

The Dusty Trails

Marilyn and Len Bloom, Editors marlenbloom2@gmail.com www.traildusters.com Feb. 2021

Club Officers 2020-2021

Presidents

Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig
rosentsweig@hotmail.com

Vice Presidents/AsqD Representative

Jane Lief

Treasurers

Jeri Sobel

Financial Treasurer

Victor Wolfe

Membership/Statistics

Ilene & Mark Abramson

Sunshine & Showers

Rusty Kaman

Class Coordinators

Helene & Hendon Harris

Lynn & Joel Ovadia

Roy Okada

Refreshments

Denise Kurtzer & Richard Rose

Lorraine & Sheldon Levin

Cindy Kestenbaum & Alex Strouzer

Editors

Marilyn & Len Bloom

Secretary

Wendy Goldzband

Publicity/Webmaster

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Ways & Means

Paula & Al Masters

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Joni & Mark Simon

Parliamentarians

Mark Cutter

Caller Coordinator/Contracts

Pat Kessler and Farryl Dickter

Dance Reporter

Caren Blumfield

Maintenance

Sandra & Robert Sobel

From the Presidents' Desk

Time is a funny thing, In some ways it goes very slowly and in other ways it seems to race by us. We thank all those who planned and attended our Virtual New Year's Eve party. It was so good to see so many people participate. It proved again that the Trail Dusters is truly much more than just a square dance club.

It is hard to believe that this is already our February Newsletter. February brings us several holidays. Feb. 2nd is Groundhog Day. When the groundhog pops out this time, instead of predicting the weather, we hope that he predicts a good year with an end to the virus. Feb. 14th is Valentine's day, a day in which we can celebrate "all" those friends and family we love and care about. Feb. 15th is President's day, which we can adapt to celebrate all those Trail Dusters who, at one time or another served as Presidents of the club, and kept it going through the years.

Many clubs are worried about surviving. We have a good feeling about the Trail Dusters. We think the club, with all your help, will not survive but thrive. Have a

wonderful February and see you at our Virtual Dance.

Nikki and Steve Rosentsweig

Presidents



Virtual Club Dance
Wednesday, February 17th
7:00PM

Moving forward from our January dance, the theme for our February club virtual dance is "Psychedelic 60's!" In keeping with the theme, perhaps you would like to bake Psychedelic Brownies – see recipe on page 9. Dress in love beads, long hair, headbands, bell bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, sandals – relive those hippie days of free love and peace signs.



A natural extension of that era is that February 17th is Random Acts

of Kindness Day (or pay it forward). People like the idea of showing a little kindness to others. It's a fun and good thing to do, and they like being on the receiving end of this day as well. It makes both the giver and the receiver feel good.

Quote of the Day: "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone may do the same for you." - Princess Diana

Put the date and time on your calendar – paper or digital – and be sure to join in the fun on February 17th. Our presidents, Steve & Nikki, will once again host the dance in their usual smooth and humorous style. Paul will call the squares and Caren will have another line dance to teach. So be cool, be hip and be online! See you Zoom!!!

From Your roving reporter from Canada,

Shirley Brown



AN AMAZING ZOOM NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Here we are, in the midst of a global pandemic, and stay at home orders, but absolutely nothing, not even that, can keep the Trail Dusters from having a good time and from finding a way to gather. We especially didn't want to miss our famous, fabulous New Year's Eve Gala. One of the things I enjoyed most about New Year's

was being with so many friends, dancing and rocking it out on the dance floor, while eating a sumptuous meal, and schmoozing. With Covid-19 keeping us apart, the chances of dancing at a wedding or bar mitzvah are slim to none. So, in that spirit, I decided to lead a New Year's Eve Virtual Party with schmoozing and dancing...and what a party we had!

We are thankful to our wonderful committee that put in so much time to pull this off. **Ellen and Mike Sternberg** had the major task of collecting RSVP's and sending out emails. **Denise Kurtzner** helped find more entertainment. **Caren Blumfield**, and **Nikki and Steve Rosentsweig** helped me select the music. **Wendy Goldzband**, along with the group, added their wisdom and suggestions. It was definitely a team effort.

We began the party with our traditional performance by our very own **Diane Jubileer Light**. She performed "That's Amore," with great beauty and gusto, which was enjoyed by all. We had fast rock dances, slow dances, and cha chas. And, of course, we had Caren lead us, as always, in many fun and funky line dances performed only the way Caren can. To spice things up, **Judith Altman** did a hilarious stand-up comedy routine that really had us rolling on the floor. We are also grateful to Denise, whose friend, **Bob Epstein**, provided another comedy routine. See pictures pages 5-8.

In between all the dancing and entertainment, we enjoyed visiting with each other in break-out rooms. Connection is something that we, as a Trail Duster family, pride ourselves in, so this was also an important part of our event.

A great time was had by all and we were so pleased to bring in the new year with so many of our Trail Dusters Family.

Here's to next year, in the hopes that we can resume our great gala in some ballroom, dance and shout out the tunes together, hug, and laugh.

Until we party again,



Bill Dickter
(And his side-kick, **Farryl**)

Feb. Birthdays

Mark Simon	5
Rhonda Shapiro	9
Cindy Kestenbaum	11
Cher Bodner	11
Mindy Dill	15
Robert Sobel	17
Dorothy Stabinsky	20
Marlene Reifel	26
Thom Smotrich	27
Michael Kreisberg	28
Mimi Steinberger	28

Feb. Anniversaries

Farryl & Bill Dickter	10
Bren & Jack Levy	12

Ilene & Mark Abramson

Membership Chairs

Markabe@aol.com



Sunshine & Showers

This month, as we read and hear about the increased number of people affected by the Covid 19 Virus, we need to turn our thoughts and prayers toward two members of our own Trail Dusters family.

Elise and Neil Sandler. Elise was hospitalized with Covid for 12 days and was recently moved to a rehabilitation center to continue her recovery. Meanwhile, **Neil** has been at home unable to visit **Elise**, and trying to recuperate from Covid himself. It is a difficult time for the **Sandlers**, and we can only send our sincere and heartfelt wishes for better and healthier times for both of them. **Elise and Neil**, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as we look forward to hearing that you are both fully recovered and able to rejoin our "family" as soon as circumstances permit!

Another "family" member is also in our prayers. **Lenny Bloom** has been hospitalized with a liver and gallbladder infection that is now being drained. **Marilyn** tells me that **Len** is improving, and he will be able to return home on Wednesday, January 19. He will continue healing and regaining his strength so that he will be able to undergo the removal of his gall bladder about four to six weeks after his return home. **Len**, we wish you a speedy recovery from your current situation. We're not sure who is more anxious to have you back home again; you or **Marilyn**, but we hope that time will be SOON! Please know that all of your Trail Dusters family is sending healing thoughts to you!

On a positive note, **Norm** and I would like to express sincere thanks to all of our "family" members who took the time and effort to wish him a HAPPY 85th

BIRTHDAY on January 9th. It was truly heartwarming to receive so many caring well wishes, many from friends we have not seen for quite some time. It's always nice to be remembered, and this year's good wishes were VERY MUCH appreciated – by BOTH of us! This is what comes from belonging to such a close-knit group of wonderful people~ Trail Dusters!

May each of you stay healthy and safe. Please remember to e-mail me with any and all news so that I can contact the appropriate people and get your messages out to the rest of our membership.

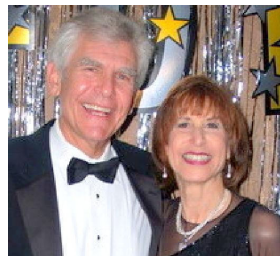
Fondly,
Rusty Kaman,

Sunshine &
Showers Chair



Rusty_k@verizon.net

Know Your Board Member



**Bill &
Farryl
Dickter**

Bill and I
were
invited to

join Trail Dusters all the way back in 1999, when my cousins, Farol and Mark Brifman, were presidents. We were hesitant at first, but grew to love the dancing and were amazed at the whole new life that opened up for us of dear friends and wonderful, shared events which were so much fun!

As a couple, Bill and I met on a single's ski trip to Aspen. Three months into our dating, a psychic told me that we would be engaged on a summer trip and that we would be married within the year.

We were! (So I knew all of this, before poor, unsuspecting, Bill!). As skiers, we traveled to almost every major ski resort west of the Rockies, and even managed to ski Argentina and Chile. As a result of all of our skiing adventures, our son became a passionate skier and moved to Utah as an adult. We have been fortunate to go on many international trips as a family, especially to places such as India, Vietnam, Egypt and many other locations; however, with Covid, our trips are limited to neighborhood walks.

As individuals we have also had many important milestones. Bill, a native of Philly, attended Drexel University where he got a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He then went on to Penn State, where he earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering and began a long career in Nuclear and Aerospace/Defense. After moving to California, he lost 35 pounds while becoming an outdoor enthusiast. He climbed Mt. Rainer and later became a runner, who ran many 10ks. When knees gave out, Bill joined Team in Training. Through this program he became a cyclist who did many century rides while raising money for Leukemia & Lymphoma. He eventually became a coach and mentor for the program encouraging others to do the same. Later he even participated in Ragbrai, 7 days of bicycling across Iowa, for 407 miles and 14,600 feet of climbing! Before Covid, Bill trained our dog, Samantha, to become a therapy dog. The two of them visited as many as 3 hospitals or hospice facilities a week to bring some joy and comfort to others.

I am a "valley girl" who went to U.C. Berkeley for a B.A. in psychology. I attended Univ. of Madison for one year of graduate

studies before attending Boston University where I received a Master's in Special Education with a specialty in Speech-Language Pathology. I became a fluent signer while volunteering at the School for the Deaf and then received the opportunity to do some brief research, talking to the chimpanzee, Washoe, the first chimp to learn sign language. In 1976 I was sent on a mission by the Jewish Federation of L.A. to go behind the Iron Curtain to literally smuggle in various items for the Refusniks; a harrowing journey that fortunately ended well. Once settled down to a more typical lifestyle, I worked in LA County before opening my own private practice in Speech Pathology and Educational Therapy, which I have done for over 35 years.

As Trail Dusters we learned that it was all the more fun to get involved. As a result, Bill held many positions on the board including Membership Chair, Ways and Means Chair, Class Coordinator ... twice, and representative to A Square D. I eventually got involved more as well by chairing a White Elephant Sale at a weekend, chairing a raffle for an Anniversary dance, helping out with New Year's centerpieces and helping other committees. We both became presidents in 2015-2016 and continue to attend board meetings. Most recently, we both headed up the 2021 New Year's Celebration, with the help of a great committee.

There are no words for how much Trail Dusters has enriched our lives through so many special friendships and so many exciting activities. We can only encourage others to become involved so that they, too, can get as much out of this experience as we have.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 9 2021

ZOOM
MEETING

7:30 P.M.



1. My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.
2. I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
3. I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes!
4. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
5. Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.
6. Senility has been a smooth transition for me.
7. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Yeah, me neither.
8. I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.

On The Lighter Side

I hate it when I see an old person and then realize that we went to high school together.



It amazes me how much exercise and extra fries sound alike.

**OUR AMAZING NEW YEAR'S EVE ZOOM PARTY
HOSTED BY BILL & FARRYL DICKTER AND THEIR COMMITTEE**



AND THE EVENING ENTERTAINERS



WITH OVER 100 ATTENDEES





THE ZOOM CAMERA TRIED TO CAPTURE ALL ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIZES IF IT DID NOT CAPTURE YOU







WOODSTOCK-INSPIRED TIE-DYE BROWNIES – PSYCHEDELIC 60'S

Ingredients



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 pkg brownie mix | 1/3 cup marshmallow fluff |
| 1 ½ cups white chocolate chips | 1 tablespoon butter |
| ½ can (7 oz) sweetened condensed milk | Food coloring |

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 325 F. Line an 8×8 inch baking pan with foil, leaving additional foil to hang over the sides. Spray bottom and sides of foiled pan with nonstick baking spray. Set aside.

Prepare and bake brownies as per package instructions

10 minutes before brownies have finished cooking, begin preparing white chocolate marshmallow fudge.

Microwave white chocolate chips, sweetened condensed milk and butter in a microwave safe bowl on 50% power until 90% melted, about 2 minutes. Check multiple times during microwave process to make sure you do not over-microwave. Stir until smooth and completely melted. Stir in marshmallow fluff.

Working quickly, divide microwaved fudge into 7 bowls. Make red, yellow, green, blue, orange, and purple colored fudge by adding drops of food coloring and stirring to your desired boldness. Leave one bowl uncolored.



Remove brownies from oven. While still hot, drop colored fudge by spoonful directly onto hot brownies. Swirl with a bamboo stick or toothpick to create tie-dye effect

Refrigerate until completely set, which will be at least 4 hours or overnight. To serve, remove from baking pan using foil overhang. Use a sharp knife to cut, rinsing between each cut.

February 2021 Trail Dusters Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Zoom Board Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> ♥	15 PRESIDENTS DAY 	16	17 Zoom Virtual Square Dancing 7:00 pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

