



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

June—July 2025

Call



HAPPY 4th of JULY

— INDEPENDENCE DAY —



Big Sir's Corner Bob Ford

As summer heats up, so does our excitement for the next SIR luncheon. Mark your calendars for our July 10th meeting, where we'll be coming together to celebrate Independence Day — a time to honor the birth of our nation and reflect on the freedoms we hold dear. This month's theme is close to many of our hearts. With numerous members having proudly served in the armed forces we are reminded that the freedoms we celebrate were hard-won and bravely defended. To help set the

tone we encourage everyone to wear their favorite Fourth of July-themed attire — whether it's a bold American flag shirt, a red-white-and-blue cap, or those unmistakably patriotic suspenders you've been waiting to dust off. Let's fill the room with stars, stripes, and pride! The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be retired to join.

Warm Regards.

Bob Ford
Big Sir, Branch 146

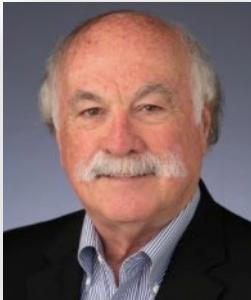
SIR Luncheon Thursday, July 10th, 2025 Boundary Oak 11:30

Dr. Donald Hanna,
US/Global macro-outlook
A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entrée
go to page 3. ([click Here!](#))

Activities for you and spouse...

- Calendar of Events [Page 12](#)
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Little Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

For our July Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have International Economist Dr. Donald Hanna, a member of the professional faculty at the Haas School of Business at the University of California Berkeley, and Managing Director of its Center for Growth Markets. Don has an insightful blend of both global, emerging market and Asia experience analyzing macroeconomic and policy developments, having done his first work on emerging markets while still in graduate school. Dr Hanna began his professional career with the World Bank working in Washington D.C. and Jakarta, Indonesia. He has managed macroeconomic teams for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, ending with Citi as their Deputy Chief Economist. In addition to sell-side experience, Dr. Hanna has worked on the buy-side providing macro market views to risk takers at two hedge funds.

Dr. Hanna received a PhD in Economics at Harvard University, and a BA, summa cum laude, in Economics and Spanish at Cal Berkeley. He is also a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Hanna is fluent in English, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesian. In his address to SIR146, he will discuss the US/Global macro-outlook: growth, inflation, the dollar, interest rates, the fiscal deficit and the impact of debt. Come prepared with your questions as this is going to be a very relevant and interesting discussion.

In subsequent months we will have the EMS Chief from the Contra Costa Fire Captain on life saving techniques, a Captain from the San Francisco Harbor Pilots, an executive from John Muir, a former Top Gun Pilot, and the Devil Mountain Chorus will return in December. The Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites and Myself** will keep you updated. We appreciate any suggestions for interesting speakers.

The Food Drive in May was beneficial to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, and thanks to all who remembered to donate. When coupled with SIR8 group, we provided more than a barrel of food contributions.

We will do this again in the future and look forward to your continued support.

The CPR Training Class on May 23rd was very successful, and we have now updated more than 110 individuals over the last year on current CPR techniques. We will organize additional sessions in the future as if one person is positively impacted, we will be very pleased. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR!

Thom Degnan
Little Sir, Branch 146

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.	

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**.



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Speaker Information

For our July Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have International Economist Dr. Donald Hanna. He will discuss the US/Global macro-outlook: growth, inflation, the dollar, interest rates, the fiscal deficit and the impact of debt.

Zelle: a new way to pay for Luncheons

Our branch is testing a new option to pay for lunch in advance using Zelle. Most US banks offer this service, free for our members and the branch. Of course, you can still pay with cash or check at registration, or by enrolling in our Annual Payer program.

To sign up for Zelle, use the attached QR code with your mobile phone. Once you've enrolled, please send your Zelle payments to sir146.treasurer@gmail.com. Please complete your reservation and Zelle payment (if paying by Zelle) by noon on Friday, the week before the luncheon. Please note that we cannot accept Zelle payments at the luncheon itself; only cash or checks will be accepted at that time. Also, Zelle payments are for the upcoming luncheon only and should not be used to pay for future events. Finally, be sure your Zelle payment is scheduled for delivery before noon on Friday.

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 links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com. Be sure to include your menu choice!

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, July 10th, 2025

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reserva-

tion. The menu makes it easy to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, July 4th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

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

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check-in.

Other matters

If you don't have email, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans?

If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to

Friday, July 4th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to 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.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** 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 July Luncheon

Thursday, July 10th, 2025

Salad

Southwest Salad. Romaine with Black Beans, Corn, Pico, Tortilla Chips and a Chipotle Ranch Dressing

Entrees

[Achiote Chicken](#)

Achiote Chicken with Rice and Beans, Sautéed Peppers and Onions, and a Lemon Cilantro Crema

[Achiote Cod](#)

Achiote Cod with Rice and Beans, Sautéed Peppers and Onions, and a Lemon Cilantro Crema

Vegetarian

Stuffed Bell Pepper with Spanish Rice and Lemon Cilantro Crema

Dessert

Tres Leches Cake

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.



Zelle®

PUT THE AUGUST LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Salad

Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins, Candied Walnuts with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

[Pesto Chicken](#)

Herbed Rice Pilaf and Asparagus

[Pesto Sole Roulade](#)

Herbed Rice and Asparagus

Vegetarian

Asiago Stuffed Gnocchi with Asparagus and Creamy Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Strawberry Tart

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.



Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

Last month I mentioned that one of our SIRCall staff is down... but not out. Our photographer, **Henry Thatcher**, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. He is doing fine and is attending some functions with the help of a cane.

We are indebted to **Rich Lyon** for filling in as our photographer for the Ladies' Day Luncheon as well as our June lunch. Fantastic job, Rich. Thank you!

Wishing everyone a great 4th of July. Happy Birthday to US!

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for August is noon on the 25th of July, however don't let that hinder you from turning in your submission earlier in the month!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor

Assistant Editor

Photographer

Proofreaders

Internet Posting

Clint Collier

Bob West

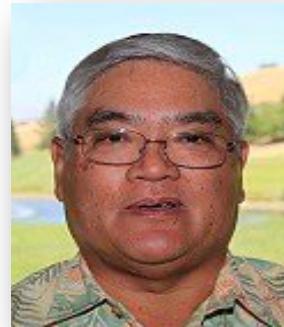
Henry Thatcher

Ron Polivka

Bruce Borgman

Frank Lucas

Ron Plachy



Membership

George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in June.

Joe Grady lives in Martinez with his wife **Zari**. He was a Property Manager for Home Rentz. He enjoys golf, wine tasting and poker. He is sponsored by **Don Shaw**.

Thomas "Tom" Fox lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Natalie**. He was a Manufacturers Rep. for Tomiko Inc. He really enjoys fishing, but also golf, skiing and travel. His sponsor is **Mike Davidson**.

Paul Tanzillo and his wife **Susan** live in Berkeley. He was a General Contractor for RSI. He enjoys golf and bocce. His sponsor is **Bill Schaaf**.

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.

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 member.

The 2025 membership count is **262**.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website 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) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

JULY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Terry Carlin	2019	6
Ken Soult	2018	7
Ken Studer	2018	7
Bob Wilkenfeld	2018	7
Ron Lew	2017	8
John Fitzgerald	2016	9
Steve Dinning	2015	10
Dick Firth	2015	10
John Elstead	2014	11
George Carpenter	2012	11
Brad Hatcher	2012	13
Robert Storkan	2010	15
Dennis Dale	2009	16
Bill Holly	2008	17
Pete Bishop	2007	18
Joe Lamanna	1999	26

July

John Alexander
 Don Arington
 Terry Carlin
 Salvatore Costanza
 Bob Ford
 Joe Fuchs
 Pete Gates
 John Harrington
 Craig Kauffman
 Steve Lane
 Edward Marlovits
 Jim Nelson
 Steve Sprague
 Calvin Tucker
 John Wilson
 Jim Saller
 Fletcher Tyler
 Glenn Breslin
 Roger Stephens
 Earl Bates
 CK Leung



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

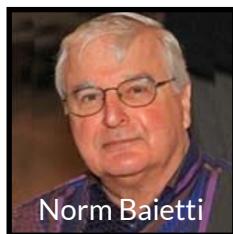
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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 or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

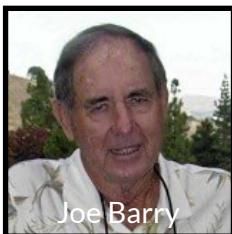
Stay Healthy.



Pat O'Keeffe



Norm Baietti



Joe Barry

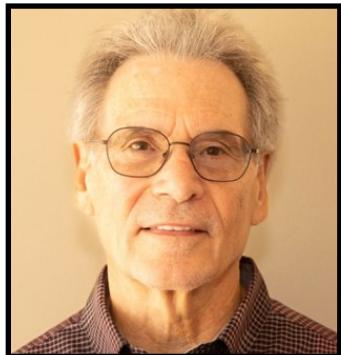


Photos by...

Rich Lyon



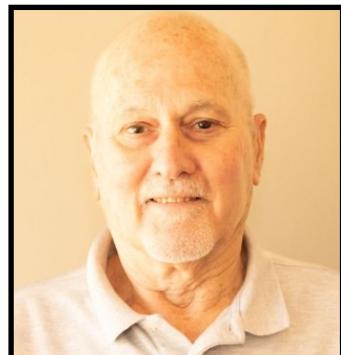
Welcoming Crew



Joe Grady



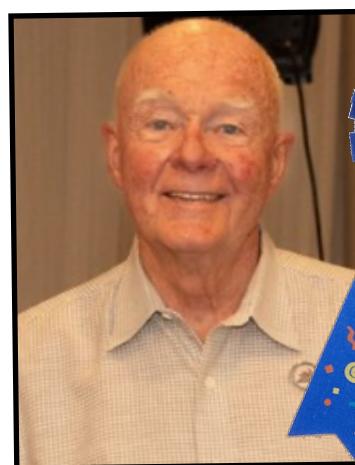
Paul Tanzillo



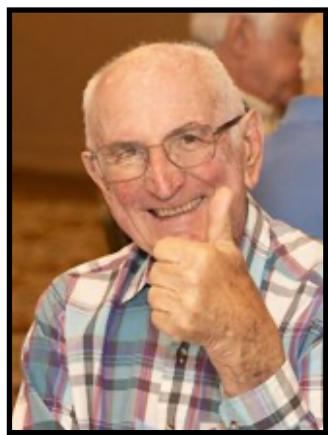
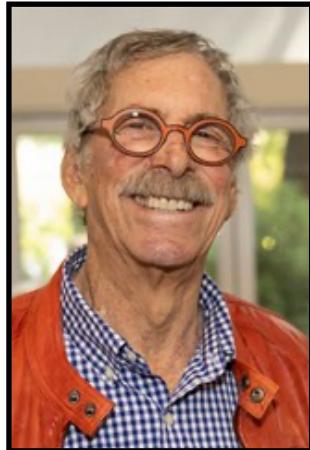
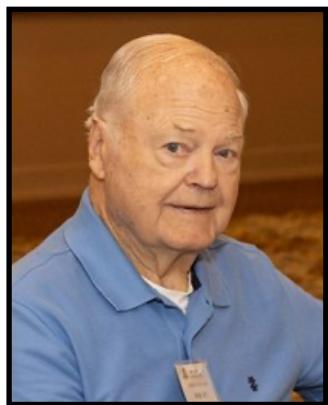
Tom Fox



Approved in May
Tony Astone



June
Ron Platchy







[Speaker Lloyd Gordon](#)



Make Friends for Life

NOTES

from Our Members

MTD 7 & 9 don't just play well together, they really enjoy each other's company
Bob Wilkenfeld.

With that in mind, the groups gathered, along with a few other SIR 146 members, on May 22nd for a private wine tasting at Total Wine in Pleasant Hill. The store manager, Frank, led us through a tasting of eight wonderful French wines and taught us much about the various wine growing regions in France. A great time was had by all!



AURACAST™

A BLUETOOTH® TECHNOLOGY

As an experiment I am now broadcasting our meetings in Auracast. If you have hearing aids that are compatible with this new technology you should be able to listen to our speakers directly through those aids, making them much more distinct and controlling the volume as you do your aids.

This is a Bluetooth technology so if you listen to music or answer your phone through an app on your phone linked to your aids you may be able to connect. Check with your audiologist to enquire about your aid's compatibility with this latest technology.

If your units are compatible you should see a Bluetooth option to listen to Auracast and, subordinate to that, the name of our broadcast which is BA210. Select it to connect.

Clint Collier



SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar July 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	Jul 1	2	3	4
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	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 12:30 pm Poker Group #6	10:00 am–2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
7	8	9	10	11
8:30 am Bocce Newell Park 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 WC Library	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 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00 am–10:45 am BEC Meeting 11:30 am–1:30 pm SIR Luncheon	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
14	15	16	17	18
10:00 am Hiking 11:30 am–1:30 pm Cooking II 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00 am Golf	1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45 pm–10:00 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30 am Nine Hole Golf MTD 5 Cinco	9:00 am–11:00 am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00 am–3:00 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 pm–3:30 pm MTD 10 Diez 7:00 pm–10:00 pm MTD 4 Quattro
21	22	23	24	25
8:30 am Bocce Newell Park 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown WC Library 5:00 pm Couple Dining Out Creekside Grill Rossmoor	9:00 am Golf 2:30 pm–5:00 pm Wine Tasting	12:30 pm–3:30 pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30 pm–3:30 pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30 am–9:30 am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf Noon August SIRCall articles due	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 2 Dos 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 3 Tres
28	29	30	31	Aug 1
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			10:00 am–2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



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 on the right side of the webpage.

Description	Totals
Total Activities	50
Total Co-Ed Activities	31
Percent Co-Ed Activities	62%
Total Unique Activities	28
BR146 activities shared with other branches	13
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	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

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

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



June 5th was the second Vets' lunch. We met at the Back Forty and had 14 guys. Two speakers showed up as well. Lunch was great, the stories told were memorable. Fun to see and hear veterans from our own SIR group talk about their military lives. What great Americans. Every one took the same pledge to defend our great country from evil people. All branches of the military were present. Proud to be a part of this group of real Americans.

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030

larrykaye2@comcast.net



Veterans Larry Kaye



Bocce John Kendrick

Finally, the World famous 2025 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity officially started on Monday, May 12. Unfortunately, Mother Nature made a statement providing rain that cancelled our first meeting.

As a reminder, the Bocce Ball courts are located near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Bocce Ball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September. Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

The flat earth society has members all around the globe.



Book Corner Paul Kersis

The Book Corner will return in July. We have a terrific selection for you.



Travel Glenn Breslin

GOOD NEWS !!! Vietnam/Cambodia Trip Update: 12 SIRs are going. Only **2 slots** now available. Please inform if you are interested, before this trip sells out. See below for details.

New Trip Announced: Many SIR members have mentioned interested in going to **CUBA** on 3/12/26 for a 7-day tour. If you are interested, then please let me know glennbreslin@gmail.com. Trip details will be sent to all SIR members during June.

Vietnam/ Cambodia	Australia/New Zealand	Japan/Korea	Cuba
<p>10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695-With Economy Airfare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available• Click here for details• Group code is G5-30339	<p>1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available• Click here for details• Group code is G6-30339	<p>4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/\$9095-With Economy Airfare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiroshima post-trip available• Click here for details• Group code is G6-30339	<p>3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare already included)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immersion into culture and history• Five-star lodging• All meals but one included• All tours included• Click here for details

TRAVEL NOTES

1. If interested, in any of these trips, please ask Glenn Breslin for the current Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) discounts.
3. All 2026 reservations by 6/15/25 will be *price-protected* against any OAT future price increases over the year.

Travel Quotes:

“A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.”

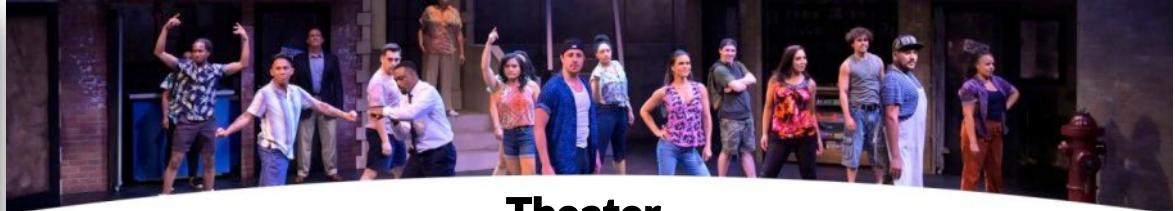
“A good friend listens to your adventures. Your best friend makes them with you.”

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

.Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Shows – Do Not Send Money Yet – Save the Dates – Lesher Theater

Women in Black Sat 11/15/25 2:30 pm

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-woman-in-black>

The second longest play in the history of London's West End, The Woman in Black is the chilling theatrical event that has kept over seven million theatergoers on the edge of their seats for more than 30 years.



Lost In Yonkers Sun 4/5/26 2:30 pm

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/lost-in-yonkers>

Hailed as "Simon's most affecting works" (The New York Times), this multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Lost In Yonkers won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades.

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below.

Lesher announces **new shows** during June. Look for some new SIR show announcements in June or July.

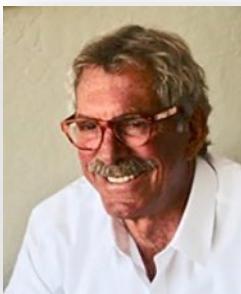
I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

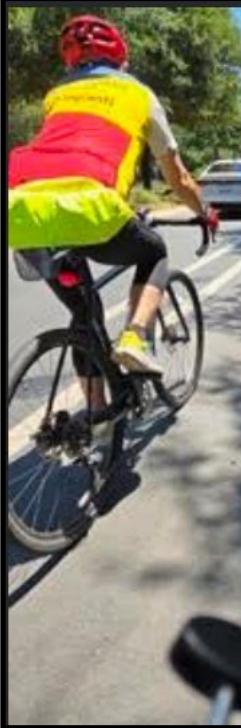


What is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

One you see later, the other will see you in a while.



Cycling Group Larry Kaye



May 27th: Ten hearty souls headed out this lovely day for a ride. While out on the road a ways it was discussed that the wind seemed to be increasing. We took a Poll and then decided it was not a good idea to go out as far as originally planned. The wind was known to shift and be in your face on the return trip. Some of us remembered that experience. So we went for java. **Bob Wilkenfeld** had homemade Zucchini bread for us. Java and a treat and we headed back. Today we had : **Bob Wilkenfeld, Dave Paulson, Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Bill Holly, Elmer Bricca, Ken Studer, Jim Rowland, Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye**. Better to go to the gym then sit on one's ass.

June 17: Great weather , no wind, sunny mild wow. Today we went to the Tassajara school site and enjoyed the backroads, the old school site and the history of this place. We had a large group today made up of: **Brian Lotter, Bob Wilkenfeld, Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Bob Lucido, Jim Crites, Jim Rowland, Ken Studer, Phil Lee, Larry Kaye** and a visitor from SIR Moraga, **Mike Schoup**.



On the way back one of the guys hit a nasty bump and took a fall. He is OK but has some road rash. We all over time have had this happen.

Great ride with a super group. Fresh air, sweat, and friends, a great way to enjoy life. Get off your duff.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030

Today we had: **Elmer Bricca, Bill Holly, Jim Crites, Bob Lucido, Phil Lee, Brian Totter, Dave Paulson, and Larry Kaye**. The goal was to get to Geppettos Cafe and meet

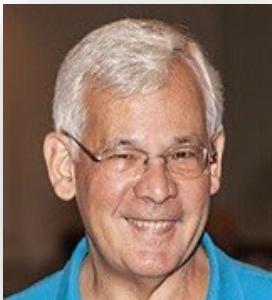


Bill Ross. Some of us did. **Elmer** got lost looking for **Phil** who was at the Cafe, and the rest made it. Hot Java and pastries did the job. Heading back **Bob Lucido** lost power in his shifter battery. So as we got closer to Lafayette where his bike shop was, he took off. The rest of us headed back to our steel machines. Heck of a ride. Just shows you what a regimen of exercise does for you no matter what your age. Get up. Get out the door.

TOURIST MAP OF AUSTRALIA



- AREA WHERE THINGS ON LAND CAN KILL YOU.
- AREA WHERE THINGS IN THE WATER CAN KILL YOU.
- BOTH.



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs sang a program that was a mix of Summer-time and patriotic songs for a June 13 performance at the Kensington Retirement Home in Walnut Creek. We sang such favorites as "Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer", "Beyond The Sea" and Battle Hymn of The Republic."

The residents sang along and gave us many compliments afterwards. Best of all, the activity director said we could come back anytime for another show.

Our next rehearsal is on July 16, 2025 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be working on an Autumn program for an October gig.

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



Peter Plante
pcplant-e109@gmail.com



Peter Plante, Ken Soult, Bruce Borgman, Brad Hatcher, Bud Pearce, Mike Ball, Frank Lucas, Paul Beretz, Bruce Kimmis, Steve Dinning



Brad Hatcher, Bruce Kimmis, Mike Ball, Bud Pearce, Frank Lucas, Bruce Borgman, Ken Soult



Gardening Ken Studer

Our June meeting was at the home of Jan Egan. It was a perfect day to be outdoors and observe an irrigation system designed just for her beautiful garden. She explained how they removed the lawn by sheet

mulching, installed the irrigation with inline emitters and planted natives (see photo). Her back yard demonstrated raised bed vegetable planting with drip irrigation and she showed off her greenhouse and her propagation techniques.

Then we learned how to repair sprinklers, valves, drip leaks and the tools we need. We learned that the Moisture Meter is your best friend and to water deeply and less often. There were lots of misunderstandings about irrigation and we had lots of questions. **Bev Collier, Bobbie Schmidt, Mike Kimball, Ellen Breslin, Bob Lucido, Jan Egan and Ken Studer** attended.



Our July meeting will be about fertilizer and understanding its role in the soil..

Ken Studer

925.963.2536, klstuder1161@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

Hi everyone. I wanted to share this recent photo of the 9-Hole golf crew. Why don't you come out and join us? 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



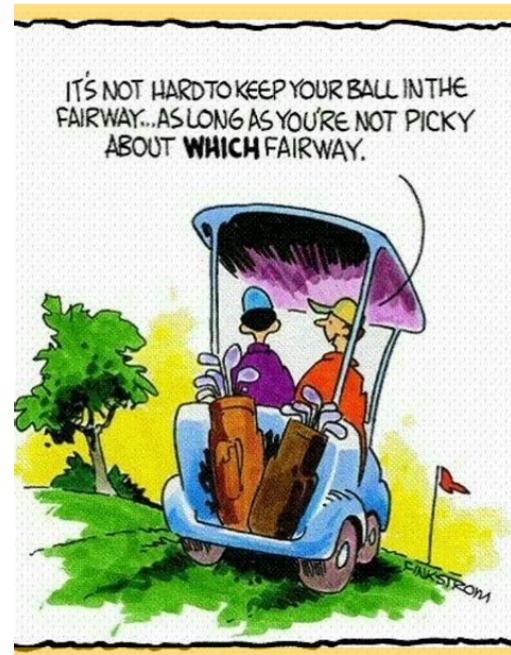
Tuesday Golf

Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play 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 branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. This year has nine scheduled State events which are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

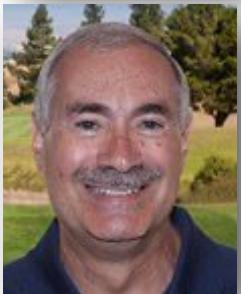
Ed Marlovits





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

The June 2nd hike was at Pleasanton Ridge. Earl Bates, Gene Schulting and Ray Martz enjoyed a 4-mile outing with 700-feet of elevation gain. They stopped in the Olive grove to picnic in the shade.



We had a great hike in Anthony Chabot Regional Park on Monday, June 9th. The group of hikers included **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Ray Martz, Bob Mason, Gene Schulting**, and a special guest, all the way from Ohio, former member **Mike Browne**. We were not the only “old goats” in the regional park! The hike was 5 miles with an elevation gain of 640 feet, and included a leisurely 35-



minute lunch break.



The hike in Briones Regional Park on June 16th wasn't too long but had steep climbs. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Bob, Karen and Winny Lively, Ray Martz, Bob Mason, new member Gary Parkhurst and Bob Wilkenfeld** headed out from the Bear Creek Staging Area for the 4.3 mile hike with 700 feet of climbing. We dodged ticks in the tall grass to enjoy lunch under the shade of two old, twisted Cedar trees. And speaking of young at heart... a very happy 87th birthday to **Gene Schulting**... long may he continue to tear up and down the trails of the East Bay!

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 2nd 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
Bob Wilkenfeld
Wilkx4@gmail.com





AREA 16

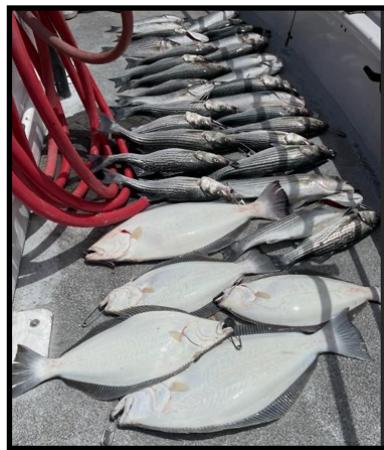
Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The salmon are back! In last month's article, we reported that there will be six or seven periods of three to five days each between June and October where one can fish for salmon in the ocean. Two of those periods are behind us and **Carl Moyer** was the first to try his luck. He boated three of the beauties. Since the limit is two, he had to release one of his fish. Oddly, there may be too many fish out there. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has limited the total catch between June and the end of August to 7000 fish. There were lots of fish caught during the two June periods and if this pattern persists, the August periods could be cancelled. Our group has several August outings planned and they will be affected by a premature closure. Incidentally, there is no break or limit on river fishing, which should heat up by mid-August. However, given that guides on the river have much smaller boats, most openings have been filled and you will probably need your own boat (or find a friend with a boat) if you want to fish the rivers.

Of course, there are other fish in the ocean. **George Vogt, Gordon Linebaugh, and Carl Moyer** limited on rockfish and lingcod. **Gordon**, who celebrated his 90th birthday in February, did the best, landing two large lingcod.

San Francisco Bay remains productive. **Cleo Bolen, Eric Finson, Sam Oommen, Jim Rowland** and yours truly made their first trip ever on the Oakland Anglers II and limited out on halibut and stripers. They also caught a couple of sand sharks. **Eric** just missed winning the jackpot (\$70) for the largest fish with a halibut in excess of 10 lbs. But I had the most fun. I hooked a bat ray and brought him all the way to the boat after a 20-minute fight. The captain cut the line when I got it to the boat because he did not want to handle the fish. He estimated it weighed about 100 lbs., which would make it the largest fish that I have hooked in California after 55 years of



fishing here.

By the way, one does not go hungry on the Oakland Anglers II. There is a chef on board and you can get a tasty breakfast burrito or a cheeseburger for \$12, among other things. **Ron Lew** also fished in the Bay on his boat and limited on halibut, with a few sand sharks thrown in.

Over in the Delta, **Tom Kostik, Ron Lew, Ken Bellendir, Mike Corker, Harry Sherinian, and Matt Richards** all came home with black bass and stripers. Tom also picked up a pair of catfish.

Trout fishing in the Bay Area reservoirs has been poor. **Ray Pixton** caught a few trout in Contra Loma Reservoir, but **Eric Finson** was skunked at Lake Del Valle and **Phil Scimonelli** met a similar fate at Contra Loma.

Members of the group also traveled to venues outside of the Bay Area on fishing expeditions. **Steve Paulick** limited on brown trout at Bucks Lake. **Ken Bellendir** had an interesting day at Clear Lake. He caught a nice mix of catfish, black bass, and crappie. At the same time, there was a catfish tournament on the lake and some of the catfish that were caught weighed up to 25 lbs. **Tom Kostik** made his annual trip to Pinecrest Lake and boated six trout. He also caught a pair of 6 lb. black bass. **Matt Richards** fished with four others on the Sacramento River and limited out.

Our next two breakfast meetings are scheduled for June 26 and July 24 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. 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.

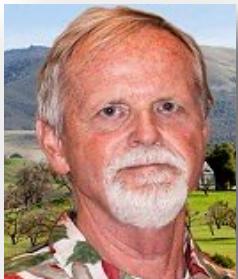
Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Jim Rowland

What does a librarian take when she goes fishing?

A bookworm.



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members of SIR Branch 146 will meet on Friday, July 18th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting will start at 9:00 am. All are certainly welcome to attend.

Members of the photography group: **Phil Lee, Larry McAllister, and Moose Kelly** descended on the San Francisco Carnaval parade in the Mission. This event is really interesting with a vast array of marching bands, low rider cars, and great street scenes to photograph. The three of us spanned out to photograph the preparation of the marchers as they assembled, the actual parade itself, and the post parade party. I have attached a few photos on the Carnaval shoot. A **HUGE** thanks to **Phil Lee** for leading this particular photography shoot for the branch. It was an **OUTSTANDING** event to attend as well as to photograph. **WAY TO GO PHIL!!!!**

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

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

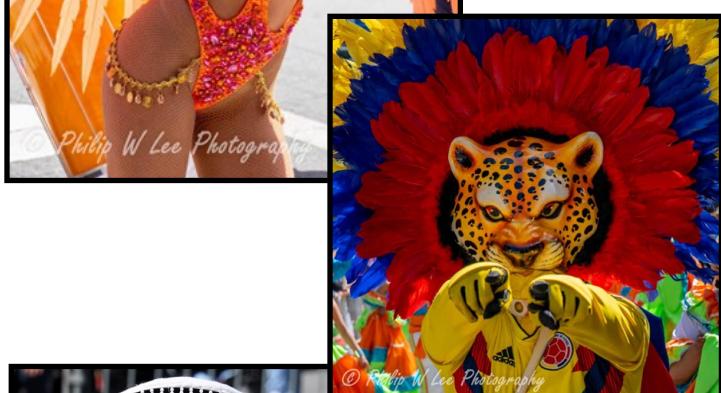
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





Book Group Nick Jabuka

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray's "The Personal Librarian" compellingly explores Belle da Costa Greene's complex life and her rise to become the celebrated librarian for the formidable J.P. Morgan; the Morgan name, wealth, and its societal influence are central to her story. Beyond her achievements, the novel profoundly examines race, identity, and the crushing end of black progress after Reconstruction.

The novel poignantly shows black women's immense difficulties during Belle's era. Belle, daughter of Richard T. Greener, Harvard's first black graduate, emerged from Reconstruction's fragile hope for a rising black middle class. However, the cruel suppression of these aspirations under Jim Crow and white supremacy forced her mother to make a devastating choice by insisting that the family "pass" as white. This act of erasure was a desperate bid for survival and a future in a society set on crushing their racial ambitions.

"The Personal Librarian" masterfully details this deception's harrowing personal and psychological costs. Belle's fabricated identity became a soul-eroding performance. While it granted access to elite worlds and her powerful role, this success was built on a lie, isolating her from her heritage. The fear of exposure caused each triumph to be accompanied by guilt, rage, and a longing for genuine connection. Her intellect and ambition notwithstanding, Belle's success hinged on denying her black womanhood, a painful daily paradox where perceived whiteness was her only shield. Perhaps, most poignantly, the denial of her racial identity forced Belle to avoid marriage and bearing children because she feared that her child's skin color would not be as light as hers.

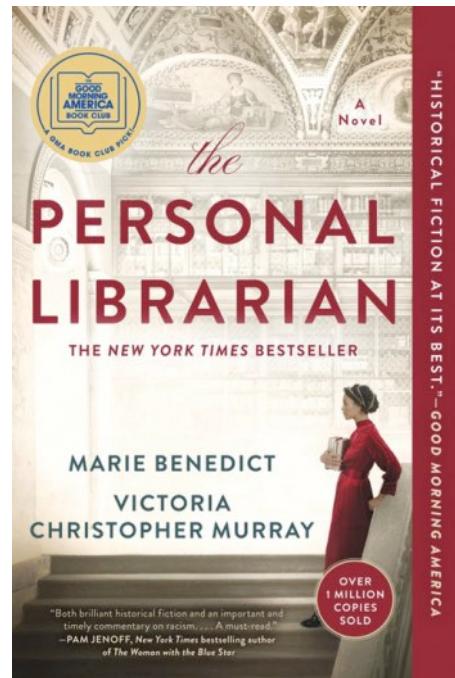
The Gilded Age's opulence and inequality provide a stark stage for Belle's precarious existence as she navigates the rarefied world of art and book acquisitions. Though immense, her triumphs in building Morgan's collection are tinged with the melancholy of her secret, forcing readers to confront the era's refusal to acknowledge a brilliant, ambitious black woman.

The narrative voice and themes are deeply rooted in a feminine perspective and that of a person of color in a

hostile world. Its language and emotional core intimately convey Belle's struggle from this viewpoint. While offering a rich, underrepresented perspective, this distinct lens shapes the storytelling, which may not resonate with all readers.

"The Personal Librarian" transcends the biographical novel, powerfully commenting on racism's enduring legacy, lost potential, and resilience against historical injustice. It is a moving tribute to Belle da Costa Greene's greatness and the magnificent Morgan Library she helped create. It is also a somber reflection on the unfair price paid for opportunity. The book vitally reminds us of the human cost when progress is reversed, and the courage needed to navigate a fractured world.

We recommend the book because it provides valuable insight into what it feels to be a member of a minority group subject to unfair discrimination. It should also be particularly for someone interested in the roles of women and minorities at the beginning of the 20th century or the development of a great institution like the Morgan Library and Museum. Our next meeting, on June 30th, will include a discussion of "American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America" by Colin Woodard.



Mike Rothman along with Paul Dubow editing for....

Nick Jabuka, Chair – Mike Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 njabuka@yahoo.com



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met this month at **Bruce Borgman's** home on a beautiful Bay Area afternoon. The group first gathered on **Bruce's** patio for appetizers and were greeted by a guest, a mother robin had a nest in the umbrella under which the group enjoyed appetizers of Brie, nuts, and a goat cheese roll with honey, fig and pistachios. She was not deterred by our presence, but was happy to see us adjourn inside for the main course. **Bruce** then served the group a fabulous Summer minestrone soup of leeks, celery, bell pepper, squash, beans, orzo with

Parmesan and basil. Next up, Shrimp Louie with homemade Louie dressing, tomatoes, egg and avocado. For dessert, lemon bars and strawberry-lemon bars. The group will meet next month on July 14, at **Steve Ybarra's** home.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

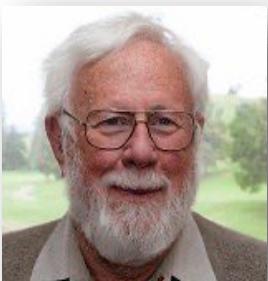
The next Wine Tasting is set for Tuesday, July 22, at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. The tasting begins at 2:30 and goes until 5:00. We have selected Rose as the red wine and Chablis as the white wine. Whether you've selected red or white, please make sure your wine is chilled. We look forward to seeing you.

The wine tastings are very popular and we usually end up having a wait list. Please note that the sign-ups filled up very quickly this time. We currently have a wait list. So, if you haven't yet signed up for this tasting and would like to come, you will be added to the wait list. Usually there are some who are unable to come in the end so we are able to move to the wait list. We are sorry but since the wine tastings are held at members' homes, the number of guests varies based on location.

For those who are coming, make sure your wine is chilled and don't forget your appetizer.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com





寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

This month's gathering of the sushi group was different in many ways. We invited our spouses to join us and we moved from a lunch time meeting to an early evening dinner. And off we went to Sasa, considered by many as Walnut Creek's best Japanese Izakaya.

And they did not disappoint. Nine of us gathered in their outside dining area to enjoy sushi and other Japanese dishes and the overall verdict was that, although pricy, the food was excellent. Two of the more interesting orders of the evening was their stone cooked steak, a sliced, just grilled on the outside, steak sliced in to thin pieces that you "cooked" on an accompanying hot (like 500°+) stone, and a Ama-Ebi. Most people are familiar with cooked shrimp in Japanese food in tempura, udon, and so on. Ama-Ebi is true sushi, prepared raw shrimp with the head removed and fried "tempura style". The latter is crisp and crunchy reminding one of crisp bacon when eaten.



Overall consensus of everyone was that this was a place we need to visit again!

Our next get together will be in August. Check the August SIRCall, out in late July, for information. For now, save the date, August 21st.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Group luncheon for June was hosted by **Bob Spellman** in the spacious backyard of his home.

The weather was perfect for this outdoor get-together. Only five guys were available this time, including the newest member, **Jim Pope**, but all agreed it was a great,

A relaxing few hours with a good selection of wines, good food and good friends. **Bob** provided some tasty appetizers followed by a meal of grilled burgers with all the fixin's. The finale was perfect for the warm day after a big meal, "Drumstick" ice cream cones.

Meanwhile, **Phyllis Meehan** had arranged for the ladies to meet at the "Chicken Pie Shop" in Walnut Creek.

Clint and Bev Collier are hosting the group next month in the form of a July Fourth Backyard BBQ. An event that we are all looking forward to.

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com

My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables.

That's right...Jack and the beans talk.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

CASA ORINDA
RESTAURANT

We were able to describe our May Couples Dining Out event in the last SIRCall but were only able to include one picture, since we missed the deadline for the SIRCall – all you were able to see the one picture of **Mary McCarthy** proudly presenting the most popular entrée of the evening, the Fried Chicken. So – here we will include a few other pictures.



CREEKSIDE GRILL

.Now, for the details of our July Dining Out event. As we mentioned in last month's article, we had made tentative arrangements to have our next event at the Creekside Grill – the full service restaurant and bar at Rossmoor. We had agreed with

the restaurant manager that we would have our usual three course dinner on Monday, July 21. To start, we would have a classic Caesar salad, followed by a choice of four entrees. This would include their signature Prime Rib Au Jus, or you may elect one of the other three entrees – Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon or a vegetarian Eggplant with Polenta. For dessert, we will have Red Velvet Cake with house made whipped cream and fresh strawberries. Also included is a choice of coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. The total cost for this dinner will be just \$55 including tax and gratuity.

We will have the dinner in the Fairview Room which overlooks the fairway with grand views in a country club setting. We will also have the use of the adjoining patio and therefore we decided to extend the no host cocktail / social hour to start at 5:00pm, with dinner at 6:15pm. You may sit out on the patio or our reserved Fairway Room as you enjoy a cocktail, while chatting with your friends. You may even wish to order an appetizer – again, on your own, of course. The wines are also reasonably priced, and the corkage is just \$25.

We thought we would limit the attendance to just 56 (tables of 8), but we quickly exceeded that number. We are now up to 68 diners, and I am pleased that we will be able to accommodate all those – but this is our total at this point.

Parking is relatively plentiful – next to the restaurant or just across the driveway next to the Events Center. For those who have signed up, send in your check to confirm your attendance to me at 3611 Winchester Pl., WC 94598, with your choice of entrée.

This will be one of our best Dining Out events, I'm sure. We are looking forward to seeing all of you!

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com

"Is this the help line for alcoholics?"

"Yes, how can I help you."

"How do I make a Mojito?"

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Mexican Train Uno was hosted by **Peter and Gabriela Bishop** on Friday the 13th of June. As we had a shortage of players, we had one table of 7. This made for a much more challenging evening as there were many more opportunities for others to disrupt one's astute planning. I am not sure if it was the number of players at the table, or that it was Friday the 13th. In addition, a crowded playing field made knowing whose train was whose or even "have I started a train?" was problematic at times. For one game, **Peter Bishop** had a high score of 124, which did not include the double blank (so, many tiles)! Actually he suspects others were slipping him tiles while he was busy tallying up the scores.

Despite the challenges of the game, the crowded table made for lots of laughs and for a fun evening.

The big winner was **Richard Hockenbrock** (a pro Mexican Train competitor) with **Martha Plante**

2nd and **Virginia Tygart** 3rd.

Corrie Oranje

corrieoranje@gmail.com



Winners:
**Virginia, Richard and
Martha**

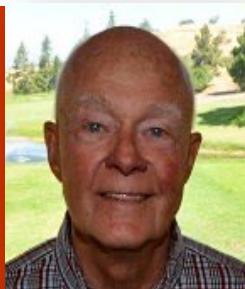


Martha Plante
Gabriela Bishop
Bruce Borgman



Tallying scores
Peter Bishop,
Richard Hockenbrock
Virginia Tygart,
Peter Plante,
Gabriela Bishop

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" **Ron Plachy**

We played at the home of **Anne and Ron Plachy** in May. Attending were **Clint** and **Bev Collier**, **Loren** and **Marlene DeLaurenti**, **Dan** and **Mary Holland**, **Kirk** and **Nancy McVean**, **John** and **Nancy Pearl**, and **Ron and Anne Plachy**.

One table dominated the evening with all three winners. **Bev Collier** was first with a 15.1 average. **Nancy McVean** was a first-time winner with an 18.0 average for second. **Ron Plachy** came in third with a 19.0.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, June 27th at the home of **Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti**.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 riplachy@icloud.com



MTD Winners (L to R): Ron Plachy 3rd, Nancy McVean 2nd, Bev Collier 1st.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, May 23rd at the home of **Linda & Larry Brown** in Clayton Hills. The ole Friday special huffed and puffed its way through the valleys and the hills of Walnut Creek to the Brown's doorstep. Gathering around the two tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily, Linda & Larry Brown and Joyce Wells & Jim Barry**. Linda & Larry are always wonderful hosts who shower us with table treats and very delicious half-time fare.

Bringing her quality game and taking home 1st place and bragging rights was **Joyce Wells** who dominated with an avg. score of 7.75 pg. Both **Linda Brown & Judy Richmond** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd place respectively, showing off their MTD skills to the rest of the group. We had fun, we chatted a lot, and very much

enjoyed the afternoon.

We always say our goodbyes, quietly board the ole Mexican Train and follow the sun home.

We are not meeting in June.

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

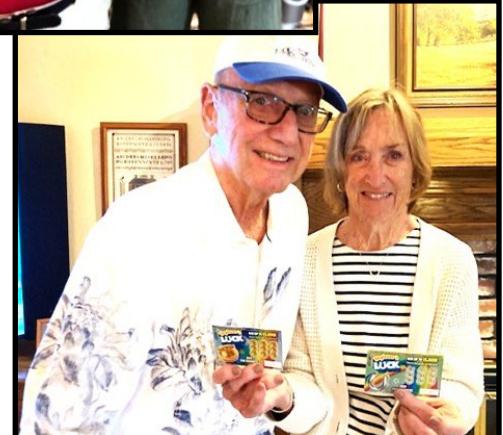


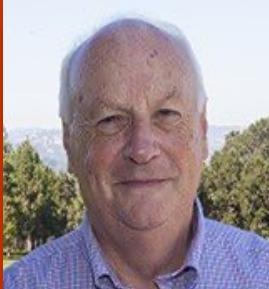
Mexican Train Dominoes “Cuatro” Jim Pope

On June 20th, the El Cuatro Mexican Train dominos group met at Jim and Renie Pope's home with 10 players. In

attendance this evening were **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Jonathan and Barbara Korfhage, Rich and Kim Pace Steve and Susan Oki, and Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed MTD while consuming the outstanding snacks provided by several of the members and some wine. We played at two tables of 5. We paid the player at each table of 5 with low table score; 5 California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the lowest table scores were **Steve Oki and Kim Pace**. There were two high score players which were two returning El Cuatro MTD members: **Jonathan and Barbara Korfhage**. They received one Lotto ticket each. (see in pictures). The El Cuatro MTD group will meet on July 18th. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

Jim Pope
jpop24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

On Thursday June 19th 2925, Anne and Jim Burk hosted our gathering.

Players were greeted with wine, soft drinks and numerous tasty snacks.

Joan and Dave Pierce were unable to attend, as they were enjoying a visit with family on the East Coast. Also missing was **Janet Yolland** to whom everyone sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

After enjoying a brief period of catching up, the players moved to their respective ladies and men’s table to begin the games.

After six games, once again (no surprise !!) the ladies provided the overall winner, **Anne Burk** with a score of 70. However, the men did show some courage and fortitude by claiming second and third places with scores of 77 and 94 by **Bob Yolland** and **Dennis Hallett** respectively,

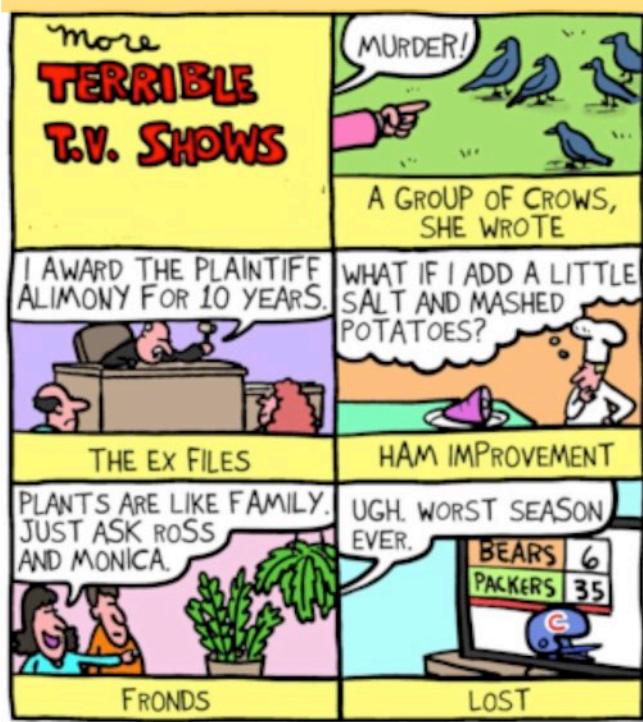
During the mid-session break, **Anne** served a delicious fruit pie and vanilla ice cream with coffee. The men then discussed why **Bob Yolland** got the largest slice of

pie and concluded it must have been his gentlemanly manners.

A wonderful evening, full of laughs, was had by all. What more could we wish for!

Our next gathering will be hosted by **Ann and Dennis Hallett** on Thursday July 17th 2025

Dennis Hallett
dennishallett@astound.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

On May 14th, Clint & Bev Colliers hosted our MTD 7 event.

Bob West took first place, Mary McCarthy placed second and Clint the host for the evening came in third.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

It was a wonderful evening for playing Mexican Train at outpost # 8 or as the Spanish like to say, OCHO. Medical issues and

traveling by some of our regular members opened the need for four more people. These substitute slots were filled by Tony & Cindy Greco and Joe & Chris Flannigan bringing our total for the evening to seventeen players. Those 17 players each put \$3 in a pot that added up to \$51. \$2 is subtracted for two of the highest point total players who get a California lottery scratcher. The remaining \$49 is then awarded to 1st place ($0.6 \times \$49 = \29), 2nd place is awarded ($0.3 \times \$49 = \15) and 3rd place clears out the pot at ($0.1 \times \$49 = \5).

Getting down to specifics, Steve Ybarra came in as the 1st place winner with an average score of 6.7. He was followed by Glenn Breslin in 2nd place with an average score of 12.1, and in 3rd place was Tony Greco with an average score of 17.2.

A variety of delicious snacks were provided by Victoria & Ron Polivka, in fact many made by Victoria herself. Our next get-together will be Wednesday, July 2nd with Steve & Sue Loftin scheduled to host.

Richard Hockenbrock
[925.324.1713](tel:925.324.1713) rjhock@outlook.com



MTD 8 winners (L to R): Steve Ybarra, 1st, Glenn Breslin 2nd, Tony Greco 3rd.

Old age has come at a bad time, just as I was beginning to know everything, I'm now forgetting everything I knew.

Thought for Today...
If you identify a UFO does it become a FO?
If it lands does it become an O?



Mexican Train Dominos “Nueve” Bob Lucido

On May 21st, 8 of us met at the lovely house of **Dale** and **Mary Ellen Dalgaard**.

We had the **Dalgaard's**, **Wilkenfeld's**, **Kingsbury's** and the **West's**. The other 4 of our group were at the Couples Dining out in Orinda.

A fabulous time was had by all. We seemed to be searching for the need for conversation, and were all gathered in the **Dalgaard's** backyard by the fishpond, where at least one bass was jumping. Nestled under the stars the men were chatting and considering which stars to buy for their wife, while the women were catching up. We had great refreshments and of course our wine.

We were having so much fun that we delayed starting the dominos as we really preferred talking.

Eventually we dragged ourselves inside and started playing, and after the break finished.

Dale was of course the consummate host, but he had not played dominos in a while and thrashed all challengers with a very low average score of 5.5. **Bob West** came in second with 10.4 average score, and **Dave Kingsbury** was 3rd with an average score of 16.

We then gathered ourselves together and successfully made it out to our awaiting chariots, to head back to our gladiator quarters to prepare for next month's challenges.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



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

In May, Mexican Train Dominos “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Dean Mayer** and **Jenny Becker** in their beautiful home in Moraga. The May winners were **Cleo Bolen**, **Jenny Becker** and **Barbara Petersen** with consolation prizes going to **Dean Mayer** and **Glenn Breslin**.



We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be June 20th at the home of **Mark and Barbara Sorum**. 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

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from May 9th and 23rd.

The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** with 4 wins and **Ron Polivka** with 3. **Bill Vizza** and **Norman Cox** each had 3 2nd. The lowest average scorers were **Steve Ybarra** with 39 and **Bob Haber** with 42. **Norman Cox** and **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** each had 1 STM's.

YTD: **Steve Ybarra** has the most wins with 12 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 11 and **Frank Lucas** with 9.

Our seasoned warriors with the highest winning percentage of active players are **Steve Ybarra** with 43% and **Jim Passaglia** with 34%.

Ron Polivka leads in YTD 2nd with 10 and **Steve Ybarra** has 9.

Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 46.1 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.9.

Steve Ybarra leads in STM's with 6, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 5.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be June 27th and July 11th and July 25th.

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

Co-Directors
Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**

robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Tony and Cindy Greco hosted our June 3rd event. We thank **Max and Ardith Hinkle** for subbing for **John and Kathy Kluesener**. It was an afternoon of record setting scores, but not the good kind.

The second and third place total scores of 1990 and 1980 where the lowest ever recorded, and the first-place score of 2770 almost beat the all time low of 2650 set last November. Things could have been different if 2 couples bid lay down Grand Slams instead of a mere game. This happened in round 2 at the same table. To protect the guilty, no names will be mentioned, but one of the couples was the host and the other ones know who they are. I will also not reveal which partner had 18 points with their partner opening, but they too know who they are! Common practice is that when your partner opens and you have 18 points you should immediately consider pursuing a small or grand slam. Oh well, maybe next time.

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 2700 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**

2nd PLACE with 1990 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**

3rd PLACE with 1980 points - **Max and Ardith Hinkle**

Our next event will be held on July 1st and hosted by **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**.

Have a great Independence Day weekend!

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our May game was at the home of **Mark Sorum** on May 19. No one went home hungry as there was ample food and drink for all. We had 6 players and enjoyed a wide variety of games with various versions of 7 card stud and 7/27 being the more popular. We also played a couple of new games – criss cross and 2/22.

Games are usually 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.

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

I went to the paint store to get thinner.
It didn't work.



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30pm.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8
davesutn@comcast.net



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

On June 2nd, We had a spirited game at the home of **Mike Davidson** who was a wonderful host for the last game of our six-month contest. Many good snacks and a welcoming warm patio that we all enjoyed. The players were: **Ray Bland**, **Mike Davidson**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Max Hinkle**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Ray Spears** and **Jim Stedman**.

The high scorers for the day were **Jim Stedman** with 7680 points, **Max Hinkle** with 5730 points and **Joe Fuchs** with 4980 points.

And ten players played in 4 out of six games in January-June to qualify for the highest average scores in the six-month contest. The high 6-month average scorer winners were **Jim Stedman** with an average score for the four games of 5340 points, **Joe Fuchs** with 5025 points and **Steve Dinning** with 4878 points.

Jim Stedman had an unbelievable day on June 2nd. He had very good cards every round. And his partners played well which helped him achieve the highest six-month high average score.

The next Party Bridge game will be on **July 7th** and **Jim Stedman's** at The Waterford in Rossmoor.

Please let **Jim Stedman** know if you would like to play.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).





Poker Group 8

Carmelo "Melo" Piccolo

On May 19th, our games were at the home of **Mark Sorum**. **Mark** was a great host and there was ample food and drink for all. We had 7 players and enjoyed a

wide variety of games with 7/27 being the most popular.

By the end of the night the money was noticeably tilted in the corner where **Carmelo Piccolo** and **Mark Sorum** were sitting. **Carmelo** had 2 hands of five of a kind including one with 5 aces! His other five of a kind took down **Mark's** straight flush for a huge pot!

Games are usually scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages.

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.

Melo Piccolo

925.963.5909 erpeggio@astound.net

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated.
She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

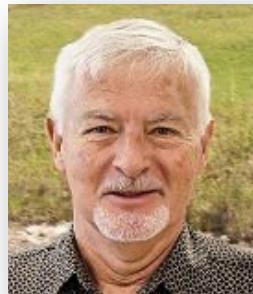


SIR State Information

<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!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

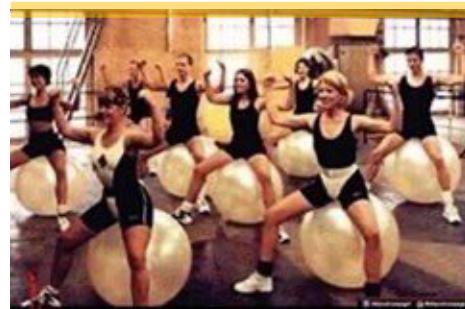
Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met at the home of **Nora** and **Mike Davidson** for some competition and comradery

over the bridge table. Our hosts provided fine snacks of crackers, cheeses, chocolates, and baked goods as well as coffee, soft drinks and wines. **Sue** and **Steve Loftin** graciously filled in as our guests for the evening. Their keen play resulted in a third-place finish for them with a total of eighteen points. Second place went to **Christy** and **Dick DeVoe** who had a total of twenty-five points. The first-place crown went to **Marilyn** and **Margo** with a total of twenty-eight points. Next month we will play at the home of the **DeVoes**.



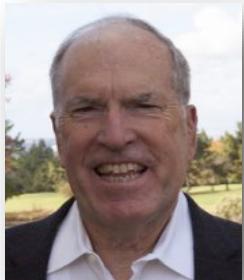
John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



This picture was given to Class II Children and they were asked to suggest a headline. The winning entry was:

'Never swallow your chewing gum'.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by **Rich Ahlf**. He provided a nice assortment of snacks and wine for our enjoyment during the game. Players were **Rich, Frank Lucas, Melo Piccolo, Steve Ybarra, Brad Hatcher and Ray Bland**.

Notable high hands included 4 Sevens by **Rich** in **Frank's** draw poker 4's wild game. **Brad** pulled a queen of clubs on the last down card in the 7-card stud low hole card wild game to give him a straight flush.

Rich was, by far, the biggest winner. He winnings were among the largest in recent memory. Congratulations!

Due to the July 4th holiday, our game day will change - date yet to be determined.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Tony and **Cindy Greco** graciously hosted us on June 10th. This was our second attempt at a two-table duplicate, meaning only four couples gathered, but on this pleasant spring day we had the pleasure of spending more time with each couple.

No slams were bid, but both **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** and **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** made six on Board 3; **Brad** and **Lynne** made six on Board 17; **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** made six on Boards 4 and 8. So, there were opportunities.

At the end of the day, **Dick** and **Christy** tied **Dave** and **Joan** for first, and **Brad** and **Lynne** tied **Tony** and **Cindy** for third. We'll have another two-table event in July.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, June 6 with three tables was nicely hosted by **Tony Greco**. **Max Hinkle** won 1st Place overall. Congratulations, **Max**!

Tony Greco took 2nd Place overall, with **Joe Fuchs, Ed Marlovits, and Dave Steinberg** tying for 3rd Place.

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have started asking humans to prove that they are not robots. 😊

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

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Parting Shot

Buzz, Buzzzz

Hey, Team! Huddle up! I want to leverage this platform and give an ROI on your time!

Corporate buzzwords: we hate them! They're a pain point, but they never get downsized.

Now, I'm not here to suggest we onboard a holistic paradigm shift in business jargon – I mean, we can't boil the ocean! But we can go for some low-hanging fruit.

Buzzwords are meant to pack pithy meaning, to be dense. (Dense. Let's put a pin in that. We'll circle back to it.)

Corporate cheerleaders want you to think buzzwords create a culture of inclusion — a "flexicon" to show off team spirit. ("Flexicon" is a buzzword I just made up, and wanted to run up the flagpole!)

But studies have shown that using jargon impedes trust. Like when HR informs us our company is "smartsizing"? How dense do you think we are? YOU'RE FIRING US!?

Gen Zers are especially vulnerable ... they've grown up getting instant answers from Siri. But workplace culture isn't Googleable, so young employees may lean in to buzzwords and cling to them like corporate life rafts.

In fact, research has shown that employees who feel like they're lower-status tend to use more jargon.

And who can blame you for feeling insecure if you get "layered"? That's when your company slips someone in above you - like they're long underwear, and you're flesh that's no longer fit to be exposed.

There's jargon that won't die, like "synergy," but new words buzz all the time. Sorry, I'll never get granular enough to learn what a "distributed cloud" is. Just sounds like lousy weather.

Look, here's some radical candor: I suspect buzzwords are really about people using poetry to distract from the fact that all they're doing is trying to make money, because that's all most buzzwords are — metaphors. Idea showers, growth hacks — figures of speech.

Disruptive action item: Just speak real-human-people words. If you love metaphors so much, read poems! There are some really good ones to unpack. I mean, Shakespeare was a thought leader, and he didn't even future proof his content.

Just compare your boss [that's spouse to you] to a summer's day, and she'll get rid of all that layering.

