



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

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



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## RUAEA 2025 Denver Reunion



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## Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter

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

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

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

John Chu - Newsletter Manager  
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# GENERAL NEWS

## WWW.RUAEA.ORG

### 2026 RUAEA Reunion



This year, RUAEA will have its Reunion in Houston, TX (the Space City). Our hotel is the Holiday Inn Intercontinental Airport in Houston (15222 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032). Hotel reservation is currently available and you can book your hotel room using one 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/482SrRi>
3. Call the Holiday Inn Hotel reservations department at (800) 465-4329 and mention Group Block Name "RUAEA September 2026" and Group Block Code "RUA".



The contract is for 2 persons per room and breakfast for 2, at \$109.00 per room night plus tax. If other accommodations are needed, i.e. more per room or a Handicapped room, please identify those needs when making reservations. The rate is good from September 25<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

The hotel provides free Airport transportation every 30 minutes. Hotel parking is free and with your Reunion Badge, a 15% discount is applied to meals at the Blue Dixie Restaurant, located in the hotel.

Please note that this is the Hotel Reservation and it does not include the Reunion Registration. Reunion Registration will be available in June 2026.

Please plan on joining us, RUAEA Members, RUPA Members, ARECA Members, along with members of Clipped Wings and RAFA; family and friends all are welcome. However, the first step is to register at the hotel, which helps us in our planning activities.

As a city, Houston has a lot to offer to visitors, here's a list of suggestions of Houston attractions for your considerations:

#### Space & Aviation:

- ▲ Space Center Houston – Explore NASA history, exhibits, space artifacts and tram tours - a must-see for anyone intrigued by flight, travel, and exploration.
- ▲ Lone Star Flight Museum – Aviation history and vintage aircraft.
- ▲ 1940 Air Terminal Museum – An art-deco aviation museum at Hobby Airport celebrating early commercial flight.

#### Nature & Parks (Easy Walking):

- Memorial Park – Big green space with easy trails and picnic spots.
- Buffalo Bayou Park & Discovery Green – Stroll paths, scenic views, and gathering spaces in the heart of the city.
- Hermann Park & McGovern Centennial Gardens – Gardens, benches, model train, and McGovern Lake for relaxed conversation and bird-watching.
- Houston Arboretum & Nature Center – Quiet trails and gardens to enjoy nature at your own pace.

#### Art, History & Culture:

- ★ The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston – World-class art collections and rotating exhibitions.
- ★ The Menil Collection – Free (donations encouraged) museum with treasures from antiquity to modern art.
- ★ Holocaust Museum Houston – Thoughtful, powerful museum experience (often free on select weekends).
- ★ The Orange Show & Beer Can House – Quirky, iconic local art spots.
- ★ Sam Houston Park – Historic homes and Texas heritage.
- ★ Museum of Natural Science & Zoo – Classic Houston cultural staples (with discounted senior admission).

#### Scenic & Social Outings:

- ❖ Sam Houston Boat Tour – A relaxing 90-minute Port of Houston cruise with commentary and laid-back vibes — perfect for a group.
- ❖ Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens – Historic home and serene gardens with art and architecture.
- ❖ Tranquility Park – Downtown green space with

Apollo-era themed fountains and sculptures.

Last but not least, Houston is a major culinary destination in the U.S. thanks to its incredible cultural diversity, Gulf Coast location, and long traditions of hearty Texan flavors mixed with international influences including: Tex-Mex, Texas Barbecue, Cajun & Vietnamese Cuisines, Gulf Coast Seafood, Southern & Comfort Foods and food from around the world.

We hope to see many of you there.

### The Super Bowl and Your Investments: Lessons in Risk Management By Malcolm Horn, CFP®



No matter which teams end up in the game, I hope you're as excited as I am for the upcoming Super Bowl on February 8, 2026. As the pinnacle moment in American sports approaches, it's not just about touchdowns and tackles. The Super Bowl also offers valuable lessons in risk management for investors.

Just like a championship game, investing requires a well-thought-out strategy. Here are a few key parallels between the Super Bowl and investment risk management:

**Diversification is Key:** Imagine if a team relied solely on its quarterback to win the game. The outcome would be risky and uncertain. Similarly, in investing, placing all your resources in one area can expose you to unnecessary risk. Diversifying your portfolio across different asset classes, sectors, and geographies may help mitigate potential losses. Diversification won't guarantee first downs, however. In investing, diversification can help manage investment risk. It does not guarantee protection against investment loss.

**Preparation vs. Game-Day Decisions:** Teams that make it to the Super Bowl don't just rely on last-minute decisions. They have a season-long strategy that guides their actions. In the world of investing, it's crucial to have a strategy, rather than making impulsive decisions based on short-term market fluctuations.

**Adaptability is Crucial:** The best teams adapt to changing conditions on the field, whether it's adjusting to weather conditions or countering an opponent's strategy.

As you enjoy the Super Bowl, consider how your financial professional can apply these strategies to your own investment journey. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just getting started, understanding and managing risk plays an important role with your financial goals.

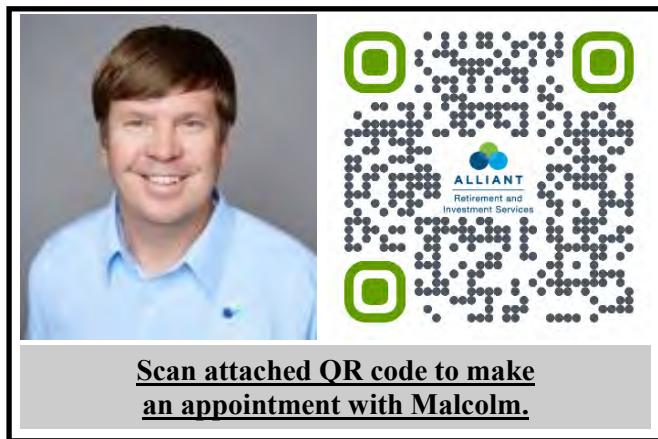
If you have any questions or would like to discuss

your investment strategy further, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my team at ARIS: [aris.alliantcreditunion.com](http://aris.alliantcreditunion.com). Maybe it can be as strong as a Super Bowl-winning team!

The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation.

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### United Airlines Announces More Domestic Routes from Chicago O'Hare, Totaling 13 New Routes and Nearly 650 Daily Departures During Peak Summer 2026 December 19, 2025



Beginning June 1, 2026, United will resume service between Chicago O'Hare and Erie, Pennsylvania (ERI), a market last served in May 2023. Just one week later, on June 8, 2026, United will inaugurate service between Chicago O'Hare and

Tri-Cities, Tennessee (TRI), marking TRI as a brand-new destination for the airline. Both routes will operate three times daily in the summer season, significantly increasing connectivity to these communities. Additionally, United will add another Lincoln, Nebraska (LNK) departure, totaling 5x daily LNK service into O'Hare. Tickets for all these new flights are on sale today.

*"As we continue our steady growth at O'Hare, reaching nearly 650 daily departures during peak summer travel, we're building on the strength of a global network that's simply unmatched in Chicago,"* said Mark Weithofer, United's managing director of domestic planning. *"Every new route we add expands the connection opportunities available to our customers and reinforces O'Hare's role as one of the most important gateways in our system."*

These additions build on United's continued expansion at O'Hare – the recent addition of five new gate spaces enabled United to grow its network and offer customers even more options to unique destinations across the country. With the launch of Erie and Tri-Cities, United marks its 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> new destinations from Chicago O'Hare this year, following the upcoming addition of Clarksburg, West Virginia (CKB), which was added yesterday. To support the continued growth at O'Hare, United recently hired more than 2,000 new local employees, bringing the total number in the Chicagoland area to more than 18,000 and driving economic growth in United's hometown city. And, by 2027, United expects to hire 5,400 more.

### United Adds New Features to Award-Winning Mobile App Like Virtual Gate, Club Recommendation Tool and Real-Time Bag Tracker December 16, 2025



United today launched new features to its award-winning mobile app to save customers even more time and further improve the overall travel experience on the world's largest airline\*:

- ▲ 'Virtual Gate' gives customers real-time updates about which groups are boarding and a progress bar that shows how many people have boarded, eliminating the need to wait around the gate area.
- ▲ United Club 'closest and best' feature recommends nearby United Club locations based on proximity to travelers' gates and available capacity, with capacity insights initially offered at ORD and rolling out to additional airports in 2026.

- ▲ An upgraded mobile bag tracking feature includes a package-delivery-style tracker that shows real-time locations throughout the journey.
- ▲ Personalized updates include guidance on traveling with strollers or wheelchairs, reminders for required travel documents and biometric boarding options.
- ▲ Arrival information features provide travelers with live local weather conditions, estimated local arrival time and instructions on connecting to rideshare services directly from the airport.

United has improved upon the industry's best mobile app with AI-supported navigation tools that will predict what features would most benefit customers during their trip and personalize content to each traveler. The upgrades come as the airline expects to welcome more than 10 million people during the winter holiday travel season\*\*, the most ever for United during that time. *"The more information our customers have, the more confident they feel about their trip - and that's particularly important during the holidays,"* said David Kinzelman, United's Chief Customer Officer. *"The United app gives travelers personalized, real-time updates during their entire travel journey, helping our customers feel like they have a personal assistant guiding them every step of the way."*

More than 84% of United customers use the app the day they fly, and since beta-testing the latest app enhancements, the airline found customers appreciated the transparent communication, time saved and real-time updates. For years, United has led the industry on adding game-changing innovations and policies across the airline to help customers self-serve and increase transparency, including:

- Personalized connection experience: United launched new, personalized app features that make catching connecting flights easier, including personalized, turn-by-turn directions to connecting gates with estimated walk times, real-time flight status updates, tips for longer layovers, and a heads up if United is able to hold the plane for those with an extra-tight connection.
- Bag tracking enhancements: United integrated Apple's Share Item Location for AirTag, so customers everywhere who travel with an AirTag or Find My network accessory can seamlessly share the accessory location with United's customer service team to help locate their luggage in the event that it is mishandled.
- Automatic rebooking assistance: Rather than standing in line to speak with an agent or manually searching for alternatives, United's self-service tools automatically provide travelers

with personalized rebooking options, baggage tracking details, and, when eligible, meal and hotel vouchers if their flight is delayed or canceled.

- Real-time weather delay updates: United texts real-time radar maps to help customers understand how inclement weather in one part of the country can impact a flight elsewhere. United is the first and only U.S. airline currently providing its customers these kinds of specific messages, and the airline is sending them with assistance from gen AI tools.

United's new app features are rolling out to customers and will be widely available ahead of the holiday travel period.

\*As measured by available seat miles

\*\*Travel between 12/18/25 – 01/6/26

### The Syrup Letter

The following letter was sent to United Airlines regarding an incident on a flight in 1971:

*Carl Dailey  
P.O. Box 2035  
Fleetwood Annex  
Covina, California 91722*

*August 13, 1971*

*Mr. Edward Carlson  
United Airlines Executive Offices  
P. O. Box 66100  
Chicago, Illinois 60666*

*Dear Mr. Carlson:*

*I would like to report a potential hazard to your passengers by relating my own experience on one of your flights. It was a morning flight from Seattle to Boise, Idaho with a stop at Portland. Breakfast was served on the Portland/Boise leg.*

*The breakfast was a fruit cup, a small waffle, two slices of ham, whipped butter, and pure maple syrup. I love pure maple syrup and I was very pleased to note that the sealed paper cup in which it was contained was hot. I set the cup on the tray with the lift tab for the seal pointing towards me and lifted the tab.*

*A bronze colored bullet like a missile came shooting out of the cup and without losing a drop on the way; most of that maple syrup hit me on the necktie. It then ran down over my shirt, your seatbelt, and my crotch.*

*The stewardess was very pleasant about getting me some wet and dry napkins for my shirt and tie, but I couldn't quite bring myself to cleaning the lower part on*

a crowded plane. At that time the table did cover things and what was below was known only to me. On the other hand, what do you do with a syrup covered crotch on a loaded airplane at 9:30 on a sunny morning?

Well, I decided to get it unnoticed into one of the closed toilets in the men's room at the Boise airport. Getting off the plane was not too bad. I stayed close to the lady in front of me and it was okay except for a brief moment when a dangling sleeve of the sweater she carried got stuck.

The Boise airport buildings were completely changed since my last visit and I had a little trouble finding the men's room. But I was pleased to find the airport air-conditioned and the flies weren't too bad. The men's room was loaded with the same (but segregated) group that was on my flight. Your stewardesses had been great with the coffee.

I finally got to a basin and soaked my handkerchief with water. I saturated it. It was dripping. All the toilet stalls said "occupied". I suddenly realized that this was going to cost 10 cents, so I reached my dry hand in my pocket. Nothing. The wet hand had to go in its

pocket. There were two small coins which I hopefully brought into view. They were both pennies.

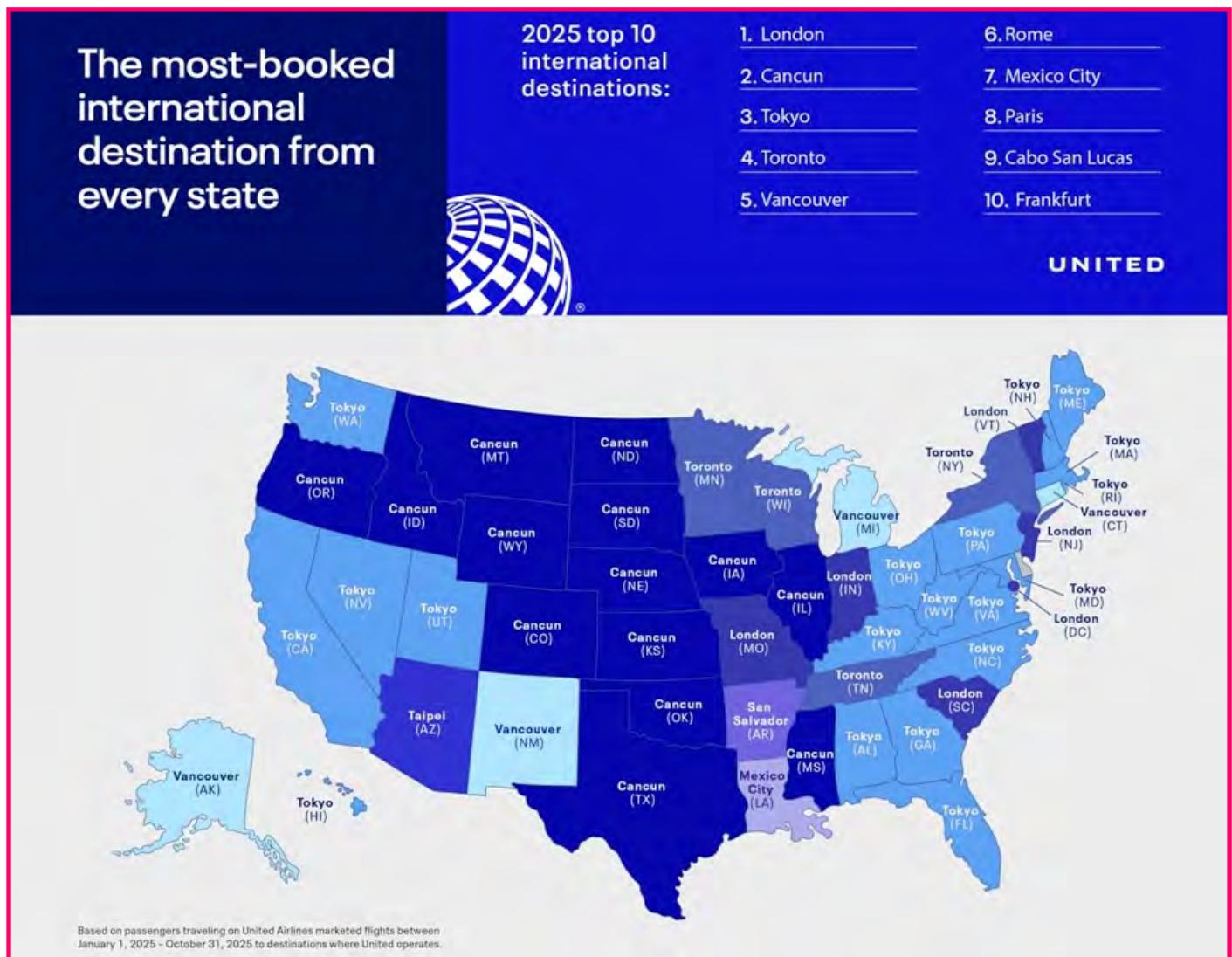
I now had two pennies, two wet hands, a wet handkerchief and a syrup soaked crotch in the busy men's room at the Boise airport. But I didn't let it get to me. I outmaneuvered a forest ranger for position #1 at the free toilet at the end of the line. When he saw me he just backed off.

It seemed like a long time but the fellow in the free stall finally came out. I'll say one thing for the Boise airport. This toilet had a lock on the door. I thank them for that!

I'm not going to tell you how I got rid of all that maple syrup but I suddenly realized that I looked worse than when I started. A business associate picked me up at baggage claim and he didn't say much except to ask if the seat belt signs were on the entire flight.

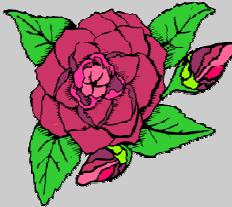
In any case, I would like to suggest that you quit heating your god-damn maple syrup!

Best Regards,  
Carl Dailey ■



# LOCAL NEWS

## ALABAMA



### **SWEET HOME ALABAMA**

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

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

## ARIZONA



### **PHOENIX RE-UNITED**

Dakota Morris-Terry  
Correspondent  
[dctdmt03@cox.net](mailto:dctdmt03@cox.net)

Now that the holidays are over and I have your full attention, I hope this message finds you in good health. I want to remind you that our luncheon is Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1100, meeting at the Cheesecake Factory located at 6613 E. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206. Of course, I would love to see you all there, but we have to do what we have to do. Join us if you can and let us brighten your day with laughter. Please RSVP, only if you are coming by January 5<sup>th</sup>.

I also want to remind you that we have an in-house sheriff, and he will be on the lookout for those without their name tag. I vote that person pays for everyone's lunch, unless you have a doctor's note.

Also I forgot to tell you how to respond to my messages. Either start a new email or text me at or leave a voice mail at (602) 920-7785. Be sure to tell me who you are.

Happy New Year! Hope everyone is doing well and that you had a wonderful Holiday. It's been a busy 1<sup>st</sup> week of January again and some of us are still in the process of putting all the Holiday decorations away.

Mark your calendar for February 10<sup>th</sup>, our luncheon is set at Rigatony's at Santan Village in Gilbert, at 11:00AM, of course. Thanks to Mitch for arranging this luncheon.

From **Joann Griffin**: This is a friendly reminder to

those who have not yet paid their \$10 dues for 2026. Your dues help fund our outings in April (free meal at Birdies) and our Christmas luncheon (partially paid for in December).

We all have very busy lives and cannot attend all the functions that our chapter Reunited's has during the year. If you can pay your dues by the end of this month it would be greatly appreciated. You can give your dues in cash or check payable to **Debbie Schulte** or **Jay Hartough**. Or mail a check to our Treasurer, **John Griffin**, 759 S. 76<sup>th</sup> Pl., Mesa, AZ 85208. Please make your check payable to **John Griffin** and not to ReUnited's.

John and I will not be at the luncheon this month, but we will be at Breakfast. Our directory will be prepared by the end of March and will be sent to you in April in an email. If you have any changes to your email, address, phone contacts please text, message or email them to me so I can correct our directory before it's emailed to everyone.

### **TUCSON ROADRUNNER**

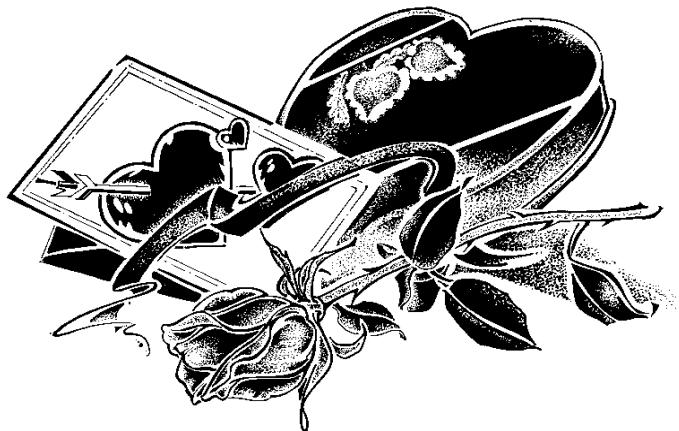


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We are the Tucson Roadrunners, an active chapter. We meet for lunch at various Tucson restaurants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month except in November and December, when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. All retirees are welcome to join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

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

We look forward to seeing you.



## CALIFORNIA

### CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATTERS



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It truly was a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026! The Northstatters celebrated the Christmas season with a great Christmas Party at Kalico Kitchen Restaurant in Chico. We had 15 members, spouses and guests in attendance. **Sharon Simonton** decorated the room with lots of fun decorations which everyone could take home if they chose to. Sharon & Bill provided Christmas cookies for dessert.

**Merritt Odor**, our President, ran a very short meeting and thanked **Sharon Simonton** on the decorations and thanked everyone for coming.

It was a bitter sweet moment as the board has decided to “park the airplane at the gate.” This was our last official meeting as the Northstatters. We have had 17 years together and lots of great memories were



*Charlotte Puryear*

shared. Sharon named the 6 members we had lost over the years: **Hal Burdick, Jim Geiger, Walter Grundherr, Linda Delaney, John Isbell, and Kent Jorgensen**. We were very blessed to have most of the spouses stay with us. Our treasury has a small amount of money



left and it was decided to donate the amount to the Chico Air Museum. Our wonderful treasurer, **Billie Jorgensen**, will contact them to make the presentation.

We plan to get together socially in the summertime. The friendship we have shared over the years can never be replaced.

On another note, four of us went to see our oldest member, **Charlotte Puryear**, on her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. We brought her favorite lunch, In and Out Burger, and shared a small birthday cake. She was doing well but finally her age is starting to show. A delightful day was had by all.

I want to personally thank all of the people involved in RUAEA for the outstanding work they have done over the years. The people involved with the newsletter, **Francis & Veronica Domaratus** and **John Chu** have always been so helpful to me when putting out these articles. I would like to also thank **Ron & Barbara Bertacini**, **John & Pat Zoboli** and our treasurer, **Billie Jorgensen** for the special support they have always given to this group.

The biggest thank you of course goes to our President, **Merritt Odor** and his wife **Klaren**, they gave us seventeen wonderful years of their leadership and caring about all of the members and the laughs he would share. What a wonderful representation of United Airlines and Bill and I will always be grateful for the friendship that we have shared and will continue to share. Now, as the plane gets parked, I personally hope that RUAEA will continue on for many years to come.

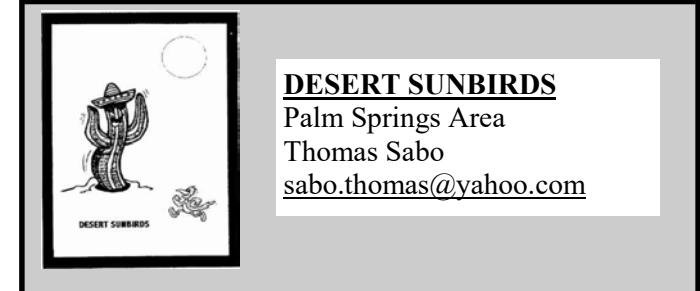


#### CENTRAL COASTERS

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

As you know, we do not have a secretary/ correspondent and the prospect of getting one is not looking good but we are still a RUAEA Chapter.

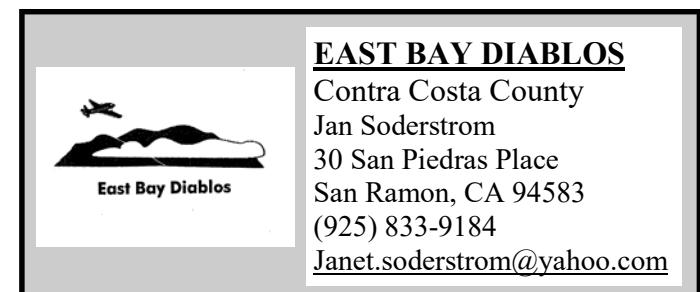
We want to invite any active / retired airline employee living on The Central Coast (Pismo Beach, North & South) to one of our luncheons which are held the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at various local restaurants. We meet every other month, February, April, June, August, October, and December. If you are interested or if you happen to visit our area and would like to join us at one of our lunch dates, please contact **Mike Zoldak** at (805) 473-2908 or E-Mail: [zoldak1@msn.com](mailto:zoldak1@msn.com) for further details.



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

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

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



**EAST BAY DIABLOS**  
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(925) 833-9184  
[Janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:Janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com)

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone from the East Bay Diablos group! As I write this on January 7, we are heading in to eight days of no rain after several days of storms and flooding in various areas of California. As these storms moved east, they brought huge amounts of snow to the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast. Once again, kudos to all the airline employees who kept things running and passengers safe.

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. If you are going to attend, you must RSVP prior to the meeting. I have put the dates of our upcoming meetings and the RSVP deadlines below. We alternate between the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord and the Lazy Dog Restaurant in Concord. We like the Old Spaghetti Factory because they have both a regular and a senior menu with reduced portions and soup or salad, ice cream and beverage included. They also reserve a room for us. We like The Lazy Dog because it has a \$15 lunch special with a nice variety of entrees. We average about 14 people at our meetings throughout the year, but more members come to our summer picnic meeting which is at a member's home. Social hour starts at 11:30 and our meal is typically served around 12:15.

Our January meeting was held on January 5 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord with 6 members in

attendance: **Nancy Boyle, Diane Griego, Tom Johnson, Russ & Glenda Kennedy, and Jan Soderstrom.** Once again, **Russ Kennedy** graciously picked up **Tom Johnson** at his board and care home so he could attend. Thank you Russ! With only six of us, we had a lovely “intimate” luncheon anyway. We sat around one table and were able to converse with everyone. President **Russ Kennedy** started our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A lot of people could not attend for various reasons. **Tracey Blanchard** was on her annual winter trip to Maui. **Joe & Wilma Leather** were still celebrating Christmas and New Year’s with family in Boise. Joe has had some medical issues of late and it was so nice that he was able to go to Boise to be with his family. **Carol Parks and Sue von Emster** had doctor appointments. **Judi Smith** fell and broke two ribs and is in a nursing home. **Barb Cunningham** was in the hospital awaiting surgery the next day, January 6, to have a malignant tumor on her heart removed. Needless to say, we were all on pins and needles at our meeting worrying about her. The next day, we were thrilled to learn that the surgery was successful. The tumor came out easily and was completely removed. We signed cards for Joe, Judi and Barb at our meeting and hope they all will be feeling better soon.

At every meeting we have a raffle for money and door prizes. We pay two dollars for three tickets. The first number drawn wins the money and the door prizes are whatever everyone is inspired to bring. Diane Griego has been complaining for years that she never wins the money. It was a red letter day about a year ago when she finally won. She won again on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Even though it was only ten dollars, maybe this is the start of a lucky streak for her! The door prizes are whatever people are inspired to bring. This month we had a bottle of wine, micro fiber cleaning cloths and kitchen towels.

You may have heard that San Ramon, where I live, has had another swarm of earthquakes in December and January. It has made the local and national news. Between November 30 and January 5, we had 220 earthquakes ranging in magnitudes from 0.5 to 4.0. Luckily, only nine were magnitude 3.0 to 4.0. December 8 was the worst day with about 50 quakes. On December 23, my doorbell rang, and it was two seismologists from UC Berkeley. Scientists from both UC Berkeley and the University of Utah are conducting a seismic survey across the Livermore and Tri-Valley area.

They are placing about 200 seismometers across the region to record ground motion and better understand seismic hazards in our area. They asked if I would be willing to have a seismometer placed in my yard and I said yes. I think the device will be here for a month or two, at which point they will return to retrieve the de-

vice with the data it has stored. I told them I’ve been following the swarm on the USGS website and know that my house is about two blocks from two of the recent epicenters. They nodded in agreement and I think that is one reason my house was chosen. For those of you who are “geologically inquisitive,” you can go out to the US Geological Survey website at [usgs.gov](http://usgs.gov) and click on the earthquake tab to get information on the latest earthquakes in the last day, seven days, or 30 days, not only in the US but all over the world. When the list of earthquakes comes up on the left, you can click on the link to a particular earthquake, and choose interactive map. Then you can expand the map by clicking the + about seven times and you will actually get down to street level. That is how I can see the epicenter of all the quakes in my area. When they say that California is earthquake country they are not kidding. When you look at the map of California, it is very humbling to see a line of solid dots, each one representing an earthquake of any magnitude, covering the length of the San Andreas Fault. And for those of you who live outside California, and think you are immune from earthquakes, think again. If you look at the interactive map for the entire US, you will see dots representing earthquakes all across the country. It is also amazing to see how many earthquakes of magnitude of 4.5 and above happen every month all over the world.

Until recently, **Barb Cunningham** has been 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. 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. If you have cards you’d like to donate, please hold on to them for now. Due to her recent surgery, she cannot deliver cards for a while. I’ll let you know when you can resume mailing cards to her.

**Jan Soderstrom** is collecting coupons for the charity Support our Troops. This is a service project of her Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. I would like to renew my request to have you cut out coupons and mail them to me at 30 San Piedras Place, San Ramon, CA 94583-3018. The cost of groceries has skyrocketed in the last year or so. Unfortunately, at the same time, manufacturers are cutting back on the coupons they are issuing, especially on food items, just when people need help the most. So anything we can send to the troops is greatly appreciated—food, non-food, baby and pet; and both current and expired. This is such an easy thing to do to support our troops. For the price of a first class stamp, you can get about 90 coupons in an envelope. If you have more than one

ounce, invest in some additional ounce stamps - the cute ones with the school bus. The coupons have to say Manufacturer's Coupon. If they come in a strip, please cut them into separate coupons. The collected coupons are then distributed to overseas military personnel for use in their commissaries. The commissaries honor them for six months after the published expiration date so expired coupons can be sent too. However, please send me coupons at least every other month so the troops have a longer time to use them. All of my coupon donors are complaining that they are getting very few coupons now, so the only way we can maintain our level of support is if more people send me coupons. Ask your friends and neighbors, and the people at your RUAEA meetings, to send me coupons as well!

I am so grateful for the kindness of all the RUAEA members who are helping me with this project. I have been turning in coupons every month since May 2022. In January, I turned in 111 coupons. This was my lowest month to date. I don't know if it was due to the holidays or the sign of a continuing downward supply of coupons. Only time will tell. Thank you so much to the members in my local RUAEA chapter and to members from all over the country who are sending coupons. This month I received coupons from **Diane Griego** in CA, **Margie Klaus** in NV, **Carol Koslosky** in NY, **Georgia Rutkowski** in NV, and **Arlene McCroy** in NV.

Helpful hint when cutting out coupons. Please make sure you do not cut off any part of the barcode or the expiration date. The narrow strip coupons for Claritin etc. are the worst. It's very easy to cut off the "5" in the expiration date of 11/01/25, for example, which is right next to the edge of the coupon. The coupon cannot be used and has to be thrown away.

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

- ▲ Monday, February 2 at 11:30. The Lazy Dog Restaurant, 1961 Diamond Blvd in the Willows Shopping Center, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:15. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, January 30.
- ▲ Monday, March 2 at 11:30. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mount Diablo Street, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:15. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, February 27.
- ▲ Monday, April 6 at 11:30. The Lazy Dog Restaurant, 1961 Diamond Blvd in the Willows Shopping Center, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:15. Separate

checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, April 3.

Until next month, watch your steps and do everything you can to stay healthy!



### **GOLDEN GATERS**

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

Hisses, hisses, rattle, rattle – The end of 2025, The Year of the Snake, has come to an end. It has been a busy one and we look forward to 2026. Clip, clop, clip, clop – The Year of the Horse has entered our year on shaky legs and we need to keep the faith! Someone must have shaken Mother Nature's abode as she has given us too many uncertain weather days – droughts, rain, sleet, snow up to our eyeballs, thunder, lightning, floods, fires, earthquakes and even a tornado alert for us here in our small county in upper California! (This is a first for us!)

Uncertain as to where we would hold our monthly meetings has kept us on our toes, all is not lost as *The Elevator* in the Community Center (after one fix, the second "fix" seems to have worked,) above the Foster City Library on Hillsdale Blvd. and Shell Blvd. and, is now working and we will meet in the Wind Room on the second floor. Hours and times are: The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 10:00am to 10:20am Board Meeting, 10:20am to 12 noon, short general meeting and social time. 11:30ish leave for lunch at one of our local restaurants. Here is our planned luncheon schedule:

- January 26 ~ 10am, meeting, B.J.'s Restaurant, 2206 Bridgepoint Parkway, San Mateo
- February 23 ~ 10am, meeting, Tai Wu Chinese Restaurant, 1080 Foster City Blvd, Foster City
- March 23 ~ 10am, meeting, Lazy Dog Restaurant, 2208 Bridgepoint Parkway, San Mateo
- April 27 ~ 10 am meeting, Jacks' Restaurant 1750 S. El Camino, San Mateo
- May 18 (Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday as May 25<sup>th</sup> is a National Holiday) Ay Caray Taqueria 478 Norfolk St., San Mateo, (Shoreview Shopping Center.)

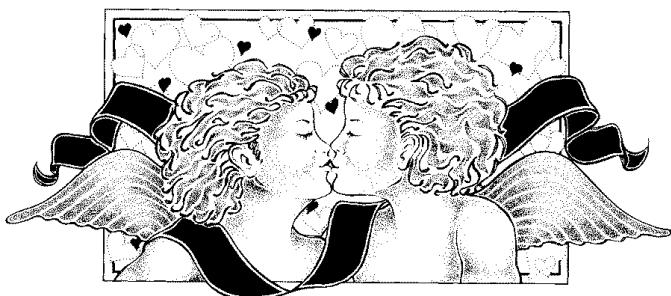
As we had no general meeting in December, a nice group of members enjoyed our Christmas luncheon at Bellinis' Italian Bistro in Foster City; laughter, tasty food and colorful holiday sweaters. A special shout-out to the Board and loyal members for all their help in keeping our group going! Thank You! Several mem-

bers have moved away to be closer to family – we miss you and hope all is going well for you. Members on the TLC list are feeling better and we hope to see you soon – hey everyone, get those shots: Flu, RSV, Pneumonia, Covid boosters so that if you catch one of those bugs, you will have a “lesser” time of it. Walk for 10 minutes after meals will help you stay well (nag, nag, nag!) Remember to make Doctors’ appointments early (eye, dental, heart, etc.,) as it may take you over a month to secure one (you can always cancel – early, so that you don’t get “fined” for not appearing!) Have had my share of doctors so that I am on a first name basis with most and have told them that they may not retire until I have expired!

The end of the last year brought sad news of the death of **John Domenichini** – a long ago member who was very much involved with the Mainliner Club, Retirees group and the SFO Interline Club. Who can’t forget the Russian River raft and BBQ yearly bash? It brought airline employees from all over the World! John had a great laugh and was always ready to help whenever asked, rest in peace dear friend. Please let a Board member know someone who is sick as we can send off a get-well card. Call a friend and let them know you are thinking of them. Go see a good movie, read a good book, take a line dancing class, learn a new hobby, cook a new recipe, and eat a good steak (at the price of beef these days?) – you get the picture, don’t stagnate! Happy Birthday to all of you who had lots of candles to blow out – we won’t tell how old you are as age is just a number – to those 100 and over, Wow! – We salute you. Thanks to all of you who donated “goodies” for our raffles – much appreciated! We have a couple of farmers who have shared their wealth. Remember to pay your dues for 2026 if you have not done so - \$15.00 per person (a bargain no less!)

**Conundrum of the Day:** *How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?*

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



## **HANGTOWN MINERS**

Placerville, CA

Jane Gibson

Secretary

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

Wow! Here we are just about to celebrate Christmas; only a week later we will be heralding in a whole New Year – again! What a privilege it is to still be looking forward to events like these. At our last luncheon for 2025, I looked around the room at this wonderful group of people I get to call my friends. I would say, overall, that we are doing pretty darn well ... sure, we may not skip any longer, or jump rope, but we are still mobile, we are still able to talk and laugh with each other, we are healthy despite a few concerns, of course and we help one another when and how we can. For sure, we are all blessed to be living a good life; we have each other. We are strong, we are fun, we are awesome.

Since we don’t have a “regular meeting” in December, I did not have my notebook handy to jot down a couple notes, but, I’ll give you what I’ve got: **Rudy Blazius** extended to everyone “Best Wishes” for great Christmas and New Year celebrations. **Ann Marie Sutherland** wanted to tell everyone “Thank You” for all the donations – funds, toys, food – that we have given, especially at this time of the year. I was across the room from her so I wasn’t able to hear all that she said, but I believe she said that we helped 53 families to have a good Christmas. She also reminded us of the Wreaths Across America project that was to happen on Sat., December 13<sup>th</sup>. The American Auxiliary unit where she is the president, participates in putting wreaths on all the Veterans’ graves and a Star of David on those appropriate. I am hearing that it is quite a sight to see so if you plan to visit a lost loved one, you will be able to appreciate their efforts.

**Thom Biro** also wanted to inform us that **Mike Takamatsu** has passed away. Mike was manager of SFOOW, wide body maintenance. If we get more information, I’ll pass it along to you.

If you weren’t able to join us at this luncheon, you missed out on a special get together. The room we dine in is separate from the main building. It is kind of a round, enclosed structure. They had round tables decked out very fancy-ish and it is nice that we are served our food in “courses” - appetizers, salad, main entrée and a delicious chocolate mousse. Non-alcoholic drinks are provided but they have a bar service you can take advantage of and pay for separately. This year, they had a round fire pit complete with fire! Outside there is a cool, rustic old barn (I think) and lots of green foliage to give some ambiance. **Suzanne & Tom**

**Kenny** make all the arrangements for us, collect the orders (prime rib or salmon) the funds and make sure everything is in good order. **Jane Gibson** loves to do the decorations. They have nice decorations, but I like to do special center pieces which were raffled off. As we seem to be fond of candy, there were little Santa's bags full of candy kisses to enjoy later. It is a nice, fun way to send out the year.

**Rudy & Cindy Blazius** are hosting our January 2026 luncheon at the Round Table Pizza in Cameron Park. Don't let the name "pizza" fool you, they have a lunch special, salads, sandwiches, burgers and more!

So, I'll close this last 2025 minutes with a wave, a smile, a hug and a "See you next year!"

If you're going out partying, pay attention to your curfew time! You don't want to get grounded!



**RESANS**  
San Diego, CA  
Barbara Drews  
Secretary  
[sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com)

The year 2026 is well on its way and it is too soon to make any predictions but I wish for many good wishes and blessings for everyone.

The rain and cool weather has finally arrived in San Diego, though not cold and snowy like much of the country, we do feel the chill. There are people out walking around with their umbrellas but still wearing sandals and tank tops! It's the "Southern California Living Style" that we are so accustomed to.

**Betty Tomaino** spent the Holidays with family in N. Carolina and then departed on a cruise; we will anxiously await her return and the stories and adventures she will have to tell us.

**Louie Semon** is on his third back-to-back cruise with only a short time in Port before he departs again. He will come home with a good case of sea legs.

There are three Birthdays for February: **Louie Semon** will celebrate on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Paul Zadrozny** will celebrate his birthday on February 15<sup>th</sup>, right after Valentine's Day, I am thinking there will be some extended celebrating going on! February is a short month and **Calvin Hilda** will celebrate on the 28<sup>th</sup> and no problem if he carries the celebrating on to March 1! We only have one birthday a year and we have fewer of them left to us so make the most of it!

#### Calendar:

**February 5** – Breakfast at Pt Loma Cafe. If your travel plans bring you to San Diego, we would love to have

you join us! Send me a note as I have to advise the Cafe of the number of attendees.

**March 5** - Breakfast at Pt Loma Cafe.



**SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS**  
Sacramento, CA  
Ron Bertacini  
Secretary  
[sgd@surewest.net](mailto:sgd@surewest.net)

The Sacramento Gold Diggers had met in early December for their Holiday Luncheon. It was a good time for all and we collected many nice gifts for the Toys for Tots program.

We have heard many positive comments about the RUAEA Reunion in Denver and look forward to Houston in 2026. Barbara and I had to miss the Denver gathering due to health issues and sure did miss seeing everyone. We had managed every other convention/reunion since 1997 and have fond memories of most of them.

The Gold Diggers are doing well and look forward to a good 2026. We cordially invite anyone who may be in the Sacramento area to join us we meet the last Wednesday of the month. Just send me an email if you would like to attend and I will pass on the details of where we are meeting.

Wishing all of our retirees a most Happy New Year!



**SAN JOAQUINERS**  
Bob Scoble, Treasurer  
Merced  
(925) 642-2465  
[U079237@att.net](mailto:U079237@att.net)

This year our Christmas Luncheon/Get together was hosted by **Bob & Mary Brown** at their home in Manteca. **Steve & Jacque Foster** graciously supported **Bob & Mary Brown**. While everyone brought a dish to share, the **Browns** and the **Fosters** donated the **main** dishes. We had a full house; we thank them for making this a great party. It was a great lunch and get together. I've included a couple of photos.

Along with lunch, we celebrated two very special anniversaries: the 68<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Wedding Anniversary of **Bob & Sandy Brooks** and **Betty**'s 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Celebration. Both very special milestones and we were lucky enough to help them celebrate.

As a reminder there is no meeting in January. We

do plan to get together in February on the 12<sup>th</sup> as usual. Since I did not circulate our meeting host sign-up sheet this year (yet); Pat and I will pick one of our usual haunts and let everyone know. Please plan to join us and I will probably hit everyone for dues, remember those?

As a final reminder, please let me or **Steve Foster** know of you plan to join us in February. This helps us to help the restaurant prepare if needed.

Merry Christmas to all and have a Happy and Safe New Year!



**SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY**  
San Jose, CA  
[www.southbayruaea.org](http://www.southbayruaea.org)  
George Midwin  
1879 Foxworthy Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95124  
[midwin5u@hotmail.com](mailto:midwin5u@hotmail.com)



How fast did the past year fly by, it's already a new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward toward this new year. If you haven't yet made a resolution or want to add one more for this year, think about making one that will have you attend-

ing the RUAEA annual reunion in Houston.

Our annual Christmas party was a huge success thanks to **Jean Jenkins** and **Karen Jenkins** who both did a great job at planning, organizing and setting up the table decorations. It was quite a sight to see the area we had to ourselves at Effie's restaurant and over 25 people in attendance.

It was so nice to see all that attended. Jean went so far to get prizes and hold a raffle. It was amazing to see all the people who had never won anything, suddenly win the raffle. Actually I think everyone in attendance won a prize, what are the chances! Jean also was very gracious in providing the delicious dessert, Christmas cupcakes. Everyone had a wonderful time and thanked Jean and Karen for all their efforts.

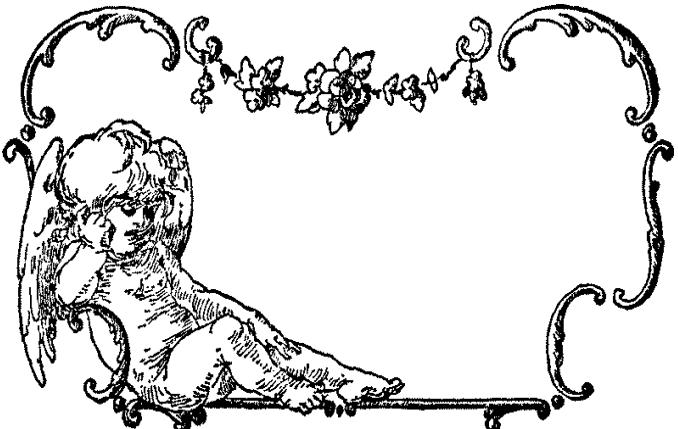
Our gatherings will continue in 2026, on the first Monday of the month, at 10:00AM, in the same place, the Bill of Fare, at 1069 Saratoga Ave., San Jose. About a mile South of highway 280. Please come and join us!

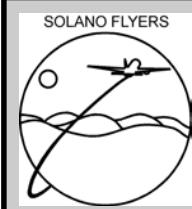
There were 10 members attending the first gathering of 2026. Fortunately for us, the restaurant was very accommodating as members continued to arrive and added tables for everyone to sit, indoors. Conversations centered around what everyone got for Christmas and celebrating the New Year and then evolved to health issues.

**Chuck Theuner** was involved in a serious accident by a driver running a red light; thankfully the airbags did their job, but he still suffered a couple cracked ribs. **Rosie Reichard** inadvertently broke her ankle and had to go to rehab, but is doing OK now. **Bob Devlin** continues to recover and is staying active, by attending our get-togethers.

The recent rain in the Bay Area has put a damper on activities, yet some brave members were able to get up to the mountains to celebrate the New Year. At least all our reservoirs are full now, so hopefully we won't see a drought this summer.

We will make reservations with Vasona for our June picnic on one day of the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>, more details as we get closer. Keep in mind we will need volunteers to help this year with the picnic, so if you can, please plan to help out.





### SOLANO FLYERS

Larry Jackson  
President  
(707) 624-0030  
[larry-cindy@comcast.net](mailto:larry-cindy@comcast.net)

We met at Black Bear Diner in Vacaville on December 16<sup>th</sup> with the following in attendance: **Rudy Arsaga, Chauncey Baine, Joanne & Billy Blizzard, Eileen Gardner, Larry Jackson, Stewart McCale Sr., Stewart McCale Jr., McKinley Nelson, Diosnel & Luci Perez, Bob Richie, Linda Schutte, Robert Allen, and Frank Uhl.**

Birthday ~ None.

Anniversary ~ None.

50/50 Winner ~ **Chauncey Baine.**

Our next meeting will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at BJ's Café in Vacaville.

### COLORADO



### DENVER MILE HIGHERS

Tammi Thompson  
[tbt1958@aol.com](mailto:tbt1958@aol.com)

Chapter President, **Paul Goodyear**, started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. 6 members and visitors were in attendance.

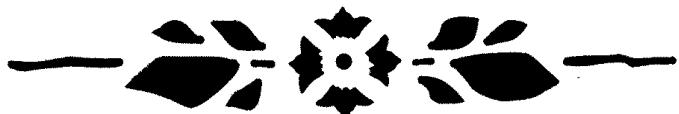
Winners of the 50/50 Drawing: **Matt Ohr, Tammi Thompson, Bonnie Ohr and Gene Sibley.**

Paul informed everyone of the 2026 Reunion in September, 2026; **Ginger Spate** was injured while visiting family in Chicago and is still there recovering; **Rich & Cleora Conner**'s daughter passed away on December 13; **Tom Goodyear** was in the hospital December 23-31 and is now back home, receiving hospice care.

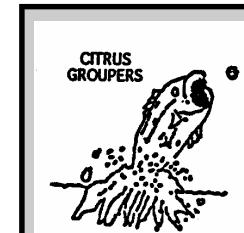
We are still waiting to hear of plans that United may have for the 100 Year Birthday Celebration.

September Anniversaries and Birthdays ~ **Tammi Thompson** (1/26).

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 5, 11:00AM, Tedz Place, (303) 287.7544. Paul will be unable to attend. We hope to see you there – bring a friend! Address: 5271 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Commerce City, (303) 287-7544.



### FLORIDA



### THE CITRUS GROUPERS

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

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

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



### THE ORLANDO REAL McCOYS

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

Oh my gosh, I am still flying high (no airline pun intended ☺)! What an awesome Christmas Luncheon we just had at Maggiano's Italian Kitchen ... Invited all the right folks: **Al & Lois Fields, Monty & Patti Clark, Mike & Maureen Sterinsky, Dan Raciak, Linda Agnello, Eileen Weisz, Connie Lenard, Howard Peterson, Elaine & Joe Mannella, Loretta Finn, Paul Crotty, Ted & Charlotte LeGrand, and family—Scott, Ralph & Peg LeGrand and Cynthia & Carl Fitch, Dennis & Debbie (Skaggs) Schuster, Al & Joanne Mollet, Cheryl Vosges, Tom Cannata & Ed DiCicco!** A fun and lively group of the best seniors anywhere – all true!

President Al led the Pledge and gave a wonderful prayer before we ate, blessing all of us, our families, those missing from our group this year (**Diane L., Mack C., and Ernie V.**) all of whom were here celebrating last year ☺. Tom C. then read from the Bible of the First Christmas and the shepherds and the star that showed where Baby Jesus was born. Moving moments!

On January 6, a small group met at Denny's in our private room for lunch. Actually, we were quite lively. Managing the meeting without President Al was our VP, Ted LeGrand, III. We stood for the Pledge; took the Treasurer's year-end report and we are solvent; sang Happy Birthday to our newest member, **Susan Nash** (1/6) and one of our elder members, **Tom Cannata** (1/5). Eat cake, go out to dinner, and celebrate!



**Sitting:** Cheryl Vosges, Elaine Tillman-Mannella, Al Mollet and Lois Fields. **Middle Row:** Patti Clark, Tom Cannata, Connie Lenard, Paul Crotty, Loretta Finn, Debbie Skaggs, Charlotte Le-Grand, Al Fields, Joanne Mollet and Linda Agnello. **Back Row:** Joe Mannella, Monty Clark, Dan Raciak, Howard Peterson, Dennis Schuster, Ted LeGrand and Ed DiCicco.

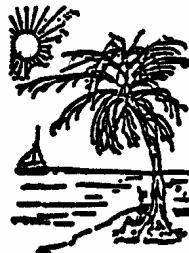
We all signed "Get-Well" cards for **Julia Montalvo** and **Barb Fitak**; prayers on the way too! Retired MCOOZ Zone Controller, **Roger Syx**, passed away on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Retired MCOCG Supervisor **Larry Griffin** passed away on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. May they both be flying with the "angels". Rest in peace, guys!



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

Ray Jensen  
(239) 634-2054  
[rmmjensen@msn.com](mailto:rmmjensen@msn.com)

There is no report this month from the SW Pelicans Drop-Ins Chapter of RUAEA.



#### **TAMPA BAY CHAPTER**

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

We had a nice Christmas Luncheon with 8 members, on December 10, 2025. There is no meeting in January 2026, next meeting will be on February 2 at IHOP, 10:30AM.



#### **TREASURE COAST**

Stuart, FL  
Mary Kay Wetherington  
8849 Egret Isle Point  
Lake Worth, Florida 33467  
(772) 240-2354  
[mwether700@gmail.com](mailto:mwether700@gmail.com)

Our group is currently getting together quarterly. We gathered at Carmine's in Palm Beach Gardens on December 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the holidays. In attendance were **Paul & Diane Liebisch**, **Dave & Carolyn Lindgren**, **Mary Kay Wetherington**, **Ron & Diane Brodis**, **Jim & Janet Hanley**, **David & Barbara Damon**, **Barbara Dodenhoff**, **Corey & Traci Cohen** and **Orlando & Heidi Leonie**. It was the largest group we had had in awhile.

Each year we bring "Toys for Tots". Diane & Paul delivered the many collected toys on our behalf. In addition, we bring white elephant gifts and play the ever loved swap game.

Everyone shared what traveling they had done during the year and what future trips they are planning.

Looking forward, we will meet again in March for a two hour sightseeing cruise out of Delray Beach; more information to follow concerning it and future meetings.

Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy New Year. Many of our members are unable to get out due to illness or infirmity and we hope and pray for the best for you and your families.

## HAWAII



**HONOLULU MENEHUNES**  
William Tinsley  
[hnlsrua@gmail.com](mailto:hnlsrua@gmail.com)

Aloha from Oahu! The RUAEA Chapter Honolulu Menehunes are finally back. We have luncheons 3 times a year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February, June, and September. For the mainland retirees—if you are planning to be in HNL and are interested in attending the luncheon, please let us know beforehand and we will get the information to you. Mahalo!

## IDAHO



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

At the present time, our Boise Gems are not meeting; however, we want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Best wishes to everyone!



## ILLINOIS



**CHICAGO SKYLINERS**  
[www.chicagoskyliners.org](http://www.chicagoskyliners.org)  
[Chicagomainliner.com](http://Chicagomainliner.com)  
Jan Gawenda  
(847) 917-9586  
[jawenda@gmail.com](mailto:jawenda@gmail.com)

February—The shortest month, but definitely not the least important! Most people think of Valentine's Day, but we have more. Martin Luther King's Day, President's Day, Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, Ash Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, preceded by Shrove Tuesday, Work Naked Day, Lucky Duck Day, Toothache Day, Umbrella Day, Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day (for the cats), Polar Bear Day, Chocolate Mint Day, Be Humble Day (at least try), and Tell a Fairy Tale Day. Pick one, they all sound interesting.

The flowers are violets and the primrose. The gem for February is the amethyst, a symbol of trust, friendship and love. In mid-February, Romans celebrated Lupercalia, a pagan festival to ward off evil spirits and promote fertility, involving sacrifices and gentle whipping with animal hides. Whipping promotes fertility? Sounds kinky to me. The February moon is the Snow Moon, for obvious reasons, considering the month usually has the most snow. The 1<sup>st</sup> will usher in the full moon.

The Northside breakfast had **Charlie Lewis**, **Marion Osial**, **Dennis Zachara**, **Paul & Marsha Sealock-Weber**, **Dave Dunham**, and **Lynne Hilderbrand**, whom we haven't seen in a while. Welcome back. People still having questions about the UAL insurance. Very important, a year can be a long time with the wrong choice costing us lots of money.

The ORDMM mechanics had 9 people, **Fred Seibert**, **Frank Wenig**, **Jim Kraft**, **Bob Palm**, **Harry Kargenian**, **Don Kramlich**, **Boris Spitz**, **Rich Protzman**, **Jim Vitte** and our non-replaceable server, Ruthie. Everyone was happy to see each other so close to Christmas.

Only two ORDMM supervisors were able to make it in, **Bob Smietanski** and **Tom Abraham**. They found plenty to talk about and reminisce.

The IRS has found a new way to complicate our lives, **if** you don't do your taxes by computer. They are no longer accepting paper checks for tax payments or issues paper check refunds. All payments and refunds must be processed electronically starting January 15, 2026. Most of you probably do your taxes by computer or by a preparer, but something you should know.

Here's a new one concerning bags: Boarding pass

systems now sync with security cameras to count visible bags. Digital scanners track your bag count. Doesn't matter if you 'combine' bags, if they see it, they count it. Totes, backpacks, laptop bags, purse worn cross-body, it will all be counted. The 'Personal Item' definition is stricter. Must fit completely under the seat, usually 18"x14"x8". Structured bags, anything with rigid sides, or bags that stick out, are flagged. Packing cubes clipped to your carry-on, they count now too. Carry-on Size Limits enforced at boarding. Standard carry-on max, 22"x14"x9", includes wheels and handles. Gate bag sizers are disappearing but digital measuring is replacing them. Weight limits are coming to US airports. Tip - weigh your bag at home, overweight fees can start at \$50. Smart luggage battery rules strictly enforced. Lithium batteries must be removed by hand. Non-removable battery bag gets confiscated at gate. Keep liquids under 3.4 oz in clear pouch. Basic economy-personal item only. Most airlines restrict overhead bin for basic economy fares. If you want to use the overhead, you could pay \$30-60 to upgrade. Check your airline website for specifics.

When you're up in an airplane thousands of feet in the air, the body goes through changes, we lose about 30% of our sensitivity to sweet and salty flavors. The pressurized cabin makes the humidity levels drop, this affects our taste buds and olfactory systems. That's why chefs intentionally over-season their food to compensate for that. They don't necessarily add sugar or salt, they add cream or try a crisper food to make it taste better. Some wines and sparkling drinks are chosen because they retain their balance better in drier air. Tomato juice is always on the menu since the altitude makes it taste better.

A few weeks ago, I received an article on Facebook, I was very moved by it. It read, The Silent Struggles of Being 80 Years Old, have no idea who wrote it. As I read, I realized, you don't have to be 80 to experience these challenges, you could be any age. These are just common sense items that we have experienced, are going through now, or will very soon. After all, we've never been this old before. Something new for us every day. It's quite lengthy, so I might only type part of it. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Turning 80 is something many never thought they would reach, and yet, here you are. There is wisdom in your eyes and strength in your steps, even if they feel slower now. But between the smiles and polite nods, there are silent struggles you may not always share. They sit quietly in your thoughts, in your routines, and in the spaces where others have gone. This explores what those struggles feel like and what can be done to help you feel steady, seen and hopeful again. Because even at 80, there is still much to hold onto and much to enjoy.

One of the hardest parts of growing older is learning to live with loss. The older you get, the more you begin to notice who is no longer sitting beside you. Some leave suddenly, while others slowly slip away from memory or health. Friends who once knew everything about you are now missing from your days. Their laughter no longer fills the room. Their names still come to your mind, but their voices no longer answer back. It's not just people who pass away, some grow distant with time, unable to visit or talk like they once did. Health, distance, or new responsibilities create quiet gaps where closeness once lived. Family members may still be present, but the conversations feel different. They talk about things you no longer follow. They move through life quickly, while you are left watching from the edges.

Grief does not always come with tears. Sometimes it comes with long silences, quiet dinners, and afternoons that feel far too long. It can sneak in during your favorite show or a walk where someone used to join you. The hardest part is not the emptiness itself, but the way it settles without permission. It does not ask if you are ready. It just arrives.

But in the midst of it all, your memories are a kind of comfort. You carry your loved ones in every step, in every habit they helped shape. Speaking about them, or sharing their stories helps keep them close. You are still here, and you still matter. Your life, though touched by loss, is not defined by it. New friendships can still grow, even if they look different than before. Others may need your wisdom, your kindness, your steady heart. Even with fewer familiar faces, you are never truly alone. Love remains, and so do you.

I'm going to stop at this point because the other half touches on some other points and subjects. Come back next month and I'll finish up with the rest of this enlightening article that has so much more to say.

Stay with me, it's worth it.

Fellow employees that Flew West last month include **Jack Woytovich**, ORDFF, **Dennis Kreutzer**, ORD OCC, **Joy Geddes**, HNLSW 103, **Kurt Heimann**, and **Marilyn Matryes**, ORDSW, **Mike Schwichtenberg**, ORDCS, **Leland Banner** and **Paul Fulsang**, ORDCS, (Baggage Claim), **Carole Robbins**, wife of **Robbie Robbins**, ORDPV, **Duane Graf**, EXOCS, **Greg Reinhardt**, FO Pilot, but don't know his city; **Criss Beeson**, ORDCS (died in October).

Other notables from our past, actors Anthony Geary (All my Children), Rob Reiner, (and director, Princess Bride, When Harry met Sally), Bridgett Bardot (God Created Woman), Pat Finn (Murphy Brown), Gil Gerard (Airport '77), James Ransone (The Wire), Isiah Whitlock Jr (The Wire), Bret Hannah-Shuford (The Wolf of Wall Street), Sidney Kibrick (Woim in Our Gang), Melanie Watson Bernhardt (Different Strokes),

racing driver, Greg Biffle, singer Chris Rea (The Road to Hell), Johnny Legend, Rockabilly musician. John Mulrooney, comedian, Tatiana Schlossberg, journalist (JFK's granddaughter).

According to Wikipedia, 63.6 million people will die globally in 2026, averaging 174,000 deaths daily, with heart disease remaining the top killer. So take care of yourselves!

Because some friendships don't fade. They linger, like light through a window, long after the sun has gone.

#### Calendar:

Northside Breakfast - Rose Garden Restaurant, 9:00AM, 800 E. Higgins Rd., corner of Higgins and Scott St., Elk Grove, (**February 12**), second Thursday of the month.  
IAM 1487 Lunch - 1487 Lodge, 11:00 A.M., 50 W. Oakton St, Des Plaines, First Thursday (**February 5**)  
ORDMM Breakfast - Maxfield's, 9:00AM, Plum Grove & Schaumburg Rds. (**February 19**) Third Thursday.  
RUPA Lunch – Location to be announce, (**March 10**).

#### INDIANA



#### INDY RACERS

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

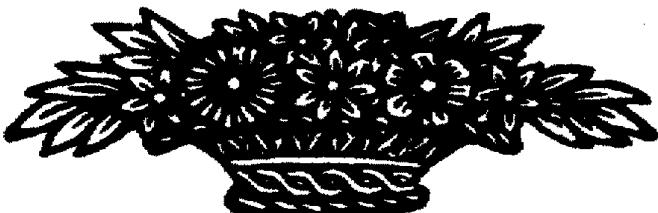
There is no report this month from the Indy Racers chapter of RUAEAs.

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

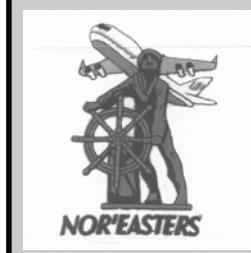
Our future meetings schedule:

- ❖ February 10, 2026 at Emmy's
- ❖ March 10, 2026 at Emmy's.
- ❖ April 14, 2026 at Emmy's.

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



#### MASSACHUSETTS



#### NOR'EASTERS

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

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

#### MICHIGAN



#### GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

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

Welcome 2026!

I'm hoping that you had a beautiful and peaceful holiday. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to look forward to the new year and all that it brings.

Prayers and positive thoughts are requested for our United family members. Make it your New Year's resolution to reach out to someone you have not been in contact with. It will make their day and yours.

News came today of the passing of **Sandy Sloan** on January 4. We have no further details as of this writing.

**Peggy Shubnell**, former DTWRR reservation manager, passed away on Thursday, November 27, 2025 in Pennsylvania. She and her late husband, **Paul**, retired to Yardley, PA. We have no further information.

**Jeff LeFleur**, retired DTWRR tower, recently had surgery and is recuperating in a rehab facility in Jackson, MI. His wife, **Carole**, has had extensive health issues since April of last year. Both are hoping to be able to come home soon. Cards would certainly be welcomed; their home address is: 1117 Scarlet Oak E, Jackson, MI 49201-9546.

Are you looking for something to do this year? How about hosting a retiree luncheon? It is a great way to see old friends. Contact **Marguerite Venn** at [mptv85@gmail.com](mailto:mptv85@gmail.com) or (313) 909-9053.

Thought for the month: *"Gratitude is the feeling of thankfulness and appreciation for the good things in your life."*

## NEBRASKA



### **OMAHA GOLDENEARNS**

Rita Purkapile  
16016 Lindenwood Cir  
Bennington, NE 68007  
(402) 301-8154  
[r.purkapile@cox.net](mailto:r.purkapile@cox.net)

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

## NEVADA



### **RENO SIERRA ROUNDUP**

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

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

## NEW YORK

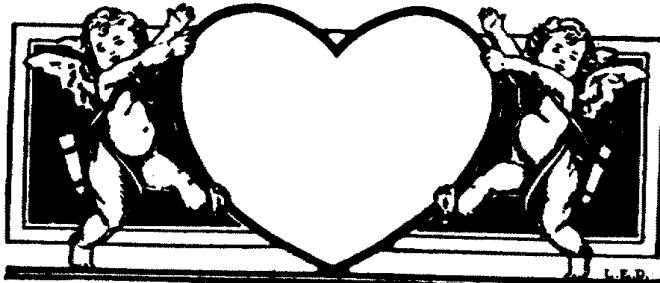


### **BUFFALO CHIPS**

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

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

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



## NEW YORK METROS

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

We did not meet in January so this is a short note.  
Happy birthday to **Julie Carnevale, Jason & Ona Weiner, Carol Cenkis** and **Joseph Lilly**.  
See you in February.

Calendar:  
**February 4** -Meeting

## OHIO



### **OHIO BUCKEYES**

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

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

## OREGON



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

Portland  
Terry Hotchkin  
[tthotchkin@gmail.com](mailto:tthotchkin@gmail.com)

We had 28 people in attendance for our December luncheon. **Chrys Korbe** won the birthday free lunch. **Bob & Karen Pfeifer** celebrated 23 years in December. 50/50 winner was **Juanita Null**.

We were also informed that **George Taylor**, retired Ramp Service man, passed away on Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

And now for a little humor, with some philosophy thrown in occasionally, to make your day pass with a little more fun!

- ☺ I just want to get to a place financially where adding Guac isn't a big decision.
- ☺ Keep talking, I'm diagnosing you!
- ☺ I don't know how to act my age. I've never been this age before. But I'm sure having fun trying to figure it out.
- ☺ We'll be best friends until we are old and senile, then we'll be new best friends forever!

- ☺ I'm at that age in life when I've finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart!
- ☺ We all know that mirrors don't lie. I'm just glad they don't laugh!
- ☺ Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.
- ☺ I have a lot of stuff to do today ... Now I have a lot of stuff to do tomorrow.
- ☺ And yet again this morning, no one was standing next to my bed saying, "your Royal Highness, here is you coffee". Go figure.
- ☺ By the time you are 80, you've learned all you really need to know. The trick is remembering it!
- ☺ Don't get all weird about getting older. Our age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying us!
- ☺ Age is just a number until you bend over to tie your shoes ... or remember where your shoes are ... or people can hear you when you stand up from a block away and you can't hear them unless they are 6 inches from your face ... or ... shall I go on?
- ☺ And now for a few puns:
  - I put my grandma on speed dial. I call that Instagram
  - Stealing someone's coffee is called mug ging
  - Pasteurize: Too far to see
  - Whoever invented "Knock-knock" jokes should get a no-bell prize
  - The other day I held the door open for a clown. It was a nice jester
  - No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery
  - Energizer bunny arrested: Charged with battery
- ☺ Only a woman who's delivered a baby without an epidural can truly understand ... the suffering a man goes through when he has a cold.
- ☺ Many years ago there once was a king who was only 12 inches tall ... terrible king, but a great ruler.
- ☺ If you don't want me showing up in pajamas, then maybe don't put the words "evening wear" on your invitation!
- ☺ My new car has a button for pretty much everything. There is even one that says, "rear wiper". I'm still too afraid to try that one.
- ☺ Carpe diem = Seize the day. Imodium = Don't sneeze today!
- ☺ I'd be unstoppable if procrastination didn't take up all of my free time.
- ☺ Beauty isn't about a pretty face. It is about hav-

ing a pretty mind, a pretty heart, and most importantly, a beautiful soul!

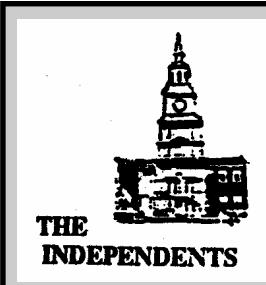
- ☺ When someone tells you to get a grip ... apparently around their neck is not what they meant ... who knew?
- ☺ I just got an emotional support animal. It's a pig. Not the whole pig. Okay, it's bacon!
- ☺ And today I'm wearing pink to raise awareness for ... people like me who forgot to separate red laundry from white laundry.
- ☺ Whenever I try to eat healthy, a chocolate bar looks at me and Snickers.
- ☺ My entire life can be summed up in one sentence ... Well that didn't go as planned!
- ☺ Realized I had to use the bathroom. Got up and walked across the house to the pantry. I couldn't remember why I was in the pantry. Remembered that I had to use the bathroom. Walked back across the house to the bathroom. Sitting on the throne, I remembered why I went to the pantry ... toilet paper.

Until next month!

#### Calendar:

**February 12** - Meetings at Colwood Golf Center Grill – Social Hour 11:00AM, Lunch served at noon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

### PENNSYLVANIA



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

Happy New Year from your Philly friends!

It seems like time has just flown by: With the Holidays coming so fast, even though we have known they were coming, all of a sudden they showed up; and what a great time it was for most of us.

We will not have a luncheon until April. We had a fun time at our Christmas Party Luncheon in December.

Hope all is well at this time. We are looking forward to our next chapter report next month. Once again to everyone; a Healthy and Happy New Year!



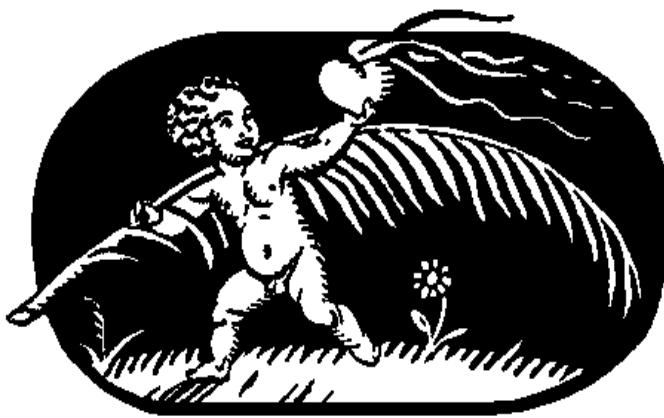


**PITTSBURGH  
PIT-STOPPERS**  
Bill Chicots  
2419 Rochester Road  
Sewickley, PA. 15143  
(412) 352-7375  
[firechief158@gmail.com](mailto:firechief158@gmail.com)

The new PIT terminal opened with much media fanfare prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; according to media outlets, everything went as smooth as glass! I talked to a former co-worker and there were parking issues as well as the roadways entering the airport were backed up quite a bit due to all the changes.

Our chapter did not have a Christmas luncheon to my knowledge. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PIT Stoppers.

January Birthdays ~ **Betty Musko, Steve Moliterno and Betty Tinney.**



## WASHINGTON

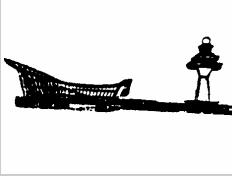
### **EMERALD CITY SLICKERS**



**EMERALD CITY SLICKERS**  
Seattle, WA  
Ken Storey  
(206) 244-9026

There is no report this month from the Seattle Emerald City Slickers but a quick reminder that the Mechanics get-together is scheduled at 8:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Trotter's Restaurant in Auburn.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.



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

*Submitted by Carl Alford, President*

We welcomed 36 members to our December luncheon. Everyone was excited about the upcoming holidays and a festive Christmas spirit was clearly present. Due to the generosity of **Nasreen Mustaqim** and **Sharon Wright**, we had an overabundance of very nice prizes to accompany that spirit. The lucky winners were



**Gayle Wasilewski, Nasreen Mustaqim, Carl Alford, Kerrie Schneider, Kate Connelly, Barb Hippie, Gale Heuser, Mari McColl, Mary Beth Collins, and John "Hawk" Williams**, who graciously passed along his prize to **Sharon Wright**. It was only fitting that our winners included the two generous gift-givers, who each went home with a gift from the other.

In addition to the many door prizes, a variety of travel-related items were also available for the taking. **Mary Beth Collins**, who'd spent years assisting the late **Benita Bell** with her estate, was kind enough to bring many items from Benita's collection to our meeting. It was heartwarming to see these being passed along to people who understood and appreciated their significance.

Once again, **Kerrie Schneider** led us in singing a number of beautiful carols and songs of Christmas. For "The Twelve Days of Christmas," each table was assigned their own day to heighten the frivolity. Joy and laughter were felt throughout the room!

The other highlight of the day was this year's "Ugly Sweater Contest." We had a lovely variety of contestants with an equally lovely variety of sweaters. With no truly "ugly" sweaters in the running, by applause, we chose E. K. Williams' as the best. (The accompanying photo shows our participants standing behind some of the items from **Benita Bell**'s collection.)

If you find yourself in the DC area on the second Wednesday of the month, please join us. We meet at 11:30AM at the Golden Corral in Manassas, VA, September through May. Happy holidays to all!

## NATIONAL



### CLIPPED WINGS

Kathleen A. Freeman  
Clipped Wings National VP  
[ckfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:ckfreeman@gmail.com)  
<https://unitedclippedwingsinc.org>  
(732) 300-7638

### *The Galley Queen: Dinner Theater at 35,000 Feet*

There is a specific kind of magic—and perhaps a touch of madness—that exists in the memory of a wide-body galley during a 1970's dinner rush. To the uninitiated, it looked like a frantic dance in a pressurized box. But to those of us in the Clipped Wings community, it was our stage. We weren't just safety professionals; we were the "Galley Queens", and we orchestrated five-star spectacles with little more than a temperamental oven and a prayer.

Today's service is a marvel of "efficiency"—which is code for "everything comes in a plastic box". But

back then, we didn't just peel back a foil lid, we performed surgery. Remember the Chateaubriand? We carved that roast seat-side while the DC-10 decided to do a little "light chop" dance. Nothing tested your grace quite like wielding a carving knife at 30,000 feet while trying not to deposit a slice of prime beef into a passenger's lap.

Then there was the 747, the "Queen of the Skies", where the galley felt like a high-stakes obstacle course. We tossed Caesar salads in giant wooden bowls, ensuring the dressing coated every leaf just right—usually while praying the "Upper Deck" passengers didn't all decide they needed a refill at the exact same moment. We were the original multi-taskers, navigating aisles with carts that weighed more than we did, long before "ergonomics" was a word and when our high heels were considered "sensible footwear". And there were always the prayers that all galley elevators were in good working order.

The galley was the heart of the plane. It was where we swapped the real "stories" (the gossip), managed the occasional "difficult" passenger with a wink to our flying partners, and mastered the art of looking unbothered while the coffee pot threatened to go rogue.

While the menus are now simplified and the carts are lighter, the spirit of the Galley Queen remains. We provided a legacy of hospitality that a pre-packaged snack box just can't touch. As we gather for our Clipped Wings meetings in the New Year, we carry those memories with us: The smell of fresh coffee, the clink of real glassware, and the pride of knowing we survived the era of seat-side service with our dignity—and our hairstyles—intact.

Here's to easy travel in the New Year ... ☺

If you are looking for volunteer events in your hometown, we encourage you to connect with us and explore a chapter near you:

- ★ Website: [unitedclippedwingsinc.org](http://unitedclippedwingsinc.org)
- ★ Facebook: Clipped Wings® Chat Corner (Crew Lounge)
- ★ Business Facebook: United Airlines Stewardess Alumnae & Flight Attendant, INC.
- ★ Instagram: @clippedwingsualn



**INCLUDE FILE NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE**

**For all Membership & Newsletter Circulation issues, please contact Membership Manager:  
*Michael Malesardi*.**

**Phone Number: (303) 780-5022**

**-or-**

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

**Email: [ruaeaoftice@gmail.com](mailto:ruaeaoftice@gmail.com)**

## NEW MEMBERS

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

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **December 2025**:

Barbara Anderson-Shelton, Jonesboro, GA  
Stina Bland, Denver, CO  
Sergio Casanga, Tumwater, WA  
Moifair Chin, Seattle, WA  
Susan Dingeman, Erie, CO  
Janice Hextell, Cypress, CA  
Marilyn Martinez, Denver, CO  
Joseph Metz, Godfrey, IL  
Christina Nolan, Studio City, CA  
Jose Palacios, Los Angeles, CA  
Rhonda Perkins, Sebastopol, CA  
Paul Romnes, Windermere, FL  
Kathryn Wright, Oak Glen, CA■

Welcome

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **December 2025**:

Barbara J. Anable, Gerda L. Biglin, Thomas F. Boyle, Anne Brown, Robert C. Bryant, Kay Collier, Russell F. Cormier, Sharon Deem, Patricia A. DiLallo, Blanche Eichorst, Mark Elston, Roberta Fensch, Matthew Gauss, Arnold H. Hansen, Charlene Hardee, Mary C. Hill, Miyuki Hilliard, Robert V. Keefe, Francis Kelly, Thomas Krause, Charles Lewis, Carolyn D. Locke-Miles, John M. Lyon, Leslie Mace, Marilyn Martinez, Alan Morishita, Paul T. Pfisterer, Bonnie Ruliffson, Arnold A. Schaetzke, Susan E. Spieker, Kenneth A. Storey, Isabel M. Van Toorn, Sophie C. Wajda, Patricia Watson, and Maurice Wilson.■

Thank you

## 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 [ruaeа@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaeа@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 – **Engels, Dorothy L.**, on 11/25/2025, ORDSW, 5731 N. Northcott Ave., Chicago, IL 60631■



# Letters & Notes



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

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

Blanche M. Eichorts, Thomas Krause, Arno & Betty Schaetzke, Susan E. Spieker, Tom & Mary Sullivan, and Kay C. Ward.

### WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM:

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

#### **Ken Storey, 16039 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Burien, WA 98166**

Here's my membership dues with a little extra for mailing (or have a Starbucks on me); thanks to everyone who are part of the Newsletter team.

We had a lot of fun at the 2025 Reunion in Denver.

#### **Len Blodgett, 11022 SW 29<sup>th</sup> Ct., Portland, OR 97219**

I've been a RUAEA member since my retirement in 2001 after 42 years at United Airlines. I have enjoyed my life with my wife Jerri of 60 years until health issues caused her death shortly after her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday this year. I've been a little lost since that time.

So far, I've been able to still volunteer as a volunteer motorman on the Astoria Riverfront Trolley, which promotes tourism seasonably for visitors and cruise ships stopping at the mouth of the Columbia River near the Pacific Ocean.

I want to thank the RUAEA staff for keeping us informed. In particular, the "Contact Column" was helpful for me this year.

Thank you for all the good work you team does. I'm happy to pay my membership dues.

#### **Russel & Elgie Cormier, 820 Memorial Dr., #242, Spring Valley, MN 55975**

Enclosed please find my membership renewal and some extra for the Postal fund. We have always enjoyed the RUAEA Newsletter and hope you can keep it up.

### **Notes**

#### **Raymond Knazik**

For those who knew him and did not hear the news, Ray (CLECG and IADCG) passed away last year at this time. We miss the fellow who was always grateful for everything and wanted to help others. The entire family goes on with life, and we have Ray in our hearts each and every day.

#### **Michael O'Meara**

I was Airport Operations Supervisor at RIC from 2004 to 2016; I was employed by Capital Region Airport Commission, Operator of RIC.

#### **Moifair Chin**

It has been a while since I connected with the SEA station folks! I am looking forward to reconnecting with my former colleagues.

#### **Theodora Wertenbroek**

I enjoy reading the history of United Airlines.

#### **Sarah Linderman**

I'm enjoying retired life by staying busy with my political campaigns and social events.

#### **Marilyn Farmer**

United and RUAEA bring back many happy memories.

#### **Nalini M. Shah**

Thank you for providing useful information for retirees.

#### **Cassandra L. Honeycutt**

I like the RUAEA website. Nice changes!



### **Donald E. Clark**

I lost my wife in April of 2025, one day after our 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She was also UAL retired DENFH.

### **Kathryn Wright**

I would like to join RUAEA, learn about the organization and information for retirees.

### **Joseph P. Hopkins**

My wife of 38 years, Lisa, and I are enjoying retirement in Goodyear, AZ (west of Phoenix) after a 30-year career in media relations and being a spokesman for United mainly in Chicago but also a couple of years in Cleveland. RUAEA helps keep me up to speed on what is happening at United these days.

The expansion of flying for 2026 is exciting. And the company will turn 100 years old in April. Every so often, I stumble across the name of someone I worked with. It doesn't happen with every issue of the newsletter, but when it does happen, it sparks good memories.

### **Thomas F. Boyle**

RUAEA is providing a great service via the Newsletter; I enjoy reading it in all my 26 years of retirement and loving it.■



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# **The Contact Column**



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

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

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

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

### **United Employee Service Center**

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

1-847-825-3729 - International Use

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

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

### **Employee Travel Center**

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

### **United Airlines Technical Service Desk**

**1-800-255-5801**

For Flying Together password assistance

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

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

**PBGC** - for all retiree pension questions

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

### **Social Security Administration**

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

### **Alliant Credit Union**

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

<http://www.alliantcreditunion.org>

Malcolm Horn, CFP®, Financial Consultant

Alliant Retirement & Investment Services

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

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

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

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

1-844-635-3401

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

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

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**INCLUDE FILE NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE**

For all Membership & Newsletter Circulation issues, please contact Membership Manager:

*Michael Malesardi*.

Phone Number: (303) 780-5022

-or-

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

Email: [rueaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:rueaoffice@gmail.com)

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	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Canada/Mexico</b>	<b>Foreign</b>
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