

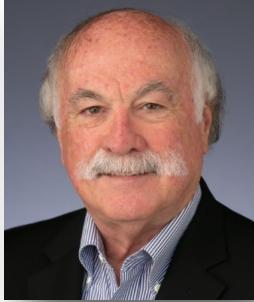


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

December 2025–January 2026



Big Sir's Corner

Thom Degman

And before we knew it, it was 2026. I hope that your family had a safe and happy holiday season, whether you celebrated Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa; and may the coming year be happy, healthy and prosperous for all our SIR members and their families.

I am honored by your trust and look forward to the challenges ahead to make SIR146 the very best that it can be, and hope for your continued support. I also want to thank **Bob Ford, Don Shaw, John Rexroat, Mike Rothman, Tom Amman, Glenn Breslin**, our Director's, former Big Sirs, and all the activity leads that help to make SIR146 such an outstanding organization. I also want to thank all the many volunteers who worked to make our activities interesting, and our lunch meetings enjoyable. Unfortunately, there were way too many contributors to list here by name but your efforts are appreciated, each and every one of you.

Going forward, your new Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will remain as transparent as possible, keeping our Branch strong (both financially and membership wise), and flexible to meet whatever new challenges 2026 brings. The purpose of our Branch remains the same - to provide opportunities for men to socialize, renew old friendships, and develop new friends by participating in activities of interest to them. This happens when members participate, and that is one of our objectives for 2026.

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, January 8th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Frank Terzuoli on AI
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
go to page 4 ([click Here!](#))

Some of the key focus items for SIR146 in 2026 will be

1. Recruiting new members, and
2. Increasing participation in SIR by the membership.

Recruitment: At the end of 2019, SIR146 had 298 members, today that has dropped a bit to 263. Therefore, we have formed a committee led by **Glen Breslin**, and including **Dean Mayer, Mike Rothman, Jim Pope, Mike Davidson** and myself to plan and execute a plan to recruit new members. This activity is well underway, and we would welcome any assistance should you like to help out. Reach out to anyone on the committee and they will welcome you onto the team. Also, each one of us has friends or acquaintances who could benefit from membership in our branch or a neighboring branch. Talk to them, invite them to one of our luncheons, help us to grow with good people.

Participation: A strong organization is only as good as its members. We have some 51 activities to choose from plus trips to water and power plants, CPR, and other fun events. Several of our members have been leading their activity for many years, and could use some support. SIR wants to provide a fun way to meet new people and this is a great way to do it. Please let me know if you would like to assist in any activity, or contact the activity lead directly. We would welcome your increased participation.

Looking forward to seeing you all in January and hope that you and your family have an exceptional 2026!

Thom Degman
Big Sir, Branch 146

Activities for you and spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Couples Dining Out [Page 26](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 11](#)
- Vets! Meetup! [Page 13](#)
- Our photos of the year [Page 19](#)
- For the birds [Page 21](#)
- Gardening [Page 23](#)



Little Sir's Corner

Jim Pope

AI is a topic on everyone's mind and **Frank Terzuoli** will provide his thoughts on where we are today, how we got here, the opportunities and risks of AI going forward, etc. **Frank** has been involved in the IT development of AI protocols for many years. He has seen AI mature into what it is today. His insights will be very educational and I'm sure entertaining. **Frank** is a member of SIR 146.

Frank brings a wealth of experience. He started as a Behavioral Economist with an electric background who has been working on pattern recognition models for 40 years, including neural networks and expert systems across mostly financial services applications. Very familiar with the challenges of inferring insight from data with varying degrees of confidence, he worked for cutting edge companies in the pre-AI era including Accenture and KPMG. And, he still does consulting with three small AI financial service companies as well as three leading Universities.

In addition to my Little Sir Speaker duties, I plan on helping New Members get acquainted with SIR 146 and the programs. At the luncheons, I will have a Little Sir table where I will invite 2 or 3 new SIR 146 members with their sponsors to sit with me and discuss how they are finding their time in the organization. Hopefully, we can help them find some programs they find interesting.

Our CPR Training Classes have been a great success. We have had 5 classes, and we have now involved and updated more than 110 individuals over the past years on current CPR techniques. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR! If you are interested in joining a CPR class in 2026, please let me know as the next class will occur in February.

Also, I want to encourage members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. The more contribution we have from our members, the better SIR 146 will be. If anyone would like to assist on the Recruiting

Committee, planning and executing on new member recruitment activities, please let me know. This will be a key activity in 2026, and our objective is to make SIR 146 the very best that it can be. .

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership

George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in December.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Denny lives in Antioch with his wife **Vicki**. He was a trucking business owner, called Import Dealer & Service. He is a musician and enjoys camping and the outdoors. He is sponsored by **Nick Jabuka**.

The 2025 membership count was **266**.

Several members did not renew their membership for 2026 for various reasons.

They are Dale Dalgaard, Bill Dastic, Mike Patterson, Scott Schrader, William Snyder, John Reilly.

The **2026 Dues** letter was sent out in mid-October along with a return envelope for your convenience. In the December SIRCall the letter was reprinted as an additional reminder. Also, in December an email was sent to the members who have not paid their dues. So far as of this writing there are still **33** members that have not responded yet.

Reminder: If you are one of the **33** that have not responded yet for your 2026 Dues, you will be contacted by the Big Sir or Little Sir as a final contact. If you do not respond by the end of January, then we will assume that you are resigning.

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 num-

Membership continued on next page

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons

Membership from page previous page

ber. 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 the friend as well.

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 member of SIR.

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

Submitting an article for SIRCall? Have pictures to "illustrate" your article? We hope so. Pictures always make an article more interesting to the readers. So, get a couple in but, please, PLEASE, make sure to include them in the e-mail with your article. Sending them separately may mean that they get lost in the shuffle and no one wants that!

'Which brings me to a second point: please make sure you use the email appropriate for the message, that is either the editor e-mail or my personal SIR e-mail address, the editor address being preferred! Some of you are aware of my other e-mail addresses... part of handling the volume of mail I receive is screening and each account has unique screening. Send an article regarding SIRCall to my personal email and it may simply get overlooked or moved to a category/folder that doesn't get immediate attention. The preferred email for articles is sircallbr146@gmail.com, my SIR email is sirclint@the-colliers.org.

We... the editors of SIRCall and **Glenn Breslin** the activities director... need some help. We need someone in the branch to step up and agree to maintain the monthly activities calendar that is online and which gets published in this newsletter. You will note its conspicuous absence from this issue...no one put anything in for 2026 so if you can help... give **Glenn** a call, a text or an email.

Be warned: the cut off date for SIRCall submissions for the February issue will be January 21st ... but as always, we gladly accept them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

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](#)

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor **Clint Collier**

Assistant Editor **Bob West**

Photographer **Henry Thatcher**

Proofreaders **Ron Polivka**

Bruce Borgman

Frank Lucas

Ron Plachy

Internet Posting



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Get Your Reservations in Early

January 8th is the earliest time our luncheon will be scheduled in 2026. With the holidays still with us, please get your reservations in early for the luncheon and before the **January 2nd at Noon deadline**.

Changes to Luncheon Seating

In January we will be changing the number of chairs per table at our regular luncheons. Our attendance this year has varied from approximately 100 to 120. In order to give our members more room, we will be seating 8 members per table instead of the current 10 members per table.

Speaker Information

AI is a topic on everyone's mind and **Frank Terzuoli** will provide his thoughts on where we are today, how we got here, the opportunities and risks of AI going forward, etc.

Luncheon Information

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

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

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, January 8th, 2026

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$37 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, January 2nd 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 Zelle or 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, January 2nd 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** 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 January Luncheon

Thursday, January 8th, 2026

Salad

Arugula Salad with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese and Herb Vinaigrette

Entrees

Chicken Piccata

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

Cod Piccata

Herb Marinated Cod Filet, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

Vegetarian

Creamy Tomato Tortellini

Five Cheese Tortellini in a Creamy Tomato Sauce, Seasonal Vegetable

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 February Luncheon on your calendar NOW!



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 February Luncheon

Thursday, February 12th, 2026

Buffet Lunch

Salad

Iceberg Lettuce, cheddar croutons Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Meat Loaf

 Gravy mashed potatoes and

Four Cheese Cannelloni

 Spinach with Tomato Basil Sauce

Broccolini

Dessert

Strawberry short cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance simply click on
Buffet Lunch.

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to
send to the attendance group.

2026

Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan

Little Sir.....Jim Pope

SecretaryJohn 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

ActivitiesGlenn Breslin

Member RelationsEdward Brands

PublicityJohn Alexander

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under
the Members Only tab heading on our website, for
phone numbers and email addresses.



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!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

Name	Yr Inducted	Years
Donald Shaw	2021	5
John Wilson	2021	5
William Ross	2020	6
Ray Bland	2020	6
Ed Smith	2019	7
Dale Dalgaard	2019	7
Jack Menzhuber	2019	7
Earl Nevares	2019	7
Richard Morgan	2017	9
Don Seaton	2015	11
Steve Ybarra	2015	11
Tony Adduci	2014	12
John Alexander	2011	15
John Boyan	2011	15
Doug Eisner	2010	16
James Passaglia	2010	16
Randy Becker	2008	18
Paul Dubow	2008	18
Ray Spears	2007	19
Jim Burk	2006	20
Dan Schlatter	2006	20
Pete Gates	2002	24
Charles Eichten	1999	27
Lew Thompson	1996	30
Jim Stedman	1993	33



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.



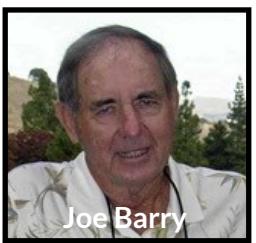
Ray Spears



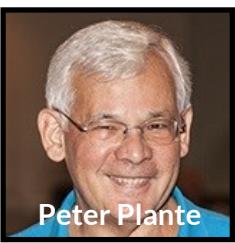
Pat O'Keefe



Mark Sorum



Joe Barry



Peter Plante

Photos by

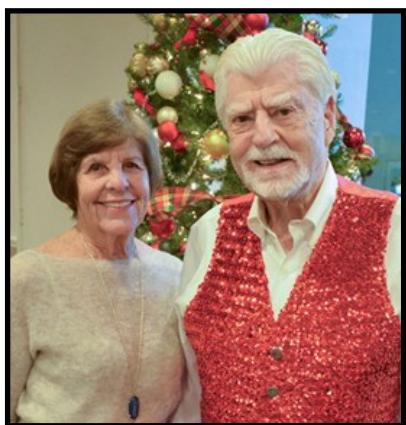
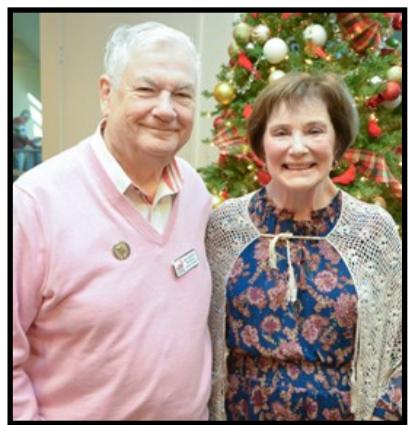


Henry Thatcher



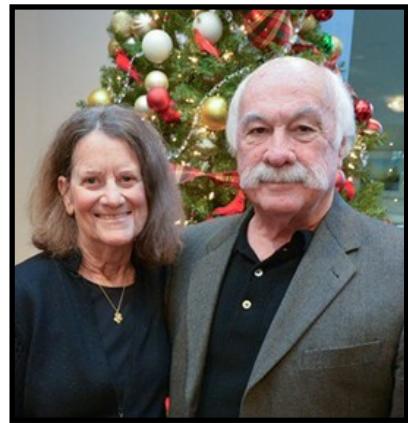
December











**Make Friends..
for Life**





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Did you know that you can start an activity of your own 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!

All our current activities are listed on: <https://sir146.com/>

Description	Totals
Total Activities	52
Total Co-Ed Activities	34
Percent Co-Ed Activities	65%
Total Unique Activities	28
BR146 activities shared with other branches	14
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	15

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



Veterans Larry Kaye

Next Vet meeting!

- Date: Wed 1/7/26
- Time: 11:30 am
- Event: Lunch.
- Price: What you eat and drink.
You will receive an individual check for your meal,

Location: Back Forty Restaurant, 100 Coggins Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Menu Link:
https://backforty.us/wp-content/uploads/dine-in-menu_Spring-2025_Web.pdf

Bring a story to share. A portable microphone and speaker will be available, so everyone can hear. RSVP to attend.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net

RSVP NOW!
larrykaye2@comcast.net



Bocce John Kendrick

Hopefully Santa answered your Christmas wish and brought you your very own set of Bocce Balls. Safety tip – don't practice inside the house.

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will 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. The first Bocce Ball activity will be on May 11, 2026.

All games are played at the Bocce Ball Courts in Newhall Park. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

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

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

I saw an audiologist the other day. But I think I need a second opinion.

Why on earth would I want a heron egg?



Guitar Group Curtis Young

Guitar Group is starting up again this coming January! After a break from getting together it's time we gather.

Our group is set up for players of all levels, beginner to a seasoned player. If you are interested, look up Guitar Group in the activities page and send me an email.

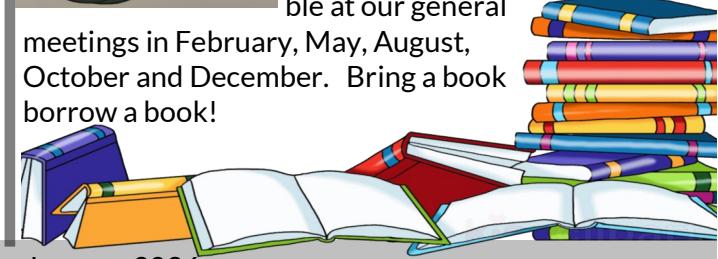
For those of you that were playing, let me know if you are still interested. The schedule will remain the same.

Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com



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!





Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

November 22: Our ride on November 22 was different—it was a Saturday, not our usual Tuesday; it started from Walnut Creek, not Alamo; and over half of the 20 mile ride was on the smaller residential streets of Alamo, Danville and Walnut Creek, on the east side of highway 680. Ten of us started out from Walnut Creek and then hooked up with **Larry Kaye** in Alamo. The cool, overcast weather kept us from overheating, but then the sun came out and we started stripping off layers! A coffee and donut stop at the end replenished our energy. **Bob Wilkenfeld**

November 25: On Tuesday, November 25th, the cycling gang met at Pleasant Hill Park for a 22-mile round trip in and around Pleasant Hill and Martinez. The weather outlook wasn't all that enticing with cloudy, foggy skies, high humidity, and a moderate headwind in some areas. Those cyclists that braved these conditions were: **Larry Kaye, Bob Wilkenfeld, Thom Degnan, David Paulson, Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Mike Schrupp, Bill Holly, Ken Studer, Bob Lucido, Phil Lee, and Moose Kelly**. Call us "crazy guys" for riding in these less-than-optimal weather but that's what we are dedicated riders.



We rolled out of Pleasant Hill Park and connected with the Iron Horse Trail. We followed the Trail to the end and went along the perimeter of Buchanan Airfield. As we crossed Pacheco Blvd, we stopped and gathered the ranks before we started our climb. After huffing and puffing up Center Avenue, we turned right on Morello Road which took us all the way to Pacheco Blvd.



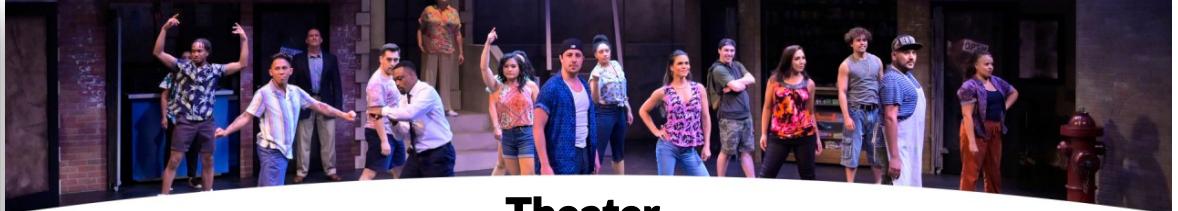
The peloton turned to Martinez where we stopped at our usual coffee shop, State Street, for hot java and belly bombs. **Roger Meyer**, a former rider of the group, joined us to share the commandries. It was great to see him!!

Leaving Martinez, one of our cycling colleagues took a tumble and another rider got a flat tire. The rest of the group gathered around to make sure everyone was okay. The vast majority of our rides are uneventful, but every now and then things don't go as planned.

We finished the ride through Reliez Valley back to Pleasant Hill Park where I have enclosed a serious photograph as well as a goofy one. Although weather was far from the best, we still rode to make room for the Thanksgiving feast that we will incur. It's a healthy sport since someone told me that "Health is Wealth." **Larry**

December 17: Today was the SIR cycling Holiday luncheon. All but **Bill Holly** were in attendance; **Bill** is sick. We had a great lunch and talked for two hours. Pointed out that 7 YEARS ago we had 5 riders that formed this. Today we number 20. It's been fun. We spoke of the crashes, the weather and just had a blast. As we age the changes are more obvious. No matter what though, we all are in good health and intend to keep pedaling. Age is bull.... Just get outside and do something. **Larry**

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Lesher Theater

- For many of the below 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
- Look for future notices regarding upcoming Lesher Tribute Band dates

Neil Diamond Concert Experience Sat 1/31/26, 7:30pm \$69 (rows C-E) and \$59 (row H)

Desc: Long-time Las Vegas performer and Legends in Concert alumni ROB GARRETT is America's #1 NEIL DIAMOND Tribute Artist! He is unparalleled in his portrayal of the legendary performer. From Vegas to Honolulu, to New York, to Berlin... Rob has come to be known as the 'King of Diamonds' as he is able to naturally capture the presence, passion, and energy of this iconic performer in all his youthful 'JAZZ SINGER' glory. In 2008 Rob was awarded with the "Male Musical Tribute Artist of the Year" award in Las Vegas marking the first (and only) time a Neil Diamond tribute act has won such an honor. *This is the ultimate live Neil Diamond in Concert performance highlighting the greatest and most popular music of his career, including 'Sweet Caroline,' 'Hot August Night,' 'Cracklin' Rosie,' 'I Am I Said,' 'Song Sung Blue' and many more 'Live in Concert' favorites!* [Link to Show Webpage](#)

[Link to YouTube](#)

Lost In Yonkers - Sat 4/4/26 - 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher Theater

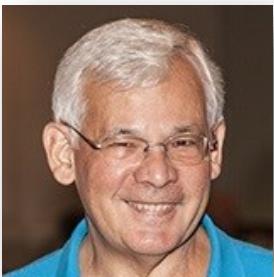
To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the opening of Lesher Center for the Arts, Center REP is proud to present the 35th anniversary revival production of Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning heartfelt comedy. This multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Financially strapped and needing to dig his family out of medical debt, Eddie must leave his two teen boys to live with his sister and mother while he takes to the road as a salesman. A strange new world opens up to the boys as they must navigate their estranged mafia-linked Uncle Louie and authoritarian Grandma Kurnitz (and her odorous mustard soup) while befriending their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation. *Lost In Yonkers won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades.* [Link to Show Page](#)

Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher Theater

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 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)* [Link to Show Page](#)

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 glenbreslin@gmail.com



SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed our Christmas program on December 5 at the Ivy Park Retirement Home on Ygancio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. **Steve Dinning** played several songs

for the audience before we sang old favorite songs like "Frosty The Snowman," "White Christmas" and "Silent Night" to an enthusiastic audience. Several people sang along and a good time was had by all. **Paul Beretz** was the MC introducing the songs and SongSirs were directed by **Bruce Borgman**.



Our next rehearsal is on January 14, 2026 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. The songs for St. Patrick's Day will be rehearsed for a performance in March.



We are always looking for new members, so join us for a fun time and camaraderie. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Contact Peter Plante at pcplante109@gmail.com

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



Tuesday Golf

Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play 18 holes weekly at Boundary Oak. Joining has a cost of \$80 per year which covers your NCGA membership and provides a recognized golf handicap. Prize fund participation is an option. Most weeks are stroke play but there are typically monthly team events as well.

In addition to 146 branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. State SIR events are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

Ed Marlovits



9 Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

Are you ready to start the new year with a little golf? You should consider our 9-Hole Golf group. This time of year, golf is a great reason to get out of the house and get a little exercise. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course 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 noting who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford
scubabob.ford@gmail.com

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism, it's usually a light sentence but it gives them time to reflect.



Travel Glenn Breslin

Currently planned SIR Multi-Branch Travel trips will complete in the Spring 2026. The planned trips are listed below with one trip already completed:

- Vietnam – Oct 2025
- Australia – Jan 2026
- Cuba – Mar 2026
- Japan – Apr 2026



If you are interested in traveling with other SIRs during the Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 timeframe, then can you please fill out the below SIR Travel Survey and email to glennbreslin@gmail.com. Your input will be utilized to plan these future SIR Travel Trips. Upon your request, I can also send you the below Travel Survey in an email

SIR TRAVEL SURVEY

1. Where do you want to travel to ?
2. What duration (# of days) works best for you ?
3. Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip ?
4. What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise Companies ?
5. Can you please provide any other comments about SIR Travel?
6. 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 list 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



AREA 16

Fishing Report

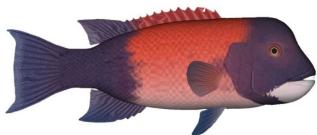
Paul Dubow

I was unable to attend the fishing meeting in November at the last minute and so once again **Cleo Bolen** kindly took notes for me at the meeting, Thanks, Cleo!

The meetings area always fun and interesting. This time, however, there were two major events. First, **Phil Scimonelli**'s two year tour as Big Fish came to an end at the end of this month and we nominated **Pedro Contreras** to replace him. By the time you read this article, Pedro will be off and running on his new job. And thanks to Phil for his dedication in leading us for the past two years.

Second, Pedro gave a presentation on the long range fishing trip (eight days) out of San Diego that he took with **Brion Beetz**, **Steve Paulick**, and **Ken Bellendir** in September. It was a very successful trip. The quartet fished off the coast of Baja California and caught twelve yellowtail, one marlin, fifty barracuda, one

black sea bass, twenty yellowfin, and one sheepshead. (A sheepshead is a fish, not an animal head).



The big fishing event in November is the opening of the crab season. Crab fishing is much different from other types of fishing. When we fish for species other than crab, we drop our lines in the water and hope for a bite. That bite can come instantly, in several hours, or not at all. Not so with crab. First, we don't use a rod. Rather we drop crab pots to the bottom that are filled with delicacies enjoyed by crab and wait for the crab to enter and partake. Once inside, it is like the Hotel California, they can never leave (well, most of the time.) But it takes awhile to fill the cage. If one is out on a fishing boat in the ocean, it is silly not to fish. And so our usual course of action is to forage for other fish while waiting for the crab to do their thing. The most likely target is rockfish, given that the season does not end until December 31. And so crab fishermen **Matt Richards**, **Carl Moyer**, **Phil Scimonelli**, **Nic Jabuka**, **Ken Bellendir**, **Steve Smith**, **Pedro Contreras**, **Ron Gau-mont**, and **Brion Beetz** had a most enjoyable month catching limits and near limits of both crab and rockfish. Some of these gentlemen prefer crab over turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner and so a few turkey lives were saved.

Eight or us made our semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor at the end of October. Many rainbows were landed, but we did not quite make the limit. We have set the two 2026 Alamanor trips for May 26-29 and October 13-16. However, we are considering expanding the trips to one week.

Our group has now established a relationship with the fishing group in Branch 45 in Yuba City, known as the Slow Trollers. We are exchanging calendars and we now can join the Slow Trollers on their outings and they can join ours. This will hopefully gain new opportunities for our group.

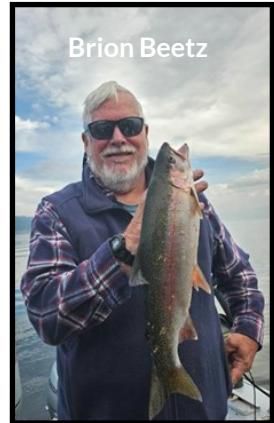
Tom Kostik continued his forays in the Delta. He made three trips this month, twice accompanied by **Mike Pruitt** and once accompanied by **Harry Sherinian**. The trips yielded, respectively, 21, 20, and 17 stripers, of which 10 were keepers. In addition Mike caught a nice salmon, which was released.

Stan Wong made six stiper trips in the Delta and limited three times for trout in Lake Berryessa. He also entered a stiper derby in the Delta, catching a large stiper off Decker Island which put him in line for first place. Unfortunately, three larger stripers were boated by other competitors in the last hour and he finished fourth. But he still collected some prize money.

We are looking forward to 2026 and have our usual lineup of trout, halibut, rockfish/lingcod, shark, and (hopefully) salmon trips lined up and scheduled. There will also be a new adventure. We will be going to Pacific City, Oregon for a dory trip for salmon and crab in July. This will be a rather strenuous outing because the dories are launched in the surf. Should be fun though!

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for January 22 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am for camaraderie and fish stories, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time but are thinking about starting or renewing this activity. You don't need equipment for our outings. We always can lend you some!

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

SIR Branch 146 photography members met on Tuesday, December 9th at Rocco's Pizzeria in Walnut Creek. Those SIRs that attended are the following: **Bill Holly, Miker Rothman, Frank Terzuoli, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Bob Wilkenfeld, Don Casey, Cleo Bolen, Clint Collier, Ron Polivka, Henry Thatcher, and Moose Kelly.** A BIG "thank you" to **Bill Holly** for bailing out **Moose Kelly** on the projector situation.

The focus of this meeting was to vote on the best picture of the year for two segments: 1) Camera Phones and 2) DSLR camera. Six photographers submitted 3 photos each for camera phone category. Three photographers submitted 3 photos each for the DSLR camera category. The judges consisting of **Miker Rothman, Henry Thatcher, and Moose Kelly** narrowed the selection to one photo per entrant for camera phone category and two photos per entrant for the DSLR category. After reviewing the pictures for each category, the membership voted. The final result was **Ron Polivka**, the winner for the Camera Phone Category and **Frank Terzuoli**, the winner for the DSLR Camera Category. **CONGRATULATIONS Ron and Frank.** Photos are attached to this article for your viewing pleasure.

Moose Kelly and Miker Rothman did a special "thank you" presentation for all the hard work that **Henry Thatcher** has done for the photography club through the years. **Henry**, in the top picture, is stepping aside as the Co-Chair but will still be an active member sharing his expertise and knowledge on photography. **THANKS** for all your hard work, **Henry!** **Miker Rothman**, in the second picture, has accepted to be the future Co-Chair of the photography club. Thanks for stepping up, **Miker!** It is appreciated.

The entire photograph group then celebrated our final meeting of the year by sharing pizza and drinks with one another at Rocco's. The club had a great number of outings throughout the year such as the Architectural shoot of the Financial District, the Carnaval Parade in the SF Mission District, and more. It was a great year

for the club members that shared in the success. Thanks gang!

Our next meeting will be on January 16th at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room at 9 am. We will discuss the important subject of composition that occurs with each and every photo we take. Additionally, we will discuss a photo shoot that **Don Casey** is investigating in and around Hercules, Port Costa, and Martinez. A future date and time will be determined by **Don**. There will be a discussion on the calendar for the photography group as well as other topics. **COME AND JOIN US!**

Attached is an end of the year photo link on a number of pictures that members took. Enjoy!

[**Branch 146 Photo Group Photos**](#)

From all the members of the photography club, we want to wish you and yours Happy Holidays!

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

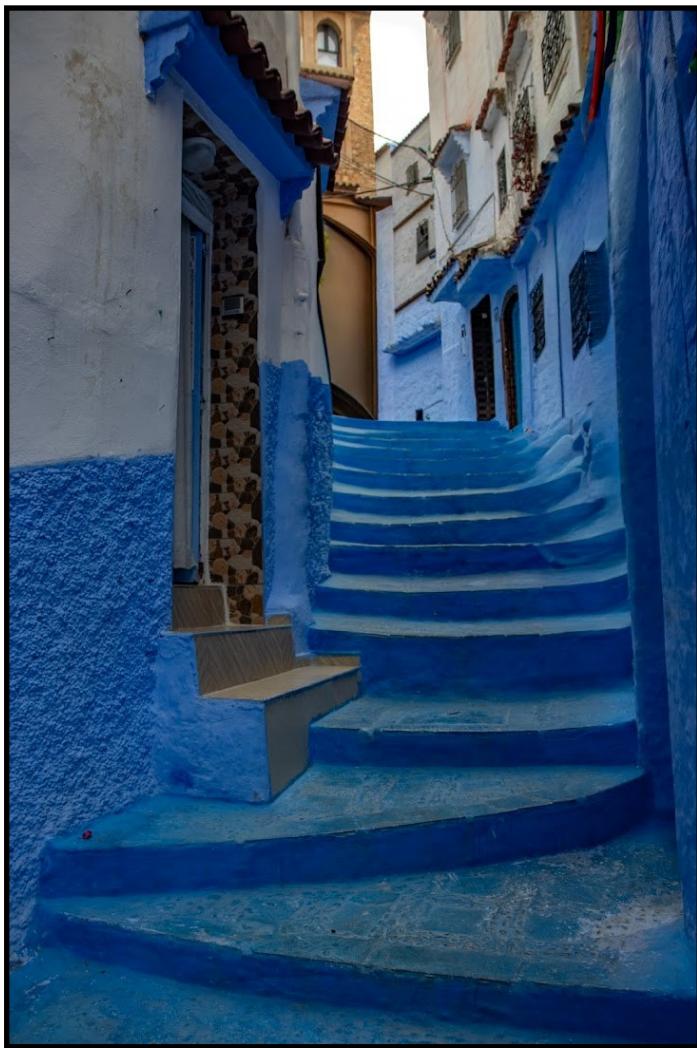
Rollingstone911@yahoo.com 610.517.0152

Mike Rothman

mrothman9@gmail.com 415.937.1846



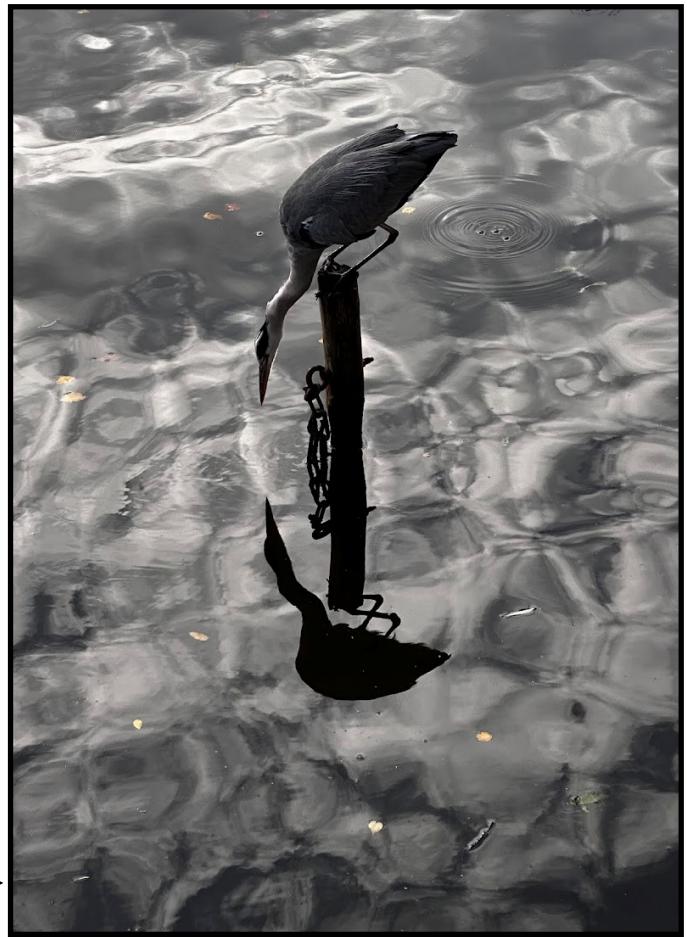
Photo Group
Winning photos on following page.



DSLR Picture of the Year
Frank Terzuoli



Phone Camera Picture of the Year
Ron Polivka





Birding

Ted Robertson

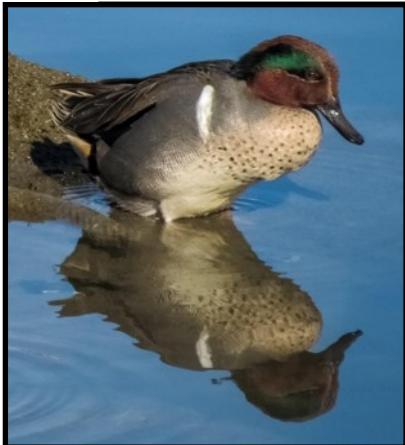
During the outgoing low tide, a group of eight SIR birders met at Meeker Slough south of the Richmond Marina. This area has a nice mixture of wetlands, sloughs, mudflats, open water and mixed vegetation. We ended up spotting 45 species of birds. Some highlights of the trip included a very rare sighting, a lost America Redstart from eastern North America, a fly over of 12 Snow Geese, the endangered Ridgway's Rail (heard only), a Say's Phoebe, 10 different species of shorebirds, 2 American Wigeons, 10 Northern Shovelers, and 15 Green-winged Teals.

On our next field trip will be on January 7th at Valle Vista near Moraga, the edge of Upper San Leandro Reservoir, a very birdy area where we saw 49 species last year including the colorful Wood Duck. If interested in this or future bird trips, please email **Ted Robertson** so you can be added to the monthly mailing list that has specific directions to each month's birding location. I have a few loaner binoculars and beginners and photographers are always welcome.



SIR birders and guests enjoying a beautiful morning.

Photo by **Don Casey**



Green-winged Teal
Photo by **Earl Bates**



Snowy Egret (Photo by **Earl Bates**)



The very rare American Redstart.
Photo by **Earl Bates**



Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

On the cold and foggy morning of December 8th, Earl Bates, Jim & Hyun Crites, Eric Finbso, Mike

Gipps, Tom Lambert, Roger Meyers, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld started out on our 4.8-mile hike. We were all bundled up with multiple layers, hats and gloves. But by the time we climbed 1000 feet to the top of Lime Ridge, most of us had stripped down to just shirts and an outer layer. The beautiful view of the valleys east and west of the ridge was a great accompaniment to our lunch break. To celebrate our safe return to the parking lot, most of us gathered at the Boundary Oak Golf Course café to down a pint of our favorite brew.



The Diablo Foothills Regional Preserve was our venue on December 15. Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps, Ray Martz, Roger Meyers and Gene Schulting completed the 4.2-mile hike with almost 900 feet of elevation gain. It was great to see green hills again!

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 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.

Wishing all of you Happy Trails in 2026!!

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com

Bob Wilkenfeld Wilkx4@gmail.com





Book Group

Nick Jabuka

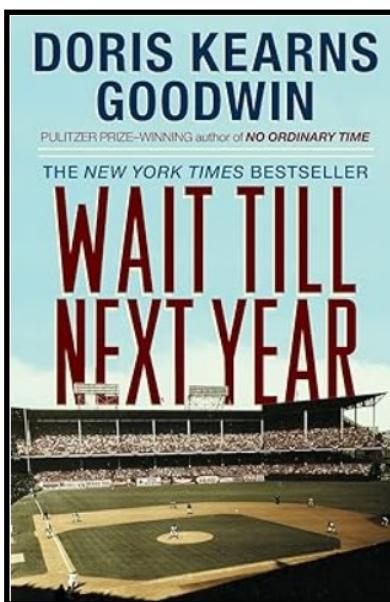
Book Club Review: Post Thanksgiving Meeting

We met on the Wednesday following Thanksgiving.

We had a good group of 7 in attendance. In addition to talking about the month's book and deciding on next month's book, we discussed SIR membership, how to market our organization, and finally shared our early memories of interest or attraction to visual art and specific artists.

Our November Read: "Wait Till Next Year"

"Wait Till Next Year" is a memoir by Doris Kearns Goodwin of her Brooklyn childhood in the 1950s, centered on family, baseball, and coming of age. Framed by her lifelong devotion to the Brooklyn Dodgers, the book explores her close relationship with her father, neighborhood life, school, and early experiences with loss and change—including



the Dodgers' move to Los Angeles. Through sports and everyday moments, Goodwin reflects on how hope, resilience, and shared rituals shape identity and memory.

Our Verdict - It's a Homerun!

We all enthusiastically recommend this book. If you liked baseball growing up or have fond memories of growing up in your neighborhood or have other nostalgic memories of the 50's you will enjoy this book. An easy and fun read by a great writer and historian.

Next Month's Book

Next month's book is "Circle of Days" by the Welsh author Ken Follett. A historical fiction novel set in the Neolithic period, about 2,500 B.C., when Stonehenge was created.

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

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



Gardening

Ken Studer

Our November SIR Garden Club meeting was our biggest yet. We had 12 club members there to hear John Fike a UC Master Gardener to make a slide presentation on Good Bug – Bad Bug. He humored us and entertained us with his interpretation of those scary little creatures. After the presentation we followed John to the front yard to inspect plants and determine what their problem was. His answer often was "it depends".

Our next meeting will be January 19th at 10:30 and will cover the topic: **Winter Gardening Essentials**. You would be amazed what goes on under ground in winter while our plants are sleeping.

All are welcome to join and learn about nature in our yard. Text me and I will add you to the email list of members.



.Ken Studer

925.963.2536, klstuder1161@gmail.com

The day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit.

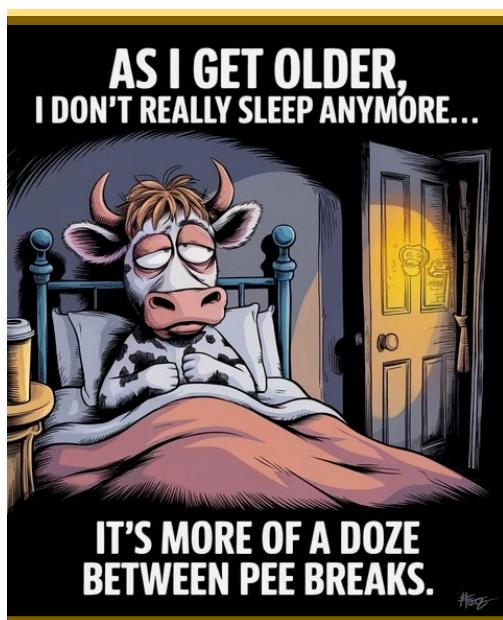


Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group had lunch at Melo's restaurant in Walnut Creek. **Dennis Hallett** was the group's host. The Walnut Creek restaurant is more upscale than their Pleasant Hill restaurant. After Lark Creek closed several years ago this restaurant space was complexly remodeled. The establishment is upscale and has a more refined menu that can be recommended without any reservation. The group ordered pasta, salads and pizza dishes. **Bruce Borgman's** small pizza was large enough to share with two of his table mates. This was our second trip to this restaurant and we were again most impressed. We will next meet on January 12th at the home of Steve Ybarra..

Steve Ybarra
siybar@gmail.com



My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The L&W group does not meet during the last two months of the year... our annual schedule is one lunch per person for the eight of us, two for dinner with our significant others, and two to kick back and recover! See you all in February when we will report on our January meeting!

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com



寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our December gathering is later in December, look for a report on our visit to Tanoshi. As we go to press with this issue we have the largest group of SIR members and spouses since the inception of this activity three years ago. Should be a great end of year event for all.



Our first meeting, in February, of 2026 will find us a bit further afield since we have now covered all of the Walnut Creek sushi establishments. We will head for Dublin to check out Amakara at 7568 Dublin Blvd., Dub-



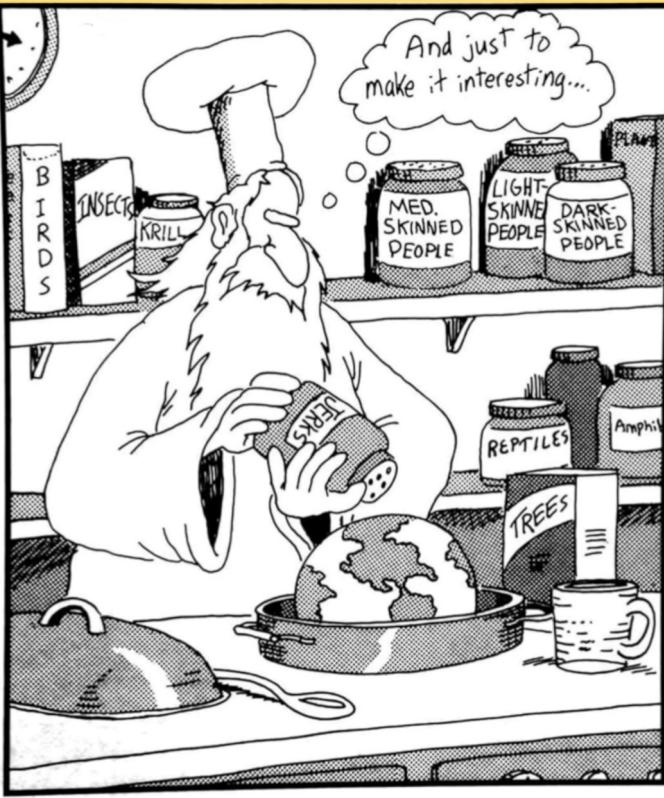
a m a k a r a

lin. It was recently reviewed on the PBS dining show, "Check Please, Bay Area" and got great marks from all of the show's participants for the variety and quality of their sushi.

Look for details as well as suggested carpooling to be announced around the end of January.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Five ants rented an apartment.
Soon thereafter they were joined by five more ants.
That makes them tenants.



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Wine Enthusiasts, we are knocking on the door of 2026 which means the January wine tasting is right around the corner. Our next wine tasting is Tuesday, January 27 at the home of **Larry and Ann Kaye**. The red varietal will be Sangiovese (Italian or American). The white varietal will be Prosecco (CHILLED). January weather is unpredictable and usually cool, so we are planning to be indoors. Thus, the number of attendees will be smaller so get your RSVP's in early.

Just a reminder: bring your wine in a brown paper bag if possible. And of course, don't forget your delicious appetizer. The tasting begins at 2:30 and ends at 5:00.

RSVP by email or phone (see below). **Bill** and I are looking forward to seeing you at the Kaye's home.



Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



Couples Dining Out Al Guzman and Bob Lucido.

On November 17th, 2025 we dined at Aracely Restaurant in Danville with 59 members attending. This was a new venue for our group. Attendees indicated they were pleased with the venue, service, and especially the food.

Our upcoming January 26th Couples Night Out



will be at the Luna Restaurant in Concord, one of our Branch's favorite venues. Menu selections for this visit are different from last year's visit.

Please read the menu for the event on the next page carefully and indicate your menu selections on your check or Zelle charge. Your check or Zelle charge is your reservation.

SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

Since Luna Restaurant is one of the most popular venues for Couples Dining Out, we anticipate reservations will fill up very quickly. To assist our new members, WHO HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND BEFORE, we are designating the first ten seats for you if you joined SIR 146 in the last two years. When you make your reservation, please indicate that you are a new member who has never attended a Couples Dining Out event so that our Co-Chair **Bob Lucido** will assign you to a newcomer's reservation.

On behalf of our committee, Co-Chair **Bob Lucido**, **Rich Lyon**, and **Mike Riley**, we look forward to seeing you in the new year at our January 26th Couples Dining Out event.

Al Guzman
mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net

Couples Dining Out

Monday, January 26, 2026

Social hour/no host cocktails: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.



2118 Willow Pass Road
Concord, CA 94520

There is ample street parking and in the lot behind the restaurant.



Reservations are due by 4 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2026.

RSVP your choice of Salad or Soup, and Entrée to **Bob Lucido**, bobwendy3@comcast.net.

Cost: \$64 per person includes tip and tax.

Payment for your reservation may be with a check made out to "SIR 146" and mailed to **Bob Lucido**, 541 Lily St, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Or save the stamp and safely use Zelle by scanning this QR code in your bank's app or sending your payment directly to: sir146.treasurer@gmail.com and

please note "Couples Dining Out."

Bob Lucido will confirm all reservations and payments by email.



Menu Choices

Appetizer - Olive pesto dip

Salad or Soup (choice of one)

Classic Caesar Salad - Romaine hearts in a classic Caesar dressing with parmesan cheese, croutons, and tomatoes

Soup - Lobster bisque

Entrée (choice of one)

Braised Short Ribs - Slow-cooked boneless ribs with demi-glaze and bleu cheese sauce

Salmon Modomio - Pan-seared salmon with mushrooms in a champagne cream dill sauce

Mushroom Risotto - Mushroom parmesan risotto

Bolognese - Fettuccine with meatballs in a classic meat sauce

Dessert

Tiramisu - Rum ladyfingers, mascarpone, marsala, and espresso

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

Life and Thanksgiving got in the way of our meeting in November.

We will meet next in December at the home of Joyce Wells and Jim Barry after the SIRCall is published.

We hope you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2026 be a great year for all!!

.Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Group Cuatro



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On December 5th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at Jim and Renie Pope's home with 14 players to play dominos and to celebrate the Christmas Season. Many were in their best Christmas attire. In attendance this evening were, Dick and Leslie Firth, Ken and Carol Soult, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Prace, Steve and Susan Oki, Scott and Marie-Claire MacDougall and Jim and Renie Pope. The group enjoyed many of Renie Pope's favorite tasties and some favorites from several of the other members while consuming some wine and holiday beer. We played at two tables of 7. We paid the player at each table of 7 with low table score; 7 Holiday California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the lowest table scores were Christy DeVoe and Kim Pace: There were two high score players at each table: Dick Firth and Scott MacDougall. They received

one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next year on January 16th. (Photos by Jim Pope)

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

On Thursday December 4th 2025, **Marty Campbell**

welcomed our group to her home to celebrate Christmas and a busy year of games.

As usual, **Marty’s** home was decorated for the season, and her guests were greeted with a welcoming fire and plentiful wine and hors d’oeuvres,

Sadly, **Ann Hallett** and **Jim** and **Judy Baldridge** were unable to attend and were dearly missed.

Before dinner, the men and women played separate games to produce 1st and 2nd place winners, who would later proceed to a playoff. The ladies’ winners were **Joan Pierce** and **Patti Eisner**, and the men’s winners were **Dave Pierce** and **Dennis Hallett**.

A special dinner of Greek Salad followed by Italian Sausage soup was then served, during which **Dennis Hallett** announced the 2025 Cinco Statistics. **Anne Burke** was proclaimed the 2025 Best Player with three 1st place wins plus one of the lowest scores ever recorded in the Group. **Marty Campbell** presented **Anne** with a prize and 1st Place certificate.

Following dinner, a playoff was conducted between

the ladies’ and men’s winners and after a competitive game **Dennis Hallett** claimed a win for the men followed closely by **Patti Eisner**.

A dessert of Black Russian Bundt cake and coffee was then served to round off a delightful evening with everyone exchanging their most memorable experiences during 2025.

All in all, a wonderful time was had by one and all. Our thanks to **Marty Campbell** for hosting the evening, her efforts on behalf of the group were most appreciated.

Dennis Hallett
dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

MTD 6 gathered for their Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 9th at the home of **Kathe Mitchell**.

Everyone brought different foods and drinks for the festivities. We had dinner initially, then the competition commenced. When it was all said and done, **Kathe Mitchell** was the winner with **Brian McCarthy** in second place and **Bruce Borgman** squeaking out third place. A great time was had by one and all.

The members of MTD 6 wish all the readers of this article a happy holiday and an outstanding 2026.



Dec 9th MTD Winners: **Kathe Mitchell** 1st, **Brian McCarthy** 2nd, **Bruce Borgman** 3rd.

Steve Lane
925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Clint and Bev Collier heard the desperate cries of FL* and stepped up at the last minute, to host

December's gathering. Ten players battled for cash and glory, while munching on delicious snacks. The victors were Diane Degnan (1st place), Mary McCarthy (2nd), and Judy Wilkenfeld (3rd).

Bob Wilkenfeld filling in for MIA Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



*Fearless Leader



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

On December 3rd, 2025, Mexican Train Dominoes Group 8 crowned a new first time and first place winner, **Larry McAllister**. It

was fitting that he won as his wife, **Pam McAllister** had come in first on numerous occasions while **Larry** was collecting lottery scratchers. On this evening, we had nineteen players seated around four tables.

The group took their usual half-time break at 8:30 and were treated with wonderful desserts and snacks provided by **Larry** and **Pam**, highlighted by apple pie and ice cream.

Now for the results: At the dining room table in third place was **Victoria Polivka** with an average score of 17.2. Second place, at the living room table, was **Alicia Baily** with a average score of 13.0. **Larry McAllister**, sitting at the same living room table with just one actual point less than **Alicia**, was first with an average score of 12.9.

Looking ahead to 2026, our schedule and hosts are



already set. Each month, we often have a few regular players who can't make it, so I like to keep two or three couples or singles on standby as substitutes, sometimes with little notice. If you are interested in being a substitute, please text or email me. I will offer my service to teach you how to play.

Our next MTD 8 game will be held on January 7th..

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com

A man said to his wife one day "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful at the same time."

The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me. God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you."



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

In November, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by **Rich** and **Ismini Ahlf** at their home in Clayton on the 21st. The November winners were **Ismini Alf**, **Mary Denney** and **Don Casey**, with consolation prizes going to **Rich Ahlf** and **Frank Lucas**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For December, **Steve** and **Barbara Peterson** will host a "Bonus" session (we were not originally scheduled to play in December) at their home on December 19th. Our next meeting in the new year will be on January 16th at the home of **Don** and **Linda Casey**. 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



Poker Group 4

Six members of Poker Group #4 gathered at the home of **Pete Gates** for their December game. Unfortunately, our leader, **Mark Sorum**, had an issue at the last minute and was unable to join us.

A good time was had by all, enjoying the goodies that Pete offered and rousing conversation. The three hours of play was reasonably uneventful, although a couple of peculiar hands come to mind. In a 5-Card Draw game, nothing wild, one player was dealt a full house, for which he proudly upped the bet. However, it proved to be the second best hand, as someone drew several cards and produced a higher full house. In a game of Omaha, where each player is dealt four cards down, one was dealt four 5's. Sounds good? Not so much since in Omaha, you can only use two cards from your hand, and it was a loser. Among the winners were: **Ray Bland** (again), **Pete**, and **Melo**.

The time and place for the January game is yet to be determined.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



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

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we are reporting on results from November 14th and 28th.

The big winners were **Jim Passaglia** with 3 wins, followed by **Bob West, Brian McCarthy, Steve Ybarra** and **Bill Vizza** with 2. **Bob Haber** and **Bill Vizza** each had 3 2nd. The lowest average scorers were **Bill Vizza** with 50, **Dick Wade** with 51 and **Steve Ybarra** with

52. **Bill Vizza** had 3 STM's and **Frank Lucas** had 2.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** has the most wins with 26 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 23.5, and **Brian McCarthy** with 23.

- Highest winning percentage is **Jim Passaglia** with 45%, and **Bob Finlayson** with 41%.
- **Bill Vizza** leads in YTD 2nd with 22, with **Steve Ybarra** having 21 and **Frank Lucas** 20.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 49.7 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.7.
- **Bill Vizza** has 13 STM's, **Brian McCarthy** has 9 and **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra** have 8.
- Most Improved is **Bob West** at 136% better than last year, and **Brian McCarthy** at 129%.
- Best Sheriff is shared by **Rich Lyon** and **Bob Campbell** in that in none of their passes has someone STM. **Dave Smith** had only 2% and **Frank Lucas** 5%.

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 December 12th, December 26th, and January 9th.

Please 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



Couples **Party Bridge** **Tony Greco**

Larry and Linda Brown hosted our December 2nd event. We thank **Max and Ardith Hinkle** for subbing for **Tony and Cindy Greco** with only a few hours notice when **Cindy** decided she wasn't well enough to play. We also thank **Dick Chaffee** for chairing the event in my absence. **Dick** did such a great job he is now my prime candidate to take over as chairperson. Lol. Feedback from some attendees was that the event went well.

One of the participating couples later admitted to missing 2 slams in the first 2 rounds which I already surmised from looking at the score pads. But it's good that they fessed up. I can also see that **Max and Ardith Hinkle** bid and made 6 no-trump in the last hand of the event. A nice way to end the evening. Congratulations!

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3450 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**
- 2nd PLACE with 2790 points - **Larry and Linda Brown**
- 3rd PLACE with 2630 points - **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**

Our next event will be held on January 6th and hosted by **Tony and Cindy Greco**.

Hope you're all having a wonderful holiday season and have a happy and healthy new year.

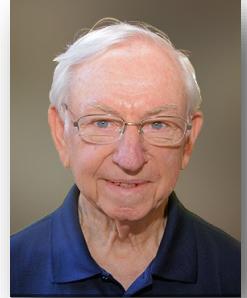
Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We were hosted on Dec 1st at Boundary Oak for our final game of the year by **Steve Dinning** and **Joe Fuchs**. As usual they were terrific hosts with good snacks. Those that played: **Jane Bradley**, **Mike Davidson**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Christy DeVoe**, **Steve Dining**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Mike Whitaker**.



We thank **Jane Bradley** who filled in for Max Hinkle and **Christy DeVoe** who filled in for Bob Yolland. The highest scorers were **Jane Bradley** with 6,370 points, **Bill Schaaf** with 4,400 points and **Joe Fuchs** with 3840 points. Congratulations.

The highest average scorers for the six months ending in December were **Max Hinkle** with an average score of 5,525 points, **Bill Schaaf** with 5,438 points and **Jim Stedman** with 4,700 points. Congratulations.

Our next game will be on Monday January 5th at the home of **Mike Davidson**. Let **Jim Sedman** know if you will play.

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



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

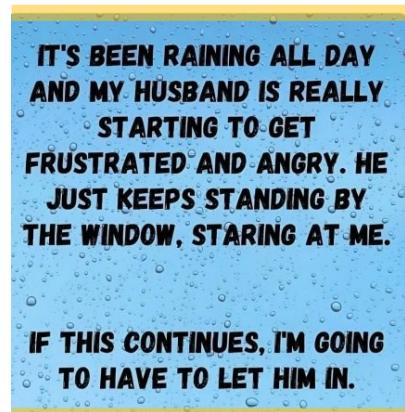
Dave Pierce

On a crisp December 9th, **Dick and Christy DeVoe** welcomed us to their warm and festive home. Those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting the **DeVoes** in December have missed out on what is probably the largest and finest collection of nutcrackers in the county, if not the state. They come in a huge range of sizes and styles. It's an awesome collection.

You usually find me complaining about people not bidding enough (especially missing slams) but this time we had people going down 800, so I'm buttoning my lip.

It is a tradition in our group (although not often recently achieved) that our subs do well. We like that because we hope that if they do well, they will come back. Subs **Max** and **Ardith Hinkle** (who were second last month) had a great night (66%) to end in first. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were second (55%), and our hosts **Dick** and **Christy** were third by half a board (54%)..

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, December 5th with four tables and 16 players was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**. We are most grateful for **Ardith Hinkle, Mark Curtis, and Ray Hodgkinson** filling three critical substitute positions on short notice!

- **Mike Davidson** earned 1st place by 4.5 points, with 49.0. Congratulations, **Mike!**
- **Max Hinkle** was 2nd with 44.5 points.
- **Joe Fuchs** was 3rd with 41.5 points.
- **Dick DeVoe** was 4th with 41.0 points.

Dick DeVoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our December game was held at the home of **Melo Piccolo**. **Bob Campbell** substituted for one of our missing usual players. Thanks **Bob!** **Melo** provided a nice array of snacks and wine which was widely consumed.

Several good-sized pots were created by the game "anaconda." There were several notable high hands including 5 kings and a straight flush. The biggest beneficiary of our game was **Paul Dubow** who broke a string of losses in prior games. He was barely able to get his bulging wallet into a pocket.

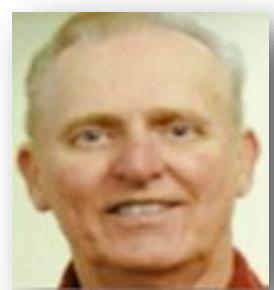
We will meet in mid-month in January (rather than on the first Thursday) due to calendar issues. We look forward to a prosperous New Year!

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Sound Advice

Never do anything you wouldn't want to explain to the paramedics



Pinochle

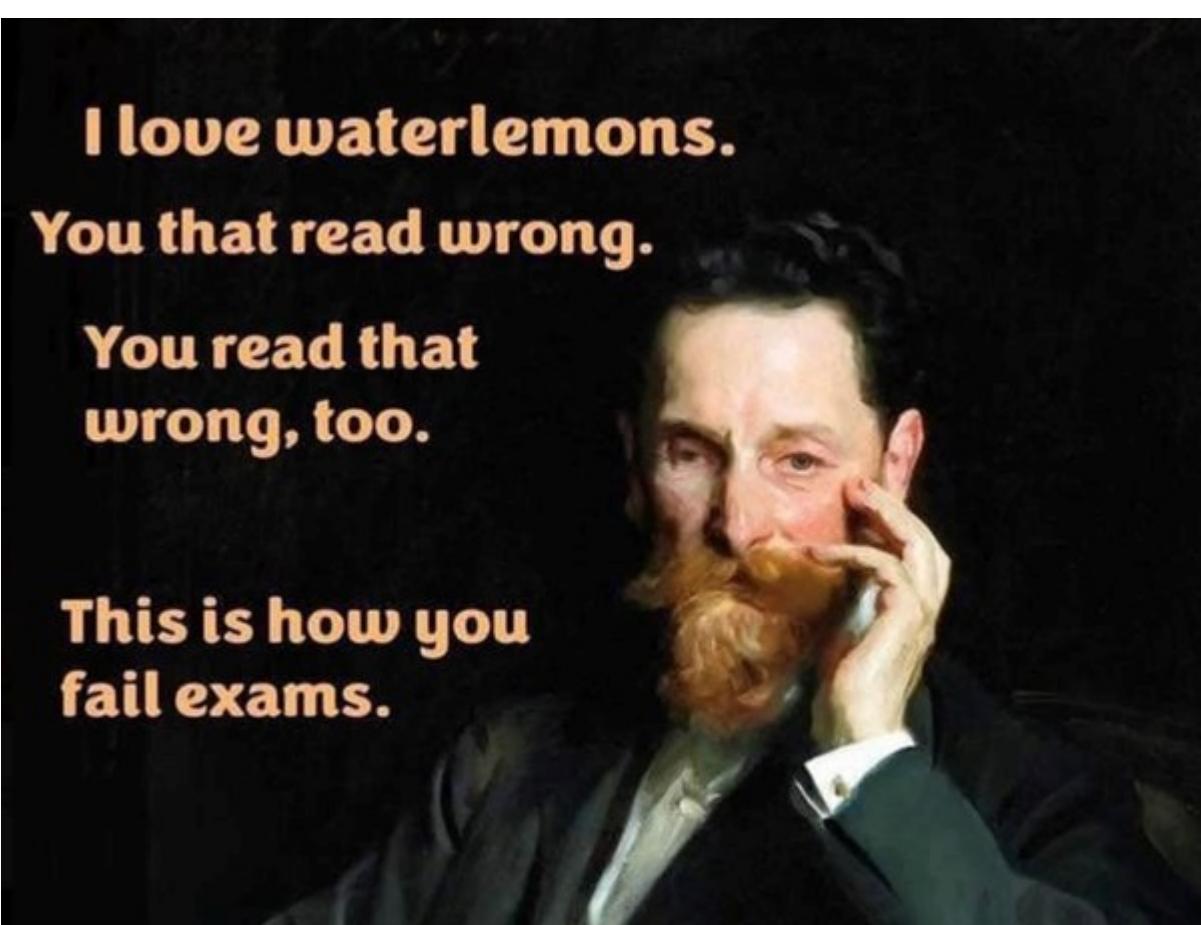
Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925.938.7016, or myself at 925.858.9666. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm

Pete McNeill
925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson
925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Parting Shot



I love waterlemons.

You that read wrong.

**You read that
wrong, too.**

**This is how you
fail exams.**