

February–March 2025



### Big Sir's Corner

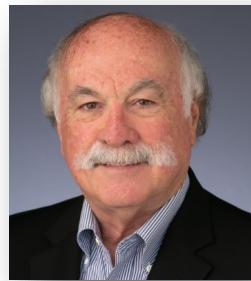
**Bob Ford**

We had our annual financial audit of the Branch's accounts and I am happy to report that everything was satisfactory and well documented. Thanks to the Audit committee and Treasurer for doing such a good job.

I want to remind people to please let us know if you plan to attend the monthly luncheon. For the last couple of months we have had a lot of folks show up without letting us know and we had to scramble to add tables and come up with the right menu options. You can either reply to the email that gets sent out asking for attendees or you can click on the link in the menu in the newsletter. As I mentioned last month, the theme for March is Spring and St Patrick's day so let's wear some green. Our next luncheon is Thursday, March 13th, 2025. Bring a guest, or two or three. 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



### Little Sir's Corner

**Thom Degnan**

I hope you all enjoyed our February speaker, Mr Jerry Toenyes, a consultant for Federal and State Water & Power Systems. Jerry updated us on the history of how California planned to manage and move water all around the state to maximize the growth of the state.

In March, we have an outstanding group of leaders from the Contra Costa Fire Protection District who will update us on fire emergency preparedness. Joining us will be Ms. Noell Crosse, Fire Education Program Coordinator, who will discuss home fire safety, and family and personal fire preparedness, and Ms. Michelle Rinehart, Contra Costa County Coordinator, who will touch on current public education programs, and community engagement. They will discuss, among other topics: *Why do you plan? Where & how to go? When is it time to go? Be informed and where to get information.* Given the recent fires in Los Angeles, this update will be especially relevant.

In subsequent months we will have an executive from PG&E to give us an overview of what they are

Continued on the Following Page

### Activities for you and spouse...

- NEW! Gardening & Veterans [Page 22](#)
- Calendar of Events [Page 12](#)
- Lazarus Man [Page 23](#)
- Why SIR? [Page 7](#)
- Pacific Rim anyone? [Page 14](#)

### SIR Monthly Luncheon

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Boundary Oak 11:30**

Contra Costa Fire Protection District

A reservation is required!

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

## Little Sir from proceeding page

trying to accomplish for the people of Northern California. For the May Ladies' luncheon, we have scheduled Ms. Jackie Byrd, of the Walnut Creek Historical Society who will give us an update on this year's activities, tours of the museum and downtown, a gala event of history and wine at Shadelands, and more. Going forward we will have speakers on the economy, military, history, life saving techniques, local wine, and many other interesting topics. There is much more to come for the rest of the year's activities and the Speakers Committee will keep you updated.

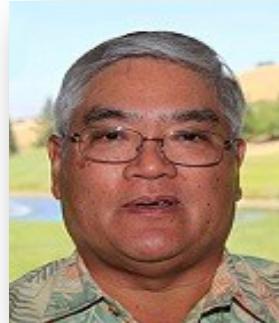
The CPR Training Class for February 28<sup>th</sup> is fully booked, but we have started a waiting list if anyone cancels. We have also scheduled a new class for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which we will open to the members shortly. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! 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 2nd Term .....	Don Rhoads
<b>RAMP-Chair Members</b>	
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.



## Membership George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in February. **Edwin "Mac" Avery** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Jan**. He was a Senior Advisor/ Consultant for his company Avery & Co Inc. **Mac** likes to play golf and is interested in many SIR activities. He is sponsored by **Don Shaw**.

Five members decided to resign for various reasons. They are **Jerry Benoit, August Voelkel, Ross Hallberg, Jitu Patel** and **Phillip Lendaris**.

We also have 7 members that have been designated as inactive. They have not responded to the many efforts to contact them regarding remaining a member for 2025. If you know of these members and they have expressed that they want to remain a member of our branch, please have them contact me. They are **Tim Hogan, Jerry Isbill, Paul Masta, Rob McSpadden, Aaron Needel, Hugh Ferguson, and Ronald Louis**

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 also 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 them at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR.

The 2025 membership count is **252**.

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

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

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

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



## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

There is a new Chef in town, and I have been hearing good things from the membership with regard to the quality of our lunches. Please join me in our next meeting to recognize the wait staff and the chef on their very good service.

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](mailto: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 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon

**Date: Thursday, March 13th, 2025**

**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 it easy to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

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

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

### 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, March 7<sup>th</sup> by Noon**

and you will not be charged.

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

### Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

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

### Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve 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 March Luncheon**

Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Mixed Green Salad

Broccoli, Red Onions, Dried Cherries and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing

#### Entrées

##### Corned Beef and Cabbage

Braised Corned Beef and Red Potatoes, Steamed Cabbage and Carrots

—or—

##### Creamy Herb Marinated Cod

Herb Marinated Cod, Red potatoes, Steamed Cabbage and Carrots, Creamy Citrus Sauce

—or—

##### Vegetarian

Pesto Ravioli, Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a Pesto Sauce

#### Dessert

Bailys Irish Cream 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.

# PUT THE APRIL LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



## THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

### SIR 146 April Luncheon

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Salad

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

#### Entrées

##### [Tailgate BBQ Ribs](#)

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable,  
Tangy BBQ Sauce

—or—

##### [Lemon Garlic Cod](#)

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese,  
Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

##### Vegetarian

##### [Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta](#)

Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce over Penne Pasta,  
Seasonal Vegetable

#### 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.



## Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

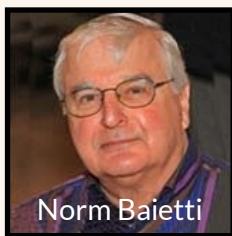


Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



Pat O'Keeffe



Norm Baietti





Rich Ahlf  
John Biasotti  
Ron Binder  
Bruce Borgman  
Ed Brands  
Jim Burk  
Chuck Cornell  
Bill Holly  
Dave Kingsbury  
Jonathan Korfhage

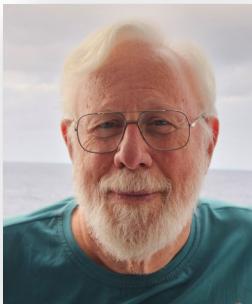
David Steinberg  
Joe Stengel  
Al Munayer  
Steve Oki  
Scott Simmons  
Larry Ribarich  
Paul Jones  
Ron Self  
Eric Finson  
David Price



## MARCH MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Steve. Oki	2020	5
Rog Rivers	2018	7
Roger Meyer	2017	8
Carl Feil	2016	9
Milt Smith	2016	9
Jim Pope	2015	10
Jim Pfohl	2013	12
Sid Landman	2013	12
Jack Baldassari	2012	13
Jonathan Korfhage	2012	13
Calvin Tucker	2009	16
John Aaro	2008	17
Ron Binder	2006	19
Richard Hanford	2004	21

Until you are retired, you will never really know what you can get done in your pajamas.



## Editor's Ramblings

**Clint Collier**

Lot going on for March. Don't forget to turn your clock's forward once again! Makes me wonder when we are going to stop this useless exercise. Don't people realize it doesn't really give us any more light during

the day... nor less darkness. Want more daylight in your day? Get up an hour earlier! Oh well. Lighten up and look forward to Pie day March 14th! Get it? Pie, Pi, 3.14. Boundary Oak doesn't; we get cake for dessert at our meeting! Oh Well. Then, if Pie/Pi day isn't exciting enough for you up comes a couple of important dates in history. Don't forget the Ides of March. Keep an eye on your friends day and keep in mind the soothsayer's admonition, "Ay, Caesar but not gone." Again Boundary Oak doesn't get it. No Caesar salad for lunch. Next up is the celebration for that famous snake charmer, St. Patrick! So how does one celebrate liberation from all the snakes. You eat corned beef and drink green beer of course. At least Boundary Oak is onboard with that, we get corned beef for lunch at the March meeting; but don't count on the green beer. Or, perhaps, you play the lottery hoping that this time the leprechaun will terminate his rainbow in your front yard and that there really is a pot of gold at the end. That happened to me once, not the pot of gold, the rainbow in my front yard! That was the day when I discovered that the pot of gold was at the other end of the rainbow! Oh well.

Finally if all this excitement isn't enough for you, don't miss the Vernal Equinox on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Equal amounts of day and night for the day. Hey, maybe daylight saving worked? Days are getting longer!

Who knew that March could be so exciting?

Cutoff date for next month's April issue of SIR Call will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind this is the date by which we should have it, not the date for you to start writing it!

**Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall**

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

## SIRCall Newsletter Group

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



Remember, some Leprechauns are luckier than others!

## 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**.

# NOTES

## from Our Members

Some comments from  
**Bruce Borgman** and the Editor

Do you subscribe to National Geographic? Well known for over a century for its scientific and geographic content it is a world institution. So why are we mentioning it here? Because the February 2025 has an article that is very applicable to us, the members of SIR.

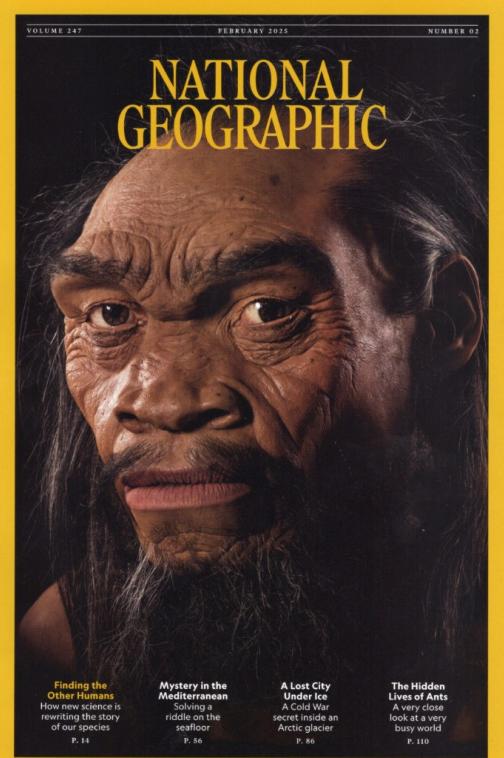
The article, titled *The Secret to a long, Healthy Life*, starts on page 52 of this issue and provides valuable information that should interest all of us. We can't reprint the article here even though it is only about two pages long but its conclusion and most important point is in the subsection of the title, "*Your lifespan is overrated. It's health span that really matters.*"

Do you read Larry Kaye's article in this newsletter on biking, even if you don't own a bike? He is fond of commenting "Health is wealth." He gets it! Longevity without health is a questionable benefit. The question we should be asking is not how long we will live but how healthy we will remain while on the journey.

The article sums it up at the end: "Right now, WITHOUT TAKING ANY DRUGS, we can basically maximize our exercise, our nutrition, our sleep, and our social connectivity. *Those are the four things* that anyone can do."

Now, go back and read number four again: Welcome to SIR.

To quote a famous fictional character most of you will recognize, "Live long and prosper."



# NOTES

## from Our Members

### Focus Group for New 2024 Members:

On February 13th prior to the luncheon, 11 new 2024 members met to share their feedback on joining SIR 146. They were: **Bob Mason, Phil Lee, Al Guzman, Ed Lichtig, Phil Lee, David Paulson, Jim Crites, Dave Price, Glenn Denney, Cleo Bolen, CK Leung, Pat Tidmarsh, Brian Lotter, plus Thom Deganan, Glenn Breslin, Steve Oki and Henry Thatcher.** The session was well attended, and everyone was really engaged in the discussion. The discussion centered around what attracted them to SIR 146, what is working and not working for them at SIR 146. A summary of their feedback will be shared with the BEC in March. Thank you to all that attended and sent feedback via email and to **Henry Thatcher** for the photos of the session..

**Jim Pope**, Facilitator



# February

## MEETING PHOTOS

By Henry Thatcher



Mac Avery

## Welcoming Crew



Bud Pierce

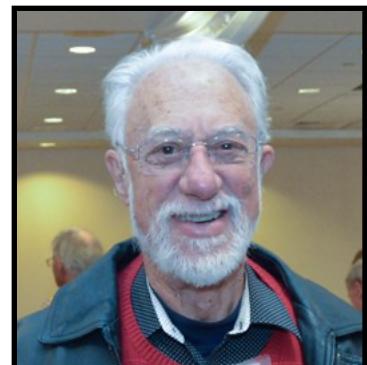
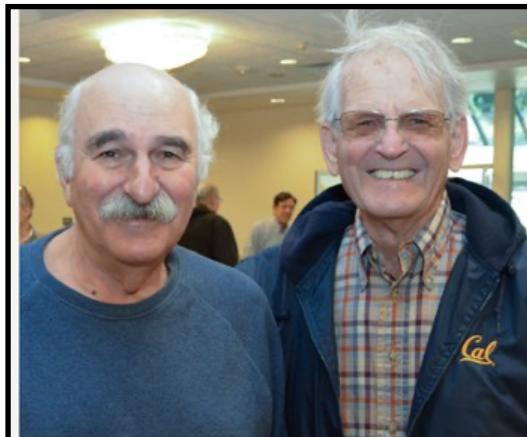


Clint Collier [editor]  
Recruiter of the quarter





## Our February Speaker Jerry Toenyes





**Song Sirs  
God Bless America**





# Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Here are some recent Activity updates. Click on the E-mail address to contact the activity lead and express your interest, questions or comments

- New Gardening Activity: Ken Studer [klstuder1161@gmail.com](mailto:klstuder1161@gmail.com)
- New Veterans Activity: Larry Kaye [larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)
- SIR Bocce Day Tue 4/22, 1pm to 4pm: [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)
- SIRs Day at San Francisco Giants Wed 5/14 12:45pm Day Game: [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)
- New CPR Class – Fri 5/23, 9:00am: **Thom Degnan** [thomdegnan@gmail.com](mailto:thomdegnan@gmail.com)
- Bee Gees Tribute Band - Sat 7/18, 8:00pm: [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)
- SIR Travel with three trips planned to Vietnam/Cambodia, Australia/New Zealand and Japan/Korea: [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

Please reach out to me with any activity suggestions or your questions or comments.

Did you know that 60% of SIR146 activities are co-ed. Your wife or significant other is welcome to join in the fun for most of SIR146 activities.

All these activities welcome women:

Bird Watching, Bocce, Bridge (multiple groups), Couples Dining Out, Cribbage, Cycling, Dixieland Band, Explore and Eat, Gardening, Guitar Group, Hiking, Ladies Day Lunch, Mex. Train Dominoes (10 groups), Photography, Pinochle, Sushi No Tomodachi (some lunches), Theater, Travel and Wine Tasting.

Please confirm with the specific Activity Chair before joining in.

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

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## 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

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

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
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
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #8 4:00pm –3:30pm 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 <b>11:30am–1:30pm</b> <b>SIR Luncheon</b>	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
				
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf <b>Noon</b> <b>SIRCa;ll Articles Due</b>	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Dup Bridge 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 11:30am MTD 5 Cinco 1:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group Rocco's Pizzaria 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
				
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
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 GolfF-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
<u>31</u>	Apr 1 	2	3	4
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 5:30 Couples Dining Out Luna	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



## Travel Glenn Breslin

**GOOD NEWS !!!** Based upon both the SIR Multi-Branch travel questionnaire results and the related member interview input, these travel destinations have been chosen for future SIR Travel. Please let me, **Glenn Breslin**, know if you are interested.

Vietnam/Cambodia (price/price with air)	Australia/New Zealand (price/price with air)	Japan/Korea (price/price with air)
10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495/\$4695)  Angor Wat Post-Trip Included, available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G5-30339	1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295/\$7645)  Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495/\$9095)  Hiroshima Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339

OAT/Grand Circle just communicated the following **discounts and suggested booking dates**. If any of these trips interests you, please contact OAT/Grand Circle directly. Use the [LINK HERE](#) links above for each trip for contact information and further trips details.

- If you able to book Vietnam/Cambodia by Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, please use Group Code G5-30339 and pay your \$500 deposit. Use the discount code DOBE354 for a \$500 per person immediate discount.
- If you able to book Australia/New Zealand and/or Japan/Korea by Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, please use Group Code G6-30339 and pay your \$500 deposit. You will receive \$100 per person discount, within 48 hours of signing up on your invoice.
- OAT Grand Circle is saving space, exclusively, for SIR Travelers until March 9<sup>th</sup>
- After March 9<sup>th</sup>, the general public will be able to book these previously saved SIR slots on the Vietnam/Cambodia, Australia/New Zealand and Japan/Korea trips.

### Travel Quotes:

*"There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with"*

*"You can pack for every occasion, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring"*

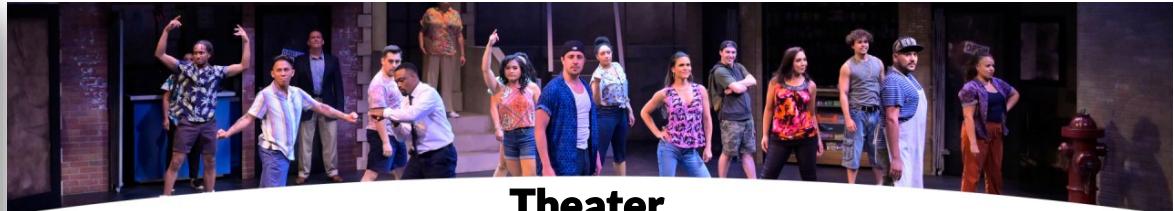
*"A good friend listens to your adventures. A best friend makes them with you"*

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

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





## Theater Glenn Breslin

### Save the date (only)

Do not send a check at this time!

Email me with interest, I will inform when to send your check.

#### Bee Gees Tribute Band – You Should be Dancing

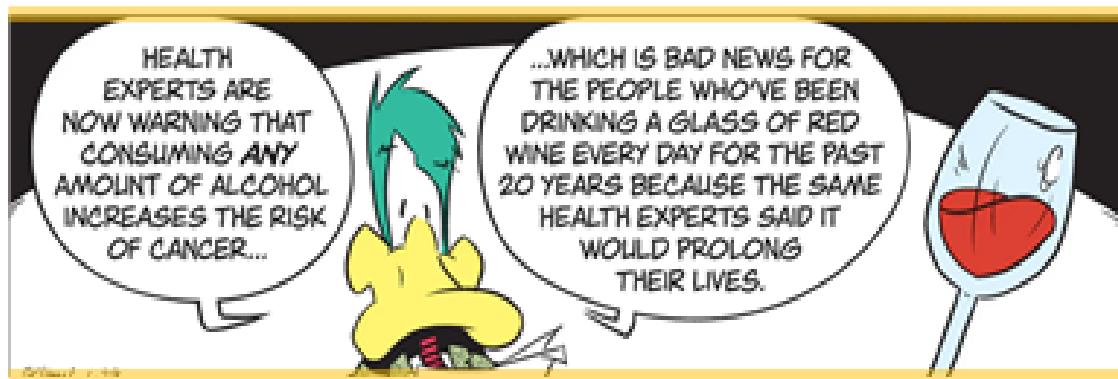
- **Date:** Sat 7/18 8:00 PM
- **Show:** Bee Gees Tribute Band—You Should Be Dancing is dedicated to faithfully recreating the Bee Gees' iconic sound, while elevating the onstage visual experience.
- **Location:** Lesher Theater
- **Price:** \$58.99 per ticket
- **Limited:** 20 tickets
- **Payment:** Make out your check to SIR146 and send to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549 (when notified)
- **Seat Assignment:** When I return from traveling, I will ask that you pick your seat numbers
- **Optional Dinner:** 5:30 PM optional dinner to be announced before the show



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

I look forward to sharing this SIR-Theater experience with you !!

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





## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

February 8<sup>th</sup>: Today saw **Bob Wilkenfeld, Thom Degnan, Brian Lotter, Elmer Bricca, Jim Rowland, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly** and myself brave a cold day for a ride. We explored the towns of Diablo, Danville and Alamo. The

wind was nasty, the temps somewhat cold but the sun shined. The hills were nasty. We stopped at Christys Donuts,(ranked as number 1 in CoCo by the Diablo magazine). Great shop. The owner gave each of us two belly bombs for the price of one. After all the hills they were needed. However: after leaving this spot we got to enjoy some more hills. A bridge was ridden over to the shock of all, and more hills greeted us. After the last hill it was time to head home. We then took the flat boulevard back to the cars. What a ride. No one showed their age today. Proof that the word age means nothing to us... **Larry**

February 11<sup>th</sup>: Todays ride included **Bob Wilkenfeld, Tom Alborg, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Brian Lotter** and myself; It was a trip to Si Si Cafe in Moraga. We started with temps at 37'. The wind was in our faces and non stop. As we were going to Moraga we were climbing the entire trip. So, wind, cold, climb. What the heck? We are all tough. Eventually Moraga was in our sights. Si Si cafe had some hot java and the usual assortments of low cal non fat goodies (?). We enjoyed the stop. Gained some warmth from the Java and then decided heck, let's extend this ride. I took the guys to-



L to R  
Larry Kaye Jim Nelson,  
Bob Wilkenfeld,  
Tom Alborg, Brian Trotter,  
Bill Holly

wards Orinda and past the Lesher estate en- route to the fun downhill. Glorietta greeted us with a switch-back downhill that was a bit un-nerving. Fast and curvy. Finally the flats greeted us. Around and through Lafayette we rode. Finally.... The end appeared. I for one,

jumped in my truck and fired up the heater. The feeling returned to my fingers and my face. Great ride. Getting old is not for sissies. Keep active... **Larry**

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.430



## Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30am, February 10<sup>th</sup> a group of five SIR birders met at Heather Farms Park to look for birds in the main pond and the adjacent woodlands. We ended up spotting 33 species of birds.

Highlights of the trip included an Anna's Hummingbird sitting on a nearby thimble-sized nest, a record 7 Black-crowned Night Herons perched on the island, two Great Blue Herons, a Red-shouldered Hawk perched in a nearby tree and great looks at Ring-necked Ducks and a Bufflehead.



SIR Birders at Heather Farms  
(Photo by Jim Rowland)

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30am on March 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday). Location will be announced the week before. If interested, please email **Ted Robertson** so you can be added to the monthly mailing list. Beginners are welcome, I have a few loaner binoculars.



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

Red-shouldered Hawk.  
(Photo by [Jim Rowland](mailto:Jim Rowland))



## 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](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)



## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Are you looking for something to do on Thursday Mornings? Why not join us for 9-Hole golf. Between the rain we had earlier and all of our recent sunny weather the

playing conditions are very nice. 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 to those who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

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



## Bocce John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September. All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 12.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

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

I once bought a dog from a blacksmith.  
As soon as I brought him home, he made a  
bolt for the door..



## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a program of Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day. We will be performing on March 14 at Ivy Park Retirement Home and March 15 at Byron Park. The residents like singing along with us.

Our next rehearsal is on March 5, 2025 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

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.

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



## Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in March. We have a terrific selection for you. Come one, come all!.



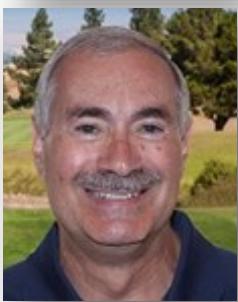
I remember the first time I saw a universal remote control.

I thought to myself, "Well, this changes everything!"



## Hiking

Ray Martz & Bob Wilkenfeld



We visited the west side of Chabot Regional Park for our hike on January 27th. The 5.2-mile trek took us up and down hills densely forested with eucalyptus trees for a total elevation gain of around 900 feet. Cool temperatures, peek-a-boo views of both Chabot Lake and the Bay, and the lack of crowds made this a very pleasant outing for **Earl Bates, Eric Finson, Bob Lively (and his poodle Winy), Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld**. Gene was successful in his hunt for deer ticks, but quick action removed the offensive critter from his wrist — a reminder that we are not alone in the wilderness.

On February 10 only three of us showed up to hike — **Mark Curtis, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** — in the Shell Ridge Open Space of Walnut Creek. It was a glorious day (not too cold or too hot), the trails were dry, and the views were splendid. We even opted to hike the scenic Indian Creek Trail, as it was mud-free. We ended up going 5 miles and climbed just under 500 feet.



hike the scenic Indian Creek Trail, as it was mud-free. We ended up going 5 miles and climbed just under 500 feet.



All the hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We do try to select at least one venue each month that has much less than 1000 feet of climbing. The email notifications for each hike will generally describe the difficulty; easy, moderate, or strenuous. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

NEW

By popular demand, we will be hosting a 3-4 mile, flat walk each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). If you are interested in joining this walk, please let Bob know.

Ray Martz

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

Bob Wilkenfeld

[Wilkx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilkx4@gmail.com)

**I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing, retraced my steps, and got distracted on my way back.**



**I have no idea what's going on and now I have to pee.**

We offer three kinds of service.

**GOOD—CHEAP—FAST**  
You can pick any two.

**GOOD** service **CHEAP** won't be **FAST**  
**GOOD** service **FAST** won't be **CHEAP**  
**FAST** service **CHEAP** won't be **GOOD**



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

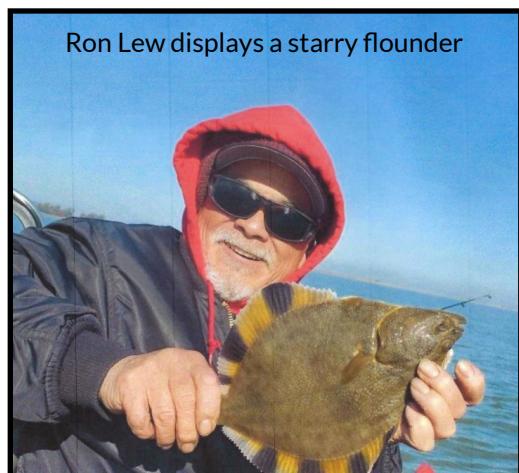
Paul Dubow

Fishing was slow this month. We can put up with the rain, but the wind makes it difficult. The big event this month was the annual opening of San

Pablo Reservoir, which began operations on February 7. We are looking to catch lots of trout and catfish there and perhaps the sturgeon that **Dick Thomson** has landed twice might reappear. The Department of Fish and Wildlife also announced the rockfish regulations for 2025. The season will begin on April 1, and we can fish from boats at depths of 300 feet or more in April, October, and December. From May to September and in November, we can only fish from boats in depths less than 300 feet. In addition, one can fish from the shore at any time. We are anxiously awaiting the announcement of salmon regulations. The salmon season has been closed for two years, but rumor has it that there will be a short season in either July or August.

Even with San Pablo closed until recently, trout fishing was the main focus of the group. **Carl Moyer** caught nine trout on two trips to Contra Loma Reservoir, one with **Gordon Linebaugh** and the other with **Zbig Mrozek**. However, an outing at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir produced nothing. **Bob Lively** caught a big trout in Contra Loma and **Dennis Lee** and **Stan Wong** had some luck fishing for trout at Shadow Cliffs and Contra Loma. **Tom Stefanski** tried out his new rod and reel at Contra Loma but failed to reel in any fish.

Out in the Delta, **Ron Lew**, **Ken Bellendir**, and **Eric Finsen** had a great day hauling in a boatload of starry flounder.



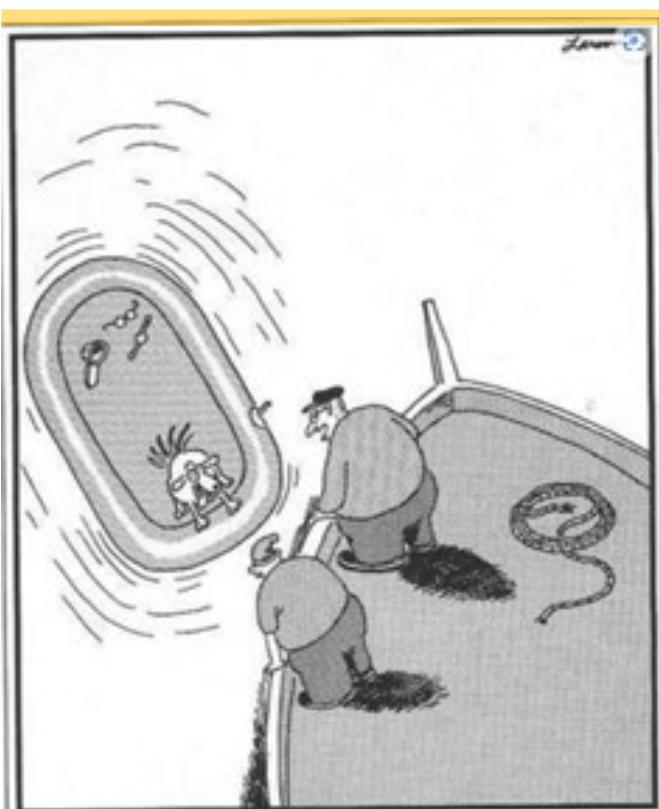
Ron Lew displays a starry flounder

**Nic Jabuka** and **Tom Kostik** watched from nearby. They did not do as well, but they did bring in a few flounder. However, over the month, **Tom** landed roughly 30 black bass and stripers, releasing all of them. **Dennis Lee** and **Mike Corker** also caught stripers in the Delta.

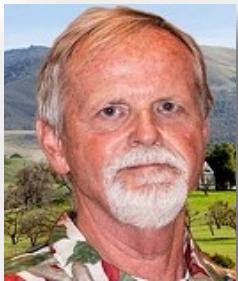
Our next breakfast meeting will be on March 27 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. This will be the occasion for our annual fishing equipment auction. If you want to augment your supply of fishing gear or you need to buy gear to start or restart a fishing hobby, this might be a great opportunity to pick up some good stuff at a bargain price. If you do so, stick around for breakfast and sign up as a member. We have lots of outings scheduled in the next few months and we guarantee a good time. Breakfast begins at 7 am, the auction is at 8 am, and the meeting itself will be at 8:30 am.

For further information, please call me at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow  
510.504.3566



"Hey, boy! How ya doin'? ... Look at him, Dan. Poor guy's been floating out here for days but he's still just as fat and happy as ever."



## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members will meet on Friday, March 21st at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting will start at 9 AM. All are certainly welcome to attend.

By the time this article reaches you, the February meeting will be over and done with. This meeting was organized by Mike Rothman and Glenn Breslin. Both these SIRs were responsible for organizing the photoshoot outing on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the UC Berkely Botanical Gardens. The following members of the photography group that attended were **Miker Rothman**, **Glenn Breslin**, **Ron Polivka**, **Frank Terzuoli**, **Bill Holly**, and **Moose Kelly**. Miker Rothman had requested a huge favor from the BIG MAN for a gorgeous sunny day. We were incredibly lucky for the clear skies that provided for great photography of the gardens by the attendees. A lunch followed at the Hofbauer House in Orinda. A few of the photos from the shoot are attached to this newsletter.

At the February meeting, the photographers will show their top 5-7 photos of the various plants that they photographed. The group will be doing this through the Google site that **Miker Rothman** has created. The group did download their top photos directly to this website which eliminates passing photos back and forth via email or coming to the meeting with a flash drive. The **Miker** will be doing training on how to use this website over the next couple of meetings. Thanks, **Miker** for making this happen. You are DA MAN!!

Please review the 2025 photography calendar of themes and shooting locations at the end of this article. This calendar has been formulated from last year's feedback of all the photography members. If you are interested in joining us for any particular month, then you can contact me or **Henry Thatcher** for details.

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](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)

### SIR Branch 146 Photography Calendar 2025

**January 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Urban Photography theme with photographing Walnut Creek murals, utility box art et al.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting** - Presentation of pictures from Botanical Gardens shoot on February 5<sup>th</sup> and training on the use of Google Photos.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting** - Nature Photography theme with photographing flowers and wild life at Mt Diablo.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - General Photography theme at the Tunnel Tops Park at the Presidio in San Francisco

**May 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Parade photography theme with photographing Memorial Day and or July 4<sup>th</sup> parades locally.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Portrait Photography theme with photographing your kids, family gatherings such as weddings, graduations et al.

**July 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Black and White Photography theme. Photograph Pioneer Cemetery in Martinez.

**August 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Architectural Photography theme. Photograph historical structures and gardes in the San Francisco Financial District.

**September 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Wine Vineyard Photography theme. Photograph various vineyard in Napa and Sonoma

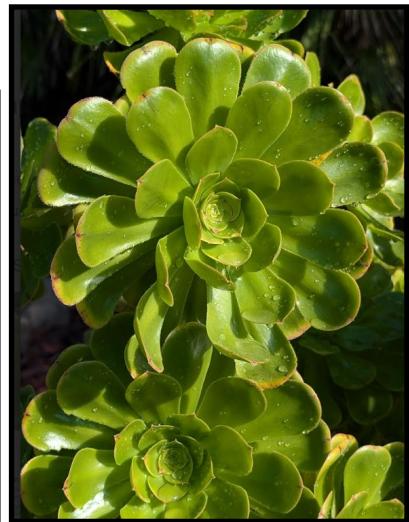
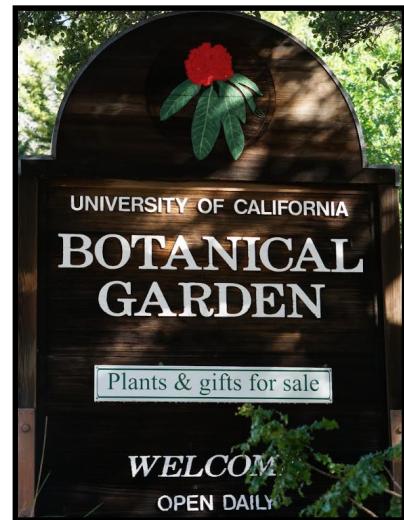
**October 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Bridge Photography theme. Photograph the Southern and Northern views of the Golden Gate Bridge

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting** - Random Photos of the Fall Season. Feedback and brain-storming session for 2026 calendar.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Best Photo of the year in DSLR and Camera Phone. Christmas Luncheon at Rocco's or wherever. HOO-RAY!!

Photo Group continued on next page

Photo Group continued from previous page

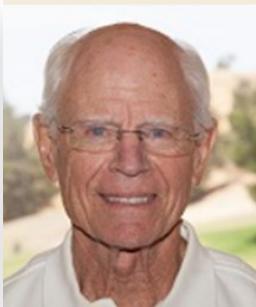


Top to Bottom, photos by  
Frank Teruzoli, Bill Holly,  
Ron Polivka



Top to Bottom, photos by  
Bill Holly, Miker Rothman,  
Glenn Breslin, Moose Kelly

## Not one but TWO new groups for you!



### Gardening Ken Studer

You are invited to join the Gardening Group. We meet monthly on the third Monday of each month. Potential Discussion topics:



Diagnosing plant problems

- Pruning techniques
- Irrigation
- Vegetables
- Soil science

We plan to meet at different homes each month to observe different gardens with their concepts, see what is growing vigorously and what is suffering, meeting on a patio and discussing a planned garden topic as well. I envision this activity as growing 10 to 12 participants.

This is a co-ed activity, SIR members can bring their wives or significant others. Also, both SIR men and their wives can attend individually.

Ken Studer

925.963.2536 [kllstruer1161@gmail.com](mailto:kllstruer1161@gmail.com)



### Veterans Larry Kaye

You are invited to join the Veterans Group.

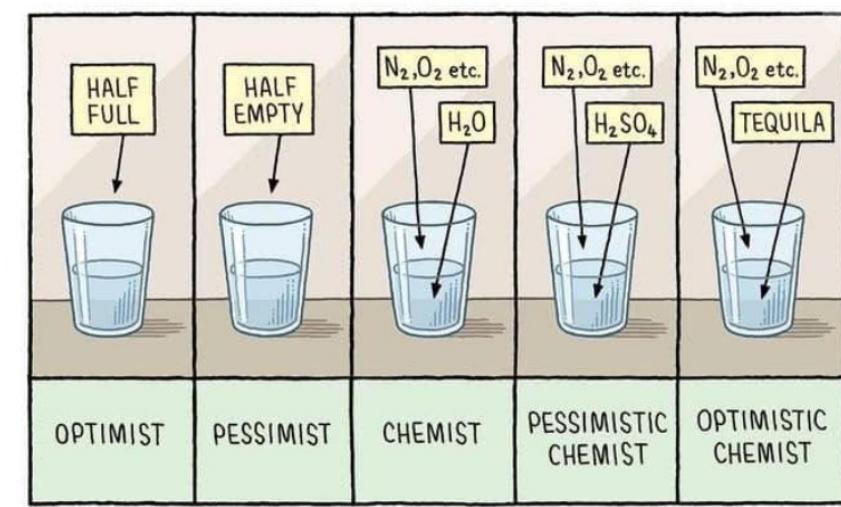
We meet quarterly for lunch and conversation at various locations, usually on a Friday. The exact dates will be announced in advance each quarter.

Please have a story ready to be shared with your fellow vets. It's not necessary but could be fun. Some of us have tales that only a fellow Vet could understand. Sometimes a speaker will share his unique experience. Bring cash to pay for your lunch bill. This will be a fun gathering.



Larry Kaye

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





## Book Group Nick Jabuka

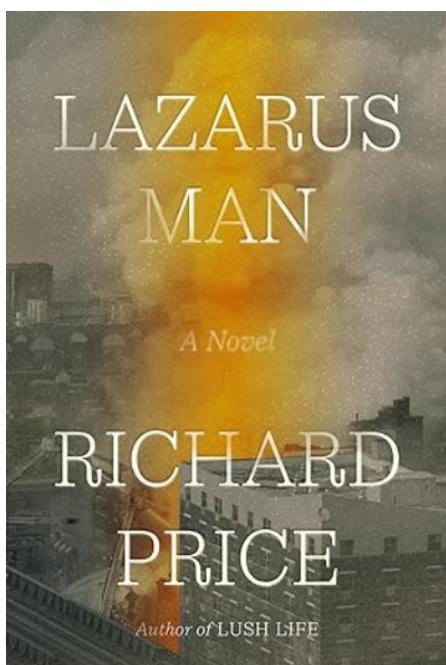
### Book Review – Jan '25 Lazarus Man – Richard Price

The SIR 146 Book group held its January meeting and we reviewed our book of the month 'Lazarus

Man' by Richard Price. Each month we also discuss what's new with SIR, what we've been up to and towards the end of the meeting we have a discussion and vote on our next book to read. It seems as though there are more and more worthy books both in the fiction and non-fiction categories for us to undertak... even in retirement, so much to do and not enough time.

### Musings

This month the group also answered the question 'Why do we read books?' in this time when there's so many other ways to get information and be amused or entertained. There were a number of responses to the question but there was a common thread in our responses that reading books, while entertaining, was an important avenue to learning and understanding history. There was also the observation that many people working in technical areas, where reading for work was a significant time constraint, didn't have the time to read for fun until they transitioned to retirement. I did do that as someone who always dreamed of being in a book club but never had the time to look for one and also didn't have the time, consistently, to read books beyond my reading for work which included finance, economics and programming.



### The Book

This month's book, which was fiction, was about the collapse of an apartment building in East Harlem in 2008. The author was inspired to write the novel after an East Harlem gas explosion in 2014 which caused multiple buildings to collapse and killed eight people. Price lived near the collapsed building and spent time observing the scene.

The book tells the intertwining stories of four primary characters involved in one way or another with the aftermath of the blast, while also providing a feel for everyday life in New York's East Harlem neighborhood. The primary characters were:

Anthony Carter—whose apparent miraculous survival (the Lazarus Man), after being buried for days beneath tons of brick and stone, transforms him into a man with a message, a passionate sense of mission, but also leaving him with some serious spiritual questions.

Felix Pearl —a young transplant to the city wanders the crash site and neighborhood streets coming into contact with a variety of interesting and at times sad characters. His photography and film work on that day provokes, in this previously unformed soul, a sharp sense of personal destiny.

Royal Davis—the owner of a failing Harlem funeral home, whose desperate trolling of the scene for potential "customers" triggers a quest to find another path in life.

Mary Roe—a veteran city detective who has been relegated to a position in the Community Affairs division is dropped into the morass of wreckage, survivors and the unaccounted for following the tenement collapse. In this role she is driven, in part by her own family's brutal history, and becomes obsessed with finding Christopher Diaz, one of the building's missing tenants.

The author follows these four characters in the days following the collapse providing a real glimpse of life on the edge where people are dealing every day with financial hardships, crime, the aftermath of incarceration and government bureaucracies or services that don't always fit their needs. While the author starts out telling four distinct stories only connected by the building collapse, he brings the characters and their stories together thru the pages of the book. The novel is not cynical and ends on a generally positive note with one unexpected twist.

Book Group continued on next page

## Book Group Continued from previous page

The author has had previous success as a novelist, including the books "Clockers" and "Lush Life". Additionally, he has shown considerable skill writing screen plays for film and TV including the screen play for "The Color of Money" and as a writer for the acclaimed series "The Wire".

### Recommendation

The groups opinion on the book was somewhat mixed and the consensus was that we couldn't give it a solid recommendation. Criticisms included 'a contrived ending', 'tedious read' and a 'characters not developed'. That said, some of the group thought that the book provided a real sense of New York street life and Harlem in particular. Additionally, some thought the author's phrasing was unique and noteworthy.

Next months book is "Over the Edge of the World", the story of Magellan's terrifying circumnavigation of the globe. I love books about the ocean, maritime activities and history so I'm very excited to read it.

**Nick Jabuka, Chair**  
925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)

Beauty is in the eye of the  
beer holder

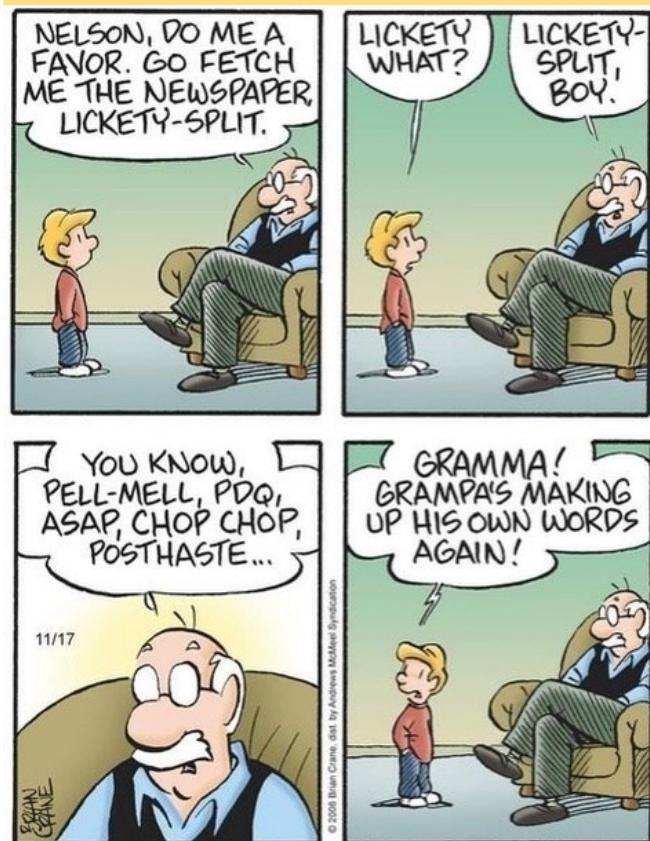


## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

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

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



Finally, finished my bathroom remodel  
last week



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

**Clint Collier**

Our next gathering, the first for 2025, will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. We are going to Walnut Creek's newest sushi/Japanese restaurant: Tanoshi Japanese Bistro in the Citrus Circle shopping center. Look for a report on this in next month's SIR Call. No location has been set for our next meeting which will be April 17<sup>th</sup> if we still have any money left after paying our taxes. If you aren't registered, contact activity leader **Clint** as listed below to be added.

**Clint Collier**

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



## Cooing II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met for their annual Valentine's dinner at Fleming's Steakhouse restaurant in Walnut Creek. All of the Cooking II group members were in attendance. **Bruce Borgman** greeted all

the ladies with a thoughtful and beautiful red rose. A variety of menu items were served including the all inclusive Surf and Turf and Petite Filet and Lobster Valentine dinner specials. Other entree orders were Scottish Salmon, Ahi Tuna Poke and several premium cuts of steak. The group will next meet at **Dennis Halllett's** home on March 10, 2025.

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



I'm getting stronger with age.  
I can now lift \$100 worth of groceries  
with one hand!



## Wine Tasting

Thanks to all who attended the January wine tasting. We also want to send a huge thank you to **Larry and Ann Kaye** for opening their beautiful home to us. January's theme suggested by our hosts was a "white wine extravaganza".

We had a terrific sampling of white wines ranging from chardonnay, sauvignon blanc to semillon and included viognier, chenin blanc and pinot gris plus two sparkling wines. This was a refreshing departure from the usual practice of tasting a red varietal and a white varietal.

The most popular wine of the day (determined by ballot) was brought by **Frank Lucas**. As always, there was an excellent assortment of appetizers that were much appreciated by everyone.

It was a fun day but now we look forward to the next wine tasting which will be Tuesday, April 22, at the home of **Bob and Jane West**. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for the announcement in the SIRCall.

**Brian McCarthy**

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



**Bill Holly Presenting Wine to Hosts Ann and Larry Kaye**



**Brian McCarthy** and most popular wine winners **Frank Lucas** and **Ann Kaye**.





## Couples Dining Out

### Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out event in January was a bit different than our usual restaurant selection, but still notable. We had decided on Tasty Szechuan in Pacheco for the January 20<sup>th</sup> event. Because the restaurant is a bit smaller and without a bar area with a limited liquor license, we decided to skip our usual cocktail hour and just have the dinner – scheduled for 6:00pm. But, when your hosts arrived around five pm, there were already 10-12 diners seated and enjoying their own social hour. We were pleasantly surprised that the restaurant had decorated the four tables for our group with balloons and roses in a somewhat early Valentine's Day celebration. We had 40 diners signed up originally and our group drifted in over the next hour and so actually we did enjoy socializing with one another even though we had not scheduled a cocktail hour.

We started the dinner with a selection of three appetizers: pork potstickers, spring rolls and wontons.

Next came the refreshing Cucumber Salad and a very tasty Chicken Egg Drop soup. Then, we enjoyed six different Chinese specialties including Sesame Chicken, Mongolian Beef, the always popular Honey Walnut Prawns, Sweet and Sour Spare Ribs, and the Salt and Pepper Fish Fillet. Lastly, we had an unusual Sweet Osmathus Cake. All of the dishes were of generous portions – with two plates for each table. In addition, the restaurant sent out some additional dishes which we had not anticipated. To accompany this feast of Chinese specialties, we were able to have a Chinese, or domestic beer as part of the meal. You will be able to see our SIR members and their spouses and guests in the pictures accompanying this article.

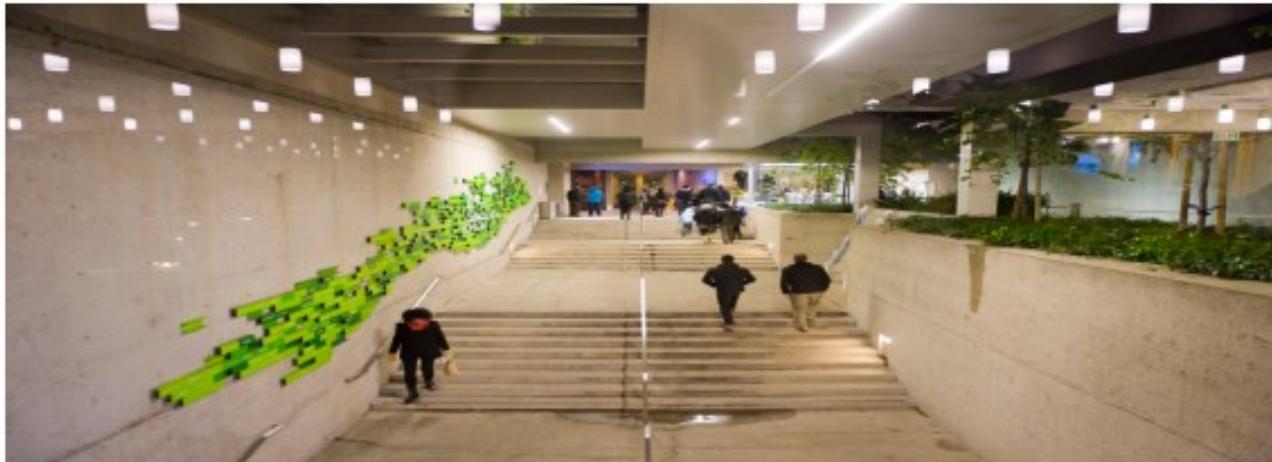
So, while this was a more unconventional Couples Dining Out event – a good time was had by all – to coin a phrase. The dishes were of such generous portions, that we were able to pack up the leftovers in to-go containers, and many of us were able to enjoy this cuisine yet another day. We had 40 diners signed up to attend, but one couple had to cancel because of illness. However, we had enough left-over food, that your hosts delivered several containers with the tasty dishes to these folks after the dinner!

As of this writing, we have not yet decided where we will go for our next event – which will be in March – probably on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. As always, we welcome your suggestions. Undoubtedly, it will be another wonderful culinary experience with great company and a fun time! Be sure to sign up promptly once we decide on the restaurant.

Bruce Borgman  
Dining Out Host



# **SIR 146 Explore & Eat-Updated**



## **Oakland Museum of California**

**Tour February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00-12:30**

**Lunch to follow at 1:00 at location To Be Determined**

Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) tells the many stories that comprise California, bringing people together and inspiring greater understanding about what our state's art, history, and natural surroundings teach us. With more than 1.9 million objects, OMCA's collections of art, history, and natural science bring to life first-person accounts and often untold narratives of California within 110,000 square feet of gallery space and seven-acre campus and gardens.

An abundance of interactive features in the galleries allow visitors to experience centuries of California history and people, generations of its art and artists, and millennia of natural science all in one place.

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is located at **1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. Museum admission is: \$8 per person for this SIR E&E event.** There is a \$6 charge in addition to general admission pricing for special exhibitions in the Great Hall if you wish to view after lunch.

OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street.

We will tour the OCMA starting at 11:00 to 12:30. Lunch will follow at 1:00 at the **Town Fare Café at the museum.** Please send a check to SIR 146 for **\$8 per person to: Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507** to save a spot for this E&E Event.

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

## Group Uno 1



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Nuestros tres ganadores de la noche! **Bruce Borgman**, el torpe; **Sue Oranje**, la ingeniera principal y **Jane Bryant**, el cocar del medio.



Mexican Train Uno was hosted by **Jim Stedman** and partner **Jane** at one of the community rooms at Rossmoor on February 14th, Valentines Day (hence the red top and heart sweater). It is always rewarding to play with our fellow friends and we have the best group!

We were treated with homemade lemon cake and one our all time favorite, brownies.

As we play the game, there seems to be no logic. **Peter Bishop** went out 5 times and didn't place. And ironically, the scorekeeper often wins! A game of luck or chance, who knows, but a time to gather with friends.

Next month will be hosted by **Richard Hockenbrock**.

Corrie Oranje

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

## Group Dos 2



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

**Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti** hosted our January game. We had two couples on a cruise plus one out ill. **Tony and Cindy Greco** subbed for one couple so we played with two tables of 5.

Everyone enjoyed the many snacks **Marlene** put out. At the break we added pounds and inches with a lovely carrot cake and coffee.

Pictured are the winners: **Loren DeLaurenti** continued his winning ways from October coming in first again with a very respectful 9.83 average. Our hostess, **Marlene DeLaurenti**, took second. **Cindy Greco** grabbed third again as she did in October.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, February 28th at the home of **Dan and Mary Holland**. We're hoping

for a full complement of regulars.

. Ron Plachy

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





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on Friday afternoon, January 24<sup>th</sup> after The SIRCall was published. Our Friday express huffed and puffed its way to the peaceful Northgate area of Walnut Creek to the charming home of **Lynn** and **Sally Shafer**. Gathered around the fireplace were **Sally** and **Lynn**, **Linda** and **Larry Brown**, **Judy Richmond**, **Sharon Varner** and **Alicia Baily**. The Shafer's are wonderful hosts who overwhelmed us with mucho table treats and very delicious half-time faire.

Bringing his A game to the table was **Larry Brown** winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place and the big money. Bravo to **Larry** for being our first male winner in a while. You are our hero. **Linda Brown** showed her skill today but came in 2<sup>nd</sup> to hubby. **Judy Richmond** had her guns blazing and captured 3<sup>rd</sup> place. True grit was displayed today by all our gladiators.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

On a cold evening, our group met at the **Hallett's** home on Thursday

January 23rd 2025. This gathering had been postponed a week due to the **Hallett's** having a previous engagement.

As a result of the date change our numbers were reduced by the absence of **Marty Campbell**, **Judy** and **Jim Baldridge** and **Patti** and **Doug Eisner**, who were unable to reschedule.

After filling our wine glasses and snacking on the goodies, our four couples settled in for a competitive but fun evening. As usual the ladies table was vocal

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, said their goodbyes, boarded the ole Mexican Train and followed the sunset home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**. All Aboard.

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



whereas the men's table was quiet (until the wine consumption took effect!)

During a break in play, **Ann Hallett** served homemade apple cake with vanilla ice cream. The men showed no mercy, they consumed the cake without taking a breath, washed down by some coffee and wine refills. When play resumed, everyone was relaxed and ready for a final push to be in the winner's circle.

After playing seven games, **Dennis Hallett** was the winner with a score of 69. **Ann Hallett** and **Joan Pierce** followed close behind with scores of 82 and 107 respectively. In all, the honors were even, which made a good start to the New Year.

The next gathering will be on Thursday February 20th 2025 hosted by **Patti** and **Doug Eisner**.

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

Life is just a series of obstacles preventing you from taking a nap.

I think I still have some unfinished procrastinating to do from yesterday.



# CARD GAMES

## ...we play



### **Men's Hearts**

#### **Bob West and Steve Ybarra**

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

The big winners were **Frank Lucas** with 5 wins including all 4 on 1/24, and **Brian McCarthy** with 4 wins. **Jim Passaglia** had 3 seconds. The lowest average scorer was **Steve Ybarra** with 40 and **Frank Lucas** with 51. **Jim Passaglia** had 2 STM's.

**Frank Lucas** has the highest winning percentage of active players at 63% followed by **Steve Ybarra, Bob Finlayson, Brian McCarthy and Dave Smith** all with 50%. **Brian McCarthy** is most improved. His 2025 win rate of 50% is 192% higher than in 2024. **Frank Lucas** is second with 189%

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and March 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

[robertawest@aol.com](mailto:robertawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

### **Couples Party Bridge**

#### **Tony Greco**

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted our February 4<sup>th</sup> event. With two couples unavailable and with my unsuccessful attempt to find subs for them, I opted to hold a Two-Table event. Two-Table events are generally cozier and a little more low key than our typical Three-Table events. It was a good change of pace. Of the 36 total hands played between the two tables, 7 of 12 game attempts were made. Of those 7, one was a missed slam. There were also three hands that made game but were not bid. Overall total scores were below average.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 2680 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 1810 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**

Our next event will be held on **March 4th** and hosted by **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**.

**CARE TO JOIN US?** For all of you current or former bridge players, we are always looking for bridge couples to occasionally sub for a regular couple. Give us a try. Whether for this bridge group or our couples duplicate group, we are playing in a casual, social and friendly environment accompanied by snacks and beverages. If interested, please contact me for more details. **Why haven't you called yet?**

**Tony and Cindy Greco**  
925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

I told a joke on a Zoom Meeting but  
nobody laughed.  
Turns out I'm not remotely funny!



## Poker Group 8

### Carmelo "Melo" Piccolo

Poker Group #8 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and plays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Players rotate hosting the game at their homes and provide beverages and snacks for the players. The Cost to enter the game is \$10; bets are nickel, dime, and quarter with a maximum bet of 50 cents and a maximum of three raises. Dealer antes a nickel per player. A wide variety of poker games are played with the game being the dealers' choice.

**Melo Piccolo**

925.963.5909 [erpeggio@astound.net](mailto:erpeggio@astound.net)



## Party Bridge

**Jim Pope and Jim Stedman**

Joe Fuchs and Steve Dinning hosted a wonderful day of bridge at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. Looking out over a great view of the 18<sup>th</sup> green, we enjoyed spirited, competitive, play as usual.

The players were: Ray Bland, Dick DeVoe, Mike Davidson, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Max Hingle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.

The high scorers were Ray Spears with 6480 points, Bob Yolland with 5970 points and Max Hinkle with 4850 points.

Our next game will be March 3rd at the home of Bill Schaaf.

Co-Directors

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



## Poker Group 4

### Mark Sorum

Our January game was at the home of Dean Buerke. We had 7 players and enjoyed a wide variety of games with various versions of 7 card stud and 7/27 being the more popular. Our next game is on February 17th at the home of Frank Lucas.

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](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

### Brad Hatcher

Once again, our hard charging crew of bettors met on the first Thursday of the month. Nicely hosted by Frank Lucas, we enjoyed both his libations and the views of his multiple bird feeders. Those birds were Hungry!

Two of the bettors, Paul Dubow and Steve Ybarra, went home with wallets that were fatter than when they arrived. Nice play!

We will meet in March at "Melo" Piccolo's home at the usual time and date.

**Brad Hatcher**

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

I don't mean to brag, but when I get naked in the bathroom, the shower gets turned on.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

On a chilly evening, February 11<sup>th</sup>, friends gathered in the warm home of **Joan and Dave Pierce**. Good fellowship added to the warmth of the evening.

Were any slams bid? Not this month, but right off the bat every declarer made six on Board 1. But only **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** bid game; two pairs stopped in three. **Ken and Elaine Richter** made six in four hearts, on Board 4, but nobody else did. **Ken and Elaine** made six in a part score on Board 11, where I went down in 3 NT. They made six on Board 14 and **Dick** and **Christy** made seven (in a different suit, no less), so there were opportunities.

Congratulations to these couples: **Ken and Elaine** were third (54%), **Dick and Christy** were second (56%), and **Tony and Cindy** were first (59%). Many thanks to our subs, **Max and Ardith Hinkle**, for filling out the field.

#### Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.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 two events are planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 6/26/24, and 7/10/24.

#### Pete McNeill

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

#### Stan Johnson

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



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, February 7 with three tables was nicely hosted by **Dave Steinberg**.

**John Boyan** won 1st Place overall, after tying for 3rd in the 1st half and winning the 2nd half. He also had at least 3 less zeros than anyone else. Congratulations, John!

**Dick DeVoe** took 2nd Place overall, with **Mike Davidson** in 3rd Place.

#### FINAL RESULTS DETAIL

##### 1st Half

1st Place- **Bob Yolland**- 15.5 pts.

2nd Place- **Ray Spears**- 14.0.

3rd Place (tie)- **John Boyan** and **Dick DeVoe**- 13.0.

##### 2nd Half

1st Place- **John Boyan**- 17.5 pts.

2nd Place- **Dick DeVoe**- 15.0.

3rd Place - **Dave Steinberg**-14.5.

##### Final

1st Place - **John Boyan**- 30.5 pts.

2nd Place - **Dick DeVoe**- 28.0.

3rd Place - **Mike Davidson**- 26.5.

**Dick DeVoe**  
[dicknchristy@comcast.net](mailto:dicknchristy@comcast.net)

Great minds think alike...  
Unfortunately, so do stupid ones.



#### 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!

# Parting Shot



## ...ABOUT GROWING OLD

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it's such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And, finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.