

The Dusty Trails

Marilyn and Len Bloom, Editors marlenbloom2@gmail.com www.traildusters.com Feb. 2022

Club Officers 2021-2022

Presidents

Jane Lief

lief.jane@gmail.com

Treasurers

Sandra & Robert Sobel

Financial Treasurer

Victor Wolfe

Membership/Statistics

Ilene & Mark Abramson

markabe@aol.com

Sunshine & Showers

Rusty Kaman

rusty_k@verizon.net

Class Coordinators

Lynn & Joel Ovadia

Cindy Kestenbaum & Alex Strouzer

Hostess

Jeri Sobel

Refreshments

Denise Kurtzer & Richard Rose

Lorraine & Sheldon Levin

Editors

Marilyn & Len Bloom

Secretary

Wendy Goldzband

Publicity/Webmaster

Shirley Brown

Ways & Means

Flo & Bill Tapp

Special Services

Joni & Mark Simon

Parliamentarians

Nikki & Steve Rosentsweig

Caller Coordinator

Farryl Dickter

Dance Reporter

Caren Blumfield

A Square D Delegate

Bill Dickter

From the Presidents' Desk

The year was 1957 which to be exact was 65 years ago or 780 months past or 3,389 weeks gone by.

Here are some of the news items from 1957:

The world experienced the Asian Flu Pandemic (sounds familiar).

The First Frisbee was made by Whamo toys and took flight.

The Suez Canal crisis was in its second year.

Russia launched the Sputnik satellite.

The hourly wage was \$1.00, a gallon of gas was 24 cents, and a dozen eggs was 25 cents.

American Bandstand premiered on television and the final episode of "I Love Lucy" was shown.

AND.....Trail Dusters was formed by a group of hardy firemen and their wives who decided they wanted to learn to square dance.

The original name of the club was Chicks & Chaps but in 1958 the club was renamed Trail Dusters and so it remains until today. So after 65 years of dancing, we're still keeping the beat with the same name. In the mid-sixties membership dropped off substantially and the remaining members were determined to rebuild

the club, unite the membership, and elect new officers and a new board. With the dedication of the members, the club has thrived and grown. Thank you so very much to all our past board members who kept the club going and thriving. We were founded on the principles of dancing and serving our community. Those principles continue until today with our charitable contributions.

We're planning an anniversary dance for Sunday, October 2, with Mike Seastrom and Ken Bowers as the callers so mark your calendars. Congratulations to Trail Dusters on our 65th anniversary and let's toast to our continued success.

Jane Lief

President



NEXT BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

7:30 PM

Zoom

ZOOM MEETING



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



Eileen & Ken Burkenheim	2
Farryl & Bill Dickter	10
Bren & Jack Levy	12

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

Ilene & Mark Abramson



Membership Chairs
Markabe@aol.com

Know Your Board Member



Rusty Kaman

Who would believe that, by joining a square dance club, one's entire life could change forever? Yet, that is precisely what happened to Norm and me when we agreed to join Arlene and Mitch Zoren in September, 1993 and see what Trail Dusters were all about. The first thing we were told was to look around because many of those people we saw were going to become our lifelong friends! (At that time, there were 609 members on the Trail Duster Roster!) Our first thought upon hearing this was, "What a sales pitch!" But as the years passed, we came to realize that no truer words were ever spoken!

My life began in Albany, New York, but not long after that, my family came across the country by train during the War. Ultimately settling in West Los Angeles, I attended Westwood Elementary School, Emerson Jr. High and University High School where I was active in numerous clubs on campus. Music was my passion from early years, and I began studying piano at age nine. By high school, I was asked to accompany many singing groups that performed for various school events, one such group being with Nancy Sinatra and her trio. Together, we participated in exchange assemblies with neighboring schools.

At UCLA, I majored in music and was privileged to sing with the A Cappella Choir under the direction of

Roger Wagner. Eventually, I changed my major to Education with a double minor of Music and French. During the summer of 1961, between my junior and senior years, I was introduced, on a blind date, to an Electrical Engineer who worked at Hughes Aircraft Co. Eight weeks later, Norm Kaman proposed and I accepted! As I worked to complete my senior year and student teaching, Norm and I made plans for our wedding the following summer. We were married 9 days after I graduated, on August 5, 1962.

I accepted a first grade teaching position at the Playa del Rey Elementary School which began one month after our wedding. Working full time and becoming accustomed to married life took most of our time, so our social life was not very active. We became very friendly with another newlywed couple in our apartment building, both of whom were teachers, and we spent time together, but we saw only them and two other couples in our spare time. (Our now 60-year friendship continues to this day!)

Our first home, in Westchester, saw the birth of our daughter Laurie in 1965. When she was two, we drove across country to spend 3 months at Cape Canaveral where Norm was a member of the Surveyor 5 team, working on the launch of the unmanned spacecraft to the moon. Once back home, we moved to Northridge, and I returned to part-time teaching until the birth of our son, Jerry, in Sept. 1968. (He is currently a Broadcast Engineer in TV, and has been employed as Chief Engineer to "the Voice" for the past 21 seasons.)

When both our children were in college, I returned to working full time at Lawrence Middle School where I was teaching 6th and 8th grade English. When Norm and I weren't up in Big Bear building our

small home (where we thought we might retire part time) we were becoming more involved with square dancing. We finally realized, after having our mountain getaway for 16 years, that we couldn't be in two places at once, that a weekend had only 2 days, and we had to sell our home in order to further our dancing skills and our friendships. After selling our Big Bear home and moving to Thousand Oaks in 1997, we both took a more active part in Trail Dusters. We both became members of the Trail Duster Board (where I have remained for about 27 years) and our first position was that of Treasurer. We went on to serve as Editors of the *Dusty Trails* for many years, in addition to holding numerous other positions including that of Presidents. My current position on the Board is Sunshine & Showers where I have served for 14 years. The close ties we formed with so many wonderful people made us realize that we were blessed with a "second family."

When we weren't dancing, we enjoyed countless journeys, both in the U.S. and abroad. Our favorite trips took us to Norm's homeland, Shanghai, China. Additionally, we loved Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia and New Zealand. Besides travelling, we found volunteering tremendously rewarding. Our work included preparing care packages for our Troops most Saturdays for 14 years, running the Gift Shop at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, the Thousand Oaks Library where Norm volunteered for 14 years, our involvement with the L.A. Ronald McDonald House in conjunction with the annual Trail Dusters Toy Drive, and currently, my job as Director of the Forever Young Singers, a senior group of volunteers at the Goebel Sr. Center who rehearse weekly and entertain weekly at many senior living facilities throughout the year. All of these activities have given meaning to our life. Of course, our

existence has been greatly enriched with the blessing of our granddaughter who came into our lives 6 1/2 years ago and whom we have had the joy of co-raising since her birth.

As most of you know, Norm passed away one year ago on January 26th, and most of the projects and activities we did together for 59 years are now behind us. However, I plan to carry on where I can in the future, knowing that I am blessed with so many wonderful friends in my "second family" who continue to stand by me and support me. I know for certain that joining Trail Dusters was one of the best decisions we ever made!

Rusty Kaman

Let's Fill All Board Positions Especially Vice President

It is that time of year when your current Board has to think about who will serve on a new Board starting this coming July. A Nominating Committee has been formed and we would like to see members who haven't been on the Board before take a deep breath, and volunteer to be on the new Board. Just email our president, Jane Lief at Lief.jane@gmail.com and let her know. She will submit your name to the nominating committee. This is a great way for you to get involved. Of course, current and former Board members are welcome too.

We need to come up with a slate of candidates to fill various Board positions for the coming year, especially Vice President. We have to do this because our club, in order to stay strong, must continue to have leadership from our members. One club in our area has already folded because there were not enough of its members to step up and fill their board positions. And it looks like another club is teetering on the

brink. Unfortunately, the current board and many of the preceding ones have had difficulty in finding members who will accept nominations for some board positions.

So when a member of the Nominating Committee calls and asks you to volunteer, do not waiver. Say YES to volunteering for a position on the board, especially that of Vice President this year, followed by President the following year.

You do not want to have Marilyn to gently twist arms and in some cases, take prospective members out to lunch, to get them to volunteer for an open board position. This is time consuming and difficult work as husband Lenny will affirm. So please just say YES to whatever position on the board you are needed.

Do the right thing.

Bill Dickter



**EXTRA EXTRA
WEDNESDAY CLASSES
CANCELLED UNTIL MARCH** We want all our members to be safe and to be around to dance again in person in March.
SEE FLYER PAGE 7

**TIME TO SEND PROOF OF YOUR
BOOSTER TO**
jerisobel@earthlink.net

in order to join Trail Dusters activities



We Zoom Again

We have gone full circle folks! We zoomed for two years, we danced under the stars and finally made it back into our "Dance Hall" at Bay Laurel only to be back zooming. Remember when we thought this pandemic would only last 6 months at the most?

A lot of us refuse to give up our camaraderie, our Trail Dusters' friendships, and our dancing. So once a month, Paul is volunteering his time to zoom with us and review our basic calls. Jane Lief is adding greetings as well as zoom rooms for us to catch up and see each other. Shirley Brown comes up with unusual themes for adding a twist to the night. Marilyn Bloom is taking photos for our newsletter. This month we held up a picture of someone we admired with an explanation. A few of us did it but we all enjoyed seeing who others chose. See page 5.

You don't have to dance to join our zoom but you need the desire to see our Club continue. You also need to have hope that Trail Dusters will once again return to our fun times at Bay Laurel in March. So mark your calendars and join us for next month's Zoom on **Wednesday, February 16**. See flyer on page 7.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day and keep love and square dancing in your hearts.

Caren Blumfield

Dance Reporter



Sunshine & Showers

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Everyone!

I hope this new year is off to a healthy and happy start for each of you. Thankfully, **Mark Abramson** is now out of the hospital and resting comfortably at home after suffering a recent heart attack. With his many medications and his lovely and vivacious wife, Ilene, as his private nurse, he ought to be making a rapid and full recovery before too long. Meanwhile, Mark has expressed his gratitude for all the cards and text messages he has received. It is suggested that you hold off on phone calls so as not to disturb his rest. Instead, cards and notes are welcome, or else, please text to Ilene's cell phone so that one of them can get back to you when it is convenient. Mark, be assured that your Trail Dusters family is sending prayers and healing thoughts for your return to good health in the near future.

Warm CONGRATULATIONS go out to **Pat and Rick Kessler** who, at long last, have moved into their brand new home in Rancho Mirage! We hope the two of you will find much happiness and years of good health as you begin to make new memories in your new surroundings. It goes without saying that your presence here will be sorely missed, and we hope that you will find reason to return for frequent visits! With all the Trail Dusters who have already made their homes in the desert, we're sure there will be no shortage of friends for you - in addition to all the new relationships you will surely acquire. But please remember, like the Girl Scout motto, "Make new friends but keep the old, for one is silver and the other gold!"

I'm hoping to hear from more of you with news of what is happening in your lives. Although we are not

presently able to dance or be together in person, it's important that we remain in touch and support each other, both in times of "Sunshine" and in "Showers." Please contact me at the e-mail address below. Please note that I am currently using Norm's e-mail address as my computer as "crashed." **For the next month, please contact me at: Normanik@verizon.net.**

Many thanks, and please stay well and safe!

Rusty Kaman
Sunshine &
Showers Chair



On The Lighter Side

What do we learn
from cows, buffalos
and elephants??

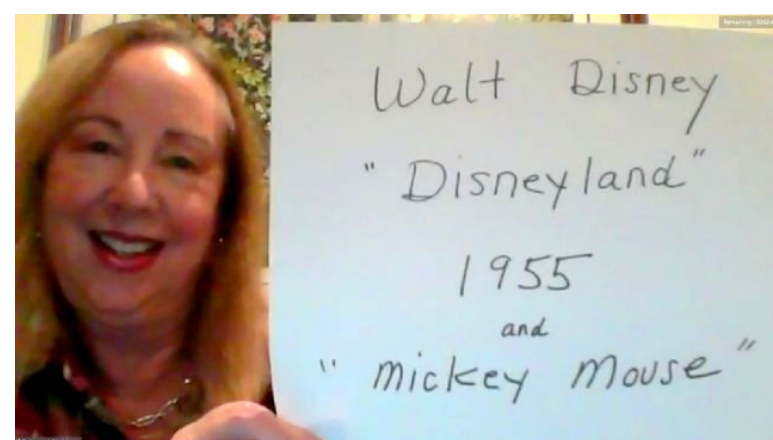
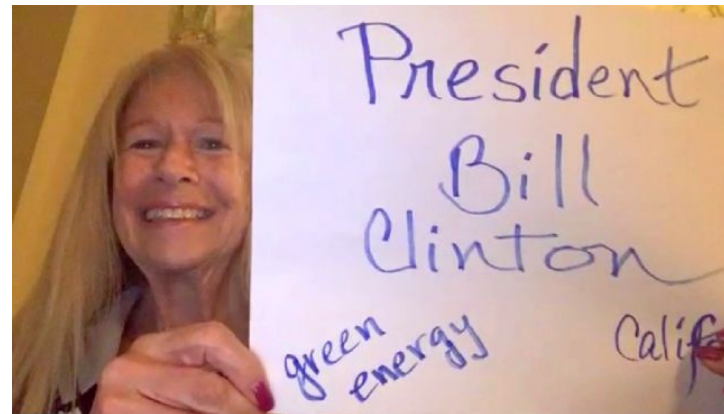
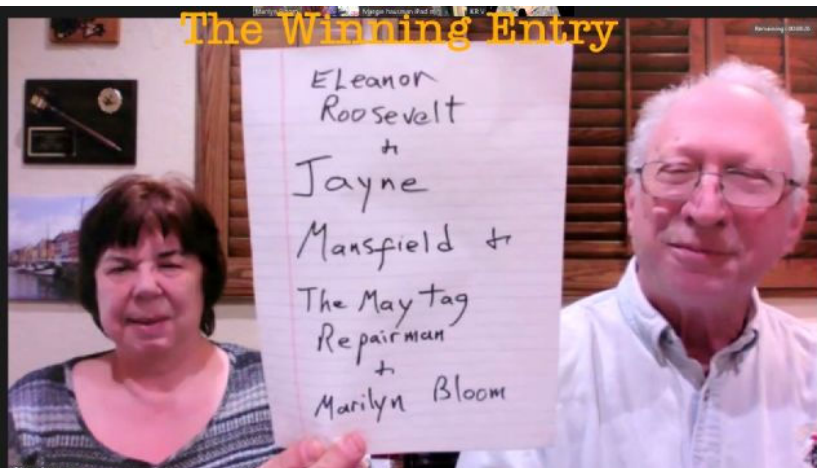
It's impossible to
reduce weight by
eating green grass
and salads and
walking.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the
two best cures for anything.

Irish Proverb



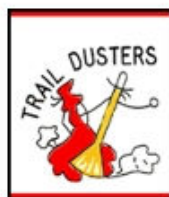
Famous People We Admire



Sherwin, I want you to always play first base. That way I won't have to keep asking, "Who's on first?" - Lou Costello

Attendees At Our Virtual Dance





TRAIL DUSTERS ***Square Dance Club***

Virtual Dance - February 16th



Get Up And Dance!

Is there a song that makes you immediately want to get up and dance? Is it Rock n Roll, Country, Big Band, or a haunting ballad? You do not need to sing it for us, (in fact, please don't) just write it on a piece of paper and show it on your screen. If you want to have your picture taken by Marilyn and Len for the Dusty Trails, that is done "before" the dance starts so you might want to be sure to sign in early.

The Zoom will open at 7:00 for chit chat and the Virtual Dance will begin promptly at 7:30. We will be dancing 2 tips with Paul reviewing some of our social square dancing calls and also 2 line dances We will have some break out sessions so you can visit with friends in smaller groups.

We hope you can all join us as it is wonderful to see our friends and dance!





Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4645549024?pwd=SDg0OFJCbllovejh4Qm1xUEdsL2xtZ09>

Meeting ID: 464 554 9024

Passcode: Square

February 2022 Trail Dusters Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting  7:30 pm	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16 Virtual Club Dance 7:00 PM	17	18	19
20	21 	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

