



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

Boy, did we get our 2014 membership efforts off to a good start! We inducted 2 new members; **Tony Adduci** and **Elliott Kapchan**, sponsored by **Chuck Schreiber** and **Ray Kan**, respectively.

In addition, we hosted 8 guests, the largest number in recent memory! That's great work, guys. If we could continue this pace, we'd exceed our 2014 goals well before year's end.

As an added incentive to keep up the pace of new members and guests, don't forget that the sponsor of each new member is entered into a semi-annual drawing for a free lunch. So keep it up!

I'm also pleased to report that about 98% of our members have renewed their membership for 2014. The BEC is working on 100% renewal by the end of January.

Our Nominating Committee chaired by **Terry Marchione** and supported by **Jim Burk** and **Pete Gates**, will soon start work to line up a slate of officer and director candidates for 2015. You can help the committee by volunteering for any open positions. Feel free to contact any member of the Nominating Committee or the BEC if you have any questions on the duties of any position. I'll report further details as they become available.

One final note. We're soliciting ideas on ways to properly celebrate the branch's 25th anniversary which occurs in December. Please help us out by passing along any ideas you may have to **Bill Holly** or any member of the BEC. We've budgeted some money for the celebration, if needed, so let your imagination soar!

February 13 Luncheon
Featuring
Age Well/Drive Smart
by the California Highway Patrol
Gathering time - 11:00 am
Seating time - 11:45 am

Can't attend?

email bahadomer@gmail.com

Membership

Ben Gleason

As of the Executive Committee Meeting on January 9th, we have 262 active members. This is a decrease of four from the previous month. We currently have two applicants awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Tony Adduci, El Kapchan**

Moved to Inactive: **Frank McNamee, Pete McNeill**

Resigned: **Bob Lyman, Jack Patton, Lee Vincent, Jim Wyrick**

October Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 193 (74% of membership)

Guests: 8

Speaker: 1

Total Attendance: 202

Changes to Inactive Roster:

As noted above **Frank McNamee** and **Pete McNeill** were added.

Our inactive roster is therefore increased to twenty five members.



Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club 1 met on Jan 8th at the home of **Bill Cammerer** and it provided one of the largest turn

arounds in Poker 1 history. **Frank McNamee** was down to one quarter in his tray at the end of a given hand at about 3:00 pm.

Well he shared that pot and the turn around began. Over the next 2 hours he ended up winning the lion's share of the remaining pots. Our next competition will be at the home of **John Lewis** on Feb. 12th.



An actor had been out of work for 15 years because he always forgot his lines. Then one day he got a phone call from a director who wanted him for a big part in a play. All he had to say was "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! After much worry the actor decided to take the role. Opening night arrived, and while he waited in the wings, the actor muttered to himself "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! Hark! I hear the cannon roar! The time for the entrance finally came and as the actor made his appearance, he heard a loud broooooom! He turned around and said, "what the hell was that?"

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on January 15th at **Bill and Margaret Rees's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Margaret's** snacks and **Bill's** wines. The group welcomed **Dave and Joan Pierce** as newcomers. We missed **George Zurich** and **Susi Cherry**—nine couples wanted to play but only eight couples got to play—so I drew them out. As for the bridge results, **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** came in first with 39 points. **Lo and Sue McCarley** with 34 points came in second. In third place with 32 points were **Bill and Margaret Rees**. We had a tie for fourth place—**Carl and Anne Johnson** and **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** with 31 points. **Margot Somerville** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on Feb 19th.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John and Linda Boyan
at the January Couples Dining Out dinner

Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman



Our first LAW cooking luncheon of the new year was held on the 19th of January at the home of **Dick Woodman** with members **Frank Rockwell, Jim Meehan,**

Paul Dubow, Syd Whalen and **Bob Spellman** in attendance. We started with a brief meeting including a little wine with appetizers, then retired to the dining room for a great lunch which included a mandarin orange and almond green salad, cheese enchilada stack casserole and ended with a delicate pineapple gooey cake.

Following lunch the group sat around the dining room table solving the problems of the world one by one.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Corrie Oranje, Lew Thompson, Al Zamolo
and **Colin Holland** at the January luncheon

Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

Our speakers for the February 13th luncheon are Officer John Fransen and Cindy Lima, senior volunteer, from the California Highway Patrol. Now before you run and hide from the law, I want you to relax. They're not coming after you.

Officer John Fransen is a former Marine. He is now a CHP Officer and currently the Public Information Officer at the Contra Costa County Area Office of the CHP in Martinez. Officer Fransen has been with the CHP for the past 11 years, serving his first five years in the West Los Angeles area. He then served for over three years as a Staff Officer at the CHP Academy in Sacramento and for the past three years he has been in his current role in Martinez.

Cindy Lima is a retired public sector employee. She has served as a Senior Volunteer with the CHP for over two years. She is currently acting as the Assistant to the Public Information Officer and is the Coordinator of the "Age Well/Drive Smart" Program.

Cindy and John's presentation is designed for adult drivers and their families to help them drive longer and safer.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Carl Johnson and Russ Bliese at the January luncheon

SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs is looking forward to a new year of enjoyable rehearsals and a number of performances at senior centers, assisted living residences and other venues.

We've had to make some adjustments since our leader, **Don Tubb** is experiencing some illness, and our director, **Pete Miller**, is assisting his wife in recovering from a fall. But, the show must go on, and yours truly will be helping to fill in for their roles since we are preparing for a gig on March 15 at the Martinez Senior Community Center. **Don Tubb** will still help in selecting the repertoire for this performance of St. Patrick's Day songs and Irish ditties. We will practice on Jan. 29, as well as our regular rehearsals on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 2:30pm. As always, we encourage our fellow Sirs to check us out at the rehearsal to see if you would like to join your voice to ours.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Our branch anthropoid, "**Jonny**" befriends a leery **Barney Meade** at the January luncheon door. **Jonny** also burst into the BEC meeting to reward our Big Sir with a banana to the delight of onlookers.

A man got in a car accident with a dwarf, who got out of his car and said, "I'm not happy!" The man replied, "Well, which one are you?" Dick DeVoe



GOLF
Ray Weisz

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.

There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.

All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Off to a new year of golf. **Ben Gleason, Bob Yolland, Ray Spears** and **Al Elnick** on the ninth green at Boundary Oak



Sent in by Dan Holland

John Hudson, a 25 year old professional, achieved a near miracle when he holed two consecutive holes-in-one at the 11th and 12th holes (195 yards and 311 yards respectively) in the 1971 Martini Tournament at Norwich, England...

The driver swing speed of an average lady golfer is 62 mph; 96 mph for an average LPGA professional; 84 mph for an average male golfer; 108 mph for an average PGA Tour player; 130 mph for Tiger Woods; 148-152 mph for a national long drive champion.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Cooking II chefs enjoying some camaraderie at **Bill and Barbara Robert's** home. L to R, host **Bill Roberts**, **John Demos** seated, **Bill Cammerer**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Dennis Hallett**, **Steve Dawkins** and **Corrie Oranje**.

Got tasered picking up my friend from the airport today. Apparently security doesn't like it when you shout, "Hi Jack!" *Dick DeVoe*

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Our banner year for rockfish on the ocean and calm seas continued right up to the end of the year. **Carl Moyer** actually caught a limit of rockies on Christmas Eve.



Carl then determined that fishing on the eve of a holiday was not a bad idea and so on New Year's Eve, he journeyed out to Suisun Bay and landed a keeper sturgeon. Sturgeon fishing continued to be successful after 2014 commenced. **Tom Boltz** and **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 along with **Carl Moyer**, **Joe Karg**, **Joe Miscione**, **Terry Miller**, **Dick Thomson** and **Gordon Linebaugh** all tried their hand at sturgeon fishing and did some sturgeon catching to boot.

On the other hand, trout fishing seems to have slowed down. We had a very good early December, highlighted by the boating of sixteen trout in about three hours at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir by **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 and **Dick Thomson**, **Carl Moyer**, **Harry Sherinian**, **Terry Miller**, **George Schulze** and **Gordon Linebaugh**. But for the balance of the month and into January, the trout bid adieu to our offerings. This can't last forever and we will continue our efforts at Shadow Cliffs and, rest assured, we shall be successful.

In addition to Shadow Cliffs, many expeditions are planned for the year. This includes local trout outings at Lafayette, Del Valle, Los Vaqueros, and San Pablo Reservoirs, delta fishing for sturgeon, stripers, and black bass, and fishing for kokanee, bass, and trout at Lake Berryessa. It also includes outings outside of the Bay Area to the upper Sacramento and Bodega Bay for salmon, Alaska for salmon and halibut, Lake Davis and Collins Lake for trout, and Lake Tahoe for mackinaw.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 27, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but come as early as 7:30 am for breakfast and conversation. For further information, please contact Big Fish **Dick Thomson**, (925-944-1760), secretary treasurer **Romano Gnusti** (925-376-3313) or branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).



SIR 146 Luncheon

February 13, 2014

Salad

Classic Caesar Salad

Hearts of Romaine, Parmesan Cheese and Croutons

Entrees

Pan Seared Breast of Chicken

Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Mushroom Sauce

Or

Mango Glazed Baked Salmon

Steamed Jasmine Rice, Sautéed Vegetables
Ginger Butter Sauce

Dessert

Vanilla Cheese Cake

Chantilly Cream and Berries

Henny Youngman Joke

Nurse: "Doctor, the man you just gave a clean bill of health to dropped dead right as he was leaving the office".

Doctor: "Turn him around, make it look like he was walking in."

Poker Club 5

Bill Roberts

Bill Roberts hosted the group January 8. Perhaps the highlight of the night was being treated to homemade lasagna made from fresh noodles and a great salad, bread and dessert. **Charlie**



Koeber, **Skip Thomas**, **Bob Spellman** and **Bill Roberts** were the winners, and **Terry Marchione**, **Frank Rockwell** and **Doug Eisner** ended up a little under water. **Koeber** proved once again that luck is much more important than skill by getting five of a kind five times. A good time was had by all.



Note from the Editor

We're looking for a Branch 146 member who would like to try his hand at the job of SIR Call Co-editor (in-training). Requirements are a computer and a publishing program such as **Pages** or **Microsoft Publisher**. I will work with the candidate for as long as it takes to get up to speed to share the job of editor.

Jeff Baily SIR Call Editor

Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner started another year at the January SIR Luncheon. The support and participation by our members has been overwhelming. Several ladies at the December luncheon were hoping the Book Corner would have been open. I let them know that the Corner will be open at the May Luncheon. With the cold weather in the area a great activity is reading a book by a warm fire. The Book Corner is open in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.



Sunshine

John Pearl



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

Rudberg, Chuck Bobincez, Elmer Kaprielian, Bob Van Luchene, Don Del Bene, George Trabert, John Demos, Doug Cook. Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call might make his day.

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Rollie Nordeen, Bob Burley and **Lo McCarley** enjoy some camaraderie prior to the January luncheon

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The SIR Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was delightfully hosted by **Jim & Ruth Adams** on Jan.14. The lucky winners were **Dick & Christy DeVoe** with 24.5

pts. "Lucky" is the operative word because the first-placers had no reason to believe they had won based on their play. **Dave & Joan Pierce** took 2nd with 24 pts., and **Bob & Janet Yolland** placed 3rd with 21.5 pts. It was generally conceded that no one brought their "A" game.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jeff Baily, Russ Anderson and **Jim Stedman** having a good laugh at the January Branch 146 luncheon.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Our Poker Group # 6 met at **Norm Baietti's** home in Walnut Creek. Members playing were **Norm Baietti, Brad Hatcher, Bob Larson, John Gray, Frank Lucas** and leader **Al Twyford**. **Norm** provided good snacks and red wine from LedgeWood Creek winery in Suisun Valley, Vacaville. **Norm** works there on Friday and Saturday each week, and I am sure he would welcome fellow SIR 146 members to sample there great wines on any Friday or Saturday. The big winner for this game were **Frank** (bring money) **Lucas** and **Brad Hatcher**. Our next Poker Group game is scheduled for Wednesday Feb.12th at 12:30 PM at **Sid Landman's** home in Clayton.

Our new group seems to enjoy the games and fellow players. It was a fun afternoon!

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac Users usually meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. Please note that in April we will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month because the room is not available on the 1st Monday.

We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

If you have or may have an interest please contact Max or me and we will put you our mailing list. If



you are on the list, you will receive an email from us, from time to time and we will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users.

Verner Laursen and Max Burchett



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invites all Sirs and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 20th at 9:30 AM.

The presentation topic for our February meeting will be "Finance Management and the Internet." There are several ways you can now manage, invest and spend your money on the Internet. Four presenters, **Phil Goff, Dick Kaufman, Bob Testa** and **Dennis Lowe**, will cover subtopics such as: 1) Internet Money (Bitcoin), 2) Paying Bills Online, 3) Buying Things on the Internet, and 4) Personal Finance Software & Apps. Copies of their presentations will be posted on the Area 2 computer group web site at <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/> before the meeting for you to download.

Time permitting, **Dick Curry** will lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues. Please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always, there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Mar 21, 2014: SIR Day at the Races.

The horses are running at Golden Gate Field and the race track dedicates March 21st to the Sons in Retirement. It's a very popular day trip as well as a good value. The cost of \$29 includes admission, reserve parking, daily program, great buffet lunch, tax and tips. Put your group together and join your fellow Sirs for a fun day at the races. Who knows? You might even win some money.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.

May 13, 2014: Hidden Gems of the

Dalmatian Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle Program Director.

Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian

Coastal Voyage. 14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a superior first class hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with Program Manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. This trip will sell out fast.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.



Barbara & Jim Stedman

attending Couples Dining Out at the Blackhawk Grille

Cooking II

Bob Yolland



Cooking II had a great lunch at the home of **Bill and Barbara Roberts** on Monday January 13th.

Bill started us off with an artichoke frittata plus fontina cheese and crackers. The entree was a chicken breast in a wine sauce with mushrooms and green onions, accompanied by fresh linguini pasta and julienne carrots. The flavors were great for this poulet vin blanc.

Our dessert was a fabulous cream cheese, lemon and vanilla crepe with an apricot sauce. Thanks **Bill** for the excellent lunch. As usual we also had a variety of good wines to precede and go with the meal. This month we had a guest **Steve Dawkins** and were most pleased to have **John Demos**, who has been ill, come to the event.

Our next lunch will be at **Ken and Elaine Richter's**, Monday February 10th.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Looks like **John Pearl** and **John Boyan** may have found the wine cellar at the January CDO outing.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor **Jeff Baily**

Proofreaders **Dick DeVoe** and **Cal Tucker**

Assistant Editor **Rich Ahlf**

Labeling & Mailing **Bill Cammerer**

Internet Posting **Jack Hockel**

Hiking

Rich Ahlf



On Friday Jan 10, we had our first hike. Ten people showed up including wives and two new members. It was an easy hike on Mt Diablo that I thought would take about two hours. We did it in one and half. I think our group is in a little better shape than I originally thought. On Feb 14, we will be hiking Round Valley Regional Preserve about 11 miles from Clayton off Marsh Creek Road. This hike's Difficulty rating is EASY. I just finished this hike today and it took two and a half hours including a half hour lunch break at the summit. It will be about a five mile hike and we should take about three hours to do it. I would like to start about 9:00am. Anyone wishing to carpool should meet at the Clayton Library about 8:30am. See you there. Rain Cancels/Spouses welcome
 Rich Ahlf 925-550-4967
 Sir146hiking@gmail.com

Ladies only please

How many men does it take to change a roll of toilet paper? We don't know ... it's never happened.

Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah



Our Branch 146 monthly luncheon was held on Thursday 9 January, the usual venue of the Boundary Oak Golf Club in Walnut Creek. About 200 people attended including 8 guests and two new members. The speaker was Scott Hein of the Save Mount Diablo project who gave a very informative presentation about the famous mountain and the ongoing land acquisition for conservation purposes. The next luncheon will be at the same venue and will be held on 13 February 2014. A reminder about the luncheon will be sent on the 3rd of February. Deadline for notification of non-attendance is noon of Friday 7 February.

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday, usually at 6:30 pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those

favorably reviewed in the media. Come join us in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests.

KATY'S KREEK

Sir **Jack Hockel** has made arrangements for a reserved area (6:30PM) and separate checks at this popular casual dining spot across from Dean Leshner Performing Art Center. The restaurant is built on the formula of excellent food, service, decor and fair pricing, blended with the Icelandic owner/chef's personality. Fish, pasta and meat dishes along with a full bar are featured.

Location: 1680 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, CA Web Site: www.katyskreek.com

Phone: 925-946-0949

Please let me know by Tuesday, February 18 that you will join us.

Your recommendations for restaurants you would like us to visit, are welcomed.

Mal

No dictionary has ever been able to define the difference between "complete" and "finished."

However, at a linguistic conference, held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the winner...

His final challenge was this; Some say there is no difference between "complete" and "finished." Please explain the difference in a way that is easy to understand.

His response was:

When you marry the right woman, you are "complete."

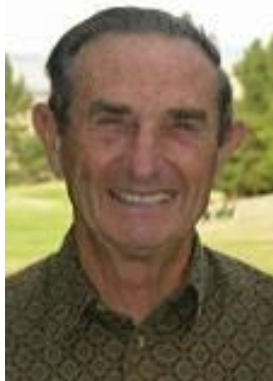
If you marry the wrong woman, you are "finished" and when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are "completely finished."

His answer received a five-minute standing ovation.

Poker 2

Al Zamolo

Poker 2 group met at **Ken Kratz's** home on Monday, December 30th. **Doug Cook** had so many chips that they would not fit on his rack. **Al Zamolo** and **Jim Brown** were the contributors to **Doug's** winnings. Our next meeting will be hosted by **Bob Royster** on Monday, January 27th.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted the year's first event. For the new year they broke open new decks of cards, but the cards were still in winter hibernation and ran cold much of the night. Despite that, **John and Linda Boyan** (2440) edged **Terry and Sharon Marchione** for 3rd place, **Doug and Patti Eisner** were second (3500), and **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were first (3840). Cold cards, but a warm and very congenial bunch of friends had a fine evening, topped off by **Joan's** delicious carrot cake.



Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

We had a good turnout to our first photographic meeting. We covered the basic of photo composition, "Subject & Background", "Scenic Balance", "shooting from an appropriate point of view", and "keeping the content simple in each photo to convey the message". We also had almost everyone attending bring photos to share with the group which then became the subject of interactive discussion. We had intended to cover other subjects but ran out of time. The agenda for next meeting will cover how to download files to Costco and check the correct web boxes to lock in our camera setting and prevent Costco



from making adjustments to our borders, color saturation, and brightness. We also will discuss downloading our photos from our phones and making adjustment to them before printing. I appreciate the enthusiasm and input that everyone brought to the meeting and look forward to our next outing on February 21st.

Richard Hockenbrock

Henny Youngman Joke

A man calls a lawyer's office. The phone is answered, "Schwartz, Schwartz, Schwartz and Schwartz." The man says, "Let me talk to Mr. Schwartz." "I'm sorry, he's on vacation." "Then let me talk to Mr. Schwartz." "He's on a big case, not available for a week." "Then let me talk to Mr. Schwartz." "He's playing golf today." "Okay, then, let me talk to Mr. Schwartz." "Speaking."

Genealogy

Verner Laursen



The genealogy group meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. We start at 1:30 and go for about 2 hours.

We have assistance from the staff at the Family History Center. At this Center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking.

We are here to help beginners and those who have some or a lot of information about their family. You do need access to a computer to enter your information. If you are beginner we will help you avoid our mistakes.

We have not met for a couple of months and we will be starting again in January. We will be looking at the changes that Congress has made in our access to the Social Security death index and looking to answer your questions.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists.

Verner Laursen

vlaursen@astound.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron Plachy and Pete Gates chatting as Bill Snyder checks the Book Corner

Niners Golf Group

Vern 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 go to the SIR luncheon and on Thanksgiving when we know better than to play golf.

If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday 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. The lunch most of the time is better than our golf game.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

New luncheon attendance chair, **Baha Zarah** (L) May be getting some words of wisdom from former luncheon attendance chair **Bob Mehus**?

Area 2 Sums Investment Group

Allen Espenmiller, George Schulze, Leary Wong

The Area 2 Sums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday February 26, 2014. Time - 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker will be Elisabeth Andreason, a Senior Vice President of the Andreason Group at Morgan Stanley in Walnut Creek. Elisabeth is a Certified Financial Planner and Certified Wealth Strategist. It is said that Elisabeth speaks in a soft voice with the clarity of a former English teacher and the precision of a mathematician. Her topic "An Introduction to Covered Call Writing – The Potential to Generate Income on your Equity Portfolio". Her 10 point presentation will discuss: What is a Covered Write? Why Consider a Covered Call Strategy? Risks and Considerations and who should Consider Covered Call Strategy as part of the presentation. You are sure to enjoy this presentation.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 AM so plan to have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective Sir.

Co-Chairmen: Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) [925-376-3977](tel:925-376-3977) George Schulze (Br-8) [925-429-1756](tel:925-429-1756) Leary Wong (Br-8) [925-457-0807](tel:925-457-0807)



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ken Kratz and Jim Brown all smiles at the January Luncheon

Investment advice... Buy low, wait for it to go up, then sell. If it doesn't go up, don't buy.

Will Rogers

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed one of their most successful events this last January 15, when we dined at the Blackhawk Grille at the Blackhawk Plaza in Danville. We had a record number of 48 diners, and were able to take advantage of the beautiful view of cascading waterfalls outside the full-length windows of the private Oak Room while partaking of a truly exceptional menu. After our cocktail hour in the wood paneled bar, we started our dinner with a choice of chickpea and bacon soup and the seasonal salad greens, followed by a choice of the Tavern steak, penne jambalaya, and chicken piccata. The desserts could be chosen from a tray of yummy selections while we enjoyed coffee, tea and pleasant conversations with our fellow Sirs and their spouses. We were pleased to have a number of new diners, and urge all of our membership to try this activity, if you have not already done so at our next event, which will be in March. We will be reviewing some of the excellent suggestions that were made for our next dinner, we are looking at a date of March 25, depending on restaurant availability.



Walkers

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am
at various locales.
Call **John** or just show up.
Rain cancels any walk.

February walks by **Mal Hendry**



FEB 7 LAFAYETTE RIDGE TRAIL LAFAYETTE

MEET: Briones staging area on west side of Pleasant Hill Rd., south of Spring Hill Rd.
WALK: Up and down zig zag trail.
COFFEE: Rising Loafer, Lafayette

FEB 14 DONALD DRIVE WALK ORINDA

MEET: Hwy 24 to Orinda, south on Moraga Way to Hall Dr., left to Donald Drive.
WALK: Length of Donald Drive
COFFEE: Terzette's Cuisine, Moraga

FEB 21 DANVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM DANVILLE

MEET: Railroad Museum pkg. lot
WALK: North on trail from pkg. lot
COFFEE: Pascal French Oven, Danville

FEB 28 BANCROFT CANAL WALK EAST WALNUT CREEK

MEET: Bancroft pkg. lot near Panera Bread
WALK: East on Contra Costa Trail.
COFFEE: Panera Bread, Walnut Creek

*Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?
A: "Put it on my bill."*

Dick DeVoe

*Because I'm a guy and this is, after all, the 90's, I will share equally in the housework.
You do the laundry, the cooking, the cleaning, and the dishes. I'll do the rest.*

Dick DeVoe

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Helene and Al Twyford having a great time at the Blackhawk Grille in Danville



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron Plachy and Chuck Eichten look on as Dan O'Sullivan shows off his new high tech gadget

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Cindy and Tony Greco



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Julia and Colin Holland



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Al and Diane Munayer



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joanne and Dale Haukland



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sandy and Bill Hansen



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John and Nancy Pearl



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joanne and new member Gayl Thorne

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Susan and Bruce Borgman



Photo by Bill Schultz

Figuring out the winner (and Losers). Duplicate Bridge II LtoR **Jim Brown, Dick DeVoe, Bob Yolland**

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Dick DeVoe** on Jan. 10, with players beginning the New Year in tight competition. Any thoughts about ruling dynasties were dashed by the winners from last month finding no traction. **Dave Pierce** was 1st with 30 points, scoring more top boards than anyone else. **Max Hinkle** was 2nd with 29 pts., **Dave Steinberg** 3rd with 27.5 pts., and **Jim Brown** 4th with 26 pts. Many opportunities were taken by only 1 of 3 partnerships for game/slam boards. Opportunities taken (no. partnerships): Bd. 1: 4H+4(1). Bd. 5: 3N+3(3). Bd. 7: 6N+6(1). Bd. 8: 3N+3(1). Bd. 13: 6D+6(1). Bd. 18: 4S+4(1). Bd. 20: 3N+4(1). Bd. 21: 3N+4(1). Bd. 24: 3N+5(1).



Also of particular interest are the many opportunities missed by all partnerships for game or slam. Opportunities missed: Bd. 2: N+6. Bd. 6: 2S+4, 3S+5. Bd. 14: 1N+3. Bd. 15: 2N+3. Bd. 16: 3N+6. Bd. 17: 1S+4, 2S+4. Bd. 18: 2H+5. We're bound to do better next time...



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Roberts (center) chatting with **Paul Dubow** and **Dale Lindholm**.

Henny Youngman

A guy complains of a headache. Another guy says, "Do what I do. I put my head on my wife's bosom, and the headache goes away." The next day, the man says, "Did you do what I told you to?" "Yes, I sure did. By the way, you have a nice house!"



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact Fred Bolton for details. Bring a lunch.

We played four tables on January 6th at **Bill Rees's** home. **Jim Jackson** was clearly the winner. Beyond that I lost the record.

Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner



The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 fielded 4 tables and played 24 hands of bridge at **Bill Rees's** home on Jan 20. **Jim Jackson** started off strong by storming into 1st place at the lunch break and finished the day even stronger as his 45.0 pts swept away all pretenders for 1st place. **Jim Todhunter**, whose 41.0 pts just edged out **Rich Ahlf's** 40.5 and earned 2nd place. The 4th position was taken by **Bob Yolland** with 38.5 pts. Our next game is scheduled for Feb 17 at **Fred Kovar's** home.

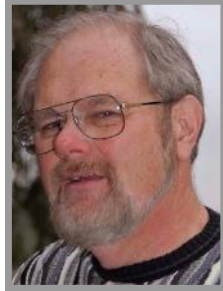


Photo by Bill Schultz

Lunch break for Duplicate Bridge II group LtoR **John Boyan, Max Hinkle, Bob Yolland, David Steinberg**



Theatre Gary Schaub



Yes, there really are “Real Housewives” in Walnut Creek and they’re coming to the Leshner Center in April. SIR 146 members and guests can have a ringside seat for the fun!

The next SIR Theatre Party is Friday, April 25 at 8:15 p.m. in Leshner Center’s intimate Stage 3 Theatre. A limited number of reserved seats has been set aside for SIR members and guests. Reservations can be accepted until March 18 or until our allocation has been exhausted.

Produced by Center Repertory Company, *The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek: The Musical* is inspired by one of America’s favorite TV series. The stage musical provides all the fun, nastiness and cat-fights made famous by the popular tv series. You’ll meet Lula, Penny, Joanne, Beezus and Babette as they tape their reunion special before a studio audience. You’ve heard of the *Housewives* of Atlanta, Orange County and New Jersey. Now the housewives have come home to the East Bay. The local version is a world premiere, written by and starring Molly Bell who co-wrote and starred in 2011’s popular *Becoming Britney*. In *The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek*, she exposes the world of reality television set to an original musical score.

The group [rate] for tickets is \$30.00 each (Payable to SIR 146), and can be reserved through Sir Gary Schaub, 1758 Candelero Ct, Walnut Creek 94598. An early response is suggested. Any questions? Call Gary at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of the Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. on April 25. Parking is available in the city garage next to the Center.



If you were one of the lucky winners of the tree we had as a centerpiece for the Christmas Luncheon you have what is known as a Lawson False Cypress. This tree is hardy, has a conical upright form and is a slow grower. It never gets over 10 feet and can be grown along borders or as a specimen tree in a garden. It likes full sun, moist well drained soil and involves minimum care. I have one and will give it a try, even though full sun is a problem in my yard.

It has been a tough year for frost sensitive plants. If they have dead looking leaves etc. let them be until early spring. Don't be in a hurry to cut them back as what is left of the plant still gives them further protection from cold weather. Also don't give up on your plants. Some may surprise you and come back. I have a Lantana that always looks like a goner, but around April it rewards me with green shoots. Hang in there and have faith in Mother Nature.

Our next meeting will be at 9:30am on Thursday Feb. 27 at the Library on Oak Grove Road.

*Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?
A: Because he wasn't a chicken.*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joe and Josie Barry attending the Couples Dining Out event at the Blackhawk Grille in Danville.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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