



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

September—October 2025

# Call



## Big Sir's Corner Bob Ford

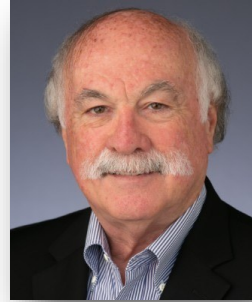
Welcome to the beginning of Fall. I want to start by thanking **Mike Davidson** for updating our document that outlines the history of Branch 146. It is very interesting to read and I learned that we were officially chartered as a branch 36 years ago. It is really

great to realize that our branch has had such a positive impact for so long. If you get a chance, take a look at it. Here is a link to it on our website: [Branch History](#). I also want to mention that at the October luncheon we will be having a gift card drawing for those that sponsored a new member this summer.

In the last BEC meeting the Budget for 2026 was approved. The annual dues will remain at \$35. Lunch will increase from \$36 to \$37. This may seem like a lot to some but remember this includes the venue, AV equipment, set-up, food, servers and gratuities. We are also going to allocate some funds for recruiting new members and are currently working on a recruiting plan. I hope to see you all at the October Luncheon. 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

For our October Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have The Executive Director of the Save Mt. Diablo Foundation, Mr. Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr., as our speaker.

The Save Mt Diablo mission is to preserve Mount Diablo's peaks, surrounding foothills, and watersheds; and its sustaining Diablo Range, through land acquisition and preservation strategies designed to protect the mountain's natural beauty, biological diversity, and historic and agricultural heritage; enhance our area's quality of life; and provide educational and recreational opportunities consistent with protection of natural resources.

Ted Clement has been studying and working in the conservation field for almost 40 years. He was an environmental studies major at the University of Vermont, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree, and he later received his Juris Doctor degree from Vermont Law School where he focused on land conservation law. Early on, Ted worked for the Out-

Continued on next page

## **SIR Luncheon** **Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025** **Boundary Oak 11:30**

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr  
Save Mt. Diablo

A reservation is required!

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

## *Activities for you and spouse...*

- Calendar of Events [Page 12](#)
- SF Photo shop [Page 23](#)
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- A book not to read? [Page 26](#)
- Cuba? Japan? Where to go? [Page 18](#)
- Love SIRCall? Keep it close [Page 11](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- Parting Shot... UP yours [Page 39](#)

## Little Sir continued from previous page

ward Bound School and then for the Peace Corps national park program in Thailand. Then he worked for several years for the Vermont Land Trust, Aquidneck Land Trust in Rhode Island, and the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. At the latter two served as Executive Director. He started work for Save Mount Diablo in November 2015. Ted is passionate about his family, time outdoors, and working with others to create lasting public good by protecting and connecting people to the land and communities that sustain us. Ted is a very experienced and dedicated land conservationist and for all of us at SIR146, many who hike, bike, run, visit, and enjoy Mt. Diablo, this will be a very interesting discussion.

In subsequent months we will have **John Elstead**, a member of SIR146, and a former Top Gun Pilot who has some incredible real-life stories, and then the Devil Mountain Chorus will return in December. The Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope**, **Glenn Breslin**, **Jim Crites** and myself will keep you updated. We appreciate any suggestions that you may have for interesting speakers.

Our next CPR Training Class will be on Friday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> and we only have two spots still open, so please let me know if you'd like to join. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> class and we have now updated more than 110 individuals over the past year on current CPR techniques. If one person is positively impacted, we will be very pleased. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR!

**Thom Degnan**  
Little Sir, Branch 146

## 2025 Officers and Directors

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

### RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Randy Graham</b>
Activities .....	<b>Glenn Breslin</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Edward Brands</b>
Publicity .....	<b>John Alexander</b>

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

## SIR Mission Statement

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



## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

### Speaker Information

For our October Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have Ted Clement the Executive Director of Save Mt Diablo Foundation to protect the remaining natural lands on and around Mount Diablo, and to protect Mount Diablo's connection to its sustaining Diablo Range.

### 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](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com). Be sure to include your menu choice!

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

### Luncheon

**Date:** Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Where:** Boundary Oak

**Cost:** \$36 per person

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

**If you do not reserve by Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> by Noon, we will assume you will **not** be coming.**

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

**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, October 3<sup>rd</sup> by Noon**  
and you will not be charged.

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

### Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

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

### Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Lane** 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**

### **October Luncheon**

Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Salad

Blue Cheese Wedge Salad  
with Bacon Bites and Tomatoes

#### Entrees

[Herb Marinated, Roasted Chicken Breast,](#)  
Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans and  
Creamy Dill Sauce.

[Citrus Marinated Snapper,](#)  
Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans and  
Creamy Dill Sauce.

#### Vegetarian

Tomato Pesto Farro with Garlic Green Beans

#### Dessert

Baked Peach Tart

### **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.



**A new way to pay!**

Our branch is testing a new option to pay for lunch in advance using Zelle. Most US banks offer this service free to their account holders; all you have to do to start using it is to sign up with Zelle using your cell phone number or email address.

Of course, you can still pay with cash or check at registration, or by enrolling in our Annual Payer program.

To sign up for Zelle, scan the QR code below with your mobile phone. You will be guided through the process of opening your Zelle account and linking it to your bank account. You most likely can also activate and create a Zelle account from the Zelle application within your bank's website or phone app.

Once you've enrolled, please send your Zelle payments to [sir146.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sir146.treasurer@gmail.com). Please complete your reservation and Zelle payment by noon on Friday, the week before the luncheon. Please note that we cannot accept Zelle payments at the luncheon itself; only cash or checks will be accepted at that time. Also, Zelle payments are for the upcoming luncheon only and should not be used to pay for future events. Finally, if you are using your bank's scheduling feature, be sure your Zelle payment is scheduled for delivery before noon on Friday.



## PUT THE NOVEMBER LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

### **SIR 146 November Luncheon**

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

#### Salad

Mandarin Orange Spinach Salad  
Parmesan, Raisins, Poppyseed Dressing

#### Entrees

##### [Oven Roasted Turkey](#)

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy  
and Cranberry Sauce

##### [Lemon Herb Baked Cod](#)

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon  
Garlic Sauce

#### Vegetarian

##### [Creamy Tuscan Ravioli](#)

Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried  
Tomato Sauce

#### Dessert

Apple Bar

#### **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.





## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Halloween is still a month away but are you ready for a little SIR Halloween fun? Feeling extra spooky as I put together this issue of SIRCall for your reading enjoyment, I have embedded an easter egg somewhere in the issue. For those of you who are not familiar with computer programming jargon, an easter egg is a hidden "object" that, when selected (clicked upon) does something you might not expect. Sort of a programmer's treat you might say. This easter egg is a little Halloween "trick or treat" for you. Find it, and find out which it is! Good luck!

But for a treat that you don't have to hunt for, check out my *TechTip* in the "Notes from Our Members" section for a way to keep SIRCall close at hand.

Finally... (fine print) those involved in the production of SIRCall are not eligible, sorry, you have advance notice! Decision as to the winner is the sole responsibility of me, the editor.

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for November is noon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, If you are one of those who turn in your articles early, bless you but be aware that your editor will be on vacation the first two weeks of October so you may not receive a quick acknowledgement of your submission.

**Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall**

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



## **SIRCall Newsletter Group**

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



## Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in September.

**Andy Ford** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Marianna**. He was an IT System Analyst for Kaiser Permanente. He

enjoys 18-hole golf, photography and cribbage. He is sponsored by **Gary Brown**.

**Will Stratton** lives in Martinez with his wife **Joanna**. He was an IT Professional for Chevron. He enjoys bocce, bridge, cribbage, and hearts. His sponsor is **Rich Lyon**.

Sadly, we lost **Dave Tucker** who after a year-long illness passed away in late August. He was 85.

The 2025 membership count is **267**.

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

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

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

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

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

**George Mon**

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

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Craig Kauffman	2019	6
Jim Nelson	2018	7
Charlie Walker	2018	7
Bob West	2017	8
Mike Riley	2017	8
Henry Thatcher	2015	10
Mike Whitaker	2014	11
John Gray	2013	12
Pierre Mebane	2011	14
Ed Marlovits	2010	15
Walt Schmidt	2009	16
Dave Pierce	2008	17
John Harrington	2007	18
Corrie Oranje	2007	18
Steve Loftin	2006	19
John Biasotti	2002	23
Garth Cummings	1998	27
Bill Cammerer	1994	31
Dick Devoe	1993	32



Charlie Walker  
Dennis Dale  
Brooksie Brooks  
John Kluesener  
Larry Kaye  
Brian Lotter  
Bob Yolland  
Brian Downie  
John Nelson  
Byron Nelson  
William Ross

Herb Wilson  
John McDonald  
Paul Beretz  
Larry Brown  
Bob Lucido  
Bert Payne  
Lloyd Bracewell  
Stephen Ondeck  
George Sabbagha  
Joe Starkey  
John Foster

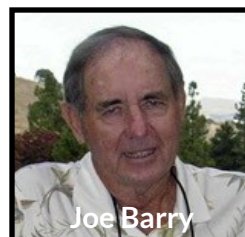
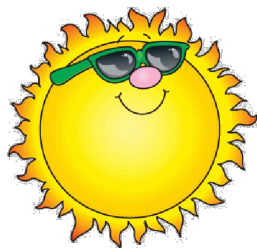


### Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

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

vised. *Stay Healthy.*





# SEPTEMBER

Photos by...  
Henry Thatcher







September  
Bart Gledhill



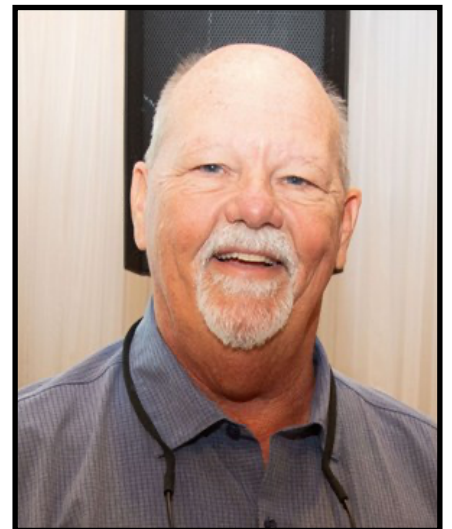
Andy Ford



Will Straton







# Make Friends for Life





**Our Speaker**  
**Captain Paul Ruff**  
**San Francisco Harbor Pilots, Unit 57,**

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# NOTES

## from Our Members

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind.

Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The man complained that the work had been completed a year ago, and I still hadn't paid for them.

HHHello.....Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year... that these windows would pay for themselves in a year. Helloooooo, it's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him.

There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back.



### **SAFE, SECURE CYBERSPACE** From the Editor...

Ever wish you could just bring up the current issue of SIRCall on you phone? Well now you can! Scan this QR code with your phone and it should bring up the current issue for your perusal! Add the link to your home screen and you're set for any future issues. Just open the link and the latest news is at your fingertips.



# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sep 29	30	Oct 1	2	3
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00 am Golf	1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30 PM—10:00 pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30 am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 pm Poker Group #6	10:00 AM—2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
6	7	8	9	10
9:45 am—3:00 pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm—4:00 pm AI group Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00 am Golf 4:00 pm Couples Party Bridge	8:30 am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00 pm—2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm—3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00 am—10:45 am BEC Meeting 10:30 am—1:30 pm Book Corner 11:30 am—1:30 pm SIR Luncheon	12:00 pm—3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm—3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 1 Uno
13	14	15	16	17
10:00 am Hiking 11:30 am—1:30 pm Cooking II 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00 am Golf 1:00 pm—4:00 pm Poker Group #8 4:00 pm—7:30 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	11:00 am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45 pm—10:00 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30 am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 11:30 am Sushi No Tomadachi Kana Sushi WC 7:00 pm—10:00 pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00 am—11:00 am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00 am—3:00 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 pm—3:30 pm MTD 10 Diez 7:00 pm—10:00 pm MTD 4 Quattro
20	21	22	23	24
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm—4:00 pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00 am Golf	12:00 Noon SIRCall articles due 12:30 pm—3:30 pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00 pm—2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm—3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30 pm—3:30 pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30 am—9:30 am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00 pm—3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm—3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45 pm—10:00 pm MTD 3 Tres
27	28	29	30	31
10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00 pm Poker Group #3 1:00 pm—4:00 pm Poker Group #4	9:00 am Golf 2:30 pm—5:00 pm Wine Tasting			





# Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator

### Glenn Breslin

I am writing to request sharing your SIR146 activities with our non-SIR friends. One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership. Guests that attend activities many times, join SIR. Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting resulting in a less vital organization.

If you are involved in any SIR activity, can you please consider telling your friends how much you enjoy this activity? Also, ask them if they would also like to join this activity as a guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIRs will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others' social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum !!

To assure that our branch exists into the next decade, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests will also benefit SIR146 !! Also consider inviting your friends to lunch.

In addition to the Activities that you enjoy, these upcoming branch wide activities are listed below. Please let me know if you are interested or need more information

### Various Branch Wide Events

- Fri 09/26 Picnic - 10:30 to 2:00 pm Hanna Picnic Area – at Old Borges Ranch \$34 ([bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com))
- Fri 10/24 CPR 9-11 am (Ygnacio Valley Library, 2611 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek) Free – Thom Degnan Chair ([thomdegnan@gmail.com](mailto:thomdegnan@gmail.com))
- Mid November TBD Dining Out – Bruce Borgman Committee Member ([bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com))
- Thu 12/11 Ladies Holiday Lunch - 10:30 to 2:00 am (Boundary Oaks) \$TBD-Steve Ybarra Chair ([sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com))
- Wed 1/7/26 Veterans Lunch with Speaker - 11:30 am (Back Forty Restaurant – 100 Coggins Drive, Pleasant Hill) – Larry Kaye Chair ([larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net))

### Leshner Theater Events (includes optional dinner before or after event)

- Sat 11/15 Women in Black – 2:30 pm \$43 – Glenn Breslin Chair ([glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com))
- Sat 1/31 Neil Diamond Tribute Band - 7:30pm \$59 or \$69 – Glenn Breslin Chair ([glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com))
- Sat 4/4 Lost in Yonkers – 2:30 PM \$43- Glenn Breslin Chair ([glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com))
- Sat 6/13 Jagged Little Pill – 2:30 PM \$43 - Glenn Breslin Chair ([glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com))

If any of these upcoming activities interest you, can you please reach out to me?

**Glenn Breslin**

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

A man goes into the bathroom and is called a Californian.  
 When he comes out of the bathroom he is called a Californian.  
 When he is in the bathroom what is he called?  
 He is called a European!

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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

**Bridge:**

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

**Cooking:**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

**Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

**Mexican Train**

**Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

**Poker:**

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

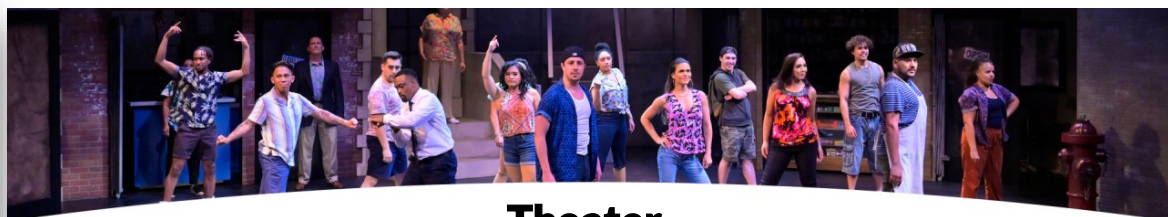
[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



**Theater**  
**Glenn Breslin**

### Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshar 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 Leshar Tribute Band dates

**Women in Black Sat 11/15/25 2:30 pm. \$43. Leshar Theater **3 Tickets Remaining****

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-woman-in-black>



"Highest Rating!  
A white-knuckle  
thrill!"

The second longest play in the history of London's West End, The Woman in Black is the chilling theatrical event that has kept over seven million theatergoers on the edge of their seats for more than 30 years. When a young lawyer encounters a mysterious figure on the lonely, desolate estate he is charged to settle after the death of its owner, he believes his life has become cursed. To help him exorcise the dark specter from his life, he engages a skeptical actor to help him tell his terrifying story and together they unspool the mysteries hidden among the moors of the haunted estate.

Hailed by critics as "a white-knuckle thrill" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "Ingenious!" (New York Times) Center REP audiences will be lured into the pulse-pounding and spine-tingling ghostly world of their own imaginations... what happens next is something you must see to believe!

**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,

Continued on next page

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

My wife sent me a text, "Your great"

So, naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great"

She's been walking around all happy and smiling

Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?



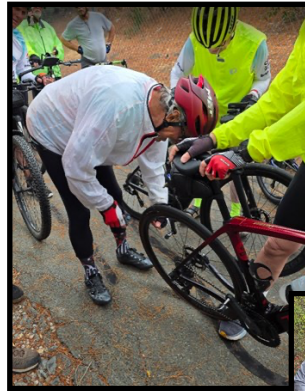
## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

September 1: Big group today. Ride was a short one as the heat was to hit 96 by 11. We toured Blackhawk and threw in a few 11% hills just to make everyone happy. On return to Peets we

met Roger and shared some war stories. A short fun ride. Attending today: **Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Ken Studer, Bill Holly, Eric Finson, Dave Paulson, Jim Crites, Elmer Bricca, Mike Schrupp, Bob Wilkenfeld, Phil Lee, Larry Kaye.** Grab the door knob and turn it. Get off your butts. Stay young.



September 9: Rain. So what? We took off and it drizzled. Not too bad. We rode to Moraga today and went to SiSi for java. Then it was off to Orinda. It rained. We took the trail alongside the freeway and guess what? **Larry** got a flat. A nice big slit on his new tire. The guys completed their ride and **Thom** stayed with me while I waited for **Mike** to get his wife's car. He lived close to



the trail. He took me back to my truck while I cried. Great feeling to have fellow riders willing to help. New tire, etc. Terrific ride with some tears. Today we had: **Moose Kelly, Jim Rowland, Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Dave**



**Paulson, Bill Holly, Elmer Bricca, Ken Studer, Jim Crites, Bill Ross, Mike Schrupp, Cleo**

**Bolen Phil Lee and Larry Kaye.** Want to look like the residents of a rest home? Of course not. Get outside and sweat. [Editor's note: Reminds me of the old joke, "How many SIR members does it take to change a flat? We don't know, they've never done it.]"

September 16th: Hot. So we cut the ride short. Out to Blackhawk and u turn. Peets for Iced tea. **Ken Studer, Elmer Bricca, Dave Paulson, Bill Holly, Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Jim Crites and Larry Kaye .**

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.4030



## Bocce John Kendrick

Aloha Bocce. The official Bocce Ball season for SIR ended with a final game at the end of September. If you're asking who won, we all won; fresh air, exercise, comradery. Every thing one wants from SIR.

See you all next year when once again the balls will roll.

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





## Birding Ted Robertson

SIR Birding Trip  
Wed. September 10, 2025  
Field Trip Report.

At 8:30 AM, a group of eleven SIR birders met at the Martinez Regional Shoreline Park to look for birds living in marshes, ponds, mudflats and the ocean. We ended up spotting 38 species of birds. Some highlights of the



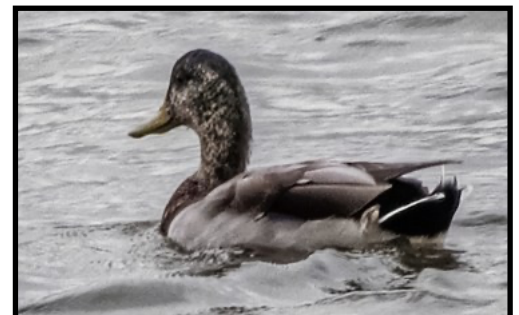
trip was a Black-crowned Night Heron perched in a Monterey pine, several shorebirds including Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, and a Greater Yellowlegs, Caspian and Forster's Terns, and both pelican species (Brown and American White).



Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This trip has been changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month to avoid a scheduling conflict (my daughter is getting married!). The location will be announced a few days before. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list. I have a few loaner binoculars, beginners are always welcomed.

**Ted Robertson**

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





## Travel Glenn Breslin

### GOOD NEWS!

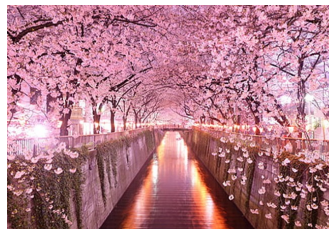
**Cuba Trips – SIR now signing up:** Many SIR members have paid their deposits for the 6-day tour, starting 3/12/26. If you are interested, then please let me know [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com).

**Vietnam/Cambodia:** 13 SIRs are going **Trip Now Sold Out.**

**Japan Korea – Room for only 4 more spaces**

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

Australia New Zealand	Cuba	Japan/Korea Only 4 spaces left	Vietnam/ Cambodia <b>Sold Out 13 going!</b>
1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available</li><li><a href="#">Click here for details</a></li><li>Group code is G6-30339</li></ul>	3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare already included) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Immersion into culture and history</li><li>Five-star lodging</li><li>All meals but one included</li><li>All tours included</li><li><a href="#">Click here for details</a></li></ul>	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/\$9095-With Economy Airfare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hiroshima post-trip available</li><li><a href="#">Click here for details</a></li><li>Group code is G6-30339</li></ul>	10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695-With Economy Airfare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available</li></ul>



### SIR Travel - Current Discount – Expire 10/3

For the Australia/New Zealand and Japan/Korea 2026 trips, mention Code **DOBE 475** in addition to your group code **G6-30339**.

**Save** 10% on your total trip cost plus, save an additional \$200 per person

### Travel Quotes:

“A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.”

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

“A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

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

It's weird being the same age as old people.





## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Bob Ford

Hi everyone. Why don't you come out and join us for some of the spectacular fall weather we get here in the Bay Area. 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](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



## SongSirs

### Peter Plante

Our next rehearsal is on October 1, 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.

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

Peter Plante

[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



## 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](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](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)

When I die I want my last words to be  
"I left a million dollars under the..."



## Book Corner

### Paul Kersis

The Book Corner will be closed in October. Visit us at the November meeting!





## Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Our sincere wish for a speedy recovery to several of our hiking buddies who are ill or injured. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

The shady Bear Creek Trail at Briones Reservoir was our trek on August 25. **Cleo Bolen, Jim and Hyun Crites, Tom Lambert (guest), Gene Schulting, and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed the many water views along the 6.8-mile hike with 900 feet of elevation gain and loss.



The hike on September 8 was more of an urban hike, as opposed to the hike through the fields and forest that we usually do. We began at Valley View Park in San Ramon and hiked 5.2 miles with 560 feet of elevation gain.

The Rim Trail at Lafayette Reservoir was our route on September 15. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Tom Lambert, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** completed the 5.5-mile hike with 830 feet of climbing. Despite the heat, we all enjoyed the outing.

The first day of Fall was hot, so we headed to Redwood Regional Park in Oakland for our hike on September 22. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen and Bob Wilkenfeld** "chewed up" the 4.6-mile route, with 770 feet of climbing (mostly in the first mile), in under two hours! Way to go gents!!



The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also host a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). 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.

Ray Martz [rayhvac@gmail.com](mailto:rayhvac@gmail.com)  
Bob Wilkenfeld [Wilkx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilkx4@gmail.com)







## AREA 16 Fishing Report

We enjoyed our annual rockfish/lingcod jaunt on the *Sea Wolf* on August 22. The trip was different this year because we did not go to the Farallon Islands. That was so

because rockfishing in August was limited by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to depths above 300 feet and out in the Farallons, the fish are below 300 feet. Nevertheless, we journeyed almost as far because the fish were off Bolinas. It was a great day as all of us limited on rockfish and some of us on lingcod. I must confess that I had the best day as I hauled in a 25 lb. lingcod and won the pool. It turned out



that the fish was a hitchhiker, i.e., I had hooked a smaller lingcod and the big guy decided to eat him while he was on the hook and would not let go. But fish life is ironic. The predator wound up on the din-

ner table and his attempted victim was released to fight another day.

The second half of the ocean salmon season opened in September, but it only lasted four days as the limit imposed by the DFW was reached at that time. **Carl Moyer** was able to get out twice and caught his limit on both occasions. **Matt Richards** picked up a gigantic salmon that weighed over 30 lbs.

On the other hand, salmon can be caught on the rivers. **Karl Droese, Gordon Linebaugh, Dennis Lee, Steve Smith** and I tried our luck on the Feather River near Oroville. I proved to be the best fisherman because I did not lose a single fish. But that was because I did not have any bites. Gordon did land one salmon and that was it for us. Perhaps we should have tried trout fishing. **Dave Rege** went fly fishing on the Sacramento River, near Redding and caught twelve rainbows over 12 inches. One of them reached 28 inches!

There was other activity in the ocean. **Matt Richards** had the most interesting experience, He worked on a research project with scientists from UC Davis and he was able to catch over 400 rockfish and lingcod over several days which were examined and released by the scientists. **Eric Finson** caught some small stripers and rockfish; **Shawn Kelly** landed halibut on his Boston Whaler; and **Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, and Bob Lively** limited on rockfish on another trip. On the same trip **Bob** caught a nice halibut.



Continued on next page



boat

**Tom Kostik** made eight trips In the Delta, catching and releasing 314 fish, mostly black bass. **Mike Corker** and **Ken Bellindir** also did well fishing for black bass in the Delta.

Given that it is summer time, we also did a lot of out of state fishing. Several of us went to Alaska. **Dave Paulson** caught king salmon between 25 and 30 lbs. at several locations. **Karl Droese** and five friends fished at Craig, Alaska, which is on Prince of Wales Island. Over three days, they caught a limit of 108 silver salmon, some halibut on lures, and many delicious black cod. **Dave Havlik** caught king salmon and halibut fishing at a lodge on the Southeast Peninsula, and **Brion Beetz** and **Tom Chapman** spent a week in Seward and caught over 250 lbs. of silvers.

**Pete Gates, Lee Clark,** and friends made a repeat visit to a lodge in Port Hardy, British Columbia where they hammered the silver salmon. But they only caught a single halibut because the weather precluded them from fishing in the ocean. **Sam Oommen, Gordon Linebaugh, Ken Bellindir,** and **Barry Latner** were able to have a more varied experience at the same lodge a few weeks later, catching limits of silvers, halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

**Ernie Wong** caught cutthroat trout weighing between 10 and 12 lbs., fly fishing from a ladder at Pyramid Lake in Nevada. **Jim DiPippo** hauled in some sturgeon

In the Bay, **Ron Lew** and friends caught quite a few leopard sharks. **Phil Scimonelli** landed halibut fishing on the *Pacific Pearl* and had an adventure when the boat collided with a sailboat on the way back to the dock. Fortunately, there were no injuries. **Pedro Contreras, Ken Bellindir,** and **Tom Chapman** caught stripers and halibut fishing on Pedro's

while fishing on the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon. The largest was eight feet long.

Down in Mexico, **Stan Wong** landed a five foot octopus and his companion **Brion Beetz** hooked a 40 lb. opah. **Brion, Stan, Pedro Contreras,** and **Steve Paulick** enjoyed their annual weeklong sojourn on the *Red Rooster II*, which is based in San Diego but fishes off the Baja California peninsula. They limited on yellowfin tuna between 30 and 75 lbs. nearly every day and also caught bluefin and yellowtail. However, the highlight of the trip was hooking three 100+ lb. marlin. None were landed because they did not want to keep the fish.

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for October 23 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.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566

## Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that damn snake ... with two more frogs.

Life is good.







## Photography Group

### John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members of SIR Branch 146 met on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room in downtown Walnut Creek. There were seven members of the photo buff gang that attended: **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly, Miker Rothman, Don Casey, Glenn Breslin, Clint Collier, Ron Polivka** and **Henry Thatcher**. A big thank you to **Miker Rothman** for being our computer operator, with the help from **Bill Holly**, during the meeting. Another shout out goes to **Miker Rothman** for providing members with fresh Peet's coffee to wash down the pastries. The main focus for this meeting was to relive and view the photo's taken by seven club members during the Architectural Walking Tour and Photo Shoot of building in the San Francisco Financial District. This event was planned and hosted by our very own member SIR **Ron Polivka**. Those attending along with **Ron** were **Bill Holly, Don Casey, Glenn Breslin, Roy Hodgkinson, Miker Rothman** and **Henry Thatcher**. Thank you, **Ron**, for your preparation and sharing your knowledge of significant buildings such as: Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Building lobby, The Palace Hotel Garden Court and Pied Piper mural, Hobart Bldg. exterior, Russ Bldg. lobby, Standard Oil Building., Stock Exchange Tower, lobby and Diego Rivera mural, Merchants Exchange Building. Lobby/Julia Morgan ballroom as well as an exclusive peek inside the only Frank LKloyd Wright designed building in San Francisco, located on Maiden Lane and which mimics the interior design of the Guggenheim Museum in NYC. These are just a few of the buildings we visited and some of the photos taken by members are included in this article. Our thanks to SIR **Don Casey** for recommending the Irish Bank Pub on 10 Mark Lane for our lunch break. We hope you enjoy seeing our photographs and that you will consider joining us at one of our meetings or photo shoots! For our October photo shoot SIR member **Moose Kelly** is working on deciding on a local winery to visit and he will announce that plan soon. The Photo Theme for October is, "Fall is in the Air"! So, take your camera along on

your outings in October and share them at our next meeting of the Photo Group on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room in downtown Walnut Creek. 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.

Email John (Moose) Kelly at  
[Rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:Rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

Email Henry Thatcher at  
[1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)



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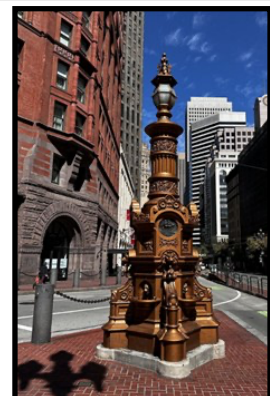
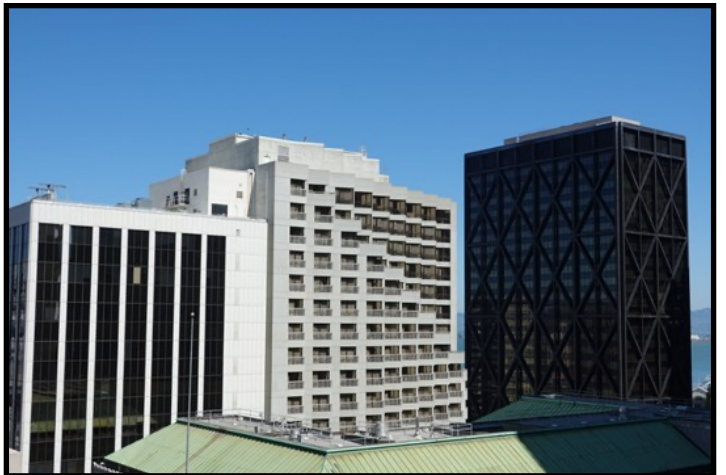
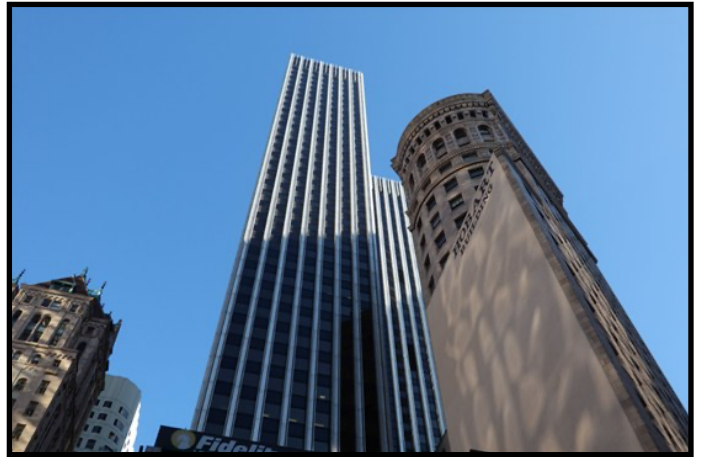
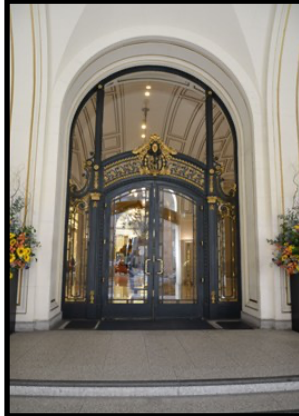
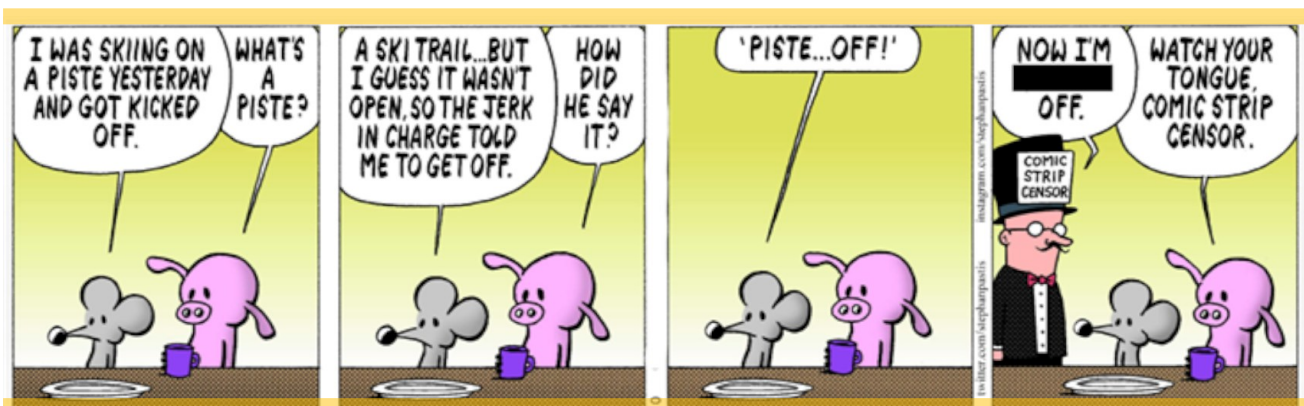
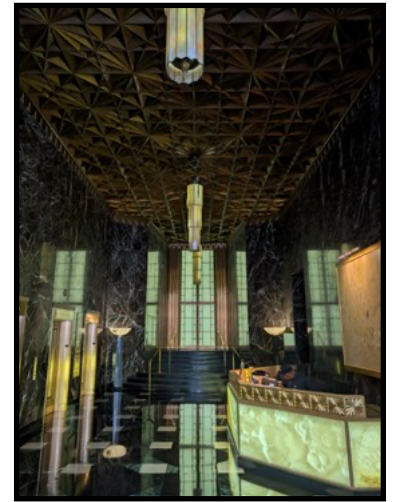
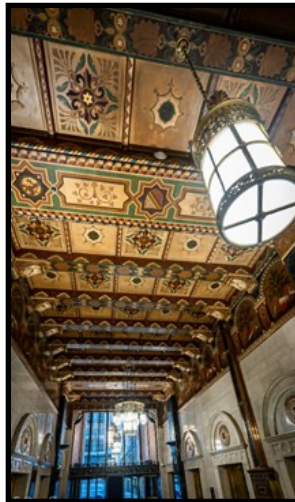
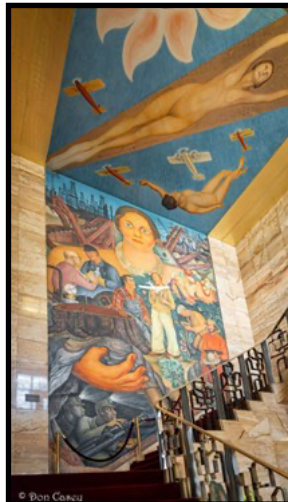
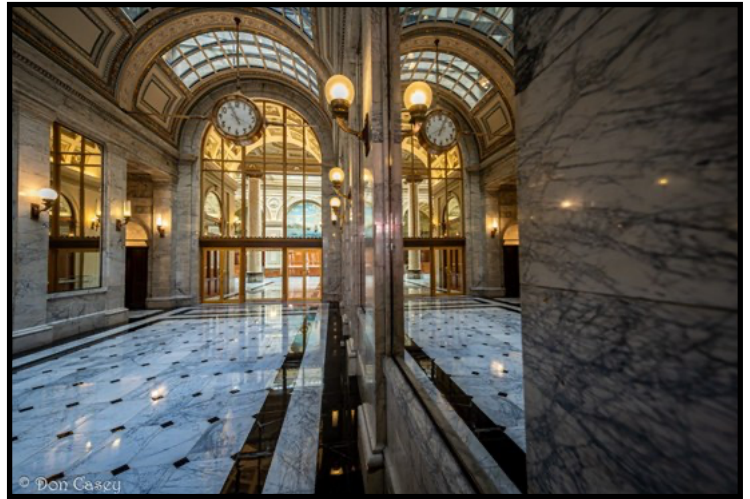




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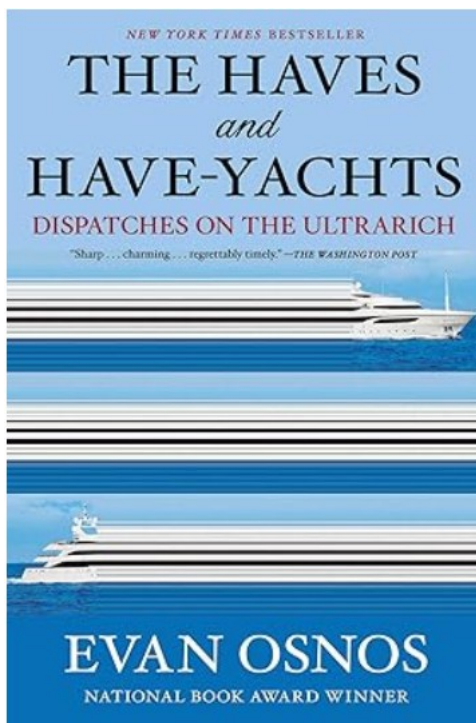


## Book Group Nick Jabuka

### Book Reviews – August Meeting

We enjoyed an interesting meeting

this month, reviewing *The Have and Have Yachts* by Evan Osnos, sharing our scary or dangerous experiences as children or young men (some were truly frightening), and deciding on a new book for September. The review of our book led to a lively discussion on our country's current condition, disparity in wealth, corruption in our government, and where, as a country, we were headed or needed to go. Much like today's voting public, we didn't reach a consensus, but agreed to disagree.



Major themes of the essays include: Spectacles of wealth- superyachts, luxury bunkers, lavish parties and events; Inequality & Power – how elites influence politics, trusts, tax law, use tax and regulatory havens (countries) to preserve and expand their power; Escape/ Insulation- thru the use of obfuscating legal structures, developing remote estates, bunkers, island retreats and massive yachts, the elites of attempt to protect themselves form societal scrutiny, norms and consequences.

There is also some commentary by the author on the potential dangers to democracy and society of this level of extreme wealth disparity.

### Recommendation

*The Have and Have-Yachts* – the group **didn't** recommend this book due to the at times erratic writing style and the lack of a summary or conclusion.

### The Book

*The Have and Have-Yachts*: A collection of essays (many initially for *The New Yorker*) that explore the lives, power, habits, and moral tensions of America's ultra-wealthy elite. The author delves into how extreme wealth is built, maintained, showcased, and shielded from political or social constraints.

Next month's book is *The Woman in Suite 11* by Ruth Ware, a psychological thriller. This book is a follow-up to her bestselling multi-million-copy novel *The Woman in Cabin 10*, which is coming soon to Netflix, starring Keira Knightley

Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike Rothman, Editor  
925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)



## Gardening Ken Studer

At our next meeting on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm we will have a demonstration on **composting**. We will meet at **Our Garden** in Walnut Creek to tour the beautiful and abundant vegetable beds, fruit trees and grape

vines. Our speaker is Joie Spinelli at Master Gardener and composter for many years. During this hands-on demonstration we will learn about all aspects of the compost process and the importance of adding it to your soil. After we get our hands dirty we will tour the entire garden to better understand how adding compost to their growing beds has increased their vegeta-

ble yield and added flavor to the fruit. We will be there for 1 ½ hours. **Our Garden** is located at the corner of Wiget and Shadelands streets, Walnut Creek.

All SIR members are welcome along with their wives or significant others as well. Just give me a call.

Send me an email and I will add you to the mailing list.

Ken Studer  
925.963.2536, [klstuder1161@gmail.com](mailto:klstuder1161@gmail.com)

Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute,  
and it seems like an hour.

Sit with a pretty girl for an hour,  
and it seems like a minute.

That's relativity

...Albert Einstein





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group did not meet in September but will resume in October.

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



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group usually meets monthly at a member's home for a nice lunch and some good wine. However, twice a year

we forego the monthly luncheon and dine out with our wives and significant others. September is one of the months that we do this and this time we chose Bridges Restaurant in Danville as our venue. **Clint and Bev Collier, Paul and Joan Dubow, Pete and Ann Gates, Bob Spellman, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Syd and MJ Whalen and Janice Woodman** were the attendees.

Bridges Restaurant has been in Danville for decades. Although the food is good, it is probably most famous for its cameo appearance in the movie *Mrs. Doubtfire* that starred Robin Williams. In honor of that event, the restaurant serves a Doubtfire cocktail. None of us tried it and so I can't tell you anything about it. But it also serves a French 75. If you wish to know what the ingredients are, ask our editor.

**Paul Dubow**

510.504.3566 or at [pdubow2398@aol.com](mailto:pdubow2398@aol.com)



## Couples Dining Out Guest Columnist

Despite the recent rumors of its untimely demise, we are happy to report that the Dining Out activity is alive, well, and still serving calories by the plateful!

After 12 years of tireless service (give or take a decade or two), **Bruce** has finally agreed to hand over the reins—though not the dessert menu. Luckily, three brave souls have volunteered to carry on this noble tradition: **Bob Lucido, Al Guzman, and Richard Lyon**. Don't worry, **Bruce** will still provide "guidance," which we assume means nodding, winking, and reminding us not to pick restaurants with paper napkins.

We may make some minor adjustments to the program, and we are officially "open" to your email suggestions. Please send them in—just know in advance that we absolutely, positively, probably won't read them.

So relax, put those rumors to rest, and keep your forks ready—Dining Out is here to stay!

**Alphred.**





## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

**Clint Collier**

September was a bye month for the group; no meeting. October's meeting is scheduled for our usual third Thursday,

October the 16 at 11:30 at a small, easy to overlook, Walnut Creek sushi house, Kana located in the San Miguel Center at the corner of Newell and Broadway. This may be the only sushi restaurant in Walnut Creek that we have not yet visited. If any of the members are aware of any we have missed, let me know, we need a clean sweep!

The address is 1280 Newell, Ste D. They open at 11 but we will gather at our usual 11:30 time. Look for an e-mail around the beginning of the month and reply to confirm your participation!



**Clint Collier**

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



## Wine Tasting

**Brian McCarthy**

Are you ready for wine tasting? Hopefully you are because it is just around the corner. The next wine tasting is on Tuesday, October 28, at the home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld**. The

tasting is from 2:30 until 5. The red varietal will be Australian Shiraz (that's Syrah in the U.S.) and the white varietal will be New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. If you are bringing a white, make sure it is chilled. If you can, bring your wine in a brown paper wine bag. And of course, don't forget to bring an appetizer or dessert.



To RSVP, call Brian @ 925-324-2463 or email us at the address below. The event tends to fill up so don't wait. See you at the Wilkenfeld's.

**Brian McCarthy**  
925.324.2463

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



"But all the blueberries...the wholegrains...  
the skimmed milk...the decaffeinated coffee...  
the broccoli...you mean it's all been for nothing?"

# EXPLORE & EAT

Tour [Lodi Energy Center](#) and  
the Town of Locke, Boarding House Museum  
Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30



The Lodi Energy Center (LEC) is located at 12751 North Thornton Road, Lodi.

In 2012, NCPA opened the Lodi Energy Center (LEC), home to one of the cleanest and most efficient gas-fired power systems in the U.S. It was the first in the nation to take advantage of “fast-start” gas-turbine technology to reduce emissions and provide a rapid response to market and grid conditions.

NCPA is in the process of converting to Hydrogen as the fuel to eliminate carbon emissions. Fast-start technology can quickly ramp up and down, counterbalancing the variable nature of wind and solar energy. The tour of LEC will take about an hour.

Then we will drive to the Town of Locke (20 minutes) and have lunch at [Al the Wops](#) (13943 Main St. Walnut Grove) from 12:00 to 1:30.

After, there is an optional tour of the Locke Boarding House Museum across the street from **Al the Wops** after lunch. There is a charge of \$5 per person for this museum tour. Maximum of 25 for the museum tour.

Please send a check to **SIR 146** for \$5 per person to go to the optional tour of the museum to: Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Deadline October 14<sup>th</sup>.



Locke Boarding House



# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

And the September winners are: Sue Sheldon, #2, Richard Hockenbrock #3, and Martha Plante, 1st Place. Mexican Train Uno celebrated at Jim Stedman's community room at

Rossmoor.

A smaller than usual intimate group of players satisfied with Boston Cream Pie at half time!

Corrie Oranje

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



Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

### Ron Plachy

We played at the home of Kirk and Nancy McVean in August. All our regulars were present.

Bev Collier and Ron Plachy fought tooth and nail through the first 7 games. After disastrous 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> games for Ron, Bev dominated to take 1<sup>st</sup> with a 12.6 avg. Ron managed 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 19.9 avg. Meanwhile at the other table Mary Holland took 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 21.8 avg. John Pearl grabbed last with a resounding 57.1 avg.

Our next game is scheduled for Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> (changed from Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> due to the Branch picnic) at the home of Clint and Bev Collier.

Ron Plachy

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



MTD August winners (L to R): Bev Collier 1st, Ron Plachy 2nd and Mary Holland 3rd.

Some people are like slinkies.

Not good for much, but bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

We last met on Friday afternoon, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Alicia Baily** on a beautiful day in Walnut Creek, after the good ole Sir

Call went to press. The Friday black smoke special huffed and puffed its way through the hills and dales of Walnut Creek to Alicia's lovely Creekside home. Gathering around the two tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Judy Richmond, Alicia Baily, Linda & Larry Brown** and **Sharon Varner**. The group was bribed with table treats and delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her A<sup>+</sup> game and seizing bragging rights was **Alicia Baily** who dominated with an avg. score of 8.0 pg. There was a **Lynn Shafer** photo opportunity, as he played very well and garnered 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a nifty score. **Judy Richmond** finished in the money once again, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

We always have fun and very much enjoyed the

afternoon. We said our goodbyes, quietly boarded the ole Mexican Train and followed the sun to our various destinations.

We will meet next in September at **Judy Richmond's** casa.

**Walt Busenius**

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



August 39th MTD3 winners (L to R): **Alicia Baily** 1st, **Lynn Shafer** 2nd, **Judy Richmond** 3rd.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On August 22, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos

group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 players. In attendance this evening were **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Steve and Susan Oki, Scott and Marie-Claire Macdougall** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed MTD while consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members and some wine. We played at two tables of 6. We paid the player at each table of 6 with low table score; 6 California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the lowest table scores were **Jim and Renie Pope**. There were two high score players at each table: **Ron Louis and Fran Matthews**: They received one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on September 19th. (Photos by **Steve Oki**)

**Jim Pope**

[jpoppe24@comcast.net](mailto:jpoppe24@comcast.net)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

### Dennis Hallett

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Bob and Janet Yolland warmly welcomed and graciously

hosted our merry band. But our ranks were thin; we were missing good friends Jim and Anne Burk, Marty Campbell, and Dennis and Ann Hallett, who were in our thoughts. The silver lining was that we all fit

around one table; thus, for once the men and the women were desegregated. What a nice change.

With seven players you only pick up ten tiles to start. It seems as though the games moved faster. After eight, Judy Baldrige was first (141), Dave Pierce was second (156), and Jim Baldrige was third (187). The Baldridges will host in October, and we will hope to see everyone as the season winds down.

Dave Pierce on behalf of Dennis Hallett

Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)



*"My desire to be well-informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane."*



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

### Steve Lane

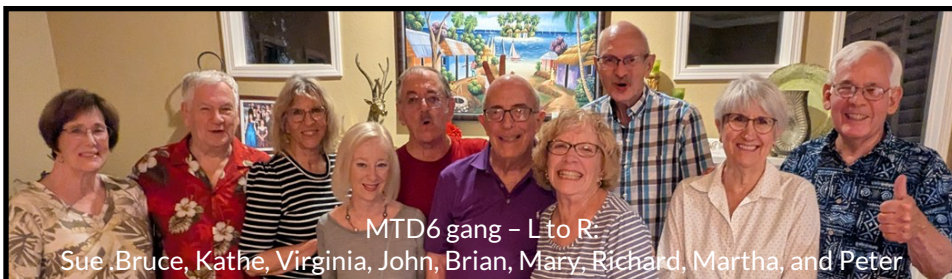
The participants were divided into two groups. The first group consisted of Martha Plante, Susan

Sheldon, Brian McCarthy, Richard Hockenbrock, John Kendrick, and Moose Kelly. The second group consisted of Peter Plante, Virginia Tygart, Bruce

Borgman, Kathe Mitchell, and Mary McCarthy. The competition was stiff and unrelenting that when the smoke cleared the winners were announced: John Kendrick took home the number one prize for an enlarged pot. Kathe Mitchell and Richard Hockenbrock were second and third respectively. The high scorer that won a scratcher was number one with Bruce Borgman with Moose Kelly following closely. CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners!!

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).

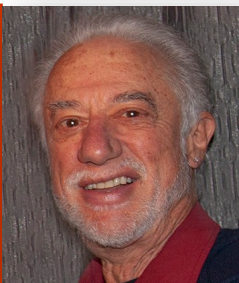


MTD6 gang - L to R:  
Sue, Bruce, Kathe, Virginia, John, Brian, Mary, Richard, Martha, and Peter



Winners L to R: Kathe, John, Richard





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In August Clint & Bev Colier's hosted our MTD 7 event. We had four competing SIR members and five spouses, the Wilkenfeld, the McCarthy's, the Collier's, the Azevedo's and the Lucido's

The West's were out galivanting on a trip out of the country. Bob Wikenfeld was backpacking in the Sierras, but wife Judy Wilkenfeld attended. Bob Lucido shocked everyone by taking first place winning many \$\$\$, Brian McCarthy placed second and took away less \$\$, and Judy the one without her husband

came in third and received almost enough to buy a cup of coffee.

Bob Lucido

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Last week we had twenty-one players spread across four tables but on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, only thirteen players showed up

around three tables. Of course, our overall pool dropped from (\$3 x 21 = \$63) to (\$3 x 13 = \$39). Anyway, it's not the money that brings everyone together, it's the camaraderie and fun of being with your SIR friends every month. Isn't that right?

Now let's look at our September winners. Playing seven rounds, Richard Hockenbrock had the lowest average score at 11.29 at the Red identified dining room table. In second place, oh wait a minute, how is this possible? We have a tie, the first one that I've ever seen. And look at this, Pam McAllister having played at total of seven games with a total score of (112 divided by 7 = 16 average) yielded the same average score but with the math showing Alicia Baily achieving her total like this (144 divided by 9 = 16). So the sum of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> winnings were combined, and the pot was split evenly.

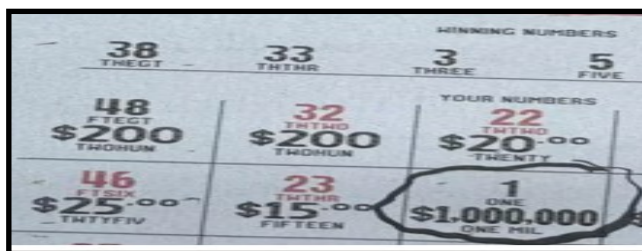
Okay, that's enough math for all of us! Now we still have the scratchers to reconcile and I hope it is as simple as walking in the park. We have had trouble lately with players hiding when their name is called to come and accept their scratchers. I want to remind everyone who doesn't take ownership of their well-earned scratcher; you will be forwarding all rights to

your winning ticket to the owner of the house where you play. That's me, Richard!

The September snacks and goodies were superbly hosted by John & Sandi Foster. Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday in October, which is the 1<sup>st</sup>. Snacks will be hosted by Jim Barry & Joyce Wells.

Richard Hockenbrock

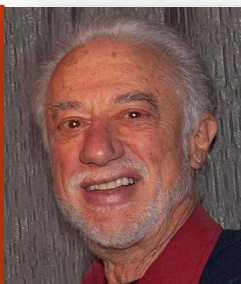
925.324.1713 [rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)



A customer of Sandy's Liquor in San Luis Obispo won a \$1-million scratcher from the California Lottery in April 2025, state lottery officials said.

Quoted from LA Times





### Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

In August, we met at the lovely home of **Bob & Judy Wilkenfeld** who hosted our MTD 9 event. We had four competing SIR members and four spouses, the

Wilkenfeld's, **Kingsbury's**, **McCarthy's** and the **Lucido's**.

**Mary McCarthy** took first place with a low average score of 12.1. **Claire Kingsbury** came in second with 13.25 average score, and **Judy Wilkenfeld** was 3rd with an average score of 14.7

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



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

In August, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by **Rich and Ismini Ahlf** in their beautiful Clayton home. The July winners were **Ismini Ahlf**, **Linda Casey** and **Phil Lee**, with consolation prizes going to **Mark Sorum** and **Don Casey**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be September 19th at the home of **Eric Finson**. 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](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

**Cleo Bolen**

925.768.7902 [cleo.bolen@comcast.net](mailto:cleo.bolen@comcast.net)





# CARD GAMES

## ...we play



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



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from August 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The big winners were **Bill Vizza** with 5 wins, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 4.5 and **Steve Ybarra** with 4. **Bob West** had 3 2nds and **Bob Campbell** had 2.5. The lowest average scorers were **Bill Vizza** with 48 and **Bob West & Steve Ybarra** with 55. **Bill Vizza** had 2 STM's and **Bob Campbell** had 3.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** and **Steve Ybarra** have the most wins with 20 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 16.

- Highest winning percentage is **Bob Finlayson** with 43%, **Jim Passaglia** with 39%, and **Steve Ybarra** with 38%.
- **Steve Ybarra** leads in YTD 2nds with 17 and **Frank Lucas** and **Bill Vizza** have 16.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 49.7 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.5.
- **Bill Vizza** has 10 STM's, **Brian McCarthy** has 8, and **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** have 7.
- Most Improved is **Brian McCarthy** at 127% better than last year, and **Bill Vizza** at 125%.
- Best Sheriff is **Rich Lyon** in that in only 0% of his passes has someone STM. **Norman Cox** had only 2% and **Frank Lucas** 4%.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be September 26th, October 10th and October 24th.

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

Co-Directors  
**Bob West** and **Steve Ybarra**  
[robertawest@aol.com](mailto:robertawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



Hearts Group at Rocco's on August 22nd 2025.





## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Due to the proximity of our usual first Tuesday of the month event to **Labor Day**, we didn't play in September. Our next event will be held on **October 7th** and hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**.

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



## Pinochle

### Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

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

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

**Stan Johnson**



## Tuesday Golf Ed Marlovits

Branch 146 Tuesday golf's annual meeting with 9 holes of golf will be held on October 7 at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. This event is open to all Branch 146 members. Contact

Dave Steinberg to sign up.

State Sir Golf's annual Individual Championship event will be held October 2 at the Reserve at Spanos Park Golf course in Stockton. It is limited to 112 players and will have 7 flights. Sign up is found here: [Individual Championship](#).

Branch 146 golfers used to have an event called Monterey Mashers with two days of play and socializing in Monterey. We no longer have that event, but State Sir Golf is putting together a statewide version with up to four days of play November 3-6. The Primary Tournament will be Nov. 4 at BlackHorse and Nov 5 at Bayonet. [Register here](#). The sign up for play on November 3 & 6 can be found [here](#).

**Ed Marlovits**

I could not believe it today, when I came home and was told by my wife that my 5-year-old son wasn't actually mine...

She says that I need to pay more attention when picking him up from school!





## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

We had nearly all our regulars on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> [California statehood date (1850)]; faithful sub **Bob Yolland** set in for **Dick DeVoe**. **Margot**

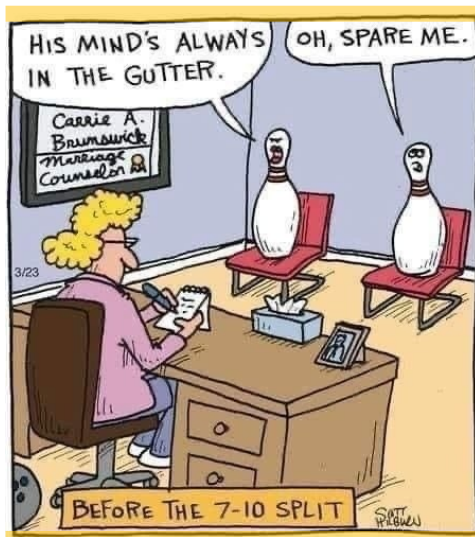
**Somerville** and **Marilyn Miller** hosted, their first time hosting us, and what a wonderful job they did in **Margot's** beautiful and spacious home. For this was our special event to send off **Ken and Elaine Richter**, long-time friends and members of our group, who are moving to Southern California later this month to be nearer their daughters.

No slams were bid but **Ken and Elaine** did make seven in four spades, while **Joan and Dave Pierce** made six. **Ken and Elaine** set **Dave** down three in 3 NT when **Ken** had a seven card diamond suit. But overall everybody played well, and at the end only 3½ matchpoints out of a possible 40 separated the six pairs. **Christy DeVoe** and **Bob Yolland** were first, 54%, and **Ken and Elaine** tied **Dave** and **Joan** for second (53%).

After the bridge we gathered over a pizza dinner around **Margot's** beautifully set tables. Many thanks to **Margot** for stepping up to host our special event. **Joan** contributed a tasty salad and **Christy** contributed a delicious dessert. There was lots of laughter and bon homie as we said goodbye to **Ken and Elaine**. We will miss them.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event met on Friday, September 5 with four tables and 16 players and was hosted by **Mike Whitaker**, who also acted as Coordinator that day. Thanks **Mike**!

**Brad Hatcher** earned 1st Place with 42.5 points and a 2.5-point cushion. Congratulations **Brad**.

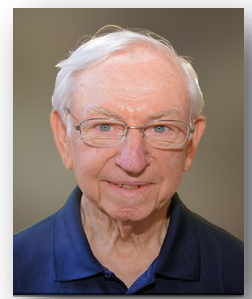
**Ed Marlovits** and **Dave Steinberg** tied for 2nd Place with 40.0 points.

**John Rexroat** was 4th with 39.5 points.

**Dick DeVoe**

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

Exercise helps you with decision making. It's true! I went for a run this morning and decide I'm never doing that again.



## Party Bridge

**Jim Pope and Jim Stedman**

We had a closely contested game at the home of **Bill Schaaf** on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>. As usual **Bill** was a great host with terrific goodies and dessert.

The scores were all pretty close except for **Joe Fuchs** who had the highest score with 6860 points. **Bob Yolland** was second with 4970 points and **Bud Pearce** third with 4600 points. Congratulations. The Total Scores sheet is attached.

The next game will be on Monday October 6th at the home of **Bud Pearce**.

Please let me know if you will play.

Co-Directors

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





## Poker Group 4

Poker Group #4 met for their September game at the home of **Carmelo Piccolo**, absent our leader, **Mark Sorum** who was at home recovering from successful surgery. As usual, Melo provided a lavish assortment of goodies to snack on as well as wine and several other beverage choices. **Ray Bland** was the last player to arrive and missed the first hand but it seemed like he won every hand thereafter, leaving with a basket full of winnings.

One interesting trend running through the wide variety of games we played was prominence of "9's" that were showing up in winning hands. One hand was won with four natural 9's, in another, Draw Poker hand, the dealer drew three cards, all of which were 9's, which when joined with a pair of aces made sweet full house. In a Seven Card Stud game, one player had three 9's turn up in a row.

The "where and when" for the next session has yet to be decided.

**Pete Gates**, Asst. Chairman

**Mark Sorum**

925.577.5153 [markandbarbsorum@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

Tonight I'm gonn'a have possum soup made from Himalayan Possum. How do I know he was a Himalayan Possum? 'cause I found Himalayan on the road.



## Old Money Poker Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

Five members of our group met at **Brad Hatcher's** home for our usual first Thursday game. Two of our members were absent due to vacation and public service.

As we usually start at 12:30, players were not very hungry as there were snacks left after the game. However, they were still thirsty after lunch as exhibited by the usual consumption of wine.

While there were no exciting winning hands, both **Rich Ahlf** and **Frank Lucas** were excited with expanded wallets after the game. Less happy were contributors with thinner wallets - **Paul Dubow**, **Melo Piccolo** and **Brad Hatcher**.

We look forward to our October game to be hosted by **Bruce Kimmis**.

**Brad Hatcher**

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

Posted a photo of my clean house today and it was flagged and removed as "Fake News".



## Area 16

### \$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

## 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

One word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.  
This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word.

The word is 'UP.'

It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP to get UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, lookUP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night? Why. it is UP...!

U

P!

Did that one crack you UP?

Now I'll shut UP!