



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

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



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## RUEA Regional Directors

*Marji Gabert-Milam*



*Mountain*

*Rosalie Tripicchio*



*S. Calif. East*

*Sonda Sandstedt*



*SE Meets West*

*George Midwin*



*NW Calif. - Hawaii*

*Chuck Cole*



*Northwest*

*Ray Jensen*



*Florida - Georgia*

*Jackie Monilaw*



*Midwest - Cactus*

# GENERAL NEWS

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

## Letter from the President



Hi Everyone,

I finally received my first Covid shot and get my second in about three weeks. With that said I would like to talk about the convention. We are going to start planning for 2021 since we should all have our shots and UAL should be partially up to speed. There will be a lot of things that will affect whether we can or cannot have our convention.

I miss being able to see and talk to all of you. I will keep you updated as the year goes on.

Some more good news: We have some good folks in IAH asking to join RUAEA which is really good news, and we are trying to work out the details.

I would like to acknowledge **Joan Smith** who works at UAL in the HR department. She is our source of information and getting answers to all our questions. Thank you, Joan, for all your efforts to help our group.

**Don Burbank**  
**RUAEA President**

## Regional Directors - 2021



The August 2020 front cover of the RUAEA newsletter had a map of the Regional Directors new areas of responsibility. Since then, **Ruth Morabito** has been elected Executive Vice President of RUAEA. **Marji Gabert-Milam** accepted Ruth's position as Mountain Region Director. And, the COVID-19 virus has changed all of our lives.

Our chapters have not been able to meet in most areas, and our Regional Directors have not been able to visit. In this issue, we are including a photo of each of our directors, as you can see on the cover. The following is a brief message from your directors regarding themselves, their areas of responsibility, or both. We thank all the Regional Directors for their efforts in keeping us together in this most difficult time.

**Mountain Region:** The Mountain Region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. When the Covid-19 virus is under control, we hope we will be able to visit local chapters and start new chapters in states that have no local chapters.

**Marji Gabert-Milam**  
**Regional Director Mountain Region**  
(916) 300-6570  
[marjimilam@msn.com](mailto:marjimilam@msn.com)

**S. California - East Region:** The Southern California-East region includes Connecticut, Southern California, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. We are not limited to United or Continental retirees, we welcome all airline retirees to join us.

**Rosalie Tripicchio**  
**Regional Director Southern California - East Region**  
(619) 368-4106  
[rosalie.tripicchio@gmail.com](mailto:rosalie.tripicchio@gmail.com)

**SE Meets West Region:** It may seem strange that our region spans the country but let me give you a little background. I started my career with United in San Francisco. 5 years later my husband's company moved to Charlotte, NC and I transferred to Greensboro and then Charlotte. Although I moved back to the Sierra

Foothills east of Sacramento when I retired, I still maintain friendships and have several close relatives in the Carolinas, Maryland and Florida. It's not unusual to see me (in non covid times) hop a flight and head East.

I love to travel so visiting states near and far seems like an adventure to me. You can always reach me by cell phone or email with questions or for information on chapters in your area no matter where I may be.

Our SE Meets West region includes Baltimore, Washington (DCA), Virginia (IAD), North and South Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Utah, Nevada and Northeastern California. We have active chapters in many of those states and I would be happy to help establish new chapters in areas where we have lots of retirees. In fact, we hope to start one near Greenville, SC as soon as we can travel freely again. Come join the camaraderie we share and the updated information we pass on thru our liaison with the company. I look forward to talking to you or possibly meeting one day soon. I'm sure we all have stories to share.

**Sonda Sandstedt**

**Regional Director SE Meets West**

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**Northwest CA - Hawaii Region:** My 39 years with United have all been in SFO and for the most part in OV, aircraft overhaul. I started as a mechanic on the DC-8 and then as a supervisor on 727 overhauls. When the operation expanded to OAK, I worked there as an operating manager. I enjoyed a diversity of assignments; I worked as an on-site rep for our DC-10's in Mobile, AL, the SOFIA project in coordination with NASA, ISO 9000 inspector, process improvement team leader and maintenance process coordinator. I spent the final years at United as aircraft planning manager.

Throughout my years I was fortunate enough to be assigned to a host of special projects, which I really enjoyed. These included science fairs, open house events at the maintenance operations center, tours of our facility for mileage plus members, hosting the Blue Angels during Fleet Week and planning employee recognition events. It has been over 7 years since I retired and I still miss the smell of jet fuel in the morning.

I joined RUAEA soon after retiring to be along like minded people and have made many friendships. I was president of the South Bay chapter and now am the correspondent. Talking with **Roger Casterline** as he was thinking of retiring from the position of Western regional director for RUAEA, he suggested I run for the position. I have held the position for a comparatively short time before this virus hit.

For those in the area that covers the Northern coastal and parts of central California and Hawaii, please feel free to contact me anytime:

**George Midwin**

**Regional Director Northwest CA - Hawaii Region**

(650) 670-2587 mobile

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**NorthWest Region:** The NW region covers nine States: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

There are six chapters within the NW region: Idaho - The Boise Gems, Minnesota - The Northern Lites, Oregon - The Oregon Dew-Ers and OUR Club, Washington - The Emerald City Slickers and The Lilac City Flyers. With the Pandemic shutdown, no chapters have been meeting since March 2020. The chapter principles keep in touch with their members during this time. Although it is too early to predict when meetings can be restarted, many plan to do so.

**Chuck Cole**

**Regional Director Northwest Region**

(206) 919-2020

[slc2ctcl@gmail.com](mailto:slc2ctcl@gmail.com)

**Florida- Georgia Region:** The name of this region is self-explanatory. It consists of Florida and Georgia. Although only two states, it includes many local RUAEA chapters.

**Ray Jensen**

**Regional Director Florida - Georgia Region**

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**Midwest Region - Cactus:** After working for United Airlines for 40 years (various departments: data entry/keypunch, air freight, aircraft maintenance, SE regional Vice Presidents office, reservations and lastly customer relations), I retired in 2014.

My region consists of the Midwest/Great Lakes area including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin and the Cactus region, Arizona and New Mexico. But, I am available to assist with any of the chapters that are part of RUAEA. The common thread of our members is their love of travel and the friendships they developed while working with United. I have heard so many great stories and memories from the members I've spoken to. Over the years their co-workers have become family.

While my whole career except 6 months was in the Chicago area, I'm happy to be part of the RUAEA organization.

**Jackie Monilaw**

**Regional Director Midwest Region - Cactus**

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### **United CleanPlus Advocates will help monitor COVID-19 practices in airports**

**February 1, 2021**



With many colleagues returning to work through the end of March, we have a unique opportunity to step up the way we track our adherence to our cleaning and social distancing standards. We're launching United CleanPlus Advocates, giving airport teams another option to help make sure we are following our own best practices to maintain the integrity of our employee and customer spaces. This work will be done by returning employees who can ensure we're adhering to United CleanPlus protocols.

The program has been designed in collaboration with safety leaders at each airport. Participating airports will continue to focus on the core needs of the operation. But in airports where there are enough staff to meet operational needs, some returning workers will be checking on social distancing and mask usage and performing facility and aircraft cleanliness audits. They'll be checking on general practices by customers and colleagues, not recording individual interactions. The program is expected to run through March 31.

### **How's my flight tracking debuts**

**January 27, 2021**



We're making it easier for customers to know the status of their flight with the new "How's my flight tracking" feature in our United app. Customers can access the new feature by going to the flight status and trip details section on our mobile app, where they will find live updates on:

The location of their aircraft: When their aircraft has arrived at the gate plus sends a reminder to avoid crowding the gate area. Aircraft cleaning status: When their aircraft is being cleaned and offers additional details about our cleaning and safety procedures. Boarding status: Status change when their plane is beginning to board. "How's my flight tracking" first launched at IAH earlier this month, and it's now available to customers flying from any of our seven hubs. This app feature will expand to our line stations starting next month.

Additionally, "How's my flight tracking" will appear on our Gate Information Display Screens (GIDS) in the boarding areas. We developed this new capability to decrease overcrowding and promote social distancing in gate areas prior to departure. This new feature is just one of many ways we continue to innovate to keep our customers and employees safer and more informed throughout every touchpoint of the travel experience.

### **Getting the most from our GSE fleet**

**February 3, 2021**



Did you know that we operate more than 36,000 pieces of ground service equipment (GSE)? Starting this year, we're taking steps to significantly improve how we utilize each piece of equipment, thanks to new technology that will be installed on a large portion of our equipment over the coming months.



*“This will help us ensure that we can take advantage of our more modern environmentally friendly equipment, while also ensuring that our frontline employees have the right equipment ready at the right times,”* said GSE and Facility Maintenance Managing Director Fiona Kiesel. *“Our Airport Operations partners will be able to plan and execute more efficiently with information at their fingertips that shows which equipment is available for them to use, and where it is located at their airport.”*

Over time, the system will also improve the reliability of our GSE fleet by ensuring that preventative maintenance occurs on schedule, and by alerting us when something needs attention, like a check engine light or a weak battery.

We plan to deploy this technology in three phases; the first will begin this quarter and will employ a Wi-Fi transmitter on about 20% of the ground equipment in our hubs. This cost-effective Wi-Fi system identifies where a particular unit is at any given time. In later phases, we will roll out more sophisticated telemetry units that can measure fuel efficiency and a wide variety of other vehicle data.

Operators of ground equipment should not notice any changes in the way our tugs or other vehicles operate as a result of the technology, Fiona noted. However, our ability to manage equipment will improve.

*“It sounds simple to keep track of GSE, but with the size of our fleet and the scale of our hubs, we’ve always hoped for something that can better match equipment to need”,* said Airport Operations Managing Director Hector Chahin. *“This technology will provide insights that will enable our teams to work smarter, such as alerting that an inbound aircraft will need an Air Start and showing a map with the location of the nearest unit, enabling the team to have it ready to go before the aircraft even arrives at the gate.”*

### **The next step in our temporary recall process**

**January 29, 2021**



The extended federal Payroll Support Program for airlines has allowed United to welcome back thousands of coworkers this winter, providing an important boost for them and for our airline. Since the start of the pandemic, we’ve worked hard to stay ahead of the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our business, but unfortunately, the crisis isn’t over.

Despite ongoing efforts to distribute vaccines, customer demand has not changed much since we recalled those employees. When the recalls began, United said most recalled employees would return to their previous status as a result of the fall furloughs around April

1. As such, recalled employees in states where WARN may be triggered are receiving notice about this today.

These letters, called WARN notices and sent via e-mail, may be required by the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act or by similar state laws before workforce reductions occur – even in cases like this where the recalls were short-term. Some coworkers may not receive an individual WARN notice via e-mail if state law does not require it, but United is working closely with each union to notify them of these events.

As we wrote in July when the original WARN notices were sent, receiving a WARN notice does not automatically mean you will be on furlough status after April 1 – but it is a sign that we have a reasonable expectation that your job may be affected.

We continue to look for ways to reduce costs, and furlough numbers may be reduced depending on the final number of people in each workgroup who take the newest Voluntary Separation Leave program, available to most AFA, IAM, and PAFCA-represented employees as well as technicians and related employees. Eligible employees can find more information on Help Hub. We’re continuing to monitor demand and advocate for continued government support, and we are all working hard toward the day when we can bring back our furloughed coworkers permanently.

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



In today’s world, families are doing everything they can to support and protect their loved ones. This can be challenging in any number of ways, especially financially, as individuals, along with their families, try and find ways to spend down their assets in order to be able to afford specialized housing and supportive care.

**Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors** can assist individuals and their families to help determine if Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, or Skilled Nursing Care is needed. We will walk with the individual and their family throughout this process; ensure that the right questions are being asked, and that the best possible information is

being provided to help make a decision. Once that choice has been determined, we will assist in making sure that whatever is needed for the next part of the move-in, is done in a timely and respectful manner.

For individuals already residing in a community who may be required to move based on their financial situation, we can help transition them into a new setting while getting them qualified for Medicaid, should they find themselves in the process of needing to spend down their assets. Our process **is faster** than going through county human services or having the family pay an expensive attorney to get them qualified. We are contracted with a company who helps get our clients qualified typically within 2-4 weeks which is unheard of!

Additionally, if you are a Veteran who might be in this position, we can help to see if you qualify for Aid and Attendance assistance, which provides additional (tax-free) funds that will help extend your financial monthly income for housing and in home care. This is a free service that is provided to Veterans and we highly encourage those individuals to take advantage of this opportunity.

As we get older there are a lot of things we need to consider, not just for our health but for our peace of mind and for our family's peace of mind. Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors seems to have that one stop-shop kind of approach. We also have other service contacts that can help with Trusts and Wills, Senior Real Estate Specialist, downsizing and Estate Sales.

I encourage you to check out our website to learn more about what services we can offer. Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors is committed to making a difference for our clients by serving as their advocate and guide.

**Lisa Weber**

**Heart 2 Heart 4 Seniors**

Transition Specialist

Cell: (303) 359-7418

Office: (303) 371-4100

Fax: (720) 863-8785

*... Helping you find your path home*

9725 E. Hampden Ave., Suite 100

Denver, Colorado 80231

Website: [www.h2h4seniors.com](http://www.h2h4seniors.com)

### **Torgy's Travel Tips – March 2021**

#### **Changing Travel Restrictions and Travel Insurance**



**Kathie Torgison**

As we enter year 2 of the Covid pandemic, the virus is mutating, doing anything it can to “survive”. According to the World Health Organization 3 variants of the virus, one from the UK, one from Brazil and another from South Africa, have been identified and are spreading. Each is estimated to pose a faster path of transmission and a greater risk of infection. As a result, travel restrictions have been re-imposed. At the time of this writing, it is now a US federal requirement to wear face masks at all airports and inside all aircraft. Lufthansa has just announced that passengers must wear a N95 or disposable mask, **not** a cloth mask due to the virulent nature of the new strain. UA has not yet followed suit, but stay tuned. Some countries that require passengers to present a negative Covid-19 test are reducing the allowable time period from 72 to 24 hours before departure. ***These regulations are changing day-to-day so for those of you who still cannot stay home, be sure to check the***

***following websites for the most up-to-date requirements:***

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

United has also launched a 1-stop digital assistant called Travel-Ready Center available to all ticketed customers. It can be found on [united.com](http://united.com) and on the United App under “My Trips”. Government testing and entry requirements based on your destination as well as UA travel requirements are shown. Links to additional information and Covid-19 testing options at select UA hubs can also be found here.

IATA announced that a mobile app called The Travel Pass would soon be available which will display Covid test results along with proof of inoculations and details of entry rules by country. This so-called Covid Passport could be a key to restarting international travel. Stay tuned for further info in the coming weeks.

Hawaii just started a new pre-clearance entry program February 1<sup>st</sup> which will expedite the arrival process into that state. Note: This program does **not** include arrivals by air to Kauai (LIH). Travelers, including pass travelers, must enroll in Hawaii's Safe Travel program before departure and complete a questionnaire within 24 hrs. of departure. You can also avoid the mandatory 10 day quarantine upon arrival **if** you take a Covid-19 test from the program's trusted partners within 72 hrs. of departure and upload the negative result to the Safe Travel website. Then, when you check-in for your flight to Hawaii, you will receive a wristband which will exempt you from further questioning upon arrival.

Resorts in some locations in Mexico and the Caribbean have begun offering free Covid-19 tests to guests departing by air after their stay. It is now required for **all** passengers **arriving** into the US to possess a negative Covid-19 result before boarding their flight. Imagine how difficult it could be trying to obtain a test when you don't speak the language or have ground transportation to the testing site. This service is a real timesaver. Check out the 13 resort chains offering this service by visiting [www.id90travel.com/covid19-faqs](http://www.id90travel.com/covid19-faqs)

OK, so what if you **do** decide to travel and something happens? How does travel insurance work these days in connection with Covid-19? I did some research and have found that coverage is available but not easy to



find. You **must** read the fine print and ask **specific** questions before purchasing. I concluded that, at the time of this writing, *Allianz Travel Insurance* appears to offer the most straight forward, easy to understand and comprehensive plans in the market. They have specifically expanded their coverage to include Covid-19 eventualities. They work with local medical providers at your destination, have 24/7 non-outsourced English speaking customer service when you need it, provide a Travelsmart App to assist you along your journey and provide superior Medi-Vac transport in the event of accident or illness. They are one of the only providers I have found that includes accompaniment of a family member for Medi-Vac. Repatriation of remains is also an included benefit. It's not something we like to think about, but it does happen. They also feature "policy portability" which allows the policy to be used without re-qualification within 770 days of purchase, in case your original trip was cancelled. That is the most generous of any

travel insurance I've found to date.

And a final thought for this article is that I thought my birthday this year would not be as celebratory as past years', but I was mistaken. Although no family and friends could gather around a "blazing" birthday cake to mark this milestone event, I got something better right on my special day: my first dose of the Covid vaccine! Just the day before, I received a friend's call telling me our local HMO was starting vaccinations the next day. One call later, I had the appointment for both doses. The next day, I entered the clinic wearing my inflatable "Lost Count" birthday hat, much to the delight of the health care staff who promptly and efficiently delivered the painless inoculation. After 15 minutes in the post-inoculation waiting room, I was free to go. What a gift!

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

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

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



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

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

### ALABAMA

#### SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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

### ARIZONA



#### PHOENIX AZURES

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

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

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

#### PHOENIX RE-UNITED'S

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



This is the best time of the year in Arizona, in the 70's and 80's, no wonder more people like to visit or move here. Sure beats the cold and snow east of here. Love being out in the sunshine. Sure brightens up our day.

We need to brighten up our spirits too; especially because of the pandemic everywhere; hopefully, we will all get our shots and things will get back to a somewhat normal state soon.

Our chapter hasn't met since last year. Sure miss all our members, and look forward to seeing them real soon. We hope our members will keep in touch with each other and also keep the officers informed of any news that's happening with them. We need to keep up our friendship we all have enjoyed for many years.

We lost a long time member the end of January to cancer. **Judie Preston** was an active member for a long time and a fun person to be with. She moved out to Sun City West a few years ago, but still kept in touch with



our group. If you want to get in touch with her family, cards can be sent to Darren, Paige and Sean at 22108 N. Via Montoya, Sun City West, AZ 85375.

The following members or spouses have birthdays in March: **Nancy Luby, Bill Eaton, Janet Vehring, John Smiley, and Olga Aguilar.** Happy Birthday to you all! We don't have anybody having Wedding Anniversaries this month.

Get your shots, wear your masks, and stay healthy. We will get through all this soon!

### **TUCSON ROADRUNNERS**

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

### **CALIFORNIA**

#### **CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATERS**

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

#### **Calendar:**

Next meeting, time and place TBD

#### **CENTRAL COASTERS**



Avila Beach, CA  
Al Rybar  
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Another month of staying at home and avoiding any contact with relatives or friends. I got word from our doctor that we should get our vaccine shot since we are over 75 years old. My wife was determined to get hers but I was reluctant to get mine until I kept reading about the vaccine and now I'm ready to get mine. I tried to get an appointment on the computer, but it kept saying they were turning down any new patients and to try later. In the January 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday paper, it said that 4000 have appointments and they are now out of serum. We live in an adult community with so many over the age of 75, there is no telling when we'll be able to get ours. We only had one day to sign up so the appointments went fast.

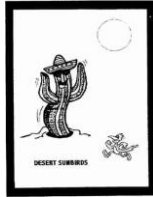
Since I was having so much trouble getting an appointment, my daughter tried it and I got an appointment in 4 days. She then talked to someone about my wife going along with me. How she did this I don't know, but she was able to get her an appointment 15 minutes sooner than mine.

We finally got our first Moderna COVID-19 shot. We now have to wait for our next appointment in about 28 days. So far my wife and I have had no reaction. I was impressed the way we were taken care of. Since we decided to stay in the car, we were directed to a parking area. We were then met by an RN who told us all about this vaccine and collected our check sheet. She left to get the shots and after she administered them to us she said to wait 15 minutes before leaving in case we had a reaction. We were told that this whole procedure would take about an hour, but it didn't seem to take that long. The sooner we get the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot the better, since we will be able to go to stores or talk with friends while only wearing the mask.

Finally we are getting a much needed rain in the area. However it has rained for 3 days and this has caused a lot of flooding in the beach area but so far no damage or power outages.

### **DESERT SUNBIRDS**

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

### **EAST BAY DIABLOS**



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Hello again to everyone in RUAEA Land from the San Francisco East Bay. As I write this, in early February, the Covid vaccine is becoming more available with each passing day. Hooray! I lucked out and was able to have my first shot on January 22. San Ramon Regional, where my dog and I do therapy dog visits, made the vaccine available to their volunteers age 65 and older. Of course, I jumped at the chance, and am now awaiting the second shot on February 17. I have heard that the second shot can make you feel miserable for a day or two afterwards, but it's a small price to pay for long term peace of mind.

I had a nice chat with **Joe Sweeley** who was a lead mechanic at SFO. He called me in response to **Ken Price's** story, in last month's newsletter, about the Japan Air Lines flight that landed in San Francisco Bay on November 22, 1968. When I went to listen to his voicemail, I pressed "delete" instead of "listen." Oh no! Thus began a very determined treasure hunt for Joe's phone number. First I tried googling his name to no avail. Then I contacted our newsletter editor **Veronica Domaratus**. She was having computer issues and could not access the database in Denver. She referred me to Cas at the DEN RUAEA office. Cas saved the day and I had Joe's phone number that same day. It turns out that Joe had cut out and saved newspaper articles about the JAL accident all these years, and wanted to share them with Ken. How cool is that? Joe and Ken talked on February 5 and I'm sure they had a great time reminiscing. As Ken told me, "This is the third guy to call me regarding some of the articles I've written. Brings back memories of long ago."

**Book Corner** ~ I just started reading *The Book of Lost Friends* and I'm enjoying it very much. Author Lisa Wingate brings to life startling stories from actual "Lost Friends" advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away. It is the dramatic and hopeful story of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives.

**RUAEA Dues** ~ I recently renewed my RUAEA dues, and I did it online for the first time. Wow, what an easy process! I am really impressed with how easy and straightforward it was. So much quicker and safer than sending a check through the mail.

Taking an African Safari is at the top of my Bucket List. Many years ago I cut out and saved an article from Reader's Digest about Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, Kenya. It's a boutique hotel, with only 12 rooms, set on 12 acres of private land within 140 acres of indigenous forest. The manor, styled after a Scottish hunting lodge, has

a resident herd of endangered Rothschild Giraffes that often mingle with guests at breakfast and tea time. Where else can you be sitting in your hotel room on the second floor and pet a giraffe who sticks his head through your window? Wonderful pictures of the property and their world famous giraffes at <https://www.thesafaricollection.com/properties/giraffe-manor/>.

I recently read about an amazing giraffe rescue operation in Kenya. In 2011, conservationists relocated endangered Rothschild giraffes to Longicharo Peninsula in Lake Baringo to protect them from poachers. But last fall, intense rain storms started raising the water level of the surrounding lake. The peninsula became an island. Rising waters continued to flood the island, rising up to six inches a day. The island used to be 100 acres in size. As of December, there were less than eight acres of land left.

At first, conservationists ferried over extra food and monitored the giraffes' health. But a steady rate of lake-level rise meant the animals would soon run out of habitat and acacia trees to eat. Conservationists from the Kenya Wildlife Service, and the nonprofit organization Save Giraffes Now hatched a plan: They would build a barge and ferry the animals to Ruko Conservancy on the mainland one by one, with the help of local residents. The rectangular, steel barge sits atop empty, buoyant drums with giraffe-sized reinforced walls that prevent the animals from jumping out. Rothschild giraffes are among the tallest giraffe species; they can reach heights of 19 feet and weigh up to 2.5 tons. Read the full story at <https://www.businessinsider.com/giraffes-trapped-kenya-rescue-photos-2021-1>.

**Ken Price** has another story to share. In the early 1970's the U.S. Air Force was flying Convair 240's to train Air Force navigators. An upgrade was needed so they decided to purchase 19 Boeing 737-200's with the interior adapted for students and navigator training equipment. The first aircraft was delivered to Mather Air Force Base in July 1974. Within a couple of years all 19 aircraft were delivered and the Air Force decided over water training was needed. Plans were developed to fly training missions from California to Hawaii. An additional fuel cell was installed in the lower cargo area to increase aircraft range. Suddenly, the program was canceled. I asked the Maintenance Officer, "What Happened?" He said the base commander had decided an aircraft was going to be lost in the exercise as it was a "two engine aircraft over a four engine ocean."

Move forward a few years and the airlines were considering flying twin engine aircraft over long distance of water. From this effort ETOPS (Extended Twin Operations) was developed. (Some non-believers dubbed it "Engine Turns Or Passenger Swims.") The FAA agreed to a limited program where the distance over water from land could not exceed an hour. With successful engine performance over a period of time this distance was increased to two hours and so forth. Today I would guess the majority of commercial airline passenger - lights are flown in twin engine aircraft. What a change from the days of the 747 Queen of The Sky.

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

## **GOLDEN GATERS**

SFO – Bay Area  
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[gingersfo@aol.com](mailto:gingersfo@aol.com)



Here we are in YoYo-Land – we, again, are closed down, stay home mandates, some schools open, some outdoor dining spots are able to fire up the grills. I meandered downtown late yesterday and those restaurants that have outdoor dining were in full swing (first night they could serve meals.) The temperatures require that you wear your "woolies" however. Rumors today are that the rulings may be rescinded as Covid numbers are not that good; getting the vaccine has geared up but getting a date and time reservation is a huge challenge. Persevere and get that shot. Many of us are at the top of the list so there is no excuse – Do it! Life goes on and so we had a Board meeting. The Golden Gaters' will have to hibernate some more as our meeting facility is closed until further notice. We are "on hold" and will let our members know when we can gear up – so stay tuned, keep the Faith as this will get better.

Thank goodness the television set still works and keeps me occupied. The Corona Virus leads the pack with "25 Words or Less" – mask, exercise, hydrate, smile, no crowds, call a friend, 6 feet apart, stay home, cook healthy, meditate, breathe, read a good book, learn sign language. "The Amazing Race" sets up objectives for us to attain. **Objective #1** – Stay out of "General Hospital," **#2** "Escape to the Chateau," but don't swim in the moat as you need to avoid "The Shark Tank," **#3** Got a sunburn, you can use Aloe "Vera," **#4** Eat well at "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," **#5** Don't be one of "The Young and the Restless," (us oldsters don't like to be

told we are old – we are the “Younger Than Springtime,” generation.), **#6** Obey the “Law and Order,” or you will end up in “Judge Judy, Judge Jerry Springer (gadzooks,) Judge Mathis’ courtroom, **#7** You can hire “The Real (questionable) Housewives of Beverly Hills” to do your housework. **#8** Get a pet from “All Creatures Great and Small” preferably one who can stay in the house (that eliminates long-horn cattle, lovely Clydesdale horses (What? - no ad in the Super Bowl?) Back to **#1** Don’t want to get mixed up with “Dr. Oz,” “Dr. Phil,” “The Good Doctor” or “Doc. Martin”, **#9** “To Tell The Truth,” ‘cuz if you don’t, you might end up in the “Bull,” pen, **#10** Don’t like to cook? You can be a member in “Hells’ Kitchen.” So ... the moral of all of this is not “Mission: Impossible,” – it is Possible -- jump on the “American Bandstand,” get those feet movin’ as “Americas’ Got Talent,” and “Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella.”

Guess I should sign up for “Ginger”- just if you are wondering, I have not received a royalty check but will not hold my breath. Maybe” they” didn’t dismiss my request because, after all, “they” know to spell my name! So, I’ll meet you at “Cheers,” where “they” know my name! Okole Ma Luna!!

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



### **HANGTOWN MINERS**

Jane Gibson

Secretary

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

Well, Folks, it’s here – 2021! Actually, we’re almost halfway thru it. I think I’m pretty accurate in saying that last year was, how do I put it?, a humdinger. Yes, we had many challenges. Yes, we had to make adjustments. Yes, it was frustrating at times. **But**, how many of you pulled out those cookbooks and old favorite recipes? Ah, the smell of a home cooked meal drifting throughout the house and making anyone who was out for a walk, breathe deeply and envy what you were going to be scarfing down for dinner. Were you brave enough to tackle that “junk” drawer? Going thru those old file boxes that desperately needed to be purged. Or dig into that box of old photos? Now, that’s a hard one for me! Just about every picture I look at brings back memories that I cherish, people who may not still be with me any longer, my girls when they were little. On the down side of those pics is seeing how slender and toned I was; my hair was very different then but I like to think that my smile and eyes still show the spirit within me. We all have so many things to be grateful for as we proceed on our life journey. Yeah, there seems to be more speed bumps now, but we all are strong (sometimes that’s called “stubborn”) and full of determination and love for life. Something like this virus won’t be able to take us down – right?

My records do not show any of you planning an anniversary party this month, but next month will have plenty!

Do you have a birthday this month? I know **Bill Gibson** and **Angie Dellinger** will be adding a number to their ages. Happy Birthday to both of you, and if I missed anyone, that goes for you too.

I have heard from/about a few of you. **Reva Gordon** has a new address, so take note on the roster I’m attaching. **Rudy & Cindy Blazius** have a new phone number – also on the roster. **Pati Kenney** finally had that hip replacement and I understand she’s doing well. **Suzie Kenny** is having cataract surgery, and **Rosemary Heier** tangled with a chair leg and lost that “dance” winding up with a broken toe. My Bill wound up with spinal surgery to correct a bulge that was pressing on the spinal cord and hampering the healing of the shoulder damage he did in August. Let me know how you are doing! And let **Suzie Kenny** know as well.

Our Treasurer, **Tom Kenny**, sent the latest bank statement. Personal donations from **Thom Biro**, **Tom & Gerry Boyle**, **Bill & Jane Gibson**, **Roy & Dawn Martin** and **Bill & Linda Dinnette** brought the check to the El Dorado County Food Bank to \$450. Thank you, everyone, for helping your county out.

Okay, so get your checkbooks out and make out a check to the Hangtown Miners for \$10, and, mail it to: **Tom Kenny**, 3481 Parleys Canyon, Placerville, CA 95667. So many of our members have been a part of this group from the beginning. Like many successful shows and organizations, our chapter is a “spinoff” from the Gold Diggers. August 27, 2007 was the first meeting. **Harry Caldwell** was elected President; **Rosemary Heier** wound up as Vice President; **Jeanette D’Amico** volunteered to be secretary; **Dick Czapkay** took



Treasurer; **Irv Wolfram** handled Sunshine. Thank you to those who stepped up and brought us all together. And, we have never changed the dues amount! Get your \$10.00 2021 dues in as soon as possible!

As I mentioned above, there are important documents for you to look thru. Once we have all dues in, I will be sure to send an updated roster. Keep it handy – we all are good at helping one another. If you have anything that needs a friend's help, call or email them and they will do the same.

Since we are still locked down here in California, it doesn't look like we will be able to get together in February. This saddens me, I have missed seeing all of you, listening to the chatter, laughter, enjoying the teasing and wonderful meals. We need to do what we can to stay healthy and safe, so, I guess we just need to be patient! So, for another month, know that life is good, we can do this and we all support each other.



### **RESANS**

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

Our year 2021 is moving along but there is still no word of our retiree group being able to get together ... My eyes and ears are open and will get the word out as soon as I hear. Also the 2021 Convention is still in question but we have a year ahead of us and we will remain on a positive note.

There are no March Birthdays. So far everyone has settled into a daily routine and is moving on the best way possible. I have made a few calls and everyone seems to be well.

I am going to write about plants and what they know and we have no clue about the lives they live. I took a nature class a few years ago while becoming a trail guide at one of our parks and I am going to pass on some interesting facts that you may find of interest.

Plant awareness and their senses ~ They may be brainless, eyeless and devoid of senses but they have a very keen awareness. Although plant and human biology differ, plants are in themselves very complex.

Plants monitor their environment all the time. They see if you come near them, if you stand over them they know what color you are wearing. Of course, they don't see color as you and I do but they see light in ways we can only imagine. Plants recognize very little light, infrared light, and when the sun is about to set. They can tell the direction from where the light is coming and hence they bow to the direction of the light source. This behavior is called phototropism. Plants receive clues from the tip (eye) of the plant that causes them to react to light and even shortness of day which affects their blooming patterns. These cycles of light tell a plant when to germinate, when to flower and when it is nighttime. If a plant senses that a plant is growing too close and blocking them and posing a threat to their food source, it will begin to grow faster and move toward the light and regain their food source.

Next month I will continue with another interesting fact about plants that we have no clue about.

### **Calendar:**

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

### **SACRAMENTO** **GOLD DIGGERS**

Sacramento, CA  
Laverne Haubl  
Secretary  
[lhaubl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhaubl@sbcglobal.net)



There is no report this month from the Sacramento Gold Diggers chapter of RUAEA.



### SAN JOAQUINERS

Rosie Walls

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

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

If anyone would like any information about our chapter, please contact our president, **Steve Foster**, (209) 328-1210, and he will be able to answer any question you might have and give you the information about our chapter.

### 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)



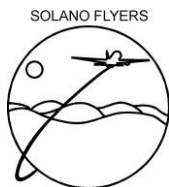
Our first Zoom meeting of the year had 17 members in attendance, not bad considering the time of year and situation with the virus. However, in an area completely surrounded by every major technology company in the US, one would expect more people to join in on Zoom meetings. It appears that some members are still finding it troublesome to connect via Zoom. Our president **Chuck Clayborn** and yours truly, have tried to assist in every way and will continue to do so, just give us a call. I have made it my goal to see that **Tony Urso** can master this Zoom thing and participate along with his lovely wife **Sally**.

**Jean Jenkins** recently underwent a surgical procedure and is resting at home; we wish her a speedy recovery. **George Dye** continues to improve on his health issues, albeit slowly and joined us on the first Zoom meeting this year. **Vernon Snyder** also recently underwent surgery and is recuperating at home attended to by his wife, **Maureen**, who is constantly at his side.

Official airline memorabilia collector, par excellence and his ever vigilant looking for a deal, **Ben & Cheri Scales** have had their estate sale days shortened due to the virus, however still come up with some good stuff now and then. **Robert & Karen Devlin**, miss visiting the winery; however, they have a sufficient supply at home to last awhile. **Bill & Rosemarie Reichard** have been enjoying walks at Vasona Lake park, maintaining 6 feet or 12 duck, spacing from other walkers. **Keith & Ann Olthof** are enjoying their new home in Ripon and despite moving away, have been regulars at our Zoom meetings. Although we have not heard from a number of members, we do know that it's not due to having won the 750 million dollar lotto.

Those of us that had worked at the maintenance base and particularly in airframe maintenance are saddened at the drastic changes that have been made. Many dear friends have lost their jobs and a historical site for United is dwindling away. Not all as the result of the virus, but a vision for the airline as it changes its maintenance practices.

I hope that all willing, are able to get the vaccine soon and can remain safe though the rest of the year. Also would be nice to be able to get together in San Diego at the convention!



### SOLANO FLYERS

Allan Pochop

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Vacaville, CA 95687

(707) 447-4980

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

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

## COLORADO

### DENVER MILE HIGHERS

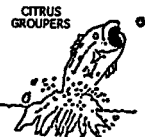
Rich & Cleora Conner  
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[richcleora@gmail.com](mailto:richcleora@gmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Denver Mile Highers chapter of RUAEA.

## FLORIDA

### THE CITRUS GROUPERS



#### THE VILLAGES

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

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

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



### THE ORLANDO

#### REAL McCOYS

Elaine Tillman-Mannella  
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The members of the Real McCoys Chapter of RUAEA are collectively praying for several things:

- ▲ Peace in our world.
- ▲ An end to the "search for a vaccination site".
- ▲ The perfect mask.
- ▲ Visits with our families and friends.
- ▲ Dinner at a restaurant.

In the meantime, in an attempt to zero in on just one of the many other issues we face ...

**NILE Virus (Type C):** I thought you would want to know about this virus. It appears to target those who were born prior to 1955. The lockdown seems to be increasing the chances of being affected!

#### **Virus Symptoms;**

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. (Done that)
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail. (That too)
3. Causes you to send an e-mail to the wrong person. (Yup)
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. (Ah-ha)
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. (Done that)
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished. (Oh no, not again)
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND. (Hate that)
8. Causes you to hit SEND when you should DELETE. (Heck, now what?)

This virus is called the **C-NILE virus!**

A lot of us have already been inflicted with this deadly disease and unfortunately as we age it gets worse. Even the most advanced computer programs from Norton & McAfee cannot take care of this one. And if you can't admit to doing any of the above, you've obviously caught the other strain - the deadly **D-NILE virus**.

Hoping this made you smile, as it did me. Stay safe and pray for everyone you know! That includes **yourself** ok?! Add ½ gallon of your favorite ice cream – You've earned it!

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

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

### **THE SAND DOLLARS**

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Venice, FL 34285  
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The Sand Dollars continue to hunker down, delaying any plans for a luncheon till the Covid numbers in our State have come under some sort of control. But, we consider ourselves very blessed to have our beautiful Florida warm, sunny weather, blue skies with constantly changing cloud patterns, our thriving plants and bird life to watch.

It is with great sadness that we have learned that **George & Jeanne Sudol** lost their son Sean on Christmas Day. He had been in poor health and was living up north. They had wanted to go see him for the holidays but because of Covid and their age, they decided they had better not travel. It is very difficult for them as Sean was their only son. Our sincere sympathies go out to George & Jeanne.

We are also extremely sad to announce the passing of one of our long-time members, **Nancy Gibbs**. Nancy had been a flight attendant with United for many years. She had a very upbeat personality and loved life, but had been unable to attend our luncheons recently because of health issues with her back. After many surgeries and rehab, she was finally diagnosed with bone cancer. Even then she didn't let things slow her down and took great pride in creating a beautiful back yard, planting trees, laying pavers and bricks ... and bags and bags of stone. Nancy always set a high standard for the female members of our group, with her elegant clothes and pastel colors. We will miss her so much!

Our world travelers, **Bob & Lisa Young**, have put a hold on their traveling for the time being, as they have a new grandson - now almost a year old. Isn't it funny how the birth of a grandchild can suddenly take precedence over travel plans?

**Alice D'Souza** and her friend **Susan** are also delaying traveling but are grateful for each other's company as they stay home. Alice is fortunate that her newest grandson, now six months old, is living only two miles away.

**Bob & Shirley Adams** were so looking forward to saying goodbye to 2020 after enduring pneumonia, hip revisions, and all the Covid restrictions, but in November Shirley fractured her patella (knee cap) and required more surgery. Thankfully she is now starting to get back to her normal routines ... and she won't break anything else, ever.

So, we've made it to the New Year — now let's hope 2021 will be a much better year and we'll soon be able to resume our monthly luncheons. If any new retirees are coming to our part of Florida we hope they will contact **Ginger Hyde** for information about our group. Her email is: [ASDIP920@aol.com](mailto:ASDIP920@aol.com), or phone (941) 360-6671.

*... and a reminder, a good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water ...*





## **TAMPA BAY CHAPTER**

Trinity, FL  
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The Tampa Bay Chapter met on February 1 at IHOP with 7 members in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

We welcome back **Roger Stahl**, we found out that he had hip surgery in December. Glad to have you back and also the **Lodges**. Again, we had a very laid back meeting.

Our thoughts go out to **Mary Martin**'s family with her passing; she was a long time member of our Chapter. We talked about Covid 19 and getting the vaccines, as well as United happenings and traveling.

Our April 5<sup>th</sup> Picnic is scheduled at 11:00 AM at Anderson Park. Peggy will be picking up chicken and every one else bringing a dish to share. Bring your own drink. We will have a sign up sheet for dishes in March.

It was so good to get out and be with our members. We talked about everything.

Happy Valentine's Day to All!

The meeting was closed and Breakfast/Lunch was served

### Calendar:

**March 1** – Meeting at IHOP, 10:30

**April 5** - Spring Picnic, Anderson Park - 11:00

## **TREASURE COAST**

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



As we enter a new year with optimism and hope, we reflect back at how far we've come during the pandemic. At last, some of us have received the vaccine or are scheduled to do so. Still unable to do everything we are accustomed to or desire to do, we are still waiting patiently to recover a sense of normalcy. We are always mindful of social distancing, wearing our mask(s) and staying home as much as possible. We look forward to going out to get the mail, head to the grocery store or pharmacy and fill up the car with gas (not needed as often lately). Make-up is lasting longer, hand sanitizer seems to run out quickly and our wardrobe will be fine for awhile. I've worn out two pair of slippers and have learned to love my sweats!

Many of us are looking forward to the Super Bowl even if just watching it on TV will have to do. I will be watching closer than usual since I will be watching for my daughter and her co-workers who have been given the honor of attending as a vaccinated health care worker. They are thrilled and I am thrilled for them. They have certainly had a year to remember. Though many lives have been lost, without their valiant efforts it could have been far worse. They have put in more than their normal days and hours and go home exhausted, always being mindful of their families' safety as well.

I, personally, have had several family members and other relatives infected with COVID-19. Some have had minor or no symptoms, some with more severe, but none, thank goodness, had to be hospitalized. Even though the positivity rate in our state seems to be coming down and the hospital capacity is lowering, we still have hundreds of cases everyday. Many are still trying to get vaccination appointments. Just when you think the system is working, glitches crop up. It would be great if all of our counties were on the same page. It is a logistical nightmare. I will be having my second shot this Sunday, thank goodness.

I reached out again to our membership hoping to get updates on their status. We so miss getting together for our enjoyable meetings. We haven't met now for a year, which is unbelievable. I was happy to hear from so many. Here is their input:

From our Vice President **Bob Langevin**: *"Sandy (Ruggiero) and I continue to do very well and manage to keep very busy during this challenging period of time. Actually, our daily routine has not changed very much - while being prudent and wearing our masks at all times - we shop when we want and need to. We have dinner out with friends and continue to go out to our regular Happy Hours every Friday afternoon and do have friends*

over to our house occasionally or go to theirs.

We will be having our annual Super Bowl Party on February 7<sup>th</sup> this year but it will be greatly reduced in #. This year we will only have 10 whereas we normally have 30-40. So, as you can see, we are being very **careful**.

After getting up at 5:45 AM every Wednesday and Friday morning to get on the Publix website, at 6AM, to sign up for our COVID-19 vaccine, I was finally successful last Friday morning (1/29) and was able to schedule our shots at our local Publix grocery store on February 3<sup>rd</sup> (which happens to be my 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary date with United). Our 2<sup>nd</sup> shot is already scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We'll certainly feel much more comfortable and at ease with this COVID-19 threat after we get our shot(s).

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we are flying to LAS for a few days for some fun, a change in scenery and an opportunity to win some big bucks! In early October, we've booked a 2-week vacation that will take us to England, Scotland and Ireland. We will be flying out of MIA and returning to MIA, so it will really be convenient for us in SE FL.

In conclusion, Sandy and I are hoping that all of us are seeing the "light at the end of the tunnel" with this COVID-19 situation and are hoping all of our United family are doing well, staying healthy and are looking forward to the re-start of our RUAEA luncheons sometime in the very near future. Until we get together again, Cheers and Blessings to all."



A message from **Patricia Connell**: "We (Pattie & **Tom Odom**), are getting our second COVID-19 Moderna shot on February 5<sup>th</sup>. I have painted close to 40 or more paintings and made many pieces of jewelry. We are starting to plan trips soon, I hope".

**Mardele Celestin** shares: "I am doing well. I was blessed that Palm Beach Health came to Century Village in Boca and I got vaccinated. I now have both shots. We got Pfizer. Other than a sore arm, I was fine. I am still super cautious. No travel for me until Fall."

From **Fran D'Amico**: "This year I will not be going to Florida due to the virus. I am still waiting for the vaccine. New Jersey seems to be overlooked. I signed up with the state but no advancement. All of us blame our Governor. Not much I can do. This is the first winter I've spent here in over thirty years. And now I'm experiencing a snow storm.

Thank God no one in my family has been affected by the virus. Most are working from home. Shopping is done when necessary, a quick visit and speedy return home. Activity is reduced to staying home and catching up with a back log of paperwork and house chores, the later due to not wanting anyone in my home. That's the tale of life these days ... hope all is well with all of you. Be safe and stay well."

**Gene Student** writes: "We're doing fine. Fran and I have just gotten our first vaccinations scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We took our grandkids, Austin and Alex exploring in the Florida Keys over MLK weekend. One day we went to Pigeon Key located just off the west end of the 7-mile bridge. You can only reach it by boat from Marathon. It is a historic spot that housed 400 workers that were building the Overseas Railway, in the early 1900's. It's only 5 acres, so a good place to allow active kids to run free (they can't get off the island). Another day, we went to Bahia Honda State Park on the tip of its eponymous Key. A beautiful spot with beaches (one of which is closed after hurricane damage), a marina and lots of places to explore. You can climb up to the old remaining trestle portion of the Overseas RR. A fun time was had by all. We haven't been on an airplane in almost a Year! Take Care."

**Frank & Jane Wise** tell us they have received their vaccines, Frank at the VA and Jane traveled to Ft. Lauderdale for hers. She tells us "this weather is too cold for words". I might add, it's far worse up north!

From **Jim & Janet Hanley**: "Jim and I trust all are doing well since the last update. Good News to report! The luck of the Irish does exist. Jim was fortunate to secure a vaccine appointment, after contacting several COVID-19 vaccination sources with Florida Dept. of Health Martin County. We received our final vaccination February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are still working on building a new lanai. Hope to see everyone soon".

And finally, from our President **Al Popek**: "Here is an update on **Janice**. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, it had been two months since she had had her stroke. It's a catch 22. Sometimes it seems like forever since she went into rehab. On the other hand, two months flew by. Because of the severity of the stroke, it will take some time before she will be able to come home. I have a weekly conference call with her therapists to see how she is improving. They seem to be satisfied with her weekly progress. Any little improvement as time goes on is a blessing. The other day, for the first time, Janice was able to complete a sentence. Some days are better than others, so we deal with it. Gladly, she has a good attitude and is determined to come home.

I get to visit with her in person for a half hour once a week, because of COVID-19. She has received her

first vaccine and is getting the second the middle of February.

Our biggest problem has been with Aetna, now that it is Aetna/Medicare Advantage. Going through a serious illness with this plan has not been pleasant. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy. After many hours on the phone with them, we are working things out.

On the first night it happened, I spoke with the doctor who operated on her. He told me she had a 50/50 chance of survival. With that said, each time I talk with her now, each word she says is so good to hear. God has been with her since day one.

I am becoming quite the homemaker. I have only burnt a few things so far!

Thank you, everyone, for your support. It helps me deal with this in a better frame of mind. So, dear friends, please keep those prayers coming. They are really helping. Best Wishes, Al".

March Birthdays ~ **Bob Langevin** and **Jim Morehead**.

## HAWAII



### HONOLULU MENEHUNES

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

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

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

### PAU HANA KUPUNA

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

## IDAHO



### BOISE GEMS

Shirley Dempsey  
[brandyjake@cablone.net](mailto:brandyjake@cablone.net)

Our February meeting was cancelled. Our next meeting will be in April. At this time, many of us are getting our vaccinations for Covid-19. I hope that by April we will qualify for a meeting if all our members were vaccinated. Time will tell.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. At least there is light at the end of this very long tunnel!

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO SKYLINERS

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March 2021—It's almost Spring, see the little crocuses and tulips popping out between the snow drops?

I've said it before, but I think the tulip is the strongest little flower out there. It comes up in March, defies the snow, rain, wind and freezing temperatures. We should take a lesson or two from the mighty Terrific Tulip, stand tall and grow, don't let the bad stuff get in your way. We've just been through some of the most terrible months of our lives. Yes, WW2 was bad, so were the other wars, health issues, family disasters, shocking deaths of family and friends, but I must say, and it's pretty universal, my friends all agree, this past year has been the worst. We've been frightened by doctors, politicians, friends, the mayor, the governor, even my cats are hiding under the bed more often. This is a psychological war, you have to stay home, no family holidays, and now, I'm saying, 'I'm going out, don't fight with me!' All of my friends are sick and tired of looking at their spouses and pets, they need to get out, too. I'm having a Mask Burning party very soon, hope you can all join me. Don't let the rats get you down. The Virus Shots are out now, there's hope in the air, we **will** survive, and will laugh at this, very soon. Pretty soon the IAM and RUPA will meet. Our North and South side Breakfasts will reconvene and we'll all laugh, hug, and smile again. It just kills me to tell **Toni Van Kampen** to send out an email, canceling another month of get-togethers. Hang on a little while longer, the end is almost in sight. Just to show how confused we all are, at any age, I called my local CVS for a refill. The pharmacist, a lovely young lady, asked for the names or numbers of my medications. I gave her one, she said she'd call the doctor for a new prescription. I gave her the name of the second, she said, 'Oh, I'm sorry, I can't fill that until the 30<sup>th</sup>'. I said, 'That's tomorrow, isn't it?' There was about six-seconds of silence, then a boisterous laugh, 'Oh my God, that **is** tomorrow. I've lost track of time'. We laughed and laughed. I reminded her that the year was almost over! She laughed all over again. I asked her if she really needed a laugh, she said, 'You have no idea'. We both laughed some more, she said she'd fill it, and I could get it tomorrow. She then asked if I'd call her again and tell her more jokes, 'please, I get so absorbed with orders, calls and people screaming at me, I would love to hear from you again'. That made me feel good, too. Remember Red Skelton, of course you do, he would always say at the end of his show, 'I want to make you happy, if I can do that to just one person a day, I've accomplished a lot'. That's how I feel. When I'm gone from this world, I hope folks will say, 'she made me feel good, and made me laugh'. What more could I want?

March was named for the Roman God of War. He was the founder of Rome, and son of Jupiter and Juno. At least he had good lineage. He also has that cute little Red Planet named after him. He was a pretty impressive fella.

March is also Red Cross, Irish American, and Peanut Month, there's also the Ides of March on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a very special day, my birthday. Yep, got another year around the Sun. Some of the cuter days to remember are, National Pig, If Pets had Thumbs, Hug a GI, World Day of Prayer (we need that), National Dentist, Be Nasty, Popcorn Lovers, Ear Muff, Smart and Sexy, Dumbstruck, Giant Panda, St. Patrick, St. Joseph, National Goof-Off, Waffle, Turkey Neck Soup, and Make up your own Holiday Days. Whew, a crazy bunch. March 28 is Palm Sunday, hope we get our palms this year. Just felt wrong not being able to do craft work on a palm.

We canceled our February breakfasts, even though our governor opened up our state to Stage 4, indoor seating to 10. Some of us did venture out, **Marsha Sealock-Weber**, **Ginny Vlach**, **Ann Mahoney**, **Virginia Kondranos**, and yours truly. The Aircraft Maintenance people met, too, **Glenn Hill**, **Bob Smietanski**, **Stan Chmieliwicz**, **Tom Abraham**, **Sue & Bart Kendall**, also, **Jim Vitte**, **Jim Kraft**, **Rich Protsman**, **Dick Hoppel** and yours truly. The Board of the Skyliners decided that our Spring Luncheon would be canceled this March. There are so many factors out there against us not having it, it had to be done. Tough decision, we'll have another Board meeting later to determine the Summer Luncheon, and beyond. Hold tight, this quarantine can't last forever. Don't forget to sign up for your Covid-19 shots, we'll all get them eventually, if you're physically eligible, and able to get it. Keep the faith, baby. Remember that from the 60's? That was Adam Clayton Powell's famous saying.

Here's a lovely bittersweet story from **Bill Perry**, treasurer of the IAM 1487 Union of Chicago.



Mr. **James Daleo**, whose parents resided in Woodstock, Illinois, lost his Mother, Doris, on December 1, 2020. His grief became especially intense when he lost his Father, **John Daleo**, Marine veteran and retired United Airlines mechanic, only five days later. Jim's parents were both members of the L. L. 1487 Retired Airline Employees Club of the Chicago area. John had written a check in payment of their dues to the Club one month earlier and, because of Covid-19 restrictions, that check was still lying on the Club Treasurer's desk, awaiting deposit. Officers of the Club, also grieving their beloved members, decided the Daleo family, which includes not only Jim, but his brother, Carl, and his sisters, Julie and Diana, should be offered the opportunity to donate the check, in the name of their parents, to one of three local charities the Club supports. **Jim Daleo** welcomed the opportunity, and he selected "A Heart for Animals Rescue." In doing so, he noted that his parents were both in love with their pet cat they had adopted from a similar organization. Perhaps our readers would enjoy the acknowledgement of the donation Jim received from the President of the Center: 'Please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your Parents. It is heartbreaking enough to lose one, but both in such a short time. My heart hurts for you and your family. Thank you for the donation of \$20 to A Heart for Animals which came to us as your Parents' dues for the Airline Group. We have been working with the Airline group for the last few years, providing gift baskets for their Holiday party. Perhaps your Parents may have seen the baskets or even won one. Let's hope so!

We are a small, dog and cat Rescue that is foster home based. This means that all of our animals are in our Volunteers' homes. Our greatest expense is medical care and the donation will go directly to our vet!

Thank you again for the donation". ~ Kirsten Jungert, President, AHFA

Our Skyliner treasurer, **Charlie Lewis** has received calls and emails asking when their chapter dues are owed. I did send out a note last fall, plus wrote it in the RUAEA newsletter, perhaps you missed it. Our Board decided if your dues were paid in 2020, we extended your membership up until the end of 2021. Since we had such an inactive year, and 'I'd like to forget this year,' we decided it was a nice thing to do. Charlie advised them he would send back their check, or they could put the \$5.00 into one of our Funds, as a contribution. The people offered to put it towards the Postage, Internet, or the Entertainment Funds. Thank you for your kindness. If anyone else would like to contribute towards one of these, it will go towards having one 'hell of a party' when we get back to normal. I'm happy to announce we have two new members, **Bart Kendall** and **Glenn Hill**, see, we're still alive and well.

Talked to a few of our friends this month; **Carol & Sam Geiger, John Wade, Norm Wilkinson, Shirley Perkins, Connie Glattly, Jean Webster, Gwen Brookins, Sandy Piowarczyk, Walt Fink, and Lillian Mallstrom**. They are all staying in, behaving and want you to know they're stayin' alive.

Some little items of interest, The Disney Magical Express bus is still operating between Orlando Airport and any Disney Hotels, free of charge. If you're not staying at a Disney Hotel, at Disney World Resort, you cannot use this bus. Also, you have to get your luggage before you get on the bus. It's best to reserve a ride before you arrive. However, after January 1, 2022, Disney will no longer offer the Magical Bus to and from the Park. There will be other options, we can go into later. (Now you'll probably forget, haha)

You probably heard that one of our favorite crooners, Tony Bennett, 94, has Alzheimer's disease, and has had it for the last four years. An amazing man, he kept doing his concerts, personal appearances, albums, and his painting. His doctors told him to keep busy, and he did. I saw him often here and in other cities, he's a favorite, sad to see so many people of our age, slowly fading away. More research is necessary versus the study of bees in the trees, or money sent to other countries. I have a funny story. Back in the 80's, I worked at ORD. I had to visit one of the offices behind the front ticket counters, back there was the cashier's office, ticketing, staff, etc. I'm walking, and I see this nice looking, well dressed man walking toward me, he was wearing a beautiful lush midnight blue cashmere overcoat. He looked familiar, so I said, 'Hi, how are you? Nice to see you'. He had a beautiful smile, said, 'Hi, I'm good, hope you are, too'. We kept walking, all of a sudden, it dawned on me who it was, Tony Bennett! I screamed his name, turned around, but he was gone. OMG, one of my favorites, I just said, Hi, and, he answered me! If any of you have 'celebrity' stories, do tell, we'd all love to hear them. We are in the transportation business, and see famous people all the time, some of the meetings are quite interesting.

More good news from **Sandy Piowarczyk**, you might remember her daughter's husband, Terron, was in the 75<sup>th</sup> commemoration of D-Day in 2019. Now her son, Tuffy Warrens, has written a book. The title is 'Miervaldis and the Mute Swan'. It's entirely true, about an immigrant-American child who sees a wrong and wants to make it right. He can talk with birds and learns that humans can sometimes desire things that conflict with the natural order. In the end, Miervaldis learns that even his small voice can make a difference. Sounds good for children, and adults, too, he has received good reviews, and self-published the book. Sandy, what a proud mama you must be. Her daughter, Denise Whitaker, is a TV journalist with KOMO in Seattle.

Over this last year, so many have asked if anybody I knew had the Covid virus. Fortunately, and happily, I said, No. Well, as time has gone by, some of the UAL people that have passed, did have the disease. They went into the hospital with one problem, and ended up contracting the virus. Then my cousins, Tom and his wife, Konnie got a mild case, no taste, no smell, they're ok now. A friend's little seven year old daughter just got it, the whole family is quarantined. My cousin, Carol, just turned 66 on Christmas, passed away in early January. She had a bad health history, cancer, MS, plus a sad life, a very sweet girl. So, yes, this eventually affects us all, directly or indirectly. Stay well, you have no idea how I hate putting my friends names in my obit section.

Do you ever just sit and think about people who passed away, and reality hits you like, 'Wow ... they're really gone forever, I'll never see them again.' Well, here are a few more to think about. Last month we had way too many of our friends go to that UAL Friendly Cloud in the Sky. From ORDFO, **Jim Hippert**, and **Eldon Hammond**, from ORDCG, **Joe Martorelli** and **Ruben Rodriguez**, from ORDMM, **Vince Vincent**, **Bob Kapp**, **Art Gwynn**, and **John Maigler**, (also from ORDIO), **Michael Jackson**, ORDCG/ORDCS, **Maggie Gates Watson**, ORDCS, and **Fred Lepey**, ORDGQ. Also gone from our world, Phil Spector, Sheldon Adelson (LAS Sands owner), Joanne Rogers (Fred's wife), Jimmie Rodgers (Honeycomb), John Reilly (General Hospital), Gregory Sierra (Barney Miller), Bruce Kirby (Colombo), Dustin Diamond (Saved by the Bell), Susan Bayh (Evan Bayh's wife), George Shultz (Secretary of State), Sports greats, Leon Spinks, Don Sutton, Tommy Lasorda, and Hank 'the Hammer' Aaron, Chicago's own, Jim Tilmon, Rennie Davis (the Chicago 7), very popular and famous actors, Hal Holbrook, Larry King, Cloris Leachman, Cicely Tyson, and one of my Favorite Things, Christopher Plummer. Some very big names this month, most all over 90. Thank you for many happy moments. In homage to Leon Spinks, here's a quote from Mike Tyson, 'Everybody's got a plan, until they get punched in the mouth'.

I'd like to thank **Lucy Cox**, **Blanche Eichorst**, and **Ginny Vlach** for their kind words last month. It's nice to know people are actually reading my little column, and enjoy it. Thank you.

Never let yesterday use up too much of today.

These get-togethers in the Calendar section are all pending, determined on the situation of the state's Covid restrictions. An email blast will be sent to confirm. Hopefully we'll get rid of these restrictions soon.

#### Calendar:

Northside Breakfast - Elly's Restaurant, 8:30 A.M., 372 E. Golf Rd., Arlington Heights, IL (**March 10**). Second Wednesday of the month.

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

IAM 1487 Monthly Meeting, IAM 1487, 50 W. Oakton Ave., Mt. Prospect, (**March 4**) 11:00 A.M.

### INDIANA



#### INDY RACERS

Indianapolis, IN  
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The RUAEA Indy Racers January, February and March meetings are canceled due to Covid. I'm tentatively planning to resume meetings in April. By then I'm hopeful all members will have received the vaccine and will be Covid immune. With our meetings cancelled I have no news to report.

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

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

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

Our future meetings schedule for 2021 is:

- March meeting cancelled due to Covid.

- April 13, 2021 at Emmy's
- May 11, 2021 at Emmy's
- June 8, 2021 at Emmy's
- July 7, 2021 at Emmy's

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

## MASSACHUSETTS

### NOR'EASTERS

New England  
Dick Vee Vecchione  
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Greetings to all!

Little news and sad. Another of the original Red Carpet Room ladies passed away on December 27<sup>th</sup>, **Audrey Joyce**. She was a special lady who was perfect for the position and the customers felt it. Audrey will be missed. **Bob Driscoll** passed away on Christmas day from corona virus, he was a ramp service man always willing to help anyone who needed it. Bob will be missed also.

I've also got to talk to **Helmut Unbley (Moose)**, **Mercedes Hersom**, **Norman Hudan** and **Oscar Bauerie**. All are fine and doing well. However, I've been unable to reach **June Alberino** and her phone has been disconnected; anyone with info about June please let us know.

March birthdays ~ **Bob Austin** and **Mary Beth McDermet**.

March anniversaries ~ **Marcia & David Kilpatrick** (27 years) and **Gerald & Margaret Peters** (64 years).

## MICHIGAN



### GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann  
(248) 667-9258  
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Although the governor of Michigan has allowed restaurants to open for indoor dining, restrictions are still in place that 'groups' cannot gather. So, once again, we will not be having a monthly luncheon. Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to get together and renew old friendships.

**Kimberely (Kim) Porter** (Retired and worked DTWRR & DTWCS) passed away on January 26, 2021 of Covid. The viewing was held on February 12 at the O. H. Pye Funeral Home! Kim's service was held on Saturday, February 13 at Metropolitan Baptist Church.

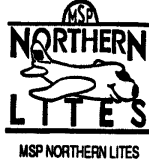
Thought for the month: *People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.* ~ Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

**Stay well and safe.**

## MINNESOTA

### NORTHERN LITES

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Last year's March submission to the newsletter talked about having only 8 Lites show up for lunch. Huh. Sure wish we could get together, no matter how many showed up! I'd be happy to see just a couple of your smiling faces!

Again, no news is truly good news. I heard through the grapevine that **Gordy Olsson** has been checking on folks. Bless his pointy little head! From those he spoke with, they're still hunkered down as of this writing and mostly staying home.

But then there's **Mary & Jim Brennan**. A good virus can't keep them down! In February, they kicked over the Governor's traces and split the Bold Frozen North for the balmy breezes of Florida. A visit to **JoAnn Eichacker** at her place near West Palm Beach was on their itinerary. One suitcase was dedicated to 15 dozen homemade cookies for JoJo. They have to be frozen and rationed out to her or she'd be picked off the ceiling with a sugar high. JoJo loves cookies!

We hear from **Jim Simon** occasionally and he talks to **Lee Storlie** regularly. He seems to be doing well, although I think he has mixed feelings about having moved back to CA. Except when the Bold North raises its snowy head ... I haven't heard from Lee lately, so I don't know how he's doing. Last I heard, he had some health issues he was dealing with.

That same grapevine told me that **Nel Brawner** is muddling along okay over there in WI, considering everything that's gone on for the last year. **Joe & Arlene Kelley** stay in touch by email and they're doing OK as well. **Al & Mary Kilian** are closeted in their apartment with stringent protocols to keep them healthy. Mary's got some memory issues now and is wheelchair bound.

We'd gotten spoiled with the relatively warm winter we'd been having. But true to its nature, the Upper Midwest let us know that it's still winter. A week-long cold snap (and I mean pretty darned cold) brought us a reality check. Now it's not only the virus but also the cold wind chills that are keeping us home!

Talk to you next month!

## NEBRASKA

### OMAHA GOLDENEARS

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

## NEVADA

### LAS VEGAS SILVER LINERS

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The Silverliners someday soon will hold their regular Luncheon meeting at Giuseppe's Italian Grill. We, the Board, have been following all that is happening here in Nevada related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of



now we see a little bit of hope with the distribution of COVID Vaccine throughout the State. Our age group is right at the top of the tier for the vaccine. The Governor of Nevada has curtailed his reelection fund raising tour for the time being and started to focus on the citizens of Nevada for a change. After months of inaction on his part, he now puts a high priority on Vaccine Distribution after weeks of Nevada being behind many other States due to Government inaction.

Our Community of Sun City Summerlin started to work with the Clark County Health District to administer vaccine to all its residents if they want it. The program started last week with a goal of 750 residents per day receiving the vaccine. From what we heard the goal has been met as planned. This will be their 1<sup>st</sup> shot and when we leave you get a date and time for your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

Our Treasurer **Jeannie Rolland** has had a very traumatic last 2 months. First she lost her partner Felix due to an accident. Then just a week or 2 later she is informed that her pregnant daughter has COVID-19. So, while trying to help her fight the COVID, Jeannie is admitted to the Hospital with severe chest pains which thank God turned out to be pneumonia and not a heart problem. Jeannie and her daughter are now both on the mend and recovering nicely. Even through all this trauma in her life, Jeannie was still able to get 3 new members to join the Silverliners. She is our local Super Hero and I rely on her expertise in keeping the Silverliners going. A little side note, my wife Georgia had knee surgery in late December which made our Christmas bleak. She now has fully recovered and is doing very well.

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



**RENO SIERRA  
ROUNDUP**

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

**NEW JERSEY**

**THE GARDEN STATERS**

Newark, New Jersey  
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There is no report this month from the Garden Staters chapter of RUAEA.

## NEW YORK

### BUFFALO CHIPS

Jerry Stevens  
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BUFFALO CHIPS

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

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

### NEW YORK METROS

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



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

## OHIO

### OHIO BUCKEYES

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



As usual, we did not have a meeting in January. Yes, seriously! We did not have a meeting in January. But that is nothing new to us. We **never** have a luncheon in January. It is the one month we usually reserve to recuperate. Now the members want to know when is our next luncheon and where. What about paying our dues? And they say how much they miss it all. So, you ask, has anything happened this past year? Have any of the officers quit?

Let me set everyone straight on this. We Ohio Buckeyes Don't Quit! The "Team" (Officers), have not been just sitting around doing nothing. And yes, there has been activity. For 2020 we had a full calendar February thru August. We did have luncheons on February 5<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>. Then we learned about COVID-19. So, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, we decided to cancel April, May and June. Then later the different event centers called to cancel June (Old Oak Bible Church Hall), July (Nautica Queen cruise), August (annual picnic) at the "Chalet" in Metro Parks, and December (Christmas Party) at Williams On-The-Lake. All had to be cancelled. We were able to carry over July, August, and December to 2021, along with our deposits. June said no.

All last year we had bad news. There were 9 CLE retirees members that passed away: \*#1-Feb. - **Marie Pivik** (Rudy's spouse); \*#2-March - **Nellie Beers**; \*#3-April - **Michael Minelle** (Sharon's spouse). \*#4-May - **Lillian Schabel**; \*#5-May - **Ted Richardson** (Genie's spouse); \*\*Then-just 16 days later} \*#6-May - was **Genie Richardson** (Ted's spouse); \*#7-August - **Jean Foster** (Dick's spouse); \*#8-September - **Jim Aiken** (RoseMarie's - spouse); \*#9-October - **Nancy Yost** (Gene's spouse - 2017). They are "Truly Missed".

"2021" started where 2020 left off! The New Year started with the passing of longtime member in January - **Carol Waldron**. Then just 2 days later - **Nick Penick** passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. We do notify our members of any chapter members deaths. We also let them know of the funeral arrangements. But with the Covid-19, the funerals are restricted to just family. We also send a donation to a charity of the family's choice (in lieu of flowers). If that option is not available, Bernie sends the donation and a "Heartfelt" letter of condolence to the family. In the past many Ohio Buckeyes would attend the Wake and Funeral, and some of us even cried. As many members have said: "*We are like another family*". This lets the families know that *they are not alone*. They say, it really helps

But we may be turning the corner on this mess, and “**now**”, hopefully the start of “Normal” begins. Right now, the Covid-19 cases are starting to decrease and the vaccine is becoming available. We Ohio Buckeyes are looking forward to opening up this summer for luncheons. We pray for our country, “Our United States of America”. Most important, we Ohio Buckeyes do know that Our Lord Does Hear Our Prayers. And we are ready to “Roll”.

If you are a United, Continental, Capital Airlines retiree interested in joining our chapter you may contact us through our **new** email at [ualohbuckeyes@gmail.com](mailto:ualohbuckeyes@gmail.com). Note: Membership dues are still only \$5.00 per person, or \$10.00 per couple. All members will receive an email, and if they do not have email it will be US Mailed to them, on their status on dues owed.

We are more than ready for “Normal”. I’m sure that you are also. May God Bless everyone.

“We Ohio Buckeyes wish everyone - Health & Happiness in 2021 and beyond”

I know that life has been hard. However, I now want to quote part of a letter I received from a Mr. Wilson last month. I do not know who he is, but I really like his message:

“With the ongoing health crisis, the constant threat of war, natural disasters, and economic instability, many have wondered if it is still practical to be hopeful about the future. It seems as though the world is crumbling without hope. However, the Bible provides us with good reasons for why we can be hopeful about the future. In the Bible - Psalm 37:11, it states: “The meek will possess the earth, and they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace”. That message is very encouraging for God promises that he will change the world for the better so that we can all enjoy a happy future! Amen.”

## OREGON

### OREGON DEW-ER’S



Portland  
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Hopefully, each of you have each had at least one vaccine by now or are scheduled for one soon. Tom & I were fortunate enough to have #1 on January 22 and sailed through without any reaction, other than very mild pain at the injection site. I was excited, thinking that we could gather again soon. Unfortunately, that is **not** the case. As our son, a Pulmonary Critical Care Physician, explained there is much still unknown regarding the vaccine. Like with the influenza vaccine, they believe we can still spread the virus and can still get the virus, just “probably” won’t die. That deflated my excitement a bit but it was totally dashed when I started reading about the mutation from Brazil which is re-infecting a large portion of the population that should have achieved herd immunity because of the 75% that had already been infected. So I encourage each of you to get the two vaccine doses when they are available in your area, and be prepared for another booster 3-4 months down the line. At least that’s how it is looking right now. In the meantime, no plans to resume meeting in person anytime soon.

We do need to pass along the information that **Lee Shugert**, retired PDXTR Customer Service Agent, passed away on November 18, 2020 at the age of 92. He put in over 30 years with UA. He is survived by his 3 children Mark, Carla Olson and April Lee as well as 6 grandchildren. A memorial service was held Jan 25, 2021 at Gresham Memorial chapel.

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

- ☺ I hate when people say, “Act like an adult”. Have you seen adults lately? That is horrible advice.
- ☺ Can you imagine how freakin’ sexy I’d be if I ate right and took care of my body? I mean ... I’m not going to, but can you imagine?
- ☺ Sometimes you just need to lie on the couch and read for a couple of years.
- ☺ My bed is a magical place where I suddenly remember everything I forgot to do.
- ☺ Wedding vows should include ... “Do you promise to always help him find his stuff that is right in front of him” .... Because you will be doing that forever!
- ☺ Be teachable. You’re not always right.

- ☺ Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Midway airport leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me." The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly." The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."
- ☺ Do you remember before the internet, that it was thought that the cause of collective ignorance was the lack of access to information? Well ... it was not that.
- ☺ I went to the paint store to get thinner. It did not work.
- ☺ I needed to do the laundry, but then I realized I was out of detergent, so I went to write a shopping list and realized how unorganized the junk drawer was, and started checking pens for ink. When I went to toss all the junk, I saw that the trash was full, but before I took it out I wanted to get rid of old food in the fridge. That's when I realized that a juice jug had leaked so I needed to clean it up, but when I went to grab a rag, I saw that the pantry closet was a nightmare so I started organizing it. And that's how I ended up on the floor looking at my old photo albums and not doing the laundry.
- ☺ Sometimes when I'm dieting, a chocolate bar will jump out of the cupboard, unwrap itself and run all the way to my mouth. So rude!
- ☺ One moment you are young and fun, and then the next thing you know you are older and driving and you have to turn down the music so that you can see better.
- ☺ Hanging with your grown-up kids is like visiting the best parts of your life.
- ☺ One day I'll do amazing things. Today I'll be satisfied if I manage not to spill food down my front.
- ☺ I really think tossing and turning at night should be counted as exercise.
- ☺ IT speaking to customer, "I don't think you even know what a hard drive is." Customer's response, "I've driven cross country with my wife, three kids and a dog. I know what a hard drive is!"
- ☺ Women are Angels and when someone breaks our wings, we simply continue to fly ... on a broomstick. We are flexible like that.
- ☺ I thought growing old would take longer!
- ☺ Husband "You know what Opal? You are a Chocoholic". Wife, "That's not true. I could live without chocolate. I could get along just fine without chocolate! Everybody around me would suffer but I would be fine."
- ☺ I don't like to think before I speak. I like to be just as surprised as everyone else about what comes out of my mouth.
- ☺ Texting is a brilliant way to mis-communicate how you feel, and mis-interpret what other people mean.
- ☺ Phones nowadays are so expensive you fall and hear a crack sound and pray it's your leg
- ☺ I got fired for asking if a customer wanted smoking or non-smoking. Apparently I'm supposed to ask, "cremation or burial?"
- ☺ Don't wear headphones while vacuuming. I've just finished the whole house before realizing the vacuum wasn't plugged in.
- ☺ Be nice to your old friends. They have pictures of your hair during the 1980s.
- ☺ I want to be like a caterpillar. Eat a lot. Sleep for a while. Wake up beautiful.
- ☺ I need a new maid because the current one sucks. Also, she is me.
- ☺ Some things are better left unsaid, which I realize right after I say them.
- ☺ Just because it is what it is, does not mean it is what it should be.
- ☺ When a woman laughs during an argument, please know that the psycho part of her brain has just been activated. #AbortMission
- ☺ The trouble with living alone is that it is always my turn to do the dishes.
- ☺ I am not arguing! I'm explaining why I'm right.
- ☺ I just spent 20 minutes looking for my cell phone in the car, while using it as a flashlight.
- ☺ Are they testing me? I went to the Weight Watcher's website and the first thing they asked me was, "will you accept cookies?"
- ☺ You cannot make everyone happy. You are not a bottle of wine.
- ☺ Did you know 14 muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine? Fitness is my passion!
- ☺ They say every piece of chocolate you eat shortens your life by 2 minutes. I did the math. Seems I should have died in 1543.

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

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

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

Calendar:

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

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**THE INDEPENDENTS**

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

**PITTSBURGH**  
**PIT-STOPPERS**

Bill Chicots  
2419 Rochester Road  
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**Submitted by Mary Jane Stewart:**

**Mary Jane Stewart** here pinch hitting this month for our correspondent **Bill Chicots**. Our chapter is still not able to resume our luncheons at this time but hope springs eternal. In the meantime, I want to encourage everyone to forward information to Bill. If you feel you are not doing anything interesting now, consider sending some stories about your past experience. I know you all have many so let's hear from you. As for me I am coping with our current circumstances like all of you.

Remember the TV show "The Lone Ranger" with the tag line "Who was that masked man?" Well I think about it on those rare trips to the grocery store. Who is behind that mask? Is it who I think it is and should I wave? If I do and I'm wrong I will certainly feel silly but if I don't and it is who I thought it to be, will they think I am being rude.

And while we ladies have saved money on lipstick this year, it is not easy learning to smile with your eye. The search for the vaccine has been exasperating. Warning, if you were one of the lucky ones and shared that information with your friends, you may find there is some "vaccine envy" going on. LOL.

I was happy to hear that our dear friend **Treatie Karwoski** did receive both of her shots in January. When I asked her if she had any adverse reactions, she said "heck no I'm a tough old Polack". Till we meet again we must all be tough like Treatie and do our best to stay safe and stay healthy.



## TENNESSEE

### TENNESSEE ROCKY TOPS



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There is no report this month from the Tennessee Rocky Tops chapter of RUAEA.  
For Luncheon/Meeting's location, please contact Carolyn at the above phone number.

## UTAH

### SALT LAKE RETIREES

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

## WASHINGTON

### EMERALD CITY SLICKERS

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Greetings from the beautiful Pacific Northwest, where, as this is being written, days are growing longer and nights are growing colder. By the time you read this, we Emerald City Slickers in the Seattle area may be more than happy to see March marching into view.

But ... Daylight Savings Time 28 days after Valentine's Day? We won't quite have reached St. Patrick's Day yet. In more normal years, we saw a lot of Valentine Reds dominating the scene at our February luncheons, followed by plenty of Wearin' o' the Green in March. Maybe next year?

Parts of Washington, including Seattle and nearby counties, have reached the next stage in the fight against the coronavirus and some restaurants once again are able to serve patrons indoors with limited capacity and space restrictions. Masks are still required everywhere. Many locations are reluctant to unlock their doors to the masses before they can be guaranteed that the virus won't flourish, forcing them to shut down again. Many businesses have locked their doors and thrown away the keys, unable to survive the economic downturn.

On a more optimistic note, the virus vaccine is becoming more available with more abundant deliveries to the state and more vaccination sites established. (Yours truly and her RUAEA spouse will have had their shots by publication date, though it took all of one Saturday to secure appointments online after two additional, large sites were announced that morning.)

Unfortunately, we do have the death of a United retiree to report this month. **Leonard (Lenny) Newman** retired in 1998 after 32 years with the company. A Wisconsin native, Lenny was drawn to the Puget Sound area, as are many others, after being stationed at Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord). He is survived by his wife, **Lucy**, and their daughter, Lisa Preuit, grandchildren and a great grandson. Our condolences to his family and friends.

As you've heard, our Seattle retirees have not met as a group for a year, with March 2020 as our last luncheon before pandemic rules went into effect. Acting in the best interest of all meeting attendees, chapter

board members declared a moratorium on gatherings until Covid-19 was better-controlled and it was safer for our senior population to share space. To fill the gap of meeting news, this column has reprinted, with only minor editing, profiles of members, as they were printed in our chapter newsletter, also now temporarily defunct.

This month is no different, and we are happy to share a few details in the career of **Tom Holford** (DENTK). Tom's story gives you a look into more United, airline, and airplane information that may have eluded readers unfamiliar with this phase of operations and history. You may have noticed that we are not biased against those who spent most or all of their UAL careers at other stations. We are United!

Tom joined United in 1995 as a Ground School Instructor in the 757/767 Fleet. His entire career was spent at the Flight Training Center in Denver (DENTK). Earlier, after graduation from the University of Colorado, he received a Navy commission and flew a variety of aircraft, primarily the F-8 Crusader. His last active duty assignment was as an instructor pilot. At the end of his active duty obligation, he transferred to the Navy Reserve, from which he retired with 28 years of service.

While on active duty, Tom earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He started his civilian career at the original Frontier Airlines, headquartered in Denver. He worked a variety of jobs in Denver, including as an elevator/escalator salesman, owning his own travel agency and an inbound tour operator business. His Navy flight experience, however, was his primary qualification for the ground school instructor's position at United.

After several years, Tom was promoted to Ground School Manager for the "fat, glass fleet." These were the 747, 757/767 and 777 fleets, all being large airplanes and having automated vertical and lateral navigation capabilities, the pilot-computer interface for which was a glass screen. They were separate fleets, each with its own Fleet Captain and staff but with some shared administrative capabilities.

The ground school was initial training for pilots transitioning from other United fleets to one of the fat, glass plane types. After ground school, pilots continued to "flight training," all of which was conducted in simulators. At the conclusion of training, pilots received a "Type Rating" – meaning their FAA license was endorsed as being qualified to fly that particular type of airplane - the 757/767 is a "common type rating" because the airplanes are so similar in operation. (If you can fly one, you can fly the other.) Ground School Instructors also conducted classroom instruction for pilots' annual refresher training. In this position Tom was essentially the immediate supervisor for the ground school instructors for the fat, glass fleets.

United has a multi-million-dollar investment in flight simulators, and it has on its payroll highly qualified instructors. Seasonal demand for air travel, however, made it difficult to fully utilize these assets year-round. There was, therefore, extra simulator and instructor time available. Tom's next position at United was Manager of Customer Support. Customers, in this case, were other airlines – mostly international – that were not direct competitors of United. While support to our customers was certainly provided by the customer support staff that Tom supervised, the real job was salesman. UAL sold the excess simulator and instructor time to as many customers as could be dragged in the door – and, of course, a happy customer is a return customer. Most of the sales work (even then!) was conducted by e-mail rather than with personal sales calls.

Tom's final job at United was in "New Technologies." Computers, satellite navigation and high-speed data communications have made it possible to safely allow airplanes to fly closer to each other than was the case before the new technologies came into being. This means that more airplanes were on or closer to the most efficient route for the given weather conditions on a day. The New Technologies group at the Flight Training Center was United's link between pilots and the air navigation service providers throughout the world, striving to safely achieve the efficiency benefits the new technology made possible.

FANS (Future Air Navigation System) was first implemented in the South Pacific and spread to other parts of the world. The system evolved over time and the transition is ongoing. Tom was a part of this transition, as was our own Dave Jones (SFOFO). Dave, based in SFO, and Tom, based in Denver, spent a lot of time together in meetings at WHQ. The work also involved many meetings with ICAO and the many air navigations service providers throughout the world.

In one 6-month period Tom crossed every ocean in the world and says his body hated him for that! The transition to greater flight efficiency was often a matter of translation. Translating Pilot to Air Traffic Controller and Air Traffic Controller to Pilot. It also involved developing appropriate written and ground school and simulator training for pilots and controllers. Fortunately, United was a founding partner in Star Alliance. While primarily a sales and marketing organization, Star Alliance allowed the partner airlines to join forces to bring greater pressure for improvement on those who had "always done it that way." Tom served as chairman of the Star Alliance Flight Operations Committee for several years. Star Alliance partners took turns hosting meetings, which also involved a great deal of international travel.

All good things must come to an end, however, and Tom retired from United in 2006. Boeing offered him a job closely related to the New Technologies position he had held at United, which is what brought Tom and his wife Sally to Seattle a few months later. After 5 years with Boeing, however, Tom really did retire. Being retired is a great job – a variety of organizations now send him money for not showing up at work! Tom served a term as President of the Emerald City Slickers and he also took a turn as Newsletter Correspondent.

Bear in mind that **Tom Holford**'s story and the accompanying airline information were written a year ago in February 2020, just before COVID-19 brought the world to its knees – and forced the Emerald City Slickers, Seattle's great RUAEA chapter, to abandon all hope of getting together soon. The airline industry, in particular, has changed dramatically since then.

Hang in there, everybody. This too shall pass. Be of good cheer and look forward to better time  
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Calendar:

No gatherings/meetings scheduled



**LILAC CITY FLYERS**

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The Lilac City Flyers in Spokane are no longer meeting on a regular basis. If you are a United or Continental retiree in the Spokane area or visiting in the area and want to meet other retirees, contact **Sharon Holmes** at the information above.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**THE DULLES LOUNGERS**

Washington, D.C.

Mari McColl

Past President

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



I am a bit late in acknowledging the retirement of **Linda Scriven**, first as a Past President of our local chapter. Secondly, however, she has retired from her position as our Regional Director. Linda was a supervisor in Res for IAD for years. She worked side-by-side with our beloved **David Cox**, who established our Dulles Loungers.

When David was too ill to continue running the chapter, he made me promise that with the help of **Linda Scriven** and **Kerrie Schneider**, that I would keep the group going. I promised and then told Linda and Kerrie of my promise. It went something like this, "Linda, you are President, Kerrie you are Secretary and Treasurer; I will be Veep and try to keep up with the two of you." They were both dynamos and required very little of me. I did buy the monthly door prizes. A little tip to all: Hallmark has great sales on things if you are willing to store them for a year. But I digress, Linda was a great President and each month brought new and interesting speakers to our chapter.

Then came the day that she decided to run for Regional Director of the SE Region. She won! I took over as President but with the added advantage of having a Director who never missed a chapter meeting. It was such an honor to have a Director as our very own Member. We received news right off the press. Thank you, **Linda Scriven** for giving so much of yourself to our local chapter and national organization. You always went above and beyond. We are looking forward to having you all to ourselves.

Enter **Sonda Sandstedt**: Sonda has taken on an unbelievable task. She is now the Director of the entire Southeast Meets West Region, - Northeast CA, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia, Utah. She has her work cut out for her. She is replacing a lot of Directors that gave their all. I think she us up to the job though. She has called and introduced herself to me and our conversation went on as if we were old Sorority Sisters that hadn't spoken in a month or so. She

also sent a note after my last publication. She was concerned that I said that my husband, Dan, had a severe problem with his rotator cuff and his shoulder. What a thoughtful note she wrote. Yes, I'm thinking she is definitely up to this position.

I have very few other things to report. We are hoping that the weather will get better soon and that we will be able to once again to have a socially distanced gathering - hopefully at the Bull Run Winery. Many of us in NOVA (Northern Virginia) have had the blessing of being vaccinated. Unfortunately, many of our surrounding counties have not been so blessed. Much depends on the weather-and much depends on the availability to the vaccine, I wish us all good luck.

In the meantime, while we all have extra time to spend with new recipes - I have a recipe that I would like to share. It's a quick and easy - my type of cooking.

**Crab & Cheese Crescent Rolls:**

1 tube crescent rolls

6 oz. softened cream cheese

1/4 cup mayo

1 cup chopped, cooked crab meat

2 chopped green onions

1/8 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 375°F. Roll out dough into an even rectangle, press together seams, and cut into 24 smaller squares.

Add cream cheese, mayo, crab meat, green onions, and salt to a bowl and mix well.

Distribute cheese and crab mixture evenly between the crescent roll squares.

Roll squares over the cheese and crab mixture and pinch closed.

Place them on a cookie sheet and bake at 375°F for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.

**NATIONAL**

**CLIPPED WINGS**

Barbara Dunkelman

Clipped Wings Vice President

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



Hello RUAEA,

As I am still sitting here in sunny Florida visiting my daughter and granddaughter, I realize half of the country is having quite cold weather. February is the shortest month of the year, but it seems to me it's the longest as we all wind down from the holidays; however, Valentine's Day will allow us to continue celebrating!

Denver Chapter has 139 paid members, 3 affiliates, and 4 friends, that is very impressive.

Portland Chapter has recommended another great book from their book club, "The Yellow Bird Sings" by Jennifer Rosner. *"Rosner's exquisite, heartrending debut novel is proof that there's always going to be room for another story about World War II. This is an absolutely beautiful and necessary novel, full of heartbreak but also about the unbreakable bond between mother and daughter."*

We have a new President, Mr. Joe Biden, and a friend of mine in DC told me it is like a new world in our Nation's Capital. Although the inauguration had a different feeling, I was so happy to see our 46<sup>th</sup> President, First Lady, and family walk the last few steps into their new home, the White House.

I know COVID is very much on everyone's mind, and the vaccine rollout has been slow for many. I feel very fortunate as I was able to get my vaccination, and I hope the rest of you have received yours as well. Let's reach herd immunity quickly so we can return to our normal lives!

The world will be cheering for the 55<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl, may the best team win!

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

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **January 2021**:

Billone, Tom, WASSO, 13739 Cabells Mill Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

Lee, June, SFOQA, 821 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94402

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **January 2021**:

John R. Albert, William F. Alenson, Shirley R. Alexander, Bruce A. Aten, Kathryn Baran, Shirley Barber, Donald D. Boyer, Frank G. Bullis, Edward A. Carnes, Jennifer L. Clark, A. D. Cline, Russell F. Cormier, Christene Teena Davis, John A. Degrange, Maxine E. Dixon, Richard W. Ems, William A. Engler, Jeannie Evans, Valentin Garmasch, Erwin Garzaro, Jo Anne C. Gaudioso, Jim Geddes, Travis E. Glass, Flora B. Grimminger, Carl E. Hanson, James L. Hernandez, Miyuki Hilliard, David Hojara, Barrie Hooley, Mary T. Horan, Robert H. Irwin, R. Lee Johnson, Elsie P. Kaenel, Tom Kalfa, Olga Karmazyn, Linda L. Keim, Shirley A. Keister, William J. Kinson, Larry A. Knaub, Joann M. Koester, Donna Kopec, William J. Krainak, Arnold E. Lakso, June Lee, Leslie Mace, Ben M. Matsumoto, Edward F. McMartin, Teresa F. McNamara, Edward J. Meyer, Jack L. Miller, Mildred L. Monson, Alan Morishita, William R. Nibert, Gulshan Noorani, Sharon R. O'Hearn, Donald E. Park, Lawrence C. Parker, Allan O. Pochop, Frank L. Pol, Marlene Proch, Ronald E. Pryer, Samuel Redd, Martha D. Rudolph, Harvey Samson, Patricia J. Schultz, Sharon L. Simonton, Janet Soderstrom, John M. Soja, Frank M. Stout, David Thompson, Linda Tilford, Lorece Tolbert, Theodore Tollefsen, Michaelinda Trahan, Louis R. Varvello, Michael Vasko, Jocelyn Vena, Josef H. Viereckl, Brenda R. Vosnos, Gary H. Wendland, Charles L. Westpfahl, Theodore H. Wilson.

## 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 handwritten and it is not legible, it will not be published until a clear and readable document is received in the Denver Office. The information may be sent by email (preferred) at [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net), or US Mail. Sorry, the information will not be accepted over the phone.

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

Retiree – **Chaplin, Marilyn A.**, on 1/6/2021, CHIRR, wife of Wayne Chaplin (deceased), 350 W. Schaumburg Road, Apt. 1449, Schaumburg, IL 90194

Spouse – **Cook, Mollie P.**, on 11/14/2020, wife of Edward B. Cook, DENFO (deceased), 1212 Ash St., Denver, CO 80220

Retiree – **Donaldson, Marcia M.**, on 12/17/2020, SFOSW, wife of Bill C. Donaldson, 935 Venus Way, Livermore, CA 94550

Spouse – **Ewing, Bob**, on 1/18/2021, husband of Joanne M. Ewing, DENCS, 1335 Peppertree Dr., Montrose, CO 81401

Retiree – **Fitzgibbon, Nancy**, 1/9/2021, ORDSW, friend of Deborah Dowse Runyeon, 43 School House Road, Weymouth, MA 02188



Retiree – **Govednik II, Frank J.**, on 2/21/2017, LAXMM, husband of Vivian R. Govednik, 15807 Crest Ln., Gardena, CA 90249

Retiree – **Gwynn, Arcol M. Jr. (Art)**, on 1/21/2021, ORDMM, husband of Muriel Gwynn and father of Joyce Reese, 107 Clifford Ct., Canton, GA 30115

Retiree – **Helton, John H.**, on 1/24/2021, MAIFO, survived by his six children (3 boys and 3 girls), 5006 Sealane Way, Oxnard, CA 93035

Retiree – **Holste, LaVerne M.**, on 9/16/2020, WHQSP, wife of Kenneth Holste (deceased), 5137 Wiley Hollow Rd., Culleoka, TN 38451

Retiree – **Kapp, Robert (Bob) L.**, on 1/12/2021, ORDMM, husband of Kathy nee Lee Kapp, 922 Bradford Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60193

Retiree – **Mirabile, John**, on 12/29/2020, LAXHH, husband of Margaret Mirabile (deceased), 820 Knob Hill Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277, father of John Mirabile, (310) 710-4492

Retiree – **Stager, Max**, on 2/2/2021, SLCHH, husband of Ruth Stager, 11255 South 2870 West, Riverton, UT 84065

Retiree – **Tonne, Georgianna**, on 12/29/2020, WHQAI, wife of Richard W. Tonne Jr., ORDFF (deceased), 550 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 21, Mountain Home, AR 72653

Retiree – **Walter, Mona L.**, on 6/14/2020, DENJL, wife of Donald Walter (deceased), 1001 E. Yale Ave., Apt. 100, Denver, CO 80210

Retiree – **Vincent, Vincent A.**, on 1/12/2021, ORDMM, husband of Beverly Vincent nee Nadler, 12N320 Jackson Dr., Elgin, IL 60123

## Letters & Notes



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

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

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

John Albert, William Alenson, Shaun Brennan, Elizabeth Byrne, Al Brose, Dianne Calderwood, Edward Carnes, Gerry Cavallo, Joan Curtin, Maxine Dixon, Joseph Donnelly, William Engler, Nancy Enos, Dewitt Ferrell, Iris Fisher, Gail Harris, Elizabeth Hooley, Mary Horan, Joachim Hornfischer, Norm Jukes, Elsie Kaenel, Tom Kalfa, William Kinson, Larry Knaub, Donna Kopec, William Krainak, Verna Lann, Amelia Leever, Richard Libby, Robert Loshbough, Huguette Meyer, Jack Miller, Gary Peters, Ben Matsumoto, Gordon Olson, Donald Park, James Sailer, Patricia Schultz, Don Watts, Charles Westpfahl, Ted Wilson.

**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.)*

**Phyllis Easley, 882 Annesley Circle, Meadville, PA 16335**

Happy New Year, may we never have another like 2020. I am so glad it is over, and we all survived a pandemic.

I look forward to every issue and read every word of the newsletter. I have missed the RUAEA meetings in SAN; hopefully this year will be different.

Best wishes to all.

**Judith Evans, 265 S. Gleneagles Ct., Wichita, KS 67209**

Thank you for all your hard work on our newsletter. I enjoy reading it so much.

I have really missed flying this year. Flying was my life, I loved it so much.

I retired in 2003.

I can not wait to get back in the air in 2021.

**Fredrick Goetz, 12540 Highway 52 SE, Chatfield, MN 55923**

I am 87 years old now and worked for United for over 42 years as an electric mechanic at ORD. I knew United's President, William Patterson in the 1960's. He would get off of a plane and talk to the employees.

A memory from the past: One time we were taking a DC-6 to the terminal at ORD. I called ground control and asked for clearance to go. We were cleared; and had to cross two runways. As we approached #9, I saw an American DC-6 coming into land in front of us. I yelled "Brakes" and we came to a shuddering stop. If we hadn't stopped, we would have gotten a wing right in our cockpit. I asked ground control about the plane that just landed in front of us; there was dead silence.

My wife, Verlie is in a rest home now. I use a cane to get around on long walks and live off of Highway 52 about 17 miles from the Mayo Clinic on 17 acres with a 3-acre vegetable garden. During growing season, I sell what I can from there.

I have accumulated several assets over the years and live off of the interest, plus social security and retirement.

**Carl Hanson, 6291 Bahia Del Mar Cir., Apt. 404, St. Petersburg, FL 33715**

Thanks again for all the hard work you all do. I enjoy reading the newsletter every month, although I recognize very few names any more.

I have been retired 23 years now and enjoy every minute.

I am living happily in Florida with my wife. Our son and his wife just bought our old condo and will be living near by. We have 7 grandchildren who visit often and love it.

**R. Lee Johnson, 6125 S. Kilkenny Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

Thank you for all you do to produce a great newsletter throughout the pandemic.

I received my January issue that reminded me of my membership being due, three days after receiving my February issue. It must have gotten lost in the holiday mail.

Our family, daughter, son in law, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren have all been free of the virus, so far. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

**Frank Leo, 948 Johnson Pl., Union, NJ 07083**

It has been a real pleasure over the past years, being a member of RUAEA. I thank all who are internally involved working hard on the Newsletter, and everyone who works hard organizing the yearly conventions. This is a task that is an overwhelming challenge this year with the Covid 19 pandemic obstacle controlling our 2021 convention, if we have any at all this year. Do your best, and keep us updated through our entertaining, but informative Newsletter.

**Harvey & Maritza Samson, 1962 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116**

We really enjoy receiving the RUAEA news.

Harvey re-reads it and some of the poems and especially your last edition Re: DNA. We sent a copy of this to our daughter who is really gun-ho on DNA. Keep up the good work.

**John Soja, 125 Lee Rd., Moultonborough, NH 03254**

Francis, my thanks to you and your “crew” for your continued quality job publishing our newsletter. It keeps getting better.

I am proud to read the Newsletter and see our members taking so many positive steps to combat the various issues they face because of the covid. It looks like most are doing their best to outlast the bug!

I am reminded of the same spirit I experienced as a member of operations at the MOC.

New Hampshire is the place to be!

**I. Kay Weber, 2208 W. Baseline Ave., Lot 22, Apache Jct., AZ 85120**

I am now in my 20<sup>th</sup> year of retirement, living in Arizona.

I would love to hear from my UAL friends and co-workers. I miss the good days at UAL.

*Notes*

**Frank G. Bullis**

I really look forward to getting the newsletter every month. I do miss the reports from all the stations during this covid period. Hopefully, we can get back to our monthly meetings soon.

I had a setback last month with colon cancer which has been taken care of.

I do miss getting on an airplane and going places.

Keep up the good work.

**Travis Glass**

My thanks to the staff for all the work you have done to keep us updated. I am a long time member and retired in 1999 after 43 years.

The covid threat has affected our local fellowship, but we will return when it is appropriate.

Our thanks again from Dixie (BHM).

**June Lee**

I am a retired employee of UAL. My husband **Harold Beal** was also, and the RUAEA membership was under his name. I would like to create my own as he has passed away.

I enjoyed Harold’s membership and miss receiving the newsletter.

**Lawrence Parker**

Mary and I are staying safe. We have very few forays to the outside world unless necessary.

We miss our IAM retirees club (**Karen Carney**, President) and our friend **Jan Gawenda** (Skyliners) who always attended. We are holding our breath until January 21<sup>st</sup>.

We can’t wait to fly NRSA again and get some of those guaranteed F/C seats after 25 years of service.

**Bernice Wright**

After over 30 years with UAL, I now miss the friendships I once had and my co-workers. What a great company!

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

# Important Phone Numbers



*Updated 5/2020*

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

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

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

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

## **United Employee Service Center**

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

1-847-825-3729 - International Use

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

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

## **Employee Travel Center**

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

## **Flying Together Help Desk**

**1-800-255-5801**

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

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

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

**PBGC** - for all retiree pension questions

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

## **Social Security Administration**

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

## **Alliant Credit Union**

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

<http://www.alliantcreditunion.org>

Malcolm Horn, CFP®, Financial Consultant

Alliant Retirement & Investment Services

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

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

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

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

**1-844-635-3401**

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

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

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-or-  
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Email: [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net)

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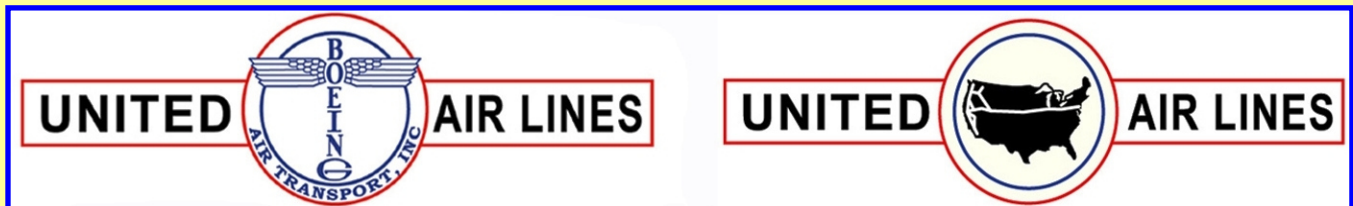
## United Airlines Historical Foundation

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

### **What happens when the Government controls Private Business. (Part 3 of 3)**

**I**n order to file new airmail bids, other airlines had quickly changed officers and resumed operations under new names. American Airways became American Airlines and Eastern Air Transport became Eastern Airlines. During the government-forced reorganization, Joe Ripley was able to get United Air Lines off the ground, free of debt and with \$4,000,000 in working capital. The airline division had approximately one-third of the assets of The United Aircraft and Transportation holding company but received more than half of the money. Ripley also urged Rentschler and other heads of the holding company to name Pat Patterson as Philip Johnson's successor as President of United Air Lines.

On April 13, 1934 Patterson assumed the presidency of the newly incorporated Delaware company, United Air Lines Transportation Company. To the public, it was still "United Air Lines" and in 1943 the name was officially changed back.



Following the reorganization, United bid-for and won-back all of its former routes except the Chicago-Dallas route where Braniff Air Lines underbid United (by half). United continued to fly the Chicago-Kansas City segment as a passenger route until May 12, 1934.

The Air Mail Act added two more hoops-to-jump-through, in addition to the U.S. Post Office; the airlines now had to deal with the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Department of Commerce.

The ICC cut United's average return on air mail from 38 cents to 31 cents per plane-mile and also put a 300 pound-per-plane limit on what the Post Office could pay. As a result United had to fly many 300 pound bags of mail for free. This loss of income led to the cancellation of the Chicago-Kansas City passenger flights.

A last-minute clause in the Air Mail Act forbade any carrier from holding air mail contracts for more than one primary route and two secondary routes.

United's Transcontinental Route was designated a primary route as was its Pacific Coast route. This meant that United could not keep the PAT route unless it was split-off into a separate company and was completely independent of United. Faced with protests from Pacific Coast cities, Congress relented and designated it a Secondary Route.

*By Marvin Berryman DENTK Retired.*

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