



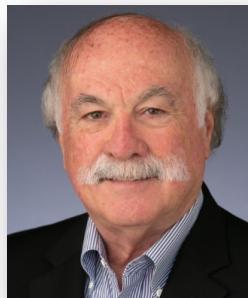
### Big Sir's Corner

**Bob Ford**

As we gather for another holiday season, I want to thank all of you for making SIR such a vibrant and welcoming community throughout the year. I also want to thank all of the BEC officers that stepped up to serve next year. I really value the SIR organization and realize it

would not be possible without people willing to run the organization. Our activities have thrived—from our ever-popular golf outings to the couples dining out events and the many other activities that continue to bring us together. It's been inspiring to see members reconnect, welcome new members, and keep the spirit of camaraderie strong in everything we do. As we look ahead to a new year filled with even more opportunities to share good times, I wish each of you and your families a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy year to come. I hope to see you all at the Ladies' Day Holiday Luncheon in December. Remember to scroll down in the newsletter to find the signup for the luncheon. The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be re-tired to join.

**Bob Ford**  
Big Sir, Branch 146



### Little Sir's Corner

**Thom Degman**

For our December "Ladies' Day Luncheon", we are very pleased to have the Devil Mountain Chorus to perform for us. The Devil Mountain Chorus (DMC) also known as the Walnut Creek Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, got its origin from the Berkeley Californians Chorus which was established in 1953. The DMC was a spin-off of this chorus, established in 1972. The Chorus is made up of men throughout the East Bay, who come together weekly to have fun, sing well while continuing to improve, to entertain audiences throughout the East Bay, and to perpetuate the barbershop hobby through singing in four-part harmony, both in a chorus and in quartets through performance, charitable activities. By support of music education, and partnership with other organizations, they share their love of harmony with the community. DMC competes regularly in the local Barbershop Harmony Society's conventions. Under Musical Director, Ms. Kristen Taylor's direction, DMC was again in 2018 declared the Plateau A Champions in the FWD Norwest Division contest. The Devil Mountain Chorus was also named the Far Western District Chapter of the Year in 2017.

Continued on next page

## Make Friends for Life

**SIR Ladies' Day Luncheon**  
**Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Boundary Oak 10:30**

A reservation is required!  
 To make yours and choose your entrée  
 go to page 3. (click Here!)

### Activities for you and spouse...

- Ladies' Day Luncheon [Page 3](#)
- Couples Dining Out [Page 32](#)
- Table for Two? [Page 26](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- Explore & Eat—rescheduled [Page 26](#)
- Cribbage is Back! [Page 34](#)
- We wish you... [Page 39](#)

## Little Sir continued from previous page

The Devil Mountain Men's Barbershop Chorus is dedicated to singing well and having fun! Barbershop music has been presented by the Devil Mountain Chorus for the enjoyment of Walnut Creek and surrounding East Bay communities for over 40 years. In 2023 the Devil Mountain Chorus took third out of 9 choruses, in northern California barbershop competition.

I very much appreciate the efforts this year of The Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin and Jim Crites**, who made it their mission to find interesting and informative speakers for our luncheons. We look forward to continuing that effort in 2026, and we would appreciate any suggestions that you may have for interesting speakers. Also, we are looking to indi-

viduals to participate on the committee. Please let **Jim Pope** know if you would like to assist.

We have several key priorities for 2026. One is to expand our recruiting to grow our chapter. Glenn Breslin is chairing this activity, and has created a committee to work on this. We can use some additional assistance, so please contact Glenn if you would like to assist in planning and executing on new member recruitment activities. Another is to increase participation from the membership. If you would like assist the Board or any Activity leaders, please let me know. We would welcome your support. These will be among the key activities in 2026, and our objective is to make SIR146 the very best that it can be.

**Thom Degnan**  
Little Sir, Branch 146



## SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons



## Ladies' Day

### Luncheon

**Steve Ybarra**

The Ladies' Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The cost for this event is \$41 per person. Doors open at 10:30 am so SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations, using the form below, should be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$41.00 per person.

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

For the Ladies' Luncheon events you need to use this reservation form.

The 'click to reserve' menu will resume with the January Luncheon.



### SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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	Beef Fillet	Salmon	Vegetarian Manicotti	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 December 6<sup>th</sup>.



### SIR 146

## December Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Salad

Arugula Salad

Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, Herb Vinaigrette

### Entrées

Filet Mignon

with caramelized shallot au jus  
Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Salmon

with Dill Sauce Confetti Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Vegetables

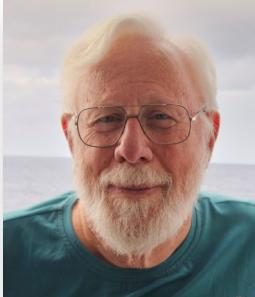
—or—

Vegetarian Manicotti

Seasonal Vegetables

### Dessert

Red Velvet Cake



## Editor's Ramblings

### Clint Collier

Congratulations to Paul Beretz who was the first to find my hidden Halloween "Treat" in last month's newsletter!

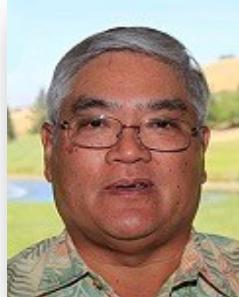
Help me help you. When you are submitting an article for SIRCall please make sure it is a Word document, and RTF document or just the text in an e-mail. Do NOT send in pdf files; we can't edit them properly or make minor changes to them without a LOT of work.

And please... when you submit an article, put in the subject area the name of the activity you are reporting for and the date of the report. "SIRCall Membership report December issue" will do the trick. Most of you do not realize it, but between SIRCall and another newsletter I edit, I receive over 100 e-mails a month related to these newsletters! And want another statistic? I get over 100 e-mails a day... thank you spammers and other's who want to refinance my home to save me just gobs of money so I can take a luxury cruise to Timbuktu or some other exotic destination!

Which brings me to point two: please make sure you use the e-mail appropriate for the message, that is either the editor e-mail or my personal SIR e-mail address, the editor address being preferred! Some of you are aware of my other e-mail addresses... part of handling this volume of mail is screening and each account has unique screening. Send an article regarding SIRCall to my personal e-mail and it may simply get overlooked or moved to a category/folder that doesn't get immediate attention.

Be warned: the cut off date for SIRCall submissions for January comes early in December, even earlier than the date for this month, all, of course, because of the holidays... not to mention the parties. We want to get everything in by noon on the 16<sup>th</sup> because we plan to PARTY ON and take the balance of 2025 off starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall**  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)



## Membership

### George Mon

There were no new members in November.

Sadly, we lost two members who passed away.

**Randy Graham** passed away in mid-October after a year-long illness. **Verner Laursen** died peacefully at home in November.

The 2025 membership count is 265.

The 2026 Dues letter was sent out in mid-October along with a return envelope for your convenience. So far only 71% of the membership have responded.

**Reminder:** If you have not paid your 2026 Dues yet, please do so now so that we can have an accurate count of our membership. See the Reminder Letter on the next page of this Newsletter if you have any questions about where to send your check.

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.

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**  
925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)





## **REMINDER**

**If you have not paid your 2026 Dues yet, please do so now so that we can have an accurate count of our membership**

### **BRANCH 146 MEMBER'S NOTICE – 2026 Dues**

#### **2026 Annual Dues are now payable.**

The Branch Executive Committee has approved dues for the year 2026.

Annual membership dues are \$35 per member for 2026.

**These dues will be waived for Senior SIRs who have reached 90 years of age prior to January 1, 2026, and for Honorary Life Members (HLM).**

If you elect to pay an annual amount for the luncheons, the cost will be **\$296**. You will get 10 lunches for the price of 8.

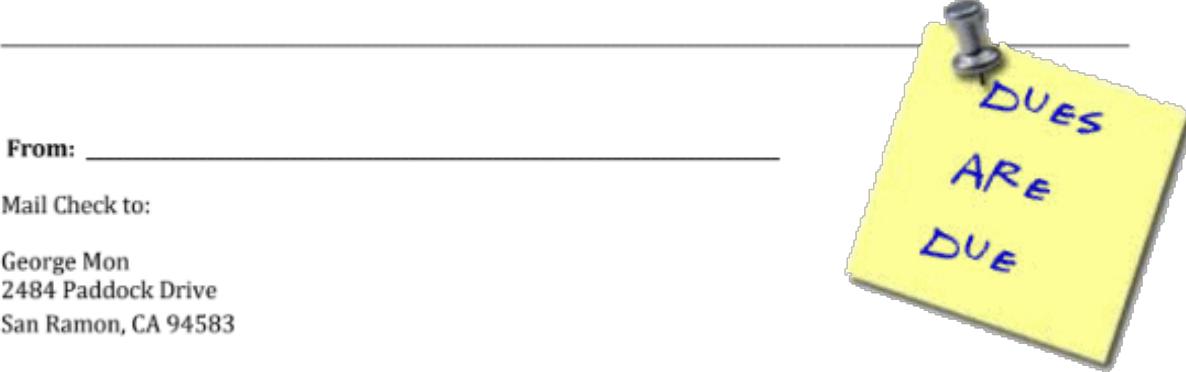
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Please return this portion along with your name and check to the address below.

By renewing your membership, you **agree to abide by the Sir Branch 146 Regulations** (see Branch Information tab on our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com))

- \_\_\_\_\_ (A) If paying dues only = Make a **\$35** check made payable to: **SIR Branch 146**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (B) If paying dues + annual lunches = Make a **\$331** check made payable to **SIR Branch 146**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (C) If Senior Sir or HLM + annual lunches = Make a **\$296** check payable to **Sir Branch 146**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (D) **Optional:** Anonymous Donation **[\$50]** **[\$100]** **[\$200]** **[Other \_\_\_\_\_]**.  
Please add your donation to the amount above and make check payable to **Sir Branch 146**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



From: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check to:

George Mon  
2484 Paddock Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583

# Put the January Luncheon on your calendar Now



## THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

### SIR 146 January Luncheon

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### Salad

Arugula Salad with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese and Herb Vinaigrette

#### Entrees

##### [Chicken Piccata](#)

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

##### [Cod Piccata](#)

Herb Marinated Cod Filet, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

#### Vegetarian

##### [Creamy Tomato Tortellini](#)

Five Cheese Tortellini in a Creamy Tomato Sauce, Seasonal Vegetable

#### Dessert

Tiramisu

#### **Lunch Reservation required!**

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée!

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

#### 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](#)

**2026**

## Officers and Directors

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.



## SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. 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!

## 2025 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Bob Ford
Little Sir.....	Thom Degnan
Secretary .....	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary .....	John Rexroat
Treasurer .....	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer .....	Tom Amann
Director 1st Term .....	Mike Davidson
Director 1st Term .....	Jim Crites
Director 2nd Term .....	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term .....	Randy Graham
Director 2nd Term .....	John Alexander
Director 2ndt Term .....	Don Rhoads

### RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment .....	Randy Graham
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.	



Jack Baldassari  
James Baldridge  
Randall Becker  
Gary Brown  
Walter Busenius  
Doug Eisner  
John Gray  
Mac Mcallister  
George Mon  
James Passaglia

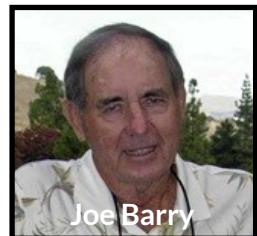
Henry Thatcher  
Ted Ford  
Clifford Tong  
Frank Terzuoli  
Joe Herger  
Jeffrey Slusarz  
Mark Raaberg  
Tom Fox  
Will Stratton



## Sunshine Brian McCarthy

Let us keep the pictured SIR members 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.

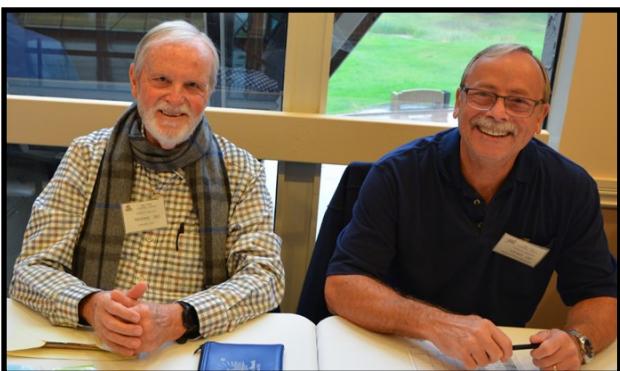


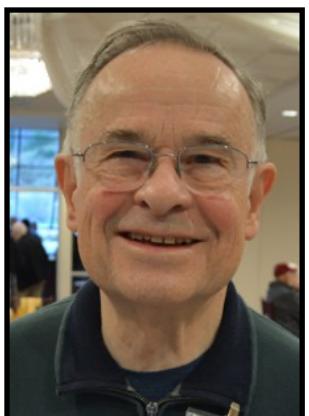
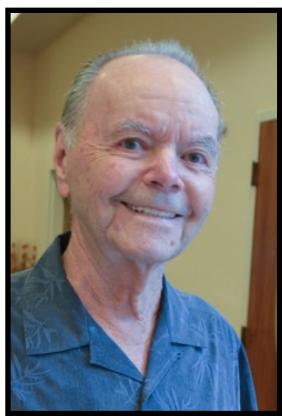


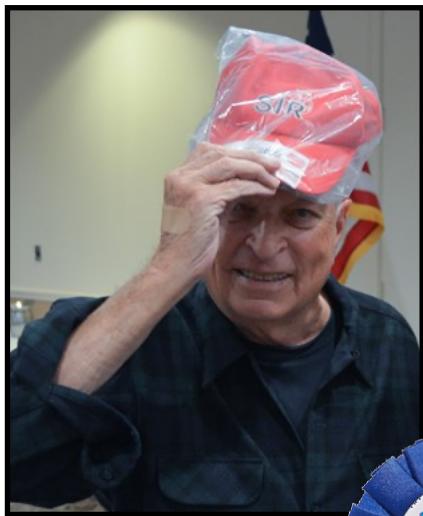
Photos by Henry Thatcher



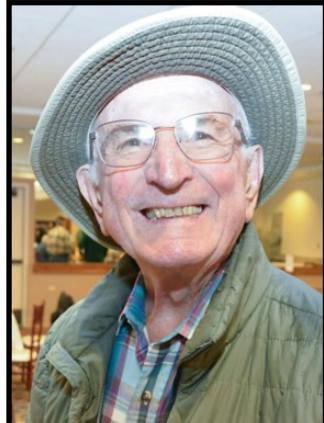
Welcoming  
Crew

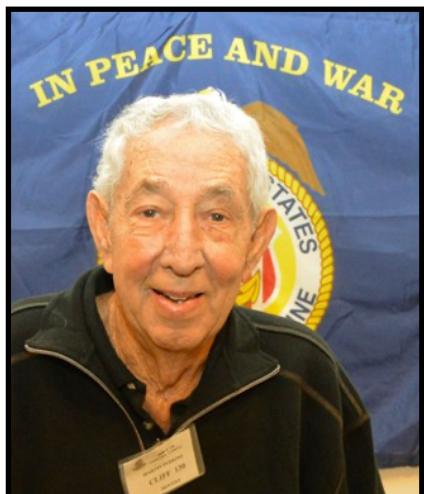






November  
Rich Pace









# NOTES

## from Our Members

### Are you taking Statins?

Some months ago I came across some information on statins that caught my attention. Most of us at our age are on a statin. Seems the cardiologists feel we all need them for various reasons. In most cases this is true. What I have found from an article in various health sites caught my attention. Seems statins can be the cause of our leg pains. The reasons are over my head but simply put, they inhibit a chemical we normally make that helps our bone growth. I got into this. As a former long distance triathlete I was forced to stop due to leg pain. The Docs said it was age. I believed. They were wrong. I read and researched this subject. I finally called my Cardio guy. To be safe he/she must be asked. Can I stop statins for at least a month to see if my pain goes away? He said sure. I did. The full program is a month but after a week; no pain. I can actually walk and not have bone pain. What you do with this info is up to the reader. Look at Google and put in your statin and ask about leg bone pain. Prepare to spend time on this. It's amazing.

Larry Kaye

### Too long for our "quick shots", too good to pass up.

A young man from the big city moved to the country and bought a donkey from a local farmer for two hundred dollars. The farmer took the money and said he'd deliver the donkey the next day. The next afternoon, the farmer arrived at the man's house . . . with an empty truck. "Sorry, mister. I have some bad news," the farmer said. "The donkey died." "Well," said the man, "so just give me back my two hundred dollars." "Sorry, mister," the farmer replied. "I can't give it back—I already spent it." The man thought for a moment and said, "Okay, then give me the dead donkey." "What are you going to do with it?" the farmer asked. "I'm going to raffle her off," said the man. "You can't raffle off a dead donkey," exclaimed the farmer. "Sure can," the man calmly replied. "I just won't tell anyone she's dead." A few weeks later the farmer happened to run into the young man and asked what happened with the dead donkey. "I raffled her off," he told the farmer. "I sold three hundred tickets at \$2.50 apiece and made a profit of \$547.50." Stunned, the farmer said, "Wow! Didn't anyone complain?" "Just the guy who won," said the man. "So I gave him back his \$2.50."



Editor

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec 1	2	3	4	5
9:45 am–3:00 pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI group Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00 am Golf 4:00 pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30 pm–10:00 pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30 am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 pm Poker Group #6	10:00 am–2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
8	9	10	11	12
10:00 am Hiking 11:30 am–1:30 pm Cooking II 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00 am Golf 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #8 4:00 pm–7:30 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30 am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's	10:30 am–1:30 pm Book Corner <b>11:30 am–1:30 pm Ladies' Day Luncheon</b>	12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 1 Uno
15	16	17	18	19
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00 am Golf <b>12:00 Noon SIRCall articles due</b>	11:00 am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45 pm–10:00 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00 pm–10:00 pm MTD 5 Cinco 12:00 Noon Sushi no Tomadachi	9:00 am–11:00 am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00 am–3:00 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3
22	23	24	25	26
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00 pm Poker Group #3 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #4	9:00 am Golf	1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's	A cartoon illustration of Santa Claus wearing a red suit and hat, standing next to a reindeer with large antlers and a red nose. They are both smiling.	12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C.
29	30	31	Jan 1	2
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00 am Golf		A colorful, stylized graphic for the year 2026, featuring the words "Happy" and "2026" in bright, glowing letters, surrounded by fireworks and confetti.	



# Looking for something to do...



## 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>	51
<b>Total Co-Ed Activities</b>	33
<b>Percent Co-Ed Activities</b>	65%
<b>Total Unique Activities</b>	28
<b>BR146 activities shared with other branches</b>	14
<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.

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



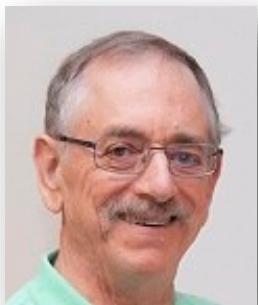
### Cycling Group Larry Kaye

November 4: Today we rode the El Captain loop. Covering Alamo, Danville and San Ramon. It was a perfect riding day. We had **Brian Totter, Dave Paulson, Tom Alborg, Eric Finson, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Jim Nelson and Larry Kaye.** The hills and the roadway just vanished beneath us. Lovely ride. Java after at Peets. Sweat makes the body strong. Larry

November 11<sup>th</sup>: So, I guess I told a small fib. Ok, two. The ride was quoted as 25 miles but really approached

30. The fact that there were no hills. There were a few. It was beautiful as we rode thru Danville into San Ramon and then Dublin. Java at Denecas cafe was, as always, super. The pastries the size of soccer balls. We had a large group today. **Moose Kelley, Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg, Bob Wilkenfeld, Cleo Bolen, Bill Holly, Ken Studer, Dave Paulson Bill Ross and Larry Kaye.** The day was complete, and all had a fun time. We all came back with very sore rears. The outdoors is always there. Just open your door and take that first step towards health. **Larry**

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.4030



### Bocce John Kendrick

Need a Christmas gift idea ? Ask Santa for your own set of Bocce Balls (not a good idea as a stocking stuffer however).

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players. Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of **May through September.**

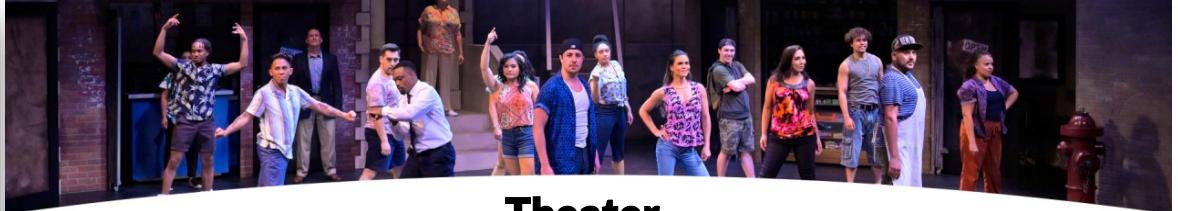
**The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 11, 2026.**

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Tur-

tle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

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





## Theater Glenn Breslin

### Upcoming Theater Shows – Lesher 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
- Look for future notices regarding upcoming Lesher Tribute Band dates

#### **Neil Diamond Concert Experience Sat 1/31/26, 7:30pm \$69 (rows C-E) and \$59 (row H)**

**Desc:** Long-time Las Vegas performer and Legends in Concert alumni ROB GARRETT is America's #1 NEIL DIAMOND Tribute Artist! He is unparalleled in his portrayal of the legendary performer. From Vegas to Honolulu, to New York, to Berlin... Rob has come to be known as the 'King of Diamonds' as he is able to naturally capture the presence, passion, and energy of this iconic performer in all his youthful 'JAZZ SINGER' glory. In 2008 Rob was awarded with the "Male Musical Tribute Artist of the Year" award in Las Vegas marking the first (and only) time a Neil Diamond tribute act has won such an honor. [Link to Show Webpage](#) [Link to YouTube](#)

#### **Lost In Yonkers - Sat 4/4/26 - 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher Theater**

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the opening of Lesher 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 befriending their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation. [Link to Show Page](#)

#### **Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher 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. [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 [glenngbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glenngbreslin@gmail.com)



## Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

We are lucky here in California to be able to play golf year round. Sure we may get a little rain but as my grandmother was fond of saying "get on out there, you aren't going to melt". Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on 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 who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

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



## Veterans Larry Kaye

Next Vet meeting!

- Date: Wed 1/7/26
- Time: 11:30 AM
- Event: Lunch.
- Price: What you eat and drink. You will receive an individual check for your meal,

Location: Back Forty Restaurant, 100 Coggins Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Menu Link: [https://backforty.us/wp-content/uploads/dine-in-menu\\_Spring-2025\\_Web.pdf](https://backforty.us/wp-content/uploads/dine-in-menu_Spring-2025_Web.pdf)

Bring a story to share. A portable microphone and speaker will be available, so everyone can hear. RSVP to attend.

Larry Kaye

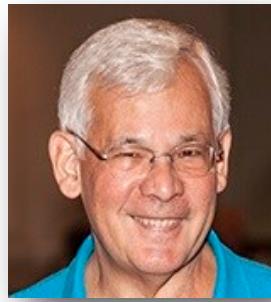
925.698.4030 [larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)

RSVP NOW!

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

When buying a pack of gummy worms I noticed that it reads "No Artificial Flavors."

Who buys gummy worms hoping the will taste as close to real worms as possible?



## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed for our Branch at the November meeting, singing the anthems of the various service branches we were honoring that day as part of our recognition of veterans.

Our next rehearsal will be at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30, e-mail me for the date. We are always looking for new members, so join us for a fun time and camaraderie. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Contact Peter Plante at [pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)

Peter Plante

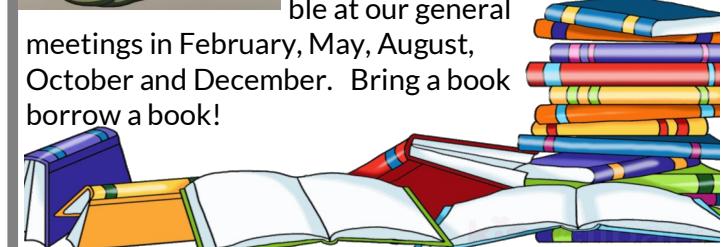
[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)

There's a new Frankenstein movie out. Instead of making his creation out of dead body parts, he makes it out of cheese. It's called the Frankenstein Muenster.



## 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!





## Travel Glenn Breslin

### GOOD NEWS!

Australia/New Zealand – SIR members now signing up: Check out the discounts below!

If you are interested, then please let me know [glenbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glenbreslin@gmail.com).

13 SIR members just completed their 20 day trip to Vietnam!

Also, please look for a new Travel Questionnaire, due out by 12/10. Input from this questionnaire will be used to plan future trips.

Australia / New Zealand	Cuba
<p><b>BOOK NOW</b></p> <p>1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare / \$7645-With Economy Airfare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available</li><li><a href="#">Click here for details</a></li><li>Group code is G6-30339</li></ul>	<p>3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare already included)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Immersion into culture and history</li><li>Five-star lodging</li><li>All meals but one included</li><li>All tours included</li><li><a href="#">Click here for details</a></li></ul> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; transform: rotate(-15deg);"><i>Event full; wait list only</i></div>

### Current Discount Offered

- Australia/New Zealand, convey Code DOBE 507, pay in full within 2 weeks of signing up for 15% discount off of tour and airfare balance.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

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



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Cell phones bring you closer to those far away,  
But take you away from those sitting next to you.

Four out of three adults have trouble with math  
and numbers.

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## AREA 16

### Fishing Report

#### Paul Dubow

First, I would like to extend a thank you to **Cleo Bolen**. I was out of town on the date of the October fishing meeting and so **Cleo** took

notes for me. The report below is largely based on his notes.

Most of the productive fishing in October was in the Delta. **Tom Kostik**, our persistent Delta fisherman, continued his forays into that body of water. He made three trips out of Orwood, but his most productive trip was near Ryer Island. He landed and released 19 black bass, a couple of bluegill and 19 stripers between 13 and 24 inches. Apparently, 19 is his lucky number!

**Ken Bellendir, Harry Sherinian, and Mike Pruett** also fished the Delta. **Ken** caught quite a few black bass on a day where the water was unusually clear and calm. **Harry** caught and released nine black bass and a couple of stripers while **Mike** limited his intake to perch.

The only member of our group to venture into the ocean was **Carl Moyer**. He made two trips on his skiff out of Pacifica, catching rockfish and lingcod on each occasion. He also sailed on the *Sea Wolf* to the Faralones, where the rockfish and lingcod are much larger. The trip took three hours each way, but **Carl** was rewarded with limits of both species. **Carl** also hosted his semi-annual fish fry at his home on November 3, where the group enjoyed rockfish and lingcod that he and others caught earlier in the year, plus green salad, potato salad, and delicious brownies baked by **Carl's** wife, **Marcia**.

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for December 18 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our usual gathering is on the fourth Thursday of the month, but in December, we meet on the third Thursday because of the holiday. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning

at 7:30 am for camaraderie and fish stories, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time but are thinking about starting or renewing this activity.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566

What did the salmon say when he ran into a concrete wall?

"Oh, Damn!"



Something is going on, the farmer just unfriended me on Facebook.



#### Guitar Group

##### Curtis Young

Guitar Group is starting up again this coming January! After a break from getting together it's time we gather. Our group is set up for players of all levels, beginner to a seasoned player. If you are interested, look up Guitar Group in the activities page and send me an email.

For those of you that were playing, let me know if you are still interested. The schedule will remain the same.

**Curtis Young**  
[cy3772@gmail.com](mailto:cy3772@gmail.com)



## Birding Ted Robertson

Tuesday, November 11, 2025  
Field Trip Report.

At 8:30 AM, a group of twelve SIR birders met at Wetlands Edge Park between Vallejo and Napa.

This area has a nice mix of aquatic habitats including freshwater ponds, streams, sloughs, rivers, and saltwater bays. We ended up spotting a whopping 53 species of birds. Some highlights of the trip included two Merlins, a White-tailed Kite, 26 Black-crowned Night Herons, 11 species of shorebirds including Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Marbled Godwits, and Willets.

On our next field trip will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and we will concentrate on learning how to identify shorebirds and a variety of marine ducks. We will have a late start, 10:00 am and finish by 12:30 pm., to coincide with a low tide and to avoid rush hour traffic. This trip has been changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month to avoid a medical scheduling conflict. The location will be announced the weekend before. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list that has specific directions to each month's birding location. I have a few loaner binoculars and beginners are always welcome.

**Ted Robertson**

925.899.1872 [tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



SIR birders and guests enjoying a beautiful morning.  
(Photo by Ted Robertson)

Continued on the Following Page



Left to right

Black-crowned Night Herons, Merlin, Marbled Godwits (photos by Earl Bates)  
Snowy & Great Egrets (photo by Ted Robinson)



## Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Castle Rock Park was our starting point on October 27 and although it had rained over the weekend, the trails and stream-crossings in the Diablo Foothills were dry. Our 5.2-mile hike took us along Pine Creek, up Little Yosemite trail and then

back along the ridge on the Briones- Mt. Diablo trail. **Earl Bates, Mark Curtis, Chris Duffek, Mike Gipps, Eric Finson, Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed lunch with a full view of Mt. Diablo.



The hike at Lake Chabot on November 3, started out as an easy 4.5 miles with 380 feet of climbing, but our elite hikers (**Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps and Ray Martz**) elected to add a loop that totaled 6.8 miles and almost 1000 feet of uphill. (Phew; I'm tired just thinking about it!)

Our November 10<sup>th</sup> outing started from the far end of Finley Road in San Ramon. The 7-mile hike, with 1150 feet of climbing, took us (**Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Mike Gipps, Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld**) through the beautiful hills of Morgan Territory. The highlight of the hike was walking through a dense grove of Oak trees and enjoying lunch at the Amphitheater – an ancient Native American site where they ground acorns into flour.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also host a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). 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)

© Cleo Bolen



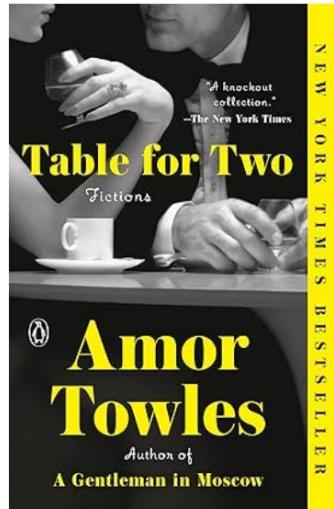
## Book Group Nick Jabuka

### Book Club Review: Cozy Halloween Week Meeting

We met on Monday of Halloween week, a smaller but never the less fun and engaged group. Each month I pose a different question to the group about 'growing up'. This month's question was, 'What comics did you enjoy as a kid and why?'. We shared lots of fun memories about being kids and enjoying comics like; Peanuts, Beetle Baily, The Wizard of Id, Dick Tracey, Superman, Terry and the Pirates, and Little Orphan Annie.

### Our October Read: "Table for Two"

"Table for Two" is another book by the acclaimed writer Amor Towles. It is composed of 6 compelling short stories followed by a novella. The six short stories, mostly set in New York around the turn of the millennium are all interesting tales, many of the stories hinge on the meetings of two people and how those interactions set things in motion. Each short story is unique but all share examples of moral compromise, un-



derlying insecurity or unexpected consequences of moral or just actions. These fun short stories are followed by a novella, "Eve in Hollywood", based in Los Angeles featuring the character Eve Ross from the author's first book, Rules of Civility. Eve moves west to LA where she meets and befriends a variety of people including the starlet, Olivia de Havilland, who becomes the victim of an unscrupulous photographer. Eve and her new friends track down the blackmailers and successfully foil the plot and clear Olivia's reputation.

### Our Verdict - Mixed

The short stories were all interesting and fun reads. Our group had a little more mixed views on the novella, some thinking it dragged on or that the plot was contrived. Even so, the group found the writing wonderful and the stories fun and interesting. If you have read Amor Towles before and liked his work, then we can recommend Table for Two.

### Next Month's Book

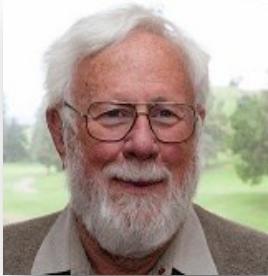
Next month's book is "Wait Till Next Year" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, a memoir about her 1950s childhood in a New York suburb, centered on baseball and family. The book captures the nostalgia of growing up during that era, highlighting the community's passion for baseball and the emotional connections formed through the sport. Looking forward to it.

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

**Nick Jabuka, Chair – Mike Rothman, Editor**

925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)





## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

**Clint Collier**

December is here! That means it is time for a party and a sushi gathering for both our group members and our significant others. Not always an easy task to find the appropriate restaurant since some of the significant others prefer a more conventional cuisine... like no raw fish! Raw sea bream is just not their cup of tai!



With that in mind we are off to Tanoshi Japanese Bistro, Walnut Creek's newest Japanese styled restaurant. Good sushi, and a regular menu for those so inclined.

Members will get an email in early December asking them to confirm, how many in their party, and confirming whether or not they will be participating in the special sushi extravaganza. If you are not a member of this group but think you would like to join us shoot me an email and if there is room, we will invite you.

Date? Our usual third Thursday of December, the 18th at 12:00 noon.

**Clint Collier**

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

Edgar Allan Poe once said "Believe only half of what you see and nothing you read on line" ..



## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Corrie Oranje** on November 10th. The group arrived with bottle of wine in hand at our normal meeting time of 11:30 am. Corrie greeted everyone with a spread of appetizers. We gathered in his living room and discussed the national and local topics of the month. The lively discussions were washed down with glasses of wine. We then adjourned to the dining room and were greeted by bowls of French Onion soup that was perfectly prepared. A variety of sourdough bread sandwiches finished off the main meal. Everyone left room for a slice of apple pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. That finished off a wonderful fall lunch. **Dennis Hallett** will next host lunch at Melos restaurant, in downtown Walnut Creek, on December 9th at 11:30am.

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



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The L&W group does not meet during the last two months of the year... our annual schedule is one lunch per person for the eight of us, two for dinner with our significant others, and two to kick back and recover! See you all in February when we will report on the ten course, Bezerkistan inspired, lunch I am hosting for the group.!

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

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIP:

**IF YOUR BIRTH YEAR STARTS WITH 19, YOU SHOULD NO LONGER WRAP GIFTS ON THE FLOOR.**

# EXPLORE & EAT

We had a lovely day in the Town of Locke. On the tour we had **Don Casey, Steve and Susan Oki, Jim and Renie Pope, Vernon and Bonnie Roohk, Charlie and Diane Walker**. **Don Casey** was our photographer. The best description of the day is in the pictures. We had very enjoyable lunch at Al the Wops and a wonderful museum presentation and tour of the Town of Locke.



**RESCHEDULED**  
**NEW DATE ANNOUNCED**

# EXPLORE & EAT

Tour [Lodi Energy Center](#) and

the Town of Locke, Boarding House Museum

Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2026 at 10:30



The Lodi Energy Center (LEC) is located at 12751 North Thornton Road, Lodi.

In 2012, NCPA opened the Lodi Energy Center (LEC), home to one of the cleanest and most efficient gas-fired power systems in the U.S. It was the first in the nation to take advantage of “fast-start” gas-turbine technology to reduce emissions and provide a rapid response to market and grid conditions. NCPA is in the process of converting to Hydrogen as the fuel to eliminate carbon emissions. Fast-start technology can quickly ramp up and down, counterbalancing the variable nature of wind and solar energy. The tour of LEC will take about an hour.

Then we will drive to the Town of Locke (20 minutes) and have lunch at [Al the Wops](#) (13943 Main St. Walnut Grove) from 12:00 to 1:30.

After, there is an optional tour of the Locke Boarding House Museum across the street from Al the Wops after lunch. There is a charge of \$5 per person for this museum tour. Maximum of 25 for the museum tour.

**Please send a check to SIR 146 for \$5 per person to go to the optional tour of the museum to:**

**Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507.**

**Deadline January 14, 2026.**

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part where Chicken Little warns the farmer. She read, "...and Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, 'The sky is falling!' The teacher then asked the class, 'And what do you think that farmer said?' One little girl raised her hand and said, 'I think he said: 'Holy Sh\*t! A talking chicken!'' The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Another successful wine tasting is in the books as we come to the end of 2025. The October wine tasting was held "pool side" at the home of **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld**. It was a gorgeous day and as the guests mingled with wine glasses and small plates of appetizers in hand, all had a fun time.

The selected wines were Australian Shiraz and New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. **Bruce Kimmis** and **Christine Stratton** brought the most popular (based on secret ballot) Shiraz while **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido** brought the most popular Sauvignon Blanc.

As we end the 2025 wine tasting season, **Bill** and I want to again thank those who opened their homes and yards for wine lovers to get together to share fellowship and, of course, wine.

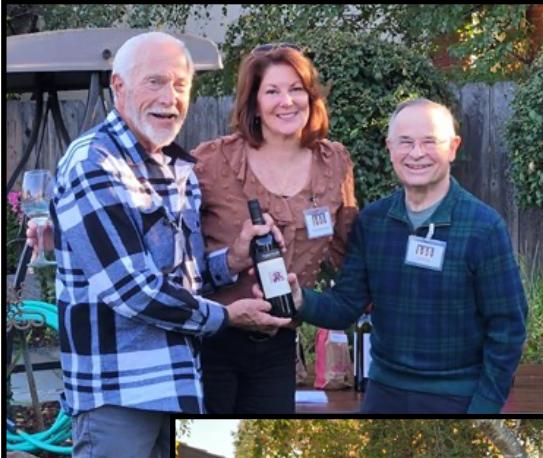
This brings us to 2026! The next wine tasting will be on Tuesday, January 27 at the home of **Larry** and **Ann Kaye**. Details to follow in the next newsletter but mark your calendars and send in your RSVPs via email or phone. (925.324.2463)

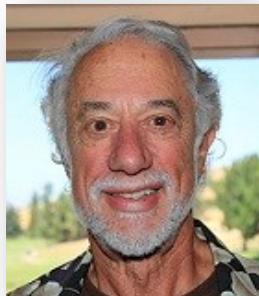
Happy Holidays to all and we will see you in January 2026..

**Brian McCarthy**

925.324.2463

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





## Couples Dining Out Al Guzman and Bob Lucido.

We have just completed the first Dining Out event for the new team directing this popular activity - on Monday, November 17 at Aracely Lounge in Danville.

And yes, you are correct, the writer of this report is the erstwhile director of this activity who has been recruited one more time by the new team as a swansong before riding off into the sunset. If there was ever any doubt about the ability of the new team to take over this activity, those fears were soundly defeated with the wonderful dinner we enjoyed at Aracely Lounge. The new chairs of the Dining Out activity, as you undoubtedly are aware, are **Al Guzman**, and **Bob Lucido**. Assisting these capable SIR stalwarts are **Rich Lyon**, and **Mike Riley**. This splendid team put together a dinner that turned out to be one of the best in recent memory. We had 61 diners enjoying this dining experience, preceded by an extended social hour from 5:00pm to 6:15. Then, the menu started with a choice of two salads - a Caesar salad and a Golden Beet salad, then a choice of three unique entrees. One was their signature 8-hour short ribs, the others, a Chicken Marsala and a Bouillabaisse. The dinner concluded with a choice of three delicious desserts: apple tart, a chocolate mousse, or a goat cheese cheesecake.

Adding to the enjoyment of this elegant dinner was the ambiance of the restaurant. It was a former piano bar and has been transformed into a cozy and stylish atmosphere that was perfect for our extended social hour. The pictures accompanying this report will testify to the wonderful dinner that our diners enjoyed.

The service for this dinner was also impeccable - and so the entire Dining Out experience was one for the books!

The Dining Out team is already planning the next event and you will want to be sure and put it on your calendar as soon as it's announced!

Bruce Borgman for Al Guzman

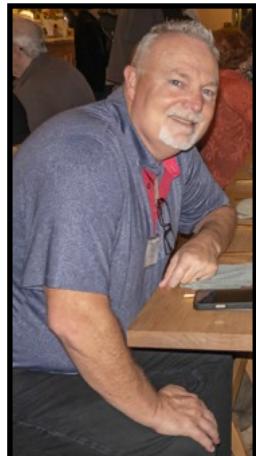
Al Guzman

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

Bob Lucido

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





# Aracely LOUNGE



# MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

## Group Uno 1



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

#### Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno has retired for the year. Early into the maintenance yard for some fine tuning and looking forward to 2026!

On behalf of the group, we wish everyone joyous holidays.

Corrie Oranje

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



## Group Dos 2



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

#### Ron Plachy

We played at the home of **Ron and Anne Plachy** in October. We were back on our normal schedule playing on Friday but still had regulars missing. One had last minute visitors, and another came down with pneumonia! **Tony and Cindy Greco** were able to substitute this time to **Tony's** good fortune!

**Nancy Pearl** came in 1<sup>st</sup> with a 14.2 average. Close behind with a 14.7 average was **Clint Collier**. **Tony Greco** took 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 15.2 average.

We are on our winter break for the next two months and will resume playing on Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ron Plachy  
925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)



MTD 2 October winners (L to R): Tony Greco 3rd, Nancy Pearl 1st, Clint Collier 2nd.



## **Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius**

We last met on Friday afternoon, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Sally and Lynn Shafer** in Walnut Creek, after

the Sircall was published. The Friday Mexican choo choo train left the roundhouse and wandered through the hills and dales of Walnut Creek to the Shafer's house. Gathering around the table were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily, & Sharon Varner**. The group was spoiled with Sally's fantastic table treats and delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her "A" game to the table, including going out 3 times, was **Alicia Baily** who had a great score of 16.25 ppg. Not too far behind was **Lynn Shafer** garnering 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 17.87 ppg. **Sue Busenius** finished in the money coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, just beating out her hubby.

We had fun, said our goodbyes, quietly boarded the

Mexican choo choo and followed the sun to our various homes.

Hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving and Seasons Greetings.

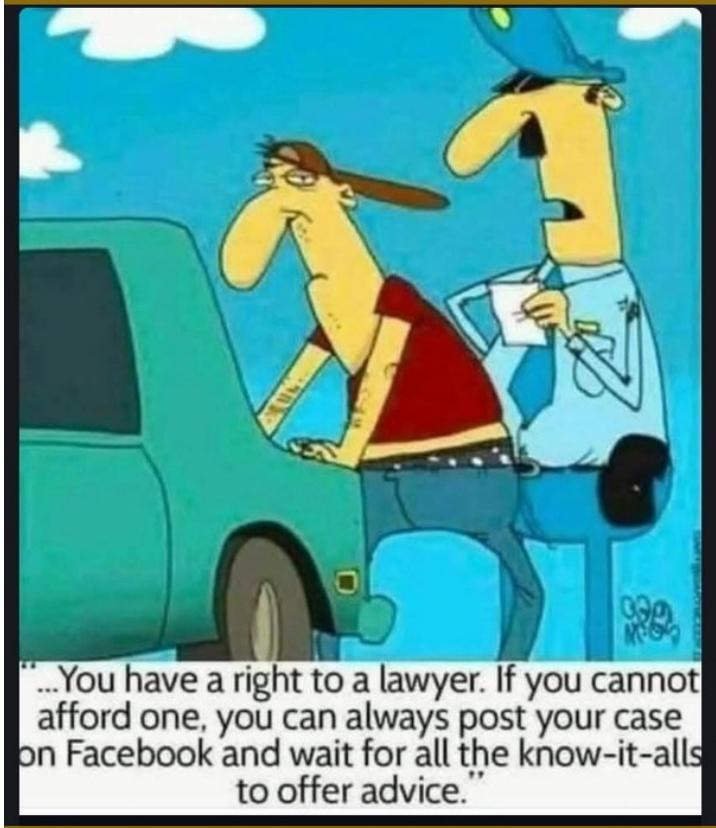
**Walt Busenius**  
925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



## **Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope**

No meetings until next year.

**Jim Pope**  
[jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net)



"...You have a right to a lawyer. If you cannot afford one, you can always post your case on Facebook and wait for all the know-it-alls to offer advice."



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

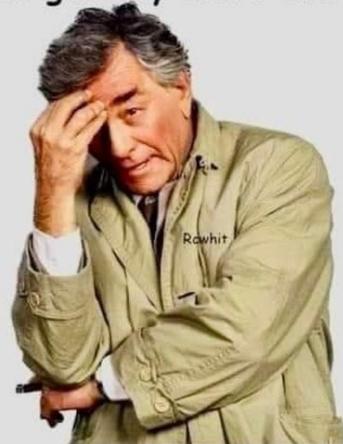
Our Cinco MTD group cancelled their November gathering so there will be

no report this month.

There will be a December Christmas gathering so look for us in the January issue.

Dennis Hallett  
[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)

So let me get this straight, I go to the grocery store and buy:



A pound of sliced ham in a plastic bag, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins in plastic wrap, a store-made salad in a plastic tub, a plastic bottle of mustard and ketchup, but they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis”

Steve Lane

The MTD Seis group met at the beautiful home of **Kathe Mitchell** on October 22 to enjoy a fiercely battled game.

Our fearless leader, **Steve Lane**, was not present but there were eight players ready to continue. We split into two groups of four, separating the men from the ladies to minimize any hand-to-hand combat.

Among the ladies, the group consisted of **Martha Plante**, **Sue Sheldon**, **Carol Lane**, and **Kathe Mitchell**. The guys included **John Hendrick**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Moose Kelly**, and **Peter Plante**.

When all was said and done, **Kathe** came out on top with a low score of 11.4, with **Moose** not far behind at 13. **Bruce** was in third place with 23.7. The two scratcher cards for the high scores went to **Sue**, and **Carol**. A good time was had by all!

Steve Lane

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



MTD 6 Winners: (L to R): Moose 2nd, Kathe 1st, Bruce 3rd.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In October **Bob & Wendy Lucido** hosted our MTD 7 event. We had the total of seven players, the **Wilkenfeld's, Lucido's, McCarthy's, and Brian** was the only bachelor for the evening

**Judy Wilkenfeld** took first place winning a small amount of \$\$\$ because there was only seven of us, **Bob Lucido** placed second and took away less \$\$, and **Wendy Lucido** received almost enough to buy a cup of coffee.

Bob Lucido

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



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Eighteen players arrived the evening of November 5<sup>th</sup> to play Mexican Train Dominoes. Sitting around four tables, the MTD 8 (OCHO) group got underway just short of 7 PM. The volunteer hosts on this evening were **Frank & Susan Terzuoli** who brought a delightful smorgasbord of tasty appetizers and desserts.

The outcome for the evening had **Susan Terzuoli** in 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Steve Dinning** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and a tie for third between **Larry McAllister** and **Victoria Polivka**,

Our next game will be played on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and our hosts will be **Larry & Pam McAllister**.

Richard Hockenbrock

[rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)



**Larry McAllister** tie for 3rd, **Susan Terzuoli** 1st, **Steve Dinning** 2nd, and **Victoria Polivka** tie for 3rd.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

In October, we met at the lovely home of **Bob & Wendy Lucido**, who hosted our MTD 9 event. We had six competing players, **Wilkenfeld's, Kingsbury's, and the Lucido's**.

**Judy Wilkenfeld** took first place with a low average score of 8. **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Dave Kingsbury** tied for 2nd with 11.6 average scores, and **Bob Lucido** came in 3rd with an average score of 13.

Bob Lucido

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



**Bob Wilkenfeld** 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Judy Wilkenfeld** 1<sup>st</sup>, **Dave Kingsbury** 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Bob Lucido** 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# CARD GAMES

## ...we play



### Men's Hearts

#### Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we are reporting on results from October 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The big winners were **Bob Campbell** with 4.5 wins, followed by **Bob West** with 4, and **Brian McCarthy** with 3. **Bob Haber** had 3.5 2nds and **Brian McCarthy** had 2.5 2nds. The lowest average scorers were **Steve Ybarra** with 42 and **Frank Lucas** with 45. **Frank Lucas** had 2 STM's and **Bob Campbell** and **Bill Vizza** each had 1.



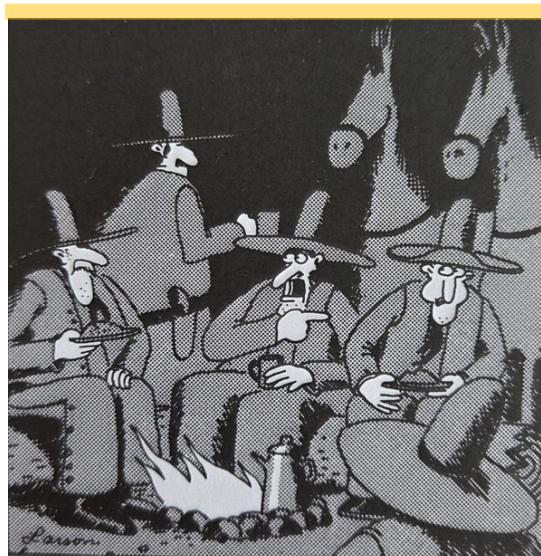
**YTD:** **Bill Vizza** has the most wins with 24 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 21.5, and **Brian McCarthy** with 21.

- Highest winning percentage is **Bob Finlayson** and **Jim Passaglia** with 43%, and **Steve Ybarra** with 38%.
- **Bill Vizza** and **Steve Ybarra** lead in YTD 2nds with 19, while **Frank Lucas** and **Ron Polivka** have 18.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 48.9 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.
- **Bill Vizza** has 10 STM's, **Brian McCarthy** has 8, and **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** have 7.
- Most Improved is **Bob West** at 128% better than last year, and **Brian McCarthy** at 125%.
- Best Sheriff is **Rich Lyon** in that in none of his passes has someone STM. **Dave Smith** had only 2% and **Frank Lucas** 3%.

**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 November 14<sup>th</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

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



Hey! I just heard Jake say a  
discouraging word!

# CRIBBAGE

## I AM ALIVE!



### Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

John and Kathy Kluesener hosted our November 4th event. We thank John and Mary Pat Moxon, Kluesener's neighbors for subbing for Dick and Christy DeVoe. We also thank our hosts for providing an abundance and variety of delicious snacks and desserts, as well as beverages.

To entice John and Mary Pat Moxon to sub more often and perhaps join SIR we let them win. They played well and had good hands, so it was easy. They averaged a respectable 700+ points per round. **Tony and Cindy Greco** took 3rd place by a mere 10 points. Despite mild protests, an audit of the results wasn't conducted since it would cost more than the 3rd place winnings. This decision was made by our impartial Chairperson. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

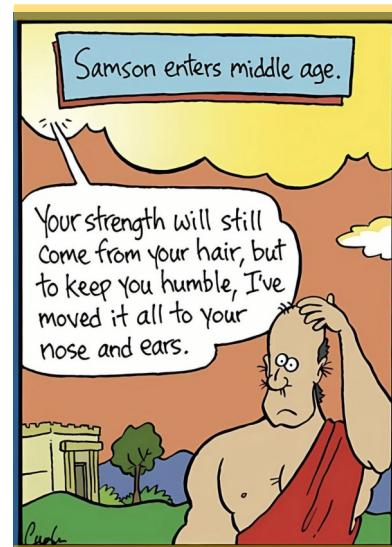
- 1st PLACE with 3650 points - **John and Mary Pat Moxon**
- 2nd PLACE with 3510 points - **Larry and Linda Brown**
- 3rd PLACE with 2600 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**

Our next event will be held on December 2nd and hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown**.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

**Tony and Cindy Greco**

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



### Cribbage

**John Kendrick**

A lively group of cribbage enthusiasts gathered at Rocco's Restaurant on the afternoon of October 22, 2025, for a friendly nine-person tournament filled with laughs, close games, and great food.

Participants included Ron Afdal, John Dorr, Kirk Mc Vean, Jim Nelson, Gary Parkhurst, Mark Raaberg, Will Stratton, Jack Starr, and the event's organizer, John Kendrick. The players competed across several rounds, with Rocco's providing the perfect backdrop — good lighting, hearty meals, and plenty of friendly banter between hands.

After a few hours of strategic pegging, clever counting, and a few near-perfect hands, the top finishers emerged:

- 1st Place: Gary Parkhurst
- 2nd Place: John Dorr
- 3rd Place: Kirk Mc Vean

Competition was close throughout, with several games coming down to just a few points. The event's spirit was as much about camaraderie as competition — the group enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of cards, conversation, and Rocco's signature hospitality.

**John Kendrick**

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

Why did the man name is dogs Rolex and Timex?

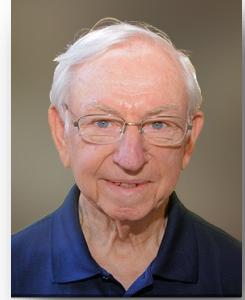
Because they're watch dogs!



## Party Bridge

### Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a high scoring game at the home of Max Hinkle on Monday November 3rd. As usual Max was a terrific host with delicious goodies and dessert. Those playing were **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Jim Stedman, Mike Whitaker and Bob Yolland**. See all in photo by Max Hinkle.



The highest scorers were **Bob Yolland** with 5930 points, **Bill Schaaf** with 5810 points and **Steve Dining** with 5,710 points. The average scores of the top three players who have posted 4 scores are: **Max Hinkle, Ray Spears and Jim Stedman**.

We have one more game to play this year to give us a chance to improve our average six-month scores. The next game will be hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dining** on December 1st at Boundary Oak.

Please let us know if you will play.

Co-Directors

Jim Stedman and Jim Pope.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

On Veterans Day, a beautiful fall afternoon, **Tony and Cindy Greco** hosted us. Nobody goes hungry at the Greco's, as they lay out a dining room table full of munchies, many of them healthy. Later in the evening **Cindy** added a delicious and festive pumpkin cheesecake.

Not only was it a day to celebrate veterans, but it was also a day to celebrate our many subs. We are grateful to **Penny Gray, Max and Ardith Hinkle, and Steve and Sue Lofton** for filling out our three tables.

No slams were bid, but on Board 4 two pairs made six in part score contracts. On Board 12, everyone got to 3 NT, making 5, 6 or 7. Unusual to get a bottom for making two overtricks. Everyone got to 4S on Board 19, making 6 or 7. Should we all be back at bidding school?

At the end of an enjoyable evening, **Tony and Cindy** were third (55%), **Max and Ardith Hinkle** were second (56%), and **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were first (64%).

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



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Our Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, November 7 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning** at Boundary Oak Golf Course.

**Bill Schaff** earned 1st place overall by 3 points-with 46.0 total- after winning both the lunchtime (by 5.5 points) and 1st Half (by 7.5 points!). Congratulations, **Bill!**

**Ed Marlovits** was 2nd with 43.0 points, tying for 3rd at lunchtime and taking 2nd for the 2nd Half.

**Christy DeVoe** was 3rd with 42.0 points, placing 2nd for the 1st Half and 4th for the 2nd Half.

**Max Hinkle** was 4th with 40.5 points, placed 3rd for the 2nd Half.

**Dick DeVoe**

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

People write "congrats" because they can't spell congrajulashins.



## Old Money Poker Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

Our game was nicely hosted by **Bruce Kimmis**. We had all seven regulars at the game.

While there were several notable winning hands, the one constant that kept winning several hands was a full-house. Most were natural and a few were with wild cards.

From my memory, **Steve Ybarra** was the player who had the most improved wallet after the game.

We meet on the first Thursday at **Melo Piccolo's** home in December.

**Brad Hatcher**

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



## Pinochle

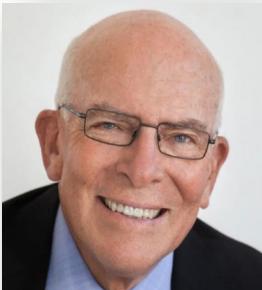
**Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson**

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**



## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

Due to the holidays, \$UMS in Retirement will just have one meeting in Nov and Dec. It will be on Wed Dec 10. Estate Attorney Anne Rosenthal will be our guest speaker.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174  
[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8  
[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

Remember when people used to have diaries and got mad when someone read them?

Now they put everything online and get mad when people don't.

# Parting Shot



*"If Santa isn't real, does that mean peace on earth and goodwill toward all is also a childish fantasy?"*

