

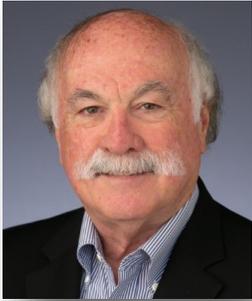


# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

March–April

# Call



## Big Sir's Corner Thom Degnan

It's Springtime! I sincerely hope that we are all enjoying the warmer weather and look forward to the coming months of fun activity.

Recruiting and member engagement remain our two key priorities for SIR146. The Recruiting team led by **Glenn Brelin** is finalizing the plan for recruitment opportunities and will then execute the plan. Assisting on the effort from web site updates, to articles, to events, etc. are **Rich Lyon, Cleo Bolen, Mike Davidson, Dean Mayer, Mike Rothman, Frank Terzuoli, Jim Pope, Alex Borders**, and others. Anyone who might like to assist the Recruiting team should contact **Glenn** as we would enjoy more members participating in this critical activity.

To assist in these efforts the BEC voted in our March meeting to do the following:

- 1) **Summer Picnic:** We are going to have a SIR146 Summer Picnic and it will be free of charge to members and their guests. More info will be coming out and we look forward to you joining this fun event.
- 2) **Monthly Luncheons:** I believe that word of mouth recruitment can be highly effective! As such, any member who brings a guest to a monthly luncheon will be provided a complimentary lunch for both them and their guest.

We believe that a large number of guests who come to monthly luncheons will want to join SIR146 and participate in the fun.

*Participation:* We want more members to participate in our more than 50 activities. We would like to create a committee for each activity to assist the lead, making the task easier. We have many different activities, most all are coed, and if you want to start an activity, let us know and we will assist you in getting it started. SIR146 needs its members to participate so all members enjoy their monthly activities.

We want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. So help us keep our organization healthy, vibrant, fun, and growing with the addition of new members!

**Thom Degnan**  
Big Sir, Branch 146



## Little Sir's Corner Jim Pope

*Speaker Overview:* David Townsend, retired political consultant, will present an entertaining and educational talk on "How Politics Really Works". David has run 160 State and Federal elections

and several State Proposition campaigns. And he has won 120 of them. In 35 years, he has worked for sev-

**SIR Luncheon**  
**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Boundary Oak 10:30**

David Townsend, "How Politics Really Works".  
A reservation is required!  
To make yours and choose your entrée go to page 4 ([click Here!](#))

### Activities for you and spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Auracast at our meeting [Page 13](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 14](#)
- Take in a show [Page 17](#)
- For the birds [Page 21](#)
- Latest on the food scene [Page 29](#)
- MTD reports [Page 26](#)

## Little Sir from previous page

eral high-profile companies like PG&E, elected officials at the Cities, Counties, State and Federal levels plus several judges. And once candidates get into office, he truly knows how to work within the political process to achieve results at all levels of government. This presentation will be informative, and David is a very “entertaining” speaker. This will be a “NOT TO MISS TALK”. Believe me on this one!

The speakers’ committee and I have been working on speakers for the year, and we have a slate of outstanding speakers set up through September. The subjects of the May Ladies Day Luncheon and June speakers are Patrica Bracewell on her book “The Steel Beneath the Silk” series”, which has stories of romance in the 1700s and Andrew Parrott on a Stock Market Look for the second half of 2026.

*IMPORTANT, the future of SIR 146:* We lost 30 members last year and we need to bring 25-30 new members on board this year. You are the key to this goal. Find a friend and bring them to an activity and then a lunch. Introduce them to SIR and many benefits that it provides for its members.

**CPR Classes:** Our CPR Training Class in March was a great success. It was Co-ed and we had over 23 people in the class. Given the classes’ success, we plan to have another class in several months. Stay tuned for the announcement.

**Members:** I want to encourage all members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. More contribution and involvement by you. Step-up and be a co-chair of an activity, the better SIR 146 will be and the better it will be for you, as a SIR 146 member.

**Jim Pope**  
Little Sir, Branch 146



## Membership George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in March. **John Darling** lives in Pleasant Hill with his wife **Karen**. He was the business owner and consultant of his own company Darling & Co involved in Solar sales. He enjoys tennis and pickleball and is a jazz musician. He is sponsored by **Bob Finlayson**.

The 2026 membership count is **243**.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State SIR allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number. Likewise, it is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see our guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a Sir.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

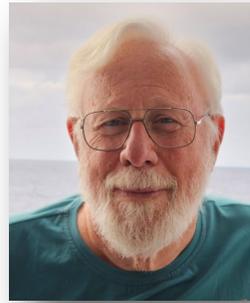
It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email ([gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**  
925.683.0980 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)

## SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons. while making friends for life.

## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier



As I sit here at the computer putting the finishing touches on this issue, I'm reminded of what a great day it is.

Spring showed up this year right on schedule, which is more than we can say for most things in

life.

The first day of spring is today, as it lands on Friday, March 20, and it arrives with the vernal equinox. That is the official, astronomical way of saying winter is finally done overstaying its welcome.

At exactly 10:46 this morning Eastern time, the sun crosses the celestial equator, moving from the southern half of the sky to the northern.

What makes this day a little special is that the Earth is not leaning one way or the other. For a fraction of a moment, is it suspended equally. The result is that day and night are almost perfectly equal all over the world. Twelve hours of light, twelve hours of dark, give or take a few minutes, but just for this one day.

From here on out, the days start stretching longer, the sun climbs higher, and everything on the farm begins to wake up, whether we are ready or not.

Today is the official start of astronomical spring, and it will run straight through until the summer solstice on June 21. After that, we start sliding the other direction again, but there is no sense worrying about that just yet.

For now, the light is coming back, the ground is softening, and the long list of things we said we would do "when it warms up" is about to come due.

For me, April and May are my favorite months. It is the time when life renews. I treasure every moment of spring. For me, it is like Christmastime every day. For now it is time for a break to go sit in my back yard and savor the first taste of spring.

For those of you with a fascination with the English language, we conclude our take on Janus words in this month's Parting Shot!

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for the May issue will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIRCall

925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)

### SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. It is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase.

[The current STATE newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

### Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIRCall in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[Current Issue of SIRCall](#)

### **SIRCall Newsletter Group**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Editor           | <b>Clint Collier</b>   |
| Assistant Editor | <b>Bob West</b>  |
| Photographer     | <b>Henry Thatcher</b>  |
| Proofreaders     | <b>Ron Polivka</b><br><b>Bruce Borgman</b><br><b>Frank Lucas</b> |
| Internet Posting | <b>Ron Plachy</b>  |



## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

The April Luncheon will be a buffet and does not require a meal choice but does require a reservation! Even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. Got it?



We appreciate your cooperation.

The link on the menu (“Buffet Lunch”) will start the process of sending your confirmation email. If it does not, please send an email message manually to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com).

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon Information

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

The link on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message manually to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com).

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon

**Date:** Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Boundary Oak

**Cost:** \$37 per person

**Reservation:** If you do not reserve by Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

**Check-In:** 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am

**Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check-in. We also accept Zelle Payments for the luncheon, but it must be done by **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> by Noon**. (See instructions for Zelle payments elsewhere in the SIRCall)

**Other matters:** If you don't have email, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message.

**Change of Plans?** If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> by Noon** and you will not be charged.

Send email to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com) or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

**Sponsors of Guests and New Members:** If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com).

**Questions:** If you have any questions, please call **Steve** at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. **Steve** will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 April Luncheon**  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Buffet Lunch](#)

**Salad**  
Backyard Cole Slaw  
Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots,  
Creamy Slaw Dressing

**Entrees**  
BBQ Chicken  
Gouda Mac and Cheese  
Corn Bread with Honey Butter  
Seasonal Vegetable  
Fruit Display

**Dessert**  
Rocky Road Brownie



**Ladies' Day Luncheon**  
**Steve Ybarra**

The Ladies' Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The cost for this event is \$41 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and guests can socialize until 11:30am when the Luncheon will be called to order for the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations must be made to **Steve Ybarra** and received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Please use the reservation form (below) provided in this SIRCall, and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$41 per person.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



**SIR 146**  
**May Ladies' Day Luncheon**  
 Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Salad

Caesar Salad

Entrées

Spaghetti and Meatballs

—or—

**Chicken Alfredo**

—or—

**Stuffed Peppers**

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Eggplant Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Cannoli

For the Ladies' Day Luncheon event you need to use the reservation form below

The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



**SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon**

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$41 ea. amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

**Steve Ybarra**  
 142 Leonard Dr.  
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

| #  | F Name, L Name | Spaghetti & Meat Balls | Chicken Alfredo | Vegetarian | Total Paid |
|----|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 2  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 3  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 4  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 5  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 6  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 7  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 8  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 9  |                |                        |                 |            |            |
| 10 |                |                        |                 |            |            |

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
 Reservations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

| Name              | Year Inducted | Years |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| William J Schaaf  | 2021          | 5     |
| Steve Oki         | 2020          | 6     |
| Rog Rivers        | 2018          | 8     |
| Roger Meyer       | 2017          | 9     |
| Carl Feil         | 2016          | 10    |
| Milt Smith        | 2016          | 10    |
| Jim Pope          | 2015          | 11    |
| Jim Pfohl         | 2013          | 13    |
| Sid Landman       | 2013          | 13    |
| Jack Baldassari   | 2012          | 14    |
| Jonathan Korfhage | 2012          | 14    |
| Calvin Tucker     | 2009          | 17    |
| John Aaro         | 2008          | 18    |
| Ron Binder        | 2006          | 20    |
| Richard Hanford   | 2000          | 26    |

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

| Name           | Year Inducted | Years |
|----------------|---------------|-------|
| Mike Davidson  | 2021          | 5     |
| Clint Collier  | 2019          | 7     |
| Bob Finlayson  | 2019          | 7     |
| Larry Kaye     | 2019          | 7     |
| Bruce Kimmis   | 2019          | 7     |
| Ron Polivka    | 2019          | 7     |
| Don Arington   | 2018          | 8     |
| Brian Mccarthy | 2018          | 8     |
| Byron Nelson   | 2018          | 8     |
| Steve Lane     | 2016          | 10    |
| Joe Starkey    | 2016          | 10    |
| Larry Brown    | 2015          | 11    |
| John Foster    | 2015          | 11    |
| Rich Lyon      | 2015          | 11    |
| Jim Barry      | 2013          | 13    |
| Mike Conners   | 2013          | 13    |
| Roy Hodgkinson | 2013          | 13    |
| John Nelson    | 2013          | 13    |
| Frank Lucas    | 2011          | 15    |
| Ben Gleason    | 2010          | 16    |
| Bill Hoban     | 2008          | 18    |
| Steve Sprague  | 2008          | 18    |
| Joe Fuchs      | 2007          | 19    |
| Gene Schulting | 2007          | 19    |
| Bob Spellman   | 2001          | 25    |
| Jim Brown      | 1990          | 36    |

### Officers and Directors 2026

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Big Sir.....              | Thom Degnan    |
| Little Sir.....           | Jim Pope       |
| Secretary .....           | John Rexroat   |
| Assistant Secretary ..... | Mike Davidson  |
| Treasurer .....           | Mike Ball      |
| Assistant Treasurer ..... | Paul Jones     |
| Director 1st Term .....   | Glenn Breslin  |
| Director 1st Term .....   | Bob Lucido     |
| Director 1st Term .....   | Open           |
| Director 2nd Term .....   | Jim Crites     |
| Director 3rd Term .....   | John Alexander |
| Director 3rd Term .....   | Mark Curtis    |

#### RAMP-Chair Members

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Recruitment .....      | Glenn Breslin  |
| Activities .....       | Glenn Breslin  |
| Member Relations ..... | Edward Brands  |
| Publicity .....        | John Alexander |

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



To pay SIR with Zelle, you must be enrolled in Zelle with your financial institution. Once you are you can send Zelle payments to [sir146.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sir146.treasurer@gmail.com).

But the easiest way may be to open your institution's phone app, go to the Zelle section to send money and select the "QR code" option and scan the above code.

Either way, enter the amount you are paying and, in the comment that is sent with the payment, what you are paying for.

We say "may be" the easiest way because with some banks, even though they appear to have the option to do this, it doesn't work (a bank with the initials WF being the worst offender). You'll simply have to try it with your financial institution and either way there will now be a payment option for SIR in your Zelle record to use for future payments!

# April

Bob Finlayson  
Malcolm Harrison  
Brad Hatcher  
Jim Mcmanus  
Bob Soldano  
Ken Studer

Donald Shaw  
Howard Goldsmith  
Jim Crites  
Fred Mcneil  
Jim Dimech  
John Darling



## Sunshine Brian McCarthy

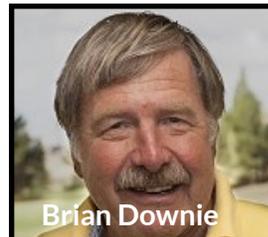
Let us keep the pictured SIR member in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at [brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

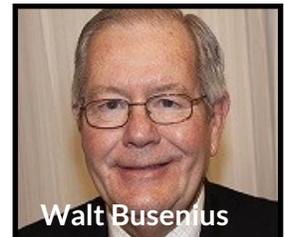
Stay Healthy.



Pat O'Keeffe



Brian Downie



Walt Busenius

# NOTES

## from Our Members

### CPR

Thom Degnan

SIR146 conducted its 7<sup>th</sup> CPR Training Class on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ygnacio Valley Library. Under the expert guidance of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, EMS Battalion Chief Ingram, the attendees went through a review and discussion update on the best CPR techniques and practices, inclusive of mannequins for each participant to practice on. The agenda for the class was a very professional and hands on approach on putting a very straight forward agenda to CPR, making it clear what the objectives and priorities of a person faced with assisting someone having an emergency health issue. What is CPR?, What are you looking to accomplish? How do you start? How do you do it? What are the best techniques? The key items to consider when you happen to come on a heart attack, accident, etc.

1. Check (surroundings, tap & shout the victim and see if they are talking, moving, breathing),
2. Call 911: Ensure that one person calls 911, and
3. Give Care & CPR as needed at 100-120 pumps per minute for two minutes, quick break, start again.

It was an interactive class with lots of participant participation with the goal being – If one person can benefit, it was worth it! Attending this class for SIR146 was Cleo & Ann Bolen, Glenn Breslin, Richard Hockenbrock, Dan & Sandy Schlatter, John Alexander, Lewis & Carla Thompson, Lennox & Kathleen Byer, Steve & Janice Ondeck, Phil & Christine Lee, Frank Lucas, Jeff Morrow & Gloria Bertolozzi, Bob Ford, and Thom Degnan.

We will have our next class in the July-August timeframe.



What do you call a melon that's not allowed to get married?

A Cantelope



Shore Birds  
by Earl Bates  
See the birding outing on  
[page 18](#)

# March

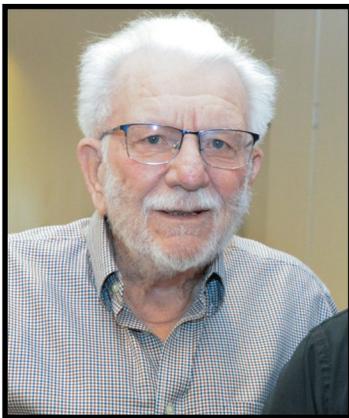
Photos by  
*Henry Thatcher*



*Welcome*  
NEW MEMBERS



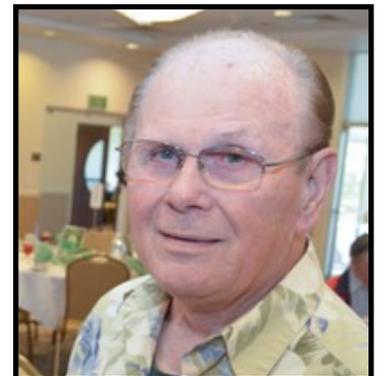
John Darling

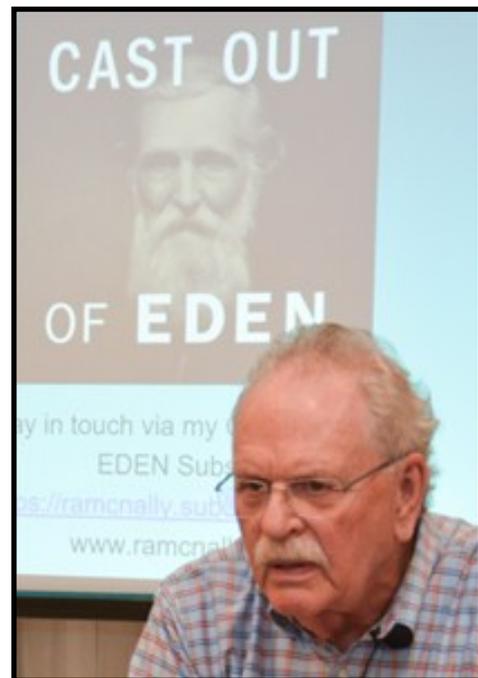
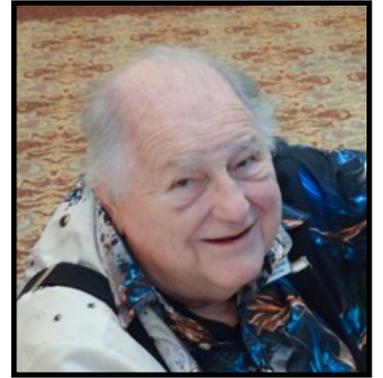


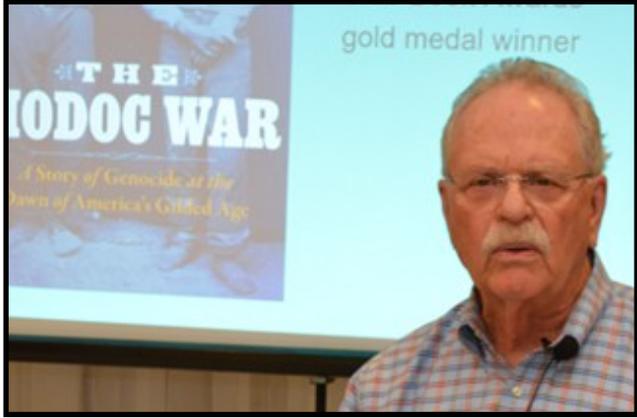
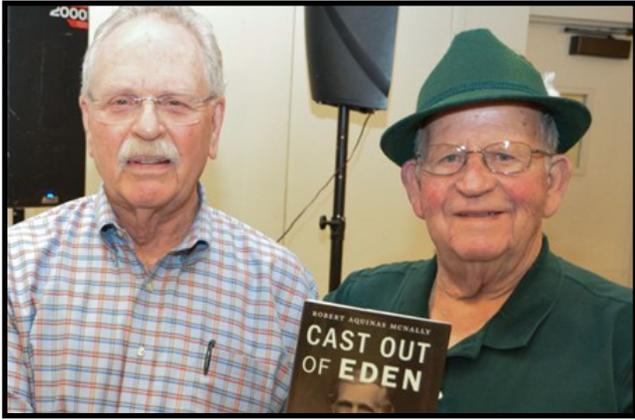
February  
Jack Menzhuber



March  
Paul Jones







**Can you hear me now?**  
Monthly meetings are now being broadcast to the room via **AURACAST**. If you have hearing aids that support this new Bluetooth technology you can "tune us in" through your aid's phone app for better sound quality.



# Activities!

## Stay Active... Stay young



### Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Summarized below are the SIR146 Activity stats

You will find all the SIR146 Activity Icons on [SIR146.com](http://SIR146.com) on the right side of the webpage.

| Description  | Totals |
|--|--------|
| <b>Total Activities</b>                                      | 50     |
| <b>Total Co-Ed Activities</b>                                | 33     |
| <b>Percent Co-Ed Activities</b>                              | 66%    |
| <b>Total Unique Activities</b>                               | 28     |
| <b>BR146 activities shared with other branches</b>           | 13     |
| <b>Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146</b> | 15     |

From multiple conversations with SIR members, here is a summary of why SIR146 members enjoy their activities:

- 1. Satisfaction and Accomplishment:** Feel a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment after engaging in activities, especially if they are challenging or meaningful to them.
- 2. Mental Stimulation:** Engaging in mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles, learning new skills, or social interactions, can leave seniors feeling mentally refreshed and invigorated. It can also help in maintaining cognitive function and preventing mental decline.
- 3. Social Connection:** For those who participate in group activities, there is often a sense of joy and fulfillment from social interactions. Building or maintaining friendships through activities can contribute to overall happiness and reduce feelings of loneliness.
- 4. Increased Confidence:** Successfully participating in activities can lead to increased confidence and a more positive outlook on life. It can be empowering to continue pursuing interests and hobbies, even as one ages.
- 5. Emotional Well-being:** Activities that are enjoyable and fulfilling can contribute to better emotional well-being. Positive experiences can help combat feelings of depression or anxiety and contribute to a more optimistic outlook.
- 6. Relaxation and Enjoyment:** For recreational activities, there might be a sense of relaxation and enjoyment. These activities provide a break from routine and offer opportunities for fun and leisure.

Various activities have numerous benefits for seniors, enhancing their quality of life and overall well-being. Overall, the benefits are often a mix of maintaining physical health, mental acuity, social connections, and overall quality of life !

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

**SIR Activities!** Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

- |   |                                    |                                    |                             |                              |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Artificial Intelligence</a> | <a href="#">Men's Duplicate 3</a>  | <a href="#">Dixieland Musician</a> | <a href="#">Tres</a>        | <a href="#">Group 4</a>      |
| <a href="#">Birding</a>                 | <a href="#">Men's Party</a>        | <a href="#">Fishing</a>            | <a href="#">Cuatro</a>      | <a href="#">Group 6</a>      |
| <a href="#">Bocce Ball</a>              | <a href="#">Chess</a>              | <a href="#">Gardening</a>          | <a href="#">Seis</a>        | <a href="#">Group 8</a>      |
| <a href="#">Book Corner</a>             | <b>Cooking:</b>                    | <a href="#">Golf—9 Hole</a>        | <a href="#">Siete</a>       | <a href="#">Song SIRs</a>    |
| <a href="#">Book Group</a>              | <a href="#">Cooking II</a>         | <a href="#">Golf—18 Hole</a>       | <a href="#">Ocho</a>        | <a href="#">Table Pool</a>   |
| <b>Bridge:</b>                          | <a href="#">Lunch and Wine</a>     | <a href="#">Guitar</a>             | <a href="#">Nueve</a>       | <a href="#">Theater</a>      |
| <a href="#">Beginning/Refresher</a>     | <a href="#">Cribbage</a>           | <a href="#">Hearts</a>             | <a href="#">Diez</a>        | <a href="#">Travel</a>       |
| <a href="#">Couples Duplicate 1</a>     | <a href="#">Cycling</a>            | <a href="#">Hiking</a>             | <a href="#">Photography</a> | <a href="#">Veterans</a>     |
| <a href="#">Couples Duplicate 2</a>     | <b>Dining Out</b>                  | <b>Mexican Train</b>               | <a href="#">Pinochle</a>    | <a href="#">Wine Tasting</a> |
| <a href="#">Couples Party</a>           | <a href="#">Couples Dining Out</a> | <b>Dominoes</b>                    | <b>Poker:</b>               |                              |
| <a href="#">Men's Duplicate 1</a>       | <a href="#">Explore and Eat</a>    | <a href="#">Uno</a>                | <a href="#">Group 3</a>     |                              |
| <a href="#">Men's Duplicate 2</a>       | <a href="#">Sushi no Tomodachi</a> | <a href="#">Dos</a>                |                             |                              |



**Travel**  
**Glenn Breslin**

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires!

If you would like to travel with your fellow SIRs, and have not already submitted the below questionnaire, then can you please fill out the below questionnaire and email it back to me at [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) ? If your preferred location has been selected for future SIR Multi-Branch travel, then I will contact you to find out how you like to travel (e.g. cost, travel companies, duration, etc.)

During April, based upon questionnaire results, I will select several SIR Travel Trips and report in the next Sir Call.

**SIR TRAVEL SURVEY**

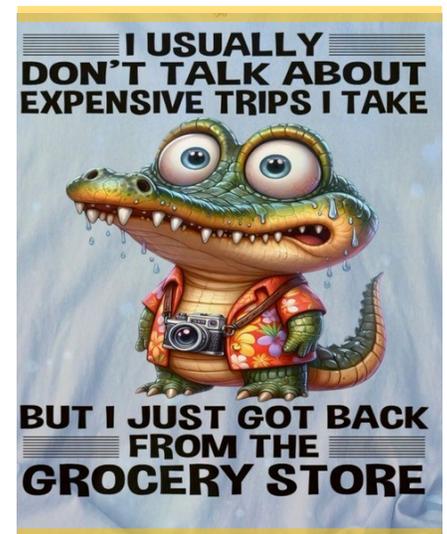
1. Where do you want to travel to? Can be multiple travel locations.
2. What duration (# of days) works best for you ?
3. Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip ?
4. What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise Companies ?
5. Can you please provide any other comments about SIR Travel?
6. If your preferred trips turn out to be candidates for future SIR Travel, then I would like to learn more about how you like to travel, so please list your Name, Email and Phone Number when emailing your response.



Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

GOING OFF GRID FOR A WHILE.  
(LEAVING MY PHONE IN THE OTHER  
ROOM WHILE IT CHARGES.)





## 9 Hole Golf Group

**Bob Ford**

The course is in love with this spring weather. The fairways and greens are in great shape. Why don't you come out and enjoy some of this perfect golfing weather?

Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course.

On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with the people who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



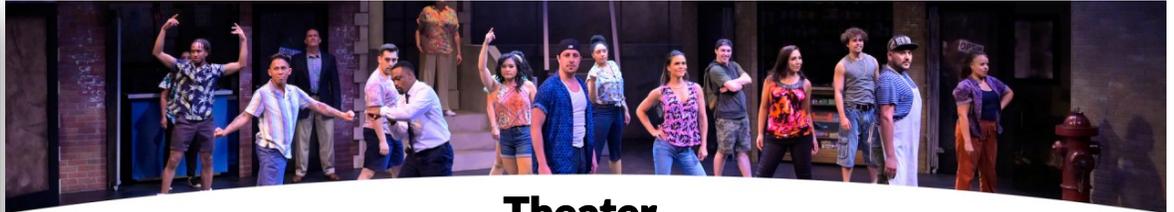
## Tuesday Golf

**Ed Marlovits**

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play 18 holes weekly at Boundary Oak. Joining has a cost of \$80 per year which covers your NCGA membership and provides a recognized golf handicap. Prize fund participation is an option. Most weeks are stroke play but there are typically monthly team events as well.

In addition to 146 branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. State SIR events are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

**Ed Marlovits**



## Theater Glenn Breslin

### Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshner Theater

- For many of the below shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, **send a check made out to SIR146 to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549**
- I will then give you a choice of the available seats

### Lost In Yonkers - Sat 4/4/26 12:30 pm \$43.00 - Leshner Theater

To celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Leshner Center for the Arts, Center REP is proud to present the 35th anniversary revival production of Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning heartfelt comedy. This multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Financially strapped and needing to dig his family out of medical debt, Eddie must leave his two teen boys to live with his sister and mother while he takes to the road as a salesman. A strange new world opens up to the boys as they must navigate their estranged mafia-linked Uncle Louie and authoritarian Grandma Kurnitz (and her odorous mustard soup) while befriendng their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation. *Lost In Yonkers* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades. [Link to Show Page](#)

### Frank Sinatra / Bobby Darin Tribute Band - Sun 4/19 3:00 pm \$69 Rows B-E, \$59 rows F-J and Q - Leshner Theater

For nearly two decades, Jonathan Poretz, the Bay Area's favorite crooner, has brought them together in his highly acclaimed show, Sinatra vs. Darin! Backed by his super swinging' Mini-Big Band, Poretz will power pack this two-hour show with the very best songs from the Sinatra and Darin repertoires.

Among the songs to be featured:

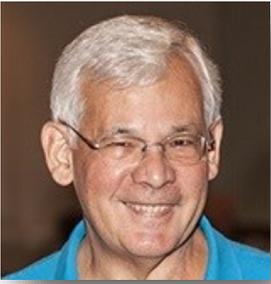
- Sinatra: I've Got You Under My Skin, Fly Me To The Moon, Come Fly With Me, Angel Eyes, The Way You Look Tonight, You Make Me Feel So Young, and many more.
- Darin: As Long As I'm Singing, Mack The Knife, Beyond The Sea, Splish Splash, Clementine, Artificial Flowers, and many more. [Link to Show Page](#)

### Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Leshner Theater

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family. *Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)* [Link to Show Page](#)

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below. I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

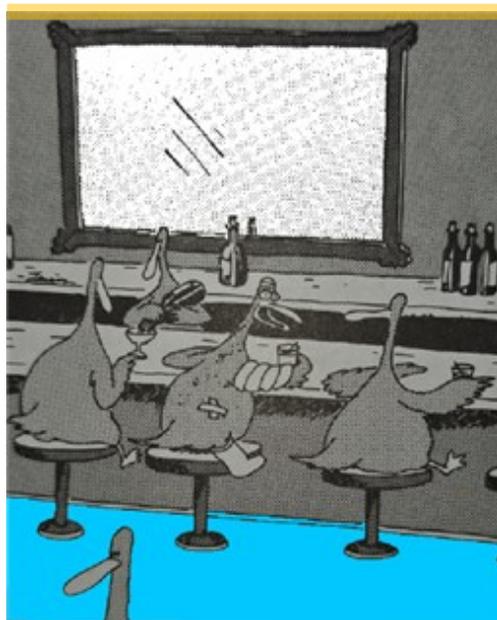


## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed a concert of Irish songs to a large and enthusiastic audience at the Kensington Retirement Home on March 18. We sang "McNamara's Band", "Wild Irish Rose" and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" as part of a 15 song program. There was a lot of people singing along and many said how much they liked our performance. Best of all, the Kensington program director said we could come back anytime to sing ["or live", proof reader 1 comment].

Peter Plante

[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



"Well, hell no. I can't tell Harriet!... First thing she's gona' ask me is what was I doin' checking out a decoy!"



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

We now know that there will be a salmon season in 2026, but we don't know when it will begin or how long it will last. The Pacific Fishery Management Council, which is responsible for salmon regula-

tion on the West Coast, met on March 9 and came up with mostly tentative recommendations. The only definite decision was to open salmon fishing south of Pigeon Point on April 11. The nearest marina to Pigeon Point is Half Moon Bay. And so, it is a bit of a drive just to get to a boat, and bear in mind that we like to be out of the harbor by 5:30 am. For the rest of the coast, the Council has suggested three alternatives. All of them run from various dates in June through various dates in August. The kicker is, however, that there will be a limit of 21,000 salmon. Last year, the limit was 7500 and fishermen reached it in two days. If that limit is maintained, the season is not likely to last more than one week. A final decision will be made on April 12.

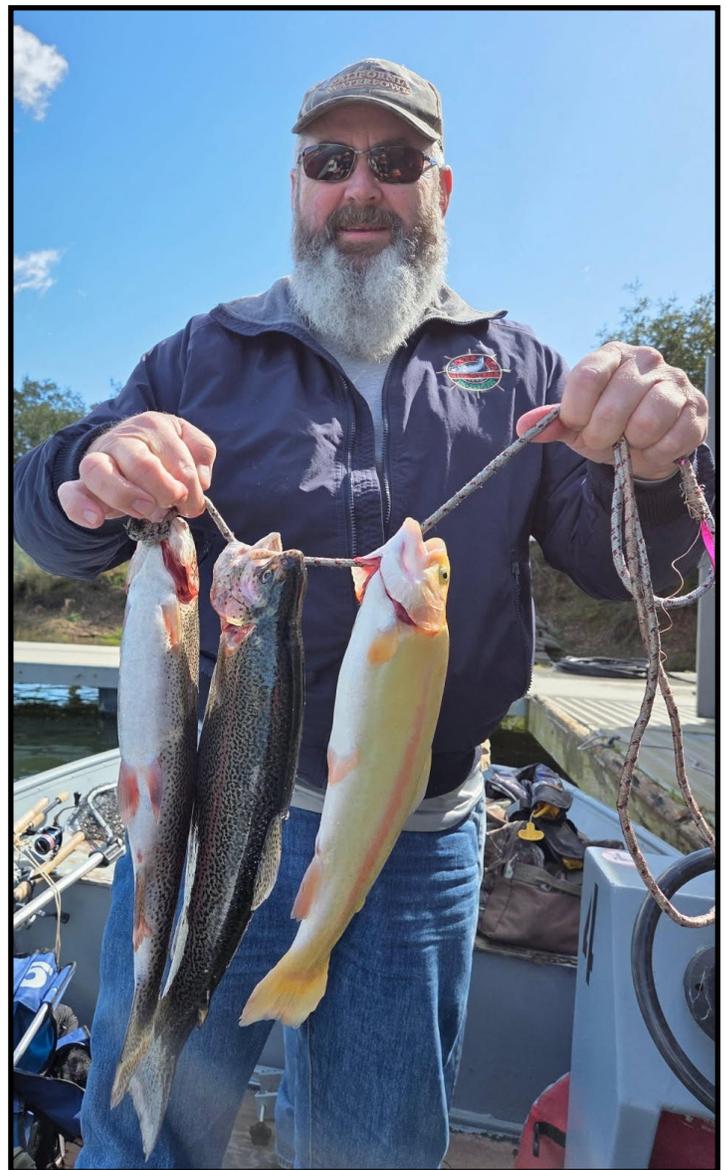
In the meantime, we are having a good time angling for other species. San Pablo Reservoir, which opened on Valentine's Day, has started to produce. **Matt Richards, Dennis Lee, Stan Wong, Phil Scimonelli, and Bob Lively** all caught lots of rainbows and lightning trout on outings on the water. **Ray Pixton** fished from shore and caught a single rainbow.

**Nic Jabuka** traveled to Carmel to do some surf fishing, and he caught and released a bevy of perch. Our newest member, **Bobby Brown**, also caught perch, fishing from the shore at Point Richmond.

**Shawn Kelly** had a great day fishing on his Boston Whaler in the Bay just south of the Bay Bridge. He caught and released a 33 lb. striper, and he also landed the group's first keeper halibut of the season. However, **Stan Wong** outdid him. He caught fifteen stripers in the northern reaches of the Bay and one of them weighed 40 lbs. Several others also indulged in striper fishing. **Tom Kostik** made three trips, landing 45 stripers, of which three were keepers. **Mike Pruitt, Dennis Lee, and Ken Bellindir** also caught stripers, but none were keepers. **Matt Richards** journeyed to Bodega Bay and landed several stripers there, all keepers.



Shawn Kelly displays a 33 lb. striper he caught in the Bay



Matt Richards shows off trout caught in San Pablo Reservoir

Fishing continued on next page

## Fishing Continued from the Previous Page

The most interesting striper outing involved **Phil Scimonelli, Ray Pixton, and Dennis Lee**. They decided to hunt for stripers off the Antioch-Oakley Pier. The pier is a fun place to fish. It invariably produces lots of stripers, but almost all of them are not keepers. Occasionally, a larger one is hooked. However, the only way to land a large fish is by using a hoop net because reeling a big fish up from the water to the pier walkway puts lots of strain on the fishing line and it is apt to break. Phil usually brings a hoop net with him, just in case. This time, however, **Phil** forgot the net. Forgetting the net is probably a guarantee that a large fish will be hooked. Sure enough, **Ray** hooked a big one which was estimated to be more than 30 lbs. It was decided to haul the fish up to the pier gingerly by hand. As expected, the line broke and the fish escaped. **Ray** was undaunted, nevertheless. On his very next cast, he once again hooked something big. After a long reel, **Ray** got the alleged creature to the surface. It turned out to be a bell! And this time they managed to get it to the pier without breaking the line. I guess stripers fight harder than bells.

We also eat fish in addition to trying to catch fish. On March 14, we had our semi-annual luncheon with members of the Coastside Fishing Club at Yan's Restaurant in Walnut Creek, where we feasted on rockfish. The rockfish had been stored in **Carl Moyer's** freezer and came from our outing on the *Sea Wolf* in August.

Our next meeting is on March 26. This is our annual gear auction and is the sole source of income because we do not collect dues. If you have not fished for awhile or have never fished, and you are thinking of starting or resuming, this will be a great opportunity to pick up excellent equipment at prices far below what is available in stores or online. The meeting is being held at the Legends Bar and Grill on Diablo Creek Golf Course, which is located on Port Chicago Highway, just off the intersection of Highways 4 and 242. The meeting and auction begin at 8:30 am but join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30. If you miss that meeting, the following meeting is on April 23.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566

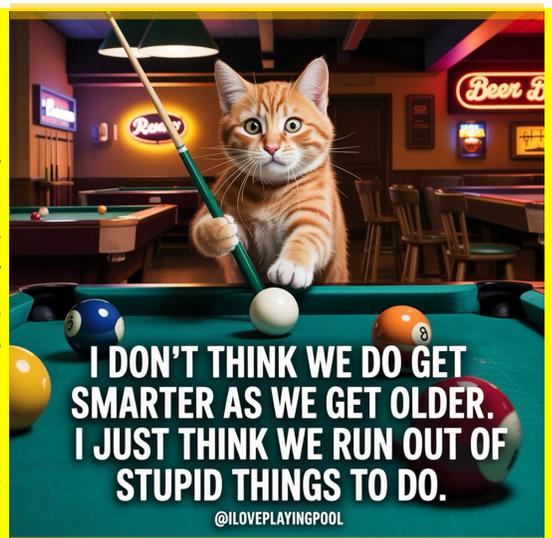


### Table Pool Jim Barry

With the closing of Massès on Super Bowl Sunday, our pool group has elected to play at Cue and Brew in Martinez. This location is smaller than Massès, and there are a couple of downsides; it's further away for our participants and there is no food service, although we can bring food in. The tables

themselves are slightly smaller and closer together, so courtesy is necessary between tables. The cost is a little bit more than we were paying, but not excessively so. Cue and Brew charges an hourly rate per table, while we paid a set amount individually at Massès. We have come up with an equitable way to allocate costs to each player, and we think it will work out well. We'll continue to play at Cue and Brew until Massès opens in its new location,

**Jim Barry**  
[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)





## Birding Ted Robertson

During the mid- morning of March 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of 12 SIR birders met at Crab Cove, an EBRPD park on the western edge of the Alameda shoreline, to look for shore and water birds during the low tide. Later that morning, we drove a few miles south to the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary where we saw several new additional species. We ended up spotting 36 species of birds at the two locations. Some of the many highlights of the sunny day included Black Skimmers (birds with thick long bright red and black bills that scoop fish out of the water while flying), several Long-billed Curlews (shorebirds with the longest bills measuring up to 8 inches long), American Avocets in bright summer plumage sweeping the mudflats back and forth with their long upward curved bills to dislodge food, and over 150 cormorants swimming in the distance, with just their necks and heads above water—looking like vertical snakes traversing the bay.

There will be no field trips in April, your trusty bird guide will be chasing prairie chickens, sage grouse and ptarmigan throughout Colorado followed by two weeks of training and testing for my EMT license renewal. The next bird trip will be on the second Wednesday of May on the 13th. If interested, please make sure you are on my birding email list. Email **Ted Robertson** ([tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)) if you want to be added to the monthly mailing list. Beginners through experts are welcome, plus I have a few loaner binoculars if requested.

**Ted Robertson**  
[tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



Looking for birds at Crab Cove  
(Photo by Cleo Bolen)



Long-billed Curlew.  
(Photo by Earl Bates)



Willet  
(Photo by Cleo Bolen)



American Avocet  
(Photo by Don Casey)



Geater Yellowlegs  
(Photo by Earl Bates)



## Veterans Larry Kaye

The date for our next gathering is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30. Same place. Back Forty. We have a speaker. James Lyons from Contra Costa Veterans office. He is a County employee and is well versed in the NEW benefits. Q and A during the meet. James has info on the NEW burn pit/ Toxic chemicals disabilities changes. They are really to our benefit. Please confirm prior to May 30 with a yes or no. Helps in the seating. He has recently helped in my pursuits and will do the same for you. Larry. GO NAVY. [GO AIR FORCE, proof reader 1, GO ARMY, Proof reader 2] Proud to be a part of this Veterans get-together. Larry

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030 [larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)



## Bocce John Kendrick

Great News - Bocce Ball Returns  
May 11, 2026!

Start your Monday mornings with fresh air, friendly competition, and good company. Join fellow members and guests for relaxed bocce games at Newhall Park—no experience (or special attire) required!

Games are played on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays from May through September, starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing approximately around 10:00 a.m.

All games take place at the Bocce Ball Courts at Newhall Park, located near the corner of Turtle Creek Road and Ayers Road in Concord.

Join us for a fun and relaxed Monday morning of bocce and camaraderie. Ladies are welcome, and formal bocce attire is not required—just bring yourself and enjoy the game.

Please note: Games will be cancelled in the event of rain.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

I came home today to find my wife has been on ebay all day long!

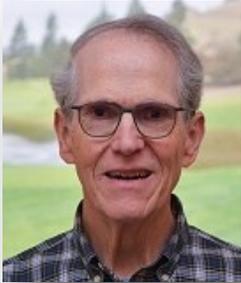
If she's still on there tomorrow, I'll have to lower the price.



## Book Corner Paul Kersis

The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book borrow a book!





## Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

SIR Branch 146 photography members met on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room. The purpose of the meeting was to exhibit our photos with the background theme of composition. A **HUGE** shoutout to **Don Casey** that led a **GREAT** photoshoot to two destinations: The first was the John Muir House in Martinez. The second was to Port Costa where we had lunch and then photographed around the town. Those SIR members who attended were: **Don Casey, Henry Thatcher, Bill Holly, Frank Terzuoli, Jeffrey Dreyfus, Earl Bates, Tom Amann, Glenn Breslin, Phil Lee, Ron Polivka, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Moose Kelly.**

Other topics that were discussed were:

The membership (12) agreed to move the meetings to the first Thursday of the month from noon to 2:00 pm after our next meeting which will be on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from Noon to 2:00 pm.

**Glenn Breslin** requested action shots of SIR activities to be forwarded to him. The purpose of this action is the redoing of the SIR 146 website to attract new members. We are all in various activities. Let's make sure we forward one action photo picture to **Glenn!!**

**Don Casey** reviewed a proposed photoshoot that will occur in August. The theme is night-time photography. **Don** will be leading us to North Beach and Chinatown for a nighttime shooting of the lights and the brights in SF. Stay tune for a survey from **Don** on this event.

**Frank Terzuoli** showed a video on the six best tools in Adobe Lightroom which demonstrated various ways to enhance the picture to your liking.

To finish the meeting, **Frank** led a discussion and a demonstration on three pictures with the use of Adobe Lightroom.

Our next meeting will be on May 1st at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room from Noon to 2:00 pm. At this meeting, we will present our original pictures comparing them to AI alter photos. We will discuss the tools that we used and why we altered the photo.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly photoshoots or our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Miker Rothman**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

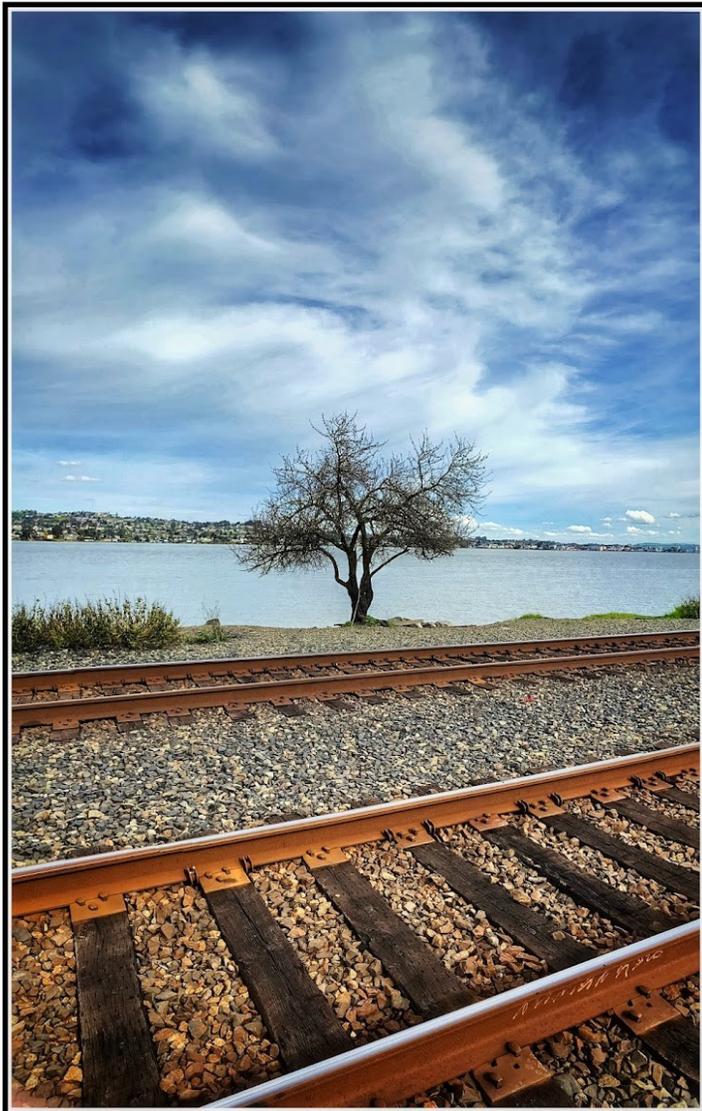
**John (Moose) Kelly**

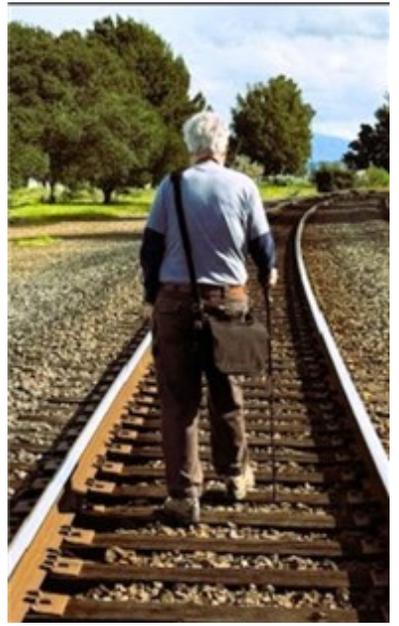
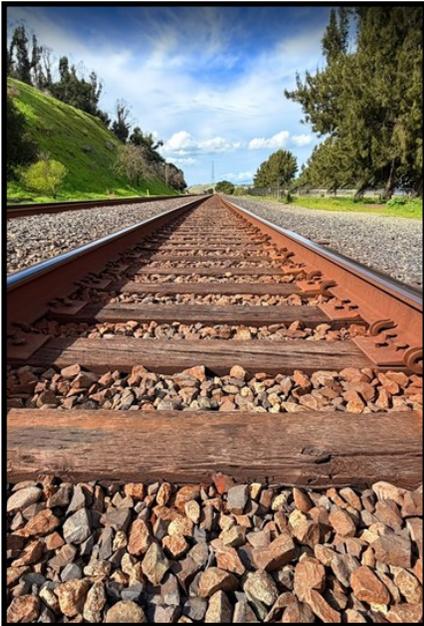
[Rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:Rollingstone911@yahoo.com) 610.517.0152

**Mike Rothman**



# John Muir House and Port Costa Photoshoot

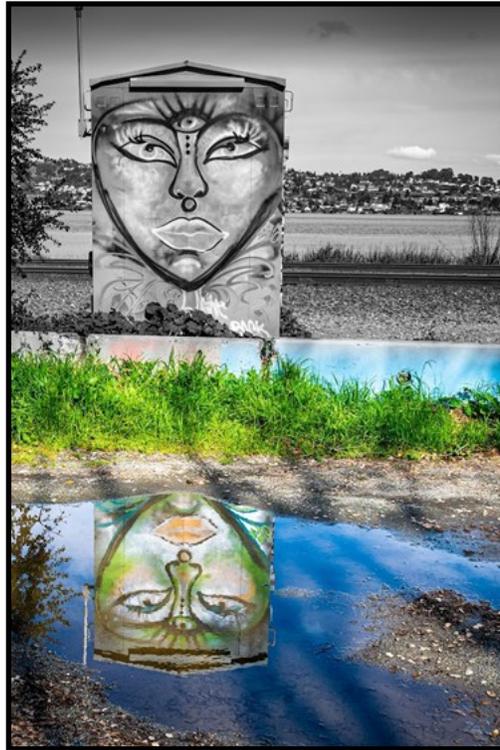




## John Muir House and Port Costa Photoshoot



# John Muir House and Port Costa Photoshoot



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

February 29<sup>th</sup>: The weather was foggy. The promise was 71'. We rode. It was a short get back in the saddle ride. Sickness, travel, assorted stuff kept some off their rigs. We had **Thom Degnan, Bob Wilkenfeld, Elmer Bricca, Bill Ross, Bob Lucido, Jim Rowland, Phil Lee, Moose Kelly, Larry Kaye and Mike Schrupp**. We covered two towns and enjoyed a java at Peets. The sun showed up at 11. Nice relaxing ride, Proof that opening the front door and taking the step outside works. **Larry**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hills? Why hills you ask? We all hate them. We are building back our endurance for Mt. Diablo. What????? Yes, our group will soon go back to two rides a week with one being Lady D. Today we rode the back roads thru and to Orinda. Very hilly yet very pretty. We visited the Country Club lake, Cascade. Who knew such a beautiful lake was even here? We "coffeed" at Geppetots, and sat down on a real chair for a while. The weather was superb. Great fun. Today we had: **Brian Totter, Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Ken Studer, Elmer Bricca and Larry Kaye**. A day filled with hills, and beauty. We must fight as we age to keep strong. To be able to do this sort of thing. None of us are young in age but ALL are young in heart and spirit. Turn that knob, open that door and be part of the youthful life that's before us all. **Larry**

Larry Kaye  
925.698.4030



## Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

The Seaview Trail in Tilden Park was our hike on February 23. The weather was great, and from the ridgeline we had wonderful views of Central Costa County and SF Bay. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps, Scott**

**Golde, Ray Martz, Roger Meyers, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** completed the 5.1-mile hike that included 1135 feet of elevation gain.



The rains of the last few weeks gave us an opportunity to visit the ephemeral waterfalls on Mt. Diablo. The scenery did not disappoint! Lush green vegetation, flowers of several colors, rushing streams and roaring falls seemed to be everywhere. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Mike Gipps, Carl Ludwig (Branch 8), John Mercurio (guest) Gary Parkhurst, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld**



completed the strenuous 6-mile hike, with 1575 feet of climbing. Everyone agreed the effort was worth it.



A small group of SIR 146 hikers, consisting of **Chris Duffek, Mike Gipps, Roger Meyer, Ray Martz, and Gary Parkhurst and Gene Schulting** enjoyed a 4.35-mile hike in Briones Regional Park with an elevation gain of 741 feet. The weather was perfect



**Cleo Bolen** is our group's unofficial photographer. **Cleo** always has his trusty digital SLR handy to catch candid and group shots of our hikers. When he is shooting (with his camera), no bird or animal is safe! We always look forward to seeing his photos. A strong hiker, **Cleo** leads when **Bob** and **Ray** are not available. When not hiking **Cleo** "enjoys" substitute-teaching high school chemistry classes.



The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with around 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let Bob know.



Ray Martz [rayhvac@gmail.com](mailto:rayhvac@gmail.com)  
Bob Wilkenfeld [Wilkx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilkx4@gmail.com)

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### Man Advice #20

When a woman says  
"Just do what you want"  
Do not, under any circumstances,  
do what you want

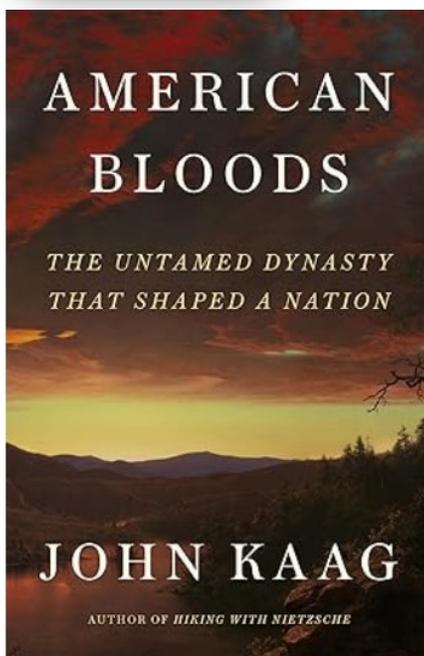
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## Book Group Nick Jabuka

### Book Club Review: March

‘Our group met at Panara’s on the first Wednesday of March for our monthly meeting. As mentioned before, each month I pose



a different question to the group about their experiences ‘growing up’. The question of the month for the members was “what was the first geopolitical event you remember as a child?”. The answers were varied and interesting and included Pearl Harbor, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the changes brought about by Pope John XXIII. In addition to the specific events, members shared anecdotes

that were specific to the region they were living in and the impact of the events.

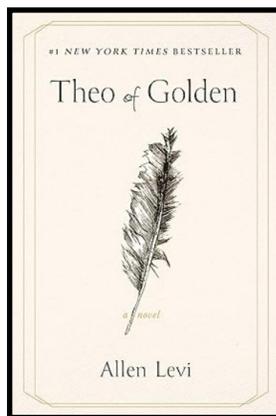
### Our February Read: “American Bloods”

American Bloods by John Kaag traces the history of the United States through several generations of the little-known Blood family of New England. After discovering an old genealogical manuscript, Kaag reconstructs how members of the family participated in key moments of American history from colonial settlement through the nineteenth century. Their lives intersect with major cultural and intellectual movements and figures, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Frederick Douglass. The book argues that the independent, restless spirit seen in this family reflects a broader “wildness” that helped shape American identity.

### Our Verdict – It’s a Go!

Overall, our group loved the book and thought it would be enjoyed by a variety of readers. While the book is historical on one level it also is philosophical and explores the ideas of American individualism, independence, risk taking, and resistance to authority.

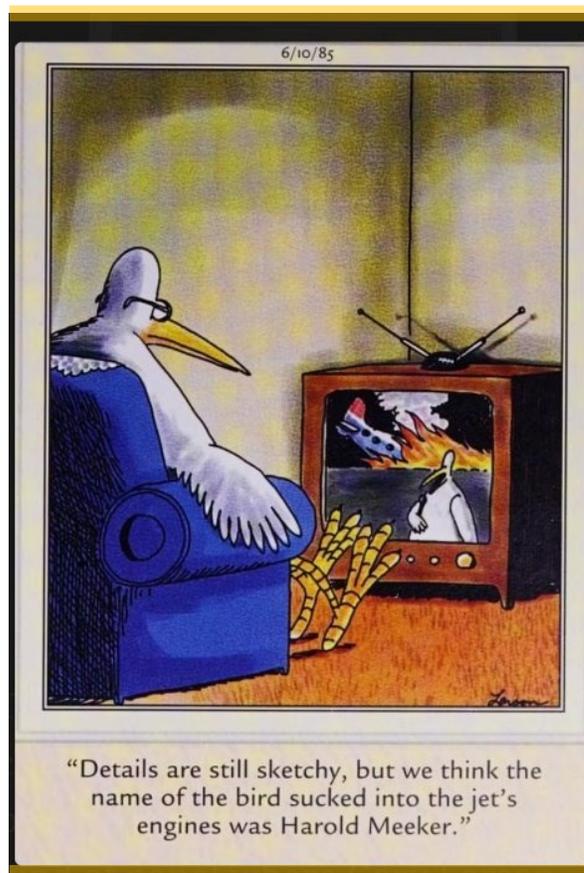
### Next Month’s Book



Next month’s book is “Theo of Golden” by Allen Levi, an uplifting novel about an elderly stranger in a small Georgia town and what he bestows on strangers.

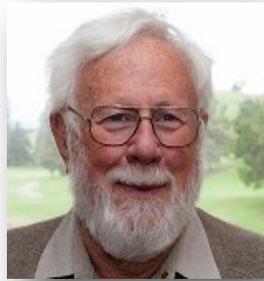
If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love you to join us! We welcome new members.

. Nick Jabuka, Chair – Mike Rothman, Editor  
925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)



“Details are still sketchy, but we think the name of the bird sucked into the jet’s engines was Harold Meeker.”

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

March was a “bye” month for the Sushi group since we meet every other month so we are eagerly looking forward to April and our next gathering. Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April at Fuji Sushi Buffet in



Concord (2090 Diamond). This is one of the few sushi buffets around... a real treat for a sushi lover at all you can eat for a little under \$30. Members are advised to come hungry, no doggie bags! Remember, they ask that the entire group be present before they seat us, so plan to arrive by 11:30.

[Clint Collier](#)

925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)



## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at **Steve Ybarra's** home for an afternoon of tasting fine wine and lunch. Unfortunately, **Dennis Hallett** and **Corrie Oranje** had medical problems and were unable to attend.

**Richard Hockenbrock** treated the group to one of his “top shelf” bottles of wine. **Richard** was gracious and shared his bottle of Beaulieu Vineyard (BV) Tapestry Reserve highly rated Napa Valley Bordeaux-style red blend. Thank you, **Richard**! Sandwiches from Mr Pickle’s were the primary course this month. Three Italians and one club were ordered by the group. This was the first time three of us had a Mr Pickle’s sandwich. These sandwiches were “old style deli” sandwiches and quite large. So large, two of us had to save half of the sandwiches for a future meal.

Most of our discussions this month revolved around world affairs. Unfortunately, the group could not find any realistic end solution to the current campaign. The group is next scheduled to meet at **Bruce Borgman's** home on April 13, 2026.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sybar@gmail.com](mailto:sybar@gmail.com)



## Words of Wisdom from the younger generation.

1. Never trust a dog to watch your food.
2. When your dad is mad and asks you, “Do I look stupid?”, don’t answer him.
3. Never tell your mom her diet’s not working.
4. Stay away from prunes.
5. Never pee on an electric fence.
6. Don’t squat with your spurs on.
7. Don’t pull dad’s finger when he tells you to.
8. When your mom is mad at your dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
9. Never allow your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment.
10. Don’t sneeze in front of mom when you’re eating crackers.



## Cooking Lunch and Wine

### Paul Dubow

Six members of the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Cooking Group met at **Henry Thatcher's** home in Danville on March 18. We began with appetizers of shrimp, olives, and nuts and then sat down for lunch.



The main course was what **Henry** and locals in the Bay Area would describe as sloppy joe sandwiches. **Henry** pointed out, however, that the sandwiches have different names elsewhere. In Illinois, where his wife was raised, they are called loose meat sandwiches and the main purveyor is a company called Made Rite, which sells the sandwiches through various retail grocers and their own chain of restaurants. In my wife's hometown in way upstate New York, they were known as "not so sloppy sloppy joes". In Virginia, where **Henry** grew up, they were called barbecued beef sandwiches, even though they sometimes contained pork. However, they were not called barbecued beef in the **Thatcher** household. Whenever **Henry** and his brother came home and smelled them and inquired about what was to be on the table that day, her answer was "fresh air". And so it can be said that the six of us enjoyed some fresh air on March 18.

In any event, **Henry** passed out the ingredients, and we could either place them on rolls or use them as sides. The ingredients were barbecued beef, homemade cole slaw much different and much tastier than cole slaw on sale in local stores or restaurants; fried onions; sweet pickles; and **Henry's** own Hawaiian potato salad. I cannot tell you why the latter is deemed to be Hawaiian or what other item was added to it other than bits of macaroni, but it was damn good!

### The world's shortest fairytale.

Once upon a time a guy ask a girl  
 "Will you marry me?"  
 The girl said "NO!"  
 The guy lived happily ever after.



We finished with home made peach pie and vanilla ice cream. **Henry** advised us that the top three states that produce peaches are Georgia, California, and South Carolina, but he did not tell us where he got his peaches.

And while we dined and kibbitzed (and drank a bit of wine as required by our name), our spouses enjoyed themselves with outside dining at the Danville Harvest Restaurant.

**Paul Dubow**

510.504.3566 or at [pdubow2398@aol.com](mailto:pdubow2398@aol.com)



## Wine Tasting

### Brian McCarthy

We are looking forward to the next wine tasting. It will be on **MONDAY**, April 27, at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**. (Please note the date change. The tasting is usually on a

Tuesday.)

The tasting will be strictly Italian. Possible reds are Chianti Classico, Barbera, Brunello, Barolo, Super Tuscan, Primitivo and Montepulciano. There are others but these are the most popular. For whites, there are Soave Classico, Etna Bianco, and Pinot Grigio. Again, there are other whites. It might be fun hunting for that special Italian wine. There are so many to choose from.

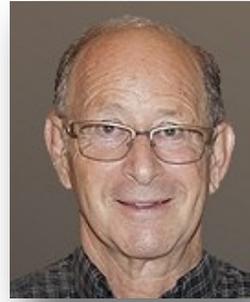


You can RSVP by calling Brian at 925.324.2463 or emailing us at [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com).

**Brian McCarthy**

925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)

## Couples Dining Out



**Al Guzman, Bob Lucido, Rich Lyons and Mike Riley.**

## Join the Dining Out Dinner



Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 8:30 pm

The Yard House -The Veranda Shopping Ctr.

2005 Diamond Blvd. Concord, CA

Social Hour/No Host Cocktails: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person which includes tip and tax.

### Appetizers

**Four Cheese Spinach Dip and Fried Calamari**

### **STARTERS**

*(choice of one)*

**Tomato Bisque**

**Traditional Caesar Salad**

### **ENTRÉES**

*(choice of one)*

**Whiskey Glazed Salmon**

Whiskey black pepper glazed, parmesan mashed potatoes, roasted carrots, grilled baby broccoli.

**Spicy Jambalaya**

Blackened shrimp, andouille sausage, crawfish, chicken, roasted poblano peppers, Cajun cream sauce with linguini.

**Top Sirloin Steak**

6 oz top sirloin steak, baby broccoli, steak sauce, parmesan mashed potatoes.

**Thai Grilled Pork Chop**

11 oz bone-in pork chop, basil cilantro cauliflower “fried rice” with mushrooms, snap peas, bok choy, carrots, red onion, baby broccoli, spicy honey sauce, crispy garlic.

### **DESSERTS**

*(choice of one)*

**Cheesecake Brulée**

**Chocolate Lava Cake**

### **BEVERAGES**

**Choice of Ice Tea, Soda, or Coffee**

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Reservations are due **April 13, 2026**. Make your check payable to **SIR 146** and mailed to **Bob Lucido**, 541 Lily St. Walnut Creek, CA 94595. ([bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net))

**Please indicate your meal choices for starter, entrée, and dessert on your check.**

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met at **Alicia Baily's** home Friday the 13th of March. This evening we decided to keep like sexes together, so the women

gathered in the living room, and the men took over the dining room. As we so often celebrate the winners, this time we are celebrating the "high scorers". If it weren't for the high scorers we wouldn't have such an interesting game! **Virginia**, in one hand, was left with tiles counting up to 143 and in another hand, **Gabriela's** tiles totaled 127. Needless to say, they did not place in the top three. **Corrie and Alicia** didn't do so hot either. They just kept racking up the points. Congratulations to **Jim, Sue and Martha**, respectively.

High Scorers: **Corrie, Gabriela, and Alicia.**

Corrie Oranje



Our March meeting will be held at the home of **Alicia Bailey** on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Walt Busenius**

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)

Group Tres 3



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met twice since our last episode in the SIRCall We gathered on Friday afternoon, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the

home of **Sue & Walt Busenius** in Wanut Creek. Then in February on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Mexican choo choo left the roundhouse and wandered through the hills and pastures to beautiful Clayton and **Linda & Larry Brown's** casa. This group loves the fantastic table treats and delicious haltime faire provided by all our hosts.

In January our winners were **Walt Busenius, Joyce Wells and Jim Barry**. left to right in the photo. In February, **Alicia Bailey, Larry Brown and Larry Brown**, shown left to right in February's photo, were the champs. Competitiveness was displayed but we also had great fun.

We said our goodbyes and head off into the sunset to our various homes.



January Winners



February Winners



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On February 20th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 8 players to play dominos. Those in attendance this evening were, **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Steve and Susan Oki, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, and Jim and Renie Pope.** The group enjoyed wonderful tasties provided by several members.

We played at two tables of 4, one table all women and one all men. We had a **first**. At the women's table after 7 rounds of play, we had a tie. Where there was a tie, we gave each player 3 California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the low table scores at the tied table were **Christy DeVoe and Renie Pope:** We paid the player low score at the men's table of 4

California Lotto Scratcher tickets, and the winner was **Jim Pope.** There were two high score players at each table: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher** received one Lotto ticket each. The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on March 20<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by **Steve Oki**)

**Jim Pope**

[jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 enjoyed the February gathering of this august group at the comfortable home of **Peter and Martha**

**Plante** on Wednesday, February 25.

The Plante's welcomed us with some crackers and chips accompanied by several gourmet cheeses. We had an enthusiastic group of ten players, which were split into two groups. After catching up on the activities of the group, we commenced competitive play.

We took a break to enjoy **Martha's** delicious lemon bars, with various liquid refreshments.

At the end of the evening the scores were tallied and amazingly first, second and third place were all at the same table! Celebrating first place was **Bruce Borgman** with a low score of 9.75; second place was won by **Kathe Mitchell** with a score of 12.5 and **Mary McCarthy** placed third with 15.5. The winners and

high scorers joined up for a picture which you will see accompanying this article. Our March event will be held on March 26 at the home of **Kathe Mitchell.**

**Bruce Borgman for  
Steve Lane**

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).





Group Siete 7

### Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In February, **Bob & Judy Wilkenfeld** hosted our MTD 7 event, and somehow, we managed to wrangle a nearly full group of 10 players.

**Bob West** took first place, proving once again that he apparently doesn't believe in sharing. **Jane West** came in second, which suggests there may be something in the **West family** water supply, and **Diane Degnan** slid into third, stylishly and with far less trash talk than the rest of us deserved.

**Bob Lucido**  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



**Dianne Degnan 3rd,**  
**Jane West 2nd,**  
**Bob West 1st.**



GROUP OCHO 8

### Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Wednesday of the month on April Fool's Day.

**Richard Hockenbrock**  
[rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)

Seventeen participants gathered at the Hockenbrock home on March 4<sup>th</sup> to play

Mexican Train Dominoes. This was our first gathering where the entry fee had been raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00, with intent of making the prize pots large.

Now for the outcomes. If you had looked at last month's results, you would have seen **Franck Terzuoli** in first place, and so this month he was in first place again with a score of **13.1**. **Steve Dinning** was in second place with an average score of **15.8**, and in third place was **Victoria Polivka** with a score of **16.6**. \$1 lottery tickets were awarded to **Cindy Greco** and **Jan Ondeck** who had the highest scores. Snacks and desserts this month were supplied by **Steve and Jan Ondeck**.



L/R **Steve Dinning (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Frank Turzuoli (1<sup>st</sup> place), and Victoria Polivka (3<sup>rd</sup> place)**

Our next set of games will be played on the first

The invention of the shovel was a ground breaking discovery.  
But the invention of the broom was the one that truly swept the nation.



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve”

Though our group's numbers were decimated by illness this week, the rest of us soldiered on. We welcomed back **Claire and Dave Kingsbury** after being absent for several months due to a serious fall. **Bob Wilkenfeld** won after 7 games with an amazingly low score of 38. **Mary McCarthy** earned second place and **Dave Kingsbury** took third place.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

In March, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Eric Finson** at his home in Pleasant Hill on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The March winners were **Cleo Bolen, Barbara Petersen** and **Chris Lee**, with consolation prizes going to

**Phil Lee and Frank Lucas.**

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For April, **Mark and Barbara Sorum** will host at their home on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We rotate hosting among different homes.

This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.

**Mark Sorum**

925.577.5153 [markandbarbsorum@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

**Cleo Bolen**

925.768.7902 [cleo.bolen@comcast.net](mailto:cleo.bolen@comcast.net)



### Words of Wisdom from the younger generation. Part 2

11. Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.
12. Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time.
13. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
14. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
15. If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse.
16. Felt markers are not good to use as lip-stick.
17. Don't pick on your sister when she's hold a baseball bat.
18. When you get a bad grade in school, show it to you mom when she's on the phone.
19. Never try to baptize a cat.



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Men's Hearts

### Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from February 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The big winners were **Brian McCarthy** with 4 wins, followed by **Bob West** with 3.5 and **Bill Vizza** and **Frank Lucas** with 3. **Cleo Bolen** had 5.5 2nds, and **Dick Wade** and **Frank Lucas** had 4. The lowest average scorers were **Bob Haber** and **Bill Vizza** with 54, and **Frank Lucas** with 55. **Bob Haber** and **Frank Lucas** had 2 STM's.



YTD: **Frank Lucas** and **Brian McCarthy** lead with 6 wins followed by **Bob West** with 4.5 and **Bill Vizza** with 4. In winning percentage **Bob Haber** and **Jim Passaglia** lead with 50%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** leads with 6 followed by **Cleo Bolen** with 5.5. In lowest average score **Jim Passaglia** leads with 53.8 and **Bob Haber** has 54. In STM's, **Frank Lucas** has 4, followed by **Will Stratton** and **Ron Polivka** with 3. In most improved over 2025 **Bob Haber** leads with 255% better and **Will Stratton** 200% better.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please email us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Co-Directors  
**Bob West** and **Steve Ybarra**  
[robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



## Pinochle

### Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925.938.7016, or myself at 925.858.9666. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm



**Pete McNeill**  
925.858.9666 [petamole@gmail.com](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**  
925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

**Brad and Lynne Hatcher** hosted our March 3<sup>rd</sup> event. All our regulars played this month. After missing several months of playing, **Dick and Maggie Chaffee** picked up where they left off and finished solidly in third place.

At the end of play there was significant commotion at Table 3. **John Kluesener** wanted the Table 3 cards to be burned. Apparently, for the 2 rounds he played there, **John and Kathy Kluesener** only scored a total of 50 points. This is believed to be a record low, but I'm still researching all available historic data to confirm. We reached a compromise when **Lynne Hatcher** volunteered to clean all the decks of cards instead of burning them in the hope that it will remove all the bad mojo.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3490 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 3290 points - **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**
- 3rd PLACE with 2850 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**

Our next event will be held on April 7th and hosted by **John and Kathy Kluesener**.

**Tony and Cindy Greco**

925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

Our game was hosted by **Rich Ahlf**. Players included **Rich, Paul Dubow, Steve Ybarra, Frank Lucas, and Brad Hatcher**. We enjoyed having **Bob Campbell** as a substitute for **Bruce Kimmis** (broken fingers). **Melo Piccolo** was a last minute scratch as he was bothered by a virus.

Our host provided nice snacks and wine as the game progressed. Both **Rich** and **Brad** were the beneficiaries of card luck and were smiling at game end.

**Brad** will host the next game on the first Thursday in April.

**Brad Hatcher**

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



## Poker Group 4

**Mark Sorum**

Our March game was at the home of **Mark Sorum**. We had 7 players enjoy an afternoon of poker and fellowship. **Bruce** was the big winner with everyone else breaking about even.

We had 2 interesting hands. In a game of Omaha, **Mark** took both high and low with 4 Queen's and an ace and 3 for low. In the last hand of the day **Mark** bet like his straight flush was a sure winner only to find that **Bruce** had a royal flush!

Games are scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on April 20 at the home of **Melo Piccolo**.

Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises. Dealer antes a nickel per player. A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice. We are currently full.

**Mark Sorum**

925.577.5153 [markandbarbsorum@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

Love is Grand  
Divorce is Twenty Grand



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

It was a spring-like afternoon when **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** hosted us on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to **Steve and Sue Lofton**, **Max and Ardith Hinkle**, and **Ed Marlovits** (partnering **Dave Pierce**) for filling out the field.

February's hands were boring but not March's. Mirabile dictu, slams were bid! **Max and Ardith** got to six hearts on Board 14, making seven. **Ed and Dave** made six but only bid four. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** bid six clubs on Board 15 but were down one. Bravo for the attempt. **Ed and Dave** made six but only bid 3 NT. **Ed and Dave** made six hearts on Board 20 but only bid four.

At evening's end, **Brad and Lynne** tied **Dick and Christy** for third (45%), **Max and Ardith** were second (61%), and **Ed and Dave** were first (70%), despite missing those slam opportunities.

### Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)

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## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, March 6 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning**.

**John Rexroat** earned 1st place with 47.0 points. He was ranked 2nd or 3rd at lunchtime, 1st half, and 2nd half, was involved in three Best Partnerships, and had the most 3's than anyone. Congratulations, John!

**Ed Marlovits** and **Tony Greco** tied for 2nd with 45.5 points.

**Dick DeVoe** was 4th with 43.5 points.

### Dick Devoe

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

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## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

### John Kluesener

**Steve and Sue Loftin** won 1st place with 24.5 points and had the most boards with the maximum 2 pts. each. Congratulations, **Loftins!** **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were 2nd with 23.0 points, and had the least zeros with those same boards. **Max and Ardith Hinkle** were 3rd with 20.5 points.

### John Kluesener

[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)

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What is the difference between Iron Man and Aluminum Man?

Iron man stops the bad guys.  
Aluminum man just foils their plans.

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# Parting Shot

Last month our “Parting Shot” on “Janus words”, words with different meanings depending on their use, ended with the promise of more to come this month. Well, here they are...

13. Screen can mean to show (a movie) or to hide (an unsightly view).

14. Help means "assist," unless you can't help doing something, when it means "prevent."

15. Clip can mean "to bind together" or "to separate." You clip sheets of paper together or separate part of a page by clipping something out. Clip is a pair of homographs, words with different origins spelled the same. Old English clyppan, which means "to clasp with the arms, embrace, hug," led to our current meaning, "to hold together with a clasp." The other clip, "to cut or snip (a part) away," is from Old Norse klippan, which may come from the sound of a shears.

16. Continue usually means to persist in doing something, but as a legal term it means stop a proceeding temporarily.

17. Fight with can be interpreted three ways. "He fought with his mother-in-law" could mean "They argued," "They served together in the war," or "He used the old battle-ax as a weapon." (Thanks to linguistics professor Robert Hertz for this idea.)

18. Flog, meaning "to punish by caning or whipping," shows up in school slang of the 17th century, but now it can have the contrary meaning, "to promote persistently," as in "flogging a new book." Perhaps that meaning arose from the sense "to urge (a horse, etc.) forward by whipping," which grew out of the earliest meaning.

19. Go means "to proceed," but also "give out or fail," i.e., "This car could really go until it started to go."

20. Hold up can mean "to support" or "to hinder": "What a friend! When I'm struggling to get on my feet, he's always there to hold me up."

21. Out can mean "visible" or "invisible." For example, "It's a good thing the full moon was out when the lights went out." As a verb "out" can also mean to publicly reveal a secret about a person.

22. Out of means "outside" or "inside": "I hardly get out of the house because I work out of my home."

23. B\*\*ch can derisively refer to a woman who is considered overly aggressive or domineering, or it can refer to someone passive or submissive. [and, of course, a female dog is a B\*\*tch as is sometimes life.]

24. Peer is a person of equal status (as in a jury of one's peers), but some peers are more equal than others, like the members of the peerage, the British or Irish nobility.

25. Toss out could be either "to suggest" or "to discard": "I decided to toss out the idea."

