

## WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon— Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker  
Dr. Carolyn Lacey  
Cardiologist - John Muir Health & others  
Topic: Update on Cardiovascular Disease and  
recent changes in Therapy

Gathering time: 11:00 am  
Seating time: 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?  
Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)  
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146  
By Noon Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Devil Mountain Chorus performing at the Ladies Day Luncheon

## Big Sir's Notes

Bruce Borgman

I start this year as Big Sir with much optimism and appreciation for the good team we have in place for 2018. I want to thank **Alan Elnick** for his year of service to our branch as last year's Big Sir – **Alan** will continue to serve

on the Nominating Committee.

We start the year in great shape as a branch thanks to a strong financial status and solid membership statistics along with the many and varied activities. As you know, we decided to reduce the annual dues from \$18 to \$15. While this may not seem like a lot, it is a pretty big change in percentage terms – and, it will allow us to reduce our branch's bank balance to a level that does not require the SIR state organization to submit long detailed forms to the State of California and the IRS. In addition, with the present budget balance, we are able to fund a breakfast meeting for all the activity chairs – not only as a recognition for the work that our chairs put into the activities, but also allows us to share best practices and new ideas. I want to express my appreciation to **Jerry Kaplan**, who advocated for the breakfast meeting and who is always looking to add to and improve the activities that we offer to our membership. Also, **Richard Hockenbrock** as editor has done an amazing job in maintaining and improving our newsletter, the Sir Call; the many pictures make our newsletter one of the best in the state!

While we're at, I also want to thank **Steve Ybarra** and the late **Steve Dawkins** who chaired our December Ladies Day Gala. We had a wonderful luncheon with our spouses and significant others and enjoyed a particularly fine entertainment group with the Devil Mountain Chorus, which included our own **Corrie Oranje** and **Frank Lucas**.

As we embark on 2018, I would urge all of you to look around at your friends and neighbors and see if there are not some in your acquaintance who would benefit from the camaraderie of our group and would contribute

to the membership. Invite these individuals to a luncheon – now at no cost (!) – and encourage them to consider joining us. Finally, as we consider all of our many activities, I encourage you to contemplate pitching in and help lead some them. Activities don't just happen, as you know, and many hands make the work light. We would like to have chairs, and assistant chairs for each of the activities and will be looking to our membership to assist with the organizing and coordinating the numerous fun activities!

I wish all of you a wonderful New Year!

# SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.



## Little Sir's Corner

**Jonathan Korfhage**

I am beginning my term as Little SIR, so I thought I should see what that exalted title means to me. I understand the 'Son' title probably means 'a male who has not grown up yet'; the word 'Little' could reflect on me as 'scant', 'limited', 'stunted', or perhaps 'sparse'. Time will tell.

Happy New Year! This is an exciting time to be alive! Here are six suggested 2018 New Year SIR Resolutions for you:

1. Come to the SIR luncheon each month
2. Join in the fun of our 45 SIR activities
3. Meet at least 10 SIR new-to-you members
4. Bring a guest/potential new member to our luncheon
5. If you must miss a luncheon, be sure to email [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) to excuse yourself; we order a lunch for you unless you let us know! Someone needs to pay for the meal!
6. Be of good health and spirit!

As you probably know, our annual dues [\$15] are now due. If you haven't done so already, you should also consider paying in advance for your luncheons this year at a great savings: ten months for only \$208 – a savings of \$52.

I am excited about the speakers that will join us this year on a wide variety of scintillating topics. Our luncheon speaker for January 11<sup>th</sup> will be Dr. Carolyn Lacey, a Cardiologist in Walnut Creek. She is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area including John Muir Medical Centers in Walnut Creek and Concord. She received her medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. Her topic will be an update on cardiovascular disease and recent changes in therapy.

Here is a timely quote from Steve Jobs: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition".



## Membership

**Dave Pierce**

We have lost four more members, bringing active membership to 289, four more than a year ago. Potential Sponsors: [Please remember that in 2018, the first guest lunch is on us, if a guest is truly interested in learning about us.] Each year, two sponsors will win a free lunch.

### 2018 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir .....	<b>Bruce Borgman</b>
Little Sir .....	<b>Jonathan Korfhage</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>Steve Ybarra</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Joe Stengel</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Dave Pierce</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Bill Schultz</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Cal Tucker</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Bob Mehus</b>
Director(1 <sup>st</sup> Term) .....	<b>Pierre Mebane</b>
Director(1 <sup>st</sup> Term) .....	<b>Tony Greco</b>

### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Bill Schultz</b>
Activities .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Pierre Mebane</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Bob Mehus</b>

Refer to branch directory, accessible under members only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses.

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Assistant Editors	<b>Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Cal Tucker, Jonathan Korfhage, Pat Lucia, and Jim Barry</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>



Outgoing Big Sir **Alan Elnick** receiving a Past Big Sir Appreciation Award from the state organization presented by incoming Big Sir **Bruce Borgman** at the gala Ladies Day Luncheon



### Sunshine

**Calvin Tucker**

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

- ◆ **Jim Bogue**
- ◆ **Ken Donnelly**
- ◆ **Larry Mitchell**
- ◆ **Carl Pagter**
- ◆ **Jim Saavedra**

We remember with sadness the death of **Bob Walton** on August 10<sup>th</sup>, **Steve Olsen** on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and **Steve Dawkins** on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Cal Tucker**, Sunshine Chair  
phone: (925) 389 6070

Email: [calvinctucker@gmail.com](mailto:calvinctucker@gmail.com)

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.

A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

- Bill Vaughan



# THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 Luncheon**  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

~Salad Course~

### **Cabbage Salad**

Napa Cabbage, Garbanzo Beans, Green Beans, Carrots, Red Bell Peppers, Toasted Almonds  
Spicy Cumin Cilantro Dressing

~Entrees~

### **Jerk Chicken**

Garlic Mashed Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Orange Glaze & Pineapple Salsa  
Or

### **Mango Glazed Baked Salmon**

Steamed Jasmine Rice, Seasonal Vegetables,  
Ginger Butter Sauce

~Dessert~

### **Red Velvet Cake**

Cream cheese Frosting, Chantilly Cream,  
Raspberry Sauce

### **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**

We hope that all of you are enjoying time with family and friends during the holiday season. It is truly “the most wonderful time of the year” as tidings of great joy and wishes for peace on earth prevail even if reality does not always reflect what we wish it to be.

Our November dinner at Massimo’s in Walnut Creek turned out to be a festive end of the year event for our activity. The restaurant provided a private dining room and wonderful menu. We actually reached our capacity and then some as we enjoyed the dinner with our SIR friends.

Since we found out that returning to this restaurant was a good idea, rather than trying to find new places all the time, we decided to repeat that practice and for January we explored going back to a restaurant we enjoyed in 2016 – Faz in Danville. The restaurant is able to provide a separate area for our social hour and a private dining area for the dinner – the perfect combination. We are able to accommodate 56 diners and as of this writing we are up to about 50 so if you would like to join us, email **Bruce** at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) soon. Total cost including tax and tip is just \$47 per person.

The dinner menu will include a starter of focaccia with olive oil, then a Greek salad, followed by a choice of Pomegranate Chicken, Sicilian style Pot Roast, or a house-made Wild Mushroom Ravioli. Dessert will be NY style cheesecake. We had a great time here in 2016 and, no doubt, will have a wonderful dinner again. We encourage new members to come join us. It is a good time to get to know your fellow Sirs and their spouses!

Faz restaurant is located at 600 Hartz Ave in Danville and it has good parking facilities – just plan enough time to battle the traffic going south on 680! We will get more adventuresome in the coming months with some of the new restaurants in the area – but this January you can enjoy this dining experience! See you there!



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

ATTENTION WALKERS, BIRD WATCHERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND OF COURSE, HIKERS

On Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am we will be meeting at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Our hiking group usually starts the year with some easy walks / hikes and they gradually get a little tougher. So if your resolution is to get in shape join us. We intend to do some hiking on the Bay trail (which is completely flat) to start the year.

After visiting the center, walk along the Bay Trail and see the many types of shore birds. There are over 200 species in the area. I have a couple of pictures of a pelican in flight and a cooper’s hawk. One can still see windmills scattered about, they were once used to pump and funnel water between ponds to aid in evaporation for salt harvesting. There are also great views of the bay.

There are plenty of restaurants nearby in Hayward and San Leandro Marina for lunch if anybody is interested.

Directions: The Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave. Hayward CA 94545. Take HI-way 13 to 580 south onto Hwy 92 west toward the San Mateo Bridge. Take exit 24 for Clawiter Rd toward Eden Landing Rd . Go straight through the light (Do not turn onto Clawiter) Remember Clawiter Road is the last exit before going over the San Mateo Bridge, Make the first left on Breakwater Avenue  
Go all the way to the end of the street, parallel to the Freeway.

Spouses / Significant Other — Always Welcome

E-mail [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Cell (925) 550-4967

Rain Cancels

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## THE SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility  
to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do,  
and the eyesight to tell the difference.

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Dear God, my prayer for 2018 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.



## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

This month we concentrated on trout fishing, mostly at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir because San Pablo Reservoir is on its annual three month hiatus. Branch 146 members **Pete Gates, Paul Dubow, Lee Clark,**

and **Brion Beetz** all participated along with **Carl Moyer, Bob Hillaker, Phil Scimonelli, and Ray Pixton.** We had some good days and some bad days but we were usually able to top the trip off with brunch at Jim’s Country Restaurant.

Out on the Delta, **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 and **Tom Kostik** caught some keeper stripers and the latter caught and released stripers and black bass on another trip. **Joe Miscione** had a thrill when he caught a sturgeon that was actually too big to keep and had to be released.

**Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 joined **Pedro Contreras** on an outing in the ocean and came back with crabs and rockfish. **Ken Konzak** headed north to fly fish for steelhead and caught and released several of these excellent fighters.

We finished the year with our annual holiday dinner at Zio Fraedo’s that was attended by 55 members and their spouses or significant others.

We are looking forward to a good year in 2018. We have outings planned for rainbow trout, sturgeon, stripers, salmon, rockfish, ling cod, cutthroat trout, kokanee, and mackinaw through the year. If you want to take part, feel free to join us at our next meeting on February 22 at the Legends Bar and Grill, 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 further information, contact branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photo by Tom Kostik

**Tom Boltz** shows his 23 inch striper that he caught in the Delta

What did the buccaneer say on his 80th birthday?  
...aye matey!

Snacks were consumed, money changed hands, and all went home happy!

### DECEMBER’S REPORT

Five people met at the home of **Barney Meade** on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, for our monthly cribbage match. Bill Meade, one of **Barney’s** son’s filled in as our “sixth man.” An unknown benefactor made a donation of \$10 to the usual cash pot.

First place went to the Chair, **John Pearl, Kirk McVean** of Branch 116 and frequent guest took second place money, while **Jim Stedman** got third place \$\$\$\$. Due to the size of the pot, everyone went home with money (and happy).



## Cribbage

**John Pearl**

### NOVEMBER’S REPORT

Eight people met at the home of **John Pearl** on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, for our monthly cribbage match. We had a lively time, with abundant “trash talking,”

as well as exchanging the usual pleasantries.

First place went to Co-Chair **Ron Afdal**, Area 2 “Big Fish” **Paul Debow** came in second, while **Kirk McVean**, member of Branch 116 and frequent guest, took third place money.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

**Carl Tilchen**

Our next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The address is 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D, near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor and walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all players of 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 I am glad to lead this group. **Alan Elnick** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



## Pickleball

**Jim Burk**

*Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per player per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach. There is also instruction available on Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm and from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. The cost of the instruction is \$10 per player, plus the \$5 drop-in fee referenced above. A player would be allowed to play until 4:00 pm, space permitting, before or following their one hour of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (8 players per hour of instruction is available).*

*Call or email [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net) to learn more about the game and/or information about the facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.*

**Jim Burk**

(925) 946-1192

[jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)



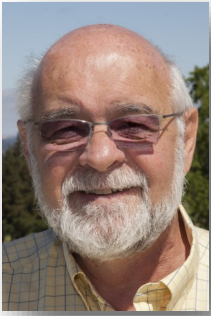
Photo by Bill Schultz

**Bill Schultz, John Hammond, Paul Masta, and Corrie Oranje**



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Gale Thorne, Jim Burke, Gary Brown, and Joe Barry**



## Luncheon Chairman

**Rob Melrose**

January 11<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

- Cost: \$26
- Preferred payment method is a check
- Opt Out Deadline: Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon
- Email:  
[NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)
- If you need to call: (925) 979-5146

If you are bringing a guest: please notify Lunch Chair with guest's name at [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)

Special Requests: If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can't consume a meal, please send email to [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)

Annual Payers: Since we have lowered the price, we really need for you to let us know before the deadline, if you are not coming. This will help keep the price lowered next year as well as allow the kitchen to avoid wasting food.



## Walking Group

**Frank Ascatigno**

*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.*

*Call **Frank** for current walk.*

*Rain cancels any walk.*

*Ladies Welcome*

*Tel: (925) 429-2232*



## Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /  
Jeff Morrow**

*We meet at Rocco's Pizzeria on the first Wednesday of*

*each month at 11 am and play until approximately 2 pm. Lunch is included as a standard part of the event. If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.*

*If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group. We hope to see you there.*



**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

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

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

**Jerry Kaplan**

The Group One players take a break in December, but are ready to go full speed ahead in 2018. The last year was a fun one with a few newer individuals and couples playing as substitutes. These include

Sir **John (Moose) Kelly**, Sir **Jim Barry** and his wife, **Joyce Wells**, and Sir **Chuck Denney** and his wife **Mary**.

We all miss **Barbara Stedman**, Sir **Jim's** wife, who passed away this fall; **Barbara** had played with our group since it first started in the summer of 2014.

Group One is always looking for other Sirs who may be interested in playing occasionally when a regular is not available. Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play and easy to learn. Several individuals who had never played before have come to our Game Night and after just one open hand, were right in the midst of the fun. Please contact **Jerry** if you may want to join a fun night out! Single Sirs as well as a SIR member and his Significant Other are always welcome.

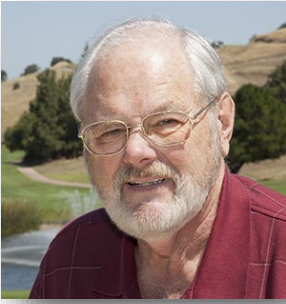
**Jerry Kaplan**

(925) 930-7076

[mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com)



**Sal Costanza, Joe Fuchs, Ray Spears, Terry Marchione, Jim Browning.** Terry Marchione was a former SIR Branch 146 member and Big Sir in 2013. He now lives in Tucson and stopped in so say hello to his old golfing buddies



## Theatre Gary Schaub

With timeless songs like “Maria” and “Tonight,” the Contra Costa Musical Theater production of *WEST SIDE STORY* at the Leshar Center for the Arts promises to be one of the most popular stage productions of the season.



The Broadway musical by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim is the SIR 146 Theater Party event on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Curtain time is 8:00 pm.

A limited number of reduced-price tickets have been set aside for SIR members and guests. Seats are \$43.00 per person, and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR 146 and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. (925) 938-5454.

## POPULAR BROADWAY MUSICAL WILL BE SIR 146 THEATER PARTY IN APRIL

At this busy time of the year, April may seem like a far off date, but it would be wise to reserve your seats now. Deadline for ordering is March 1<sup>st</sup>, or until our discounted allotment is committed.

*West Side Story* opened on Broadway in 1957 and walked away with countless awards, including Best Musical and five other Tony nominations. It was later turned into an extremely popular film where it received

eleven Academy Award nominations including Best Picture. With a story of the Jets vs the Sharks, *West Side Story* was inspired by Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, and features not only inspiring songs, but also exciting dance.

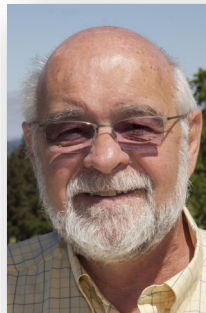
Tickets for *West Side Story* will be distributed at the lower lobby of the Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Parking is available on the street or in the City garage adjacent to Leshar Center.

### Gary F. Schaub

1400 Canyonwood Ct, #8  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

[\(925\) 938-5454](tel:9259385454)

[gschaub1@gmail.com](mailto:gschaub1@gmail.com)



## Wine Tasting

### Rob Melrose

Our next Wine Tasting Event is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Once again **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** have volunteered to open their lovely home to the group. As we get closer, I’ll let you know what wines our host and hostess have decided we will be tasting. One of the perks of hosting is, you get to select the region.

Last year, all our events were hosted by first timers (**Hockenbrock, Lucido** and **Stengel**). I am hoping we can continue with new people hosting in 2018. The other events will be on April 25<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and October 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in hosting one of the events, please let me know. If you think you might be interested but are terrified, ask past hosts; we try to make hosting easy for you. If you have limited space, we can limit the number of attendees.



“Very good! Now let’s try it from back there.”





## Activities Coordinator

**Jerry Kaplan**

Hope it's been a fun year for all Branch 146 members who have been able to participate in one or more activities. As you all know, we now have close to 50 different group activities, with 29 of the 46 activities available to spouses and significant others. If you haven't found an activity that you like, or you are on a substitute list and want to play poker or bridge or Mexican Train Dominoes on a more regular basis, let me know and I can help get another group going. I can also assist in starting up a brand new activity that may be attractive to others in the branch.

### **A special word to Activity Chairs:**

Congratulations to all the current and recent Activity Chairs for helping keep the almost 300 members of our branch happy and involved in "things to do." The Mission of the SIR organization is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job in implementing this mission!

As a Thank You for your efforts, the branch will be hosting a breakfast meeting for all chairs sometime in the spring (date to be determined). The Activity Chairs will be able to get together to discuss their thoughts and exchange ideas about how their activity is working, make suggestions for possible improvements (if needed), and have a general discussion about insurance issues, possible need for a backup chair, etc.

I will be contacting each of you as a firm date is established. I will provide a possible agenda and ask if you have some suggestions that could be incorporated into the discussion.

Branch 8 has been holding these breakfast meetings for their Activity Chairs for over a decade and everyone attending has appreciated that their branch is recognizing their contribution - as well as offering the opportunity to discuss ideas and issues that come up when chairing an activity.

**Jerry Kaplan**  
(925) 930-7076  
[mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com)

I refused to believe my road worker father was stealing from his job, but when I got home all the signs were there



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please bring any pictures on a thumb drive that you would like to share with the group.

I will review some of the camera advances made in 2017 with the major brands: Nikon, Sony, and Canon.

We will also show a half hour video from the National Geographic series *Fundamentals of Photography II* on a subject of interest to the gathered group.

Email: [rhock@pacbell.net](mailto:rhock@pacbell.net)

Cell: (925) 324-1713

### Next Meeting

**Where :** Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Road  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**Subject:** New camera technology advances

**When:** January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am—11:00 am



## Book Group

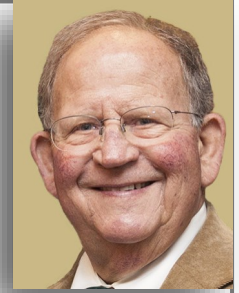
Our book for the month was *A Column of Fire* by Ken Follett. The book presents the major historical events that occurred during the reign of the English Queen Elizabeth I (some before and after) as might have been experienced by four fictionalized characters. The major theme of the book was the conflict between supporters of the Catholic Church and the proponents of the new protestant faith. The author skillfully paints life in the 1500 era as action moves from England to France/Spain and the Netherlands and then back to England. The story also shows how cruel the two sides were in punishing those who failed to support their own religious beliefs.

We found the book an easy but long read. However there was enough interest developed in the main characters to keep the reader's attention even though we knew the outcome of the historical events evolving in the story.

For our next book we selected *Win Bigly: Persuasion in a World Where Facts Don't Matter* by Scott Adams. We will meet at the Greenery Restaurant on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.



Henry Thatcher



Jim Pope

# Jelly Belly Tour

## Late February / Early March



We are planning an Explore & Eat Event for the first quarter 2018 in late February or early March at the Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield with a Tour. If you are interested in more information, check out the Jelly Belly website at <https://www.jellybelly.com/california-factory-tours>.

Here is a summary of some the information. Factory tours are *free* to the public, and offered daily.

- A self-guided walk along the elevated, ¼ mile long tour lane to give you a bird's-eye view of the entire operation.
- Tours allow you to explore the view at your own pace, enjoying the all-new look at our candy making.
- Plus there are individual Jelly Belly guides along the tour lane for additional information and guidance.
- Updated HD/4K quality videos to give you an up-close-and-personal look at our candy manufacturing.
- Interactive exhibits and games along the tour lane
- Free samples

For the Eat portion of the day, we will explore the culinary offerings in the near by City of Suisun. We will have more details on the Exploring (Tour) and the Eating in the February SIR CALL

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** (925) 997-5032 and **Jim Pope** (925) 699-6447

The Pope was really late for a meeting with George Bush because his flight was delayed. At the airport he caught a cab and told the driver to hurry up. The driver says "Sir, I can not go over the speed limit" so the Pope swaps seats with him putting himself at the wheel. He is driving really fast until pulled over by a cop. He rolls down the window and the cop is shocked. He reports on his radio that he has stopped a car with somebody really important in it. The headquarters ask "Is he as important as George Bush?" and the cop replies yes. Then the headquarters ask "Is he more important than George Bush?" and he replies "yes". Then the headquarters ask "Just how important is he?" and the cop replies "I'm not very sure but he is certainly important enough to have the Pope driving him around!"



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

**Jim Pope**

Fourteen members of the El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos Group met at the **Pope's** house to celebrate the Holidays, all wearing Santa Hats, and to remember those less fortunate.

Photo by Jim Pope



**Jim Pope, Rich Pace, Kin Pace, Renie Pope, Barbara Thatcher, Leslie Firth, Henry Thatcher, June Seaton, Dick Firth, Mariwyn McComb, Ron Louis, Darlo Boone, Don Seaton, and Fran Matthews (All wearing Santa Hats)**

We reveled around a bowl of champagne punch (above) and enjoyed snacks of meatballs, cheese and an assortment of cookies and candy all prepared by **Renie Pope**. In addition, everyone brought canned food and

Photo by Jim Pope



**Ron Louis, Renie Pope, Don Seaton, Leslie Firth, Henry Thatcher, Kim Pace, Barbara Thatcher, Mariwyn McComb, Darlo Boone, Dick Firth, Fran Matthews, June Seaton, Jim Pope and Rich Pace**

cereal, as we have done in the past, to be donated to Shelter Inc. (below left).

Then, after adequate time to celebrate, we got down to playing a little dominos. **Barbara Thatcher** and **Leslie Firth**, the two table winners with low scores, received a prize of 7 Scratcher tickets. (below)

**Renie & Jim Pope**

Photo by Jim Pope



Table Low Score Winners of 7 Scratchers:  
**Barbara Thatcher and Leslie Firth**





## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dick DeVoe**

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group played twelve times in 2017-3 months with 4 tables and 9 months with 3 tables.

### 2017 FINAL RESULTS

1st Place (Tie): **Tony Greco** and **Dave Pierce**. **Tony** also won 1st Place in 2016.

3rd Place: **Bob Yolland**, who also had a 2nd Place tie in 2016.

4th Place: **Dave Steinberg**.

### DECEMBER 2017 RESULTS

The December 1<sup>st</sup> event with four tables was warmly hosted by **Dick DeVoe**.

1st Place: **Brad Hatcher** with 46 pts.

2nd Place: **Dave Pierce** with 44pts.

3rd Place: **Jim Brown** with 43pts.

4th Place: **Ed Marlovits** with 42pts.

♦ Most Twos: **Brad Hatcher** had 8.

♦ Least Zeros: **Jim Brown** had "ZERO" zeros (!), the 1st time this has ever happened in our group (and perhaps in any of other groups).



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dave Pierce**

We welcomed back **Larry** and **Linda Brown** and **Larry's** new knee, when **Cindy** and **Tony Greco** hosted us on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Cindy's** colorful Christmas quilts delighted us even before play began, but once it did, **Tony** and **Cindy** demonstrated their card skills with a 59% game. Unabashed by the **Grecos'** home field advantage, **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** tied them for first place, while **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were third (55%). Then **Cindy** demonstrated her seasonal baking skills with a delicious pumpkin pie. We want to thank all the couples who subbed for us in 2017, especially **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni McLean**; you all helped make it possible to fill three tables and keep the event alive every month. Happy holidays and great cards to all in the new year.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

**Doug Eisner**

**Bill Rees** hosted three tables on December 18<sup>th</sup>. He was rewarded with a tie for 3rd place (53%) but had a 65% before lunch. Dishing up all those delicious desserts apparently cost him. **John Kluesener** was also

3rd, in his *first ever* duplicate game; way to go, **John**. **Mike Whitaker** put together two above average rounds for 2nd place (55%). His regular partner, **Bill Schultz** tied **Bill Rees** for 1st in the morning (65%) then hung on to win (58%). On Board 4, **Bill Rees** bid 6S making 6 but **Bill Schultz** and **Tony Greco** bid 6NT making 7. On Board 16, **Bill Rees** and **John Kluesener** bid and made 6D, as did **Rich Ahlf** and **Tony Greco**. That's two slams for **Tony** and **Bill Rees**.  
(Reported by **Dave Pierce**, 932-3877)



## Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Fred Bolton** on December 4<sup>th</sup>. First place went to **Jim Jackson** with 4840 points, second to **Doug Eisner** with 4420, and third to **Jim Stedman** with 4010. Our next game will be on January 1<sup>st</sup> at the home of **Jim Jackson**.

Photo by Bill Schultz



A big dinner or lavish gifts didn't deter these golfers from getting to the course the day after Christmas, **Walt Busenius, George Mon, Howard Zimmerman, and Lauren DeLaurenti**



## Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

**Dick and Christy DeVoe** hosted the December 5<sup>th</sup> event. Their holiday decorations, from outside lights to Christmas trees to Nutcrackers throughout the house, put us all in a

festive mood. The assortment of wines, beverages including hot cider, cheeses, guacamole dip and chocolate treats complimented the event. The evening was topped off with **Christy's** specialty, poppy seed Bundt cake with rainbow sherbet.

In spite of all these distractions, we were able to play some bridge as well. **Tony and Cindy Greco** came in 3rd Place with 3580 points. If **Tony** only took his own advice from last week to be brave and take advantage of slam opportunities, and bid a slam that was there for the taking! **Dick and Christy DeVoe** came in 2nd Place with 3730 points. Making a doubled game bid with overtricks significantly helped their point count. Bidding and making 3NT on the last hand of the evening against the **Greco**s didn't hurt either. **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** came in 1st Place with 4990 points. **Lynne Hatcher** DID take my advice from last week by taking control of two hands and bidding small slams that were made. Her bravery was rewarded with 1st Place plus the opportunity to host next month.

Next month's event will be held on January 2<sup>nd</sup> hosted by you know who, **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**, the slam-makers. I will be sending out timely emails identifying the available regular players and subs. Have a Happy and Bridgeful New Year!!

I would like to extend an open invitation to all SIR members with spouses/partners that have bridge experience, to call me if they'd like to be added to our sub list. Our event is half social and only mildly competitive.



## Men's Duplicate

### Bridge 3

**Sid Landman**

December 15<sup>th</sup> Duplicate Bridge 3 event with 3 tables was nicely hosted by **Mark Curtis**.

1st Place: **Tony Greco** with 33 pts., earned with a 1st half win and a 2nd half tie.

2nd Place: **Bob Yolland** with 31 pts., resulting from a 1st half 2nd Place and a 2nd half 3rd.

3rd Place: **Mark Curtis** with 28 pts., on the strength of a 1st half win.

- ♦ *Most Twos and Least Zeros*: **Tony Greco** had 12 twos and only 3 zeros.
- ♦ *Comeback Kid*: **Jim Pope** gained 9 pts. more in the 2nd half vs. 1st half.
- ♦ *Maximum Scores by Partners (6 pts. total for 3 boards)*: **Tony Greco / Bob Yolland** for Boards 1-3; **Bill Schultz / Mark Curtis** for Boards 10-12.

*Reported by Dick DeVoe*



## Couples Duplicate

### Bridge 1

**Bob Yolland**

Thank you to **Dick and Christy DeVoe** for hosting our excellent December 20<sup>th</sup> Couples Duplicate Bridge event in their beautifully decorated home. Their

goodies were great and the hot cider put us in the holiday spirit. It was an excellent evening of bridge and a very nice way to celebrate the Christmas season. We would like to welcome **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni Maclean** as permanent members of our group. They have been very consistent subs for nearly a year and have accepted the invitation to join our group.

It turned out to be a relatively close game with a total of 6 points separating all couples. In third place were **Jim Stedman** and **Daphne Merritt** with 19 1/2 points. Second place went to **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 21 1/2 points and our first place winners were **Bill and Margaret Rees** with 23 points. Congratulations to all for a fun night. Our next event will be Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at **Rich Ahlf's** home.

### Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is still looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill its ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

Contact **Sid Landman** at (925) 673-8817 or email [sidlandman@aol.com](mailto:sidlandman@aol.com).



## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group #1 met at the home of **Bill Cammerer**. As always a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be at the home of **Don Del Berne** on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our group is looking for poker players.

If interested, please call **Dan O'Sullivan** at (925) 685 4772. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## 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.*



## Poker Club 3

**Sig Kalteis**

*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



## 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.*



## Old Money Poker Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

The group of five players met in a central location to not play poker. Instead, we journeyed to Fairfield to GV Cellars for a holiday wine tasting.

Since two of our players are members of the GV wine club, our tastings were free. It turned out the tasting enticed several players to come home with a bottle (or case) for the holidays. It is highly likely that this may be the start of a December tradition and there was discussion of a possible summer road trip as well.



## Cooking Lunch & Wine

**Pete Gates**

The Lunch and Wine Group does not meet during the Holiday months of November and December. Starting in January, **Bill Hartman** will be new chair of the group which rotates

annually.

*The LAW cooking group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch. Couples are an integral part of this group as we have two dinners each year with our partners.*



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Cooking II did not meet in December. Our group is made up of 8 SIR members who meet the 2nd Monday of the month at rotating member's homes. The host is responsible for the lunch and each member brings a bottle of wine. We enjoy great food and conversation. Our next event is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> at **Bruce Borgman's** home.



## Book Nook

**Peter Plante**

The Book Nook will be open for all of you book readers. Come early and take home as many books as you like.

See you at the luncheon.



3 strings walk into a bar. First one orders a drink. Bartender says we don't serve your kind in here. So the second string ties itself into a bow and proceeds to order a drink. Nope, says the bartender, you're a string. Third string ties itself into a knot and frays each end. Orders a drink. Bartender eyes the string up and down and says, aren't you a string? And the string says, frayed knot!





## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

Another great year of SIR 146 Golf is coming to a close and it was a year of accomplishments. We had two holes in one: **Bill Cammerer** on Hiddenbrooke's #3 during the SIR State team qualifier event and **Don Rhoads** did it on Boundary Oak's #2 just last month during Tuesday golf. **Jim Burk, Bob White** and **Bill Cammerer** all shot their ages. While **Bill** and **Bob** have done this before, this was **Jim's** first -- at least while playing with us.

Teams headed by **Dick DeVoe** and **John Harrington** qualified for the State SIR Team Championships at Rancho Solano. It is worthy of note that this was the third year in a row that **John's** teams have qualified.

**Ken Sihler** and **Dan Holland** qualified for the State Individual Championship at Laguna Seca.

Finally, there is a matter of particular note: **Bill Laws** will be passing on responsibility for analyzing our scorecards and tabulating the results. This is a weekly task that **Bill** has managed for about seven years, reliably getting the task done every Thursday evening. **Dan Holland** has volunteered to take over. **Bill** will continue on as handicap chairman.

Get in touch with us either through a SIR golfer or simply email us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).



## 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](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



## Table Pool

### Bill Weinberg

*We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 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 week 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.*



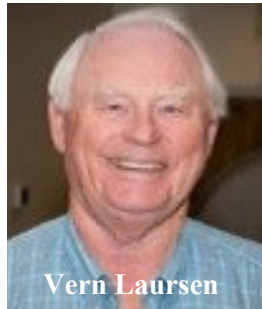
On a cool but sunny December day, **Ben Gleason, Rick Morgan, Jeff Baily, Manny**, the Boundary Oak starter, and **Alan Elnick** enjoy a round of golf

Irishman #1 ah Mike, me wife is always driving me to drink...Irishman #2 you're lucky Paddy, me wife makes me walk.



## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

**Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and 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.

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### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

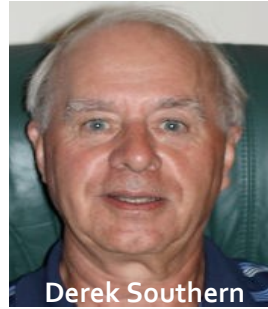
Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8 am in the Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

Our speaker will be a new Branch 8 member, Jamshed Gandhi, CPA, CFP, CVA, MS (Tax), who will tell us all we need to know about the new tax law.

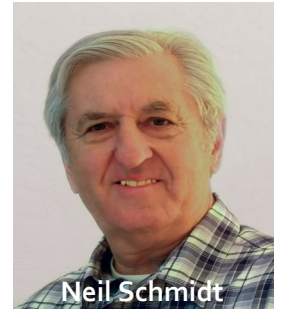
The Legends opens at 7 am. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

\$UMS Chairman **Tom Henry** [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)  
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

### Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group [formerly A2CAT] invites you to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 am. Come early for coffee, goodies, and chat. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome.

Our January topic is: *Quicken and its Alternatives*. Did you know that Quicken, which was split off from Intuit earlier this year, is changing to a "software by subscription model" where you will have to annually pay to use the program? All previous versions of Quicken, depending on the version, will eventually expire and restrict all online services.

At our January meeting we will discuss effects of this upcoming Quicken change and review various financial management alternatives. Come prepared to share your own financial management techniques highlighting the features that are important to you. The discussion will be facilitated by **Phil Goff** and **Neil Schmidt**

We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 am Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. 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.

**Neil Schmidt, Chairman**



I'm old enough to make my own decisions but just not young enough to remember what I decided



# 2017 December Ladies Day Luncheon



**Joe & Diane Starkey**



**Dale & Joanne Haukland**



**Rich Ahlf & Ismuri Maclean**



**Sue Oranje**



**Loren & Marlene DeLaurenti**



**Bruce Jones & Joanne Ayers**



**Cliff & Karen Perkins**



**Doug & Patricia Eisner**



**Rich & Kim Pace**



**David & Joan Pierce**



**Al & Diane Munayer**



**Jim & Anne Burk**



**Joe & Bette Hunt**



**Ross & Janet Abbott**



**Steve & Jan Ondeck**



**Bruce & Sue Borgman**



**Lynn & Sally Shafer**



**Bill & Patti Klein**



**John & Kathy Kluesener**



**Joe & Barbara Stengel**



**Don & Etta Dotson**



**Bob & Penny Bietler**



**John & Nancy Pearl**



**Joe & Sue Hanck**