SIR CALL br146sircall@gmail.com

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



Big Sir's Notes Walt Busenius

April is upon us, spring has sprung and the hills are green and full of the friendly sounds of music created by the harmonious chatter of birds. Our April luncheon on Monday, April 18th will be our last meeting at the Hilton Hotel.

As of this writing, we just finished another well-attended and informative luncheon at the Hilton Hotel. At March's luncheon, we welcomed five new members. Joining our branch were Carl Feil sponsored by Frank Ascatigno, John George sponsored by Bruce Borgman, Howard Smalheiser sponsored by Jim Saavedra, and Gene Voelkel and Milton Smith sponsored by Russ Anderson. In addition, there were three guests attending the luncheon whom we hope will soon join our branch.

Also at March's meeting, **Steve Dawkins** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to Branch 146. In last month's Big Sir's Notes, I failed to mention that in February we were pleased to honor **Ken Richter** with the important Branch Honoree Merit Award and **John Lively** and **Lew Thompson** with 20 Year Membership Certificates.

Gentlemen, our popular May Ladies Day Luncheon is just around the corner on Thursday, May 12th at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. Our Ladies truly look forward to this event which is by <u>reservation only</u>. The cost is \$28 per person or \$56 per couple. Sirs without partners are also welcome and no tickets will be sold at the door. Please see page 20 of this issue for the menu options and sign-up instructions. The deadline for signing up is Tuesday, May 3rd.

For many years, we have held a dinner dance in the fall. It has been a popular event for Sirs and their ladies. We are currently without a chair to organize this event. However, please contact me if you would be interested in being a member of a Dinner Dance committee so that we can continue this yearly tradition by committee if necessary.

Luncheon – Monday, April 18th At the Concord Hilton Hotel

Guest Speaker: Rich Schlenker, retired long time advance scout for the California Angels

Gathering time – 11:00 am Starting time – 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Monday, April 11th



Muriel Smalheiser, from Contra Costa HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) was the March featured speaker . Muriel explained how www.cchicap.org is a free service that is available to all Contra Costa County residents to answer questions concerning Medicare related issues.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, please give them a call and invite them to attend April's luncheon as your guest.



Little Sir's Corner **Alan Elnick**

Batter up! Spring has sprung. Pleased this month to be able to bring to you Rich Schlenker, retired long time advance scout for the California Angels, our Oakland A's chief American League rival. He began his scouting career with the

San Diego Padres, then the Kansas City Royals, before signing with the Angels in 1984. I'm sure Rich will fill us in on the business of baseball as well as some great stories that come with a baseball career. Just remember, "baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical".

Many of you were grateful for the information provided by last month's speaker, Muriel Smalheiser, from HICAP. If you feel you need to contact her for a Medicare related matter, and you have lost or forgotten her contact info, use the hyperlink on page 1 or send me an email and I will get you in contact with her.

The April meeting will be the last one this year at the Concord Hilton. We will resume our normal schedule of second Thursday at Boundary Oaks on May 12th with our gala Ladies Day Luncheon. The banquet room should have a fresh new look. Comedienne Sandra Risser, wife of our new member Mike, has promised a humorous set created for us with a personal touch. It should be a wonderful luncheon.

Don't forget to bring a guest when we return in June!

Important Reminder: Our last luncheon at the Concord Hilton is Monday, April 18th. We return to the Boundary Oak Clubhouse on Thursday, May 12th for the Ladies Day Luncheon, after which all remaining 2016 luncheons will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse.



March Birthday Boy Drawing winner was Jim Burk



Membership Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

We had a very good month for inducting members in March. We added five new members. Sadly, we lost one long-term member. We

now have 281 active members - an increase of two for the year. Keep up the good work in bringing guests and making an effort to meet and greet the new members. Remember, the new guys are the ones with the yellow badges. Please make them feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in March 2016







Carl Feil

John George Howard Smalheiser







Dr. Gene Voelkel



Steve Dawkins (center) receives the Certificate of Appreciation Award for Branch 146 Service at the March meeting from Honorees Chair Doug Eisner and Big Sir Walt Busenius



Acoustic Musicians Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group at 2 pm Thursday, April 14th at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 going North: (I'm sure you can figure this out from other areas) exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, straight to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood, slight left stay on Blackwood, sharp right on Ward. Alan's home is on the left. If you get lost call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome.

Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups, and enjoy leading this group. **Alan** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



March Greeters **Jim Pfohl, Henry Thatcher,** and **Jim Pope** ready to greet Sirs outside the Hilton Hotel



Sunshine John Pearl

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during April. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

- Ken Richter
- Roy Luoma
- Bob Walton
- Lynn Freeman

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.

> John Pearl, Sunshine Chair mcpearl@astound.net (925) 934-6920



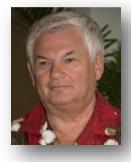
Greeters in actions outside the Concord Hilton Hotel where

Dale Haukland and Joe Hunt are being greeted by Henry

Thatcher with Jim Pfohl looking on.

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The March event for the Couples Dining Out activity broke the record again with an attendance of 77. We had a wonderful dinner at II Fornaio, one of Walnut Creek's premier restaurants. We started the

evening even before the scheduled cocktail hour at 5:30pm. The restaurant extended its happy hour pricing to our group. We then, sat down for a great dinner, which included soup or salad, a choice of four entrees, and a scrumptious dessert. We have become the victim of our own success since it is difficult to find restaurants for our large group size that also have space to mingle during our social hour. Il Fornaio accommodated us by setting aside a portion of the restaurant and opening the patio doors — luckily the weather was pleasant that evening.

I've posed the question to the Couples Dining Out group whether we should seek smaller restaurants. I have already received a number of responses, but if you have not given your opinion and would like to, send me an email with your opinion as to whether we should continue with the present format of a restaurant which can take all of us for a single evening, or whether we limit our attendance. We are pleased that so many of you like to come and we will figure out a way to please as many as we can with our solution.

We plan to have another dinner in May, and a thorough search is under way to find a new or different restaurant in the merry month of May. Tentatively, please reserve Monday, May 23rd as we plan to find a special restaurant worthy of our patronage.



Dave and Joan Pierce at the March Couples Dining Out Event



Hilton Hotel—Lunch Menu 18 April 2016

Entrees

Lemon Grilled Chicken

or

Pan Seared Salmon



Patti Klein looks on as **Paul** and **Lili Fama** pose for a photo at the March Couples Dining Out Event

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor
Assistant Editor
Proofreaders

Richard Hockenbrock Jeff Baily Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy

Cooking II Bob Yolland

Cooking II had an excellent lunch March 8th at **Corrie Oranje's** home. He started us off with a selection of Spanish and American cheeses, sliced ham, herring in wine sauce and mixed nuts. That was

accompanied with lots of conversation and good wine. For lunch **Corrie** made a wonderful Dutch split pea soup with lots of goodies accompanied by a special grilled sandwich of a fig spread, brie cheese, sliced apple and arugula. To top off the meal he served a great fruit salad with a home made glaze. Thank you **Corrie**, it was super.

Our next event will be an early bird dinner with our wives at II Pavone restaurant on Monday April 11th.



John and Nancy Pearl at Couples Dining Out





Table PoolBill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721

North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.



A FULL HOUSE at the March Couples Dining Out Event



Mike and Sharon Varner at Couples Dining Out



Sue Sheldon, wife of Couples Dining Out event organizer Bruce Borgman, enjoying a glass of red wine with Susan Kaplan, wife of Jerry Kaplan



Luncheon Chairman Max Hinkle

About the March
Meal: I'm happy to report
that almost all of the
comments I've received from
members about the March
meal were positive. I even
heard some members

comment that the food is better at the Hilton than at Boundary Oak. I'm sorry to say, however, that I was off a bit on my menu split. It appears that a 50/50 split between the corned beef and the salmon would have better represented the members' preferences rather than the 60% corned beef that I ordered. That's something to keep in mind next year. My apologies to those who wanted the salmon and didn't get it.

March's Attendance: By my count there were 202 meals served at our March luncheon, three less than our guaranteed number. There were 197 active members in attendance including the five new members inducted at this luncheon. That number equals 70% of our membership, a bit less than what we have been averaging. Member attendance at our March luncheon held at the Hilton last year averaged 67%. There were 24 unexcused absentees ("no shows"), representing 8.6% of our membership. That's a bit more than we have been averaging the past several luncheons, but still better than the 10% figure historically used in calculating our meal guarantee.

March Luncheon: Please note on your calendar that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 18th at the Concord Hilton. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO THE HILTON UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.

Opt-Out Deadline for April Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the April luncheon is noon on Monday, April 12th. We will e-blast a reminder of this deadline a day or two in advance of it. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, send an email message to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com before

that deadline ("no show deadline"). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. This courtesy results in an economic benefit to our branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice please call me at (925) 408-6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed or not timely displayed in the "no lunch" Inbox.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a guest or a visitor please so advise via an e-mail to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com on or before the no show deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

<u>Special Requests</u>: If you or your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you or he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members and their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.

Toughest job I ever had: selling doors, door to door.



Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Notwithstanding the rain and ensuing muddy waters, we managed to get some good trout production from San Pablo Reservoir. Perhaps the happiest fisherman was our newest member, **Jeff Sturm**, who hauled in

a limit of rainbows, including a four pounder, on his very first outing.

Other successful fishermen at San Pablo included Reggie Fromm, Rich Fiscina, and Lee Clark of Branch 146, as well as Ernie Wong, Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh, Terry Miller, and Harry Sherinian. Meanwhile, over at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, Romano Gnusti continued his great year with a six-pound trout (his second of the season) and Carl Moyer broke a string of fruitless outings when he landed three trout fishing with Ray Pixton.

Joe Karg caught a keeper sturgeon fishing with fifteen others on a party boat. It was the only fish landed on the boat that day. On the same day, Rich Fiscina fished on his boat for sturgeon with three others and did not get a single bite. When he returned to the dock, he was advised that only one fish had been caught that day by all boats, and it turned out to be Joe's. So the Delta sturgeon fishing score for that day was SIR Fishermen 1, the Rest of the World 0.

Elsewhere, **Raleigh Davis** went after crab on a party boat out of Emeryville and brought home ten big ones, while **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** picked up some black bass and stripers in the Delta.

In the next three months, we have scheduled regular sturgeon/striper outings in the Delta and regular trout outings at San Pablo and Shadow Cliffs plus trout outings at Lake McSwain, Lake Davis, and Lake Almanor, a striper outing at New Hogan Reservoir, a kokanee/rainbow/black bass trip at Lake Berryessa and a cutthroat trout outing at Pyramid Lake in Nevada. All Sirs are welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 28th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but you are invited to join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am. For further information, contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



SIR 146 Hiking Rich Ahlf

George Miller Trail Walk

On April 8th, we will be hiking on the newly constructed George Miller Trail with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and Bay. Meet at 10:00 am at the start of the trail. This will be an easy three mile hike. This hike is entirely on a paved road, also if you wish to

bring your dogs, no problem. If anybody wishes to have lunch afterwards, there's a nice Mexican Restaurant nearby (La Tapatia on 536 Main St in Martinez).

Directions: Go north on Alhambra toward downtown about 2 mi, left on Escobar St, right on Talbert St. to the gate of George Miller Trail and park along the road.

If anybody would like to carpool we could meet at the Best Buy Parking lot at about 9:30 am. Just let me know.

Friday April 8th, 2016 Hike Starts at 10:00am Rich Ahlf Cell (925) 550-4967

Eagle Peak Walk

On April 22nd, 2016 we will be hiking up Mount Diablo to Eagle Peak starting from Regency Gate in Clayton. We will be hiking the Bruce Lee trail up to Meridian Gap and over to the Eagle peak and back down to Regency Gate. The distance will be about 7 miles with about a 2,000ft elevation gain. Sticks are a must as the trail gets narrow near the peak and the downhill is steep. We will have lunch at the peak overlooking the best views of the East Bay and Delta below us. I rate this hike hard.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, go about five miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end of Regency Dr. walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain cancels either walk Hike starts at 10:00 am April 22nd, 2016 E-mail <u>rahlf@sbcglobal.net</u> Cell (925) 550-4967

My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I've finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

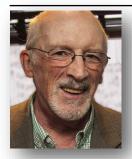
Jerry Kaplan

Congratulations to Mexican Train Group One March winners, Sir Terry Marchione, Carmen Schiavone, wife of Sir Rob Melrose, and Sue Oranje, Sir Corrie's wife.

Game night was held on March 11th at the beautiful home of Sir **Bruce Borgman** and his wife **Sue Sheldon**. **Terry** took top prize by a razor thin margin of 14.25 points at table red to **Carmen's** second place finish with 14.29 points at table blue and **Sue** at 14.89 points at table white. These three winners at their respective tables left us in the dust as their margin of victory was huge compared to the rest of us who looked on in awe!



March 11th MTD Group 1 winners, Terry Marchione (1st), Carmen Schiavone (2nd), and Sue Oranje, (3rd)



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES) Jeff Baily

Our last set of games were held at the beautiful home of **Sally** and **Lynn Shafer**. Three tables and 18 players made for a pleasant evening of Mexican Train Dominoes. Friendly

play was enjoyed but competition was not to be ignored and the ladies ruled.

Judy Richmond outed 3 times to take the grand prize with the low score of 9.3. Sue Busenius came ever so close with a 9.4 and Linda Siljestrom came in third with a 15.9. It was interesting that the four 'substitute' players followed close behind and bunched together with Carla Thompson at 16.2, Jim Baldridge at 16.5, Lew Thompson at 19.9 and Judy Baldridge at 21.6. The rest of the scores were not quite as good and ranged from 21.9 to 37.4 scored by an unidentified player.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

March 18th found us to **John** and **Nancy Pearl's.** We had 17 players at three tables. **Helene Twyford** was under the weather but **Al** joined in the fun which was good.

John and **Nancy** made us feel at home and fed us well. It was a very enjoyable evening.

As the group becomes more experienced and comfortable with the game, we are able to complete more games each evening, evidence the competition is becoming much stronger. The rules keep getting better defined, thanks to our overall mentor **Jerry Kaplan**. As the game becomes easier, the fun increases for all.

Ron Plachy won first place for the evening, Rich Ahlf took second place and Mary Denney took third place. Congratulations to all our winners. As always, great fun!



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

Our enthusiastic group met on March 17th at **Chuck and Marty Campbell's**. So we had a double celebration, St. Patrick's Day and our group of wannabe professional

Mexican Train Dominoes players. We look for every opportunity to celebrate something as we strategize our next critical selection of which domino tiles to play. On this night we were joined by **Steve** and **Jan Ondeck** from our substitute list, as the **Halletts** were unable to be with us. **Marty** made a very delicious Black Russian Cake with ice cream for our evening's dessert. She apparently received approval from President Putin to use his personal recipe for this outstanding treat.

Our winners for the evening were appropriately Marty in first place, Joan Pierce in second, and Steve Ondeck in third. While they were outstanding, some of the rest of us who will go unnamed had much difficulty in playing the high numbered tiles and later claimed they had misunderstood that it is the lower score one is seeking to achieve. We will be sure to announce that fact at the start of next month's game.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro) Jim Pope

We had a hardy group of 14 at the last meeting. The group enjoyed homemade treats by **Renie Pope**. Wine and popcorn was provided by several of the men in the group. It was another fun

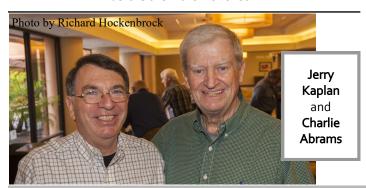
evening for all. Our next MTD meeting will be April 15th, tax day. Crying towels will be available for those who need them.



PICTURES FROM THE MARCH LUNCHEON



Pete McNeill and **Rich Hanford** engage in conversation before the March luncheon





Jeff Morrow and **Jim Saavedra** enjoying conversation and a drink before the March luncheon



Joe Suta, George Carpenter, and Rich Fiscina checking in for the March luncheon



Dick Richmond and Jim Hanck at the luncheon

Men don't care what's on TV They only care what else is on TV



Cribbage John Pearl

Seven of our group convened at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, February 24th. In the Chair's absence, our capable Vice-Chair **Ron Afdal** kept the fighting to a minimum.

First place money went to our host, **Barney Meade**. **Mike Whitaker** was second, while **Ron Afdal** was third. I heard it was a great event. I would like to thank **Jim Stedman** for his role as acting scribe.

Fast forward to Wednesday, March 23rd when seven of us met again at **Barney Meade's** home. This time we welcomed two new players, **John George** and **Howard Nemir**.

The results, though, looked very familiar as first place money went (as is often the case) to our host **Barney Meade**, who again instructed us on how to play the game. Second place was awarded to our Vice-Chair **Ron Afdal**, while **Mike Whitaker** made a strong showing for third place money.

We meet again on Wednesday, April 27th.



Activities Coordinator Jerry Kaplan

Jerry Kaplan
ANYONE FOR PICKLE BALL?

What is Pickle Ball you say? This is a game that was started in the 60's but has recently had a resurgence and has now become very popular among seniors, many of whom in

their younger days were active tennis players.

The game is played with a small paddle on a court the size of a doubles badminton court and is most often played in a "doubles team" format. The ball is a slightly heavier weight than a whiffle ball. The compelling aspect of this game for seniors is that it does not require a significant area to cover, but does allow for good exercise and fun competition.

Where does one play this game? Our own Jim Burk and his wife Anne attend a church in Alamo where a gymnasium is being built as the result of an anonymous donor family's generosity. When completed in early 2017, this gymnasium will offer the opportunity to host pickle ball games as well as other fitness activities. Pickle ball could become an additional branch activity in which



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

The Photography Group meets this month on April 29th, the last Friday of the month. We are planning a two part session where we will take a photo shoot field trip a week or two before our meeting at the library, then use the

library meeting to review the photos that were taken.

The field trip will be a twilight visit to downtown Walnut Creek . We'll roam the shopping district and begin taking photos about an hour before sunset then extend it into twilight, about an hour after the sun sets. If you have never done this kind of shooting, it can be a challenge. A tripod is a must and you should know how to set up your camera for time exposures. For those interested please send me an email rhock@pacbell.net listing evenings you would be able to attend. We'll try to pick an evening this month that fits everyone's schedule. Even if you don't go on the field trip, come to the meeting on the 29th and see some very interesting photographs.

If you listed interest in photography in your bio, I'd like to hear from you - especially our new SIR members and their spouses or significant others. Our subject matter is driven by whatever interests the membership. Hope to see you at this event.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net Cell: (925) 324-1713 Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

Where: Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subjects: Night photography **When:** April 29th at 9:00 am

SIR members and their spouses or significant others could enjoy the fun, exercise, and competition the game provides. **Jim** even envisions the possibility of a SIR Pickle ball league with teams competing from the various Area 2 branches. Please let me know of your interest in such an activity getting started in our branch. **Jim** also would be happy to discuss the game more with you.

There also may be interest in forming a SIR bicycling group. Give me your thoughts if you are interested.

Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

In last month's SIR CALL the date of April 21st for the event was wrong. The correct date is Wednesday, April 20th. We will meet at the home of **Pete Bishop**. Please make a note of the corrected date do not show up at the Bishop's home

on the 21st as I like Peter and would like to keep him as a friend. We will be tasting Italian red wine and white from Germany.

If you plan on attending, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at BR146WINETASTING@gmail.com and please indicate if you are bringing a white or red wine to taste.

We are limited to 44 total attendees, so I need your RSVP no later than 5 pm Monday, April 11th. This event fills quickly so please let me know sooner rather than later or risk being wait-listed. Further instructions will be sent out to the SIR members who are on the Wine Tasting event distribution list.

If you have already sent in your RSVP, please make a note of the correct date.

Rob Melrose (925) 519-2185 RWMelrose@gmail.com



99 bottles of wine on the wall, take one down pass it around, 98 bottles of wine on the wall, take one down pass it around, 97you get the message! Come join the wine tasting party!

I had a session with a psychiatrist the other day and he told me I had a dual personality. When I received his \$200 bill, I decided I'd only send him \$100 with a note explaining that he could collect the remaining \$100 from the other guy!

Travel Opportunities

Longer Trips

May 3–5, 2016: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library A once in a lifetime opportunity to view the Vatican Splendors exhibit and tour the Reagan Library with lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Also on this trip will be a guided tour of the Mission at Santa Barbara. Included in the trip is roundtrip motor coach transportation, 2-night stay at the Pepper Tree (Santa Barbara), 6 hosted meals along the way and driver gratuity. Cost \$591 pp, double occupancy. 30 travelers are required for this trip. Contact Bob Spellman, (Br 146) at (925) 934-8428 or email bobnjo@astound.net

September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and, finally, 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact Bob Spellman, (Br 146) at (925) 934-8428 or email bobnjo@astound.net

Branch 146 is still looking for a Travel Committee Chair or any member willing to be on the Travel Committee. If interested, please contact Big Sir **Walt Busenius** at WalterBusenius@gmail.com.



Join the Photography Group for a night time field trip to downtown Walnut Creek. See details on page 10

When I die, I want to go peacefully like my grandfather did – in his sleep. Not yelling and screaming like the passengers in his car.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate on March 16th at **Bob** and **Janet Yolland's** home. On bridge results, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** came in first with 25 points

and **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** were second with 24.5 points. In third place with 24 points were **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe.**

Margot Somerville will host the next couples duplicate bridge on April 20th.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

Our March game was hosted by **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione**. For the second month in a row we welcomed three subs, the **Browns**, **Boyans** and **Hatchers**.

A particular thanks to the **Boyans** who bailed us out due to a last minute cancellation. **Dave** and **Joan Piece** ran away from the field, scoring 31 points which translates to nearly an 80% game (virtually unheard of in bridge circles). Second and third places were taken by two of our subs, the **Browns** and the **Boyans**. Our next game will be on April 12th at the home of the **Pierces**.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge on March 7th at the home of **Rich Ahlf**.

First place went to **Lo McCarley** with 4420 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 4310 and third to **Jim**

Brown with 4230.

Our next game will be on April 4^{th} at the home of **Max Hinkle**.

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our February 5th event was ably hosted by **Max Hinkle.** The two top finishers slipped away from the rest of the pack that day, which fired up everyone for the March 4th

tourney below. First place with 31.5 pts was **Charlie Abrams** which included 2nd and 1st places in the first and second half segments. Congratulations and strong consistent play, **Charlie!** 2nd Place with 29.5 pts was **Dick DeVoe.** 3rd place ended in a tie with 26.0 pts: by **Tony Greco** and **Bill Schultz.**

Most Twos: **Dick DeVoe** with 9, followed with 8 by **Rich Ahlf, Charlie Abrams** and **Jim Brown.**

<u>Least Zeros</u>: Tie with 3 each- **Charlie Abrams, Bill Schultz, Fred Bolton,** and **Dick DeVoe.**

Our March 4th event was ably hosted, by **Charlie Abrams.** After an 8th place finish in the 1st half, **Tony Greco** not only had one of the highest total scores for our group since its inception (33.0 pts), he absolutely blew away any previous half-segment record with 20.5 of 24 possible points in the 2nd half! What an amazing performance on the way to your 1st place win, **Tony. Bob Yolland** and **Rich Ahlf** tied for 2nd with 27.5 pts., and **John Boyan's** 26 pts. earned him 4th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 2: Back row: Rich Ahlf, John Boyan, Max Hinkle, Charlie Abrams, Bob Yolland, Fred Bolton, Dave Pierce, Ron Brown, and Steve Dawkins. Front Row: Tony Greco and Dick DeVoe



Couples Party Bridge Dave Pierce

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted on Super Tuesday, March 1st. When the votes were tallied, George and Pam Rammell were third (2420), with Dick and Christy DeVoe just slightly ahead for

second (2480). The hosts were fortunate to have a slam and a vulnerable game on the last round to forge ahead to the lead (4120) as the polls closed. As usual, **Joan's** delicious snacks and tasty gingerbread dessert were the big winners.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Sid Landman

SIR Duplicate Bridge Group 3 held their March game at the home of **Roger Peters** on Friday, March 18th with 12 players and three tables

of duplicate bridge.

Max Hinkle put in a fine performance and came in first in both the first half and the final score with a total of 32.5 points. Additionally, Max had the record for the most 2's and the least 0's - a pretty impressive performance. Second was Tony Greco, who like Max held the same place in the first half and final score ending with a total score of 28.5. Both of these performances were unusual as first and second half winners tend to be different people. But Max and Tony grabbed the leads early and never let go. In third, Charlie Abrams reached a total score of 26, followed by Dick DeVoe with a final score of 25. Congratulations to the winners and condolences to everyone else.

We look forward to the next game in April.

My wife and I have been married for over 46 years. Our lives are totally in sync. For example, the same time I got a hearing aid, she stopped mumbling.—by Rabbi and comedian Bob Alper



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Rich Ahlf hosted 3 tables of duplicate bridge on March 10th for the members of Duplicate Bridge Group #1. Although the morning scores for the first half were

somewhat modest, **Charlie Abrams** managed to capture the lead with 15.5 pt. At halftime **Lo McCarley** was second with 14.5 pt. and **Fred Bolton** took third place with 14.0 pt. After taking our lunch break to recharge our batteries, all eleven players not named **Charlie Abrams** went after him with vigor. Alas, our afternoon session was even more modest than the morning had been. **Charlie** held on for first place with a total of 27.0 pt., but two new players, **Dick DeVoe** and **Bob Yolland**, came out of the pack to tie for second place with 26.0 pt. each. **George Zunich** will host our next game on April 14th.

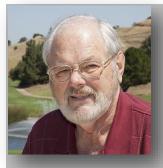
Written by Jim Jackson



Frank Ascatigno (L) and Al Zamolo (R) greeting new member Carl Feil (C) at the March luncheon



George Trabert and **George Rammell** waiting to eat their meal at the March luncheon



Theatre Gary Schaub

Join us for a Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama at the SIR 146 Theatre Party in July. A powerful drama by the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1987 is scheduled for

Wednesday, July 20th at 7:30 pm at the open-air California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda.



Fences by August Wilson is a stunning dramatic work that has won critical acclaim. Not only did **Fences** win the Pulitzer Prize but also the 1987 Tony Award for Best Broadway Play. **Fences** is part of Wilson's Century cycle of exploring the evolving African-American experience.

The focus is on Troy, a 53-year-old former baseball player in the 1950s, who was unable to break into the Major Leagues in his younger years. He now lives a menial, though respectable life of trash collecting with his wife and son in an Eastern industrial town.

The play centers around a father, his wife and teen-age son, and his brother, and the challenges they face in their lives with the place in society that has been given to them.

August Wilson, who died in 2005, is one of a handful of America's most prolific and respected playwrights. His productions of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* joined *Fences* in winning critical acclaim.

A limited number of discount tickets has been set aside for SIR 146 members and guests. Deadline for ordering is June 15th.

Tickets are \$49.50 each, and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR 146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595.. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets are to be distributed at the California Shakespeare Theatre ticket office in Orinda at 7:00 p.m. on July 20. A reserved group picnic area for SIR attendees adjacent to the theatre is an ideal place to meet before the play. Bring a picnic or purchase food at the food plaza. A pre-show lecture begins around 7:15 pm.



Book GroupChuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met February 29th at the Greenery Restaurant to discuss their latest book, *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. All found the book interesting but lacking depth. The authors recount

the tensions built up between the young USA and the north African countries (known as the Barbary States) as they continued to capture and plunder US merchant ships operating in the Mediterranean area.

In 1801, Jefferson and Congress authorized the small US Navy to sail to the Mediterranean area to protect American commercial ships. Conflicts with the Barbary States escalated over the next four years with the primary nemesis being the Bashaw of Tripoli. In the end an honorable peace with the Barbary States was achieved due mostly to a plan by US Consul William Eaton. He raised a mercenary army of Arabs and with a small contingent of US Marines, marched across northern Egypt to capture the Tripoli town of Derne. With the US Navy and Eaton about to conquer more territory, Tobias Lear, US Consul of the Barbary States, rushed in and negotiated peace, much to the displeasure of Eaton.

The book mentioned a number of cautions about negotiating with Muslins. Some of us thought such comments were more inspired by current events than actual history.

Our next book will be *The Nine* by Jeffery Toobin. The next meeting will be on April 25th at 8:30 am, again at the Greenery Restaurant. If the book interests you, read it and join us next April 25th.



Jim Kohl looks like a lonely man in the Hilton hotel lobby but he's helping out the March Greeters in directing Sirs to check in

California Shakespeare Theatre is located off Hwy 24 just west of Orinda at the Wilder Road exit (Exit 7B). Parking on-site is free.



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

This is advance notice for start up of the 2016 BOCCE BALL Season. First meeting will be MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016 (Not in April). By this time our

welcome rains will allow us to play.

We play 2nd and 4th

Mondays at 8:30 am May through October at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain cancels play. Ladies always welcome.



Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **John** for current walk. Rain cancels any walk. Ladies Welcome Tel: (925) 825-3561





Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group 1 met March 9th at **Dan O'Sullivan's** home. As always there was good food and conversation. The big winner was **Don Del Bene**. As always, there were small winners and losers. Our next outing will be at **Bill Cammerer's** home on Wednesday April 13th.

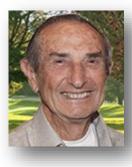


Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. Bill Roberts is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug

Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.
Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2 Al Zamolo

Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

We only had four of our regular players Wednesday, March 9th because **Al Twyford** was watching the A's practice in Arizona. **Bob Larson** was somewhere in Patagonia

and **Rich Ahlf** was just MIA. However, since the game was at **Harvey Oxman's** house, he invited his neighbor, **Howard Charlop**, so we had a small but fun table five.

Brad Hatcher broke even, **Norm Baietti** won a buck, **Harvey** and **Howard** each gave up four whole dollars, and **Frank Lucas** won seven.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th at **Rich Ahlf's** home in Clayton. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Poker Club 4 Chuck Bobinecz

Our April 25th poker session will be hosted by **Garth Cummings**. For those who cannot attend the session and get a chance to get your money back, please call **Garth** a week before the game so that he can arrange a sub.

Did you know that playing cards was invented by the Chinese?



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Frank Rockwell

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine

followed by lunch.



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are

randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses. State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.

Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group will kick off the season on April 27th at Rancho Solano. **Jonathan Korfhage** will be in touch with all golfers with more information .

We play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933-3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.



Book Nook

Hank James

April is an even numbered month, so no Book Nook. But, bring your books to share with the ladies at the May luncheon meeting back at Boundary Oak.

A big round of applause goes to **Dick Mc Elroy** and **Paul Fama**, who handled the Book Nook logistics for March. They transported, unboxed, displayed and reboxed the entire collection with professional aplomb.



Many books and interest from SIR members at the bi-monthly Book Nook set up in the meeting room annex of the Hilton Hotel



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me

know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

Max Burchett



The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the 1st Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laurse**n are the leaders and we are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$\text{ums Investment Group will meet at 8} am on Wednesday, April 27th at in Legends restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Our guest speaker is Scott Horton, CFP of the firm, J.P. King Advisors in Walnut Creek. Scott's topic will be "A 2016 Market Update and Outlook".

Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR.

Co-Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724 **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

Two cannibals meet one day. The first cannibal says, "You know, I just can't seem to get a tender missionary. I've baked them, I've roasted them, I've stewed them, I've barbecued them, I've tried every sort of marinade. Just can't seem to get them tender."

The second cannibal asks, "What kind of missionary do

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge at 9:30 am on Thursday April 21st. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Derek Southern will open by discussing the basics of photo organizing and editing. He will review specific photo-editors and discuss the "work-flow" involved in organizing photo files. **Derek** will also "eulogize" Picasa; unless, of course, it's been resurrected by Google! **Barry Brown** will follow with some answers to the most common questions he is getting about Windows 10! He has at least 10 FAQs to discuss, so this could be called "10 on 10!" Bring your questions along, too.

Check the CAT Web page about a week before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentations: http://a2cat.sirinc2.org.

The meeting starts at 9:30 am, April 21st at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

The first replies, "You know, the ones that hang out at that place at the bend of the river. They have those brown cloaks with a rope around their waist and they're sort of bald on top with a funny ring of hair on their heads."

"Ah, ha!" the second cannibal replies, "No wonder--those are fryers!"

you use?"

Featured SIR Event Monterey Masher Annual Golf Event

The Monterey Mashers held their annual golf tournament despite the forecast rain and windy conditions. Rounds of golf were played at Pacific Grove and Laguna Seca golf courses. On Monday, after experiencing some wind and rain during the front nine at Pacific Grove, the clouds disappeared and everyone enjoyed the back nine which provides spectacular views of the ocean.

The Monday night hors d'oeuvres party was, as usual, a success and there was sufficient surplus food to provide lunch boxes the next day. Tuesday's game was played at Laguna Seca in sunshine to everyone's delight.

The Non Golfers program, which included a tour of the National Steinbeck Center and lunch at the Steinbeck House restaurant, was a great success.

The banquet on Tuesday night was the time to present prizes to the winners and share some of the humorous situations experienced by the players. All in all a very memorable and enjoyable event.

Everyone (golfer or non-golfer) is invited to attend in 2017. New members and their wives or partners are especially encouraged to experience this entertaining annual event.



Marna & Steve Dawkins with Jim Burk

I was in love with a beautiful blonde once. She drove me to drink. That's the one thing I'm so indebted to her for.



Steve and Karen Dinning with Sharon Nelson & Larry Gray



Carla and Lew Thompson with Dick Richmond



Dick and Christy DeVoe with Vince Rettew

Featured SIR Event Monterey Masher Annual Golf Event



Photo by Ann Hallett

Bill & Bernice Cammerer

Chuck & Monnie Eichten



Corrie & Sue Oranje



Gwenn Boero with Ron Louis & Fran Mathews



Jim Burk & Sal Costanza



Shirley Costanza with Marilyn & Ken Kratz



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon May 2016

Salad

Baby Iceberg Salad

Tomatoes, Crumbled Bacon, Blue Cheese Chive Ranch Dressing

Entrees

New York Steak

Oven Roasted New York Strip Scalloped Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Green Peppercorn Sauce

Or

Pan Seared Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables Tomato, Kalamata Olive, Basil, Avocado Relish

Dessert

Napoleon

Raspberry Sauce, Crème Anglaise, Fresh Berries

Reservations for Ladies Gala Luncheon

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to use this form electronically. Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill in your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address below.

Thursday, May 12 th , 2016 Number of Tickets at \$28 ea.		Reset Form	
Amount Enclosed \$		<u>Entrée</u>	
: <u>#</u>	First & Last Name	<u>Steak</u>	<u>Salmon</u>
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Make checks payable to Br 146. Send to: **Steve Ybarra,** 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213

All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 3rd. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you when their check and form is received or you may pay for them directly on your sheet by listing their name & entrée.