

Marilyn and Len Bloom, Editors

marlenbloom@sbcglobal.net

www.traildusters.com Jan 2017

Club Officers 2016-201>

Presidents/Editors

Marilyn & Len Bloom

marlenbloom@sbcglobal.net

Vice Presidents/ASquareD Delegates

Sandra & Robert Sobel

syking@sanrobel.com

Treasurer

Jeri & Ron Sobel

Financial Treasurer

Mindy & Joe Dill

1040md@gmail.com

Membership/Statistics Carol & Richard Lewis

richardilewis01@yahoo.com

Sunshine & Showers

Rusty Kaman

Rusty_K@verizon.net

Class Coordinators Lynn & Joel Ovadia

Flo Tapp and Janice Reiss

Special Services

Anita & Gary Higer

Secretary

llene & Mark Abramson

Publicity

Shirley & Collin Brown

Refreshments

Joni & Mark Simon

Ways & Means

Rhonda & Bill Shapiro

Visitation

Susan & Steve Langberg

Special Events

Maureen & Shelly Fried

AsquareD Delegate

Bill Dickter

Parliamentarians

Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig

Caller Coordinator

Pat Kessler

Dance Reporter

Caren Blumfield

Calling for Refreshments

Joni & Mark Simon

Food List

Phyllis & Simcha Saul

From the Presidents' D

We were thinking how lucky we are to be starting the new year with our building plans going so well. The Trail Dusters have a large active class of Rail Dusters who are booming along in learning the calls. Our Angels are coming out in sizeable numbers to help the new class members learn the ropes, and giving us 10 to 12 squares for the classes. Our preclass dinners are crowded with Angels and class members giving us a great feeling of camaraderie. Above all, our members, new and old, are enjoying spending time together. It is a great time to be a Trail Duster.

Our New Year's Eve party is sold out, and we look forward to a great evening of fun and laughter. Our upcoming schedule brings us to the STUDENT STOMP on Sunday January 29th, where our class will be able to show their skills at a class level dance. Our annual theater party to see "BYE, BYE, BIRDIE" will make March 25th another enjoyable time for all of us. The highlight of our social season will surely be the MAY WEEK END May 19 - 21. There are exciting times ahead, so please calendar all these wonderful events.

We are so proud of all of our members who help out and jump in to do what needs to be done for the class, for the dances, and for the activities. Without your help and skills we might not be building such a great organization and having such a wonderful time doina it.

Our nominating committee will be meeting in January looking to fill board positions for the fall. Please make a resolution to be even more involved and let us know that you are interested in becoming a board member. Thank you, thank you all for what you do and for your Trail Duster spirit!

We'll see you in a square.

Marilyn & Len Bloom Your **Presidents**



NEXT BOARD MEETING JANUARY 10, 2017

7:30 P.M.



RHONDA & BILL SHAPIRO'S HOUSE

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS DANCE JANUARY 14TH

Remember the fun and friendship you enjoyed at the New Year's Eve Gala? You can continue the good times into the New Year and attend our Club's monthly dance on Saturday January 14, 2017. The tips will be fun with our own Arlen Miller calling. He will be calling a fun dance in his easy smooth style. Come out and see for yourself how enjoyable he can make the evening – flier pg 11.

As usual, Milo Molitoris will be cueing the rounds for the dedicated and elegant round dancers.

The food will be plentiful and varied and the conversation will be interesting as you all gather and debate the outcome of the Golden Globe Awards. Did the right movie or right actor win?

Start 2017 off by supporting your Board, your Club, and your caller. Mark the date, January 14, in your calendar in red and join us at the dance. As usual, we would love to see you even if you are not dancing. We always need greeters and people to help out with the food.

Your roving reporters from Canada

Shirley & Collin Brown

Publicity Chairs



List of 2017 callers – page 9



KNOW YOUR JANUARY 14TH CALLER ARLEN MILLER

I have often been told by dancers that they get nervous about attending a dance with a caller they don't know. You certainly won't have that problem at our January 14th dance. Arlen Miller, our caller for this event, has taught many of you how to dance as he has been our club teacher for a number of years. I'm sure you know him well.

Arlen's goal at a dance is for everyone to have a good time and he works very hard to accomplish this. He has just completed teaching his 89th beginners' class and has taught for 33 years, so he has picked up quite a few tricks to make a dance evening a lot of fun. Arlen will be happy to welcome his old friends from Trail Dusters' classes and he will see that a good time will be had by all. Please join us at the first dance of 2017 to support our club and our caller.



Pat Kessler Your "Caller Booker"

spinchain@sbcglobal.net



Our Visitation for January will be at Boots & Slippers. This will be their first Fun Dance of the year

Date: Saturday, January 7 Time: 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm (no rounds)

Caller: Dick Hodnefield

Where: Simi Valley Sr. Center 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

Fun dances are class level dances for classes that started in September. Each month the level will increase as additional calls are learned by new class members. All new class members are welcome along with experienced dancers who want to have a lot of "fun."

Upcoming Visitations

February 12 – A Square D Sweetheart Ball with Hunter Keller & Mike Seastrom calling (see flier pages 13 & 14).

March 25 – Boots & Slippers with Gary Shoemake calling

Susan & Steve Langberg

Visitation Chairs

818-889-1197



sdrosen49@yahoo.com

January Birthdays

Kathy Cirillo	1
Sandy Kaufman	2
Mike Sternfeld	3
Gayle Hodnefield	4
Jan Kanowitz	6
Maxine Tuckman	8
Norm Kaman	9
Hal Rothberg	9
Howard Weiner	9
Bren Levy	10
Linda Peck	10
Judy Comroe	11
Marilyn Katlein	12
Robert Cirillo	13
Linda Cole	16
Marlene Kane	17
Lois Michaelson	18
Jack Levy	21
Lorraine Levin	25
Cinda Molitoris	28
Rusty Kaman	30
Steve Snider	30

Maureen Fried	31
Jill Pivnik	31

January Anniversaries

Marilyn & Stan Zwicker	18
Karen & David Strauss	23
Flo & Bill Tapp	23
Evie & Iran Ausley	27

Carol & Richard Lewis Membership & Statistics



richardilewis01@yahoo.com

Sunshine & Showers

I'm happy to report that our teacher/caller, **Arlen Miller**, is on the mend following a bout with pneumonia. **Arlen** was hospitalized for a period, but thankfully, more recently, he has been at home recovering. **Arlen**, we're all hoping that you are continuing to regain your health and your strength, and we look forward to seeing you back at Bay Laurel in January!

Ending this year on a sunny note, Miriam and Bernie Brauner are thrilled to announce the recent engagement of their son, Jacob, to Negin Nazarin. Negin is a Supervisor for the Child Department of an elementary school and Jacob is a business consultant. Their plans for a future together began in Uganda where Jacob proposed to Negin. Now, the young couple is busy planning their summer wedding after which they will make their home in Los Angeles. To Negin and Jacob, and to Miriam and Bernie, we extend warm congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful life together.

To all Trail Dusters and Rail Dusters, may you enjoy the upcoming Holidays, and may the coming year bring good health and every happiness to you and your loved ones.

Please remember that I am here to help you share the happenings in your lives, whether those are "sunshine" or "showers." You can contact me with your news at the e-mail address below.
Wishing each of you a very Happy New Year!

Be sure to contact me at the e-mail address shown below.

Warm regards, Rusty Kaman

Rusty_k@verizon.net (805) 241-8488

Sunshine & Showers Chair





You are invited to the "Student Stomp," Sunday January 29, 2017 from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. As usual, this event will be held at the Wilkinson Senior Center, 8956 Vanalden Ave., Northridge.

The Student Stomp is the annual dance for square dance students who have been taught half of the Square Dance Calls for the year. The Student Stomp is supported by the Associated Square Dancers (A Square D), which is an association of 11 square dance clubs in a district that includes the SF Valley, the Simi Valley and the Santa Barbara/Ventura area. A Square D works to promote square dancing in our communities and supports our clubs to succeed and grow.

The Student Stomp is not just for our terrific Rail Dusters, but for all the students in the A Square D district.

Everyone is invited: Class Members, Angels, Couples and Singles. The donation is \$7.00 per person. There will, of course, be refreshments.

The callers will be seven of the best available; including our own Arlen Miller.

This will be a fun Sunday you won't want to miss!!

See the flyer on page 12 of the newsletter.

See you there.

SWEETHEART BALL

A Square D also hosts a dance each February to honor and recognize two special individuals chosen by each club for their hard work, commitment to the club, and their ongoing efforts to promote square dancing in our community. For this honor, we have selected **Sandra & Robert Sobel**, who have given their hearts and souls to this club since they became members in 2013.

SWEETHEARTS 2017



They had been square dancers 20 years before; however, due to an unfortunate automobile accident, Sandra's knee kept them out of dancing. Fortunately her knees mended, and they decided to get back into square dancing and join our club to our great fortune.

As soon as Sandra & Robert became Trail Dusters in 2013, they were recruited to the Board as Refreshment Chairs and manned the kitchen during classes.

Sandra & Robert were elected Vice Presidents for 2015 – 2016 and again for this present term of 2016 – 2017. They are wonderful back-up for the presidents and always available to offer a helping hand.

In addition Sandra & Robert were also the club's A Square D representatives. As such, they attended meetings and made sure the Board was apprised of the goings on within the square dance community. With all that they did, they still volunteered to do other odd-jobs and always with a smile!

We are lucky to have such a dedicated and lovely couple in our club! Sandra & Robert assuredly deserve to be the Trail Dusters Sweetheart Couple—see fliers pgs 13 & 14.

Please call (310) 926-8034 or e-mail me BradzDad@gmail.com) or see me at Wednesday's class to purchase the ribbons.

Bill Dickter



Coordinators Corner

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year. We continue to be so impressed with you, our Rail Duster class. You are a large group and we are doing our very best to get you partners and placed with Angels that can best help make your dancing experience the best it can be. We thank our Trail Dusters who come out each Wednesday to provide guidance and support to you, our new dancers.

Thank you Angels.

As you know we had to cancel our workshop due to Arlen's illness. We have tentatively rescheduled this workshop for Sunday January 15, 2017. More details will follow. Remember to tell Arlen any calls that you need more instruction or practice. This will be a great opportunity to learn and review them.

Be sure to calendar the **Student Stomp**/half way dance for **Sunday January 29th**. This is always such a fun event and the first time you will actually be attending a dance.

Also, Joel sends his review of the calls taught each Wednesday, so you can go over them at the various websites. He also mentioned the Fun Dance, hosted by Boots and Slippers at Simi Senior Center. The next one will be Sat. January 7, 2017.

See you all when we resume our regular weekly Wed. night classes on **January 4, 2017.**

Let us introduce you to more of our new "Rockin Rail Dusters."



Our next Rail
Duster is
Adrianne
Kirman. She
has been called
Honey and
Sweetie, but
nothing related

to Adrianne. Adrianne is a proud native of Southern California, born and raised in Van Nuys. She has been living in Encino these last 40 years. Adrianne has spent 38 years working for LAUSD in various capacities, including being a principal. She was never bored. always challenged, and loved it all. If her job did not keep her entertained enough, her two sons, who are now two successfully independent and happy men, did. Adrianne has two little grandchildren, who are the light of her life!

Although she has had many exciting experiences traveling the world, hiking up Mount Sinai and then hiking down in the dark, was for her, most exciting and inspirational. Adrianne has spent 12 years learning how to ballroom dance and when finally became good enough to dance with the best of the best on the dance floor, she moved on to square dancing. Luckily, Ishe found Trail Dusters on line. Now, instead of "Dancing with the Stars," she dances with us!



One of our new couples is **Elise and Neil Sandler**. They are from NYC.

Elise was born in upper Manhattan, Washington Heights and moved to Queens when she was 5. She moved out at 23, met Neil and moved to LA. Elise received her BA from Queens College and a MS from Stanford in Art and Education. She taught in City Island in the Bronx for years, but after 10 years she left teaching for a studio job. Neil talked her into moving to LA and starting a new career as an art agent.

They both started Licensing Art and are doing it after 27 years. Elise has added make-up lines to her work resume. They have one daughter, Raquel, who is a voice and Piano teacher and appears in local musicals.

Neil loves to travel to different cities and performs singing and playing the guitar. Elise was a ski instructor and did ballet and modern dance as a child, Neil and Elise loved to go on River Rafting Trips and have loved traveling to Europe and famous ski resorts. They heard about Trail Dusters a few years ago from Rosalie Rifkin, a past Trail Duster, at a Calabasas Outdoor Concert.

Each month we will introduce more of our Rail Dusters. Right now we have in our class 3 couples, 7 single men and 12 single women.

See you in a square,

Flo Tapp & Janice Reiss





Lynn & Joel Ovadia

Class Coordinators



We Built The Biggest New Year's Eve Party

Here we are, days before our New Year's Eve wonderful gala, and I am thrilled to announce that we are completely sold out for our upcoming celebration. The New Year's Committee is burning the midnight oil to make more centerpieces, name cards, and place-settings to provide the most exciting end of year party ever.

You will not want to miss a chance to win a crispy \$100 bill by entering our famous New Year's Eve opportunity drawing.



Those tickets are only \$10.00 so there is a big return on your money. They will be available at the party so look for **Richard Wallach** who will be selling these raffle tickets.

We are in the midst of a wonderful Trail Dusters year. We have absolutely caught the building spirit Marilyn and Lenny have started in July. This New Year's Eve event is a prime example of what happens when a group of dedicated dancers come together to create a fun evening. Bring on the bling and come to shine as we dance and play the night away with great friends, great food and drink, and a great square dance club.



Anita, Jeri, Marilyn, Caren & Maureen

Your New Year's Eve Committee

FOOD DRIVE 2016 SURPASSES THE SUCCESS OF ALL PREVIOUS CLUB DRIVES

We are thrilled to report to you that this year's Drive to put food in the RMH Pantries has been more successful than any Drive we've led over the past 14 or 15 years! Because of the participation of so many Trail and Rail

RONALD MCDONALI HOUSE CHARITIES Dusters, we raised a total of \$3,005, and turned over to RMH more than \$5,000 in food and merchandise! We were able to grant every wish on the Wish List given to us; primarily nonperishable food, but also two commercial vacuum cleaners. more than 1100 dryer sheets, and 1800 scent-free Tide Pods for the residents to be able to do their laundry! Please read the "Note of Appreciation" sent to our Club by RMH on page 16. We know you will feel proud - as we are!

The two couples (page 8) who accompanied us to the Annual Holiday Party at RMH on Dec.18th have shared their impressions of that visit, so we hope you will take time to read them on page 17. Norm and I would just like to add that one part of the visit that was particularly meaningful to us was hearing the speeches of two children who are and have been residents of the Ronald McDonald House while undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital. One was a handsome 12-year-old boy from Mexico who spent 40 days in the hospital with a serious heart problem soon after his birth. His family resided at the House during that time, and he conveyed to the audience their gratefulness at having had a "home away from home" while he was critically ill. The other speaker was a lovely 13-year-old girl from Colombia who had been a victim of bullying.

She was pushed down 3 flights of stairs and endured serious damage to both her legs (which are still in braces). She expressed extreme gratitude from her family for having a wonderful place to stay while she is (still) in treatment. It was a moving experience to listen to both these children.

Both of us are truly grateful to all of you for the support you've shown in making this Food Drive something of which we can all feel very proud. Life should be a little more comfortable for the residents of the LA Ronald McDonald House now. They definitely have a LOT more food stuff from which to choose, the matter of doing their laundry will be a lot easier with the Tide Pods, and each building will now have a brand new commercial vacuum cleaner to keep their apartments tidy - because of Trail Dusters! We're very proud of our Club's accomplishments and hope you are, too!

Happy Holidays to All! Rusty and Norm Kaman

LOOK WHAT IS COMING UP!

A FUNdraiser event scheduled for Saturday **March 25th**.

See Marilyn & Hy Katlein for this exciting time.

at the

to see



Tickets are only \$26.00 each. See flier on page 15 for more detail.

Kitchen Korner

Dear Members of the Nobody Goes Home Hungry Club

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Starbucks would have been a terrible failure if they would have tried to open their first coffee house in England in the late 17th century? It's true because in England in 1675 King Charles II banned all coffee houses in the kingdom because he was afraid these were places where people were gathering to conspire against him. So, it was very fortunate for all you coffee drinkers out there that the founders of Starbucks. Jerry Brown, Zev Siegle, and Gordon Bowker decided to wait a few hundred years before opening their first store.

We had a little excitement in the kitchen recently (and I do mean a LITTLE excitement). Our coffee maker started to leak. Panic set in. Can it be fixed? Should we buy a new one? What to do? Well the problem was solved. I brought the coffee maker home and fixed it. No more leak. Our Madame President was so happy with my effort and the savings my effort provided the Trail Dusters that she gave me a very generous TIP. I was very grateful. She told me not to play with matches. Marilyn, you're the best!!!

We say it every month. But, it can't be said enough how much we appreciate all the help that we receive each night in the kitchen, as well as the wonderful food brought for everyone's enjoyment each week. Thank you all. It is greatly appreciated!

We wish you all a happy holiday season and a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2017.

Thanks, Joni & Mark Simon



Refreshment Chairs marksimon43@gmail.com jsimon704@gmail.com

Traveling with the Trail Dusters



Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig near Midway Aircraft Carrier. Did they forget they were reading the Dusty Trails?

Hold the Date
For Our Spring Weekend
May 19 - 21
We are going to Anaheim
to the Double Tree Hotel
More Information to follow

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED AT WEDNESDAY'S CLASS



Art Hirsh, Lainy Parlen, Paul Kane, Simcha Saul, Harriet Berman, Anita Higer, Janice Reiss

DUSTY TRAILS JOINS US AT THE APPRECIATION LUNCH AT PARKS & RECREATION



Flo Tapp, Anita Higer, Carol & Richard Lewis, Marilyn Bloom, Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig, Jeri Sobel, Sandra Sobel

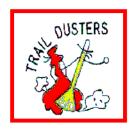
VISITING RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE ARE:



Renny Traub, Terry Karsh, Rusty & Norm Kaman, Flo & Bill Tapp



RMH Van loaded with Trail Dusters donations collected from Rusty and Norm's house.



Trail Dusters Square Dance Club

Dance Schedule – 2017 2ND Saturday of Month

Rounds @ 7:00 PM - First Tip @ 8:00 PM Alternating Rounds & Tips with 1 A-1 Tip

Wilkinson Senior Center – 8956 Vanalden - Northridge

DATE	CALLER	THEME	
January 14, 2017	Arlen Miller	The Golden Globes Vote for Best Picture Award	
February 11, 2017	Johnny Preston	Affairs of the Heart	
March 11, 2017	Dick Hodnefield & Don Schadt	Wearing of the Green	
April 8, 2017	Rod Shuping	Spring Fling	
May 13, 2017	Pat Carnathan	Cupcake Dance	
June 10, 2017	Vic Ceder	Silly Socks/Silly Shoes	
July 8, 2017	Hunter Keller	* Angel Appreciation Night	
August 12, 2017	Mike Kellogg	* Baseball Jersey Dance	
September 9, 2017	Buddy Weaver	* The 60's- Era of Hippies, Peace & Love	
October 14, 2017	Tim Pepper	Ice Cream & Root Beer Float Dance	
November 11, 2017	Andy Allemao	Thanksgiving in a Cup	
December	Dark		

* Summer Casual Attire

ROUND DANCE CUERS Milo & Cinda Molitoris

For additional information call: Marilyn & Len Bloom 818-326-6019

Classes remain Wednesday evenings at Bay Laurel Elementary, 24740 Paseo Primario, Calabasas.



REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS JANUARY 2017



Fruit Sharyn Starr
Dessert Flo & Bill Tapp
Dessert Arlene Zoren
Cheese and Crackers Jeri & Ron Sobel



January 11

<u>F</u>ruit Maxine & Irwin Tuckman

Dessert Jordan Wank

Dessert Dessert from board meeting Cheese and Crackers Marilyn & Stan Zwicker

January 17

Fruit June & Robert Grossman
Dessert Margie Hausman
Dessert Terry Karsh

Cheese and Crackers Adriane & Michael Kreisberg



January 25

Fruit Lynn & Joel Ovadia

Dessert Joyce Smith

Dessert Ellen & Mike Sternfeld

Cheese and Crackers Lynn Stevens





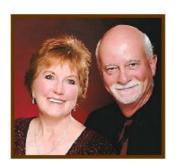
For more information call Joni & Mark Simon (818) 907-8823 or email marksimon43@gmail.com



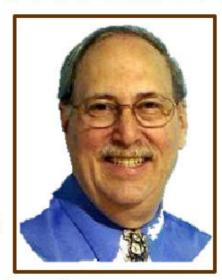
TRAIL DUSTERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS CALLER - ARLEN MILLER









Rounds 7:00 – 8:00 pm and between tips Squares 8:00 – 10:00 pm - Plus Level, A-1 Tip Wilkinson Senior Center, 8956 Vanalden Ave., Northridge, CA

UPCOMING DANCES

FEBRUARY 11 JOHNNY PRESTON PIONEER DAYS

MARCH 11. DICK HODNEFIELD & DON SCHADT JOHNNY APPLESEED DAY

APRIL 8, ROD SHUPING SPRING FLING

For More Information Call: Marilyn & Leonard Bloom 818-326-6019

Website: www.traildusters.com - Singles and Couples Welcome



Student Stomp

Everyone is Invited! Class Members * Angels * Couples * Singles

Sunday

January 29, 2017

2:30 - 5:00 pm

Donation: \$7.00

Refreshments



Information: Linda Kaplan 805.231.6171 Dance Location: Wilkinson Senior Citizen Center 8956 Vanalden Ave Northridge, CA 91324



Presented by Valley Trailers Square Dance Club in participation with:

Boots & Slippers - Buckles & Bows - Farmers & Charmers Happy Squares - Lads 'N' Lassies - Phantom Squares - Sierra Hillbillies Taws 'N' Paws - Trail Dusters - Valley Trailers - Western Weavers



Associated Square Dancers 54th Annual

CELEBRATE AND HONOR THE STARS WHOSE EXTRA EFFORTS KEEP OUR CLUBS AND ASSOCIATION VIBRANT AND GROWING. THEY ARE THE HEART & SOUL OF SQUARE DANCING

Sunday, February 12, 20

1:30-4:30 pm

Plus Level Dance with A-1 tip pre-rounds 1:30-2:00 squares w/rounds 2:00 - 4:30pm

MIKE SEASTROM & HUNTER VELLER Zena Beaulieu

\$10 pre-sale



\$12 at the door

HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL CENTER

3901 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA



See your Club Delegate for Ribbons

More Information: Diane 213–309–2630 di6@earthlink.net 🕕



JOIN US FOR ANOTHER "FUNdraising" EVENING

The event is open to family and friends – the more the merrier!

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 25, 2017 - 8 P.M. THE GLENDALE THEATRE, GLENDALE, CA.

324 North Orange Street, Glendale, CA 91203



One of Broadway's biggest hits. about a struggling songwriter's attempt to write one last hit before his star client is drafted into the army! Filled with fantastic songs like "Put On A Happy Face" and "Kids", this classic musical is one you won't want to miss!

Tickets are \$26 PER PERSON

To reserve your seats, please complete and mail by March 7 to:

MARILYN AND HY KATLEIN 5901 FAIRHAVEN AVENUE

WOODLAND HILLS, CA. 91367 PHONE: 818 704-1968 E MAIL: <u>HKATLEIN@AOL.COM</u> or give it to them at class on Wednesdays

NAME	
ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE # CELL	
E MAIL ADDRESS	
NUMBER OF TICKETS @ \$26.00EACH TOTAL \$	
PAYMENT METHOD: CASH CHECK #	
DINNER: YES NO	

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO TRAIL DUSTERS



December 19, 2016

Trail Dusters Square Dance Group C/o Mr. & Mrs. Norm and Rusty Kaman 2174 Ladycliffe Circle Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dear Trail Dusters Square Dance Group,

"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late," -R.W. Emerson

On behalf of the Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House, the staff, volunteers and the thousands of families that call our House "Home", thank you for your kindness. Your kindness has made a difference in the lives of so many families and leaves a legacy of love for families going through the toughest part of their lives.

Our entire staff was amazed by the sheer volume of everything you have donated. Not only have you filled our two pantries but an overflow closet as well. We recognize that this was no small feat. Whether it was collecting the money, organizing our wish list, shopping for the best deals, finding unscented detergent pods and commercial grade vacuum cleaners and coordinating our efforts to pick it up, everything was so appreciated by our families and staff here at the house. I'm looking forward to our continued relationship and would love to see the Trail Dusters Square Dance Group in action!

Again, thank you for all that you do to help provide families with a safe and supportive place to stay while their child receives treatment for critical illnesses or injuries.

Sincerely,

Director of Development - Individual Giving

Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House®

4560 Fountain Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90029-1913 • Tel: (323) 644.3000 • Fax: (323) 669.0552 www.rmhcsc.org/losangeles • Federal Tax ID# 95-3167869



Impressions of a Visit to Ronald Mc Donald House

My Impressions of our Visit to RMH by Terry Karsh

Today's visit to the LA Ronald McDonald House was, for me, a life-changing experience. It really made me see what is important in life. McDonalds generously donates 15% worldwide to Ronald McDonald House Charities, and I realized how much our donation to this project means. I loved watching the joy on the faces of the children and their families – even though they're dealing with life-threatening situations – as they enjoyed the man-made snow and the reindeer. Seeing the plaques on the walls naming the Trail Dusters as donors made me so proud of our Club! I walked around with a lump in my throat the whole time. It was very emotional. I'm so glad to finally be able to put a "face" to the Ronald McDonald House!

Thoughts Shared by Renny Traub

The operation itself was very impressive. I soon realized that we really need a Drive in the summer (as well as the winter) because the families there need so much help. Seeing so many children in wheelchairs, so innocent, made this a moving and emotional experience, and I really started thinking about other people's needs besides my own. I was impressed with the accommodations for the families; they were so comfortable. In the large shared kitchen, parents were cooking, and that sight made life seem almost "normal" for the children. Let's get ready for our next fundraiser!

RMH - Like One BIG Happy Family by Flo and Bill Tapp

While I was eager to visit the Ronald McDonald House, I didn't know what to expect and felt "anxious" about meeting with the "sick" children and their families. However, it was obvious, from the moment we arrived, that this was not a sad or depressing place at all. There was joy, happiness and laughter everywhere we looked!

Tommy Monje, the Director of Development & Individual Giving, met us upon our arrival. He was kind, soft spoken and positive about every aspect of this wonderful place. He pointed out, and we witnessed, so much camaraderie; it was more like a group home, like one **very big** happy family. Everyone was helping everyone else, especially the children. The community kitchen looked wonderful; the food smelled delicious and everyone cooking looked happy. In another area, a group of teenagers were frosting Holiday cupcakes. Tommy then showed us an apartment where a family would be staying during their child's treatment. He also showed us a plaque in the Library - built by Trail Dusters Square Dance Club! We saw one of the two pantries FILLED with breakfast cereals, protein bars, lots of canned goods and toasters – all provided by donations from our Club. The Kamans are amazing; they are really able to stretch those dollars!

Wherever we looked, children and their families were talking, eating, laughing, and generally having a good time. You would never know that anyone was sick except for an occasional child in a wheelchair. The staff is very professional and dedicated.

We are so appreciative for the opportunity to experience firsthand what a difference we, the Trail Dusters, have made! Thank you again to Rusty and Norm.

January 2017 Trail Dusters Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
WENT!	2	3	4 Classes at Bay Laurel 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7 Visitation Boots & Slippers Caller: Dick Hodnefield Pg 2
8	9	10 Board Meeting 7:30 pm Rhonda & Bill Shapiro's House	11 Classes at Bay Laurel 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Dance at Wilkinson - caller Arlen Miller cuer Milo Molitoris see pages 2 & 11
15	16	17	18 Classes at Bay Laurel 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Classes at Bay Laurel 7:00 p.m.	26	27	28
29 Student Stomp	30	31				

TRAIL DUSTERS

Anita & Gary Higer 14348 Riverside Drive #14 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

