

SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

January 2019

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon— Thursday, January 10th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:
Joe Mc Donough
Manager—Private Investors

“Blackrock’s 2019 Investment Outlook”

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

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146
By Noon Friday, January 4th



Big Sir's Notes

Jonathan Korfhage

Happy New Year! I am honored to be your Big Sir this year! I am hopeful that you 294 exceptional gentlemen will experience a fulfilling, rewarding, and fun year as a Son in Retirement.

It is very important that all of us participate in many of our almost fifty activities. The socialization that our Sons in Retirement branch offers is critical to our well-being!

One of the reasons that our branch is so vibrant is due to the legions of almost seven dozen gentlemen who volunteer their time and talents as committee members, activity chairmen, and board members. We would not be as successful without them and their leadership!

Special thanks go to **Steve Yberra**, our out-going Sir Treasurer and the chairman of our December Ladies Day Luncheon, and his co-host **Max Hinkle** for their excellent work on making this another first-rate event. 270 of us enjoyed a delicious meal and an outstanding choral performance by the young ladies from Monte Vista High School!

Recently we have lost three of our highly respected Sirs – Texan **John Lewis**, former teacher & golf coach at Miramonte High School and our Sir Walking Groups Chair; **Doug Cook**, Air Force First Lieutenant, doctor, and former Big Sir; and **Pat Lucia**, Vietnam Veteran, doctor, and professor.

The deadline for signing up for our Dinner Dance in February at Boundary Oak is January 15th. Even if you don't care to dance, it will be a fun evening with a delicious dinner, great music, and good friends. Check out the ad in this Sir Call.

Finally, our distinct appreciation to **Past Big Sir Bruce Borgman** for a great job this past year! He continues to be a treasure for our branch! Please be sure to read the Little Sir's column with insights regarding monthly luncheon attendance and your dues.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — Audrey Hepburn

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



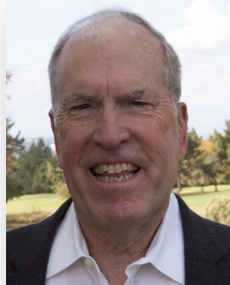
The Monte Vista Chorale from Danville provided the Ladies Day Luncheon entertainment at our December 13th event.

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.

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

Brad Hatcher

Happy New Year! I trust that your holidays were Merry. I look forward to the opportunity to see you in January at the luncheon. It would be even better if you would bring a guest to our meeting!

Our speaker is Joe McDonough from the investment management firm BlackRock. Joe is a portfolio manager in the Private Investors division based in San Francisco. He has responsibility for many high net-worth individual and institutional accounts. He will discuss Blackrock's outlook for the financial markets for 2019. Given recent stock market volatility, Joe should give us topical and worthwhile information.

Recent rules changes by the State Sir organization has given more flexibility to our branch to set luncheon attendance policy. A subcommittee of the Branch Executive Committee met in December to review Branch 146 policy with the expectation that a recommendation would be made to the BEC at its January meeting. It is likely that the current policy of requiring attendance at a minimum of five of the ten luncheons to maintain your active status will be unchanged – subject to BEC discussion and approval. I might add that if you contact the luncheon manager to be excused, it still counts as a luncheon missed.

While on the topic of luncheons, please E-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com if you cannot attend the luncheon. We make a commitment to the kitchen for a given number of lunches to be served. If you do not arrive, we are still required to pay for your lunch. You will receive an E-mail well before the luncheon to remind you of your need to let us know if you are not coming.

You received a letter in November indicating need to pay annual dues. Dues of \$15.00 for the year 2019 are due now. If you choose to be an annual payer, you receive a discount, worth two lunches, if you pay us \$223.00 for 10 regular lunches and the sum includes annual dues. If you have not yet sent in your check, please bring it to the luncheon in January.

See you at the January 10th luncheon!



Membership

Dave Pierce

In December we did not induct new members, but regrettably we lose members as they face a decision about the new year. I am sad to report that **Paul Fama, Gene Diana, Tony Fiorica** and **Jim Sanders** have resigned. Sadder still, **Doug Cook** and **John Lewis** have died. As the State SIR phases out "inactive" status, inactive members **Chuck Clark, Randy Davis, Howard Smalheiser, Bob Larson, Douglas Harris, George Zunich, Baha Zara,** and **Bob Jaspas** resigned, and we learned of the death of **Lewis Meyer** in Dec. 2017. We approach year end with 294 members, but we may gain some returning from inactive status, and we already have three applicants for induction in January. There will also be a drawing for a free lunch for our July -- November sponsors, but you have to be present to win. Thank you all, win or not. This is my last report as I pass the baton over to Ron Lew starting in January, 2019.



Santa Claus (**Jonathan Korfhage**) showed up to greet guests arriving for the December Ladies Day Luncheon. Assisting Santa Claus was **Mike Riley, Steve Ybarra,** and **Max Hinkle.**

**IRS: We've got what it takes to take
what you have got.**



Sunshine

Max Hinkle

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

- ◆ **Bill Klein**
- ◆ **Howard Nemir**
- ◆ **Jim Saavedra**
- ◆ **Bob Schroder**
- ◆ **Joe Suta**

It is with sadness we report the death of **John Lewis** on November 18th.

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.

Max Hinkle

phone: (925) 408-6004

Email: hinkle3@sbcglobal.net



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II group did not meet in December. Happy New Year and bon Appetit to all.



Cribbage

John Pearl

No meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on January 23rd, the fourth Wednesday.

John Pearl, Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

SIR CALL Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Co - Editors

Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

**Cal Tucker, Jonathan Korfhage,
and Jim Barry**

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

January 10, 2019

Salad

Orzo Spinach Salad

Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Red Onions,
Feta Cheese
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

Herb Marinated Roast Pork Chop

Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Ruby Port Demi Sauce, Apple Sauce

Or

Sesame Crusted Cod

Citrus Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables
Brown Butter Sauce

Vegetarian

Vegetarian Cannelloni

Pasta Stuffed with Four Cheeses &
Spinach
Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Chocolate Hazelnut Cake

Dark Chocolate Cake , Raspberry Sauce,
Chantilly Cream



SongSirs
Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs practiced just once in December and enjoyed singing a number of Christmas carols. But, we did not have enough time to practice even these well known songs for a performance, since a number of us were busy during the holiday season.

We will pick up our regular practices again in January. We will practice on January 2nd and 16th and would like to invite any new Sirs to come join us at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. The VIP group of the church has requested that we sing for their monthly luncheon on Wednesday, February 6th. Since this is near Valentine’s Day, we will include a number of our regular “Romantic Songs” repertoire and probably a few others.

See you at one of our rehearsals!

Bruce Borgman
 925-932-3961
 bgborgman@aol.com



Travel
Milt Smith

Two great Crystal Cruises: 1) **Greece and Italy — Athens to Rome** May 2nd - May 13th, 2019 with seven ports of call. 2) **12 Day Land and Sea Alaska Adventure** August 23rd — September 3rd. Fly to Anchorage, tour Denali, and cruise to

Vancouver, with eight ports of call then fly home - Great prices! Look for email blasts from SIR 146 with more information. We have several SIR members signed up on each of these trips but I am working to get a few more. These trips are both excellent value on a great cruise line. For more information call Alamo World Travel at (925) 837-8742 or contact me at (925) 285-2897.

Machu Picchu & the Galapagos: June 1st - June 18th, 2019 includes two visits to Machu Picchu and a small boat excursion to the Galapagos all for approximately \$7K including airfare. If you don’t have a flyer, contact me and I will send you one. We are almost full but have room for two more couples.

Thinking about travel in 2020? Let my know your thoughts and I’ll begin doing some research for you.

Milt Smith
 (925) 285-2897 cell

IT'S HARD TO FIND

A FRIEND WHO IS:

95% Talented

96% Funny

98% Loving

99% Intelligent

And 100% Sweet

**SO DON'T U DARE ..
 LOSE ME !!**

2019 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Jonathan Korfhage
Little Sir	Brad Hatcher
Secretary	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Treasurer	Ben Gleason
Assistant Treasurer	George Mon
Director(1 st Term)	Max Hinkle
Director(1 st Term)	Frank Pandolfi
Director(1 st Term)	Ron Lew
Director(1 st Term)	Milt Smith
Director(2 nd Term)	Pierre Mebane
Director(2 nd Term)	Tony Greco

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Pierre Mebane
Publicity	Frank Pandolfi

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



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Ron Lew and **Brion Beetz** of Branch 146 joined Stan Wong and Bob Stein on a rockfish/crab combo on a party boat and came back with limits of both species. **Rich Fiscina** and **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, along with **Carl Moyer**, **Steve Lane**, and

Bob Hillaker all fished for sturgeon near the mothball fleet. Rich was the champ, landing a fish that was close to 70 lbs. The others also caught sturgeon, but they were below the 40-inch minimum. **Tom Kostik** took time off from his golf game for several highly successful striper trips in the Delta. On one occasion, he was joined by **Harry Sherinian**, our Big Fish, and they came home with several keepers.

Trout fishing is not quite as good. San Pablo Reservoir is closed for its annual three-month hiatus and Shadow Cliffs Reservoir is very low. **Carl Moyer** and **Thom Watkins** tried Shadow Cliffs in Carl's skiff one day and Thom caught a five-pound rainbow on his first cast. But that was it. The water was so low that the skiff could not make it back to the dock. A few feet from shore, Thom had to get out of the boat and push. However, on another occasion, **Phil Scimonelli** fished from shore at Shadow Cliffs and nailed a five-pound rainbow.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, and so the next get together is on January 24th. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. Those of you who have never fished and want to try it and those of you who have not fished since you were kids are welcome. We have outings planned in the next few months for fishing in Pyramid Lake, Pardee Reservoir,

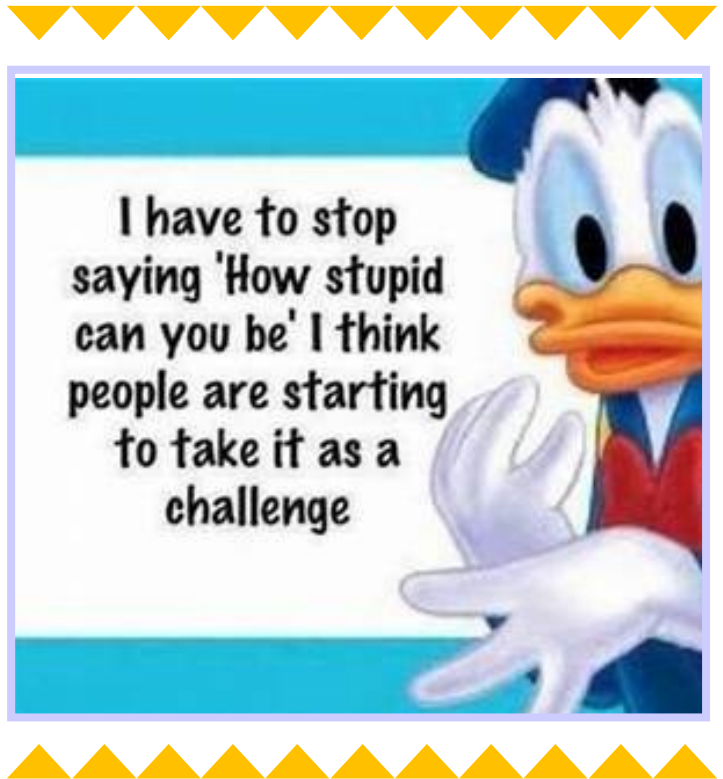
Lake Almanor, and Lake Don Pedro as well as other locations in addition to our regular outings to the Delta, San Pablo Reservoir, and Shadow Cliffs Reservoir.



Rich Fiscina with his 70 lb. sturgeon



Ron Lew proudly showing his catch of crab and rockfish



**SIR BRANCHES IN THE GREATER WALNUT CREEK AREA
ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE SIR 146 BRANCH
FOR A VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE**



WHEN: Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm

WHERE: Boundary Oak Golf Course, 3800 Valley Vista Rd, Walnut Creek

WHAT: A Valentine Weekend Themed Party with a delicious dinner, beverages, swing dance band & door prizes -- cost per couple is \$140.



DINNER:

Grilled Marinated Bistro Filet

OR

Pan Seared Farm Raised Salmon

OR

Vegetarian Option -TBD

PLUS:

Appetizers, Salad, Rolls & Butter, Beverages & Coffee/Tea

THE SIGNUP: Send a check for \$140 payable to 'SIR 146' and send to Sir **Don Rhoads** at 2274 Gladwin Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596 by **January 15th**. Include your names, choice of entree, Sir Branch #, and email address so we can send a receipt.

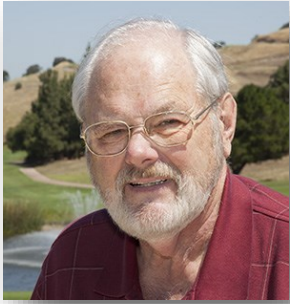
IF YOU CAN, PUT TOGETHER A TABLE OF FRIENDS

For more information contact
Jonathan Korfhage, Little Sir/Branch 146

Korf26@gmail.com

925-947-1547





Theatre Group
Gary Schaub

***CALIFORNIA MAGIC CLUB WITH DINNER IS
NEXT SIR 146 THEATER PARTY ON APRIL 5th!***

Because of the strong SIR146 response for this activity, we have been offered an additional twenty reservation spaces for April 5th. We can take over the entire California Magic Club which seats only forty!



SIR146 members and guests have been invited to attend the California Magic Club in downtown Martinez for an evening of prestidigitation and gourmet dining. Reservations have been made for Friday, April 5th, beginning at 7:15 pm. Deadline to reserve is January 20th.

The California Magic Club provides an evening of good food, witty conversation and spellbinding entertainment. It's like a big private dinner party. The Club seats only forty guests. The magical evening begins as soon as you arrive, and the fun begins! You'll enjoy a three course dinner and signature drinks with close up magic performed right at your table. After dessert, you'll be amazed by an hour-long stage show featuring a popular professional magician – welcomed by your host Gerry Griffin.

The California Magic Club has been presenting magical entertainment for 14 years. Dinner features a tasty fresh green salad, roasted tri-tip beef and marinated boneless breast of chicken with seasonal vegetables and herb rice. Chocolate covered strawberries and tasty bite-sized treats complete the meal. A pasta vegetarian option is available. Beer and wine is also available.

Then the stage show begins. The California Magic Club is located at 514 Main Street at Alhambra Avenue in downtown Martinez. Street parking is available. Guests must arrive no later than 7:15 p.m.

Since the California Magic Club seats only forty patrons, they have set aside the entire club for our SIR group on April 5th. Early reservations are essential – no later than January 20th. A special group rate for SIR 146 is \$69.00 per person which includes dinner and show.

Send your check, payable to SIR146, to **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. For additional info, call Gary at (925) 938-5454, or e-mail to gschaub1@gmail.com.

My memory is gone, so I changed my password to "Incorrect." That way when I log in with the wrong password, the computer will tell me... "Your password is incorrect."

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

What is faster Hot or cold? Hot, because you can catch a cold.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

We have a jam-packed meeting for you in January. Highlighting our event will be Jerry Kaplan and his wife Susan who will show us pictures and video from their recent Road Scholar trip to China.

Following a request from some of our newer members, we will be presenting and highlighting comparisons on some of the important features to consider when buying a smartphone, a point and shoot camera, or an enthusiast camera covering different price ranges. This will be an interactive session so bring your questions for a lively discussion.

As is customary, we invite all attendees to bring a USB thumb drive with pictures to share with the group.

You Tube has a number of videos reviewing the new iPhone XS and XS Max from a photography perspective. We will show one of these reviews.

Although the last meeting was well attended, there is always room for more to come and enjoy the show!

Email: 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: 1) How to buy a new camera in different price ranges plus a photography review of the new iPhone XS Max.
2) Photos by Jerry & Susan Kaplan on their recent trip to China.

When: 9 am—Friday, January 11th, 2019



Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow**

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at



Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never before played, as well as those who last played many years ago.

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.

In our game this month we again had a nice turnout, all of whom enjoyed lunch, followed by a little over two hours of card playing.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday January 16th.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

We are all
born crazy.

Some of us
remain
that way.

- Samuel Beckett
1955



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

SECOND NOTICE - APPRECIATION BREAKFAST MEETING FOR ALL ACTIVITY CHAIRS MARCH 1, 2019

The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) has authorized and appropriated funds to sponsor the second annual Breakfast meeting to recognize the efforts that you, as a volunteer chair of one of 47 different activities, put in throughout the year.

The breakfast and follow up meeting will be held on Friday morning March 1st. The breakfast will be served at 8:00 am with the meeting adjourning by 11:15 am.

The breakfast meeting held last March provided an opportunity for activity chairs (both new ones and those who have been chairs for years) to get together and discuss their thoughts and exchange ideas about how their activity is working. Discussions centered on suggestions for possible improvements, insurance issues, attracting new members, using the Branch website and calendar, etc. A comparable agenda will be followed this year; a draft list of topics will be sent to all chairs in January. Feel free to suggest additional topics that could make the chairs' jobs easier. The breakfast is primarily an opportunity for the Branch 146 leadership to show their appreciation for you stepping forward to manage an activity.

You should have recently received an invitation to attend the March 1st meeting that also requested an RSVP so we can tell Boundary Oak how many breakfasts to plan for. Please let us know whether you plan to come on that date. We would appreciate an RSVP as soon as you can.

CALLING NEW MEMBERS (and those that have been around for a while!)

As 2018 draws to a close, I hope that everyone who participated in one of the 47 different current activities or got involved in a new activity that was started during the year felt that the experience was a good one.

If you are a new member, or haven't had the time to look into taking part in one or more of the activities, please consider doing so in 2019! And – **don't forget** – if you have some hobby or interest that you want to share with others, and you don't see that it is available, feel free to contact me and I'll see what I can do to make the

almost 300 members of Branch 146 aware of the idea. There is a strong likelihood that others may be interested. It only takes a few fellows to get an activity going.

SIR Bob Lucido (whom you probably have seen at times greeting SIRs as they come to our Thursday luncheons) has kindly agreed to assist me during 2019 in carrying out Activity Chair duties. Thanks, Bob!

Jerry Kaplan

925 330-8832

mtdana@aol.com



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 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 - 2:30 pm. The cost of 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 the 1 1/2 hours of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (space for 8 players maximum is available).

Call or email 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

**When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember
that the Fire Department usually uses water.**



Henry Thatcher



THE WALT
DISNEY
FAMILY
MUSEUM



Jim Pope

**SIR 146 Explore & Eat
Trip to Disney Museum
November 30th Presidio-San Francisco, California**

In November the Explore & Eat adventure began with 30 people braving the early morning trip to San Francisco and The Presidio. Twenty-four (24) of us took BART to catch the FREE PRESIDIOGO BUS to the museum and lunch at the Presidio Social Club.

The trip was worth it, as we took in The Walt Disney Family Museum's inspirational journey through the life of Walt Disney. For 2 1/2 hours we experienced the animation, innovation, and inspiration of the remarkable life story of Walt Disney.

Walt Disney raised animation to an art-form, tirelessly pursued innovation, and created a distinctly American legacy that transformed the entertainment world.

The Museum featured contemporary, interactive galleries with state-of-the-art exhibits narrated in Walt's own voice alongside early drawings, cartoons, films, music, a spectacular model of Disneyland.

We look forward to planning more adventures around the Bay Area this year.



Photo by Jim Pope

The Group Included: **Bill & Lynette Holly, Diane Holly, Pat Du Mont, Don & June Seaton, Peter & Ann Margaret Gates, Ed & Audrey Marlovits, Steve & Linda Siljstrom, John & Jean Harrington, Steve & Vicki Pickelman, Charles & Monnie Eichten, Lewis & Carla Thompson, Richard & Sherry Hockenbrock, Ray & Norma Weisz, Ken Soult, Max & Ardith Hinkle, Bob Wilkenfeld, Henry & Barbara Thatcher, Jim & Renie Pope.**



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman



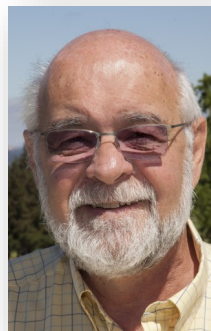
All of you who appreciate a good dining experience – pay attention! We have arranged for our Couples Dining Out event in January to go to a totally new and different place. We're going to **Brasas do Brazil** on Willow Pass Road in Concord – a Churrascaria or Brazilian Steakhouse, which is a totally unique experience. The dinner there will start with a self serve Market Table, or salad bar, which has a variety of salads, roasted vegetables, olives, peppers, cheeses and cured meats, as well as a number of hot dishes like rice, the traditional feijoada (black bean stew with meat and sausage), mashed potatoes and other dishes. After that, the main event consists of a variety of about thirteen different mouth watering grilled meats, which are served and presented on skewers by gauchos (Brazilian cowboys) who will roam our tables and slice off what you wish. This is not just a meal, but a unique dining adventure.

Normally this is a more pricey dining experience, but we have been able to negotiate a menu which limits some of the variety of meats, but includes coffee, iced tea and a decadent fudge truffle for dessert –all of it for just \$50 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. You could not get this normally for dinner at the restaurant, so take advantage of this opportunity!

We will have our social hour at 5:30. There will be some \$8 wines available as well as other wines. But, you may wish to try one of the Brazilian cocktails such as caipirinha (mix of rum-like cachaca and lime), or a Brazilian mule, for \$10. Corkage will be \$20.

The restaurant has a sleek, modern vibe to it, and we will occupy a portion of the restaurant, which will give us a private area. Parking is plentiful in the adjacent shopping area. We have estimated a group of 50 diners, but will be able to accommodate a larger number, probably about 60. We have already notified those on our mailing list and at of this writing 46 have signed up. If you wish to join us – we always like to see new faces – email Bruce at bgborgman@aol.com and follow up with a confirmation check for the cost. If you wish to be added to the mail list, let me know!

This will be a lot of fun – come join us in this popular Sir activity!



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

Our next Wine Tasting event is scheduled for February 27th and will be hosted by **Brian and Mary McCarthy**

As we get closer, I will send an email with the wine selection and directions to the **McCarthy** home.

If you are not on our distribution list and would like to be included, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at rwmelrose@gmail.com.



Book Group Chuck Campbell

We did not meet in December.

The next book we have selected is *Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham. We will meet to discuss this book on Monday, January 7th, 2019, at the Greenery Restaurant.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians Carl Tilchen

You're invited. The SIRS Music Group will meet Monday, January 7th, and 21st, 8:30 pm at Vinnie's Bar, 2045 Mt. Diablo St. Concord. Vinnie's Bar has an enthusiastic audience, a band, excellent food and drinks. There is Open Mike and each performer may sing 3 songs. All musicians with acoustic or electric instruments are welcome. Listeners who enjoy music are encouraged to come too. No Cover Charge. Please write your name on the list to play or sing.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

MTD Group 1 (UNO) start play again in January rotating among the different players hosting the group. There is always room for more players who want to be on a

substitute list as an occasional player either in this group or one of the other five Mexican Train Dominoes groups. Please reach out to one of the groups to join the fun. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single Sirs as well as a SIR member and his Significant Other are always welcome.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

We had a delightful game night at **Jim and Phyllis Meehan's** on November 30th which was the finish to the year's games and the conclusion to the June to November

Pot. The **Meehan's** did a great job of filling us with goodies and drinks to provide more than enough nourishment necessary to complete the season.

We had a total of 16 persons playing Mexican Train Dominos for the evening. The first place for the evening was won by **Ismi MacLean** with a very low average game score of 8.3. **Anne Plachy** took second place with a score of 13.5 followed by **Dick Woodman** in third place with a score of 15.7.

The results of the June through November Pot were decided as well: **Rich Ahlf** finished in first place with a cumulative average of 15.1 points per game winning 60% of the Pot. **Ron Plachy** finished in second place with 17.2 points winning 30% of the Port. And, **Ismi MacLean** finished in third place with 19.1 points winning 10% of the Pot.

Congratulations to all our winners! It has been a good year for a great group of players. We're looking forward to 2019 which begins in Clayton at the **Ahlf's**. **Rich** and **Ismi** will welcome us on January 25th.

In the meantime, Hope you had a great holiday season!



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

CHRISTMAS EVENT

In December, El Quattro Mexican Train dominos met with 20 people in attendance. All brought

food to give to the MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER in Concord. We had over 50 pounds of food to provide to the Center (See below). With 20 in attendance, we had three (3) tables competing for *California Lotto Tickets*. The low score at each table received Lotto Tickets. The evening was very "Christmas Festive" with all donning Christmas colors and head gear. The food and sweets were prepared by **Renie Pope** and the wine was from the year's surplus from the past MTD evenings. In addition, there was a "Special Champagne Punch" to add to the festivities and camaraderie (and volume) of the evening.



Photo by Jim Pope

L To R: Bill Weinberg, Renie Pope, Jim Pope, Dick DeVoe, Yvonne Killips, Ron Louis, Barbara Korfhage, Barbara Thatcher, Fran Matthews, June Seaton, Don Seaton, Christy DeVoe, Leslie Firth, Kim Pace, Henry Thatcher, Rich Pace, Carol Soult, Dick Firth, Ken Soult, and Jonathan Korfhage

"Mama, there's a man at the door," said little Johnny.

"He says he's collecting for senior citizens."

"Do you think we should hide Grandpa?"

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Photo by Jim Pope

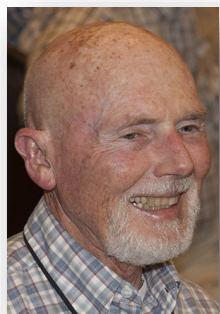


Christmas El Quattro MTD winners of Lotto Tickets. **Barbara Thatcher, Don Seaton and Renie Pope**

Photo by Jim Pope



Christmas El Quattro MTD (L To R): **Yvonne Killips, Dick DeVoe, Rich Pace, Kim Pace, Bill Weinberg, Ken Soult, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews** in their festive outfits



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO) Chuck Campbell

Patti Eisner is our MTD 5 all around champ of the year! Not only did **Patti** show up in the Winner's Circle five times, but three of the five were 1st place wins. And even better—her 28 points total in June surely set a SIR's record! We all agree **Doug** should take her to Vegas asap and that we should add an award for "Most M&M's Consumed in an Evening".

The competition in 2019 will be fierce, however: **Doug Eisner** and **Joan Pierce** were mere inches behind her for the year, and **Dave Pierce** zoomed in to win 4 of the 6 rounds played at **Chuck & Marty Campbell's** home during our December dinner gathering. We all enjoyed the potluck Taco Fiesta complete with Trés Leches cake from Alpine Bakery.

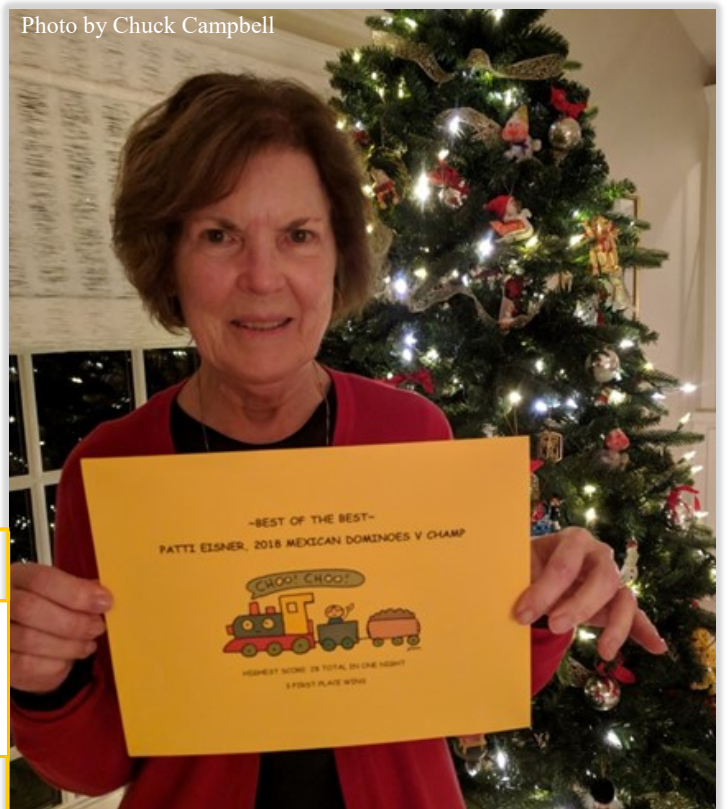
Patti Eisner, MTD Group 5 (Cinco), Overall Champion for 2018.
Way to Go Girl !!



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS) John "Moose" Kelly

Group 6 (SEIS) did not meet in December. The trains are in the roundhouse resting until we meet again in January. Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Photo by Chuck Campbell





Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Bob Yolland hosted 3 tables of Duplicate Bridge Group 1 on December 17th. In the morning session, **Doug Eisner**, **Dave Pierce**, and **Max Hinkle**, enjoyed excellent partner play and found themselves

well ahead of the pack of also-rans with **Doug** at 18.5 pts, **Dave** at 14.5 pts, and **Max** with 13.5 pts. Unfortunately for **Doug** and **Dave**, the afternoon bridge gods did not smile as brightly on them as in the morning session. On the other hand, **Max Hinkle** continued to enjoy all that celestial support and found himself alone in first place at the end of the day with 29.5 pts. **Doug Eisner** salvaged second place with 28.0 pts. and **Dave Pierce's** 27.5 pts rounded out the money-makers.

Max Hinkle will host our January 21st game.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group's December 7th Nutcracker Bridge event finished 2018 with four tables. 1st place was a shoo-in, but 2nd through 4th had a razor-thin 1 pt. total difference.

1ST PLACE: Mike Whitaker easily won with 47 points. He had strong counts in both 1st (22) and 2nd (25) halves, which was enough for 1st overall. Congratulations, **Mike!**

2ND PLACE: Dick DeVoe with 42 pts. His relatively low 17.5 pts in the 1st half was mightily eclipsed by 24.5 pts. in the 2nd half.

3RD PLACE: Tony Greco with 41.5 pts. He had a strong 1st half (23) that overcame a weaker (18.5) 2nd half.

4TH PLACE: Bob Yolland with 41 pts. His 23 pt. 1st half and 18 pt. 2nd half- including highest no. of 3 pt. boards- gave him 4th overall.

COMEBACK KID: Brad Hatcher easily won this coveted award by increasing his point count 12(!) PTS. from the 1st to 2nd half. Mum's the word on that 1st half score.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS: Our two-board partnerships had a maximum possible of 6 pts. Partners **Dave Steinberg / Bob Yolland**, **Dick Chaffee / Bob Yolland**, and **Ray Bland / Mike Whitaker** achieved the maximum.

MOST 3's: Bob Yolland with 7, beating out **John Boyan's**, **Mike Whitaker's** and **Dick DeVoe's** 6 each.

LEAST ZEROS: Mike Whitaker with only 1, followed closely behind by **Tony Greco's** and **Dick DeVoe's** 2 each.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

Here are the results of our December 21st event nicely hosted by **Ed Marlovits**.

1ST PLACE (31.0 POINTS) - Max Hinkle, who tied for 1st in the 1st half and was 2nd in the 2nd half.

2ND PLACE- (30.0 PTS) - Jim Stedman, tying for 1st in the 1st half and having only **1 zero** overall.

3RD PLACE (29.0 PTS.) - Ray Bland, who was consistent throughout.

MOST TWOS - Mike Whitaker with 10.

PARTNERSHIP SCORES (with a maximum 6 pts. for 3 Boards): - **Tony Greco/Bill Schultz** (Bds. 1-3), **Dick DeVoe/Bob Yolland** (Bds. 16-18), and **Max Hinkle/Mike Whitaker** (Bds. 22-24).

HIGHEST PLUS/MINUS: Jim Stedman with 7 (8 two's minus 1 zero)



The winners of Duplicate Bridge 3 hosted by **Ed Marlovits** were second place, **Jim Stedman**, winner **Max Hinkle** and third place **Ray Bland**



Duplicate Bridge 2 winners were **Mike Whitaker** (1st), host **Dick DeVoe** (2nd), **Tony Greco** (3rd), and **Bob Yolland** (4th). **Mike Whitaker** had a 65% game which is exceptional.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Deck the halls; **Joan and Dave Pierce** hosted on December 11th with holiday cheer (much of it in the form of great food and drink) and it was good to see all the regular players, many in festive garb. Some people were surprised to find themselves in the money (naming no names). **Dick and Christy DeVoe** tied our hosts for third (51%); **Cindy and Tony Greco** were second (53%); and **Ken and Elaine Richter** were first (56%). Congratulations! We regulars want to thank all of our subs for 2018; we deeply appreciate your help to fill out three tables when folks have to miss a month.

Dave Pierce, (925) 932-3877
dwp@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick & Christy DeVoe hosted the December 4th event. Holiday outside house lights where on full display as you drove up their long driveway. Once inside, you could not help getting into a holiday mood with 2 well decorated Christmas trees and over 100 Nutcrackers on display throughout the house. Warm cider on the stove and wine ready for the drinking accentuated the holiday mood. Assorted cheeses with crackers and grapes, guacamole dip, chocolate treats and nuts were ready for the eating, but you had to make sure you left enough room for **Christy's** delicious homemade cheesecake topped with blueberries and raspberries served at the end of the event with coffee.

Since all of our regular players were available to attend, no subs were needed. After briefly socializing and catching up, we began bridge play. For some of us it was difficult to concentrate with over 100 pairs of Nutcracker eyes staring at you throughout the evening. At least that was what the losers were saying. Lol.

It was an evening of exact hundreds total scores, with **Dick & Christy DeVoe** taking 3RD PLACE with an even 3200 points, **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** taking 2ND PLACE with an even 3300 points, and **Tony & Cindy Greco** taking 1ST PLACE with an even 3400 points. The significance of this is still unknown and possibly meaningless.

Next month's event will be held on February 5th and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**. The January event has been canceled due to its falling on New Year's Day. Speaking of which, I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Tony Greco
 (925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

Byron Nelson

We played three tables of bridge on December 3rd. Our new chair, **Byron Nelson**, was out of town so **Fred Bolton** filled in one more time as the host. First place went to **Dick DeVoe** with 6280 points, followed by **Doug Eisner** with 6150, and third went to **Brad Hatcher** with 4980. The next game will be hosted by **Bob Yolland** on January 7th, 2019.



Couples Party Bridge L to R: Seated—**Ismini MacLean, Rich Ahlf, Linda & Larry Brown**. Standing - **Dick DeVoe, Cindy Greco, Jerry Benoit, Christy DeVoe, Christine Benoit, and Lynne & Brad Hatcher**

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.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 did not play in December. Our next outing will on January 9th at the home of **Ray Bland**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our host, **Chuck Denney**, provided a nice selection of snacks and wine in keeping with the season. **Frank Lucas** joined us after a long absence.

As usual there was good conversation, some even printable. **Howard Charlop** went home with the bulk of several players' dollars (Sorry **Frank** – perhaps a bit rusty from lack of play?).

We look forward to playing shortly after the start of 2019!

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



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.*



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Dick Woodman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 4th 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 which are scheduled for March and September.



Poker Group 4

Rich Hanford

Poker Group 4 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at homes of the various members.



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.*



Book Corner

Peter Plante

Come one, come all to our January Book Corner extravaganza!! Kick off the New Year with some new reading material. We have fiction, biographies, business, cooking and golf books galore.

Trade in your books from 2018. All donations gratefully accepted.

Thank you for your support (Lifted from the old Bartles & James ad on TV).

What's the matter with your wife?

She looks all broken up."

"She got a terrible shock."

"How was it?"

"She was assisting at a rummage sale at the church and she took off her new \$2 hat and somebody sold it for 30 cents."

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

The final weeks of the year have had some low and very low turnout days due not only to seasonal rain, but also from days lost because of smoke during the Cabin fire. On December 3rd, we had only 19 players and on November 20th, just 15.

But there are some high spots to report. On December 11th, **Jim Browning** had a near hole-in-one (Ace) on #17 and fortunately everyone now has a camera in their back pocket. **Doug Eisner** took the picture that is found below.

On December 18th, **George Rammell** celebrated his birthday by shooting a net 66, the low net for the day, and he was closest to the pin on hole #6.

Tuesday Golf is over for 2018, so I thought I would look over the results for 2018. An interesting statistic was found — nobody broke 80. It appears that the last under 80 round was **Jim Burk's** 76 in the summer of 2017. However, **Ed Brands, Gary Brown** and **Joe Fuchs** have been in the hunt, each shooting 81's and 82's over the past few months.

No pressure guys, but good luck in 2019 and Happy New Year.



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. Exception is the second Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

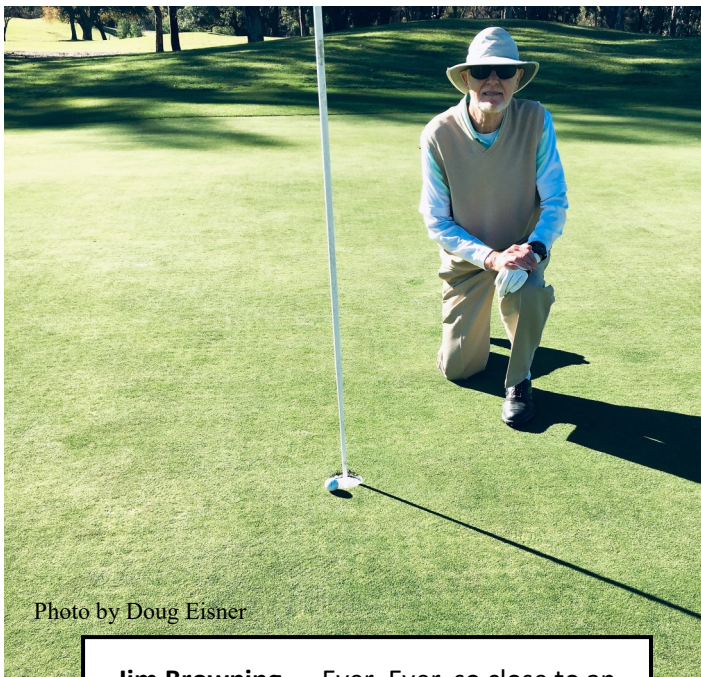
If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments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

vlaursen@astound.net

GOLF



Tuesday Golfers enjoying a sunny December day.
L to R: Malcolm Harrison, Dan Holland, Jim Passaglia, and Steve Sprague



Jim Browning — Ever, Ever so close to an Ace or Hole-In-One, Tuesday, December 11th, 17th Hole, at Boundary Oak



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:00 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 16 are welcome.

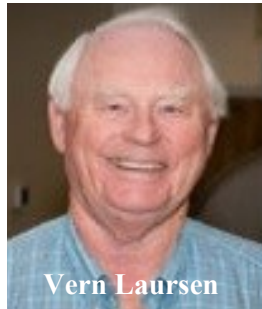


Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



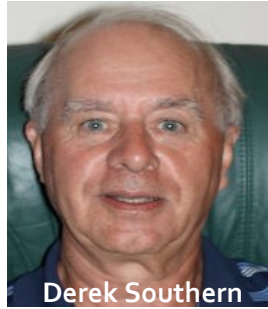
Vern Laursen

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.

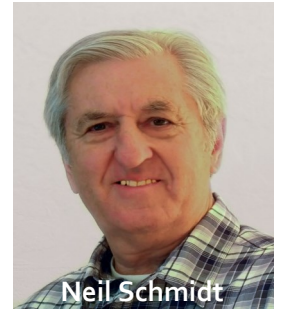
If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next Computer & Technology meeting will be January 17th. The presentation topic for this meeting will be "Home Security Cameras/Systems" by Bob Testa. Bob will explore reasons for needing a security camera, options available and things to consider when buying.

The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where we discuss applications for computers and technology. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic covering everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to learn about new technology and to also get answers to your computer questions or problems.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

\$UMS in Retirement meets again on Wednesday, January 23rd at 8 AM in the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

Our speaker will be Andrew Parrott of Edward Jones. His topic will be his firm's 2019 economic and stock market outlook. I'm sure we all want to find out what's going to happen in the new year.

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

\$UMS Chairman **Tom Henry** tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chairman **Dave Sutton** davesutn@comcast.net

A day without smiling is a day wasted !!



A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job.

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off. – Abe Lemons

Ever Wonder? What do gardeners do after they retire?

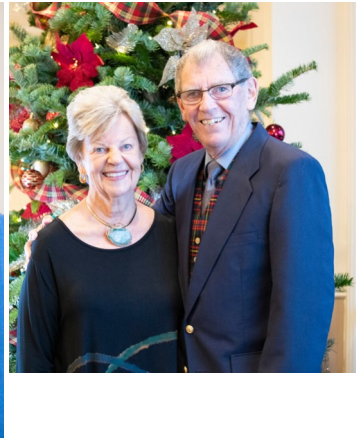
2018 December Ladies Day Luncheon



2018 December Ladies Day Luncheon



2018 December Ladies Day Luncheon



2018 December Ladies Day Luncheon



*Happy
New Year*

SIR-146-Activities-Calendar

To add new or one-time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

2018 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2020

January-2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31	Jan-1	2	3	4
11:00-AM--2:00-PM Table-Pool-at-Masses 6:45-PM--10:15-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Group-3-(Tres) 7:00-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Group-5-(Cinco)	NEW-YEAR'S-DAY 6:30-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Dos 6:45-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Group-Seis 7:00-PM Couples-Party-Bridge	10:00-AM Bowling 1:30-PM Song-Sirs-1st	9:30-AM NINE-HOLE-GOLF-1 6:00-PM--7:00-PM Poker-Group-#6	9:30-AM--2:00-PM Men's-Duplicate-Bridge-2 9:30-AM Walkers
7	8	9	10	11
8:30-AM Book-Group Greenery-Restaurant 10:00-AM Party-Bridge 11:00-AM--2:00-PM Table-Pool-at-Masses 12:00-PM--2:00-PM Mac-User-Group-(MUG)	9:00-AM Golf 9:00-AM--1:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church 1:00-PM--4:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church	10:00-AM Bowling 12:30-PM--3:30-PM Poker-Group-#6 1:00-PM Poker-Group-#1 4:15-PM Poker-#5	9:00-AM--10:45-AM BEC-Meeting 11:45-AM--1:30-PM SIR-LUNCHEON	9:00-AM--11:00-AM Photography-Group Thurman-G-Casey Ygnacio-Valley-Library 9:30-AM Walkers 10:00-AM Hiking-Moderate 6:45-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Group-1-(UNO)
14	15	16	17	18
11:00-AM--2:00-PM Table-Pool-at-Masses 12:00-PM Cooking-II	9:00-AM Golf 9:00-AM--1:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church 1:00-PM--4:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church	10:00-AM Bowling 11:00-AM Cooking-Lunch-and-Wine-(LAW) 1:00-PM--3:00-PM Pinochle Rocco's-Italian-Restaurant 1:30-PM Song-Sirs-2nd 7:00-PM Bridge--Couples	9:30-AM--11:30-AM Computers-And-Technology-(CAT) 9:30-AM NINE-HOLE-GOLF-2 11:00-AM--2:00-PM Tres-Gourmet 7:00-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Group-5-(Cinco)	9:30-AM Walkers 10:00-AM--2:00-PM Men's-Duplicate-Bridge-3 7:00-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes--El-Quattro
21	22	23	24	25
10:00-AM Men's-Duplicate-Bridge-#1 11:00-AM--2:00-PM Table-Pool-at-Masses 5:30-PM Couples-Dining-Out Brasas-do-Brazil Concord-Park-&-Shop	9:00-AM Golf 9:00-AM--1:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church 1:00-PM--4:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church	8:00-AM--10:00-AM Sums-in-Retirement 10:00-AM Bowling 12:30-PM--3:30-PM Cribbage	9:00-AM Area-16-Fishing Breakfast-Meeting Diablo-Creek-CC	9:30-AM Walkers 6:30-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Dos 6:45-PM--10:15-PM Mexican-Train-Dominoes-Group-3-(Tres)
28	29	30	31	Feb-1
11:00-AM--2:00-PM Table-Pool-at-Masses 1:00-PM--4:00-PM Poker-#3 1:00-PM Poker-Group-#2 1:00-PM Poker-Group-#4	9:00-AM Golf 9:00-AM--1:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church 1:00-PM--4:00-PM Pickleball-(MTWThF) San-Ramon-Valley-United-Methodist-Church 6:45-PM--10:00-PM Mexican-Train-Group-Seis	10:00-AM Bowling		9:30-AM--2:00-PM Men's-Duplicate-Bridge-2 9:30-AM Walkers

[Click here to get the most recent calendar update on Branch 146 website](#)