



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

May—June 2024



Big Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Recruiting is still going strong with the addition of four new members to the branch in May while our total membership remains at 260, up ten for the year.

Thus far we have added a total of 25 new members this year while losing 15 to resignations and deceased members. We are averaging one new member for every 1.3 guests which is an excellent return. I suspect many have been sold by coming to various activities rather than through our luncheons although it could be due to the sterling performance of our BIG SIR!! In any event we need to keep up the good work, shooting for another 25 for the second half of the year. Several members have brought in two or more new members. The rest of us need to get from the sidelines and talk to neighbors and friends about the benefits of SIR, not just the fun and activities but the better health of active men and the happier wives at getting their man out of the house! AARP recently had a good article regarding the health benefits of older adults leading more active lives, both physically and socially.

Speaking of the benefits of new members, **Thom Degnan**, joining in April, (thomdegan@gmail.com) has arranged a CPR class for interested parties at the Walnut Creek Library on Friday, June 21 from 9-11. Many of you have heard that our own **Larry Kaye** had a heart episode while on a bike ride last month and passed out. He was saved by a passer-by who stopped, called 911 and applied CPR, properly saving his life [[Read Larry's own narrative of this in the cycling column!](#)]. We are all at that point where we, family members, friends, or strangers, may be saved by one of us if we are properly prepared. Be a good SCOUT and Be Prepared!!

Branches 8, 116 and 146 met with the management of Boundary Oaks to discuss luncheon menus and concerns about quality. They have agreed to look at their process to see if there is a way to streamline some of

the activities. For example, they survey each table's meal preferences and then load a trolley for all the dishes for that particular table so the entire table is fed at one time. They are willing to look at other ways of serving. They have agreed to have one meal each month as a salad base, meat for one month, fish for the other to see how that is received. A cafeteria-style meal was also discussed but that could prove cumbersome for some members. Still, it might be something to try to see how it is received. Cost adjustments were not discussed at this time as we have a yearly contract. One Branch puts comment cards on each table to have members give constructive comments on the meal/service. I will try to add cards to the tables for comments on the meal/service and speaker and ask that the comments be handed in by putting them in the name tag collection basket set out at each luncheon.

John Kluesener
Big Sir, Branch 146

Luncheon **Thursday, June 13th, 2024** **Boundary Oak 11:30**

Ted Clement

Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo

A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3. (click this box)

Coming events...

- [Cabaret deadline 5/28](#) [Page 16](#)
- [Explore and Eat deadline 6/14](#) [Page 29](#)
- [Bocce's back in action](#) [Page 21](#)
- [SIR Sushi goes International!](#) [Page 30](#)
- [SIR Fiesta](#) [Page 13](#)
- [Couples Dining Out](#) [Page 31](#)



Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, our speaker in June is Ted Clement, Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo. In July we will have Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings two retired SFPD Homicide Inspectors. In August, Fernando Ramirez from the CA Department of Water Resources will join us. I am still looking for someone to speak to us for our veterans lunch in November so if you know of anyone please let me know. I hope to see you all in June.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

I needed to move the cut off date for this issue up a couple of days earlier this month (May) as I "fell into" an end of month vacation that I wasn't contemplating back in April; thinking

about the SIR Fiesta got me in the mood to go to New Mexico! I want to thank all of you who almost immediately started sending in your articles!

It is Fiesta time! Hope you have signed up for the June 5th fiesta in the park with SIR. A lot of people are working to make this an great event. SIRCall is sponsoring the SIRCall Cantina at the event. We can't serve cerveza due to draconian laws, regulations, procedures and what not, but drop by, say hello and pick up a Cantina special: a Mexican soda!

We are trying out a new feature this month. If you've read SIRCall from the first page, you have already gone by it: it is a "Coming Events" list on the first page along with our Big Sir's report. It lists activities that are current and need/want/accept applicants to participate. Click on any of them and you will be taken directly to the page describing the activity. If you are an activity "manager" and want your article featured in this way in the future, let us know when you submit your copy!

Last submission date for the next issue will be June 18th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@gmail.com, put "Member Note" in the subject line

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

2024 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 3rd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham
Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.	

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

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

In June, we are introducing luncheon-sized salads instead of one of the luncheon entrees. This month we will replace the meat entree with a Chicken Caesar Salad. This will continue into both July and August as an experiment for lighter fare being available for the membership for lunch. If it is popular, we may consider doing this more often or reserve it for certain times of the year.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. If you have to cancel your reservation after the due date and time, please let us know as soon as possible. If you let us know before Boundary Oak has our final numbers, we do not waste food orders and there will not be a cost to you.

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 acknowledgement within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, June 13th, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, June 7th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

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

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

Other matters:

If you don't have e-mail, 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, June 7th 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 June Luncheon

Thursday, June 13th, 2024

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrées

Chicken Caesar Salad

Citrus and Herb Grilled Chicken Breast,
Hearts of Romaine, Shaved Aged Parmesan Cheese, Garlic
Croutons, Creamy Caesar Dressing

—or—

Herb Roasted Cod Marsala

Herb Marinated Cod, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Spinach Ricotta Manicotti

Four Cheese and Spinach Cannelloni, Seasonal Vegetable,
House Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

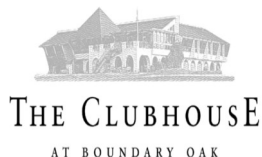
Apple Pie with Whipped Vanilla Cream

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.

MAKE SURE... YOU HAVE THE JULY LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR



SIR 146 July Luncheon Thursday, July 11th, 2024

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Golden Raisins, Candied Pecans, Feta,
Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées

Herb Roasted Chicken

Herb Marinated and Roasted Chicken Breast, Smashed
Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Dill Sauce

—or—

Lemon and Herb Salmon

Citrus Marinated Salmon, Mesclun Greens, Spinach Grape
Tomatoes and Shaved Carrots, Poppy Seed Dressing

—or—

Vegetarian

Balsamic Marinated Stuffed Mushroom

Balsamic Marinated and Grilled Portobella Mushroom
filled with Warm Quinoa Salad, Seasonal Vegetables,
Balsamic Glaze.

Dessert

Banana Cream Pie

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.



John Reilly.

Membership George Mon

Four new members were approved for membership in May.

Patrick "Pat" Lyon lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Sue**. He was a broker for AAA. He is interested in Bocce and Wine Tasting. **Pat** is sponsored by

Tom Stucker and his wife **Cynthia** also live in Walnut Creek. He worked as an Air Quality Consultant for The Avogadro Group. His interest is in Astronomy and Astrophysics. His sponsor is **Jim Nelson**.

Len Coster and his wife **Anne** live in Walnut Creek too. He worked for Global Shipping. His main interest is 18-hole golf. Len is sponsored by **Dave Steinberg**.

Philip "Pops" Sandness and his wife **Jan** live in Clayton. He worked for the SFPD for 26 years and UPS for 24 years. **Rich Lyon** is his sponsor, he is interested in Men's Hearts.

Two memberships were cancelled due to unresponsiveness after many efforts to contact them. They are **Rick Morgan** and **Bob White**. These members are always welcome to return.

Sadly, **Dom DiMatteo** passed away. He was 102 years old. He has been a member since 1991. Our thoughts and prayers to his family.

It is important to increase 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 have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR

The 2024 membership count is 260.

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.

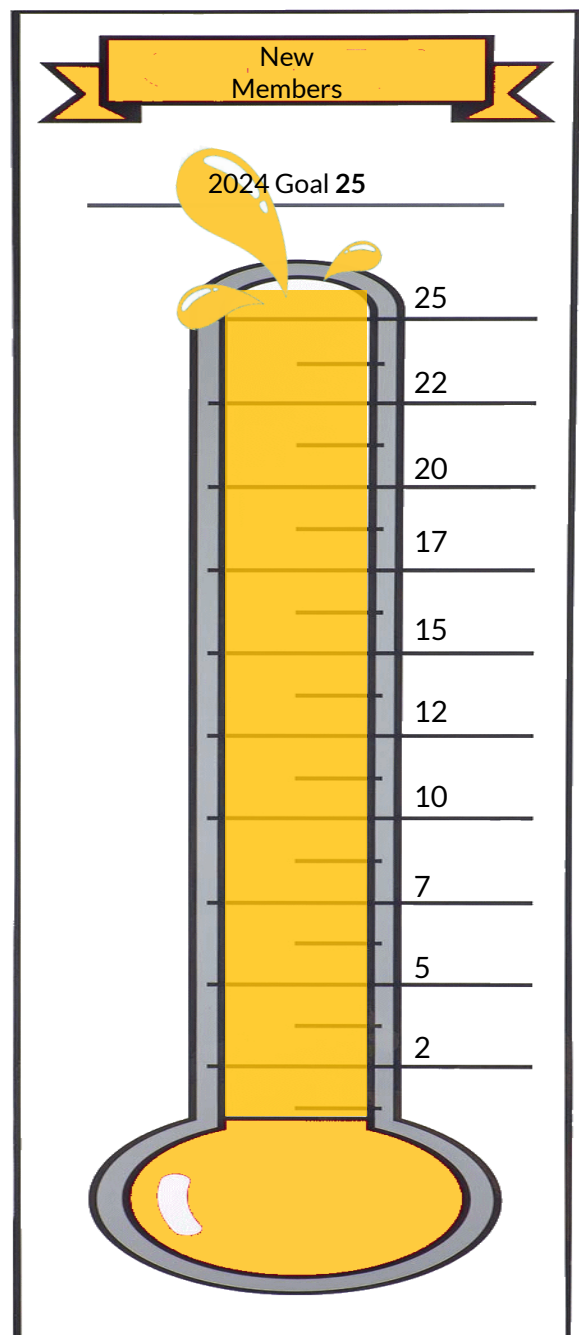
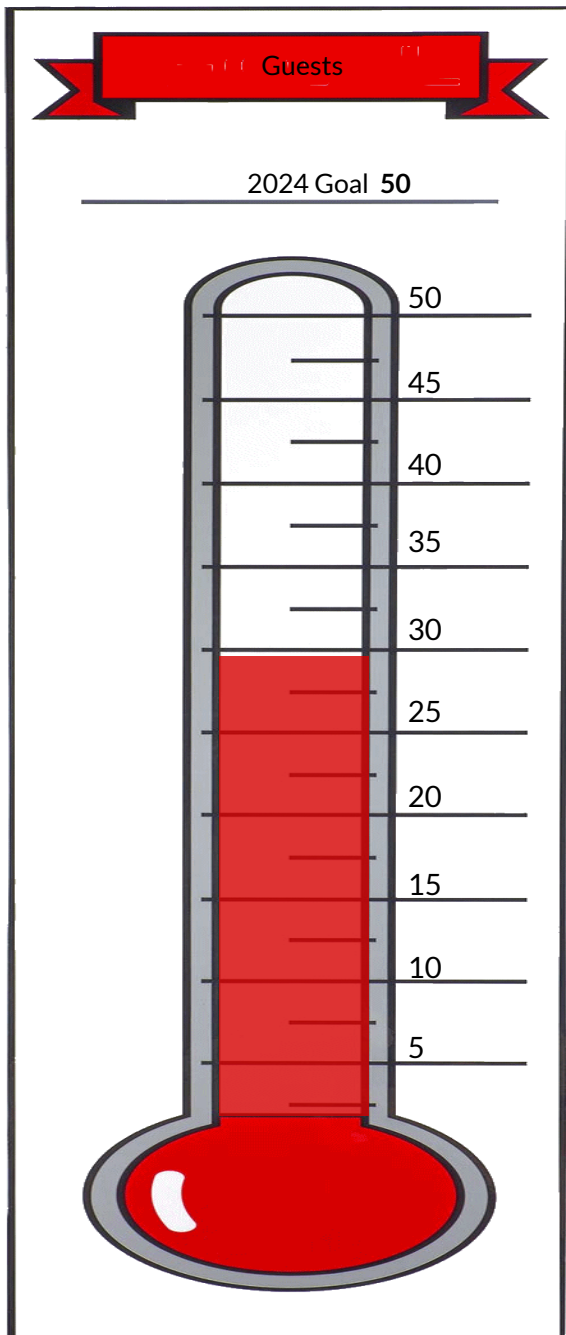
George Mon

925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant





Thomas Boltz
George Carpenter
Mike Conners
Steve Dinning
Joe Flannigan
Richard Hanford
Ron Lew
Jim Pfohl
Ron Plachy
Jim Pope
Milt Smith

Mike Wallace
Mike Whitaker
Dean Mayer
Tom Amann
Steve Petersen
Scott Schrader
Cleo Bolen
Ray Bland
George Denney
Len Coster

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JUNE MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

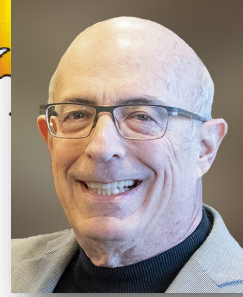
WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
John Kendrick	2019	5 Years
Herb Wilson	2018	6
John Kluesener	2017	7
Howard Zimmerman	2017	7
John Kelly	2016	8
Bob Lucido	2014	10 Years
George Mon	2014	10 Years
Joe Stengel	2014	10 Years
Colin Holland	2013	11
Phi Lendaris	2012	12
Don Rhoads	2012	12
Bruce Borgman	2011	13
Bob Soldano	2011	13
John Pearl	2007	17
Teddy Coggiola	2006	18
Dennis Hallett	2004	20 Years
Bill Rees	1989	35 Years



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.



Bill Hartman



Scott MacDougall

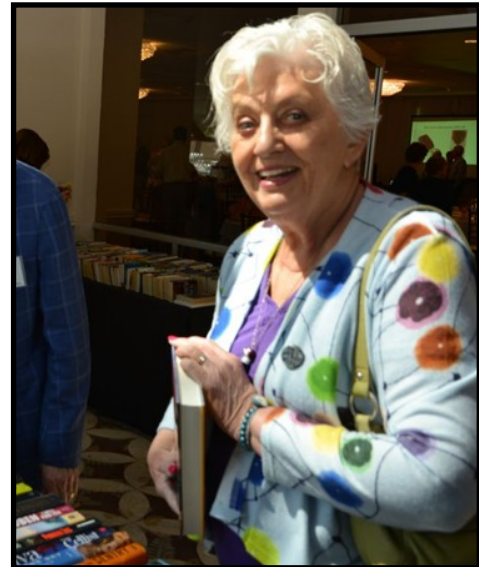
YIPPEE!
New Member at the
Meeting!



SIR Ladies Day Luncheon
Pictures by Henry Thatcher











NOTES

from Our Members



UPDATE ON OUR PICNIC, MEXICAN FIESTA!

🌵 🍷 🎉 Hold onto your sombreros, folks! It's time to unleash the tortilla chips and let the salsa flow freely at the First Annual Branch Picnic! We're bringing the fiesta to the **Hanna Picnic Area at Borges Ranch** in Walnut Creek on **June 5, 2024**. Get ready for a day packed with more fun than a piñata. You may arrive as early as **10:30 am** and keep the party rolling **until noche** (that's evening amigo)!

Now, amigos, prepare your taste buds for a culinary journey south of the border because we've got **El Molino Tortilleria** catering up a storm. **The buffet line will be open from noon to 2:00 pm**, it's a Mexican feast fit for a luchador! You'll have to make the toughest decision of the day – which tantalizing entrée will you have? Will it be the savory **Chicken Taco**, the cheesy **Cheese Enchilada**, or the mouth-watering **Pork Tamale**? Of course, we will have all the usual trimmings (i.e, rice, beans, chips, salsa) and you can enjoy more than one entree!

And what's a fiesta without amigos and amigas to share it with? Bring your spouse, your significant other. **We're opening the doors to 70 lucky folks, so RSVP faster than you can say "¡Olé!"**

It's **\$28 per person** for this shindig, **but remember**, amigos, **you'll need to BYOB – Bring Your Own Beverage**. We've got the picnic tables, plates, utensils, and napkins covered, so all you need to bring is your appetite and a comfortable chair (if you don't like bench seating.) **To secure your spot** at the hottest fiesta this side of the Rio Grande, **shoot an email over to Bruce Borgman (bgborgman@aol.com) and make sure to follow it up with a check made out to Branch 146, sent straight to Bruce at 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.**

So, dust off your sombrero, practice your salsa steps, and get ready to spice up your summer with the First Annual Branch Picnic – because life's too short for boring lunches and dull gatherings. Let's fiesta like there's no mañana! 🌵 🍷 🎉



SIRCall
CANTEENA

Going to the Fiesta? Be sure to stop by for a
FREE Mexican Soda!



FUDDRUCKERS BENEFIT NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Redeem this flier and Fuddruckers will
donate

20%

**of the food sales to the
Rotary Club of Concord-Diablo
Charitable Fund**

You must present this upon ordering at
Fuddruckers Concord
1975 Diamond Blvd. Suite E-260



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You must present this upon ordering at
Fuddruckers Concord
1975 Diamond Blvd. Suite E-260

Looking for a good Burger?

One of the local Rotary Clubs has arranged a fund raising program with Fuddruckers in the Willows Shopping Center. You won't get a discount on their regular price but you will get a great burger and a warm feeling knowing you helped Rotary help our community!

All you have to do is print this page, give every one a copy of the coupon (and maybe some of your friends too?) and head over to the Willows!



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Fuddruckers Concord
1975 Diamond Blvd. Suite E-260





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Hi to all SIR Members,
Are you aware that SIR Branch 146 has 45 different group activities and 28 of the 45 activities are available to spouses or significant others. If you are looking for something to enrich

your life then go ahead and click on any activity located at www.sir146.com. Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know. Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs what they do to keep the our 260 or so members involved in stimulating activities. The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please continue to let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Description	Totals
Total Activities	45
Total Co-Ed Activities	28
Percent Co-Ed Activities	62%
Total Unique Activities	29
BR146 activities shared with other branches	11
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	15

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 3	4	5	6	7
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
10	11	12	13	14
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm—7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am—10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am—1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am—1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm—2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
17	18	19	20	21
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 11:30 International Sushi Day	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSirs Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm—10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 10:00am Explore & Eat Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
24	25	26	27	28
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 3 Tres





Theater Glenn Breslin



If you are interested in Cabaret, then please let me know (glennbreslin@gmail.com) ASAP. A few Cabaret tickets are still available in the SIR146 ticket block. Or send in your check. All details are below.

The next SIR146 theater activity will be the **Cabaret** musical show at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek (details below). 30 people have signed up. **Only a limited number of tickets are still available.** If interested, please make a check out to SIR146 for \$35 per person and send your check to Glenn Breslin at 3480 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549. **You need to send your check to arrive no later than May 28!**

An **optional dinner** has been scheduled after the show at **OPA Greek Restaurant** (3 blocks from the Theater – 1532 Main St, Walnut Creek). OPA has agreed to create individual checks for each couple. If further interested, then please see [OPA's General Site](#) or [their online menu](#).

Cabaret

- Date: Sat, June 22, 2024 - Time: 2:30 PM
- Ticket price is **\$35**
- Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW2 Germany.

Instructions

- As soon as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.
- Some seats are much better than others.
- If interested, please make out your check to SIR146 and send to me – at Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549.
- Your guests are also welcome to attend.
- Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.
- The Leshner Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced (especially when compared with SF Theater prices).

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
SIR146 Theater Chair
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

I have a pen that can write underwater.
...it can write other words too.



Travel Glenn Breslin

I very much would like to know where you would like to travel with your fellow SIR members. Please look for an email announcing a meeting where you and other members can communicate their 2025 travel desires. I can create a trips based on this SIR Travel input. As an another alternative, SIR members can also travel with fellow SIR members having the same travel requirements.

The following SIR trip being planned is open to all SIR members and their guests.

SIR146 Trip

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
3	Memorials of WW II	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10-day trip, highlighting WW II events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.	SIR46—Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Day	Tour Location
Day 1	Fly From SFO Arrive in London, Meet Tour
Day 2	London World War II Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 3	London World War II Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 4	Portsmouth - Museum, Military Headquarters
Day 5	English Channel, Sword & Juno Beach
Day 6	Museum, German Battery, & Harbor
Day 7	Omaha and Utah Beach, Cemetery, Musuem
Day 8	Countryside, Monet Giverny, onto Paris
Day 9	Paris World War II Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 10	Paris and Tour Ends, Fly Home or Extend France Nearby Travel On Your Own

What is included

- Round Trip Airfare.
- Transfers to and from the home airports.
- 10 day guided tour with a full time Travel Director.
- 4 Dinners and 8 Breakfasts.
- Tips are included for:
 - Waitstaff
 - Bellman
- Other tips are up to the traveler's discretion
 - Tour Manager
 - Bus Driver
 - Local Tours



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The theme for this May's meeting was flower photography. As a result, the SIR Branch 146 photography group consisting of **Clint and Beverly Collier, Ken Studer and Jan Egan, Ron and Victoria Polivka, Frank and Susan Terzuoli, Michael and Judith Rothman with Susan Holliday, Peter Plante, Bill Holly, and Moose Kelly** traveled to Filoli Gardens in Woodside to photograph the gardens and adjacent buildings. Filoli Gardens was the sight of a recent meeting with President Biden and Chinese President Xi. Besides this historic reference, the gardens have a vast array of flowers that were certainly colorful and at full bloom.

Bill Holly placed an order with Mother Nature to have a perfect weather day for our objective of photographing the various flowers within the garden. The order was accepted as requested. A spectacular day was on tap with sunny skies and a pleasant temperature.

As a result of the shoot, we will display our flower photos at our upcoming meeting which will be held at the Thurman Casey Library in Walnut Creek on Friday, May 31st at 9 AM. Come and join us with your favorite flower shots.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group 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



Iris: Mike Rothman

Filoli Gardens
Mike Rothman



More Pictures on following page

SIR146 Photo Group



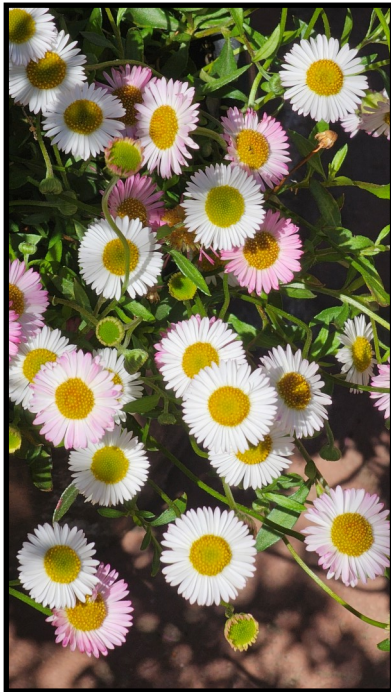
Filoli Garden: Mike Rothman



Mike and Judith Rothman Susan Holiday
at Filoli Gardens



Garden Gate: Clint Collier



Wild Flowers: Clint Collier



I wasn't invited:
Clint Collier



What is a garden without a rose?
Clint Collier



Birding

Ted Robertson

At 8:30am, a group of six SIR birders explored the Castle Rock Area of Walnut Creek and spotted and heard 34 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included a pair of American Kestrels and Ash-throated Flycatchers, good looks at a singing Warbling Vireo, two Lark Sparrows, and great views of several Western Bluebirds.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on June 12th (2nd Wednesday) at Tilden Park at a location to be announced next month. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Soaring Turkey Vulture (and Acorn Woodpecker stashing acorns ! Both pictures by **Jim Rowland**.



Ted Robertson
925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



Hiking

Mark Curtis

It looks as though we are done with planning hikes based on atmospheric rivers until maybe December, 2024. This situation opens up all the EBRP, MDSP, and WCOSF trails. Most hikes will be planned for EBRP venues since these trails have a tendency to be in the easy to moderate category, which is appropriate for our group. I think that there are now about 45 names on my email distribution list.

Recent hikes have been to Hayward Regional Shoreline, MDSP Falls Loop trail, WCOSF Shell Ridge loop, Point Pinole, and Briones.



Poppy fields at Fossil Hill

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. We are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.



Mark Curtis
925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Tuesday Golf Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is Eighteen-hole golf open to all branch members. We play each week at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Most weeks we compete in flighted stroke play competitions. Once a month, we hold a special tournament which may be individual or team competition using a format other than stroke play. In addition our weekly golf at Boundary, we arrange monthly events at other area golf courses during the months of April through October. Our golfers are eligible to participate in area and State SIR golf events.

"The cost of membership is \$106 per year which covers NCGA membership, member's lunches following certain selected golf events, a prize fund and our administrative costs.

Steve Dinning scored his first hole-in-one on Tuesday May 7 at Boundary Oaks' hole #2 with a 9 iron. The rest of his foursome, Mike Wallace, Bill Vizza and Don Shaw witnessed the the event.

Ed Marlovits



Bocce John Kendrick

On Monday, May 13. SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity officially started Six SIR member's opened the season and enjoyed the early morning weather. The green team of **Larry Brown, Howard Herbert, and Peter**

Plante took 2 games from the red team of **Roy Hodgkinson, Clint Collier and Tony Greco**. There was lots of banter, kidding and kibitzing.

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, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September.

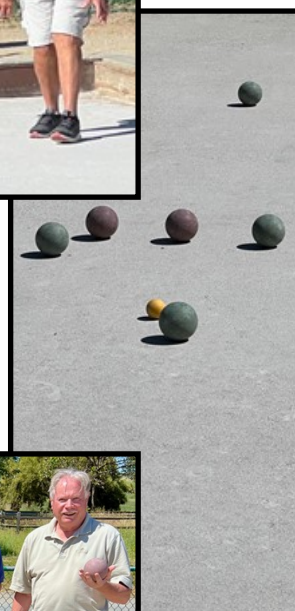
Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.



John Kendrick

925.827.0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

On March 25 while leading our SIR guys on a ride to the Tassajara Valley, I felt an attack of acid reflux. Stopping as I've done in the past to alleviate it, I suggested the guys keep riding and I'd catch up. I turned around and somehow fell

over. The angels were with me as I took the tumble right next to where the Iron Horse trail crosses the street I was on. My Apple watch immediately sent a message to my wife and the rest is the miracle. Two guys walking at that moment on the trail right at the opening spotted me laying in the street. They rushed over and took my pulse. Nothing, I was dead. They began CPR and called 911. The EMTs were within a half mile at the firehouse. They arrived in 3 minutes. As we have found out, you have four minutes before your brain starts to die from lack of blood. The guys gave me CPR in the gutter as the EMTs arrived.

Off I went to San Ramon Regional.

The Apple watch's alert to my wife brought her to the spot after the EMTs had transported me to the hospital. They had paddled me three times and brought me back from death.

I spent two days at SRR and was transferred to John Muir's coronary unit in Concord. Still unconscious.

I awoke there and received my treatments. A defibrillator was implanted and after a week I was sent home.

The CPR from the two guys saved my life.

Last week I met one these guys. I thanked him for being my angel.

My point is: CPR saves lives. I have taken the class two times. It's important. We are all over the age of "not my problem". We all need to be ready to save a life when it pops up.

A class will be offered soon. It's free. Well worth the time. You too may become an angel.

Larry... No brain damage and no side effects. Speed counts. (Larry)

Tuesday, April 30: The Five Amigos started on their 30-mile ride from Bark Avenue in Alamo. Those individu-

als were: **Jim Nelson** (led and paced the ride), **Jim Rowland**, **Bill Ross** (Big Will), **Thom Degnan**, and last but not least, **Moose Kelly**.

The day was gorgeous with plenty of sun and mild temperatures as we headed South towards Livermore as if we were going to "School." The ride we did earlier in the month was called the "School" ride. We headed in



the exact same direction passing the turn off of Finley Road. The Cycling Amigos kept going South until the turn off for the Windemere climb. UGH!! We made the turn and downshifted our gears for the climb up this steady hill. Luckily, there is a "rest" stop roughly 80% up the hill that was welcomed by one and all. After a brief break, we continued our journey to the local Peet's shop. We renewed our spirits and stamina with cups of coffee and the occasional belly bomb. We mounted our trusty machines to continue the ride by Snake Park, then onto Camino Tassajara for the familiar route home. Well done on our 30 miler. **Larry** would have been proud of us all. ("Moose" Kelly)

Wednesday May 7: We had a great time together for a



bike ride from Nancy Boyd Park to the point of Benica. The ride was 25.5 miles and we had 948ft of climbing mostly from the route over and back on the Benicia Bridge. We had a brief stop for coffee in Benicia on the way back. Here is a picture of the five of us. Good weather conditions and a safe ride. (Jim Rowland).

Continued on next page

Cycling Continued from previous page

Tuesday May 14: Bill Ross organized our ride yesterday in Orinda, and Scott and I, Thom Degnan, joined. Bill picked the "3 Bears" course and from my perspective the name is quite appropriate. I had not done the course before and it is only 19 miles long but the last seven miles have several hills with 7/8% and 8/9% grade and then the last little hill at the end hit 10/11% grade. The first hill was very long and the third was long and very steep. A great workout but I should note that Scott did quite well on the course and I thought he was going to take a second lap!! Thanks to Bill for organizing this challenging ride! (Thom Degnan)

**Moose Kelly, Thom Degnan,
Bob Wilkenfeld and others**
subbing for
Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

We have been having really good turnouts for our Thursday golf outings. 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



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs will perform a program for the residents of Byron Park Retirement Home on June 22. We are rehearsing such favorites as "Dock of the

Bay," "Happy Trails," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for a 40 minute performance.

Our next rehearsal is on June 4 at the home of Peter Plante at 1:30.

We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com

LIFE WITHOUT MUSIC WOULD
b FLAT



Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested in joining the fun we meet at Masses at noon. Send me an email if any questions

Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net

If you are buying
bottles of smart water
for \$3.99 each,
it is not working.





AREA 16 Fishing Report

Dave Hurley, the owner, publisher, and editor of Western Outdoor News, was the speaker at our meeting on April 25. He provided us with a dismal outlook should the Delta Conveyance

Project (aka “the Tunnel”) and Sites Reservoir, both of which are endorsed by Governor Newsom, become a reality.

Estimated to cost between \$16 and \$40 billion dollars, the Tunnel will take water from the Sacramento River with two intakes near Hood to be transported by an underground tunnel to Bethany Reservoir on the California Aqueduct system. The tunnel will travel approximately 45 miles underground between 140 and 170 feet. It is 36 feet in diameter and 18 inches thick. Hurley asserted that the major beneficiary of the Tunnel will be large agricultural corporations that are substantial contributors to the political campaigns of the Governor and Central Valley legislators from both parties.

Sites Reservoir aims to capture large volumes of flood waters from major storms and store them as a buffer against drought. But Hurley argues that it will provide only a small water-supply benefit, increasing the state’s storage capacity by about 3.5%. Furthermore, it is a surface reservoir. He stated that water evaporation from surface reservoirs can result in significant water loss, an effect that will only worsen with California’s warming climate. Surface storage projects can also contribute to climate change by releasing methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Surface reservoirs can also impair water quality because the warmer water they impound can contribute to toxic algal blooms, which will also worsen with climate change. It will also reduce the flushing flows of the Sacramento River, keeping more water from passing through the Delta.

Hurley claimed that there is enough drinking water in the state—even during a drought—to serve the needs of all Californians, but that it is mismanaged with an “outsize” amount reserved for the corporate farms. He concluded his remarks by stating that dams and reservoirs are “high cost and low yield”—and thus extremely expensive relative to how much water they capture, with California ratepayers footing the bill even when little or no water is available. He thought that the solution to the alleged problem is storm water capture, which is best done locally, along with conservation, wastewater treatment, modern desalination and other

proven water-saving measures.

Trout from San Pablo Reservoir were caught by **Dave Havlik, Ray Pixton, George Vogt, and Carl Moyer. Dave, Carl, Brion Beetz, and Lee Clark** caught halibut and some stripers in the bay. Only **Carl Moyer** got out on the ocean for the opening of near shore rockfish. In four trips he landed rockfish, lingcod, and a bonus 20-pound halibut. **Stan Wong, Tom Kostik, and Phil Scimonelli** enjoyed successful striped bass trips in the delta.

We enjoyed our semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer’s** home. The main course, as usual, was rockfish and lingcod bits caught by various members of our group and stored in **Carl’s** freezer, accompanied by garden salad, potato salad, and the ever delicious brownies baked by



Carl’s wife, Marcia.

Our activities and hopefully our catch will increase in the coming weeks. By the time you read this, we should have completed our semi-annual three-day excursion to Lake Almanor. We have also scheduled a five day long range trip to Mexico for big tuna and yellowtail departing from San Diego, three days on Melones Reservation for kokanee and trout, two days at Pyramid Lake in Nevada for cutthroat trout, and possibly a two day salmon outing in August on the Rogue River in Oregon. All of this is in addition to our daily excursions for trout in the local reservoirs, bass on the Delta, halibut in the bay, and rockfish and lingcod in the ocean.

Our next two meetings will be on May 23 and June 27 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. The meetings begin at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories.

For further information, contact me.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy

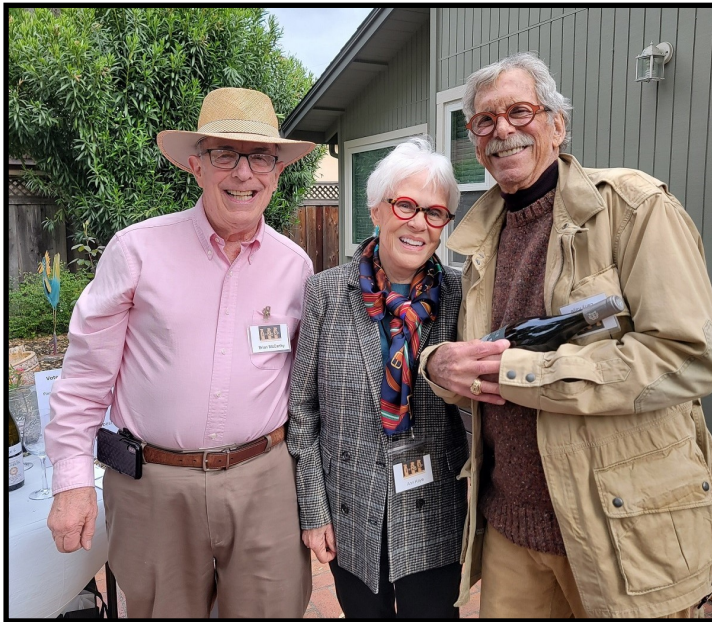
The second wine tasting of 2024 was held at the beautiful home of **Steve and Nancy Schlossberg** on April 23. It was a lovely day, perfect for the wine enthusiasts to mix and mingle around the patio, gazebo, and the pool area. We tasted Rhone red blends and French white burgundy/chardonnays. Add in delicious appetizers and desserts and it was a perfect day! **Larry and Ann Kaye** won for favorite white and **Steve and Nancy Schlossberg** won for favorite red.

The next wine tasting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. Mark your calendars. Details to come in the June/July SIRCall. **Bill Holly** and I look forward to seeing you then.

Brian McCarthy



Hosts Nancy and Steve Schlossberg



Brian McCarthy presenting a bottle to the White Wine winners **Ann and Larry Kaye**



Bill Holly presenting a bottle to the Red Wine winners **Steve and Nancy Schlossberg**

Photos Continued on next page

Wine Tasting Continued from previous page



Vicki Smith and Joe Herger



Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye



Ann Kaye, Mary McCarthy and Sandy Wagner



Jane West, Wendy Lucido, Diane Munayer, Christina Stratton, Bruce Kimmis, Bob West, and Al Munayer



Bruce Borgman and Richard Hockenbrock



Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in April and discussed our book of the month, *The Showman*, by Simon Shuster. This is the story of Volodymyr Zelensky, the current President of the embattled country of Ukraine. It starts in his early life, and ends as the Russian troops begin their invasion. Zelensky is a minority in his own country. Not only is he Jewish, he is also Russian, and Russian is his first language.

We meet him, as the author did, at a performance in a very large theater in Kyiv. It would be his last big performance before the election moved him to his current office. He would give up his financially successful life as an actor, producer, and comedian, and drift further from the people he loved, including his wife, his friends, and the business of stage performer they had built together. He intended to remain the person his experience had created, playing the role of President. He intended to save the country from the previous leaders, calling them a bunch of pranksters and hooligans.

The book travels through Zelensky's life as President of Ukraine and world traveler, much of which has been on display, as he travels about the world representing his country and asking for help and resources, making his case to whomever would listen. Much of this has been on public display in various forms of media. We have seen him in his ubiquitous t-shirt "uniform". A good reason to read this book is to see the more human side of his life and recent work, including how he protects his young family from harm, and how he interacts with his cabinet and armed forces, and the individual soldiers and leaders.

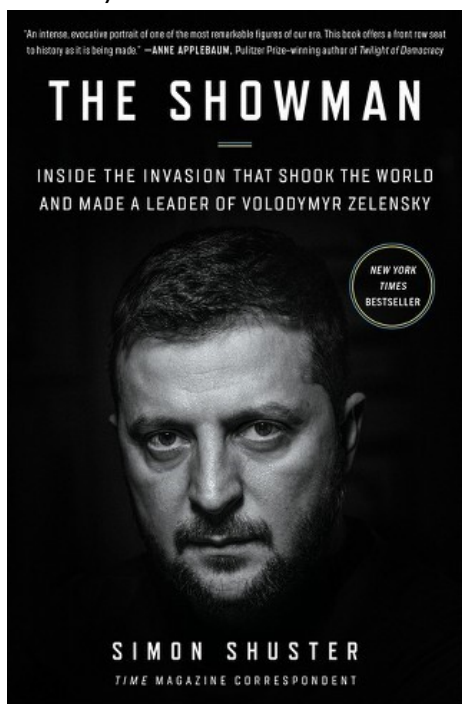
The author, who spent part of his youth in San Francisco, had amazing access. He is half Ukrainian (his father is Russian) and he spoke Russian, as did Zelensky. He has reported on Ukraine for *Time* since 2009. This has been happening for longer than we might remember, going back to the Trump administration. As the invasion grew imminent, the author spent ever more time

in Ukraine. He watches as Zelensky changes from a man who refuses to believe that Russia will invade into a wartime president unique to our age of instant information. Years as a showman pays off in today's hyper connected world where information flows in real time and Zelensky understands the power of the internet and social media.

Part of the author's access included being pretty much able to freely roam the halls (and basements) of the capitol itself, talk to any and all that would spare him the time, and accompany the president on trips to the front. He saw the president in action every day. It is a fascinating story of how a showman becomes a politician and the leader of a country at war and appearing on the world stage.

We are strongly recommending this book, and hope this report will encourage you take up the book and learn much more about Volodymyr Zelensky.

Our next meeting will be at 9 am on May 28 at the Panera Restaurant in the Countryside Shopping Center. We will be reviewing *Rules of Civility*, the first book written by Amor Towles, author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, one of our favorite reads.



John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner for the Ladies Day Luncheon was an outstanding success. Thank you to everyone who participated. The next Book Corner will be in July.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Steve Ybarra** for their May luncheon. **Steve** greeted the wine bearing guests with appetizers of sopressa, prosciutto and coppa salami as well as three types of cheeses and crackers. After a glass or two of wine the group then discussed many local, national and world topics. Although most topics discussed had varied views the group remained quite civil. The main entree was barbecued ham, baked beans, corn bread and a broccoli-mushroom salad. For dessert, boysenberry pie a la mode was enjoyed by all. We will meet next month for lunch on June 10. **Bruce Borgman** will be hosting at a restaurant of his choosing.



Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com

Gotta take advantage of this heat!



Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

Seven members of the "LAW" Group met at the home of **Pete** and **Ann Gates** for their May Luncheon. The group convened in **Pete's** patio for appetizers and a nice selection of wines provided by the members. Appetizers consist-



ed of mixed nuts, a variety of cheeses, and a spinach-artichoke dip with crackers. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed a relaxing environment for conversation and imbibing.

Lunch was penne pasta with line-caught, home-smoked salmon, served with Alfredo sauce. Sides were a chopped Caesar salad and sourdough French bread. Dessert was a butterscotch-brownie served with ice cream and butterscotch topping.

Meanwhile, **Ann** had arranged for the Ladies to meet for an enjoyable lunch at the "Cooperage Grill" in Walnut Creek.

Pete Gates
petegates10@gmail.com

Despite the high cost of living
it remains popular



Explore and Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum



Theater: 37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont CA

The first person to exhibit regular movie shows in Niles was Charles Esselstyne, under the name The Edison Moving Picture Company, in 1912. Called the Edison Theater, it opened on November 4, 1913, with a program of five reels of film and illustrated songs performed by Mr. and Mrs. George Wellington of San Francisco. The theater was licensed by the Motion Picture Patents Company to show films from its members, which included the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company. On April 29th 1914 with a one week old Essanay film, *Broncho Billy Treacherous Pal*, a two-reel Pathe film, *The Frozen Trail*, and a Keystone comedy was a hit production. Essanay personnel, including movie icon Charlie Chaplin, made films with these studios and watched his films in this theater until the Essanay studio closed in 1916.

Signup: Send a check for \$8/person (SIR146 w/ note: Museum Tour) to Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507. Lunch following at [The Nile Café 121 I Street, Niles/Fremont.](#) Details for lunch to follow.

Tour on June 20th 10:00

Signup Deadline June 14th

I'm at the point in life where the hottest text I get is "your prescription is ready for pickup."



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our little group of sushi aficionados gathered for our May meeting at Tatsu, the restaurant we met at when the group first got together. Eight of us demolished their large platter of sushi...



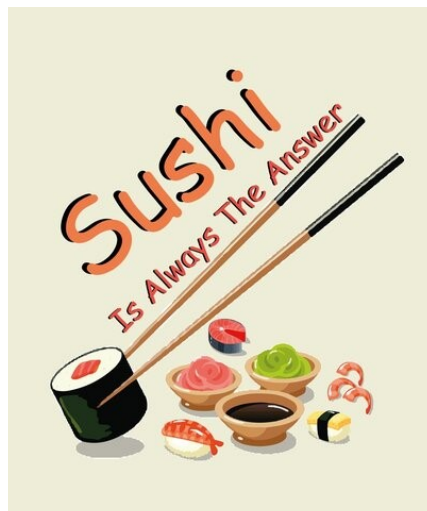
In other Sushi news: June 18th is **International Sushi Day**! How many other SIR activities have their own international day of recognition?

With this year's schedule of our bi-month meetings we normally would not be gathering in June but who can pass up an opportunity like this; enjoying a little sushi with people around the world! So... I'm planning on celebrating the day by going to Fuji, the "all you can eat" sushi restaurant in Concord that we visited several months ago and celebrating this international day recognizing my favorite food! This is not one of our regular meetings but members of the group have already been invited to join the celebration. It is open to anyone/everyone so bring a spouse, significant other, friend! If you aren't a member we invite you too to join us; maybe for your introduction to this wonderful cuisine of Japan!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org

Sushi is the perfect meal for any
finicky eater.



In July for our regular bi-monthly meeting we will visit Hakashi in Walnut Creek. If you want to join us there contact me now about signing up.





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We are pleased to announce that we have made the arrangements for dining at Fiore, in Concord for our May Couples Dining Out event. It will be on Tuesday, May 21st. We will follow our usual protocol with our social time at 5:30pm with the dinner to follow at 6:15pm.

You will recall that we had our January event at Luna, where we had such a good response that we wound up doing the dinner over two evenings. Chef Habib Jacifi also manages Fiore and encouraged us to have our Dining Out event there in May. The cuisine at Fiore is described as Italian Fusion with Mediterranean Influences and the menu does present the diner with many traditional dishes. But, since Chef Habib's roots are in Morocco, we decided to offer you an opportunity to try this more unique cuisine. We will start with a customer favorite - an olive pesto dip. Since Habib's other specialty is his excellent soups, we will offer the choice of either a classic Caesar salad, or his choice for "Soup du Jour". For the entrée, you may choose one of four,



an excellent homemade Lasagna, or the Gamberi Fiore tiger shrimp in a creamy dill sauce. Or you may choose one of the two Moroccan specialties. Either the Moroccan chicken or the Moroccan Beef Tagine is sure to surprise your taste buds with the amazing flavors thanks to the earthy and exotic spices. For dessert we will have a raspberry cheesecake.

The total cost of the dinner will be \$55, including tax and gratuity.

The restaurant is small so we will likely limit the total attendance to about 45. The wine list lists most wine from \$9 to about \$14, but we have asked to have a wine for \$8 available as well. Corkage will be \$20. Parking is convenient in the shopping area where the

restaurant is located.

We will no doubt sell out quickly so you will want to send me an email quickly to reserve your spot and confirm with a check made out to branch 146 and send to me as noted in the attached flyer.

If you are not on our mailing list to get firsthand information about our events, send me an email to be added - bgborgman@aol.com.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



COUPLES DINING OUT

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm



Italian Fusion Cuisine with Mediterranean and Moroccan Influence

5100 Clayton Road - A14, Concord

Olive Pesto Dip

Mediterranean mixed olives with walnuts, pesto, balsamic, cheese and olive oil

Choice of Chef Habib's Soup du Jour

or

Classic Caesar Salad

Romaine hearts in a classic Caesar dressing with Parmesan cheese, and croutons

Entrée choices

Homemade Lasagna

Meat Lasagna with bolognese and bechamel sauce topped with tomato cream sauce

Gamberi Fiore

Tiger Shrimp with mushrooms and cream dill sauce paired with roasted vegetables

Moroccan Chicken

Oven-braised chicken with green olives, caramelized onions, potatoes, and lemon in a saffron sauce

Moroccan Beef Tagine

Slow-cooked cubes of beef with green peas, potatoes, and caramelized onions in a Spanish saffron sauce

Dessert

Raspberry Cheesecake

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com, Confirm with check to SIR 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598 \$55.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. Please Indicate your choice of soup or salad and entrée with your reservation!

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

The station was closed, and the train is delayed. The station to scheduled to reopen in June.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

I ran twice today!
First, I ran out of wine, and then I ran out to get some more.

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on the afternoon of April 26th after SIRCall went to press. The mighty, eco-friendly, Mexican

Train chugged its way gracefully to Walnut Creek and the home of Sally and Lynn Shafer. Along for the ride were Sue and Walt Busenius, Sharon Varner, and Judy Richmond. Sally & Lynn mesmerized us with tantalizing sweets and helped us enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

We played with only 6 players, that being 2 men against 4 ladies and the men were up to the task. Coming in 1st Place with a great net score was Judy Richmond. Sharon Varner played steady all afternoon and to her own surprise, stayed within close pursuit to come in 2nd Place. The rest of us fought for last place. At the end, the ladies

outperformed the men. We said our goodbyes, boarded our cars and followed the Sun home.

We will meet next on Friday afternoon, May 24th. All Aboard in the Diablo Valley!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Group Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

Look for our next report in the July issue!

Jim Pope
jpoppe24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dennis Hallett

On May 16th, our evening hosts were **Judy** and **Jim Baldridge**. We started the

evening with refreshments on the patio in their beautiful garden and at the end of our games, stood and admired a dazzling lighting display around their pool.

The return of **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** had a noticeable effect, especially **Dave Pierce** who achieved a low score of 58 over seven games claiming first place. It took a score of twice that by **Jim Baldridge** to claim second place. **Judy Baldridge** saved the Ladies' honor by taking third place.

Dave Pierce was on fire! We suspect that during his

absence he studied to enhance his memory skills or was it the large glass (or two) of red wine that removed all his inhibitions? It was an astonishing display to be proud of.

During the interval, **Judy** and **Jim Baldridge** served a delicious variety of cheesecake slices, which seemed to instantly vanish on the men's table! Napkins were returned unused!!!

Everyone went home feeling very content after thanking their hosts for a memorable evening,

Our next gathering will be on June 20th, hosted by **Joan** and **Dave Pierce**. Watch out **Dave**, we will be out to challenge your record.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Brian** and **Mary McCarthy's** beautiful home on April 24, for a night of domino play. Thank you, **Brian**, and

Mary, for hosting.

After some tepid play, **Mary McCarthy** brought out some "lucky" trolls. The lucky trolls' players won – nothing – the trolls were on strike!!

With two tables in play – **Moose Kelly**, **Carol Lane**, **Brian McCarthy**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Virginia Tygart** and **Martha Plante** at table one, and **John Kendrick**, **Kathe Mitchell**, **Mary McCarthy**, **Steve Lane**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, and **Peter Plante** at table two, the winners were the esteemed **Bruce Borgman** as number one (13.0)- trolls must have been involved with that score, **Kathe Mitchell** (16.4) and **Virginia Tygart** (19.2). As for the losers circle – SL and JK were their initials- the have requested not to be identified!!

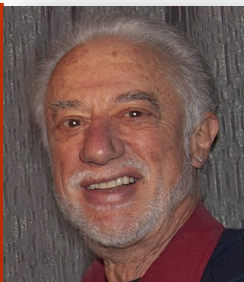
We look forward to our next get together on May 22, at the home of **Martha** and **Peter Plante**.



Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.





Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido The Boring Report

Ah, poor **Bob Lucido**, trapped in the labyrinth of his mind, desperately

seeking the golden fleece of creativity amidst a sea of tangled thoughts. Armed with a keyboard and a can-do attitude, he embarked on a quest to transform the mundane into the magnificent, only to find himself staring blankly at the screen like a deer caught in the headlights of writer's block.

In the heart of suburbia, nestled between the picket fences and the well-manicured lawns, **Bob and Wendy Lucido** dared to host the monthly Mexican Train domino extravaganza. Their home became a battleground of strategic tile placements and fierce competition on April 10th.

Bob and Wendy Lucido, the brave souls who opened their home to the chaos of dominoes, deserve medals of honor for their hospitality. However, their refreshments fell victim to the ravenous appetites of certain unnamed individuals who treated the snacks like they were the last buffet on Earth.

And oh, the wine! It flowed like a river in flood season, leaving poor **Bob** with nothing but a collection of empty bottles and a bewildered expression reminiscent of a lost tourist in a foreign land.

In a plot twist worthy of a mediocre sitcom, **Mary**

McCarthy emerged victorious, her triumph untainted by accusations of cheating (unlike certain sore losers who shall remain nameless). **Bob West**, the underdog of the story, snagged second place. And rounding off the winners' podium was **Dale Dalgaard**, whose victory dance may or may not have involved a victory lap around the table.

And there you have it, folks, a tale of triumph and tragedy, of snacks devoured and wine spilled, all in the name of Mexican Train domino glory. But fear not, for **Bob's** quest for creativity shall continue, fueled by caffeine and sheer stubbornness, until he once again reigns supreme over the kingdom of wit and whimsy.

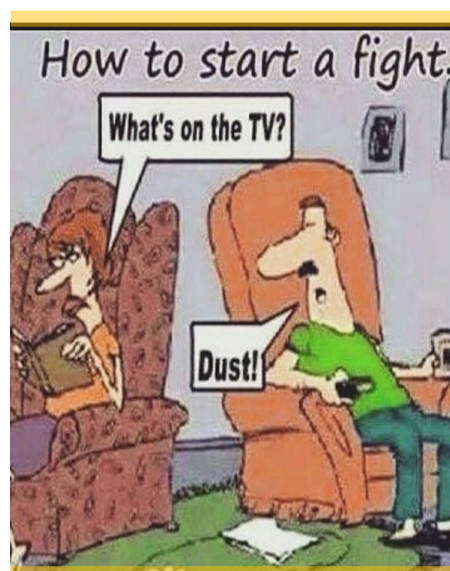
Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



April 10th MTD 7 winners (L to R): Mary McCarthy 1st, Bob West 2nd, Dale Dalgaard 3rd.

I've reached an age where my train
of thought often leaves the station
without me.





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

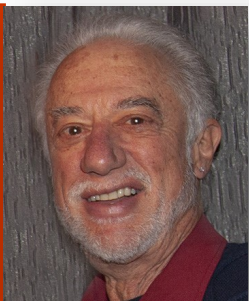
MTD 8 had to call on a large number of substitute players to fill in for our regular players who were away on vacation.

Nevertheless, it was from the performance of our regular players who were in the money for the night. **Sue Loftin** came in first place. **Virginia Tygart** placed second and **Jim Barry** was in third place.

The two players with the highest average score was **Steve Dinning** and **Steve Ybarra**.

Our next game will be played on Wednesday, June 5th.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

Bob Lucido

Before I write this activity report, I will make an Activity Director request.

Hello out there! Does anyone enjoy the MTD reports that I write? I put effort into being creative and not writing a boring report. If no one is reading my reports, I will give the boring reports that will put people to sleep. If you would like to hear creative reports let me know or I will write the report as below:

On April 17th, MTD 9 was hosted by **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. **Brian McCarthy** came in first place with a score of 11.6 second was **Bob West** with a score of 15.2, and third place was **Clare Kingsbury** with a score of 19.6.

Now wasn't that boring?

If you would like the boring report do nothing, but if

you would like a more creative report, let me know and send me \$100 and I will continue writing exciting reports, or just email me at bobwendy3@comcast.net with a thumbs up.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD 9 Winners (L to R): **Clare Kingsbury** 3rd,
Brian McCarthy 1st, **Bob West** 2nd.



CARD GAMES

...we play



**Men's
Hearts**
**Bob West
and
Steve Ybarra**



**Old Money Poker
Group 6**
Brad Hatcher

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we met on April 26th and May 10th.

The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** and **Bill Vizza** each with 3 wins. **Jim Passaglia** and **Steve Ybarra** each had 4 2nds, and **Brian McCarthy** had 3. The lowest average score was **Bob West** and **Phil Sandness** each with 44. **Brian McCarthy** and **Steve Ybarra** shot the moon twice.

YTD: **Brian McCarthy** and **Jim Passaglia** lead with 12 wins and **Frank Lucas** and **Bill Vizza** are 2nd with 11 wins. **Bob Finlayson**, **Rich Lyon** and **Phil Sandness** lead with a 50% win rate followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 38%.

Steve Ybarra leads in 2nds with 15 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 13. **Brian McCarthy** leads with 5 STM's followed by **Frank Lucas** and **Norman Cox** with 4. Most Improved are **Glenn Breslin** and **Rich Lyon** who have a 180% and 150% higher win rate than last year.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be May 24th and June 14th and June 28th.

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

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

robtawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

We played at **Steve Ybarra's** home in May as he was unable to host our April game. Seven players enjoyed the day, the wine, and snacks. **Steve** and **Rich Ahlf** ended the game within about a dollar of each other as winners for the game.

Without question, the hand of the game was won by **Rich**. The game called was five card draw with deuces wild. **Rich** was dealt two aces and two deuces giving him 4 aces. He drew one card after the first round of betting and the poker gods delivered another deuce for a winning hand of 5 aces!

Rich will host our June game starting at noon on the first Thursday of the month.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, May 3 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Ed Marlovits**.

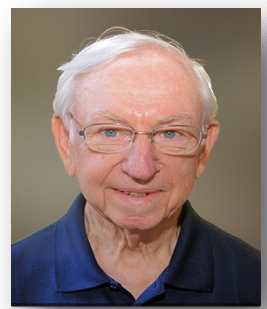
1st Place overall was hotly contested by five (5!) players- with 0.5 pts. separating 1st from 2nd, and 0.5 pts. separating 2nd from 3rd. Wow! **Mike Whitaker** won 1st Place overall by taking the 1st half, losing his mojo in the 2nd half, but still hanging on to win all the marbles.

Jim Pope took 2nd Place overall by capturing 2nd in the 1st half, scoring respectably in the 2nd half, and just barely holding off three others below.

There was a 3-way tie for 3rd Place: **Bob Yolland**, **Dave Steinberg**, and **Ray Spears**. Bob and Dave scored consistently throughout, while Ray made a HUGE comeback from 13th Place in the 1st half to a highest-of-both-half's score in the 2nd half.

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a spirited 16 players on four game tables at Boundary Oaks hosted by **Steve Dinning** and **Joe Fuchs**. The snacks and comradery were great and friendly. Fun was had by ALL.

The players were: **Ray Bland**, **Jane Bradley** (guest), **Dick DeVoe**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Max Hinkle**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **John Kluesener**, **Ray Spears**, **Jim Stedman**, **Mike Whitaker**, and **Bob Yolland**.

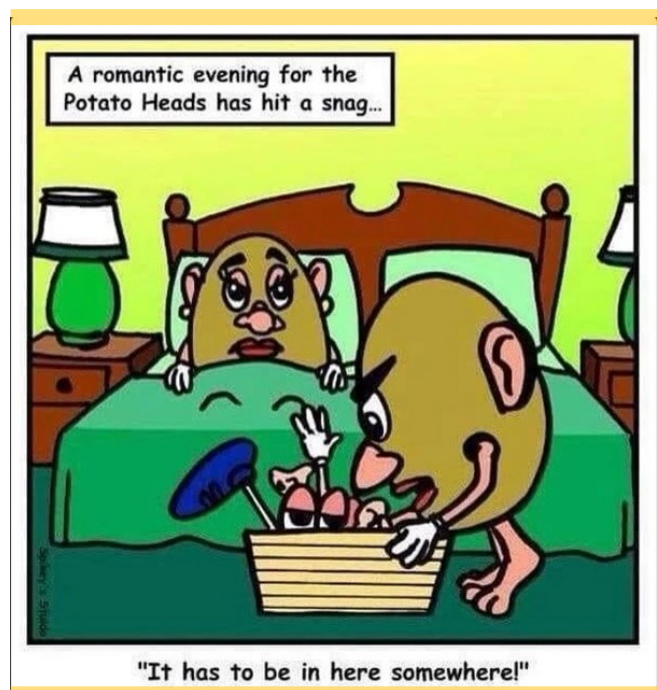
The top scorers were with **Max Hingle** with 5,300 points, **Ed Marlovits** with 4,930 points and **Jim Pope** with 4,830 points.

The next game will be on Monday June 3, 2024, at a location other than Boundary Oak still to be determined..

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).

One day you're young...
the next you're sitting
on the edge of the bed like this:





Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

We were graciously hosted by **Ken and Elaine Richter** on May 14th. I noticed that the delicious dip they provided was entirely cleaned out by the end of the evening.

Only one slam was bid, when E-W had eleven spades between them. Regrettably, it only made five. There were several more spectacular failures, down four or five. Your correspondent put his partner in an impossible 3 NT contract that went down five. Other sufferers shall remain anonymous. Fortunately, going down five is typically not worse than going down one or two, in our duplicate.

At the end of the evening, **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were third (53%), **Tony and Cindy Greco** were second (60%), and **Dave and Joan Pierce** were first by only half a matchpoint (61%).

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Brad and Lynne Hatcher hosted our May 7th event. For this event **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** subbed for the **Browns** and **Steve and Sue Loftin** subbed for the **Chaffees**. We played with new cards graciously donated by a SIR Men's duplicate group. Unfortunately, the cards weren't broken in properly and didn't align with good fortune.

The final scores for the top finishers were the lowest since December 2022. However, slam opportunities seemed to have been missed. One couple bid 4 spades making 6 in round 3 and bid 3 spades making 6 in round 5. Another couple bid 3 no trump in round 5 making 7. Maybe the low scoring issue was the players and not the cards. Just saying.

The bright side of the event was the abundance of socializing.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 2970 points - **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean**
- 2nd PLACE with 2200 points - **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**
- 3rd PLACE with 1980 points - **John and Kathy Kluesener**

Our next event will be held on **June 4th** and hosted by **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





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. Our next event is planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 2/27/24.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

On the 4th Wednesday, April 24 at 1:30pm, our guest speaker will be John Gardner of Blackhawk Wealth Advisers. His agenda will be decided by the members. Suggestions welcome. Our next meeting on the 4th Wednesday, May 22nd at 1:30pm. Topic to be announced

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net



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.](#)

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Parting Shot

Life.*

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