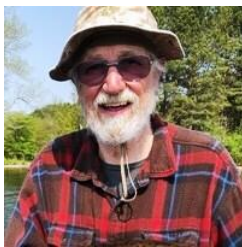
This didn't just accidentally happen. A retired R&E mechanic, **Casimir Spokas** is the person who made it happen. Cas transferred to Denver Maintenance from ORDMM in 1988. He was assigned to the Denver Maintenance Training Department and spent about one year there and then he volunteered to work on the New DIA Team as our computer guy. Cas was a valuable asset to the team and contributed greatly to the development of our new computer systems going in at DIA.

Cas became known system wide for his computer knowledge and ability to program and trouble shoot computer related problems. When Cas retired in 2011, he became a member of the Retired United Airlines Employees Association, RUAEA. He became the Membership Manager and in this position, he volunteered to maintain and program our computers as well as built a first class database that migrated to be almost totally automatic. He would meet with the RUAEA Secretaries to find out what they needed to make their job simpler and help the membership. Within a few days, the system with the upgrades was operational. We still use the same system today.

Sadly, we lost Cas on November 17, 2023 to cancer; he will be and is greatly missed. I'm sure that many members don't know the impact that Cas had on all of us. And I know he didn't realize it either. His goal was not to bring great things to himself but to make all of our retirement years fuller and happier. Following is his obituary; please take the time to read it.

Regards,

Virgil Gooselaw
Past President



Casimir ("Cas") Pius Spokas, 85, of Bailey, Colorado, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 17, 2023. Cas was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 16, 1938 to John & Mary Spokas (Machalonis). He graduated high school from St. Procopius College Academy in Lisle, Illinois and served for over 4 years in the United States Air Force.

Cas spent the majority of his working career with United Airlines as a mechanic, first at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and later transferring to Denver over 30 years ago. The move to Colorado allowed Cas to live out his dream of having a home in the mountains which he found in Bailey.

Living through the advent of computing technology, Cas became a self-taught computer savant providing unparalleled knowledge to not only United but also to a countless number of friends and acquaintances that needed Cas' help. In retirement, Cas was the Membership Manager for the Retired United Airlines Employees Association, managing all of RUAEA's computer hardware/software and developing the membership database that is still used today.

He loved classical music, the outdoors and the many sports and adventures that nature provides but none more than skiing and fishing. An annual family fishing trip to Northern Wisconsin and trips to Minnesota were always a highlight for Cas when he spent time with his children and grandchildren. Cas was a devout Catholic and member of the St. Mary of the Rockies parish in Bailey.

Cas is survived by his three sons, Kurt Arnold (Kim Lillestrand), Eric William (Kelly Campbell), Brad Andrew (Erin Shinafelt) and daughter Lisa Bernice Blalock (Chad); six grandchildren, Owen and Finley Spokas; Piper and Paige Spokas; and Kayla and Maiya Blalock; sisters Agnes Fatora and Imelda Strobel; and numerous nieces and nephews. Cas was preceded in death by his siblings Ann (Drendel), Helen (House), John and Frank and his two faithful shelties, Shimmy and Shimmy II.

**United Expands in Houston with \$2.6B Terminal Project,
State-of-the-Art Baggage System, New Club and Thousands of New Jobs
November 30, 2023**



United today announced growth plans in Houston that include a \$2.6 billion renovation and expansion of Terminal B at George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), a new United ClubSM location and Early Bag Storage facility (EBS) as well as a new direct flight to Georgetown, Guyana*.

These investments are part of the airline's United Next growth plan and include the expansion of 40 gates at IAH to accommodate larger aircraft, resulting in a 40% increase in the overall number of people who can fly on peak travel dates in 2026 compared to 2023.

United is the largest airline in Houston, with more than 14,000 employees and 400 daily departures – the airline hired more than 2,100 people locally in 2023 and expects to add another 1,500 in 2024. This expansion is also expected to create an additional 4,000 construction jobs. According to a recent study by Compass Lexecon, United's direct employment in Houston contributes to more than \$1.2 billion in economic activity annually. Including the Terminal B project, United has invested more than \$3.5 billion in its Houston facilities since 2015.

United CEO Scott Kirby will be joined by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and other officials to celebrate the expansion and show off the airline's new Airbus A321neo, which takes its inaugural flight from Houston today and is one of 800 new planes set to join United's fleet between 2023 and 2032.

"United Next is about new investments that improve the customer experience and building careers for the next generation of aviation professionals – and all those things and more are coming to life here in Houston," said Kirby.

Terminal B Expansion ~ United's Terminal B Transformation Program, pending final approval from Houston's city council, will play an important part in the estimated 54 million future passengers that will annually travel throughout the Houston hub and aims to improve the travel experience from arrival to departure.

Project highlights include:

- ▲ A three-level, 765,000 sq. ft. Terminal B North Concourse with 22 mainline, narrow-body gates
- ▲ Converting 30 existing small regional jet gates to 18 gates to accommodate larger, two-class regional jets in the Terminal B South Concourse
- ▲ Boarding via jet bridge for all flights
- ▲ Two major concessions hubs with more than 115,000 sq. ft. of food and retail space
- ▲ A new, state-of-the-art baggage handling system equipped with advanced tracking technology
- ▲ The largest United Club in our system
- ▲ Expanded curbside and roadway capacity with a ground-level check-in area, including the addition of a traffic bypass between Terminals B and A to allow Terminal B customers to exit the airport without having to drive past Terminal A as they do today
- ▲ A new sensory room for passengers with disabilities

"Houston is a premier, world-class destination deserving of a state-of-the-art facility to welcome individuals traveling to our city," said Mayor Turner. *"The expansion of Terminal B is physical proof of United's ongoing commitment to the economic vitality of the City of Houston. We are grateful for United, one of the city's largest employers, for creating nearly 4,000 new jobs for our community and enhancing the growing demand for domestic and international travel globally."*

New United Club ~ A new United Club, the largest in the system, is being planned for Terminal B in Houston, which will join the eight new United Club locations that have opened in the last two years – the largest ever overhaul of the airline's lounge spaces.

United's new clubs boast 50% more seating space on average than the clubs they replace, higher-quality food and beverage options with local flair, and refined designs that reflect the local market and a modern take on the United Club experience. Last year, United also launched United Club FlySM – a first-of-its-kind grab-and-go club concept in Denver which has been very well received by travelers; this year alone more than 100,000 travelers have visited United Club Fly.

New Direct Service to Georgetown, Guyana ~ United offers more flights from Houston to more destinations than any other airline and this winter will increase capacity by nearly 10%, flying to more than double the number of cities from Houston than all other airlines combined.

On April 1, United will be the first airline to offer non-stop service between Houston and Georgetown, Guyana*, with four times weekly service on a Boeing 737-MAX 8 aircraft. This route joins nonstop flights to more than 160 destinations from Houston, including more than 85 destinations no other carriers serve non-stop from the city – including places like Brazil, Australia, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru and more.

Over the past decade, United has added more than 20 new destinations out of Houston, including to Sydney, Australia; Santiago, Chile; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Munich, Germany and more.

The airline will also debut its largest-ever schedule between Houston and Florida this March, with a 25% increase in flying compared to 2023. The airline is adding more than 200 additional flights in March to top destinations including Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, Fort Myers, Tampa, Orlando and more.

New, Cutting-Edge Baggage System ~ United today also previewed a new Early Bag Storage facility set to become fully operational in early 2024. With a capacity of more than 3,300 trays to store baggage for passengers arriving early before departure, on long layovers, or during irregular operations when flights are delayed, the system will prioritize the release of baggage according to flight time allowing for more efficient and dependable baggage delivery. The new system has a remarkable 40 bags per-minute throughput enabling United's overall baggage system to handle an impressive 80,000 bags per day. United is the only U.S. airline with a dedicated EBS facility, making it the most advanced in North America.

A321neo Joins the Fleet ~ United's new Airbus A321neo takes its inaugural flight from Houston on November 30. This is the first new Airbus aircraft to enter United's fleet since 2002 and features United's most advanced cabin interior yet – including Panasonic's new NEXT inflight entertainment system, which offers an up to 13 inch, 4K screen and a customizable passenger experience including curated content options, a more detailed flight timeline, 3D map with destination guides and onboard food and beverage menus. The new aircraft also offers:

- ▲ United's new domestic first-class seat, with wireless charging and more privacy
- ▲ Larger overhead bins with space for every passenger's roll aboard bag
- ▲ High-speed Wi-Fi with streaming capabilities
- ▲ Bluetooth connectivity
- ▲ LED lighting designed to create a modern, calming atmosphere

The A321neo is just the latest addition to United's fleet as progress continues on the airline's ambitious United Next growth strategy; United expects to take delivery of about 800 new narrowbody and widebody aircraft between 2023 and the end of 2032, while retrofitting existing narrowbody aircraft with United's Signature Interior.

*flights subject to government approval.

United Airlines, Lufthansa Group and Deutsche Bahn Announce New Commercial Cooperation **November 21, 2023**



United Airlines, Lufthansa Group and Deutsche Bahn have announced a new commercial cooperation that will offer greater choice and enhanced connectivity for customers traveling between Germany and the U.S. The new arrangement, effective 22 November 2023, will allow United customers traveling between Germany and the United States via Frankfurt Airport to book integrated rail and air journeys with just one single transaction, one combined fare and one single ticket. Customers will be able to connect between 25 cities* in Germany, as well as Basel, Switzerland, and United's hubs at New York/Newark, Chicago, Washington, Houston, Denver and San Francisco and beyond to destinations across the Americas.

The collaboration builds upon Star Alliance's Intermodal Partnership model, launched in July 2022 that intelligently combines airline with railway, bus, ferry or any other transport ecosystem, alliance-wide. It is designed to link loyalty systems and facilitate convenient airport/station/port transit.

Customer benefits include the possibility to receive boarding passes for both rail and air sectors when checking in, priority baggage handling and other services in the AiRail check-in area at Frankfurt Airport, as well as the ability for United MileagePlusSM customers to collect miles for rail journeys taken as part of a combined rail/air ticket. Also included is transfer and connection protection in the event of delays and breakdowns. Eligible customers can enjoy access to Deutsche Bahn lounges as well.

“We are excited to announce our new partnership with Lufthansa and Deutsche Bahn,” said Patrick Quayle, Senior Vice President Global Network Planning and Alliances, United Airlines. “This new collaboration will offer our customers even greater travel choice and flexibility, allowing convenient connections between 25 cities across Germany and the United States with just one convenient transfer at Frankfurt Airport, all on a single ticket.”

“Connecting amazing places on both sides of the Atlantic has never been so easy,” said Stefan Kreuzpaintner, Senior Vice President Network, Alliances & Partnerships, Deutsche Lufthansa AG. “Together with our partners, we have consistently expanded our intermodal services in recent years in many European countries. In Germany, Lufthansa offers a rail alternative to every domestic feeder flight to Frankfurt. This new partnership is another milestone in the successful Lufthansa Express Rail programme. It offers travelers to and from the USA a convenient, comfortable journey – a real premium product.”

“We are very pleased to announce a cooperation with United Airlines through our Express Rail agreement,” said Hans Joachim Luhm, Vice President Pricing, Revenue- and Partner-Management, DB Fernverkehr AG. “This agreement between United Airlines, Lufthansa and Deutsche Bahn offers our joint customers an easy and flexible journey with air and train - seamless with just one ticket - for example from Chicago to Stuttgart.”

“We are thrilled to see our innovative Intermodal Partnership Model extend to a significant member of Star Alliance - United Airlines,” remarked Renato Ramos, Vice President of Corporate Strategy, Star Alliance. “Initiatives like these foster greater collaboration among modes of transport, providing enhanced convenience and flexibility for customers. This marks another step towards a seamlessly integrated travel ecosystem, aligning with our collective vision for the Alliance.”

United Debuts Direct Flights Between U.S. and Tulum **November 17, 2023**



United announced today that it will offer non-stop flights between the United States and the soon-to-open Tulum International Airport (TQO) in Mexico with 22 weekly flights from Newark/New York, Houston and Chicago beginning March 31, 2024*. On May 23, United will add daily seasonal service from Los Angeles, resulting in up to five daily flights from United’s hubs to Tulum this upcoming summer*. Flights will be available for sale beginning November 18.

Mexico continues to be a leading leisure destination and Tulum has quickly emerged as one of Mexico’s most popular destinations for American travelers. Located approximately 90 miles south of Cancun, the new Tulum International Airport will give United customers more direct access to the city and more opportunities to travel to the ever-popular Riviera Maya region, complementing United’s existing services to Cancun and Cozumel.

“Tulum is at the top of a lot of travel lists – great beaches and restaurants, and a region featuring a rich history and spectacular natural beauty,” said Patrick Quayle, United’s senior vice president of Network Planning and Alliances. “Our new direct flights help people get there faster than ever, giving them even more time to enjoy one of Mexico’s most unique destinations.”

This winter, United will be the largest airline between the U.S. and Riviera Maya region and will have the most flying to Cancun in its history. United will offer more than 200 weekly flights from eight U.S. cities to Cancun during the winter peak, including flights on the airline’s Boeing 777 widebody aircraft from Chicago, Denver and Houston. United will also continue to fly between Cozumel and Chicago, Denver and Houston, operating up to 11 weekly flights this winter.

United also is growing its network in the broader Latin America and Caribbean region by 25% this winter, and will remain the largest U.S. airline to Central America. Some additional enhancements in United’s Caribbean and Latin America winter schedule include:

Caribbean:

- ▲ New routes between Denver and San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Denver and Montego Bay, Jamaica
- ▲ Three daily flights between Newark/New York and Santiago, Dominican Republic and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- ▲ Two daily flights between Newark/New York and Oranjestad, Aruba; Montego Bay, Jamaica; and Nassau, Bahamas
- ▲ Two daily flights between Washington/Dulles and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- ▲ Daily flights between Chicago/O’Hare and Nassau, Bahamas

- ▲ Daily flights between Newark/New York and Georgetown, Cayman Islands and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
- ▲ Three weekly flights between Newark/New York and Bonaire

Central America:

- ▲ Three daily flights between Houston and San Jose, Costa Rica and San Salvador, El Salvador
- ▲ Two daily flights between Houston and Belize City, Belize
- ▲ Daily flights between Denver and Liberia, Costa Rica
- ▲ Daily flights between Los Angeles and Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador
- ▲ Daily flights between Newark/New York and Liberia, Costa Rica

Mexico

- ▲ Four daily flights between Chicago and Cancun, Mexico
- ▲ Three daily flights between Houston and Leon/Guanajuato, Mexico
- ▲ Two daily flights between Denver and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- ▲ Two daily flights between San Francisco and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and San Jose del Cabo, Mexico
- ▲ Daily flights between Cleveland and Cancun, Mexico for the peak Christmas and New Years holiday period; 6x weekly flights in March

South America:

- ▲ Ten weekly flights between Houston and Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Flights subject to government approval.

United's Tech Innovations Help Travelers Save Time During Record-Setting Thanksgiving Travel Season November 14, 2023



United is gearing up for a record-setting Thanksgiving travel season, with more than 5.9 million people expected to fly the airline between Nov. 17-29. Knowing that every minute will count for travelers eager to reunite with loved ones for the holiday, United's customer experience team has been working all year on industry-first innovations that help travelers skip lines, get through security faster, make tight connections and improve the overall travel experience.

"This time of year is all about connecting with family and friends, and we're preparing to help all customers – whether they're a seasoned traveler or once-a-year flier – get to their destinations on time," said Linda Jojo, United's Chief Customer Officer. *"Nearly three-quarters of our customers travel with the*

United mobile app, and they tell us that they like the ability to skip many lines, enjoy prompt personalized service when they need it and appreciate the peace of mind they get from the information on the United app."

Since the start of the year, United has launched or enhanced dozens of new innovations in its mobile app, at its airports and onboard its aircraft to help travelers prepare for their trips – offering more transparency, saving time and reducing stress from booking to departure.

Pre-Flight Preparation:

- ▲ Free family seating: United is the first and only airline to offer a dynamic seat map that allows children under 12 to be seated next to an adult in their party for free at time of booking. Since announcing this new feature earlier this year, United has helped more than 200,000 families book seats together for free.
- ▲ Bags checked in no time: United's "bag drop shortcut" allows customers who check in on the United app to skip the check-in line and drop off their bag curbside or at a separate, dedicated location in the airport lobby. On average, customers can drop their checked-in bags in one minute with bag drop shortcut. The service has expanded to more airports this year, and customers will see the most convenient bag drop shortcut location when they check in online.
- ▲ Food and beverages ordered in advance: Customers can pre-order their meal and snacks up to 24 hours prior to departure to better help them get their first choice of in-flight food or beverage. Customers are automatically notified that pre-order is available five days before their departure, and they can make food and beverage selections for their trip in the United mobile app or [united.com](https://www.united.com).

Time-Saving Tools for Day-Of Travel:

- ▲ Airport wayfinding: Customers receive personalized day-of instructions to navigate point-to-point throughout certain airports with United's Terminal Guide. From directing customers to the most ideal

airport entrance to finding their departure gate, the United app helps customers find their way with confidence and ease.

- ▲ Automatic, personalized flight notifications: United is the first and only U.S. airline to support Live Activities for iPhone, giving customers real-time access to their boarding pass, gate and seat number, and countdown clock to departure time on their Lock Screen or while unlocked in the Dynamic Island, all without opening the United app. The live updates have helped millions of travelers since launching earlier this year, with the majority using them to access their boarding pass and entertainment options. Last week, United launched the ability for Android users to also see real-time flight information on their lock screens, which is also a first of its kind feature. Plus, United sends personalized, real-time updates via text notifications with timely information about boarding, gate location, travel disruptions, bag tracking and more, providing awareness into flight plans or status.
- ▲ Stress-free connections: United's ConnectionSaver technology automatically scans flights for customers who are making tight connections to determine if the connecting flight can be held without inconveniencing other customers. So far this year, ConnectionSaver helped more than 600,000 United customers make their connecting flights – and has saved more than 2 million connections since launching in 2019.
- ▲ More efficient boarding process: To help save customers valuable time during their travels, United recently introduced a new 'WILMA' or window-middle-aisle boarding system, which can save up to two minutes on boarding per departure.

Customer Service Support: United's app becomes a traveler's personal concierge with:

- ▲ Automatic assistance during disruptions: Earlier this year, United launched new mobile app features that automatically present personalized re-booking options, bag tracking information and meal and hotel vouchers when eligible if their flight is delayed or canceled, all without waiting in line at the airport line or calling the customer contact center. Since announcing the feature in June, customers have responded well to having alternate travel options automatically served to them in the app, getting them back on their way more quickly after a flight disruption or cancellation.
- ▲ On-demand customer support: Only United offers "Agent on Demand" – allowing customers to scan a QR code or use the United app to video chat, text or call a customer service representative instead of waiting in line at the airport. This year alone, more than 1.5 million customers have used Agent on Demand to get real-time information on flight status, upgrade and standby lists, seat assignments, irregular operation assistance and more. Agent on Demand is available at all airports where United flies.

Accessible Travel for Everyone: United's accessible solutions better ensure that the flying experience is more inclusive for all customers and can help prepare travelers ahead of flights during times of peak demand. Accessible solutions include:

- ▲ Accessible digital platforms
 - The United mobile app was recently redesigned to make it easier to use for people with visual disabilities. With increased color contrast, more space between graphics and reordering how information is displayed, the app is now better able to integrate with screen reader technologies like VoiceOver and TalkBack.
 - United also offers resources to help travelers who have cognitive or invisible disabilities plan their trip, navigate the airport and ensure a seamless onboard experience. The United Accessibility Desk is also available to help at (313) 234-6992.
- ▲ Onboard accessibility improvements
 - United's latest seatback entertainment screens being installed offer a wide range of accessible features, such as closed captioning, text-to-speech controls, magnification, explore-by-touch capabilities, audio-described movies, and adjustable and high-contrast text and color correction. As part of United Next, the airline's historic growth plan, the carrier expects to take delivery of about 700 new narrow and widebody aircraft by the end of 2032, all of which will include the latest in seatback screen entertainment options.
 - Earlier this year, United became the first U.S. airline to add Braille to aircraft interiors, helping millions of travelers with visual disabilities more easily navigate the cabin independently. New tactile signage will help people with visual disabilities better identify row numbers, seat assignments and lavatory locations independently. United expects to outfit its entire mainline fleet with Braille by the end of 2026.

- Customers who require the use of a mobility device may check their personal wheelchair or other mobility device in addition to checking bags free of charge. Customers can add their wheelchair specifications and packing instructions prior to travel in the United app or [united.com](https://www.united.com).

United Raises Miles for Fisher House Foundation Ahead of Veterans Day **November 10, 2023**



United is rallying its loyalty customers to donate MileagePlus miles to the Fisher House Foundation ahead of Veterans Day to help support travel for families of wounded, injured and ill service members who are undergoing medical treatment through their Hero Miles program. During the month of November, the airline's industry-leading crowdsourcing program, Miles on a Mission, will spotlight Fisher House Foundation and encourage donations – United will match the first one million miles raised.

Fisher House Foundation manages more than 95 homes around the world where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is receiving care at a military or Veterans Affairs medical center. Often, families must pay their own way to get to a Fisher House home.

“Fisher House Foundation is incredibly excited to partner with United’s Miles on a Mission,” says Ken Fisher, chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation. “This collaboration will allow us to further help service members and their families meet their travel needs through our Hero Miles program and effectively remove the burden that the cost of travel brings for our country’s service members in their time of need.”

Over the last three decades, Fisher House has provided over 85,000 airline tickets to military and veteran families, saving them nearly \$120 million. And since 2004, United has provided 16,000 tickets.

United currently employs nearly 8,000 veterans and, in addition to supporting organizations like Fisher House, has created recruiting and job opportunities across the airline. United recently launched the United Military Pilot Program, designed to give full-time, active-duty U.S. military pilots access to conditional jobs as a First Officer and just last month, announced the Calibrate Technician Pathway Program, giving U.S. Army reservists a direct path to become a maintenance technician. Additionally, the airline recently signed a strategic partnership with the U.S. Army, through its Army PaYS Program, offering employment opportunities to service men and women post military service.

“In times of need, there is no better feeling than having your loved ones surrounding you,” said Hector Chahin, Managing Director of Operational Strategy & Performance at United, and President of the airline’s internal business resource group United for Veterans. “No one, especially those who have sacrificed so much, should have to be alone during the hardships many of our service members are facing. Together with Fisher House Foundation, we’re able to continue connecting service members with their families and give them the tools they need to balance both their physical and mental well-being on the road to recovery.”

Visit [united.com/donate](https://www.united.com/donate) to learn more about how you can donate miles to Fisher House and become a MileagePlus® Member for free.

United Applies to Become First U.S. Carrier to Fly Nonstop **between Houston and Tokyo-Haneda Airports** **November 9, 2023**



United Airlines announced today it has filed an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for daily nonstop flights between Houston’s Bush Intercontinental Airport and Tokyo’s Haneda Airport. If approved, United will become the first U.S. carrier to fly nonstop service between Houston and Haneda. This new route will benefit the Houston region’s rapidly growing population, 240+ Japanese-affiliated companies, as well as consumers living in communities across the Southern U.S.

The flights will connect 64 communities across the Southern U.S. to Haneda and represent roughly 575,000 annual Tokyo bookings or 21% of all U.S. mainland – Tokyo demand. While Houston has only one flight to Haneda (operated by a foreign carrier), New York/Newark has five, Los Angeles has seven, Chicago has three, and Washington, D.C. and Dallas/Fort Worth each have two. This new route will deliver more parity among major markets, while providing needed seats and travel flexibility to business and leisure travelers alike.

“Between its steadily growing population and its booming energy and innovation sectors, the Houston area has transformed into a critical hub for both business and leisure travel,” said Patrick Quayle, Senior Vice President, Global Network Planning and Alliances at United Airlines. *“If awarded by the DOT, this new service will enhance travel options to Tokyo Haneda for consumers across the Southern United States, and strengthen the economic partnership between Japan and more than 240 affiliated businesses in the greater Houston area.”*

Operating the world’s most comprehensive route network of any U.S. airline, United has worked diligently to develop a Japanese network to promote competition and provide affordable and consistent service options for U.S. travelers. United’s Tokyo service currently spans all of the airline’s seven U.S. hubs and includes multiple flights to each of Haneda and Narita airports.

United is the largest airline in Houston, with more than 14,000 employees and more than 400 daily departures, including over 70 international daily departures. According to a new study by Compass Lexecon, United’s IAH hub and spending by foreign visitors to Houston on United and Star Alliance member flights support an estimated \$5.3 billion per year in gross domestic product in Texas and in 2022 United’s direct employment in Houston contributed \$1.2 billion to economic activity.

Houston is a major center of commerce for health care, manufacturing, and, chiefly, the energy industry. Through its role as an energy powerhouse, the city of Houston and the state of Texas have developed important economic ties with Japan. Just last month, Houston was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of seven regional clean hydrogen hubs, and the city’s bid was made with support from Japanese subsidiary Mitsubishi Power Americas.

Altogether, Japanese-owned companies directly employ over 70,000 workers in Texas, including over 240 Japanese-affiliated companies in Houston. Further, Texas is home to 53 Fortune 500 companies with 24 located in the immediate Houston vicinity. According to the Texas Development Corporation, over the last decade, Japanese companies recorded 119 investment projects in Texas that are responsible for \$6.9 billion in capital investment and 19,620 new jobs. Conversely, Texas companies recorded 25 investment projects in Japan, responsible for \$799 million in capital investment and 1,667 new jobs. Houston’s relationship with Japan extends beyond economic ties – the country’s regional Consulate-General is also located in Houston.

United to Offer More Flights Than Ever to Florida This Winter **November 8, 2023**



United today announced it will offer more flights to Florida this winter than it has in the airline’s history – growing its schedule by nearly 20% compared to last winter with more flights to popular sun destinations including Miami, Tampa and Orlando and by flying larger planes with more seats.

For the first time in the company’s history, United will fly mainline aircraft and nearly double the amount of seats between Key West International Airport and several United Hub airports including Chicago O’Hare, Washington Dulles, Houston, and Newark/New York.

And for those customers who prefer snow over sand, the airline remains the nation’s largest carrier to popular ski destinations, with direct flights this winter to 11 different winter sports hubs including Jackson Hole, Vail and Big Sky.

According to new search and booking data from [United.com](https://www.united.com), Miami and Orlando are two of the top five most-searched domestic travel destinations this winter. Honolulu, Cancun and Las Vegas round out the top five most-searched destinations from November 1 to March 31.

With demand for travel to Florida this winter up significantly compared to last year, United is flying larger aircraft that give customers more options on how they choose to fly with the airline. Reinforcing the airline’s United Next strategy, customers are able to customize their travel journey more than ever before – whether they’d like to have an elevated experience in United First® or a budget-friendly Basic Economy fare.

United will fly one of its newest planes – the Airbus 321neo – on select routes to Fort Lauderdale, Orlando and Fort Myers, FL beginning in December, adding more seats to some of Florida’s most popular cities. The company recently announced the purchase of 60 additional Airbus 321neos, with deliveries beginning in 2028.

“We know that November is when most people start their winter travel planning so we’re adding these flights to give customers more options than ever,” said Mark Weithofer, United’s Managing Director of Domestic Network Planning. *“We’ve already begun to see record breaking demand for winter travel and whether customers are looking to unwind on the beach or hit the slopes, United is the clear choice for those planning their getaways.”*

Tickets are now available for purchase on the United app or on [united.com](https://www.united.com).

United's Largest Florida Expansion ~ United plans to increase the number of flights it operates between key routes including Chicago-Fort Myers, Denver-Fort Lauderdale, and Chicago-Miami. United will fly the Boeing 777 aircraft between Chicago and Orlando, which offers more than double the seats of a narrowbody aircraft.

It's also never been easier to reach the southernmost point in Florida on United; starting on November 28, the airline will fly Boeing 737-700 aircraft to Key West International Airport (EYW) for the first time in the company's history. Nonstop routes will include Newark/New York, Washington Dulles, Houston, and Chicago O'Hare.

Northeastern Ohioans will have even more options for a Florida getaway this winter as well; United is expanding its daily service to several Florida destinations out of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE):

- ▲ Increasing frequency of flights from Cleveland from one flight per day to Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers and Orlando to two daily, nonstop flights.
- ▲ Reintroducing daily nonstop service to Tampa, operating on a Boeing 737-900ER.

U.S. Ski Destinations ~ As the largest carrier to ski destinations in the United States, United currently serves 11 ski stations with service from all its hubs across the country, making it easy for travelers to connect to their favorite mountains and slopes.

This winter, the company plans to expand its East Coast service to include more nonstop flights from Newark/New York to Jackson Hole, WY; Eagle/Vail, CO; Hayden/Steamboat, CO; Montrose/Telluride, CO; and Bozeman/Big Sky, MT in addition to more flights to Steamboat and Montrose/Telluride.

Torgy's Travel Tips – January 2024 **Hotel Prices – What's the Deal?**



Kathie Torgison

Unless you are camping, staying with family or have accommodations included in a tour or cruise package, you will have to book a place to stay if you want to travel. I remember teaching travel agents in the 1970's how to use United's Apollo Travel Systems computer to research hotel properties and book rooms for their clients as well as issuing their airline tickets. Now, of course, we all can do that on our own computers. But are we really confident we are getting the best deal? There is no 100% guaranteed answer to that question, but let me give you some tips that will help you become the best shopper.

There are multiple websites available to help you find a good fit for your needs. You can go directly to a hotel chain's site and zero in on the city and dates of your travel. If you have a "loyalty club" membership with that chain, be sure to log-in to see any specials that might apply to your stay. If you are not concerned with that and only want a hotel offering an attractive price, then using the highly advertised hotel booking engines such as Expedia, Priceline, Hotels.com or Booking.com can display hundreds of choices. Don't forget that AAA and even Costco offer self-directed hotel booking capabilities. And for me, the consummate travel planner, I always want to use my hard-earned travel benefits by visiting airline employee discount travel sites like Perx.com and ID90Travel.com.

But hang on. No matter what site you use, it is essential to decipher what the displayed room rate really includes and to notice the clues that hotels use to attract you by hiding the total amount you will actually pay. A couple of years ago, Congress was barraged with complaints from consumers regarding "resort fees" that were levied on hotel guests at check-out, even though the property was not even a resort! Often this fee was included because the property merely had a swimming pool or offered chairs on a patio. Proposed legislation that would ban resort fees has not yet come to fruition, so hotels are now doubling down with even more creative ways to circumvent future possible governmental oversight. Case in point: Daily surcharges for the use of towels and sheets (no kidding), "free" phone calls, even though most everyone travels with a cell phone, and a "worker protection fee" which supposedly covers the cost of a new law in some states that increases a worker's minimum wage if that worker has to clean more than a certain number of square footage per shift. It is noteworthy that if a guest requests no maid service during their stay, that fee is not reversible. Likewise, some hotels are dropping the term "resort fee" and now assessing "destination fees". Included in the new fee may be value-added items such as a drop-off (but not pick-up) within a 2-mile radius, ability to charge an electric vehicle (even if you don't have one), a bus/subway ticket for 1 ride or a daily allowance for breakfast for one person (but purchase of 2 meals is required). I stayed in NYC recently and used the subway ticket offer. That saved me \$2 but nowhere compensated for the \$39.15 daily Destination Fee!

So let me demonstrate how to look for these clues. I chose a one-night stay in San Diego in the off-season and focused on just 1 property. Here's what I found on 6 different sites.

- ▲ The hotel's own website: \$199/nt (*Excludes taxes & fees*)
- ▲ Hotels.com: ~~\$199~~ \$264/nt (*Includes taxes & fees*)
- ▲ Priceline.com: ~~\$199~~ \$263/nt (*Includes taxes & fees; had to use a Filter*)
- ▲ Expedia: ~~\$199~~ \$264/nt (*Automatically shows all taxes & fees*)
- ▲ Perx.com (interline site): \$203/nt (*Includes taxes but \$36.06 due at check-in*)
- ▲ ID90Travel.com (interline site): \$166/nt (*\$201 with taxes, then \$39.45 due check-out*)

You notice that some sites quote the base rate with a line through it and then their price. Some sites include or exclude taxes and fees. Priceline has a Filter where you can direct the site to include all such taxes and fees. Expedia does this automatically. The interline sites quote their negotiated rate and in some cases, you must proceed to the actual booking page to see the taxes and fees. So, the same room costs anywhere from \$240 to \$264 even though the eye-catching \$199 is what attracted you in the first place. In Las Vegas, you will often find rooms advertised for \$33/nt. When all the fine print is examined, the actual cost is closer to triple that price!

Another way to avoid excessive fees is to book hotels using award points, either with frequent flyer miles or loyalty points. Bank credit cards also often offer hotel discount programs, and if you use a credit card when paying for the hotel you have the option of disputing the charge if the final bill does not match the price you agreed to pay. See www.thepointsguy.com or www.ResortFeeChecker.com for more information.

Now, some information regarding hotel scams. Be extremely cautious if you receive a text or email allegedly from a hotel chain you have booked asking you to re-verify your form of payment. This scam originated from a hacking into the database of at least 1 major booking engine's email and phone number lists. The scammer does not have your credentials other than your email and/or phone number, but they make you think that your hotel just needs to verify the credit card you will be using at check-in. Don't do it!

And lastly, if you travel with your pet, you might want to check out the following sites for helpful information: BringFido.com, PetTravel.com, PetFriendlyTravel.com and TripsWithPets.com.

P.S. The hotel in my research above is the one RUAEA continues to use for our annual reunions. A big thank you should go to our intrepid volunteer organizers who work so hard to provide us with this wonderful hotel for only \$135/nt including breakfast and waiving all resort/destination fees. Bravo to **Hank Gosselin** and his helpers!

Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter

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

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

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

John Chu
Newsletter Manager - johnqchu@hotmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

ALABAMA



SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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

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

ARIZONA

PHOENIX RE-UNITED'S

Matalynne Wandel
Phoenix, AZ
Correspondent
matalynne@hotmail.com



There is no report this month from the Phoenix Re-United's chapter of RUAEA.

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

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



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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATERS

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



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! It is a wonderful time of the year!

The Northstaters certainly celebrated the Christmas feeling with a Christmas luncheon/meeting held at Kalico Kitchen Restaurant in Chico.

When people walked in, there were decorations, placements, and Christmas cookies that everyone could take home.

Merritt Odor, our President, held a short meeting. There were 16 members and spouses, one guest, and **Dave Garland** and his wife, **Robin**; Dave is our current Northern California Regional Director and Merritt welcomed Dave & Robin as they traveled a long way from Sacramento on a rainy day to be with us.

Merritt asked if there were any birthdays or anniversaries. **Gaylen Eslinger**, **Sharon Simonton**, **Mike Johnson** and **Merritt Odor** all have birthdays in January.

Dave Garland shared some information from the previous convention held in San Diego and also spoke about the Reunion/Convention coming up in 2024. He encouraged members of our group to attend. San Diego is offering a wonderful price again for rooms including parking and breakfasts. He passed out some membership applications to RUAEA and encouraged everyone to participate.

Merritt again shared some funny stories from the Newsletter that the Portland group always seems to accumulate. **Katie Innocenti** shared her travel experience to Edinburgh and also to Ireland. She had some interesting airplane adventures and it is always fun to hear of her travels.

Gaylen Eslinger shared information concerning parking at the MOC in SFO for retirees. You must be an MOC retiree. Twenty five slots are available and you can park up to three weeks.

After lunch, the members and spouses exchanged gifts by having a great story written and read by **Billie Jorgensen**. The title of the story was "A Trip to the California DMV for a Very Left Handed Person." Lots of right and left movement of gift packages in the game, lots of laughs, dropped packages, etc, and a fun time was had by all.

We had five raffle drawings for our Christmas celebration. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was **Caroline Geiger**. The winner of the \$15.00 lunch was **Bill Simonton**. Three small gifts were won by **Vreny Grundherr**, **Mike Johnson** and **Dave Garland**.

Our next meeting/luncheon will be held at Vittles in Anderson on Wednesday, January 24th at 11:30AM. Sharon will ask **Vincent Neidlinger** who lives in the area, to make arrangements.



(Front Row, L to R): **Bill Simonton**, **Katie Innocenti**, **Vreny Grundherr**, **Danny Jenks**.

(Back Row, L to R): **Klaren Odor**, **Merritt Odor**, **Dave Garland**, **Robin Garland**, **Billie Jorgensen**, **Sharon Simonton**, **Caroline Geiger**, **Katherine & Galen Eslinger**, **Grace & Carl Franke**, **Sue & Mike Johnson**.

Calendar:

January 24 - Wednesday, at 11:30AM, Vittles Restaurant in Anderson. Any retirees that may be traveling in the area are welcome.



CENTRAL COASTERS

Avila Beach, CA
Al Rybar
P.O. Box 2298
Avila Beach, CA 93424
(805) 595-2532
papawow@charter.net

Our December luncheon is scheduled for December 13th at our favorite restaurant, Rosa's, in Arroyo Grande. Our President, **Mike Zoldak**, needs a head count so it will be interesting to see how many show up.

The only other news I have is that **Paula Wanska** will not be joining our Chapter but instead moving to Portland, Oregon to be near her family.

It is hard to find retirees moving to the Central Coast due to high home prices and living expenses in general. However, the weather we have been having has made it worth while. During the Thanksgiving week, schools are on vacation and our beaches are getting used again. The temperature has been in the 70's and also for the holiday weekend.

I received a notice from the VA that WW2 vets who served between 1941 and 1946 can receive health benefits in addition to their present coverage. This is a no-cost VA health care, medical services, and nursing home care. I immediately applied and I'm waiting for my application. I called the VA as to when I can expect the application and they told me I'm on their list and the application will be sent as soon as possible. So I just have to wait.

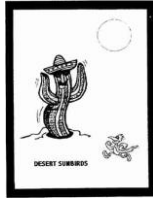
Here's wishing all retirees a safe and healthy holiday season and the same for next year.

DESERT SUNBIRDS

Palm Springs Area

Thomas Sabo

sabo.thomas@yahoo.com



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

We try to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month; if you are visiting the Palm Springs area, we would love to have you join us. Email sabo.thomas@yahoo.com for details.

EAST BAY DIABLOS

Contra Costa County

Jan Soderstrom

30 San Piedras Place

San Ramon, CA 94583

(925) 833-9184

Janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com



Happy New Year to everyone from the East Bay Diablos group! I hope that 2023 was a good year for you health wise and that you have many pleasant memories of happy times with friends and family. As I write this on December 7, we are days away from the winter solstice. I'm really looking forward to the days getting longer again.

Our group holds in person monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month all year long. The restaurants are still dealing with staff shortages, so we have to give them a count beforehand for our meetings. If you are going to attend our meetings, you must RSVP prior to the meeting. I have put the dates of our upcoming meetings and the RSVP deadlines below. We alternate between The Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord and Rocco's in Walnut Creek. We like The Old Spaghetti Factory because they have both a regular and a senior menu with reduced portions and soup or salad, ice cream and beverage included. They also reserve a room for us. Our other venue is now Rocco's in Walnut Creek because they also have a separate room that we can reserve.

At every meeting we have two raffles, one for money and one for door prizes. We pay two dollars for three tickets and the winner gets a portion of the money collected. The door prizes are whatever people are inspired to bring. We average about 14 people at our meetings throughout the year, but virtually all our members come to our summer picnic meeting which is a catered BBQ luncheon; and to our December meeting at Zio Fraedo's. Social hour starts at 11:00 and our meal is typically served at noon.

Our December meeting was held on December 4th at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill with 20 members in attendance: **Tracey Blanchard, Rich & Georgia Bouska, Nancy Boyle, Barb Cunningham, Matt Griego, Arnold Hansen, Tom Johnson, Russ & Glenda Kennedy, Joe & Wilma Leather, Margaret McGhee, Dee Moreci, Russ Schleske, Jack & Judi Smith, Jan Soderstrom, and Sue & Ed von Emster.** This was our largest turnout to date for 2023. **Arnold Hansen** had not come for quite a few months and it was so nice to see him again. Once again, **Wilma Leather** made cute favors for everyone—a gingerbread man ornament with a candy cane. We missed **Diane Griego, Joe McGhee, Carol Parks** and **Poldi von Muhlfeld**

who were all feeling under the weather. We hope they are all feeling better soon. Our president **Russ Kennedy** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Tracey Blanchard** conducted the raffle. We bring extra nice raffle gifts and as usual the prizes did not disappoint. I brought a bottle of Trader Joe's Bourbon Cream Liqueur and brought home a bottle of Chambord Black Raspberry Liqueur.

EPA to limit toxic "Forever Chemicals" in drinking water: On March 13, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first federal limits on harmful "forever chemicals" in drinking water, a long-awaited protection the agency said will save thousands of lives and prevent serious illnesses, including cancer.

The plan would limit toxic PFAS chemicals to the lowest level that tests can detect. PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances, are a group of compounds that are widespread, dangerous and expensive to remove from water. They don't degrade in the environment and are linked to a broad range of health issues, including low birthweight and kidney cancer.

The chemicals had been used since the 1940's consumer products and industry, including in nonstick pans, food packaging and firefighting foam. Their use is now mostly phased out in the U.S., but some still remain. The EPA wants water providers to do testing, notify the public when PFAS are found and remove the compounds when levels are too high. Source: Yahoo News, March 14, 2023.

These chemicals are synthetic and do not appear naturally in the environment. They were originally discovered in 1938, when a chemist working on refrigerants accidentally created a slippery, white substance that would later lead to the creation of the Teflon brand of nonstick pots and pans. PFAS are harmful, as the chemicals are virtually indestructible and do not fully degrade in the environment or within living tissue. For that reason, they're often referred to as "forever chemicals." Federal testing shows that they are in the blood of more than 98% of Americans and stay in the body years after exposure.

Bans on Teflon: Nonstick pans coated with Teflon are a primary source of PFAs. Europe banned Teflon pans in 2008 and the U.S. banned it in 2014. If you still have any Teflon pans, in your kitchen, you should replace them. A PTFE-free claim on a nonstick pan, however, can be more meaningful. That's especially the case for pans with a ceramic coating. Ceramics are primarily made of silicon dioxide and other metal oxides, not PTFE or any other PFAS.

As I began to research this further, I discovered that PFAs are everywhere, and there are many things consumers can do to minimize their exposure to PFAs. Getting PFAs out of drinking water is a good start, but I plan to give tips for minimizing exposure to PFAs in future articles.

Barbara Cunningham is collecting both new and used Christmas cards. She donates them to a local special education teacher who uses them in his classroom. He has told Barbara he can use "all the cards he can get." The students make gift cards which they sell at the school fundraiser. If you have cards you'd like to donate, please contact Barbara at (925) 846-8123 or barbjc1943@gmail.com for more info, or just mail them to her directly at 3556 Touriga, Pleasanton, CA 94566-6931. Note: This is a new email for her. This teacher needs just the cards, no envelopes. The money they raise is for special outings like field trips and other enrichment activities for the special needs students.

Jan Soderstrom is collecting coupons for the charity Support our Troops. This is a service project of her Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. According to Feeding America, an estimated 160,000 military families experienced difficulty putting food on the table in 2020. Troops in junior enlisted ranks are especially vulnerable to food insecurity — almost 30% need help.

I would like to ask all of you to cut out coupons and mail them to me at 30 San Piedras Place, San Ramon, CA 94583-3018. This is such an easy thing to do to support our troops. For the price of a first class stamp, you can get about 90 coupons in an envelope. The coupons have to say Manufacturer's Coupon. If they come in a strip, please cut them into separate coupons. The collected coupons are then distributed to overseas military personnel for use in their commissaries. The commissaries honor them for six months after the published expiration date so expired coupons can be sent too. In my area, the coupons come in Tuesday's mail along with the supermarket ads, and then in the Sunday paper. Unfortunately, manufacturers are cutting back on the coupons they are issuing, especially on food items, just when people need help the most. So anything we can send to the troops is greatly appreciated. I get so excited when I get a coupon for eggs!

I am so grateful for the kindness of all the RUAEA members who are helping me with this project. I have been turning in coupons since May 2022, and on December 2, I turned in 1706 coupons worth \$4,852.45. Amazing! From now through May 2024, I'll be turning in coupons at my DAR meeting the first Saturday of the month. Thank you so much to the members in my local RUAEA chapter and to members from all over the country who are sending coupons. All the coupon cutters are telling me that they are not getting coupons like they used to. It's really bad in the SF Bay Area and I'm glad that other areas of the country are still able to send coupons. If it weren't for the RUAEA folks from all over the country sending me coupons, my chapter would

have very few coupons. This month, of the 1790 coupons turned in, 1706 were from my local RUAEA chapter and folks all over the U.S. YTD totals for my chapter are 29,207 coupons worth \$88,170—and 19,495 coupons were from RUAEA members in my local chapter and across the U.S. This month I received coupons from **Rosalie Betschart** in OR, **Mary Brennan** in MN, **Marilyn Carle** in IL, **Pat DiLallo** in AZ, **Francis Domaratius** in CA, **Marcella Kern** in NJ, **Margie Klaus** in NV, **Carol Koslosky** in NY, **Maureen Neidle** in IL, **Betty Ogburn** in NJ, **Jim Taylor** in FL, **Norm Wilkinson** in IL, and a mystery person in Glen Riddle, PA. Thank you all!

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

- ▲ Monday, January 8, 2024 at 11:00 — Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. We are meeting a week later because January 1 is the New Year's holiday. Social hour starts at 11:00 and we typically eat at noon. We order from the regular menu and have separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com or (925) 833-9184 by Thursday, January 4, 2024.
- ▲ Monday, February 5 at 11:00 — Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:00 and we typically eat at noon. We order from the regular menu and have separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com or (925) 833-9184 by Thursday, February 1.
- ▲ Monday, March 4 at 11:00 — Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Social hour starts at 11:00 and we typically eat at noon. We order from the regular menu and have separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com or (925) 833-9184 by Thursday, January 4, 2024.

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

GOLDEN GATERS

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



Here we are, the last meeting of 2023. President **Vera Kina** blew her duck horn (it was the “swan song” for the duck horn) and brought the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a few moments of silence for those in need. Turkey Day has just passed ... we have given thanks for our good health, good friends and some much needed rain. We have had our fill of left-over turkey sandwiches and are watching Christmas sales and decorations bombard us. Black Friday should really be called Green Friday as everyone pulled out their wallets and snapped up those items that they just had to have. Don't know about you, but I have'enuf of all those essentials – let's just have dinner together!

Today we find out the surprise Vera has in store for the members. We wish Vera a very happy re-re-re-retirement—she has held down the fort for many years for us “Gaters”, she worked for many years as a nurse, chaired many committees in the local community, and has kept Princess Cruise Line afloat. So now she can rest on her laurels, eat bonbons and fritter her time away – enjoy the many restaurants we have to offer and maybe become a contestant on Dancing with the Stars! Thank you so much for all the many hours you have provided our merry group, we truly appreciate your dedication and hard work.

Ginger Dahlberg will preside over the 2024 meetings, **John Garis** will be our Treasurer and, hopefully, **Barbara Underhill** and **Carol Slater** will stay on the Board. We do need volunteers to help out, so when you are asked to lend a hand, please do so.

We have just found out that we are able to keep our meeting room here at the William Walker Rec. Center. The building will be available January through July – construction and renovation will probably start then and we will be able to meet at a different location for the remainder of the year. Possible places are: The Vibe building at the end of the south parking lot, the Community Center above the Library, or possible Portable structures. More information will be available as the year progresses. A vote by the attending members was passed that we stay in the Rec. Center and go to lunch at a local restaurant after a short meeting. Members will pay for their own lunch. This means we need to build up our treasury so that we can meet our room rental fee. Dues, \$20 per person, will be reinstated so please send in a check made out to **John Garis**, Treasurer, and mail

it to him at 550 Compass Circle, Redwood City, CA 94065. If you have already paid him, he will see that you have a receipt. A letter will be sent out to those on the 2023 Roster explaining what to expect for 2024.

Membership Secretary **Barbara Underhill** sang Happy Birthday to **Carol Slater** who would only tell us that she was a year older! No fire extinguisher was needed. Barbara counted 18 noses attending the meeting today.

****Veras' Surprise***** she is hosting the attending members a delicious meal at Joy Chinese Restaurant here in Foster City! Everyone jumped in their cars and picked up our chop-sticks and had a wonderful feast. The menu featured a variety of tasty dishes – did you try the egg-plant? It was really outstanding. Thanks again Vera ... Kudos, Bravo, Cheers, Ole.....what a sendoff!

Fast forward to December 6th and our annual Christmas Party: 17 members and guests met at BJ's Restaurant here in Foster City and enjoyed lunch. **Gary Chong, Jerry & Pat Marsala, Bob Donovan, John Bogdanoff, Lydia Rolfe** and **Carol Slater** held down one end of the long table while **Bill & Diane Heinrich, Ginger Dahlberg, John Garis, Colleen Wood** and her 2 family member guests, **Frank Minnick, Barbara Underhill** and **Vera Kina** held down the other end of the table. Several members were unable to attend; they missed good eats and lots of laughter. There were several other big groups at the restaurant so the Holiday are upon us in full force. It's good to see people out and about and enjoying being together after a long 3 years of "hibernating" at home!

Here are the dates for the following 3 months:

- ▲ January 22 – 10:00am Short Board meeting, 10:30am Members social time – go to Lunch at 11:30am at IHOP Restaurant on Foster City Blvd. Sponsor TBA.
- ▲ February 26 – 10:00am Short Board Meeting, 10:30am Members social time – lunch TBA – Chinese New Years' special, hosted by **Carol Slater**.
- ▲ March 25 – 10:00am Short Board Meeting, 10:30am Members social time – go to Lunch TBA, need a Sponsor – possible St. Patrick's' celebration.

Come join us if you are in town, all United and Continental retirees are welcome - we meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00am 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 **Ginger Dahlberg**, 821 Magellan Lane, Foster City, CA 94404.



HANGTOWN MINERS

Jane Gibson

Placerville, CA

Secretary

tired-dogs@comcast.net

Did someone say, "Good Food"? "Great Service"? "New and comfortable"? "Our own space"? Well, **Gina Kenworthy** found such a place (Moonraker Millhouse), set us up for our November luncheon/meeting and scored a winner. I don't know what everyone else had, but my pulled pork sandwich was delicious; looked like the hamburgers were huge and juicy! **Rudy Blazius**, our outstanding president, extended our thanks to Gina. Of course, he went on to inquire if there were any guests there today, and, we all said welcome to **Kyle Heier**, son of **Rosemary & JR**, and to **Kevin Dinette**. Now, double that because Kevin filled out his paperwork and is now an official Hangtown Miner! Happy you're one of us, Kevin. As far as birthdays go, only **Pati Kenney** claimed November ... Happy Birthday! No wedding anniversaries this month, however, **Chris Delfino** noted that November 11 is when he and Gina got together! We've added "hire on date" and **Irv Wolfram** hired on at United Airlines November 28, 1955!

President ~ Rudy didn't have anything in particular to share with us this month, but, of course, he always has something for us, so keep on reading.

Vice President ~ **JR Heier** posed a question for us: What did our parents do to spend their "free" time before the world was inundated with all this technology? Well, neither "he" or his 16 brothers and sisters could think of anything!

Treasurer ~ As we have come to count on, **Tom Kenny** brought us an update on our bank balance which is a nice number. Last month we approved a donation of \$300 to go to supplementing our tool collection for the student program at Sacramento City College - A&P Mechanics. Tom has not taken that out of the account yet. We will also be depleting our number when we subsidize the Christmas luncheon next month (more info to come). This is "normal" for this time of the year, so not to worry.

Tom, with a lot of help from JR, has been checking, cleaning, and organizing all the wonderful tools we have received from all you generous people. We have tool boxes. We have pneumatic tools as well. We will be able to fill out 5 of the mechanic lists and there will be some tools that can go into the tool crib to be shared. People, these are extensive lists and, as you may remember, when you're starting out, you just don't have the cash laying around to pop over to the store and buy what you want/need; your generosity making a huge difference. Tom estimates that these lists average around \$1,500 per student. He figures what we have done so far must be around \$8,000-\$9,000! We aren't stopping collecting, we are just getting things ready for the 2024 class to get going. So, if you still have tools you aren't planning to use (doesn't need to be just "airplane tools"), contact us so you can put them to good use for "the next generation". Tom will be able to give you a tax deduction slip for your tax return!

Oh, yeah, Tom did mention that Suzanne is eager to get the garage back again! And, it seems that JR was late (!) - any union rep available?

Secretary ~ Jane Gibson has nothing special to report on, but there's always something that pops up! Keep reading.

Sunshine ~ Suzanne Kenny does a great job keeping an eye out for all of us. Sadly, we recently lost a long time member, **Ed Akin**. Suzanne sent condolences to the Akin family. Today **Lindalee (Akin)** was able to join us for lunch. There was a private, family ceremony/funeral for Ed already, but the family is planning a Celebration of Ed on his birthday, April 5th, 2024 at their home in Placerville. More information will be coming, I'm sure.

Old Business ~ Okay, hang onto your hats – we had a couple big items to cover here:

Let's start with election of our officers for 2024. Actually, it was a pretty easy job. Our group is a very congenial bunch. Everyone gets along, everyone supports one another. And no one was jumping up and down saying, "I want to do that!" Good thing they didn't have to as your present officers are happy to continue with their positions. What? Way too easy. So, here we go: **Rudy Blazius** motioned to approve these members: **Rudy Blazius - President, JR Heier - Vice President, Tom Kenny – Treasurer, Jane Gibson - Secretary, and Suzanne Kenny – Sunshine.** **Duncan Nielsen** seconded the motion; unanimous vote of approval. Thank you to all. Speaking for myself, I enjoy this group of Miners and am honored to continue as your secretary.

That's taken care of, so let's jump into our December Luncheon. All our monthly luncheons are really fun and the folks who host them put a good deal of time and effort to set them up, come up with decorations (which usually includes candy!), make sure the area for us is set up and ready to go and then handle anything that may come up (which almost never happens!).

One of our members, **Suzanne Kenny**, has gone above and beyond for the Hangtown Miners this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our host for one month wasn't able to take care of things. At the last minute Suzanne found a place and got everything together so we didn't have to cancel that month. Then she and Tom hosted their own month. Along comes the time to search out a place for us all to get together for what we like to call our "special" luncheon – December. Now, she does have help with this one, but, finding a restaurant that can and will accommodate our group with a special menu takes time. Suzanne puts this all together, presents options to us, and then handles almost all the details for the get together. I wanted to be sure that Suzanne received the recognition and gratitude for all her time and efforts. Everyone else agreed and a hearty "Thank You" was expressed to her.

So, we decided to return to the Smith Flat House for our December luncheon. Last year we all enjoyed the food, the setting, ourselves. The room we were in was warm and cozy and they provided a delicious meal that was served and of our choosing. We are pretty much repeating that this year. The cost will come to \$38.00 + tax & tip making it around \$45.00 per person. We will again ask each member who will be attending to pay \$15.00 each. If you want to bring a guest (non-member) then they will need to pay the \$45.00. The Hangtown Miners pay for the balance. (\$30 per member)

As always, we needed to vote on this. **Suzanne Kenny** made the motion to approve the luncheon plan as presented; **Bill Gibson** seconded it; unanimous vote to accept.

The information for the December luncheon is: Each person will have a choice of either Salmon –or- Prime Rib. You will not be able to switch what you want that day! That happened last year and several members did not get the meal they ordered. The food was good, but not their first choice! Please keep in mind that you will be paying in advance for your meal(s) and that payment needs to be in by the due date – December 8th. Once that date has passed, Suzanne has called in our reservation and made the commitment to a certain number attending, **there will be no cancellation or reimbursement.** We have to pay for your meal whether or not you're there. But, if something pops up at the last minute, let us know and we will have your meal(s) boxed in a "to go" and we'll get it to you!

Since this time of the year is such a wonderful time for giving, we as Hangtown Miners have always chosen to share with the community. Every year we ask our members to bring items that will be taken to the food bank and a toy that will go to those who are less fortunate. You are such good and generous people, we have always had enough of both food and toys to help several families. We want to do that again this year.

I realize that the toy department may not be a section that you usually frequent, but head on into the zone of adventure – I did that the other day and oh, my gosh! What they have out there is so colorful and amazing! You don't need to get expensive toys, on the contrary, kids love anything they get, but things like games, puzzles, toy cars, stuffed animals, annoying toddler noise makers, a ball – it doesn't have to be fancy just fun!

For the food items, canned food is the easiest but there are packaged foods like Mac N Cheese mix, or pastas, sauces to go on that pasta! Canned fruit, vegetables, soups, tuna, Spaghettios – you know, easy to make/warm up. If the can has a "pull top" that is great since a can opener isn't needed. Please, no perishables and check the "best by" date to be sure it will last for a while.

You don't have time to do this shopping? That's okay. When you're at a store, look for a gift card! They have them for grocery stores, places like Wal-Mart, Target, Hobby Lobby Kohl's. Those are wonderful and allows the person to choose what they want. This isn't on the "list" but sometimes I have found things like gloves (were \$1.00 for a pair), or scarves, socks. Items like this are always welcome.

Bonus! Don't need to wrap any of it. Whatever you bring will be distributed to families with needs to fit what we donate. 'Tis the season of love and sharing!

New Business ~ Believe it or not, we are only about a month and a half away from a whole new year! Don't know how it happens so fast, but here we are. That also means that our annual dues are coming up - as in they are due in January 2024! Rudy announced it at our meeting and I saw that Tom was furiously writing down who has paid. If you're planning to attend the next luncheon, you can bring the \$15.00 then and give it to Tom. If you prefer to send in our dues by USPS that works too. If so, please send your check for \$15.00 made out to Hangtown Miners to **Tom Kenny**; 3481 Parleys Canyon, Placerville, CA 95667.

We also passed around the sign up sheet for hosting in 2024 ... did pretty good too! But we still have open months, so look at your 2024 calendar and see which of these months you would like to host: February, June, August, October. You can call me, (925) 443-0905 and let me know which of those months you want to host and I'll put your name on the line!

Remember, there will be no raffle at our December luncheon!

Phew! I think I got it all! Rudy comes up with such fun jokes to close us out with – here we go:

- ☺ I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.
- ☺ When People see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat". I just say, "No, it's for company!"
- ☺ The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- ☺ Have you ever noticed that the Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL
- ☺ The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.
- ☺ Did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words, "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"
- ☺ Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth. (I can identify with this one)
- ☺ May you always have: Love to share, Cash to spare, Tires with air, and friends who care.

Fine job, Rudy! JR took over and pulled the donator's prize for **Diana Bell**. Thanks for all the items for our raffle: **Martin** – wine; **Bell** – soap; **Fitzpatrick** – candy; **Blazius** – fresh fruit basket; **Akin** – spider plant; **Kenny** – holiday serving plate; **Kozelka/Barton** – red wine; **Gibson** – gnome; **Heier** – soap.

That wraps it up for this month.

Have a wonderful, delicious time at Thanksgiving. Hopefully you will be able to spend the day with people you are close to and love. But, wherever you are, be safe, be happy, have fun.



RESANS

San Diego, CA

Barbara Drews

Secretary

sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com

This year, our Annual Christmas Luncheon is taking place after the chapter report to the RUAEA newsletter is due so I will have a report for you in the next issue.

Our lunch is taking place in Oceanside at Hunter's Steakhouse. It will be a nice change for all the retirees who drive down from North County and a longer than usual drive for those of us who live in the closer suburbs. We do like Hunter's; they treat us very well and we always have such a great time.

Peggy Van Sickle has recently moved from the Hospital to an Acute Care Center and is on a strict schedule of Physical Therapy. She tells me she is expecting to be there for some time and thank goodness, the food is good!

John Cunningham is still recuperating from his hip replacement and the complications that resulted from the surgery. He is in good spirits and looking forward to being able to get out again. He is also on a strict schedule of Physical Therapy.

Betty Tomaino has just returned from a Panama Cruise. It was a long one, I believe the trip was twenty one days.

Other than that, it has been pretty quiet around here.

We have three birthdays for January: **Betty Tomaino** (1/1); she can do a lot of celebrating and celebrate the New Year at the same time. **Helen Hutchinson** will celebrate on January 5th and **Arnold Pollack** will celebrate his birthday on January 20th.

Calendar:

January 4 - Monthly retiree breakfast; 10:00 AM. Pt Loma Café, 4865 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92106-2394. We would love to have you come by for a visit if you are in town. I do need to give the Café a call for attendance so if you plan to visit, please send me a note.

February 1 - Our monthly breakfast at Pt Loma Café.

SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS

Sacramento, CA

Ron Bertacini

Secretary

sgd@surewest.net

SACRAMENTO



The Gold Diggers met for lunch at the Catrina's Cantina on December 6th. The event was hosted by **Barbara & Ron Bertacini** and the tables were decorated with Christmas time items. We had 21 members and a guest, **Kent Sackett**, from Arizona and the brother-in-law of **Jack McKinney**. **Stephanie Norton** was able to attend as her daughter Jennie brought her to the restaurant before doing some necessary shopping.

While we waited for our lunch being served, President **Jim Simon** opened the meeting, thanking Barbara & Ron for hosting even though Barbara was unable to attend due to recent knee surgery. VP and Secretary **Ron Bertacini** reported that the next lunch will be at the Old Town Pizza in Roseville, on Wednesday January 31, 2024 ... the restaurant opens at 1100. Ron continued with the anniversaries with only one in November, **Rose & Ed Rheam** with 71 years; there were no anniversaries in December.

Francis Domaratus filled in for our Treasurer **Robin Garland** and reported that the chapter is solvent and he would be collecting dues for 2024 at \$10.00 per family. Sunshine Lady **Angie Dellinger** said that she had sent a card to **Barbara Bertacini** wishing her a speedy recovery from her surgery.

Jim brought up the fact that we usually have nominations and election of officers at this time. He asked the group if anyone was ready to take on any position ... after a period of silence, it was determined that the current list of officers would remain in their positions.

We moved on to the birthday roll off with two December birthdays ... **Vicky Enriquez** and **Francis Domaratus**. Vicky rolled a 12 and received a few extra dollars.

Jim reminded us on some happenings on this day in history, December 6th: 1865 there was the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, 1884 Washington Monument completed, 1920 Dave Brubeck born an American pianist and composer, 1941 Richard Speck born an American murderer of eight student nurses in Chicago, he was convicted in 1966 and sentenced to death; he later died of heart attack in 1991, 1967 World's first pediatric heart transplant in Brooklyn, NY by Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz and 1988 Roy Orbison American singer and songwriter dies.

After our lunch, we had our monthly raffle. We thanked those attending for their donations to the raffle and the Toys for Tots program. The toys were delivered to a drop off location that is involved in the Toys for Tots program. Our group was quite generous in the toys donation.



SAN JOAQUINERS

Rosie Walls

Secretary

(209) 984-5672

jawrmw@sbcglobal.net

Our November 9th Luncheon Meeting was attended by **Don & Jo Nesja, Sandy & Bobby Brooks, Bob & Pat Scoble, Steve & Jacque Foster, Mike Millard, Mel Oberg, and Rosie Walls.**

President **Bob Scoble** opened the meeting at approximately 12 noon. Bob passed out several flyers which he received when he attended the 2023 RUAEA Reunion in San Diego.

Bob stated that we need members to step up and volunteer for officer positions for next year. Sandy will continue to keep up the Roster and Rosie will continue to do the meeting minutes. All the officers have been in their positions over the extended time period.

When we meet next month, we will have to discuss whether or not we want to continue having monthly meetings and paying dues of \$7.50 per year. Bob offered to be Treasurer since Pat and Sandy are on the account and Pat receives the banks correspondence. As you know, Rudy has not been able to attend for some time and asked to be taken off the bank account. Pat and Sandy had previously stepped up to take over managing the bank account.

Thanks again to **Don Nesja** for his funny jokes and adding a bit of humor to our group.

At our December 14th luncheon, we will have an ornament exchange. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped ornament. Only those who bring an ornament can take part in this exchange. We hope to see all of you at our Christmas luncheon meeting on December 14th at Firenze's in Oakdale. **Steve & Jacque Foster** have reserved Firenze's Restaurant, 502 Yosemite Ave. in Oakdale for the Christmas Luncheon.

It's important that you give Bob or Steve a call to let us know you are able to join for each luncheon. The restaurants have been very accommodating with last minute rearrangement of tables. It would be good if we can give them an early head count. Call **Bob Scoble**, (209) 626 5308 or cell (925) 642 2465 – or **Steve Foster**, (209) 328 1210.

SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY

San Jose, CA

www.southbayruaea.org

George Midwin

1879 Foxworthy Ave.

San Jose, CA 95124

midwin5u@hotmail.com



For our December meeting, the Bill of Fare seated us at the inside heated patio room, which was quite nice. There were 13 members in attendance, a nice turnout. Discussion regarding the annual Christmas gathering took place. There are a good number of people signed up and expect to have a great time.

Birthdays for the month ~ **Lynn Bucholz, Phil Moorhead and Marianne Johnson.**

Anniversaries ~ **Greg & Hiroko Caster and Gerry & Sheila Delisle.**

This year **Chuck Clayborn**, our president, provided much effort to ensure that our chapter continues. He arranged for the monthly breakfasts; had constant communication of meeting dates, a few field trips, including

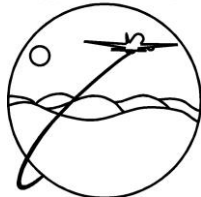
the Zoo Safari days and securing a place for our annual Christmas gathering. The latter of which was a challenge, considering the high cost of restaurants, availability, proximity and unknown number of participants. This is in addition to his planning for their move to Arizona in the near future. I know I speak for each member, when I say that we greatly appreciate Chuck's dedication. Thank you Chuck!

Remember, our January 2024 meeting will take place on the 8th, as the first Monday is a holiday. Hope to see all you there.

Wishing all a Happy and prosperous New Year!

In the attached photo: **Ben & Cheri Scales, Julie Midwin, Bob & Karen Devlin, Chuck Thuener, Chuck Clayborn, Maureen Snyder, Bill & Rosie Reichard, Bob Mattscheck and Jean Jenkins.**

SOLANO FLYERS



SOLANO FLYERS

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

The Solano Flyers met on November 15 with 14 chapter members in attendance. The Chapter Officers in attendance were President **Larry Jackson**, Treasurer **Jo Anne Blizzard** and Secretary **Jo Anne Blizzard**.

The 50/50 Drawing: Members purchase tickets, \$1 / ticket, or \$6 for \$5. Members keep one half and deposit the other separated tickets in the ticket roller. This month's 50/50 winner is **Frank Uhl**.

Birthdays ~ **Luci Perez**.

Anniversaries ~ There is no anniversary celebrated this month.

Our next Meeting is schedule for December 20 at Black Bear Diner in Vacaville.

COLORADO

DENVER

MILE HIGHERS

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



We had a wonderful Christmas party at Ted's Place with 48 adults and 4 children in attendance. We also had a number of new members joining us. We want to thank all who helped organizing today's Christmas luncheon for the Mile Highers. There were many gifts for attendees.

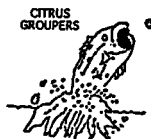
Our next meeting will be on January 4, 2024 at Ted's Place. All are welcome!

FLORIDA

THE CITRUS GROUPEERS

THE VILLAGES

Julius "Joe" DiStaso
(352) 775-8201
(941) 661-2215
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 or **Rich Capozzi** at rcapozzi@rocketmail.com.



THE ORLANDO

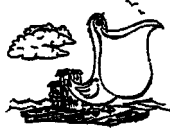
REAL McCOYS

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

There is no report this month from the Orlando Real McCoys chapter of RUAEA.

SW PELICANS DROP-INS

Ray Jensen
(239) 888-2744
rmmjensen@msn.com



Our Luncheon took place at our usual venue LYNQ restaurant. Thirteen attended and four members of our group could not attend due to illness in their families; we hope all will be well by our next get-together.

Our next luncheon will be on January 12, 2024 at LYNQ. If you're in town and would like to join us, please let me know by e-mail to rmmjensen@msn.com.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Calendar:

January 12 – Luncheon at LYNQ restaurant in Ft. Myers



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER

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

Wishing all retirees a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!

Calendar:

January 8 – IHOP, 10:30AM.

TREASURE COAST

Stuart, FL
Al Popek
President
ualpbi@att.net



It was a great reunion to see everyone at our Welcome Back Holiday Party since our last meeting back in March 2020. We sent our deepest sympathy to the chapter members who lost family members during this time. Get well wishes to the members on the sick list and wish them a speedy recovery.

We started off our luncheon with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was lots of catching up to do during the meal service. **Diane & Paul Liebisch** brought two guests, daughter **Heidi Leon** from Miami, Florida and **Thomas Merz** from Berlin, Germany.

Everyone had lots of fun during our gift exchange. **Paul Liebisch** was the top winner having his choice of anyone's gift; he chose a nice stack of lottery tickets.

The 50/50 was won by our guest from Germany, **Thomas Merz**.

Our first meeting in 2024 will be held on March 5th, with place and time TBD.

We wish all our United family a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

HAWAII



HONOLULU MENEHUNES

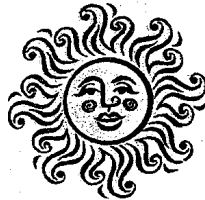
Patricia Thomson, Treasurer
P.O. Box 1709
Honolulu, HI 96806-1709
(808) 946-7847
HNLRUA@gmail.com

Aloha! The Honolulu Menehunes is an active chapter and we meet for lunch at various Honolulu restaurants on the 3rd 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 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



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 and/or call **Ann Medve** at (808) 889-1636.

IDAHO



BOISE GEMS

Shirley Dempsey
rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com

Our luncheon meeting was held with 14 in attendance.

Members news:

Joe Sweeley and **Pam Ortali**: Joe spent 4 days in Las Vegas (SEMA Show); Pam spent 2 weeks in Anchorage with her sister.

Pat Peters has been doing road trips to Illinois, Arizona, and Montana.

Dave & Carol Adams flew on a First Class round trip ticket to MCI. During the summer they toured Boise area in their motor home.

Karl & Ruth Stammnitz had no report at this time.

Joe & Joan Varady hosted and entertained Joan's daughter and husband.

Shirley Perkins brought her daughter **Donna Blake** to our luncheon.

Denny Snyder volunteers at the Warhawk Museum in Nampa, Idaho.

Rick & Shirley Dempsey enjoyed the RUAEA Reunion in San Diego at the beautiful Dana Resort in Mission Bay.

Dave Adams is checking on locations for our Christmas celebration in December. Members will be notified when he has confirmed a location.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO SKYLINERS

www.chicagoskyliners.org

Chicagomainliner.com

Jan Gawenda

(847) 917-9586

jawenda@gmail.com



January 2024—Happy New Year, all you wonderful people!

Wow, we made it to another year, isn't that great? And at our age, a true accomplishment, guess God's not ready for us. My mom always asked when it was her turn, (she missed my dad) I'd tell her she wasn't soup yet. She had to wait a little while longer. She waited and one day she got her wish. Her last words were, 'Joe, you came for me'.

So, what's in store for us this year? Forty countries will have elections for a new president this year. Around March 17, there will be the Russian presidential and on March 31, there will be the Ukrainian Presidential election. Our own country will have their election on November 5. With that many countries up for new presidents, can you imagine how that could effect the world's politics, the world in general? This could be a whole new world. Right now, there are 195 countries out there. This could be very interesting. Here's news I just read, The Russian Constitution was amended in 2020 to reset the number of terms Putin has served, allowing him to circumvent term limits in the 2024 and 2030 elections, enabling him to legally stay in office until 2036. I didn't know Russia had a Constitution, hmmm! April 8 will be a total solar eclipse, visible in Mexico, The United States and Canada. Oh, love eclipses! The Summer Olympics will be in Paris from July 26 to August 11. August 17, Nusantara will become the new capital of Indonesia, replacing Jakarta. I wonder if the airport code will change.

January's flowers are the snow flower and the carnation. The carnation has a sweet fragrance, a very pretty frilly flower, and can be used for any occasion. The snowdrops are bell-shaped flowers with pristine white petals. They bloom in late winter to early spring, sometimes even pushing through the snow. The gem of January is the garnet, mostly red in color, but does come in a variety of other beautiful colors. The true value of the garnet is its power to bring the wearer good health, wealth and happiness.

The Northside breakfast last month had **Margaret Longo, Kathy Cufar, Ginny Vlach, Dona Nefczyk, Jerry Tippewriter, Dave Dunham, Scott & Linda Ivie, Marsha Sealock-Weber, Deb Paget, Vickie Heuer,** and me.

The ORDMM mechanics attending were **Frank Wenig, Fred Seibert, Bob Palm, Paul Olson, Paul Skrudland, Walt Chornomaz, Dick Hoppel, Boris Spitz, Ron Geibel, LB Neal, Don Kramlich, Hank Kargenian,** and somebody we haven't seen in awhile, **Bud Lowe.** Welcome back!

The ORDMM foremen, **Bob Smietanski, Tom Abraham, Stan Chmieliwicz, Bart & Sue Kendall,** and **Glenn Hill.**

The RUPA lunch was held at Nick's Pizza in Crystal Lake. There were 48 in attendance. Our Captain **Jim Guibault** was the guest speaker. While in the Navy, he flew the F14 Tomcat with the *Ghostriders* of VF-142 from 1987 to 1991. He then instructed the T-2C Buckeye, his last three years with the Strike Instructor Training School, evaluating instructors. When he joined United in 1996, he flew mostly the Boeing aircraft, but did sneak in the A320 for a while. He has a great sense of humor, had slides and could really tell a good story for his audience. Our new RUPA Representative is **Tom Peterson.** He and his wife, **Susie,** attended the RUAEA Reunion held in San Diego last month. He gave a presentation of what a nice time they had and what is planned for 2024. It will be in SAN here again, it's beautiful, the price is right and they treat us very well. RUAEA and RUPA combined together for the event and it was very well received by all parties. The next RUPA lunch will be on January 9, at the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin. The speaker will be Ken Voelker, the docent at the Museum of Science and Industry, with our 727 aircraft hanging from the ceiling. Yes, it's still there. Remember what they went through to get that plane to the Museum? They flew it to Meigs Field, took off the wings, put the plane on a barge, moved it over the water, closer to Lake Shore Drive, then drove it over the Drive to the Museum lot and through the front door. Check YouTube, it's all on there, very exciting. They backed up traffic on the Drive for hours. I took my family to see it a few months ago, it's so dramatic and reminiscent to see our 60 year old plane with people walking through it. My great nephew and nieces loved seeing it up close, life sized, and not flying over their house. Take your grandkids; tell them stories of your trips!

Christmas Parties were held this month from the Skyliners Club and the Union IAM Lodge 1487. The Skyliners was held at the Belvedere Banquets, with 107 members, the food was delicious, the entertainment was supplied by the Rolling Meadows Madrigal Singers, a great group of kids singing their hearts out. Their '12 Days of Christmas' is an annual favorite. Everybody loved it, especially the 'Five Golden Wings' table. They were wild with enthusiasm. We had our 50/50 raffle, half goes back to the members, half goes to St. Nicholas Church of Elk Grove Food Depository. We've given to that church for many years, it was **Pat & Bob Kalicki's** place of peace and worship. Bob passed about a year ago; he was one of our finest Skyliners presidents. He helped guide me when I had questions, a king among men. Pat came back to the luncheon after a short absence. Everyone was so happy to see her, they were lined up to say hello. Then she finished up her day by winning two raffles. Many thanks to all the helpers, the planners, **Jim Sommerfield** and **Renee Jackus**, raffle ticket sellers, **Kitty Bystrom**, **Janice Gilligan**, and **Linda Kirn**, name tag distributors, **Marlene Anderson**, **Ginny Vlach**, and her friend, Paula, the flyer, program designer, and camera lady, **Toni VanKampen**, Pledge of Allegiance was said by **Charlie Lewis**, and the Prayer of Thanks, by **Ken Thiede**, and I can't forget my fantabulous treasurer, **Tom Pelc** who paid the bills for all of this, so we can come back some day. By the way, the pictures from the party are on the ChicagoSkyliners.org website. We're hoping for a Spring Luncheon, but we need a few more volunteers to help plan it. Jim and Renee can't plan them all, but I wish they could. I should mention that **Kitty Bystrom** has agreed to be our new Secretary, and **Janice Gilligan** is a new board member. Welcome!

The IAM also had a very impressive party of about 145 members at the Seville. Everyone enjoyed their scrumptious meal and all of the raffle prizes, always very festive. **Dave Roderick** and his committee put together a fabulous party. The Local 1487 Women's Committee put all the baskets together that were raffled. **Renee & Ernie Jackus** did a lot of shopping for those stunning baskets. That family sure was busy helping out both of our clubs. Other helpers include **Mary Alice Parker**, **Sue Adams**, **Jean Speicher** and **Karen Carney**. Giving you all a huge thank you and a hug. Thank you for making so many people happy. The January meeting on January 4th is a Hot Dog Day, compliments of the Union.

Our fellow employees that flew West in December are **Connie Boucher** and **Donna Hershey**, ORDSW, **Ed Stickles**, ORDFO, **Ted Shanks**, ORDFO/SEAFO/SFOFO, **Neta Walker**, CHIRR/LAXRR, **Patricia Miller**, EXOKG (IT), and **Sharon Ann VanKanagan**, **John Dansdill**, manager of OPBOP, Operations Planning.

There were many others that passed from our generation, well known leaders, Frank Borman, Astronaut and past president of Eastern Airlines, Mary Cleve, also an astronaut, Rosalynn Carter, First Lady of the USA, (husband Jimmy), Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman of the Supreme Court, Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, under Nixon and Ford, National Security Advisor, and Nobel Peace Prize 1973, Charlie Munger (investor, Berkshire Hathaway), Actors, Suzanne Shepherd (Sopranos), Frances Sternhagen (Cheers), Sportsmen, Willie Hernandez, Cubs, Baseball Ron Hodges, Mets, Singers, Jean Knight (Mr. Big Stuff), Denny Laine (founder of Moody Blues and Wings), TV producer, Marty Krofft (H.F. Pufnstuf, Donny and Marie), Norman Lear (writer/producer of All in the Family/The Jeffersons, shows that could never be shown today).

I attended a Christmas party last month. There was a lull in the conversation, I said to the woman next to me, 'Hey, only 120 days until opening day'. She slowly turned her head, looked kind of glassy eyed, and said, 'What's an opening day?' I gasped, and slowly walked away, muttering, 'we just can't be friends'. I hope Craig can Counsell the Cubs to another World Series win.

Go Cubbies!

I had a few other things I wanted to cover with you, but time just got carried away with me today. Is it me or the age? Don't answer that today, not today.

I'll write about it next month. Have a wonderful and healthy 2024.

January 1 is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.

Calendar:

Northside Breakfast - Rose Garden Restaurant, 9:00AM, 800 E. Higgins Rd., corner of Higgins and Scott St., Elk Grove, **(January 11)**, second Thursday of the month.

IAM 1487 Lunch, 1487 Lodge, 50 W. Oakton St., Des Plaines, **(January 4)** 11:00AM. First Thursday.

ORDMM Breakfast - Maxfield's, 9:00AM, Plum Grove & Schaumburg Rds. **(January 18)**. Third Thursday.

RUPA Lunch - Golf Club of Illinois, 11:00 A.M., 1575 Edgewood Rd, Algonquin **(January 9)** second Tuesday, alternating months.

INDIANA



INDY RACERS

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

November 14th was our latest chapter meeting. In attendance were **Bob & Myrtle Duty, Frank & Rita Prins, Charles Theiss** and son, **Allan Miller, Ralph Barnett, Ron Bretherick** and **Frank Ingegno**. We discussed our Christmas celebration lunch which will be on December 12 at Applebee's restaurant. We expect about 12 members and family to attend.

Unfortunately, we had to bid farewell to our long-time members and friends, **Frank Prins** and his wife **Rita**; they are moving to Georgia to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Frank & Rita have been members since Frank retired back in the early 2000's. I remember working with Frank back in the day at the Indianapolis Maintenance Center (IMC). At that time, he was the H1A day shift Cabin Lead Mechanic, and I was the H1A Aircraft Inspector. I remember it being a pleasure working with him. He has a great sense of humor. After retirement, Frank pursued his love of music by becoming a music teacher assistant at a local school where he assisted in teaching wind instruments. His hope is to continue to follow that passion at a school near his new home. We will miss them both and wish them the best at their new home.

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

Our future meetings schedule:

- **December 12**, Christmas Luncheon
- **January 9, 2024** at Emmy's
- **February 13, 2024** at Emmy's
- **March 12, 2024** at Emmy's
-

For more information, please contact **Frank Ingegno**, (317) 428-7741, 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



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

MICHIGAN



GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

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

December already? Goodness how the time flies!

The husband of our dear friend, **Julie Felix** (DTWRR), **Fred**, passed away in October in Colorado. A memorial mass was held in Michigan on November 30. A very fitting gathering took place after the mass. Cards may be sent to Julie at 6495 E. Happy Canyon Rd. Unit #24, Denver, CO 80237.

Wishing a beautiful Christmas and a wonderful holiday season for all!

Thought for the month: *"May we come to know the path of peace deep in our hearts."*

NEBRASKA



OMAHA GOLDENEARS

Jan Cornish
4602 N. 134th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68164
(402) 619-9927
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



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

If you are in Las Vegas and or planning a trip here you are more than welcome to come to our luncheons and visit with our members, you may even know or worked with one of them. Email **Arlene McCroy** at apolloguy@aol.com for information about the next luncheon.



RENO SIERRA ROUNDUP

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

There were 13 members at our November 13th meeting at The Black Bear Diner.

Everyone present brought in their paperwork (food and drink orders) and payment for our Christmas luncheon. As a reminder, we would like to also collect some money the day of our luncheon for the Food Bank; cash or check is acceptable.

Dues for 2024 will be collected in January. The cost remains the same after all these years - \$5/person and \$10/couple.

The November birthdays are **Allen Robbins** and **Teresa Rhine**.

The 50/50 was won by **Norm Borchers**. **Allen Robbins** won the fall silk floral display.

Our next meeting will be our annual Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 4 at 11:30 am at Biscotti's in the Peppermill Resort Casino on Virginia St. See you there.

NEW JERSEY

THE GARDEN STATERS

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



From My Memories: On December 7, 1941 I was all at the age of 12 years old. We lived in Paterson, New Jersey in an apartment house. Usually on Sunday, the best radio programs were put on the air, and everybody stayed home to listen to them, I was no different.

I remember listening to my program and somebody interrupting saying that Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, and that there were many American casualties. The next thing I heard were doors slamming and people running in the hallway to go outside, and mind you it was still pretty cold and most people were not wrapped in winter cloths. Everybody was asking: "Where is Pearl Harbor?" "Where is Hawaii?" Nobody really knew, but there are no Japanese soldiers coming up 10th Avenue to attack us.

The next day on December 8, we were all ushered in to the Assembly Hall, and there on the stage was a big studio radio. At about 1 PM, the principal turned it on and we listened to President Roosevelt declare war on Japan, as he called it a day of infamy. Everyone jumped up and asked what we could do to help; a teacher said we will help the air raid wardens when they start to walk around telling people to shut off their lights.

On that day on December 7, United States lost its innocence, as so many Americans lost their lives in both the Pacific, and in Europe. All they left behind were crosses and stars of David to remind us of their sacrifice; it's up to all of us to remember.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO CHIPS

Jerry Stevens
130 Countryside Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221-1308
(716) 418-6887
jerstel30@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

Donna Feingold
(516) 679-9152
djf509@aol.com



NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

December 6th was our annual Christmas Party lunch. We had a nice gathering of 39 members. Along with our 50/50, we were drawing for 3 gift baskets and 2 gift cards, plus each table had a center piece to win.

The 50/50 winners were **Mary Holdsworth**, **Pat Hannon**, and **Helen Ammon**.

Gift Basket winners were **Suzanne Lagasi**, **Ron Feingold**, and **Emma Milazzo**.

Gift cards winners were **Diane Carlson**, and **Nick Manfredo**.

Centerpiece winners were **Lester Darmstate, Donna Feingold, LeeAnn Lack, Mike Schroder, and Joe Lilly.**

Happy Birthday to **Madeline Klos, Margaret Hansen, Ann Hluboky, Perer Korsch, Maureen Pascale, Werner Buck, Helene Ammon, Donna Cardenas, and Bernadette Halagarda.**

We do not hold a meeting in January, our next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024. See you all there!

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year

OHIO

OHIO BUCKEYES

Cleveland, OH

ualohbuckeyes@gmail.com



"82 years ago, on December 7, 1941 was the surprise, vicious attack on Pearl Harbor". We observed a moment of silence in remembrance of that day. President **Dolly T.** said grace.

Our December 6th Christmas party was held at Diamond Event Center. We handed out next year's monthly sheets to all members in attendance. All others will be mailed. They included our luncheon dates, location, menu, and cost. We will be going to our favorite places, and some of them twice, because they are so good!

It's time to party and there were 36 members in attendance to enjoy it. Thanks to our hosts **George & Nancy O.** for hosting this party. It is one we won't forget

Bernie G. and **John T.** conducted our 50/50 drawing. We had 7 winners (more than usual); and they had a big smile on their face.

We also thanked Kevin (the owner of the party center) for the wonderful meal, service; there were many decorations and they are all so very beautiful. This venue is also a great place for weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, graduations, and just about whatever you want to celebrate.

Your officers also had a Christmas gift (envelope) for everyone that has paid their 2023 Membership dues.

Oh! Wow! I almost forgot ... We had a very special person "crash our party"; although the 8 reindeer had to wait outside. They were coughing and sneezing, and we didn't want anyone to get sick. But Santa was okay, so he came in and stopped at each table to ask what everyone wants for Christmas. Then Santa passed out (no, not that), Christmas envelopes he had brought for everyone. Yes, we are also on his "good list".

We wish Everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2024"

Calendar:

"2024" - The start of a good and fun year.

January – As always, we take a break to recuperate from all of the holidays.

February 1 - Fuji Grill n Buffet -- hosted by **John & Dolly.**

March 1 - Brown Derby

April - No Luncheon

May 1 - Mahle's

OREGON

OREGON DEW-ER'S

Portland

Terry Hotchkin

(360) 907-3868

tthotchkin@gmail.com



By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had our Christmas luncheon, held on 12/14/23. I'm excited to see some folks that we have not seen in a few years!

Unfortunately, I have one more death to report. **Russ Thompson's** wife **Donna** passed away from Colon

Cancer on Saturday, 11/18. Russ retired from PDXOO. Currently there is no info on a service. If you wish to send Russ a card the address is 265 - 23rd Street, Astoria, OR 97103-2229

And now for a little humor, with a touch of philosophy thrown in, to help your day pass with a little more fun:

- ☺ They say money can't buy happiness, but I have a receipt from the bookstore telling a whole different story.
- ☺ Notes to myself:
 - Stop spending more money just to get free shipping.
 - Your coffee is still in the microwave.
 - Don't throw the box with the directions away until it is 100% done.
 - Glasses are on the top of your head.
 - Wearing headphones does not make your farts silent.
 - Just because it pops into your head does not mean it should come out of your mouth.
 - Don't use your phone as a flashlight to look for your phone.
 - You are never going to remember to do that thing later. Do it now.
- ☺ I have a rather regular Tuesday ritual. I blow whatever diet I started on Monday.
- ☺ I don't care if you are a doctor, an engineer, or a rocket scientist; nobody gets the produce bag open on the first try!
- ☺ I gave up coffee once. It was the worst three minutes of my life.
- ☺ I did a DNA test and found out that I am 100% bookworm.
- ☺ I made it from the bed to the coffee pot. There is no stopping me now!
- ☺ I duck my head down while driving into underground parking garages to make my car fit, in case you wondered what kind of superior intellect I've passed down to my kids and grandkids.
- ☺ Once upon a time, there was someone who really needed a glass of wine. It was me. The end.
- ☺ Short girls: People keep growing until they're perfect. Some of us didn't take as much time.
- ☺ A quiet man is a thinking man ... A quiet woman is usually mad!
- ☺ Having a dog named Shark at the beach was a big mistake!
- ☺ At my age, Happy Hour is a nap!
- ☺ Based on the amount of laundry I do each week; I am beginning to think there are some people who live here that I haven't met yet.
- ☺ My husband calls me "the bomb". I'm not sure if it's because I'm super sexy, or that I might go off any minute.
- ☺ Chocolate comes from cocoa, which is a tree. That makes it a plant. Chocolate is salad!
- ☺ Next time I dine out I'm going to ask for a salad. A Vanilla ice cream salad with hot fudge dressing and marshmallow croutons!
- ☺ On HGTV, people can flip a whole house in a month. Meanwhile, I've been "getting ready to vacuum" for a week now.
- ☺ Age 16: Takes 4 hours to do hair and plan outfit. Age 18: Takes 2 hours to do hair and plan out. Now: I brushed my hair 3 days ago and I have no idea whose shirt this is.
- ☺ Is it okay to pull the bag of wine out of the box and stab a straw in it like it was a giant adult Capri Sun? Asking for a friend, of course.
- ☺ I'm so confused when I meet people that don't drink coffee. What do they do? Get an appropriate amount of sleep? Weird.
- ☺ Sometimes I talk to myself and we both laugh.
- ☺ This goes out to all of the ladies that had report cards when growing up that read "talks too much". Kindred spirits for sure!
- ☺ Some people try to turn down their odometers. Not me! I want people to know why I look like this. I traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- ☺ God promised men that good obedient wives would be found in all the corners of the world ... then he made the world round and laughed and laughed.
- ☺ Today I bought a packet of salted nuts. On the pack it said, "Warning, may contain nuts". Well, I would have been pretty disappointed if I opened it up and a sock fell out. Just saying.
- ☺ Man: "what's for dinner"? Woman: "Nothing". Man: "But that's what you said last night". Woman: "I know. I made enough for 2 nights".
- ☺ Signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I had loose fitting clothing, I would not have needed to sign up.

- ☺ Life hacks: I figured out how to have a stress-free Thanksgiving this year. I stuffed the turkey with Xanax. It was the most amazing day. You're welcome.
- ☺ Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone? Do strangers call to pay my bills? And if they do, why don't you let them?

Calendar:

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

December 14 - 2nd Thursday of every month.

PENNSYLVANIA

THE INDEPENDENTS

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



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

**PITTSBURGH
PIT-STOPPERS**

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



The PIT Stoppers will hold their Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at J.W. Halls, starting at 11:30AM.

November Birthdays ~ Karen Moliterno, Lillian Lapcevich and Kay Frye.

November Anniversaries ~ Bob & Pat Wagner.

December Birthdays ~ Bob Wagner and Mary Jane Stewart.

TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE ROCKY TOPS

Carolyn Hartshorn
5957 Warrenpark Lane
Knoxville, TN 37912
Home (865) 951-1198
Cell (303) 886-9537
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



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

WASHINGTON

EMERALD CITY SLICKERS

Seattle, WA
Ken Storey
(206) 244-9026



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

Our next gathering is planned for December 12th if we can secure a reservation at our usual venue: Angelo's in Burien. This will be our holiday party and more information will be in a Contrails email, which will be sent by **Dave Jones** available later this year. Speaking of emails ... be sure to check your Spam folder occasionally, as apparently **Dave Jones'** Contrails group email address was processed (by some recipient's computers) as junk and went into Spam.

LILAC CITY FLYERS



Sharon Holmes
5120 N. Riblet View Lane
Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 924.4959 (H)
(509) 953.5088 (C)
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



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

NATIONAL

CLIPPED WINGS



Kathy Denker
Clipped Wings National Vice President
(908) 482-9859
kdenkerus@gmail.com
<https://unitedclippedwingsinc.org/>

“Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart” a memorable quote from Washington Irving. As everyone makes the holiday season as bright as we can for our loved ones, it is the time of year that Clipped Wings, RUAEA and many charitable organizations put forth extended efforts to help those who are in need of some kindness and light.

We at Clipped Wings applaud our 28 Chapters who all creatively design a way to reach out and make a



difference outside of our chapter walls and spread the joy we find within our membership. We would like to thank RUAEA for their dedication in “keeping us United year round.” May your holidays and how ever you celebrate be wonderful, warm in spirit and truly memorable!

Please find us at unitedclippedwingsinc.org and if you know anyone interested in joining this amazing group of individuals, please contact us at the above website.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **November 2023**:

Clark, Hartley, JFKMM, 79 Makawell St., Honolulu, HI 96825
De Lautre, Ronald, DENMM, 17831 E. 47th Drive, Denver, CO 80249
Duwe, Jane, SFOSW, 16108 NW Canterwood Way, Portland, OR 97229
Gleason Ryan, Elizabeth, SFOCS, 2 Pawprint Pl., The Woodlands, TX 77382
Kelley, Jerry, 170 Jib St. NW, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
Laukaitis, Donald, 70 Clinton Avenue, Lynbrook, NY 11563
Ortega, William, MSYCG, 25 Dunleith Dr., Destrehan, LA 70047
Wynn, John, 2251 Helton Dr., Apt. D3, Florence, AL 35630

CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **November 2023**:

Kenneth Bader, Robin J. Bottomley, Sonia Brousseau, Lester Brown, Marian Bruns, Levita J. Burnette, Donald E. Clark, Patricia A. Dilallo, Barbara L. Drews, Sharon G. Dunham, Jane Duwe, Mary Ann Fazio, Roberta Fensch, Lawrence Gardner, Virgil L. Gooselaw, William J. Grubb, Arnold H. Hansen, Paul R. Herbert, Rose B. Horton, William Hourston, Allan F. Huber, Edna H. Ito, Claude F. Jenkins, Kehaulani E. Kelly, Paula Kielas, Lilly Kodama, Thomas Krause, Nancy Levinsohn, William Linehan, Maureen A. Neidle, Nadine L. Oest, Beatrice T. Okino, William Ortega, Karl D. Pape, Georgia E. Phillips, H. Peter Schuster, Sue Sealey, Howard E. Sibley, Melvin Stephens, Edward K. Taylor, Uta Tipper, Patricia Tremont, Stanley T. Tsunemoto, Sophie C. Wajda, William Waring, Rosemary Winn, John Wynn.

OBITUARIES

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

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

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

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

Retiree – **Andersen, Phillip D.**, on 12/1/2023, SEACG, husband of Mary Ann Andersen, 27914 154 Ave., SE Kent, WA 98042

Spouse – **Bueker, Mary L.**, on 11/17/2023, wife of Wesley J. Bueker, MBSOZ (deceased) and mother of Lori Bueker Longmore, Beth Duncan, David Bueker, Brian Bueker, three sisters, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, 1935 N. Jebavy, Ludington, MI 49431

Spouse - **Kilian, Mary Ann**, on 9/26/2023, wife of Alcuin F. Kilian, MSPOZ, 1011 Felt Ct., Apt 134, Hopkins, MN 55343

Retiree – **Pierog, Frank P.**, date of dead unknown, SFOPL, husband of Kathryn Pierog (deceased), 106 Monarch Bay Dr., Monarch Beach, CA 92629

Retiree – **Spokas, Casimir P.**, on 11/17/2023, DENMM, father of four children; Kurt, Eric, Brad and Lisa, 516 Sleepy Hollow Dr. Bailey, CO 80421



Jeanette Andrea (Lopez) Clanton passed away on November 27, 2023. Jeanette was a large part of many lives across the country through her work at United Airlines Employee Credit Union and Alliant Credit Union. Jeanette was the former Alliant Credit Union Branch and Mountain Area Regional Manager, located at both DIACU and DENCU.

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

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

Rosemarie Aiken, Joann Butler, Norma Colt, Walter Chornomaz, Mary Ann Fazio, Linda Kim, Tom Krause, Connie McManus, Celena Nash, Anne Reap, Deborah Runyeon, Marcia Stanger, Melvin Stephens, Myriam Tashima, Edward Taylor, Pat Tremont, and Geraldine Vann.

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.)

David Detwiler, 284 Kelly Rd., Connellsville, PA 15425

Well, I did it again. I missed the dreaded red label on my September newsletter and so there was no October newsletter. I tell my friends, as I have grown older, my brain has become more porous, and information that I used to have has leaked out of it never to be seen or heard from again. So, if you have an old October issue lying around there, please send it to me and renew my subscription as of September again.

We are still surviving here in Pennsylvania. A few speed bumps along the way but we made it over them okay.

I am still volunteering at the Flight 93 Memorial, starting my 9th year now. They have asked me to share some of my knowledge of the 757 airplane with some of the rangers and about 50 volunteers at a training session in December. I am using a PowerPoint presentation to do so.

I have been retired for 29 years. Hopefully, my brain will still remember the important things.

Anyway, keep on keeping us all informed of the happenings around the system, as you always have. It is appreciated by us folks out in the sticks.

Georgia Phillips, 374 Augusta Chatham Rd., Augusta, KY 41002

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication in getting the newsletter out to us retirees every month.

I retired in January 1990, after 33 years at HDQCU with **Ed Langel** and **Gene Artemenko**.

I am 95 years old and wheelchair bound. In January I moved from Cary, IL to Augusta, KY to be near family.

I miss all of my Credit Union co-workers.

Some funnies for this month:

1. Why was the pig covered in ink? Because he lives in a pen.
2. Why do cows wear bells? Because their horns don't work.

Notes

Marian Bruns

One would think I'd renew my membership on time after attending the wonderful RUAEA/RUPA/ARECA Reunion in San Diego! Oh well - better late than never, they say. I'm including an extra donation to make up for my tardiness - and I hope next year more of us RAFA folk can join you all at the convention in SAN.

Barbara L. Drews

I renewed my RUAEA membership by credit card in June. My bank, Union Bank, merged with US Bank and the transaction must have not gone through.

I will reinstate my membership to you now. I am retired from SANCS and I am serving as a board member of the RESANS Chapter. I write a monthly article for the RUAEA Newsletter.

I am the secretary and in charge of my chapter correspondences. I refer to the newsletter often.

Sarah R. Harris

RUAEA is the only way to know what is going on at United. Thanks for the communication and time to keep us connected!

Paula Kielas

My husband passed away November 2022 and I moved to western Illinois. I love reading the RUAEA Newsletter with the various updates on what is going on with United as well as other groups, etc. Since I used to work in PIA, BUF, SAN, DTW as well as Chicago/ORD during my career, I enjoy reading each stations updates, etc. Thank you!

*The following two letters were responses to **Marty Etler**'s article in this issue under the Garden Staters Chapter Report:*

Edward A. Sarkisian

(Captain, Retired: B727/757/767)

Marty, what you wrote, absolutely incredible ... as it conveyed the resilience and patriotism of that Generation, The Greatest Generation. I know of your brother Marty, Harold Etler, Army Field Corpsman who served - and gave his all for this Nation. You and I know, he's buried in St. Laurent sur Mer Cemetery (Omaha Beach), France. My uncle is buried close by to your brother. An 18 year old, Utah Beach, Army - 90th Division, 357th INF.

I have my reservations of the present generation, if it can garner the same spirit to step up and defend this Great Nation, as we're emaciated in recent years.

My Dad served in the Marine Corps, 1939-1945. Carrier based ... he told me he found out about Pearl Harbor the next morning, as a newspaper delivery kid outside the plant perimeter tossed a newspaper across the fence to my dad, showing Pearl Harbor was attacked. That was Monday, December 8. My dad was standing guard duty in south Charleston, West Virginia, on guard watch at an ordinance / steel plant (the firm was manufacturing 14" thick steel plates for British ships) as the plant was being sabotaged on a regular basis.

I had the privilege of flying UAL 363, EWR to HNL on December 6th, in my last year at United (B767), and approaching Pearl Harbor it was powerful thought as we arrived, and knowing what we gathered as a unified Nation to fight the foe(s) whereas a mere 70 plus years prior what occurred.

I truly pray for this nation, as we are "asleep at the wheel".

You are enriched by many stories Marty, I know you probably serviced our DC-8 back during the late 1980's. As the flight engineer, I was responsible "for shoveling coal to make more steam for the two guys sitting up front". Amazing how we've "crossed our paths" at work many times ...Thank you for " keeping all eight cylinders humming"...

Keep 'em stories coming Marty. God bless ya' Marty, and God bless this nation.

Pat O'Prey, EWROO.

Thanks for sharing. You have a great memory. Hope you have been well, and enjoy the Christmas season.

I was a 2 week old baby myself, so you have a few years on me. But I do remember being 3 or 4 years old when my dad returned from work (he was a motorman on the D train) and he was happy to learn he would not be drafted. For one thing he was 44, but also father of 4, and essential worker. We were so happy. I remember blackout shades, rationing of food, collecting tinfoil. No one in our family went to war, but our neighbors did. We lived in an apartment building in the Bronx, and there were many victory parades on our street, the Grand Concourse, for years after it was over.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM RUAEA!

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

The Contact Column



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1-847-825-3729 - International Use

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

For flight information and to list or change listing
Password for Pass Line –your birthday, mmddyy
\$25 fee to create new booking

Employee Travel Center

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<https://ft.ual.com/travel/passriderslandingpage/retiree>
- ▲ Submit questions using Help Hub at
<https://helphub.ual.com>
- ▲ Search “Employee Travel Inquiry”
- ▲ Chat with a team member using a virtual chat assistant
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INCLUDE FILE NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE

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-or-

RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207-2433

Email: ruaea@qwestoffice.net

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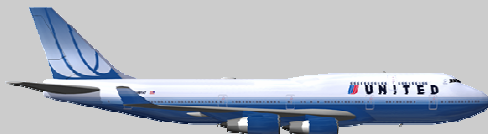
United Airlines Historical Foundation

"Preserving the Past,
Inspiring the Future"



A Memo From Boeing Air Transport, Inc. *Subject: Courtesy, Dated January 1, 1931* *By D. B. Colyer*

1. Due to the nature of our business we are engaged in, it is absolutely necessary that our employees be courteous at all times in the handling of our passengers, prospective passengers, and the public in general.
2. As you know, the old policy "The Public Be Damned" went out of style years ago, particularly with reference to public utilities such as ours, and today's policy is to cater to the whims and desires of the public. We must permit them to assume the attitude that they are right - we are wrong - even though it is felt that we are not in the wrong. Courtesy must therefore be the foreword in the handling of our passengers and the general public. It is pleasing to note that improvement has been made in this respect, but there is room for still further improvement and field managers will keep this matter constantly before the employees under them.
3. At certain points on our line we operate the municipal airport for and on behalf of the city, under terms of the lease, and in such cases our employees are responsible to the City as well as to our company in any dealings with the public. It is just as important that courtesy be shown here as elsewhere.
4. It is essential that our employees be impressed with the necessity of being courteous when talking over the telephone. Replies to inquiries are sometimes made in curt, gruff, short or indifferent manner. This, of course, gives the inquirer a bad impression of our personnel and he walks away with an antagonistic feeling towards the whole company in general. The advertising we may expect to receive from that person will be anything but good. It is just as easy to answer an inquiry in a pleasant, cheerful manner as it is in an uncivil manner. We fully realize that some of the questions asked cannot be answered, but this does not in any way prevent the employee from making a courteous reply informing the inquirer to that effect. We also realize that inquiries are occasionally made at a time when our employees on duty are busily engaged in working the mail and endeavoring to get a ship out on time. Answers in these cases should be made briefly, but the employee should politely excuse himself with the statement that he has only a few minutes to service the ship or load the mail; that he will be glad to take the matter up after the departure of the ship, if there is anything further he can do.
5. Passengers quite frequently arrive at a station in very bad humor; or they may become impatient or unreasonable when forced to discontinue their trip on account of load or bad weather. In such cases they become abusive to the employees, the company, and everything in general. Under no circumstances should our employees enter into an argument with these passengers but it is their duty to endeavor to pacify them. If the situation is diplomatically and courteously handled nine times out of ten the passenger can be reasoned with and will wait over or train to destination without any ill feeling towards our company.
6. Field managers themselves will please bear in mind the importance of this necessary request, and will see that all employees under them who may be called upon to handle passengers or come in contact with the general public also thoroughly understand the necessity of courtesy and politeness as a part of their regular duty. It should be borne in mind always that our employees along the line are representatives of United Aircraft and Transport, Inc., and as such they should never lose an opportunity to promote the good will of the public.
7. Any employee guilty of discourtesy in dealing with passengers or the general public should be summarily dismissed from our service.



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Pets are welcomed at the Dana: George & Juliana Midwin with Abbey and Lily



The American Flyboys Swing Band

*San Diego
2023
Reunion*



*Karen Rewolinski, Helene Parsons,
Alexis Garneau, & Ruth Morabito*



Bali Hai Night: Patricia Hamlin-Williams & Bernadine Holley



*Standing L to R: Lynn Hagele & Pat Borys
Sitting L to R: Kathy Cufar, Margaret Wallace, & Mario Longo*