



# The Dusty Trails

Marilyn and Len Bloom, Editors    marlenbloom2@gmail.com    www.traildusters.com    Feb. 2024

## Club Officers 2023-2024

### Presidents

Patti & Marshall Goldberg  
[mgoldberg@glassgoldberg.com](mailto:mgoldberg@glassgoldberg.com)

### Vice Presidents/Refreshments

Jill Sanders & Avi Nudell

### Secretary

Wendy Goldzband

### Treasurers

Lynn & Joel Ovadia

### Financial Treasurer

Victor Wolfe

### Publicity/Webmaster

Shirley Brown

### Membership/Statistics

Ilene & Mark Abramson  
[markabe@aol.com](mailto:markabe@aol.com)

### Sunshine & Showers

Rusty Kaman  
[rusty\\_k@verizon.net](mailto:rusty_k@verizon.net)

### Editors

Marilyn & Len Bloom

### Class Coordinators

Caren Blumfield & Sherwin Silver  
Jeri Sobel

### Event Reporter

Maureen & Shelly Fried

### Ways & Means

Flo & Bill Tapp  
Jane Lief

### New Member Outreach

Grace & Ron Mitnick

### A Square D Delegate

Bill Dickter

### Caller Coordinator

Farryl Dickter

### Special Services – Bay Laurel

Joni & Mark Simon

### Special Services - Wilkinson

Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig

### Facilitators

Sandra & Robert Sobel

### Fundraiser

Denise Kurtzer

### Parliamentarian

Cindy Kestenbaum

## Briefs From the Board

### WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLASS COORDINATORS

Class coordinators are a vital position on the board. They essentially are the Club's connection to our new Rail Dusters, and they try to encourage our new dancers to stay and eventually transition to become Trail Dusters.

As the Rail Dusters arrive for their first class at Bay Laurel, the coordinators have them fill out registration forms so they are able to contact them. The coordinators call those Rail Dusters who don't return and find out why and/or encourage them to continue. They try to match up partners and even out squares so Trail Dusters can help. They schedule meetings with students in the back of the room when necessary to keep them informed about the goings on of the club.

Your coordinators also send out a weekly email to the new class about helpful websites and upcoming events. We distribute forms to our new members to find out more about them and write these up in our monthly newsletter. We have Marilyn and Lenny Bloom take photos and create a Rail Dusters' roster. Then we make sure Shirley Brown sends out the Dusty Trails to

everyone and we include the Club Roster and the Rail Duster Roster in the newsletter.

Name tags in plastic holders are created for the new members (Sherwin Silver does this for us) and we have them available on the counter every Wednesday for them to wear. We plan a few social events for our new class and also workshops as needed for dancers who need extra help.

In addition to this, as coordinators, we attend all board meetings and coordinate graduation. Our Rail Dusters are the future of our club, and each dancer has their own unique history and skill at learning new calls. We have our own internal timelines, and we try to encourage patience, understanding and friendship among our dancers. It is one of the most gratifying jobs in the club.

Caren & Sherwin



Jeri Sobel

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Winter Wonderland at Bay Laurel

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
VALENTINE'S DAY  
SQUARE DANCIN'  
and  
SNACKIN' GALORE!**

### February Birthdays



Mark Simon	5
Rhonda Shapiro	9
Cindy Kestenbaum	11
Mindy Dill	15
Robert Sobel	17
Dorothy Stabinsky	20
Michael Kreisberg	28
Mimi Steinberger	28

We missed January 8 birthday for Maxine Tuckman

### February Anniversaries



Eileen & Ken Burkenheim	9
Jill & Bob Sanders	9
Farryl & Bill Dickter	10
Bren & Jack Levy	12

Congratulations to all of you who are celebrating a special occasion.

**Ilene and Mark Abramson**



**Membership & Statistics**

[markabe@aol.com](mailto:markabe@aol.com)  
818-501-3109

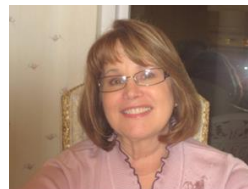
The January weather might be a bit chilly in Southern California, but it was warm and wonderful during our Trail Dusters' Winter Wonderland at last month's class.

Once again, Jill Sanders and Avi Nudell and their talented team of pastry providers, appetizer experts, and bold bread bakers were out in full winter force, guaranteeing no frost would enter our dance haven on that night. The tables burst with color. The lighted snowmen, bright blue and silver decorations, and imaginative signs transformed the evening into a delightful winter scene - a perfect backdrop for the endless delicious treats filling the tables - see pictures on page 12.

We are so fortunate to have Jill and Avi as part of our Trail Dusters team. Their skill and energy radiate warmth and easily illustrate how being friendly and gracious is such a part of Trail Dusters. I must add, I would like the person who made the biscotti style cookies to be my new best friend. They were absolutely delicious. Thank you to all who brought outstanding treats. It was a wonderful winter night!

Your Event reporter

**Maureen Fried**



It's that time of the year,  
And Cupid is finally here!...  
Dress up in some red,  
And come as a heart...  
Be creative and be funny...  
Or come as a piece of art!

Bring plenty of kisses,  
And lots of hugs too,  
It's time for some romancin'...  
Cuz that's what dancers do!  
Squeeze your corner,  
With all your might...  
Then swing your partner,  
And hold on tight!

With an array of snacks,  
So utterly divine,  
Ask that special person,  
"WILL YOU BE MINE?"  
This Valentine's Day,  
We will celebrate!  
Come ready to dance,  
And don't be late!

With such special treats,  
And so much to do...  
So here's the info scoop,  
Without further ado...  
We'll celebrate in style,  
So don't you hesitate...  
We sure hope you'll be there,  
For this very special date!



Snack Queen Jill

Snack King Avilicious

See flier page 13



## Coordinators Corner

The New Year is upon us, and your coordinators are thrilled to report that our Rail Dusters are still going strong. We have even added another couple to our class who used to dance with Boots and Slippers. They are excellent dancers but will join our class to review their dancing skills, get to meet new people, and graduate with the rest of our Rail Dusters.

We will be sending out our new Rail Duster's roster with their information soon. Our Rail Dusters are enthusiastic, attentive, and eager to learn. Most important, they are laughing, smiling and having a great time. You Trail Dusters, who come each week, are making this possible.

Our Class will be joining the other clubs' classes at the Student Stomp and we need every Trail Duster to come out and help our Rail Dusters. They will be dancing for the first time to different callers who may be calling at a faster speed. See flyer page 14.

Your coordinators will be planning a brunch and workshop in the future for our Rail Dusters and introducing them to their graduation play, Spring Weekend, etc.

Please continue to introduce yourselves to everyone and continue to spread happiness around. Our "Winter Wonderland" was a huge success (thank you again Jill and Avi) and it is once again because of all of you who continue to support our Trail Dusters family.

See you in a Square.

**Caren & Sherwin & Jeri**  
Class Coordinators

## Meet The Rail Dusters

### Merry & Jay Mulein



Merry and Jay Mulein are Caren Blumfield's cousins through marriage. Merry's parents were active, long term Trail Dusters so Merry has square dancing in her blood. They have also been friends with Joni and Mark Simon for over 40 years. Jay had a prior commitment on Wednesday nights but when that recently ended, Debby and Eddy Borden talked them into joining Trail Dusters together. I guess all that nagging finally paid off!

Merry was born in Newark, New Jersey. When she was four years old, her family moved to Los Angeles to be near her maternal grandparents. Her dad had just finished his residency in New Jersey and wanted to start his surgery practice in Los Angeles. Jay was born in Palm Beach, Florida because his dad was stationed in the Army Band. When he was two years old, they moved to Wisconsin so his parents could finish law school and be near family. At four years old, his parents moved to Los Angeles for the warm weather because his mom had Rheumatic Fever and couldn't take the cold climate.

Merry was an elementary school teacher in Canyon Country, at Sulphur Springs School. She stopped working when she had children but started subbing at Meadow Oaks when the kids went to school. She took on a time position at Meadow Oaks where she taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In 1999, Viewpoint acquired Meadow Oaks and she taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade there until 2009 before retiring. Jay worked in the

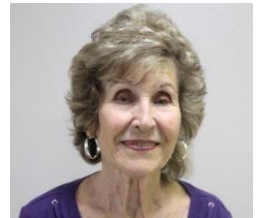
Insurance and financial Services Field where he managed many other brokers and offices throughout Southern California until he retired.

They have two children. Michael their oldest, is married to Josephine and they are both attorneys living in Singapore. Michael works for the Universal Music Group in Business Development. Josephine is General Counsel in Asia for Netflix. Jenifer lives in West Los Angeles and is a TV producer. Her most recent Executive Producer credit is on Apple TV+, "Dear Edward."

Merry plays Mahjong and Canasta in a few weekly groups. She loves to read and walks every day for exercise. Jay has been doing TaiChi and other martial arts for over 40 years. Prior to that, he was a long distance runner and did many marathons. He also loves to read and visit friends. They both enjoy theater, movies, playing games and watching TV together.

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### Diana Gordon



Diana Gordon is one of our dancing singles. She recently lost her husband, Stanley Gordon Tarshi, after 49 years of marriage. He was a private investigator and a world class Horizontal Bar Specialist. Every year, Diana and Stan hosted a summer party for gymnasts where they would set up events in their yard. They have two children. Her son lives in Santa Monica and her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters, ages 9 and 11, live in Sherman Oaks.

Diana was born in Pittsburgh, PA but moved to Boyle Heights when she was three years old so her father could have a better job. Diana is a

retired LAUSD teacher after 35 years of working at different elementary schools in the Valley. Kindergarten was her specialty, and she loved her job.

Now she is having a blast trying to "find herself" after so many years of caring for her family. She has discovered Line dancing, Israeli dancing, Zumba and reading. Diana loves to dance and is really loving our Wednesday night classes. Years ago, Sheila and Irv Fox, long ago Trail Dusters, told her about square dancing. Last year she met Jeri Sobel at an event and Jeri encouraged her to come join us. How lucky was that for all of us!

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**John Carpenter & Kathy Dorfman**

Kathy is a native Californian and was born in Inglewood. Her family moved to the San Fernando Valley in 1960 because her father worked in the aerospace industry for Rocketdyne in Canoga Park. Kathy is retired "for the moment" but worked as a legal secretary at a law office in the Valley for many years and then was an assistant to a paralegal. She has two children, a son, 39, who lives in Las Vegas and a daughter, 37, who lives in Silverlake. She has no grandchildren yet. Kathy is like a pioneer because she keeps "moving

wWest." She started in Inglewood, moved to Canoga Park and now lives in Calabasas. Don't step on her toes in a square because Kathy has a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

John was born in Griffith Park in a maternity ward, not at the Zoo. He is a Happy Wanderer as he moved to Northern California and Alaska for ten years before returning to Los Angeles for work and family. He has worked as a Long Shoreman, in construction as a carpenter, contractor, construction manager and project Inspector for Cal State Northridge. He is NOT retired and plans to work for a few more years. He has a son, 43 years old, a daughter, 38 years old and one grandson 14 years old, who is a Boy Scout. John sings and plays bass in various bands doing Rock n Roll, Country and Dixieland. He also back packs, gardens, sings and writes songs. I don't see cooking on his list but everything else is there!

John and Kathy met at a Ballroom Dance Class and are married for six years. It was John who suggested they try square dancing. He found us on the internet. John met some square dancers from Simi Valley, and they planted the dancing seed in his head and after searching around he found us.

All three Class Coordinators agree that Kathy and John are our "star pupils" and dance like they have been doing it for years. We are so lucky that they decided to join us and hope that they never leave.

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## **Oh WHAT A NIGHT**

What words can adequately describe New Years Eve Dec, 31 2023 at the Trail Dusters' Hideaway in the Hilton Woodland Hills? Absolutely incredible comes close. What a phenomenal night! It began as soon as the second floor elevators opened to a colorful welcome sign and a heartfelt request to take formal photos with Simcha Saul. Steve Rosentsweig and Lenny



Bloom took the candid photos.

Every guest sparkled and shone in their beautiful holiday finery as they mingled and met new and old time Trail Dusters and friends. There were hors d'oeuvres aplenty with drinks all around. It was a perfect prelude to the excitement to come.

And then the ballroom doors were



opened. With lace fans and table assignments in hand, guests entered the Trail Dusters' Hideaway ablaze with lights, beautiful table centerpieces, more lights, and a room awash with incredible colors. The Tango theme was set and this crowd answered the urge to party all the way to one o'clock in the morning! Trail Dusters really know how to have a great time and this night was no exception -see pictures pages 6-11.

To begin the festivities, Marilyn Bloom presented the hard working, imaginative New Years Eve Committee and their able bodied and equally clever team. Shirley and Collin Brown were in attendance all the way from Canada which added a special joy to our evening.

After a traditional song by our own Diane Jubelier Light, the room erupted into a lively Hora before sitting down to eat an absolutely delicious dinner. Seriously, the dance floor was alive with delighted dancers the entire night. With more than 110 happy revelers, the whole evening was absolutely perfect.

A hearty THAAAANK you! to all those who worked diligently and freely to make this night a wonderful experience for all. It was a total and amazing success.



Caren , Maureen, Jill, Marilyn, Jeri

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## Sunshine & Showers

It is said that 'All is well that ends well.' That is the situation for **Steve Levy** who found himself not feeling well and with questionable symptoms in early January. Thanks to the quick thinking of his wife **Judy** who, in spite of **Steve's** refusal to call 911, made the call, and very possibly saved **Steve's** life. He was aware of having a bad heart valve for 6-7 years, but once at the hospital, learned from an echocardiogram and an angiogram that that he now had 3 of his 5 heart valves that were closed! On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Steve** underwent surgery at Northridge Hospital where he had a triple bypass and one new heart valve. The doctor does NOT think that he had a heart attack.

Thankfully, **Steve** is now recuperating at home where he is receiving home health care and grateful to be back in his own bed. While he is finding that healing is very slow, he is very happy knowing that he'll be in great shape for his grandson's Bar Mitzvah in July!

**Steve**, we are grateful, too, to hear that you came through the surgery so well, and hope that each and every day will find you stronger and better able to do all the things you want to do! We are also grateful to you, **Judy**, for NOT listening to **Steve** but to your own instincts and reaching out for help when it was needed!

We have just learned of the December 20<sup>th</sup> passing of **Mark Simon's** nearly 100-year-old father. Details will follow in the March issue of Dusty Trails. Meanwhile, heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Mark, Joni**, and all your family.

I'm delighted to have some "Sunshine" to report this month. **Patti and Marshall Goldberg** have shared their happy news that their son Daniel has married the girl that he met at the Wilshire Bar in Santa Monica long ago. At the time, Daniel did not live in Los Angeles. However, he and Melissa reconnected on a dating app years later! They both attended UCLA – but not at the same time! The couple rekindled their relationship after graduating, and on December 16<sup>th</sup>, at long last, they became "Mr. and Mrs." Melissa is a UX/UI designer, and Daniel is an attorney specializing in privacy law. The wedding took place in Westwood at the home of Melissa's Mother with just family members in attendance – including Daniel's grandmother. A larger celebration is planned for a future date. Meanwhile, the couple are making their home in Venice with their 2 dogs. Congratulations to the newlyweds and best wishes for a lifetime of happiness together. Congratulations to their families as well!

We'd love to hear from the rest of you who have "Sunshine" or

"Showers" to tell about. Weddings? New grandchildren? Illnesses? College acceptances? Please remember to share them with your Trail Dusters "family." Just email me ([Rusty\\_k@verizon.net](mailto:Rusty_k@verizon.net)) and I will contact you for further details.

Wishing you all GOOD HEALTH and lots of "Sunshine" as we begin the New Year – and beyond.

Fondly,

**Rusty Kaman,**  
[Rusty\\_k@verizon.net](mailto:Rusty_k@verizon.net)

**Sunshine & Showers**  
**Chair**



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## Ways & Means

As we move into the new year, I want to remind everyone that dinner before our classes is a wonderful time to get to know new and old members alike and to break bread with the friendships we cultivate. These friendships are what make our Club special. And we are very special. I encourage everyone to attend these preclass dinners. You will have a great time.

I'm currently looking for new restaurants to entice everyone to join in the fun so keep posted for future locations. I'm open to suggestions as well.

The restaurants for February are:

February	7	The Stand
February	14	The Habit
February	21	Sharkey's
February	28	Calif Pita

Stay safe and well,

**JaneLief**  
**818-881-8300**



# New Year's 'Trail Dusters' HideaWay Celebration



Sherwin Silver, Joe Dill, Shelly Fried, Bob Sanders, Ron Mitnick, Leonard Bloom, Bob Sobel

## FAMOUS LADDER PICTURE



Sandy Sobel, Maureen Fried, Caren Blumfield, Jeri Sobel, Mindy Dill, Jill Sanders, Marilyn Bloom, Grace Mitnick

## Setting Up





The Cocktail Hour Begins

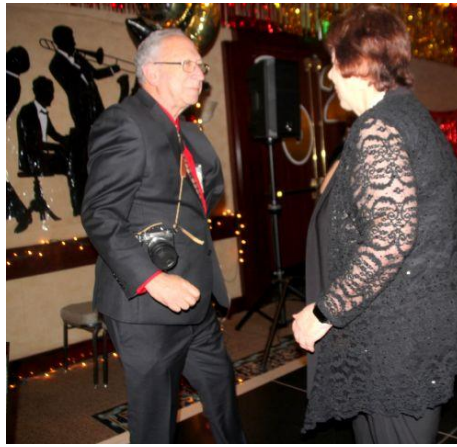








# And Now We Dance

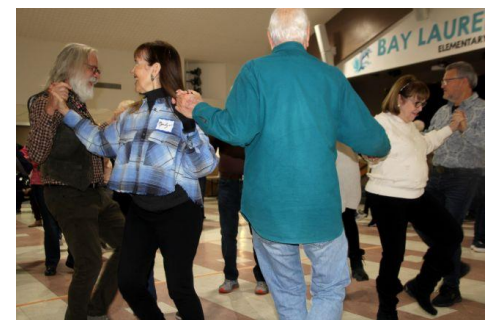




# Winter Wonderland Comes to Bay Laurel



Jill Sanders and Avi Nudell again organized a fabulous feast



# VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

## SQUARE DANCIN' AND SNACKIN' GALORE!

*It's that time of the year,  
And Cupid is finally here!  
Dress up in some red,  
And come as a heart...  
Be creative and be funny...  
Or come as a piece of art!*



*With an array of snacks,  
So utterly divine,  
Ask that special person,  
"WILL YOU BE MINE?"  
This Valentine's Day,  
We will celebrate!*

*With such special treats, And so much to do  
So here's the info scoop, Without further ado  
We'll celebrate in style, So don't you hesitate  
We sure hope you'll be there, For this very special date!*

*With love...*

*From Snack Queen Jill...*

*And of course, from Snack King Avi!*

H A P P Y  
*Valentine's Day*



# ***RAIL & TRAIL DUSTERS***

## ***STUDENT STOMP***

**A Square D Dance  
& Meet for Dinner After!**

**Sunday - January 28, 2024**

**SSD WITH SOME LINE DANCING**

**2:00 – 4:30 PM – \$10.00 PER PERSON  
Wilkinson Center, 8956 Vanalden, Northridge**

Hosted by Valley Trailers, Boots & Slippers, Buckles & Bow, Farmers & Charmers, Lads & Lassies, Sierra Hillbillies, Trail Dusters & Western Weavers.

**★★PLEASE WEAR CLUB DRESS CODE**

**WHITE TOP & BLACK PANTS/SKIRTS WITH CLUB TIE!★★**

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**\*\*\* DINNER AFTER THE DANCE \*\*\***



Rail Dusters & Trail Dusters - continue the fun, plan to meet for dinner **AFTER** the dance and share the laughter!

**Sharky's**

**18426 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA  
91325**

**PLEASE RSVP TO JANE LIEF ([liefjane@gmail.co](mailto:liefjane@gmail.co))**

## February 2024 Trail Dusters Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 The Stand 5:30 pm Bay Laurel 7:00 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting  7:00 pm	14 The Habit 5:30 pm Bay Laurel 7:00 pm see snackathon pages 2 & 13	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Sharkey's 5:30 pm Bay Laurel 7:00 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Calif Pita 5:30 pm Bay Laurel 7:00 pm	29		

