

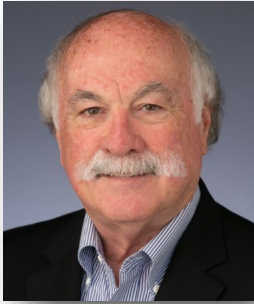


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

April—May 2026



Big Sir's Corner Thom Degnan

We had a good turnout of about 100 members at our March luncheon where we did the second of our planned buffets, and by placing the salad, bread and desert on table in advance, and

utilizing two lines for self-service food serving, the luncheon proceeded smoothly and efficiently. In July, the buffet menu is hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, coleslaw, etc. so we hope you will join us then for a true summer luncheon.

Part of our objectives this year was to highlight members who have provided positive contributions to SIR146 over the years. During the April luncheon, we honored **George Mon, Jim Pope and Dave Steinberg** with our Distinguished Service Award, our second highest honor. We plan to give more of these awards this year and I look forward to doing so.

During the May Ladies' Day Luncheon we have decided to have some additional fun and will be giving away boxes of candy to some of our partners. We will pull names out of a hat every 20 minutes during lunch and award them with candy. I look forward to seeing their smiles as they win their prize.

Photo Rights: Shortly you will see an email asking you to approve using the pictures we take at our activities for use in SIR slide shows and recruiting. We have been requested by SIR State Committee to do so, so

please take a look at the email, and sign so we can continue to take many pictures at our events.

Key objectives for 2026:

Recruiting: I want to remind all that it appears that when we invite a guest to one of our luncheons, SIRs has had a very high success rate of that individual joining SIR. Please consider asking friends to come join you!

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

We all want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. We are in SIR to enjoy life, so help us keep our organization healthy, interesting, fun, and growing for all of us!!

Thom Degnan
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Patrica Bracewell
Author: "The Steel Beneath the Silk"

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
[Click Here to go to page 4](#)

Activities for you and spouse...

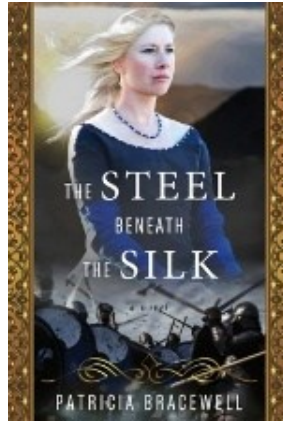
- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Auracast at our meeting [Page 6](#)
- Watchwhere you step [Page 11](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- **BIENVINDO A CUBA** [Page 15](#)
- Gardening/Firescaping [Page 18](#)
- Take a hike [Page 21](#)
- Latest on the food scene [Page 23](#)



Little Sir's Corner Jim Pope

At the May Ladies' Day Luncheon Patricia Bracewell will speak on her book *"The Steel Beneath the Silk"*. It is the third and final

novel in the Emma of Normandy trilogy. Set in 1012, it follows Queen Emma navigating a failing marriage with King Æthelred, the chaos of a Danish invasion led by Cnut, and political betrayal, ultimately tracking her survival and rise to power during England's transition to Danish rule.



Little Sir and the speakers' committee have been working on speakers for the year. We have a slate of outstanding speakers coming up. The speaker for June will be Debora Allen on the upcoming BART referendum and for July we have Nan Su on China Relationships.

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

Members: Also, I want to encourage all members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. We need more contribution and involvement from **you**. Step up and be a co-chair of an activity. The better SIR 146 will be and the better it will be for **you**.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in April.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Dreyfus lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Margaret**. He is a retired teacher for the Pleasanton

Unified School District. He enjoys painting, photography and gardening. He is sponsored by **Ron Polivka**.

Robert Brodsky lives in Moraga and was a Construction Manager. He enjoys pinochle and table pool. He is sponsored by **Tom Amann**.

After a two-year hiatus, **Dave Svoboda** is rejoining our branch. Welcome back **Dave**.

The 2026 membership count is **246**.

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

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

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 Sponsor's 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
925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net

SIR Mission Statement

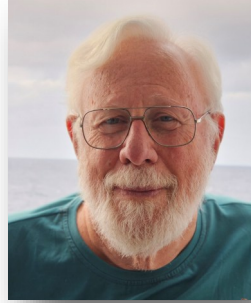
The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons, while making friends for life.

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan
 Little Sir.....Jim Pope
 Secretary John Rexroat
 Assistant SecretaryMike Davidson
 TreasurerMike Ball
 Assistant TreasurerPaul Jones
 Director 1st TermGlenn Breslin
 Director 1st TermBob Lucido
 Director 1st TermOpen
 Director 2nd TermJim Crites
 Director 3rd TermJohn Alexander
 Director 3rd TermMark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander
 Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

We have a couple of changes to SIRCall this month. The page dealing with our monthly luncheon and the report from the luncheon chairman does not run this month; it is the Ladies' Day Luncheon. That space in the

newsletter is reserved for this special event. When regular lunches resume with the June meeting the Luncheon Chairman column will be gone. Instead you will find a new page dealing only with the luncheon: the menu, how it works and help registering for and paying for the event. The report from the chairman will join the reports from the other working members, Big and Little Sirs, membership, birthdays, get well wishes and, of course, this column.

The other change is that **Henry Thatcher**, our photographer, is "retiring". I'm not sure how long he has been at this job; **Henry** was there snapping pictures when I became editor and at nearly every event, especially the luncheon, he has been a familiar face as he grabbed a candid shot of you, your friends and our activities. We shall miss his contributions and skill but it appears he has found an equally skilled and motivated replacement in **Don Casey**. **Don** is a fairly new SIR member and has already made a mark in the photography activity so we look forward to working with him here as part of the SIRCall team.

The cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the June issue will be May 20th but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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

Take SIRCall with you!

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



[Current Issue of
SIRCall](#)

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

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



Ladies' Day Luncheon Steve Ybarra

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

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



SIR 146 May Ladies' Day Luncheon Thursday May 14th, 2026

Salad

Caesar Salad

Entrées

Spaghetti and Meatballs

—or—

Chicken Alfredo

—or—

Stuffed Peppers

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Eggplant Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Cannoli

For the Ladies' Day Luncheon event you need to use the reservation form below
The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 14th, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

Put the June Luncheon on your calendar
NOW!

MAY

Alex Borders
Thom Degnan

Mike Gipps
Scott Golde
Al Guzman
Bruce Kimmis
Steve Knight
Joseph Lamanna
Sid Landman
Bob Lively
Roger Meyer
Corrie Oranje
Ron Polivka
Vern Rookh
Pops Sandness
Don Seaton



SIR 146 June Luncheon

Thursday, June 11th, 2026

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Chicken Marsala

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast,
Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Marsala Shallot -Mushroom Cream Sauce

Cod Marsala

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

Vegetarian Manicotti

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

Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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

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

vised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keeffe

April

Photos by
Don Casey



Jeff Dreyfus



Robert Brodsky



April
Brad Hatcher



Can you hear me now?

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











NOTES

from Our Members



Wild Life on the Trail
be careful



where you step
...Cleo Bolen



NOTES

from Our Members



Moonlight on the Mountain 2026

Save Mount Diablo's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

ABOUT THE GALA

Join us for our 25th annual Moonlight on the Mountain, Save Mount Diablo's signature fundraising gala, a celebration of Diablo's precious beauty and support for Save Mount Diablo's essential work.

Guests are transported up the mountain's slopes where they are treated to an elegant three-course meal, live music, and both live and silent cocktail auctions—all while surrounded by the unparalleled, majestic views Mount Diablo has to offer.

This gala dinner draws a crowd of more than 500 individuals, elected officials, and conservation-minded corporate partners and local businesses.

Your support helps ensure Save Mount Diablo can continue protecting Mount Diablo and its range for future generations of people and wildlife.

Pending interest, we will reserve a table for 10 SIR members/spouses - Cost \$400/person (non-refundable)

Contact Cleo Bolen by May 15th for reservations cleo.bolen@comcast.net or 925-768-7902



Activities!

Stay Active... Stay young



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

For those interested, I discovered a local senior's resource, Sensational Seniors. I thought that the related events may support SIR members. If you are interested in their types of activities (see website link), then please let me know and I will schedule an event, and, if you prefer, you can always reach out to them directly.

<https://www.sensationalseniors.net/>

Sensational Seniors hosts free, in-person educational events for older adults and their loved ones, led by experienced senior service professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area

Their Mission is to: Empower older adults and families with trusted local guidance to navigate aging in place and life transitions with clarity and confidence.

Another Upcoming SIR146 Event

SF Giants vs. Washington Nationals - SIR 146 Outing!

Imagine a classic Bay Area day at Oracle Park on Tuesday, June 10, 2026—12:45 PM Vs. the Washington Nationals! Picture the bay breeze, Giants baseball, and SIR camaraderie. Perfect retirement fun!

Event Details:

- DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2026
- TIME: 12:45 PM game time
- LOCATION: Oracle Park, San Francisco. Meeting point will be subsequently communicated
- COST: \$80 secures your ticket. If the tickets are cheaper, then I will refund the difference
- CHECK: Make out your check to SIR146, and mail to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549

RSVP: Reply to glennbreslin@gmail.com.

I have a limited number of tickets! **Go Giants!**

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

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

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



9 Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

Are you looking for something to do on Thursday morning when we are not having a SIR Luncheon? Why not come join us for golf. The course loved the last round of rain we got and is very green. 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



Travel Glenn Breslin

I will be transitioning my travel duties to a new Travel Chair in June. I need to firm up with this new prospective travel chair before his name is conveyed to all.

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires ! If you would like to travel with your fellow SIR members, then please fill out the following questionnaire **by 4/28** and send it back to me: glennbreslin@gmail.com. If your preferred location has been selected for future SIR Multi-Branch travel, then I will contact you to find out how you like to travel (e.g. cost, travel companies, duration, etc.)

During May, and based upon questionnaire results, I will select several SIR Travel Trips and begin publicizing them.

SIR MULTI-BRANCH TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE

Where do you want to travel to? Can be multiple travel locations.

What duration (# of days) works best for you ?

Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip ?

What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise Companies ?

Can you please provide any other comments about SIR Travel ?

If your preferred trip(s) turn out to be candidates for future SIR Travel, then I would like to learn more about how you like to travel. Can you please provide your contact information below ?

Name, Email and Phone Number:

Travel Quotes:

“The best journey is the one taken with friends by your side.”

“Traveling with a friend is like stepping into a storybook adventure together. “

“It doesn't matter where you're going – it's who you go with that makes it fun.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



SPECIAL TRAVEL REPORT

BIENVENIDO A CUBA!!



Bob Wilkenfeld

Among the many recent trips **Branch 146** has sponsored, was a week-long visit to Cuba. Four SIR members and their spouses, from three different Branches in the Bay Area, participated. Thirteen other



Americans, from Iowa and Minnesota, joined the tour in Havana. We visited many interesting sights in Havana and Matanzas, including the Old Town, a cigar factory, the elegant Hotel Nacional, Freedom Square, the old Spanish Fort (which guards the harbor), Ernest Hemingway's home, a co-op organic farm, and the largest pharmacy museum in Latin America. And, of course, we got to ride around Havana for several hours in classic American cars.

Cuba is a beautiful country, with warm, friendly people, who were happy to host us. Never did we feel unsafe. Music, tasty food and plenty of adult beverages always greeted us during our two-hour long lunches and dinners. The sunrises and sunsets were often stunning.



Unfortunately, neglect and the poor economy have led to decaying infrastructure and difficult living conditions for most people. Many beautiful buildings in Havana were in serious disrepair. Residential electricity is available for only 4-5 hours a day and we survived the recent nationwide blackout. Professionals earn only \$15 USD a month, and pensioners receive only about \$5 USD a month. Inflation is high, so the US dollar is the preferred currency to hold. Still, the people were very gracious to us.





Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshner Theater

For the following shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available

If you are interested, send a check made out to SIR146 to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549

I will then give you a choice of the available seats

The Leshner 2026-2027 season announces in late June. Look for new shows in the July SIRCall

Thanks to all that completed the short theater questionnaire, if you have not done so, please let me know, and I will send you one; glennbreslin@gmail.com

[Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \\$43.00 - Leshner Theater](#)
[Link to Show Page](#)

**Fully Subscribed
Waiting List Only!**

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you rocking in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family.

Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)

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

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has finally clarified the length of the salmon season. The summer season will run from June 27 to July 22, there will be a nine-day respite, and it will presumably

resume on August 1 for the entire month. Although that supposedly means two months of salmon fishing, that prognosis is highly doubtful because the catch will be limited to 34,900 fish. In 2025, the catch limit was 9000 fish, and it was reached in two days. If fish are caught at the same rate in 2026, the limit will be reached in approximately one week.

On the other hand, there is no limit on the fish catch south of Pigeon Point (which is close to Monterey). And the season there began on April 11. Unfortunately, there are two problems with that venue. The first is distance. Most of the party boats are departing from Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay, an hour drive from the East Bay. Once we are at sea, it is a 19-mile two-hour sail to Pigeon Point.

The other problem is hopefully temporary. The fish are not biting. The fish tend to bite when the ocean is upwelling and it has not been upwelling lately. When there is no upwelling, the ocean is very clear and the salmon know we are up there. In addition, the water has been very warm. The water temperature was 67 degrees when 13 of us ventured out of Half Moon Bay on the *New Captain Pete* on April 17. The result was a single salmon that was boated by **Shawn Kelly**. The only other fish caught

were two 10 lb. bonita that I was lucky enough to land. Bonita are warm water fish that are rarely seen in the area. But there is a good side to everything. Although salmon are strong fighters, bonita are even better. I had a pair of fun filled 20-minute fights landing each fish and those of us who took home strips of the fish probably enjoyed sashimi that night.



Carl Moyer and **Matt Richards** had even a worse experience than our crew. They sailed out of Moss Landing on a friend's boat on April 13 and none of them had a single bite.

Fishing for other species also began in April. The rockfish season opened on April 1, **Carl Moyer** led two other anglers on his boat and limited out. **Geno Calhau**, **Bob Lively**, **Dennis Lee**, and **Nick Jabuka** also limited out on separate trips.

And halibut are starting to appear in the Bay. On April 13, I was the fishmaster on the *Pacific Pearl* and we caught five keepers and loads of shakers (undersize fish). The star was **Doug Dukes**, who nabbed a 20 pounder. We also caught eight stripers and I again was lucky enough to hook two of them. On the following day, **Shawn Kelly**, **Brion Beetz**, and **Stan Wong**



caught over 20 keepers while fishing on Shawn's Boston Whaler, with Brion matching Doug's 20-pounder. They kept the limit of six and released the others to fight another day.



Inland, **Matt Richards**, **Dennis Lee**, **Carl Moyer**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, and **Bob Lively** caught some quality trout at San Pablo Reservoir.

The catch included some lightning trout up to six pounds. In addition, **Tom Kostik** and **Dave Paulson** caught some nice stripers in the Delta.

A long time tradition in our group has come to an end. For about fifteen years, **Carl Moyer** and his wife **Marcia** have hosted a semi-annual fish fry in their backyard. The fish on the menu were rockfish and lingcod caught and cooked by **Carl**. **Marcia** prepared the other fixins. The event takes a lot of effort and so **Carl** and **Marcia** are retiring from this task. The fish fry sched-

Fishing report continued on next page

Fishing report from previous page

uled for May 4 now will be a lunch at Yan's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. **Carl** will continue to supply the fish and he notes that Alex Yan, the proprietor of the restaurant, is an even better rockfish chef than he is.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 28 at the Legends Bar and Grill, which is located on the Diablo Creek Golf Course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us at 7:30 for camaraderie and breakfast. All are welcome, including those of you who have never fished or haven't fished in a long time..

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Birding Ted Robertson

There will be no field trips in April as your trusty bird guide will be chasing prairie chickens, sage grouse and ptarmigan



throughout Colorado followed by two weeks of training and testing for my EMT license renewal. The next bird trip will be on the second Wednesday of May on the 13th. Mid April is the peak of the spring migration so, please, go out and enjoy the birds.

Good birding to all from the mountains and prairies of Colorado,

Ted Robertson
tedr@berkeley.edu

Survival Tip

If there is a tornado coming, put some
wieners in your pockets.
That way the search dogs will find you
first.



Bocce John Kendrick

**Great News - Bocce Ball Returns
May 11, 2026!**

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

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

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

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

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

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

The first French fry was not cooked in
France.

It was cooked in Greece



Book Corner Paul Kersis

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





Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

Our next meeting will be on Friday, May 1st at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor at NOON. At this meeting, the topic of Drone Photography with examples will be led by **Don Casey**. Yeah **Don!!**

Another topic is the homework for this meeting, which stems from our discussion at the March meeting on the use of AI editing of photographs. Each photographer will present three to five



originals of his choice compared to the same photos that have been edited by AI. The photographer has to

describe how and why he edited the photos the way he did vs. the original.

There will be discussions on photoshoots of upcoming events such as Carnival, Memorial Day Parade, and more. Please come and join the gang on Friday, May 1st at the WC Library in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor at Noon.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman



Gardening Ken Studer

This month we met at the home of Bobbie Schmidt. It was a rainy day and we dodged the rain drops long enough to spend time in her backyard.

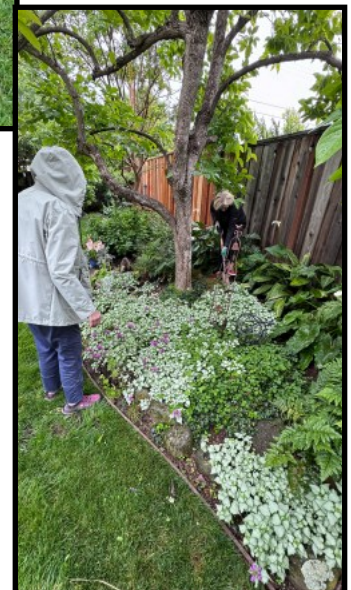
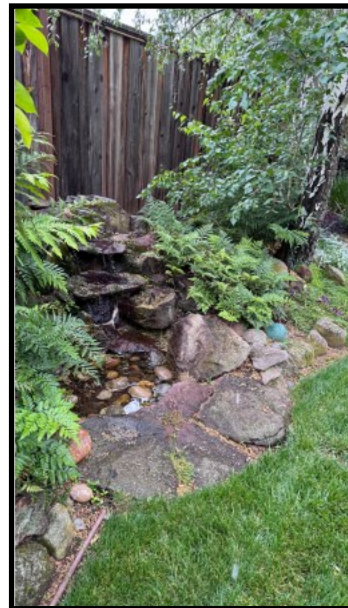
Her beautiful backyard is the result of landscape planning and "right plant in the right location". Her overhead canopy produces just enough sun for shade plants yet left sunny areas for roses to flourish. Bobbie dug up sample plants for us to propagate at home. (see photos)

Once back inside we learned about Firescaping our homes. Many of our homes are vulnerable to wildfires because we have let plants close to our homes become overgrown. We learned about the "5 actions to firescape your home against wildfires". If you live in a CALfire designated High or Very High Fire Hazard Risk Zone you are in danger of losing your fire insurance. (Next page)

In May we will be on a field trip to the UC Botanical Garden in Berkeley. All are welcome. Contact me for details. Monday, May 11th at 10:00 am.

Ken Studer

925.963.2536, lstuder1161@gmail.com



5 actions to firescape your home against wildfires

CALFire and the National Fire Protection Association have established actions needed to protect your home against a wildfire. Presently, they are only guidelines and not enforceable by law. However, your homeowner insurance company is more demanding if you live in a High or Very High Fire Hazard Risk Zone as defined by CALFire and you could lose your fire insurance.

The NFPA has developed the actions below to protect your home against a wildfire. Your homeowner insurance company may require these actions to keep your insurance. Each insurance company has variations on these requirements. Contact your homeowner insurance company to obtain their requirements for firescaping against a wildfire where you live. The insurance company will ask you to document your compliance with photos and receipts.

Home ignition zones. Defensible Space

Immediate Zone (0' to 5') around home structure. Clear all plants in this zone. Replace mulch with aggregate, rock or pavers. This is the most important zone. Intermediate Zone (5' to 30'). Prune all shrubs, hedges and understory plants to 3' high. Prune to separate them with a 3' distance between them. On steep hills - shrubs need to be 6' apart. Trees need lower branches to be pruned up to 10' off the ground. If there is a 3' shrub under the tree there needs to be 6' of space between it and the lowest limb (prune tree limb to 9').

Roofing and vents

Gutters - clean and install gutter guards.

Attic and foundation vents - install 1/8" stainless steel mesh in all vents to prevent embers entering your home. It is advisable to box in your eaves to further protect fire from climbing up your siding and entering your home.

Decks and Gates

Decks - remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks. Replace decks attached to the home with nonflammable materials.

Gates and fencing - if attached to the home it needs to be replaced with a metal or nonflammable material.

Gas line shutoff valve

Have a automatic earthquake shutoff valve installed at the meter. All insurance companies will require this valve.

Encourage your neighbors to firescape their homes. Their over grown yard can ignite your home on fire.

Talk it up and work together.



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a program of summer songs for a July 16 performance. We will sing such old favorites as "Blue Skies," "Hello, Marylou" and "Margaritaville."

Our next rehearsal is on May 6, 2026 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

Walmart is opening dental offices in some of it stores.

There will be an express lane for people with 10 teeth or less.



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

April 7th: The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, April 7th. There were nine hardy souls (**Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Ken Studer, Bob Lucido, David Paulson, Mike Schrupp, Jim Nelson, and Moose Kelly** – Pictured) that rode through a lot of hills in Martinez, Concord, and Pleasant Hill. Our paceman, not very extraordinary, **Moose Kelly** led the ride. The weather started as a crystal-clear day with windy, cool temperatures. An outstanding day to be out with the gang pounding the hills of Contra Costa County. It was a glorious day at 72 degrees just to take in the sun and get some exercise to boot.

The ride was a 22-mile round trip from Pleasant Hill Park through the hills into Martinez. We climbed out of Martinez into the Pacheco area, then up into Concord where we stopped at a drive through Starbucks. We should have ridden our bikes through the drive through. We would have gotten faster service than the counter. After having our coffee, we pressed forward on a long uphill on Morello Avenue to be happily greeted with a long downhill on Center Avenue. We spent the last six miles on the Iron Horse Trail along the Buchanan Airport back to Pleasant Hill Park.

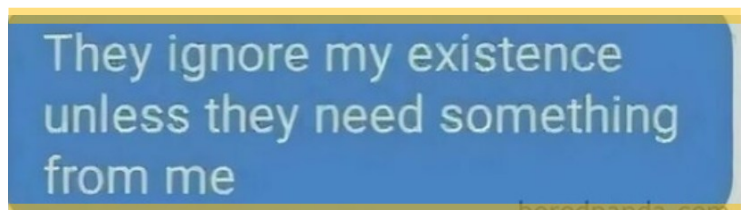
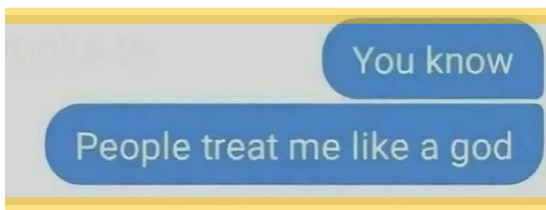


Our fearless leaders, **Larry Kaye** and **Thom Degnan** couldn't make the ride. Speedy recovery to you both. Looking forward to having you back on the road with the rest of the guys.

If you are interested in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at 925.698.4030. So, dig out your old bike and dust it off. Come out and join us. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of riding for coffee, having fun, solving the world's problems and staying healthy through exercise. The cycling group's motto: **HEALTH IS WEALTH!!!**

April 15th: The eclectic village of Canyon, CA was our destination on April 14th. Our 20-mile ride started in Lafayette and followed the Moraga-Orinda Trail and then the winding local roads. After a short stop at the village's Post Office to catch our breath (after all, we had climbed 965 feet), we headed to SiSi's cafe in Moraga for some hot coffee. The rest of the ride was a well-deserved downhill coast. Our peloton included: **Tom Alborg, Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Bob Hislop, Bill Holly, "Moose" Kelly, Dave Paulson, Bill Ross, Jim Rowland, Mike Schrupp, and Bob Wilkenfeld.**

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

We ended March with a hike along the George Miller and Franklin Ridge Trails, between Port Costa and Martinez. The views of the busy Sacramento River, along the 6.5-mile hike, were fantastic, as was the weather. All in all, **John Alexander, Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Bob Lively and family, Ray Martz, Roger Meyers, Gene Schulting, and Bob Wilkenfeld** climbed 835 feet that day.

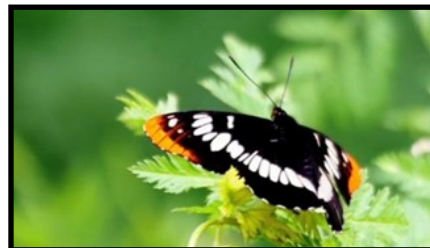
On April 6th, **Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Ray Martz and Gene Schulting** hiked the Blue Oak Trail in Briones Regional Park. The hike was 3.5 miles with an elevation gain of 850 feet. With the temperature in the low 70s and blue skies it was a glorious day to be outside!



*Two Mondays in April were lost to skies of gray.
The trails called out, but we couldn't play...
Our boots sat dry, our spirits low,
The SIR group yearned for paths to go.
Oh, relentless rain, please move along - The hills
await our hiking strong.*

...All with help from Bob Wilkenfeld.

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



Photos Courtesy of Cleo Bolen

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com



Veterans Larry Kaye

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

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net



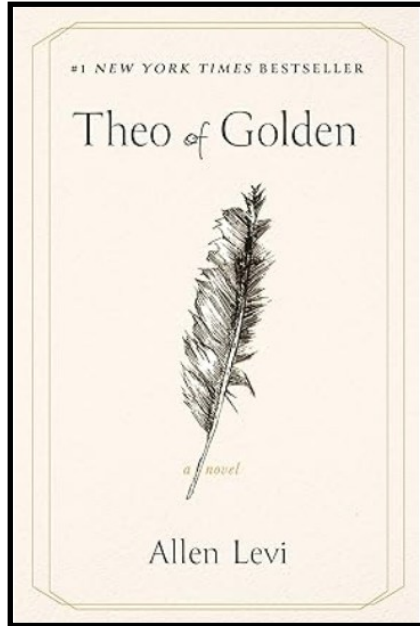
Book Group Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: April

I wasn't feeling well and missed our monthly meeting at Panera, but **Glenn Breslin** took over the reins for the morning and did a great job. Six of our members were present and it sounds like they had a good discussion on this month's book and a few other topics.

Our March Read: "Theo of Golden"

Theo of Golden follows Theo, an elderly outsider, who arrives alone in the small Southern town of Golden and is quietly captivated by a wall of lifelike pencil portraits in a coffee shop called the Chalice. What begins as curiosity becomes a self-appointed project: Theo starts buying the portraits and seeking out the



people depicted so he can return each drawing to its "rightful owner" in person, one private meeting at a time.

As Theo's ritual expands, he is drawn into Golden's web of lives—artists, students, a bookseller, a prosecutor and his wife, a street musician, a troubled woman living on the margins, and a father fighting for his injured child. The novel explores grief, renewal, mercy and friendship. The book has an exciting ending with many surprises.

Our Verdict – Theo was a hit!

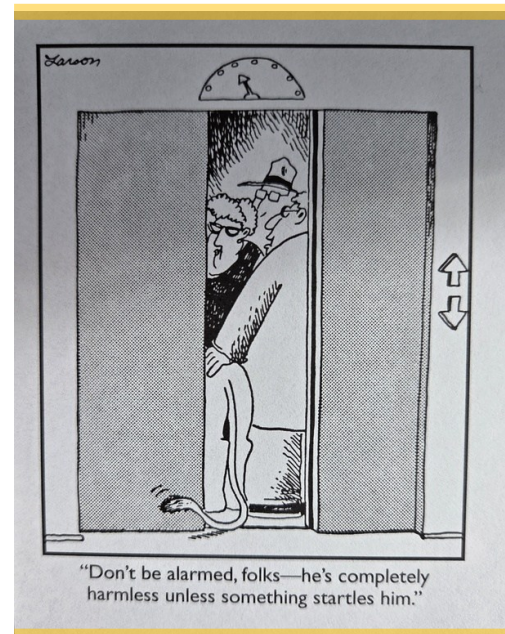
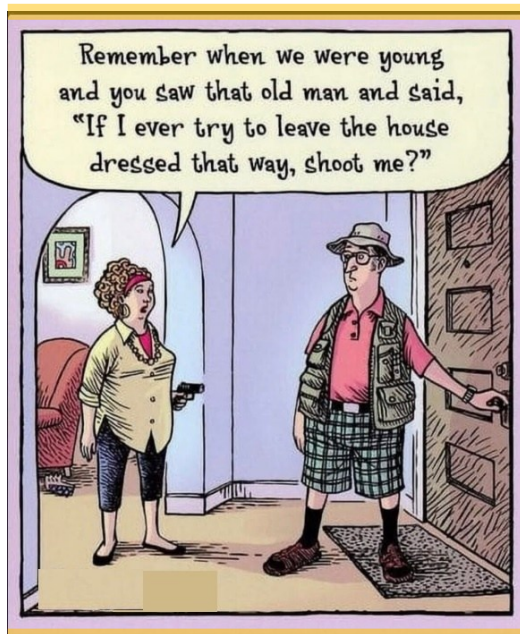
The group enjoyed the book and found it an uplifting escape from our world. We think it would be enjoyed by a wide variety of readers. My wife is reading it now and finds it a 'good' read.

Next Month's Book

Next month's book is 'Erewhon' written by Samuel Butler in 1872. *Erewhon: or, Over the Range* is a satirical novel detailing the adventures of an unnamed narrator into the fictional country of Erewhon.

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

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





寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Six members of our small group of sushi aficionados gathered at Fuji in Concord this past month to indulge our passion for this Japanese delicacy. Fuji is an “all you can eat [in two hours]” buffet so it is quite a deal as anyone who loves sushi can tell you that good sushi can run in the \$50 to \$100 per session bill. Here the servings come around on a continuous conveyor belt or can be found, in the case of Maki, sushi rolls, at the front of the sushi station. And, if you aren’t finding exactly what you want, the sushi staff is always ready to build a customized order for you. Or you can try some sashimi if that is your pleasure. Lunch was finished off with fresh oranges, fried bananas and a couple of sesame balls.

We were so busy eating sushi, we forgot to take a picture of our adventure!

[Clint Collier](#)

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group gathered at the home of **Bruce Borgman** this month. Everyone arrived with a bottle of wine to share with the group. **Richard Hockenbrock**

treated us to a high end bottle of Cabernet that he had aged to perfection. Thank you **Richard**. **Bruce** served us a delicious spread of appetizers that disappeared quickly. We were then treated to a home cooked lunch that **Bruce** prepared from scratch. He served us a Double-Crust Chicken Pot Pie. This recipe by Katie Leaird required many complex steps to execute. The home made crust was prepared and baked to perfection. **Bruce’s** cooking skills are outstanding and very much appreciated. There was no shortage of challenging topics to resolve this month. As is the norm, the group maintained a civil discussion about how each of us viewed the world’s problems. **Bruce** finished off the meal with a fabulous dessert of strawberry mousse.

The Cooking II group will next meet at **Richard Hockenbrock’s** home, on May 11th..

Steve Ybarra
sybar@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

This month the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Cooking Group held its semi-annual dinner with spouses event. We dined at Il Pavone in the Saranap area and enjoyed various dishes, including a terrific entrée of black cod, which was ordered by about half of us. And it was great that 13 of our 14 members were able to attend.

In May, the men resume our home prepared lunches. **Bob Spellman** will be the host. **Pete Gates** is scheduled to host in June. In the meantime, our spouses will enjoy themselves at a local restaurant, yet to be determined.

We still have one opening, if any of you are interested. If so, give me a call at 510-504-3566.

.Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 pdubow2398@aol.com

Couples Dining Out



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

Mother Nature's rain showers abruptly changed our planned Spring evening patio dinner at the Yard House restaurant in Concord. The management scrambled to bring our 39 SIR members and guests inside. Dinner started with appetizers and a choice of Tomato Bisque or Traditional Caesar Salad. Entrée choices were Whisky Glazed Salmon, Top Sirloin Steak, Spicy Jambalaya and a Thai Grilled Pork Chop. Good comments were received about the food and the opportunity to enjoy a delicious dinner with our friends and fellow SIR members in spite of the weather.



Al Guzman

mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyons

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbtnorcal.com

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno was held at Peter and Martha Plante's home in April.

Two tables of players: one table rather noisy, and the other table a bit more serious. "Serious" won out, with Virginia taking the big pot, Peter Bishop coming in 2nd, and Alicia Baily following.

Alicia was at the "noisy" table, and placed first among her fellow players only to be taken out of the running with the serious players, Virginia and Peter.

Martha provided us with "her" Peter's favorite carrot cake, following the theme of Easter. I am not sure who noticed, but Martha has a delightful way of decorating with "bunnies" throughout the house.

We look forward to our next game night in May at Richard Hockenbrock's home.

Corrie Oranje



Alicia Baily(3rd), Peter Bishop(2nd) and Virginia Tygart (1st)



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the Martinez home of Dan and Mary Holland on Friday March 27th. Mary prepared

several tasty appetizers. Dan took care of the mid-game snack with a cheesecake covered with whipped cream.

We were a little shorthanded as one couple "forgot" it was game night. On top of that, only half of our regular substitute couple was able to make it. We persevered however with only 11 players.

John Pearl took 1st place with an 18.5 average. Dan Holland grabbed 2nd with a close 19.2 average. Ron Plachy was left with 3rd with a lowly 26.1 average.

Next month we will be in Martinez once again at the home of Ron and Anne Plachy.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



Man with stammer Jailed!
Judge says he is unlikely to complete his sentence.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, March 27th at the home of **Alicia Baily** in the Northgate area of Walnut Creek. The ole Friday special huffed and puffed its way through the hills of Walnut Creek to **Alicia’s** doorstep. Gathering around the tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily** and **Joyce Wells/Jim Barry**. **Alicia** is always a wonderful host who spoils us with table treats and very delicious half-time fare.

As you can see from our photo, our winners were **Joyce Wells (Center), Jim Barry, and Judy Richmond**. Bringing her “A” game to the arena, **Joyce Wells** dominated, taking home 1st Place and bragging rights. Both **Jim Barry** and **Judy Richmond** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd place, and showing off their excellent MTD skills to the rest of the group. It was competitive, but we chatted a lot and very much enjoyed the afternoon.

We said our goodbyes and headed off into the sunset

to our various destinations.

April’s meeting will be held at **Judy Richmond’s** home on April 17th.

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



March 27th MTD winners (L to R): Jim Barry 2nd, Joyce Wells 1st and Judy Richmond 3rd.





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On April 19th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 14 players to play dominos. Those in attendance this evening were, **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Rich and Kim Pace**, **Scott and Marie MacDougall**, **Steve and Susan Oki**, **Henry and Barbara Thatcher**, **Ken and Carol Soutl**, and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed super goodies provided by several members and some wine, too. We played at two tables of 7. The low scorers were **Susan Oki** and **Barbara Thatcher**. We paid each 7 one-dollar California Lotto tickets respectively. There were two high score players at each table: **Scott** and **Marie-Claire MacDougall** received one Lotto ticket each.

(see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on May 22nd. (Photo by Jim Pope)

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

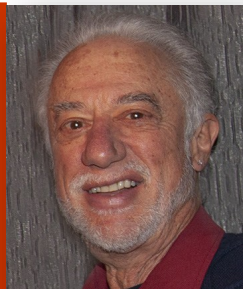
Our Mexican Train Group "Seis" was depleted a bit with four of our members off on exotic travels for our April event – specifically the **Lanes**, and **Moose and Squirrel** (aka **John Kelly** and **Mary Schmidt**) – we are anticipating travel reports upon their return in May! However, the remaining eight members soldiered on regardless on April 22 at the home of **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**. We split into two groups of four per table and vigorous play was the order of the evening. At the end of the evening the clear winner was **Martha Plante** with a low score of 8.1, in second place was **Mary McCarthy** with 12.1, and **Brian McCarthy** coming in third with a score of 12.3.

We had a break mid evening and by popular request **Bruce** had made the lemon bars which **Martha** had made in one of our previous events using **Martha's** unique recipe. **Martha** declared that the effort to duplicate her recipe was an excellent effort.

If the SIRCall editor will allow, we will include three pictures of the very successful evening! Our next event will be in May at the home of **Kathe Mitchell** with the **Lane's** in charge of snacks.

Steve Lane
925.984.0341





Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In March 11th, we met at the lovely home of **Thom and Diane Degan**, who hosted our MTD 7 event.

We had twelve competitors. **Thom Degan** took first place. **Wendy Lucido** came in second, and **Bob West** was 3rd.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Patient: Doc, can you help me?
I'm becoming invisible!
Doctor: Sure, we are moving you to ICU!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

This month we had eighteen players gathering at my house to play Mexican Train

Dominoes 8 (OCHO). Everyone was excited that we had upped the pot to $5 \times 18 = \$90$. Subtracting \$4 for purchase of two \$2 scratchers, we wind up with an actual pot of \$86 where the 1st place winner gets \$52, 2nd place winner gets \$26, and the 3rd place winner gets \$9.

We had a 15-to-20-minute break around 8:30 PM. On this evening, **Ron and Victoria Polivka** treated the group to some very tasty homemade carrot cake, and other delicious snacks. As the evening rolled around to our normal stop time at 9:30, the group gathered in the kitchen to hear who the winners were and who were destined to receive a CA Lottery Scratcher.

Susan Terzuoli was the evening's 1st place winner with an average score of 9.5. In 2nd place was **Jim Barry** with a score of 11.6. And in 3rd place was **Steve Ybarra** with a score of 16.2. \$2 lottery tickets were awarded to **Jan Ondeck** and **Larry McAllister** who had the highest scores.

Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday, May 6th.

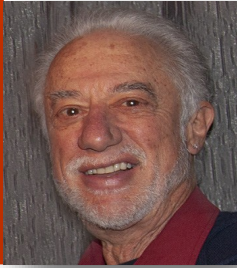
Richard Hockenbrock

rlhock@outlook.com



L/R Susan Terzuoli (1st place), Jim Barry (2nd place), & Steve Ybarra (3rd place)





Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve”

On March 18th, 6 hearty souls met for Mexican Train 9 challenge at the

home of **Bob and Jane West**.

When the smoke settled, the scarred and bruised warriors added the tally, and low and behold the winner was **Brian McCarthy** with an average score of 9.6. Second was **Jane West** with 15.5 and third was **Bob West** with 21.2.

Next Month’s, MTD9 challenges will take place at the lovely home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido** .

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



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

In April, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Mark and Barbara Sorum** at their home in Walnut Creek on the 17^h. 12 players enjoyed the weather and hospitality in the **Sorum** backyard.

The April winners were **Rich Alf, Mark Sorum, and Alex Borders**, with consolation prizes going to **Barbara Peterson and Glenn Breslin**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For May, **Fred McNeil** will be hosting on the 15th. We rotate hosting among different homes.

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

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from March 13th and March 27th.

For March we had a record 6 people, tied for most wins with 3. They were **Dick Wade, Bob West, Ron Polivka, Frank Lucas, Dave Smith and Jim Passaglia**. **Steve Ybarra and Frank Lucas** led seconds with 3. The lowest average scorers were **Jim Passaglia** with 34 and **Bob West** with 39. **Jim Passaglia** had 2 STM's.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** led with 9 wins followed by **Bob West** with 7.5 and **Brian McCarthy** with 7. In winning percentage **Jim Passaglia** leads with 63%, followed by **Bob West** with 47%, and **Ron Polivka and Frank Lucas** with 38%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** leads with 9, followed by **Cleo Bolen** with 6.5. In lowest average score **Jim Passaglia** leads with 43.6 and **Brian McCarthy** has 54.2. In STM's, **Ron Polivka and Frank Lucas** both have 4, followed by **Will Stratton** with 3. In most improved over 2025, **Will Stratton** is 200% better and **Bob Haber** 170%.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be April 24th, May 8th, and May 22nd.

Please email 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



Cribbage John Kendrick

A lively and cheerful group of cribbage enthusiasts gathered at Rocco's Restaurant for a twelve-person tournament filled with friendly rivalry and plenty of good cards.

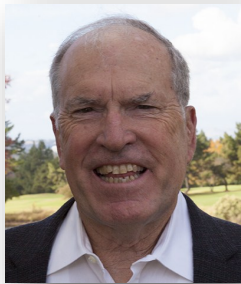
The field featured **Ron Afdal, John Dorr, Paul Dubow, Mike Kimsal, Kirk McVean, Jim Nelson, John Peral, Mark Raaberg, Roger Rivers, Will Stratton**, and the event's organizer, **John Kendrick**.

The atmosphere was upbeat throughout the afternoon, with close games, sharp pegging, and no shortage of table talk.

When the final hands were counted, **John Kendrick** played his way to a first-place finish, followed closely by **John Dorr** in second place. **Mark Raaberg** rounded out the podium with a strong third place showing.

The next cribbage game is scheduled for May 27, and players are already looking forward to another fun afternoon at the boards.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by **Brad Hatcher** on our usual first Thursday of the month. What was a bit unusual was all our usual players were in attendance. **Paul Dubow, Rich Ahlf, Steve Ybarra, Melo Piccolo, Frank Lucas, and Bruce Kimmis** were gathered around our table of seven.

Quality of play was quite high during the afternoon. **Rich**, who missed our March game, left as a happy camper with a stuffed wallet as the overall game winner.

We look forward to playing at the **Kimmis** home in May to again try to distribute the wealth.

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our April game was at the home of **Melo Piccolo**. **Melo** was a great host with wine, drinks, and good snacks galore.

In a hand with a wildcard, we had 3 players sure that they had a winner. Turned out that the 4 of a kind and the straight flush were not good enough. **Frank** had 5 of a kind to take the pot!

Games are scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on May 18 at the home of **Frank Lucas**.

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



Party Bridge Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson

We had a 12 player game on March 2 at the home of **Bob Yolland** who was a terrific host. The players were **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Ed Marlovits, Jim Pope, Bili Schaaf, Jim Stedman** and **Bob Yolland**. **Ed Marlovits** finished first with 5730 points, **Max Hinkle** second with 4950 points and **Bill Schaaf** with 4690 points.



We also met on April 6 in a 12 player game at the home of **Bud Pearce** who was also a great host. The players were **Ray Bland, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Jane Bradley, Joe Fuchs, Max Hinke, Ed Marlovits, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Jim Stedman** and **Bob Yolland**. **Ed Marlovits** finished first with 5720 points. **Jim Pope** and **Bob Yolland** tied for second with 5240 points.

Our next game will be on May 4 at the home of **Jim Stedman**. Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to pay in future game.

Bill Schaaf 925.899.5913 billschaaf13@comcast.net **Mike Davidson** 925.324.1867 mdavidson065@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

John and **Kathy Kluesener** hosted our April 7th event. As with last month, all our regulars played this month. I'm going to have to look up what the record is for consecutive months played by our regulars. But on second thought, I won't since I already know 2 regular couples will not be playing next month.

Our April event got off to a shaky start when some tree trimmers decided to close Withers Ave to all traffic, which is the usual route to the **Kluesener's** home. We all arrived late as we tried to find a different route. One couple was a half hour late and almost went home when nobody was answering their cell phone. My bad. Lol. I was busy sipping wine. Anyway, they were glad they finally made it as they placed very well at the end of play.

Total scores were below average which seems to indicate that **Lynne Hatcher's** cleaning of all the decks of cards didn't seem to remove all the bad mojo. I still have concerns that somebody may still try to burn the cards. Lol

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 2480 points - **Larry** and **Linda Brown**
- 2nd PLACE with 2450 points - **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 2050 points - **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**

Our next event will be held on **May 5th** and hosted by **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**.

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. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00 pm



Pete McNeill
925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson
925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Is it wrong that only one company can make the board game Monopoly?



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, April 3 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by **Bob Yolland**.

- **John Kluesener** earned 1st place with 29 points. Congratulations, **John!**
- **Tony Greco** was 2nd with 28 points.
- **Bob Yolland** and **Dick DeVoe** tied for 3rd with 27 points.

Dick Devoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge #1 event on Wednesday, April 15 with three tables and 6 couples was hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**.

Max and Ardith Hinkle won 1st place with 26.5 points and had the most boards (9) with the maximum points allotted. Congratulations, **Hinkles!**

Brad and Lynne Hatcher were 2nd with 25.0 points.

Dick and Christy DeVoe were 3rd with 24.0 points, and had the least boards (0) with zero points allotted

John Kluesener

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Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 event met on Friday, April 14 with three tables and 12 players, and was hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. The six couples' scores were bunched close together, with only 5 points separating low vs. high. This means the group is playing very competitively together. Nice!

Joe Fuchs and **Steve Dinning** earned 1st Place with 23.0 points. Congratulations, guys!

Margot Somerville and **Marilyn Miller** were 2nd with 21.0 points. **Max and Ardith Hinkle** were 3rd with 20.0 points.

Dave Pierce

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It takes 7 seconds for food to pass from mouth to stomach. A human hair can hold 3kg. The length of a penis is three times the length of the thumb. The femur is as hard as concrete. A woman's heart beats faster than a man's. Women blink 2 time as much as men. We use 300 muscles just to keep our balance when we stand. A woman has read this entire text. A man is still looking at his thumb.

Parting Shot

Live with intention

Walk to the edge

Listen hard

Practice wellness

Play with abandon

Laugh

Choose with no regret

Continue to learn

Appreciate your friends

Do what you love

Live as if this is all there is

Mary Anne Radmacher