



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

January–February 2025



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

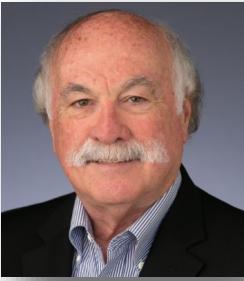
I wanted to let everyone know that the monthly BEC meetings will be starting at 9:30am beginning in February. The meeting is held in the room just to the right as you enter the building where we have lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend. I would particularly like to encourage any newer members, to come check out one of our board meetings. You may find something interesting that you would like to get involved in.

I have also had several people ask me about our themes for lunches. I will keep you updated on the themes for the months that have them. The next one is at the March meeting when we encourage folks to wear green for St Patrick's day.

Our next luncheon is Thursday, February 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

It's been a busy month. The Speaker's Committee, Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites, and myself have been quite active. Glenn organized a Speaker Survey so that the Committee can work towards organizing individuals on topics the membership wants to hear. The higher scores were Science, Economy, Sports, Senior Health, Government & Military. Thanks to those members who responded.

We had a great start with Ms. Holly Reese on Healthy Aging, and she was both informative and entertaining. I do have many speakers committed and planned for the coming year.

In February, we have Mr. Jerry Toenyes, a Consultant for Federal and State Water & Power Systems.

In subsequent months we have leaders from the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, who will address fire emergency preparedness, especially relevant given the recent fires in Los Angeles. Then a PG&E Executive to give us an overview and review of what they are trying to accomplish for the residents of Northern California. For the May Ladies luncheon, we have scheduled the Walnut Creek Historical Society to update us on this year's activities for the 50th Anniversary of Walnut Creek.

There is much more to come for the rest of the year, and we will keep you updated. We hope to see you in February!

The CPR Training Class for February 28th is fully booked but we have started a waiting list, and we have scheduled a new class for May 23rd which we will open to the membership shortly. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join.

Thom Degnan

Little Sir, Branch 146

SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, February 13th, 2025
Boundary Oak 11:30

Jerry Toenyes, Federal & State Water & Power
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée



Membership George Mon

There were no new members for membership approval in January.

Three members decided to resign for various reasons. They are **Larry Gray, Patrick Lyon** and **George Trabert**.

Unfortunately, we lost **Robert "Jack" Calloway** on January 7th. He was 94 years old and a Senior Honorary Life Member.

The 2025 Dues letter was sent out in mid-October 2024 along with a return envelope for your convenience. Then a reminder notice for dues was published in the December newsletter and there was also a reminder e-blast.

So far after these efforts, we still have about 16 members owing dues.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State Sir allocates cost for insurance and operating expenses based on our number.

It is important to increase our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We 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 263.

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

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

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

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

With apologies to Old McDonald: Here a SIR, there a SIR, everywhere a SIR, SIR?

That is what it is beginning to look like. I had no idea that SIR was so well known while

at the same time being kind of unknown. A year ago I ended up in the hospital with an infection in my arm. Guy in the next bed and I start talking... he is a SIR member! This month we are off on a South Pacific cruise along with some long time friends, who just joined SIR last month and, you've probably all guessed it, one of the first couples we run into on the way to the lifeboat drill on the first day is a SIR member that we play dominoes with. Next, the random couple we end up sitting next to at a shared dinner table, he is a SIR member; from Tiburon! Friends are everywhere! Check out **Glenn's** travel article. Travel is better with friends!

A big shout out and thank you to **Bob West** our assistant editor. I'm cruising, **Bob's** typing and really filling in for me this month.

February is the shortest month of the year, even shorter than it could be since this is not a leap year, so our cutoff is also coming early. Cutoff date for next month's March issue of SIR Call will be February 17th. 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 SIR Call
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

Activities for you or spouse...

- Calendar of Events Page 12
- Take a Hike! Page 18
- Need a good read? How about 2? Page 23
- Couples Dining Out Page 27
- Need a trip? Page 13
- Play Cards? Pages 32-34
- Dominoes Anyone? Pages 28-31



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

The last few luncheons we have been getting between 7-8 members who walked into the luncheon without having a reservation. This causes a lot of problems right at the last moment when we have exceeded both our seating space and our food orders we have committed too. Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer, you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

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

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, February 13th, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

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

If you do not reserve by Friday, February 7th 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, February 7th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

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

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 February Luncheon

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Salad

Boundary Oak Green Salad:

Mesclun Greens, Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts, Blue Cheese Crumbles, Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées

Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet

with Caramelized Shallot Au ju, Mashed Potatoes, and Broccolini

—or—

Herb & Potato Crusted Cod

with White Wine Butter Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, and Broccolini

—or—

Vegetarian

Vegetable Cannelloni

Four Cheeses, Spinach with Tomato Basil Sauce Stuffed Pasta and Broccolini

Dessert

Tiramisu

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

Put the
March
Luncheon
on your
calendar now



THE CLUBHOUSE
 AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon

Thursday, March 13th, 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

Cheese Ravioli, Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a Pesto Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheese Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice

2025

Officers and Directors

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

RAMP-Chair Members

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



Peter F. Bishop	Ray W. Spears
William J. Cammerer	James Stedman
Clinton L. Collier	Robert A. West
Dale N. Dalgaard	Michael Davidson
Richard W. Firth	Marshall Pearce
Steve D. Loftin	Carmelo Piccolo
Richard G. Lyon	Tim E Hogan
Jack F. Menzhuber	Mark Sorum
David W. Pierce	David M Smith
William R. Rees	Elmer C Bricca
Walter Schmidt	Robert C Mason
Bennett C. Smith	Norman W Azevedo

February Membership Anniversaries

Walt Busenius

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Dave Tucker	2020	5
Joe Flannigan	2019	6
George Sabbagha	2019	6
Aubrey Moore	2018	7
Ross Abbott	2017	8
James Browning	2016	9
Loren DeLaurenti	2015	10
Jeff Morrow	2015	10
Gary Brown	2014	11
Chuck Cornell	2014	11
James Mcmanus	2014	11
Paul Masta	2012	13
William Dastic	2011	14
Verner Laursen	2011	14
David Steinberg	2009	16
Lynn Shafer	2007	18
Kenneth Richter	2000	25
Sal Costanza	1997	27

SIR Call Newsletter Group

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



"I was indoctrinated at Columbia and brainwashed at Harvard...what else do you need to know?"

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**.

Meeting

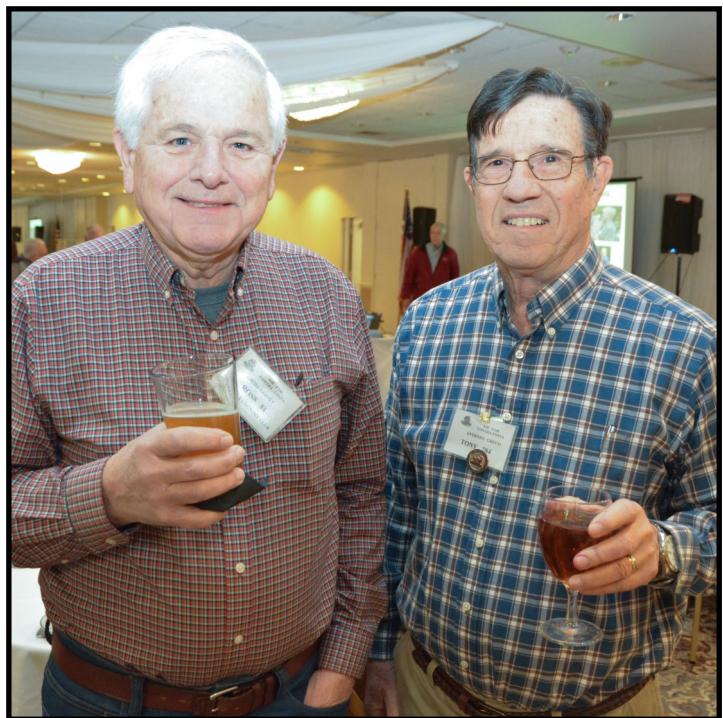
Photos by Henry Thatcher

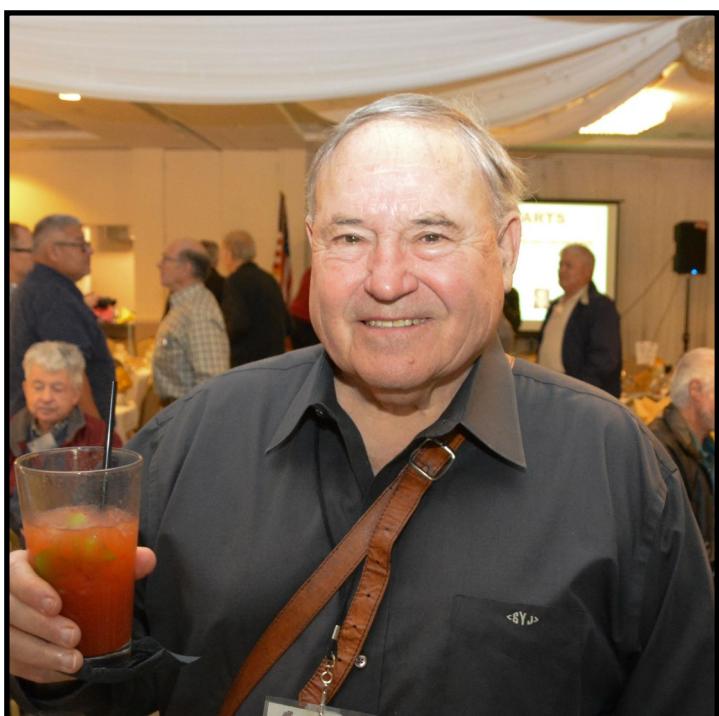


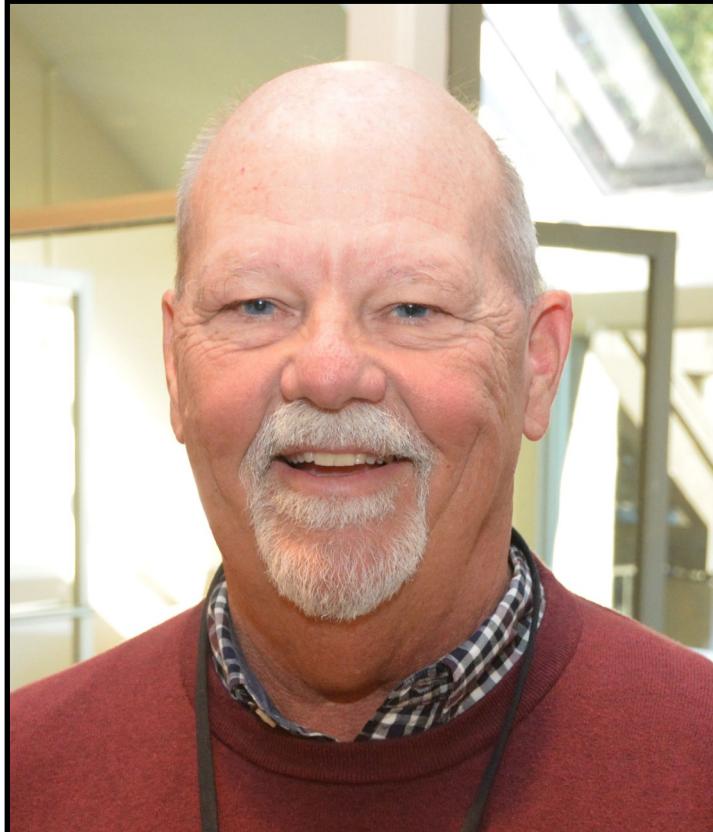
Luncheon Speaker : Holly Reese

Welcoming











Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Bob Mason



David Price



Ken Richter—January



Frank Terzuoli- December





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Did you know that you can start an activity of your choosing? Yes indeed! It can be very rewarding to introduce your interests to the entire SIR146 community. I am all ears. Please convey your new activity ideas to me and we will work together to get it started.

When you start a new activity, you not only help your fellow SIR members stay active but also personally benefit with a good feeling that you are contributing to the health of the organization. Leading an activity, you get to know members at a closer level. Sometimes it seems a little overwhelming to start an activity, but part of my job as Activity Chair is to provide direction and support to ensure your success.

There is also an option to become an Activity Co-Chairman or Assistant!

Description	Totals
Total Activities	48
Total Co-Ed Activities	29
Percent Co-Ed Activities	60%
Total Unique Activities	28
BR146 activities shared with other branches	12
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	15

I look forward to hearing your new activity ideas. Contact Me!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

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

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

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar February 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 4:00pm - 7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 1:00pm Poker Group #8	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm - 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am - 10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am - 1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am - 1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm - 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm - 2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 12:00pm Sir Call Articles Due	9:00am Golf 11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm - 10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm - 10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco 11:30 am Sushi No Tomodachi	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	12:30pm - 3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm - 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm - 3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am - 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm - 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres



Year of the Snake



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



S e q	Vietnam/Cambodia	S e q	Australia/New Zealand	S e q	Japan/Korea
1	10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495/\$4695 with air) Angor Wat Post-Trip Included available LINK HERE	2	1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295/\$7645 with air) Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available LINK HERE	3	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495/\$9095 with air) Hiroshima Post-Trip available LINK HERE

SIR Travel Plan:

Done December (see above) – Worked with SIRs that responded to the SIR Travel Surveys to choose these future SIR Travel Destinations .

In progress Jan 2025 – Obtain BEC approval for these trips

To Do Late January – Communicate trip details to SIR146 and other SIR groups. Enable SIR members to contact OAT to sign-up

For those interested in signing up for these trips in late January or after, here are the SIR Group Codes to use, when contacting OAT

2025 SIR Group code is [G5-30339](#)

2026 SIR Group code is [G6-30339](#)



Travel Quotes:

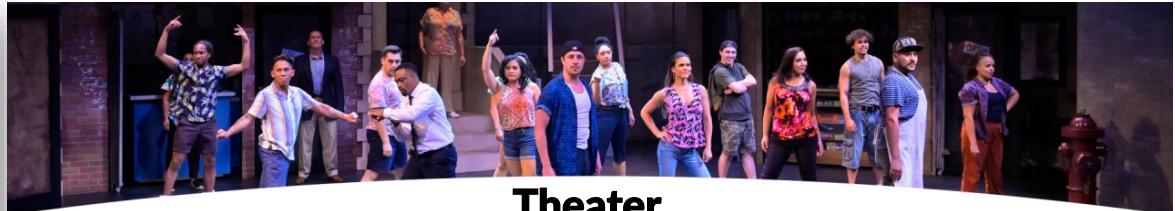
“ There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with”

“ 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



Theater
Glenn Breslin



Eagles Tribute Performance

Date: Tue., February 4, 7:30 PM

Price: \$62 per ticket – discounted group rate

Note: Show is sold out. If you need to cancel, please inform, so that I can find a substitute. If you are interested but have not yet signed up, then let me know and I will put you on the wait list

Tickets: I have already sent out an email with your seat selections.

Description: America's premier Tribute Band to the Eagles. This band has been delighting sell-out crowds across the country with a catalog of music that encompasses the classics and deep cuts from the Eagles' music. Their ability to recreate these iconic studio sounds does not go unnoticed; but what really sets them apart is their ability to recreate the Eagles' LIVE experience. Get ready for an unforgettable night of live music as these talented musicians and vocalists bring to life your favorite Eagles hits.

Optional Dinner: Massimo at 5 PM before the performance. Massimo is across the street from the Lesher Theater

Ticket Distribution: Lesher Lobby between 6:45 and 7:10 PM on Tue 2/4 – before the show

Optional Dinner: Massimo at 5 PM before the performance. Massimo is across the street from the Lesher Theater

All Shows at Lesher Theater – Walnut Creek

Location: Lesher Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.

Parking in Adjacent Parking Lot.

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 !!

Also, there will be no Theater events March though May. You will hear back from me in June, hopefully sooner.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

December 31st: The SIRs 146 Cycling Group had the last of the 2024 rides on New Year's Eve Day, Tuesday, December 31st. Larry was out of town for the New Year, so **Thom Degnan** organized the ride and the weather was definitely a bit brisk at the start. The 23-mile ride started at Joann Court in Walnut Creek, out the Contra Costa Trail to Citrus, right to Oak Grove, and up to Northgate Road, and then the 1.5 mi climb to the Guard Station at North Gate. We then did a U-turn, navigated down Northgate Road, out Bancroft to the Contra Costa Trail, onto the Iron Horse Trail, through Walnut Creek, South down Danville Blvd, to Alamo for a much-deserved coffee stop at Peets, before returning to Joann Court to finish the ride.

Joining the last ride of the year was **Bill Holly, Brian Lotter, Jim Rowland, Tom Alborg & Thom Degnan**. Thanks to all for joining and what better way to ring in the New Year. **Thom**

January 7th: The forecast was for sun and warmth and wind. We rolled at 10 to grab the warmth and the sun was shining. The report from friends in Diablo was that the wind there was horrible. Oh well, what the heck. We rolled. The ride was nice, that is until we turned at Blackhawk. Greeting us in our faces was wind. Unreal wind. Our bikes were literally moved sideways. We pursued. Up the hills we rode. The wind increased as we pedaled up the grades. My goodness, it was like a hurricane. Upwards we rode. The hill was un-ending or so it seemed. The wind blew and the guys watched their heart rates climb. Up we went. Then the second longer hill was in view. We gulped and pressed on. It was never ending. Up and up and more wind. Finally, the top was crested. We stopped to get some breaths. It was then downhill and yet the wind continued. After some time, the flats greeted us with wind but at bearable velocity. Today we had: **Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Jim Rowland, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Jim Nelson, Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg, Brian Lotter, Dave Paulson, and Larry Kaye**. Getting old is NOT for sissies.

January 17th: 10 o clock? Why? Because its friggin cold out. So, we met at 10. **Eric Finson, Elmer Bricca, Roger Meyers, Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye**. Off we went. BRRRRRRRR. We had a head

(in your face) wind going and, after turning West. The Hills were killers as we fought 15-20 mph winds. While riding thru San Ramon the wind changed. A relief but... the cold returned. Our hands were numb, feet froze but we continued. The downhills were now cold. Onwards. Finally, the end was near. Hot java at Peets helped. The ride was done. 10 am??? If we had started at 9 which is usual heaven help us. The increasing presence of E Bikes in the group shows how important exercise is. No one wants to grow old and spend a day in a chair. Out the door is the motto. Grab life and get the heck outside. **Larry**



Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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

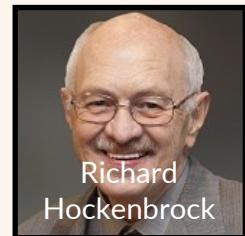
Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that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



Pat O'Keeffe



Norm Baietti



Richard
Hockenbrock



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 a local senior retirement home.

Our next rehearsal is on February 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

Larry Kaye

925.698.430



Birding

Ted Robertson

For our first trip of the New Year, six SIR birders spent a very pleasant morning along the edge of the Contra Loma Regional Park Reservoir, located in southern Antioch. During our leisurely walk along the lake, we had close and lengthy looks at 33 species of birds. There were many highlights, including 22 Snowy Egrets, 21 American White Pelicans, and several looks at a very cooperative Osprey. In addition, we heard the distinctive calls of 2 Soras and 2 Marsh Wrens, and good looks at a rarity, a Tri-colored Blackbird.

Our next field trip is scheduled for the morning of February 10th (2nd Monday) at Heather Farms. This trip will be ideal for beginners and seasoned birders alike. There have been Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Hooded Mergansers sighted recently. Heavy rain cancels. All levels of birders are welcome plus I have a few loaner binoculars I can bring if notified before the trip. If interested, please email Ted Robertson (tedr@berkeley.edu) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list and receive precise meet-up locations.

Ted Robertson

925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



Red-shouldered Hawk (Photo by Earl Bates)



Osprey in flight (Photo by Jim Rowland)



Great Egret (Photo by Earl Bates)



Sir Birders at Contra Loma Regional Park (Photo by Jim Rowland)

More Birding Photos to Left



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



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



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in March for our Veterans Day Luncheon. Come and pick up some of your favorite authors.



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

The course is really looking good. 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 with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford
scubabob.ford@gmail.com





Hiking

Mark Curtis

Here I am in the saddle again with respect to writing my last hiking article. **Bob Wilkenfeld** is a much better writer than me, and he's taking over. I have not done much moderate, or even easy hiking lately as my back issue continues to deteriorate. But that's life, isn't it?

There's the beginning, a really long middle, hopefully, and then a decline towards the ultimate end. But I'm not done yet. **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Ray Martz** will be running the hiking activity from this point forward, and I will do what I can do to participate and support. I suspect that a lot of us in SIR146 have lower back issues, and I think that I've found a program that helps me at least. So, I keep working at it with the hope that some magical doctor does not stick a knife into my back!

The most recent outings that we've done were to Carquinez Straights, Diablo Foothills, and Sycamore Valley Regional parks. Each of these outings was well attended, even during the holiday period. Our hikers

keep on slugging! At the most recent hike at Sycamore Valley, we enjoyed the presence of one of our newest members, **Robert Mason** sponsored by **Eric Finson**.

I should state that all the hikes I/we plan are in the order of 5 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. I do try to select at least 1 venue each month that has much less than 1000 feet of climbing. The notifications for each hike via email will generally describe the difficulty; easy, moderate, or strenuous.

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

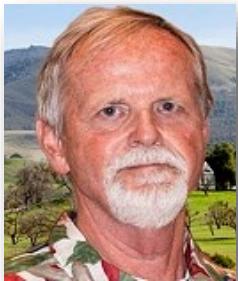
If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Thanks for your interest and support for the last 5 years or so. **Mark Curtis**

Mark Curtis
925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Mt. Diablo from foothills: Photo by **Mark Curtis**



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography crew met on Friday, January 17th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting started at 9 AM and concluded at 11:30 AM.

The theme for January is Urban Photography. The shoot to bridge from the theme to the practical was held in and around downtown Walnut Creek. There are many murals plus quirky paintings on electrical boxes and more that provide for interesting and diverse photography. The group consisted of **Ron Polivka, Frank Terzuoli, Phil Lee, Dean Mayer, Mike Rothman, Bill Holly, and Moose Kelly**.

We took photographs for about an hour to an hour and a half. Then we retired and had a nice lunch at Broderick at the corner of Locust St and Bonanza St. The group showed their top five photos from our outing.

Other members stated that they will bring photos of urban environments from around the world. Please enjoy the photos that are included in this month's newsletter article.

Our January meeting was attended by **Mike Rothman, Ron Polivka, Frank Terzuoli, Bill Holly and Henry Thatcher**. Our own **Bill Holly** was the discussion leader, he presented a very informative presentation on what to pack for an international photography trip. **Bill** has had years of experience in this topic. He has traveled to Africa, Europe, South America and beyond. There are many others in the club that have travel experience. **Bill's** presentation was great and offered many tips and recommendations to capture those perfect travel memories.

Thanks to **Ron Polivka** for bringing coffee and to **Mike Rothman** for the pastries. **Henry Thatcher** shared with the group the 2025 calendar as well as photography member responsibility for content. Please review the attached 2025 photography calendar of themes and shooting locations. This calendar has been formulated

from last year's feedback of all the photography members. If you are interested in joining us at a future meeting, 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

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Walnut Creek Urban Art: Photo by Bill Holly

Photo Group continued on next page

Photo Group continued from previous page



Walnut Creek Urban Art - Photo by Moose Kelly



New York City Urban Art: Photo by Frank Terzuoli



Walnut Creek Urban Artwork: photo by Ron Polivka

Photo Group continued from previous page



Walnut Creek Urban Art - Photo by Ron Polivka



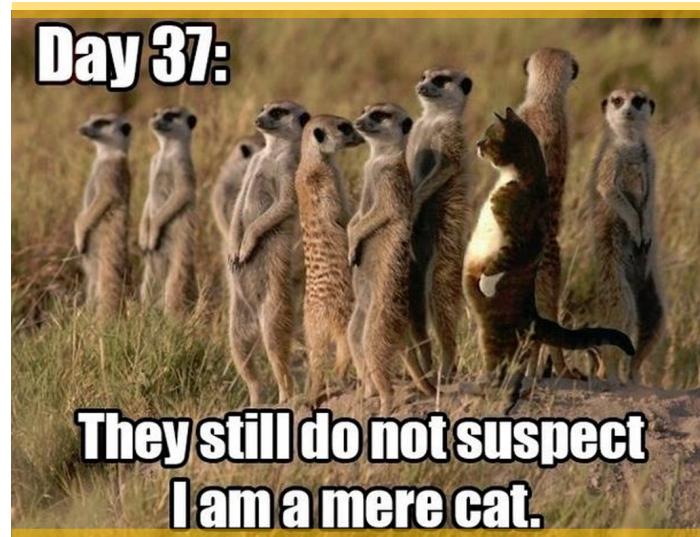
Walnut Creek Urban Art - Photo by Ron Polivka



Walnut Creek Urban Art - Photo by Moose Kelly



Walnut Creek Urban Art - Photo by Mike Rothman





Book Group

John Pearl

REPORT FOR JANUARY

The Sir 146 Book group held its year-end meeting in December and reviewed the book of the month, "Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy, and the Trial That Riveted a Nation," by Brenda Wineapple.

In her book that focuses on two protagonist famous lawyers, Brenda Wineapple masterfully reconstructs the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial, a landmark legal battle that pitted modern science against religious fundamentalism in the heart of rural Tennessee. The name "monkey trial" stems from the claim that evolutionists believed that humans descended from monkeys.

While the trial itself is a well-trodden historical subject, Ms. Wineapple's work distinguishes itself by delving deeply into the lives and motivations of the two central figures: Clarence Darrow, the renowned defense attorney and agnostic, and William Jennings Bryan, the three-time presidential candidate and devout Christian fundamentalist. Through meticulous research, she paints a portrait of these two titans that reveals not only their opposing worldviews but also the complex social and political forces that converged in the sweltering Dayton courtroom.

Clarence Darrow, a Chicago lawyer with a national reputation for defending the underdog, emerges in Ms. Wineapple's narrative as a complex and often contradictory figure. Known for his passionate advocacy for labor rights and his staunch opposition to capital punishment, Darrow was a champion of individual liberty. He viewed the Butler Act, the Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in public schools, as an egregious violation of academic freedom and a dangerous encroachment of religious dogma into the realm of science. The author emphasizes Darrow's deep skepticism, his rejection of organized religion, and his belief in the power of human reason to solve the world's problems. But he had his contradictions. Although he represented John Scopes on a pro bono basis, he was not

above charging huge fees to other clients, including the wealthy families of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, two bright Chicago teenagers who murdered a friend just for the fun of it. But he did save the pair from execution. He was also charged with bribing a witness in a trial in Los Angeles, a charge that Ms. Wineapple states may have been valid.

Ms. Wineapple skillfully weaves together the lawyer's personal history with his public persona, revealing the influences that shaped his worldview. She explores his early life in rural Ohio, his brief stint as a lawyer for the railroad, and his eventual embrace of progressive causes. The book highlights his remarkable ability to connect with juries, his talent for crafting compelling narratives, and his unwavering commitment to defending unpopular clients, which were his standard fare.

In contrast to Darrow's skeptical and often pessimistic outlook, William Jennings Bryan embodied a fervent and unwavering faith. A charismatic orator and populist politician, Bryan ran unsuccessfully for president on the Democratic ticket three times. In many ways, he was like Darrow and Darrow voted for him twice. Bryan championed the cause of rural America, advocated for social and economic reforms, supported women's suffrage, and consistently challenged corporate greed. But he was also a racist and his dislike of corporate greed did not extend to promoting watery Florida real estate, where he made a fortune. But his defining characteristic was his deep commitment to his religious beliefs, viewing the Bible as the literal and infallible word of God. He saw the theory of evolution as a dangerous assault on Christian morality and a threat to the very foundations of American society. For Bryan, the Scopes trial was not merely a legal dispute but a moral crusade, a defense of traditional values against the encroaching forces of modernism.

Ms. Wineapple delves into Mr. Bryan's background, exploring his upbringing in a devout Presbyterian household, his early career as a lawyer and politician in Nebraska, and his rise to national prominence as a champion of the common man, and the publisher of his newspaper, "The Common Man." She highlights his remarka-

Book Group continued on next page

Book Group Continued from previous page

ble oratorical skills, his ability to captivate audiences with his powerful and emotive speeches, and his deep connection to the religious sentiments of rural America. He was a man driven by a profound sense of moral duty, a belief that he was called to defend the Christian faith against the perceived threats of secularism and scientific progress.

The clash between lawyers Darrow and Bryan in the Dayton courtroom was not just a clash of legal arguments but a clash of worldviews, a microcosm of the larger cultural and intellectual conflicts that were reshaping American society in the 1920s and which are reappearing today. Ms. Wineapple vividly recreates the atmosphere of the trial, the sweltering heat, the throngs of reporters and spectators, and the intense media attention that transformed the small town of Dayton into a national stage. She meticulously details the legal proceedings, the arguments presented by both sides, and the dramatic moment when one of the lawyers, Clarence Darrow, called the other, William Jennings Bryan, to the stand as a witness on the Bible.

This cross-examination, perhaps the most famous episode of the trial, is given particular attention by the author. She portrays it as a pivotal moment, not just in the trial itself but in the broader cultural debate over science and religion. Darrow's relentless questioning exposed Bryan's limited understanding of scientific concepts and his reliance on literal interpretations of scripture. While Bryan maintained his unwavering faith, the exchange revealed the inherent tensions between a literal reading of the Bible and the findings of modern science.

Ms. Wineapple avoids simplistic portrayals of Clarence Darrow as the hero of reason and William Jennings Bryan as the villain of religious fundamentalism. She presents both men as complex and flawed individuals, driven by their own deeply held beliefs and shaped by the social and political forces of their time. By exploring their backgrounds, their motivations, and their interactions, Ms. Wineapple provides a nuanced and insightful account of the Scopes

trial and its enduring significance in American history. "Keeping the Faith" is not just a retelling of a famous trial; it is a profound exploration of the enduring tensions between faith and reason and tradition and modernity as the real story that continues to shape American society today. It is a testament to Ms. Wineapple's skill as a historian and her ability to bring the past to life with vividness and insight.

Our sole caution about the book is that it is overly scholarly, and we found the approach toward history as seen in Erik Larson's books more suitable. The themes argued in the courtroom in Dayton are still being argued today. Read this book with an open mind, particularly if one is interested in the trial and the two famous protagonists.

Our next meeting will be at 8 am at the Panera Restaurant in Walnut Creek on January 27. We will be discussing "Lazarus Man", by Richard Price, which is our next monthly selection.

Note: This will be my last report as Nick Jabuka is taking over as Chair next month.

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



Book Group Nick Jabuka

The Book Group meets at 8 AM monthly at a local restaurant for breakfast. We read or listen to books, collaboratively chosen from the best seller lists. Our meetings include discussions about the book recently read, selecting the next book, and general SIR information. It is a congenial group that includes between 5 and 10 SIR members. We welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact:

Nick Jabuka
njabuka@yahoo.com
Cell: 925-639-0384



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

Our first gathering of 2025 is this month, February 20th at 11:30. We are going to visit Walnut Creek's newest sushi/Japanese restaurant: Tanoshi Japanese Bistro. It is located at 2280 Oak Grove, in the Citrus Circle shopping center. A confirmation/RSVP e-mail will be going out at the beginning of the month to registered members of the activity. If you aren't registered, contact activity leader **Clint** as listed below to be added.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group held its first get together of the year on January 15. Under our new format, the host chooses whether to cook at home or dine at a local restaurant. This month's host was **Paul Dubow** and he chose to meet at Il Pavone in Walnut Creek, where six of us dined. Our choices included cannelloni, pasta, and a Monterey Jack opened face sandwich. While we were dining, our wives dined at the Andaman Thai restaurant in Walnut Creek. Five of the six attendees enjoyed crispy rice salad.

After both groups finished lunch, we adjourned to **Paul's** home for dessert and camaraderie. We had a choice of apple, cherry, or key lime pie plus coffee and vanilla or strawberry ice cream. On the following day, all of us dined.

Our next meeting will be at the home of **Henry Thatcher** on February 19. Henry's wife **Barbara** will choose the venue for the women.

Pete Gates
petegates10@gmail.com
925-586-2321





Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Bruce Borgman** on January 13th. As usual **Bruce** served another memorable lunch experience. We arrived with wine in hand and were treated to an appetizer spread. The highlight of the appetizers was delicious cheese stuffed apricots. After a healthy dose of conversation, the group was seated to begin the first course of vegetable soup. Proof of the soup's flavor was confirmed by most asking for a second helping. Next **Bruce** served the main course of Chicken Divan. He used his daughter's special recipe that he found to be the best. The group agreed that the recipe was outstanding. **Bruce** completed the meal with a Cheesecake dessert. This homemade Cheesecake was much lighter and better tasting than anyone in the group could remember. The Cooking II group will meet next month, for its annual Valentine's dinner with spouses and significant others, on February 13th.

Steve Ybarra

sjybar@gmail.com





Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

We are anticipating our January Couples Dining Out event in just a few days as of the writing of this report - on Monday, January 20. As we noted in our last report, we will be enjoying dinner at Tasty Szechuan Restaurant in Pacheco, we selected dishes from the Chinese American side of the menu since the actual Szechuan items tend to be a bit spicy.

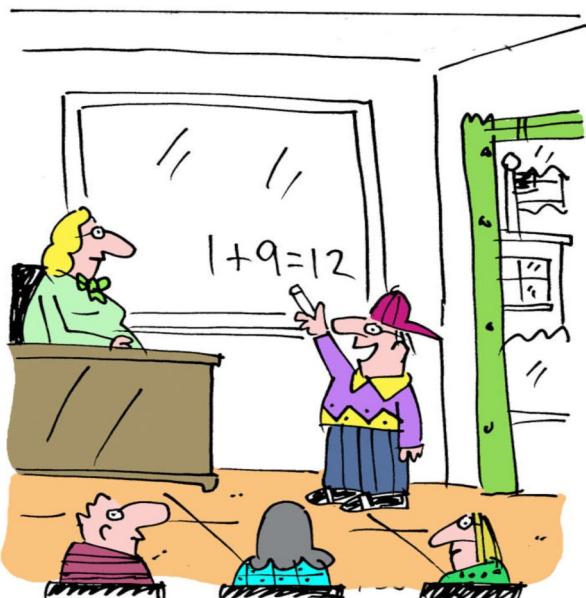
We wound up with 40 diners for this event. The restaurant is a bit smaller than most of the restaurants which we patronize so we decided to skip the usual cocktail / social hour. The restaurant has a limited liquor license as well and does not have a bar area for us to socialize. The good news is that the restaurant has offered to include in the price of the dinner a complimentary beer - either domestic, or Chinese! Also, if you wish to bring a bottle of wine, there is no corkage charge. So, this event promises to be a bit different than our usual Dining Out occasion, but will no doubt be just as fun!

I will refer you to the last issue of the Sir Call for details of the delectable items we will be enjoying.

You will have to wait for the next issue of the newsletter to see some pictures of the upcoming dinner.

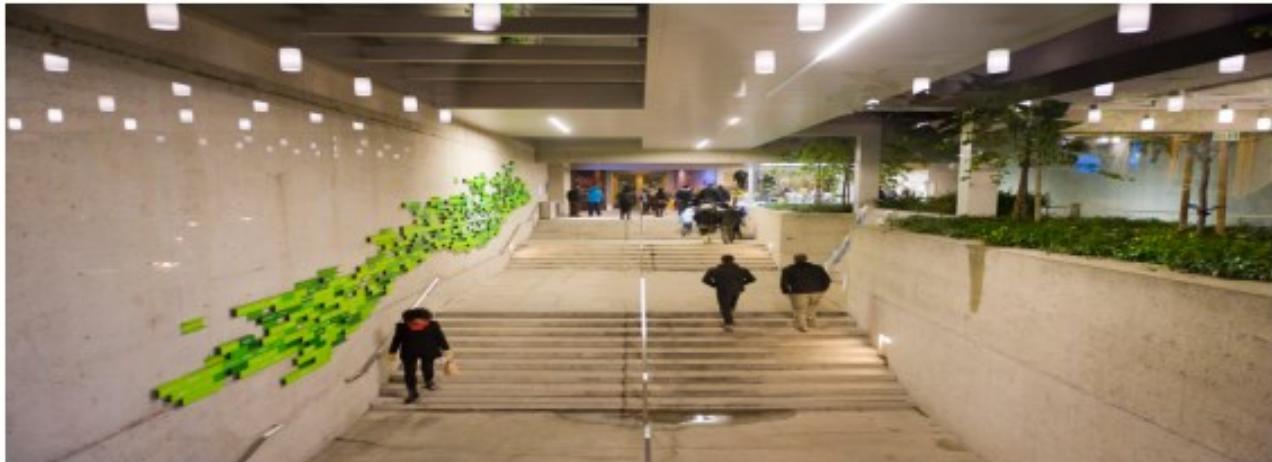
The following dinner will be in March - likely on March 24, or 25. If you have a restaurant that you have enjoyed, we are always anxious for new experiences.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



"It doesn't add up — because I added a 20% tip."

SIR 146 Explore & Eat-Updated



Oakland Museum of California

Tour February 20th 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

Mexican Train Uno started off the New Year at Sue and Bruce Borgman's lovely home for eight of our group's members. While someone was out under the weather, another was being surprised with a trip to San Antonio to celebrate the year “80”! We were quite pleased to see two of our regular members doing well after both having major medical procedures at the end of last year.

The players were teased with many delectable treats that **Bruce** and **Sue** provided, and in true Mexican fashion, we were treated to Mexican flan at half time. Despite not playing for two months, **Alicia Baily** did not lose her strategy and placed first with a low average of 13.6.

Not far behind, **Peter Bishop** placed second, with an average of 19.5, and our host, **Bruce**, placed third with a 25.5 average.

Corrie Oranje

corrieoranje@gmail.com



MTD 1 (L to R): Richard Hockenbrock, Sue Oranje, Alicia Baily, Sue Sheldon, Gabriela Bishop, Corrie Oranje, and Peter Bishop. Bruce Borgman, our host, took the picture of the group.

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes “Dos”

Ron Plachy

MTD2 did not play in December. Our first game of 2025 is Friday February 24th.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

MTD 3 took a break during the holiday season, and we hope everyone has a healthy and joyful 2025.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, January 24th, at the home of **Sally** and **Lynn Shafer**. All Aboard.

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On January 17th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim** and **Renie Pope's** home with

16 players.

In attendance this evening were: **Henry** and **Barbara Thatcher**, **Dick** and **Leslie Firth**, **Ken** and **Carol Soult**, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, **Rich** and **Kim Pace**, **Steve** and **Susan Oki**, **Scott** and **Marie Claire MacDougall**, and **Jim** and **Renie Pope**.

The group was very joyous getting back together in the new year while consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members. We played at three tables of 5, 5 and 6. We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 or 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets.

The table's three low score winners were: **Dick Firth**, **Barbara Thatcher** and **Susan Oki**. There were three table high scoring players: **Ken Soult**, **Carol Soult** and **Henry Thatcher** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures)

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net



MTD 4 Winners (L to R): Susan Oki, Dick Firth, and Barbara Thatcher



MTD 4 High Scoring Players (L to R): Ken Soult, Carol Soult and Henry Thatcher



out

Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

This is MTD-6 special very late edition - due to the travels of the MTD6 group slacker me, you get last year's news - sorry, but we were of country at press time.

This MTD 6 get together was on October 23, 2024 at **Kathe Mitchell's** home with **John Kendrick** hosting.

With two tables set up, and the playing was semi - intense. Players were **Steve Lane**, **Carol Lane**, **John "Moose" Kelly**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Virginia Tygart**, **Rich Ahlf**, **Ismini Maclean**, **Peter Plante**, **Martha Plante**, **Kathe Mitchell**, **Bruce Borgman** and **John Kendrick**.

Kathe Mitchel was the winner (11.4) with the **Lane's** taking second (**Carol** - 16.9) and third (**Steve** 20.5). We again awarded the losers with a low value scratcher with no chance of being a winner - thanks **Moose and Peter**.

We look forward to **Moose** and **Mary** hosting our February gathering on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Oct 23rd Winners (L to R): **Carol Lane**, **Brian McCarthy** and **Steven Lane**.



Oct 23rd MTD6 Scratches: **Moose Kelly** and **Peter Plante**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

In January **Bob & Wendy** hosted our MTD 7 event. Four members decided that they were more interested to be on travel to exotic places rather than attend our MTD night.

Mary McCarthy took first place, **Wendy Lucido** placed second, and **Brian McCarthy** came in third.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

Bob Lucido

In January members were either on vacation or ill. So MTD was cancelled for this month.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10)

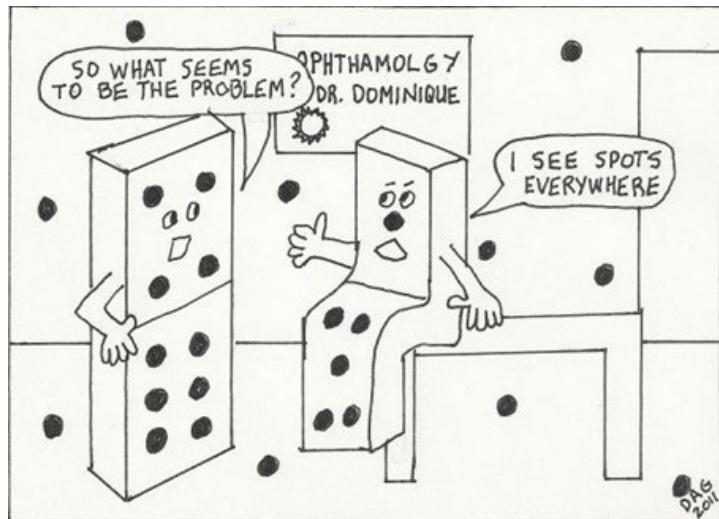
Mark Sorum and
Cleo Bolen

In January, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by **Rich and Ismini Ahlf**. The first-place winner was **Rich Ahlf**, second was **Mark Sorum** and coming in third was **Ismini Ahlf**. Consolation prizes went to **Steve Petersen** and **Frank Lucas**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be February 21st at the home of **Robert Campbell**. We rotate hosting among different homes.

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

Mark Sorum
 925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com
 Cleo Bolen
 925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Friday, January 3 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by Bill Schaaf.

Bob Yolland won 1st by 5 points with 47.0. Congratulations, Bob!

Tony Greco earned 2nd with 42.0. Joe Fuchs was 3rd with 40.5. Mike Whitaker was 4th with 40.0.

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick and Maggie Chaffee kicked off the New Year by hosting our January 7th event. Max and Ardith Hinkle subbed for the Hatchers. A big thank you goes out to Joan Pierce for agreeing to sub for Cindy Greco just one hour before game time. There were some mild protests when Joan walked in instead of Cindy. I guess they felt that we created a formidable team. I tried to assure them that it was completely unintentional. Based on the results below, I guess the protests were justified. Lol

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 3720 points - Tony Greco and Joan Pierce

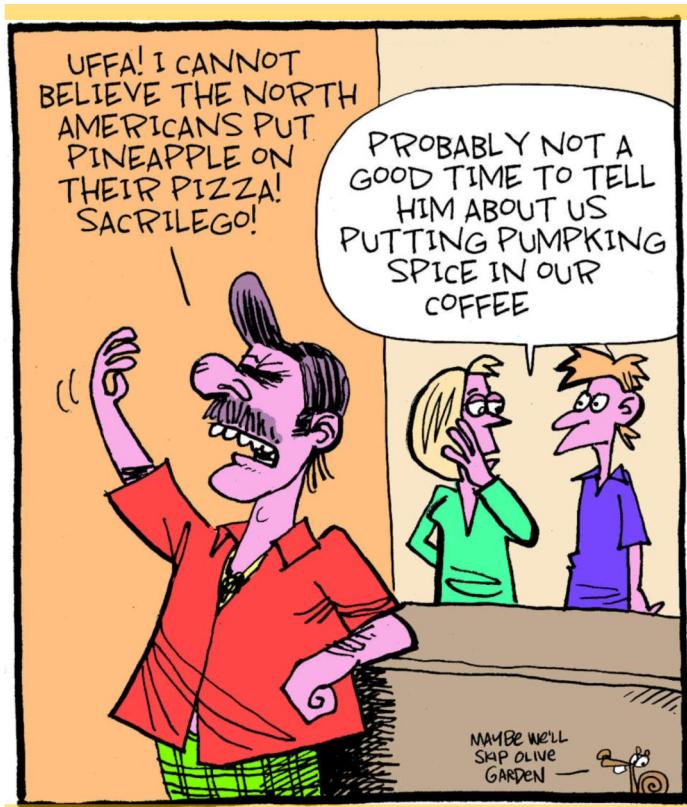
2nd PLACE with 2270 points - John and Kathy Kluesener

3rd PLACE with 2250 points - Larry and Linda Brown

Our next event will be held on February 4th and hosted by Dick and Christy DeVoe.

CARE TO JOIN US? For all of you current or former bridge plays, 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.

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from December 13th, we did not meet on the Friday after Christmas.

The big winners were **Brian McCarthy** with 2.5 wins and **Glenn Breslin** and **Jim Passaglia** both with 2 wins. **Ron Polivka** had 3.5 2nds. The lowest average scorer was **Glenn Breslin** with 53.5, and **Glenn** had the only STM.

2024 Full Year Results: **Jim Passaglia** led with 31 wins followed by **Frank Lucas** with 27.5 and **Steve Ybarra** with 25. **Jim Passaglia** has the highest winning percentage of active players at 41% followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 36%. **Steve Ybarra** has the lowest average score of 52.3 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.7. **Frank** led in STM's with 14 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 13. **Steve Ybarra** as usual led in 2nds with 24.5 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 25 and **Bob West** with 23.5. **Glenn Breslin** is most improved. His 2024 win rate of 30% is 273% higher than in 2023.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be January 10th and 24th.

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

Co-Directors

Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**

robertwest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a high scoring game on Monday January 6th at the home of **Jim Pope** who did an excellent job of hosting.

The players were: **Dick DeVoe**, **Christy DeVoe**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Max Hingle**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Ray Spears**, **Jim Stedman**, **Jane Bradley** and **Bob Yolland**.

The high scorers were **Bob Yolland** with 6,230 points, **Steve Dinning** with 5,950 points and **Dick DeVoe** with 5,910 points.

The next game will be on February 3rd at **Boundary Oak** hosted by **Steve Dinning** and **Joe Fuchs**. Please let **Jim Stedman** know if you would like to play.

Co-Directors

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



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

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

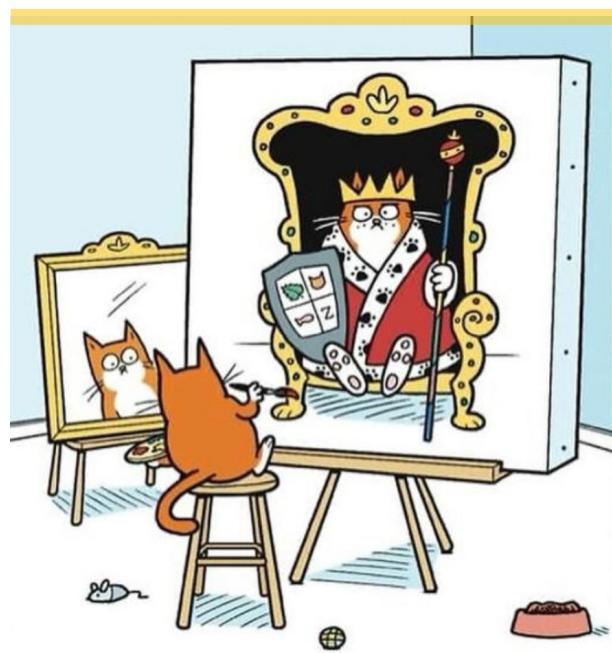
We greeted the new bridge year when **Tony and Cindy Greco** hosted us royally on January 14th. We greeted our substitute couples **Max and Ardith Hinkle** and **John and Kathie Kluesener** with thanks and appreciation; without them we would have had no game.

How often should we expect a slam bid? [Larry Cohen](#) suggests 5-6% of the time, or about once in the twenty boards we play. On lucky Board 13, everyone made 6 or 7 diamonds, but **Joan Pierce** was the only one to bid slam. But she opened two clubs, her partner responded with two diamonds (waiting), so she didn't get to play it.

At the end of the evening, **John and Kathie** were third, **Ken and Elaine Richter** were second, and **Dave and Joan Pierce** were first. Happy New Year to all.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com

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



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

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

Parting Shot

10 REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS WEIRD

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.



MINUTE AND MINUTE
SHOULDN'T BE SPELLED THE SAME.

I'M NOT CONTENT WITH THIS CONTENT.

I OBJECT TO THAT OBJECT.

I NEED TO READ WHAT I READ AGAIN.

EXCUSE ME BUT THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS.

SOMEONE SHOULD WIND THIS POST UP
AND THROW IT IN THE WIND.