



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

February—March 2024



Big Sir's Corner

John Klusener

This month we added six new members to our Branch—the best we have done in my memory! We are well on our way to reaching and breaching our goal of 25 new members this year. This is directly the

result of the efforts of individuals reaching out to friends, neighbors or fellow members of church groups, telling them about SIR, the activities and the benefits of meeting and making new friends. **Jim Nelson** and **Sal Costanza** were each responsible for bringing in two new members in February. We will be tracking progress toward our goal using the graphic shown on page 2. So far we have seven guests and seven new members!!

Randy Graham and **Glen Breslin** are heading up a group that is looking at how we can improve our recruiting efforts. They have found that in talking with some groups like the ELKs and Kiwanis clubs, their members are impressed with the fact that we have a number of activities that include spouses or significant others. Someone also suggested that our own spouses might be effective recruiters for SIR by talking to women's groups that they might belong to or just to friends about the advantages of getting their husbands out of the house and actively engaged in activities! Do you have a friend/ acquaintance who would benefit from our Branch activities???

Jim Pope has also just completed meeting with a focus group of members who joined Branch 146 in 2023, to receive their perspective on the pros and cons of the organization. We will have a summary of those findings next month.

A new "Dining Out" experience is being planned for this coming June—a coed picnic! **Bob Wilkenfeld** is heading up the group doing the planning. You might want to start practicing up on your cornhole tossing skills for the event. We are also open to ideas for other sporting events as well. Let us know your thoughts!

John Klusener
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

Hello everyone, I hope you enjoyed our February speakers from American Medical Response. I thought they did a really good job of identifying when you should call 911 for high-risk scenarios.

Here is a recap of who we have lined up for the next few months. In March we will be hearing from Zach Harris, Vice President of Ancillary Services at John Muir Health, who will speak on the Future of Healthcare. I am still working on a speaker for April. For our Ladies Day luncheon in May we have an author, Michael J. Barrington, Ph.D., who will be talking to us about his books. Here is his website: www.mbwriter.net.

I want to remind annual luncheon payers that if you have signed up for lunch but can't make it, please let us know so we can tell Boundary Oak. If we don't notify Boundary Oak, we still have to pay them, even for no shows. I hope to see you all in March.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146

Luncheon

Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Boundary Oak 11:30

Zach Harris, Vice president of Ancillary Services
at John Muir Health

The Future of Healthcare

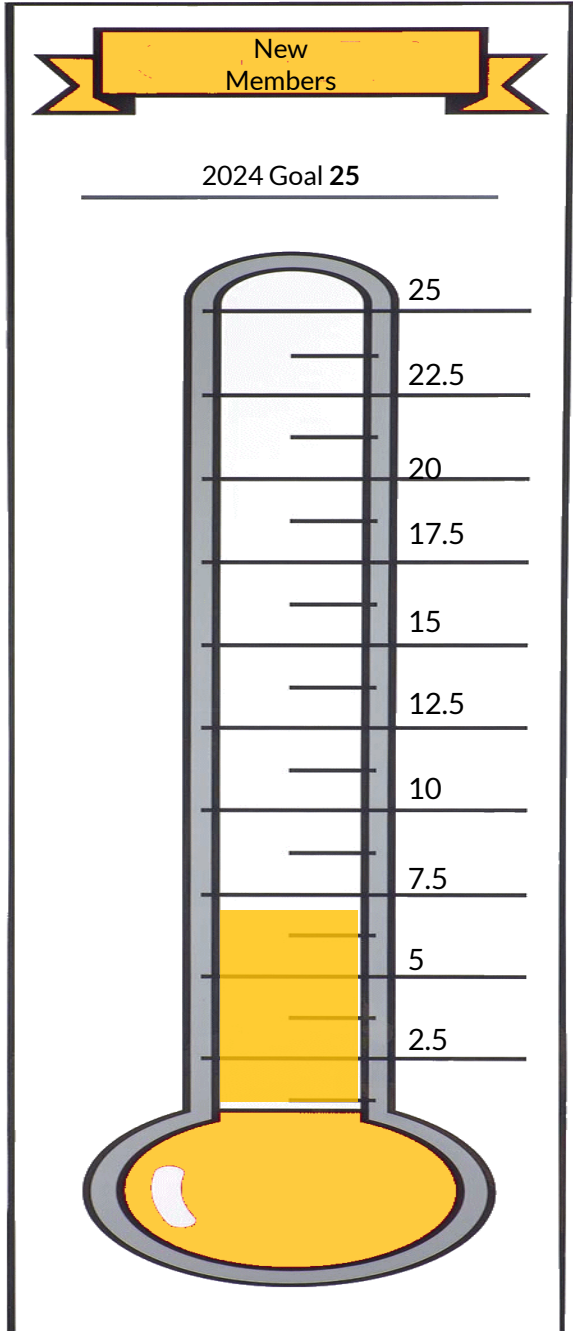
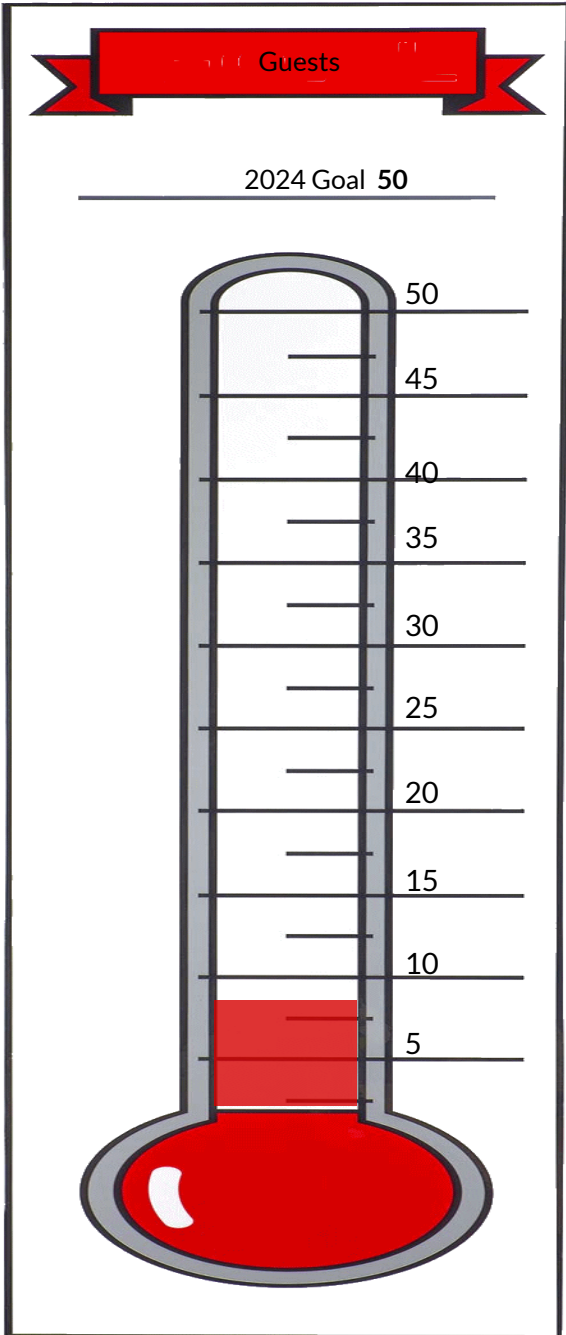
A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entree
go to page 3. (click this box)

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant





Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

We are still seeing a lot of members making a reservation, but not letting us know they are unable to attend. Last month we had 9 no shows and only 2 tried to warn me they were not able to attend. A significant portion of those not attending were annual payers. We base our food requirements we send to Boundary Oak on the number of reservations we have. When someone does not show up, it means we are paying for meals we did not have to. At \$36/lunch this can be a big hit to our budget that is unnecessary. Please let us know you will not be attending even if it is past the due date.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. The link on the menu should bring up an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and let us know your menu choice (meat, fish, or vegetarian).

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

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, March 14th, 2024 (**Happy Pi Day 3.14**)

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

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

If you do not reserve by Friday, March 8th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

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

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters

If you don't have e-mail, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans? If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to:

Friday, March 8th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



Luncheon Menu on Next Page!



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Last month I ran a little contest to see if any, some, or a lot of members could find a reference to the start of Spring and the specific date on which it would occur this year hidden somewhere in the newsletter.

Well, we have a winner, but I was surprised at the overall lack of attempted answers. Oh well. Someone was smart enough to know that the start of Spring is called the Vernal Equinox and that, this year, it comes earlier than usual on the 19th of March. Nobody detected, however, that you had two chances to win; the event was mentioned twice, once in the Couples Dining out column and again in the Sushi no Tomadachi column. As to the winner and the prize? Well you are just going to have to come to the March Luncheon to find that out!

Hey, know what this month's lunch day is? Other than SIR Luncheon that is. Why it is....

...and after some intense lobbying by myself, Steve and Steve (the lunch gang) you will get a little pie with lunch! Yippie!

Last submission date for the next issue will be March 17th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRC-all@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCcall@gmail.com

SIR Call Newsletter Group

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Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon

Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Salad

Irish Flag Clementine Cucumber Salad
Romaine Hearts, Clementines, Cucumber
Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Braised Corned Beef and Red Potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots

—or—

Creamy Herb Marinated Cod

Herb Marinated Cod, Red Potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots, Creamy Citrus Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian Pesto Ravioli

Cheese Ravioli, Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a
Pesto Sauce

Dessert

Apple Pie*

* In honor of Pi Day...

this is a change from the menu published last month

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Membership George Mon

Six new members were approved for membership in February.

James “Jim” Rowland lives in Concord with his wife **Jo Anne**. He was VP of Operations for Matheson Trigas. One of the

activities he enjoys is bird watching. **Jim** is sponsored by **Jim Nelson**.

Ron Sparacino lives in Martinez and was a Land Surveyor for Carlson Barbee & Gibson. He is into classical cars. His sponsor is **Sal Costanza**.

Tim Hogan and his wife **Diana** also live in Martinez. He was an Engineering Surveyor for the City of Walnut Creek for 37 years. He is also sponsored by **Sal Costanza**.

John Reilly lives in Walnut Creek and was an IT Professional for Caltronics/CitiBank. He is willing to provide computer support for the Branch. **Nic Jabuka** is his sponsor,

Mark Sorum and his wife **Barbara** also live in Walnut Creek. He was VP of Operations for IWG (Regus and Spaces). Some activities he is interested in are Poker and 9 hole Golf. **Jim Nelson** also sponsored him.

Chin Kei “CK” Leung lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Kacona**. He was an ESL Teacher for Acalanes Adult Education. **Randy Graham** is his sponsor and neighbor.

Three members resigned. **Anthony Adduci** had conflicts with time commitments between SIR and other activities he is interested in. **George Radtke** has health issues and can no longer participate in Branch activities. **Dave Svoboda** also has other things that pull him away from SIR.

As of this article, there are still 16 members who have not yet sent in their dues. They have been contacted and we are expecting renewal membership from 9 of them. However, there are seven members who have not responded to any of our attempts and risk membership cancellation by the end of February.

It is important to increase our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our

luncheons for this year. And hopefully many of them will decide to become members. The 2024 membership count is 246.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and then go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsor’s Role. The Member Application is under the Members tab.

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

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

George Mon

925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

2024 Officers and Directors	
Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 3rd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads
<u>RAMP-Chair Members</u>	
Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham
Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.	

**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE APRIL
MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 April Luncheon
Thursday, April 11th, 2024

Backyard Cole Slaw

Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots, Creamy Slaw Dressing

Entrées

Tailgate BBQ Ribs

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Corn Bread
Seasonal Vegetable, Tangy BBQ Sauce

—or—

Lemon Garlic Cod

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese, Corn
Bread, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta

in a Creamy Tomato Vodka Sauce

Dessert

Banana Cream Pie

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Roger Rivers	2018	6
Roger Meyer	2017	7
Carl Feil	2016	8
Milt Smith	2016	8
Gene Voelkel	2016	8
Larry Gray	2015	9
Jim Pope	2015	9
Jim Pfohl	2013	11
Jack Baldassari	2012	12
Jonathan Korfhage	2012	12
Calvin Tucker	2009	15
John Aaro	2008	16
Ron Binder	2006	18
Gary Schaub	2004	20
Richard Hanford	2000	24



Rich Ahlf
John Biasotti
Ron Binder
Bruce Borgman

Ed Brands
Jim Burk
Chuck Cornell
Bill Holly

Dave Kingsbury
Jonathan Korfhage
David Steinberg
Joe Stengel

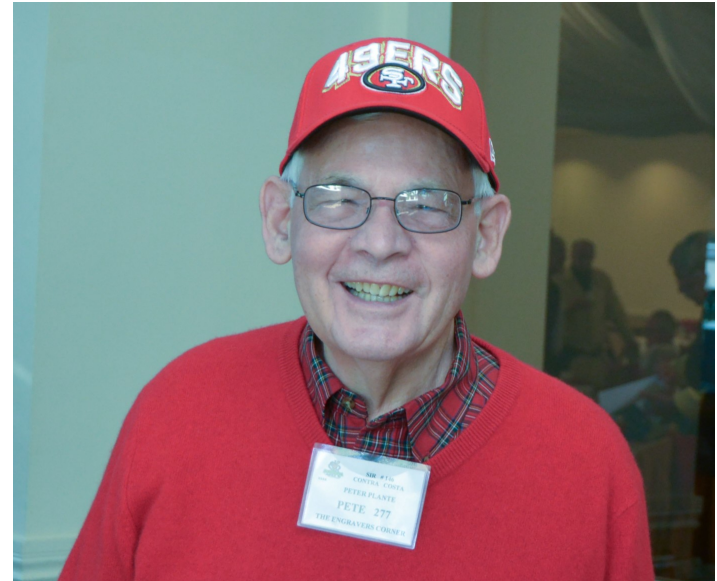
Al Munayer
Steve Oki
Ned Gamsky
Scott Simmons

Larry Ribarich
Paul Jones
Ron Self

SIR Meeting

Pictures by
Henry Thatcher





Jim Steadman, February Birthday winner







NOTES

from Our Members

A little Red Neck Humor....

A redneck with a bucket full of live fish was approached by a game warden as he started to drive his boat away from a lake.

The game warden asked the man, "May I see your fishing license please?"

"Naw, sir," replied the redneck. "I don't need none of them there papers. These here are my pet fish."

"Pet fish??"

"Yep. Once a week, I bring these here fish o'mine down to the lake and let 'em swim 'round for a while. Then when I whistle, they swim right back into my net and I take 'em home."

"What a line of horse sh-t....you're under arrest."

The redneck said, "It's the truth, Mr. Gov'ment Man. I'll show ya! We do this all the time!!"

"WE do, now, do WE?" smirked the warden. "PROVE it!"

The redneck released the fish into the lake and stood and waited. After a few minutes, the warden said, "Well?"

"Well, WHUT?" said the redneck.

The warden asked, "When are you going to call them back?"

"Call who back?"

"The FISH," replied the warden!

"Whut fish?" asked the redneck.

MORAL OF THE STORY:

We may not be as smart as some city slickers, but we ain't as dumb as some government employees.

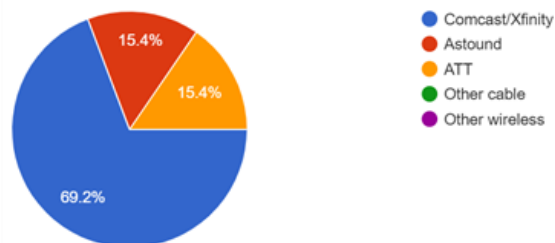
...wishes to remain anonymous

Internet Test...

Back at the end of last year you may recall I invited the SIR members to participate in a survey of their internet usage... who they were using as the ISP, Internet Service Provider, how fast their connection is, what browser they preferred, stuff like that.

Well the results are in but they are underwhelming. Only 13 of you chose to participate. Out of a population of over 200 that is not very good so I'm not sure we can draw any significant conclusions. Nevertheless, for those who might be interested, here are the results.

ISP service



Cost per month

Varied from a low of \$80 to \$235. A number of comments pointed out how their bill was so complicated they couldn't differentiate between internet service and other "features", fees, taxes and whatever.

77% had TV tied in with their service, 23% didn't.

Download Speed, A measure of how fast a screen fills.

All over the place! From 48mbps to 1200mbps. If yours is under about 400 you have poor service or are being ripped off.

Upload Speed, A measure of how fast you can send something.

Again all over the place. From 6mbps up to 91mbps. Average around 23mbps.

What Browser do you use?

Google Chrome (5), and MS Edge (5), Safari on Mac then Firefox.



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

All of our capable and very diligent Activity Chairs are exactly why SIR146 is successful. Please give each and every one of them a big shout out and convey how much we all appreciate them. I have listed them below:

Bird Watching-Ted Robertson, **Bocce**-John Kendrick, **Book Corner Chair**-Peter Plante, John Kendrick, **Book Group**-John Pearl, **Bridge**, John Kluesener, Dave Pierce, Tony Greco, Dick Devoe, Mike Whitaker, Jim Pope, **Cooking**-Steve Ybarra, **Cooking Lunch & Wine**-Paul Dubow, **Dining Out**-Bruce Borgman, **Cribbage**-Ron Afdal and John Kendrick, **Cycling**-Larry Kaye, **Dixieland Music**-Ross Abbott, **Explore and Eat**-Jim Pope and Henry Thatcher, **Fishing**-Paul Dubow, **Golf 18 Hole**-Dave Steinberg, **Golf 9 Hole**-Bob Ford, **Guitar Group**-Curtis Young, **Hearts**-Bob West & Steve Ybarra, **Hiking**-Mark Curtis, **Ladies Lunch**-Steve Ybarra and Max Hinkle, **Mexican Train Dominoes**-Corrie Oranje, Ron Plachy, Walt Busenius, Jim Pope, Henry Thatcher, Dennis Hallett, Steve Lane, Bob Lucido, Richard Hockenbrock, Bob Lucido, **Photography**-Moose Kelly and Henry Thatcher, **Pinochle**-Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson. **Poker**, Pete Gates and Brad Thatcher, **Song Sirs**, Peter Plante, **Sushi No Tomodachi**, Clint Collier, **Table Pool**-Tom Amman, **Theater**-Glenn Breslin, **Travel**-Glenn Breslin, **Wine Tasting**-Brian McCarthy and Bill Holly

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf-9 Hole](#)

[Golf-18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar March 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26	27	28	29	Mar 1
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm – 4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm – 3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm – 3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 6 Seis		10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
4	5	6	7	8
9:45am – 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF–1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	12:00pm – 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm – 2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr
11	12	13	14	15
10:00am Hiking 11:30am – 1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm – 7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am – 10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am – 1:30pm SIR Luncheon	9:00am – 11:00am Photography Group Casey Library 10:00am – 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno 7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
18	19	20	21	22
10:00am Hiking 11:30am – 1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 5:30pm Couples Dining Out Three Brothers From China 2001 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm – 10:00pm Couples Dup Bridge 1 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF–1 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	12:00pm – 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm – 4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm – 3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm – 3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am – 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF–1	



Theater Glenn Breslin



If you are interested in Mystic Pizza or Cabaret, then please let me know ASAP at (glennbreslin@gmail.com). Mystic Pizza date is coming up soon and I have a few Cabaret tickets still available.

The SIR146 Theater group has reserved seats for Mystic Pizza and Cabaret musical shows at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek. The Leshner Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced (especially when compared with SF Theater prices).

Some seats are much better than others. Currently, some very good seats are still available.

As soon as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.

If interested, please make out your check to SIR146 and send to me – at Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549.

Your Guests are also welcome to attend.

Both shows: Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.

Closer to the date, I will add an optional dinner, for those that want to socialize after the performance.

Mystic Pizza

- Date: Sat, Feb 24, 2024 - Time: 2:30 PM, Ticket price is \$68
- The story centers around the lives of three young working-class waitresses at the Mystic Pizza shop in Mystic, Connecticut. The script includes very familiar 1980s songs by such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Van Morrison, Melissa Etheridge and others around an engaging true to life story. The story drives the show, and the music enhances the love for the characters and their journey.

Cabaret

- Date: Sat, June 22, 2024 - Time: 2:30 PM, Ticket price is \$35
- Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW2 Germany.

Please reach out to me should you have any questions or comments.

I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you!

Glenn Breslin
SIR146 Theater Chair
glennbreslin@gmail.com
925-788-6520



Travel Glenn Breslin



These upcoming SIR trips are open to all SIRs and their guests. Rows 2 and 3 are SIR146 specific trips. Row 4 is a new Statewide SIR trip. Best of Spain and Portugal (row 2) has 10 SIR members attending. ***This trip will close out on 2/27. If you are interested, then please let me know asap.***

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
1	Alaskan Cruise	5/26/24 to 6/6/24	\$2590 to \$3322	Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada.	Contact John Cardoza 209.483.7722 johncardoza@hotmail.com
2	Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7395	Airfare and 15 day guided trip. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes tips. Discounts may still be available.	SIR146 – Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
3	Memorials of WW II	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10-day trip, highlighting WW II events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.	SIR146 – Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
4	Prague to Budapest Cruise	11/6/24 to 11/20/24	\$3195 to \$3995. Additional \$1000 discount for early bookers.	Danube River Cruise Click HERE for trip info Includes Multiple stays at all these destinations: Budapest-Hungary, Bratislava-Czech Republic and Vienna-Austria, and others. Excursions are included.	State SIR Travel Chair: Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 925.285.2897

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

Why do I and the rest of this small hiking group do what we do?

- 1) It's great to get outside and get some exercise and fresh air.
- 2) The physical aspects of walking/hiking have been very well documented with respect to physical and mental health.
- 3) It might also help with your libido! It's enjoyable to observe the flora and fauna in what little remains of our historic wild lands.
- 4) We must take this opportunity to appreciate the natural world while we still can, instead of reading about it in books. We cannot possibly re-plant trees at close to the same pace that modern (??) civilization is removing them. Trees are a great resource to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is a paraphrase from a Native American: "once the green is gone, the earth will die."

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



American Avocet entering winter plumage photo by Mark Curtis

[Further Hiking Photos on next page](#)

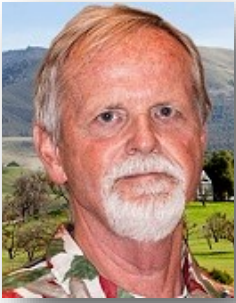
Further Hiking Photos



Clawed crawdad photo by Jim Rowland



Blue Heron in flight photo by Jim Rowland



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography group met at the Thurman Casey Library in Walnut Creek on Friday, January 26th. This was a change in venue that was more conducive to our photographic needs. The facility had a large screen TV with an HDMI cable for projecting our pictures. We could make the room darker as needed. Additionally, we had easy access to the internet to assist us in the meeting.

A shout out for **Larry McAllister** for supplying our hungry donut lovers with the "goodies."

We had the following SIR members attend our kickoff meeting for 2024: **Clint Collier, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Bob Wilkenfeld, Glenn Breslin, Ron Polivka, Bill Holly, Dave Tucker, Rich Ahlf, Mike Rothman, Peter Plant, Ken Studer, David Tucker, Moose Kelly, and Henry Thatcher**

The highlights of the meeting were:

- Go Pro Best Videos of 2023 – Fast pace and loud. The video was intended to "jazz" the gang
- Discussion and feedback on the 2024 photography calendar. It is posted in SIR Call for review.
- Three elements of camera exposure which is shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.
- How to use shutter speed in different types of photographic settings.
- Christmas shots from **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Moose Kelly**
- Icelandic shots from **Bob Wilkenfeld, Frank Terzuoli, and Moose Kelly** in different times of 2023
- Local and international shots from **Larry McAllister**.
- Discussion on "Best Photo" Contest for 2024.

The meeting was busy and interactive with comments and suggestions from our esteem group. Henry and I have posted some of the pictures with this article that highlighted the meeting.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meet-

ing to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Note our outing calendar for 2024 follows the next 2 pages of pictures.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Frosty's Dilemma—Bob Wilkenfeld



Many Hats—Larry McAllister

Pictures Continue on next page

Images of Iceland



Shiny Streets—Larry McAllister



We know where Santa lives—Moose Kelly



Glacier Lagoon in Southeast Iceland—Moose Kelly



Northern Lights—Moose Kelly

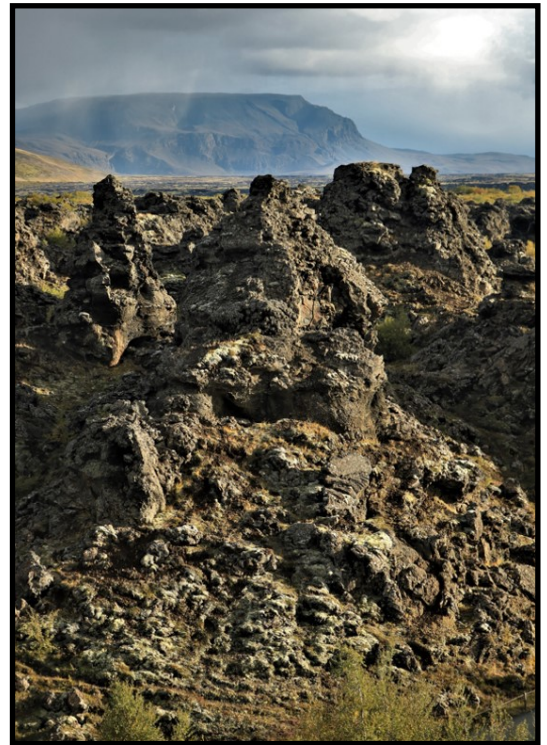


Canon EOS 750d: f7.1/22mm/ (1/160 sec)/ISO 200
Inland Plateau

Iceland Landscape—Frank Terzuoli



Iceland wilderness—**Bob Wilkenfeld**



Iceland Landscape—**Frank Terzuoli**



Iceland Landscape—**Frank Terzuoli**

[2024 Photography planned outings are on next page](#)

SIR Branch 146 Photography Calendar – 2024

February – Bird Photography shoot at Heather Farms / San Francisco National Wildlife Refuge.

March 22 Meeting – Present Bird Photos from February shoot. Flower photography theme with articles / videos. Shoot at Filoli Historic House and Gardens.

April Late / Early May – Filoli Garden shoot

May 17 Meeting – Present Filoli Garden Photos. Parade Shooting theme with articles / videos. Memorial Day / Fourth of July

May late / June – Present Memorial Day Parade Photo, or the Presidio at the Main Post and New Tunnel Tops Park.

July 19 Meeting – Minimalist Photography theme. Shoot Mt View Cemetery, or Architectural Tour of Berkeley Campus or the SF Financial District.

August – Architectural tour shoot

September 20 Meeting – Present architectural tour photos. Captive Wildlife Photography theme.

October – Shoot Captive Wildlife Photography at the Oakland Zoo or San Francisco Zoo

November 15 Meeting – Turning photos into art discussion. Feedback and brainstorming session for 2025 calendar.

December 6 – Photo Contest Results. Christmas Luncheon at Rocco's. HOORAY!!



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

The course is really turning green with all the rain we had. With spring not far away why don't you come out and tune up your golf game. Our group

tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant on the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email to those who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



GOLF Ed Marlovits

The SIR State Golf Committee has arranged venues and dates for the annual State golf events.

First up is the Spring Fling which will be held at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines on April 24 and 25. These will be team events and you can sign up as a team or you can be paired up at the event. There will be a woman's section but women may also play with the men. The flyer and registration form can be found at the state website. <https://www.sirgolf.org>.

That website has yet to be fully updated but the year's other events have been scheduled:

- The annual Reno outing will be June 4-7; Golf at Lakeridge and Toiyabe; Nugget Hotel
- Team Championship at Spanos Reserve in Stockton on August 7-8 (pick your day)
- A new Carson City event will be held SEPT 8-11
- The Individual Championship will be at Haggin Oaks in Sacramento on October 3
- The Fall Classic will be at Lincoln Hills and Turkey Creek in Lincoln on October 22-23

Ed Marlovits



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

1/30/24: I could not figure out what that noise was coming from the garage. Upon inspection I realized it was my bike. It was begging to get out and enjoy a promised dry day. I sent a note to the cycling guys and the response

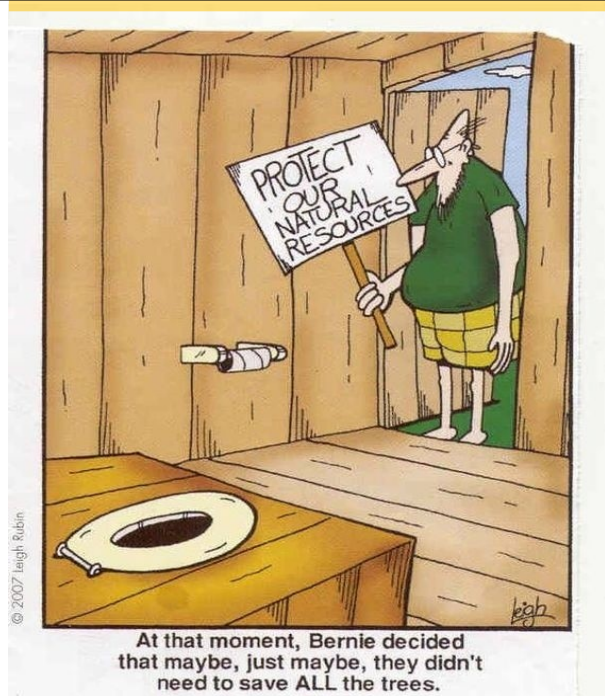
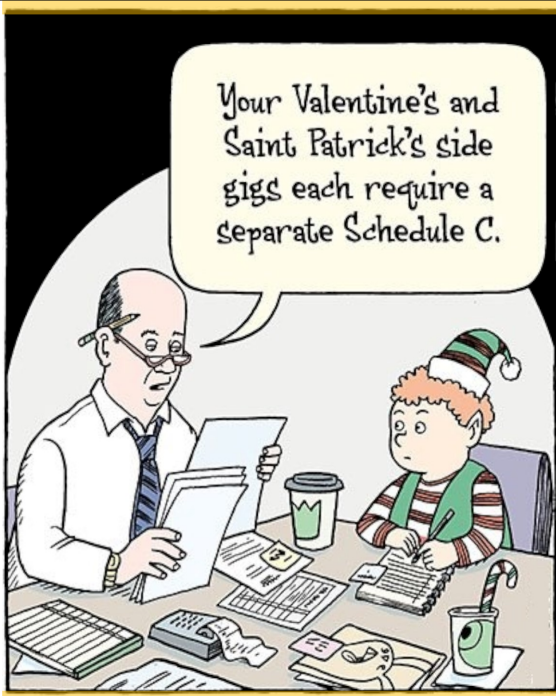
was huge. Seems their rigs were also complaining. Tuesday arrived and we met. **Bob Lucido, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyers and The Moose man and me, Larry Kaye.**

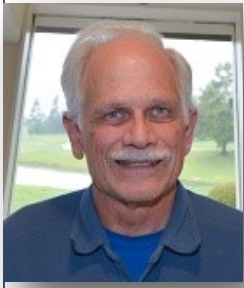
A short ride was ordered up and off we went. The sky was gray but dry. Touring Danville and Alamo we managed to get some nice miles on our legs. We stopped in Danville at the new French Bakery on Railroad Avenue. Java and some delicious pastries were enjoyed. The miles paid the way for the extra calories. Being active allows oneself to enjoy some extra calories while getting much needed exercise.

2/10/24: So, I made the call. 'Please give us a sunny dry day.' Well, it was sunny and dry but yikes it was cold, 39' at 8 am. We were meeting at 9:30 so I figured we had a chance. At 9:30 it was 48' and the sun was up. Gathered today was **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyers, Bill Holly, Larry Kaye** and a visitor from Branch 8, **Pat Hoy**. We rode. Today's ride was a test of the effects of weeks of rain on our legs. Heading out from Alamo we got into the groove and began to somewhat warm up. Danville disappeared in the rear and

Blackhawk became visible. Onwards. The hills around Blackhawk seemed a bit steeper than in the past but pedaling hard we scaled the beasts. Quads screaming the entire time. Up and over, we flew, Diablo in our sights. Finally, we rolled through Diablo and into Northern Danville. The hills vanished and Alamo became the goal. The smell of hot coffee and yummy French pastries carried us those last miles into Alamo. Peets was greeted with smiles. A great ride and some good conversations soon pointed us each home. Friendships are born with fun, conversation, and brotherhood. Age means nothing.

2-13-24: To work off some Super Bowl pounds, **Bob Lucido, Roger Meyer, Bill Ross and Bob Wilkenfeld** headed out from Lafayette, on the 13th, for a 14 mile, easy trail ride to Moraga for coffee. Upon arriving at the café, we realized that we still had a few more pounds to shed. So we headed to Laguna Moraga Park. This added about 3.5 miles and a steep 500 foot climb to our outing. Needless to say, our hearts were pumping from the climb, so the café break was very welcome. Thankfully, the return ride back to Lafayette was mostly downhill!!





Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30 AM, a group of five SIR birders met at the Martinez Regional Shoreline Park to look for birds living in marshes, ponds, mudflats and the ocean. We ended up spotting 28 species of birds.

Some highlights of the trip were Black-crowned Night Herons perched in a few pines, several Marsh Wrens establishing breeding territories, 11 Turkey Vultures, several that were perched in a lone small tree, several species of ducks, and a Semi-palmated Plover on the sandbar that was exposed at the end of the trip.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on March 20th. This trip has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the month to avoid a scheduling conflict. Location will be announced the week before. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Ted Roberson
925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



A Turkey Vulture perched in a small tree. (Photo by Jim Rowland)



SIR members looking at ducks on the pond. (Photo by Ken Studer)

A person that weighs 200
pounds on Earth weighs
76 pounds on Mars.

So I'm not overweight,
I'm on the
wrong planet.





AREA 16 Fishing Report

In our last report, we mentioned that we were awaiting word whether the Department of Fish and Wildlife will allow for a salmon season this year and whether fishing for rockfish and ling cod would be limited to depths more than 300 feet, which would limit that sport to the Farallones. We are frustrated to report that the Department has not yet acted and that we are still in limbo, although we suspect that these regulations will stay in effect during 2024. Worse, a rumor is floating that the Department is considering a permanent ban on fishing for salmon in California rivers and so if the salmon fishing bar is ever lifted, it will only apply to the ocean.

Therefore, we have a very skimpy report this month. The main venue has been Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton. **Carl Moyer**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, and **Bob Lively** all caught rainbows there and Bob also was successful on a foray to Contra Loma Reservoir. **Jack Birch** limited out on rainbows during a multi-day trip to Lake Davis, near Portola. Best of all, San Pablo Reservoir reopened on Valentine's Day, and we are looking forward to some good fishing there.

But we are happily looking forward to better times ahead. Even if there is no salmon fishing and we must travel to the Farallones to fish for rockfish and ling cod, there are other areas where we can drop our lines. This has been a good year for striper fishing in the Delta and we have quite a few outings planned there. Another strong halibut season is expected to commence in April. We are also scheduled for overnight trips for trout/kokanee fishing in New Melones Reservoir, Lake Almanor, Stampede Reservoir, and Lake Don Pedro and there is a possibility that we may return to Pyramid Lake in Nevada for cutthroat trout. We have two long range trips planned for Mexico, but the slots are fully booked and there is a waiting list. And we continue to try our luck for sturgeon in the Delta, although that has clearly slowed over the past few years.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 22, at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord.

Note: The following meeting is on Thursday March 28th and is also our annual auction where members offer some of their gear for sale at substantially reduced prices. Thus, if any of you are looking to supplement your fishing stuff or are interested in taking up fishing, the March 28th meeting would be an excellent opportunity for you to attend.

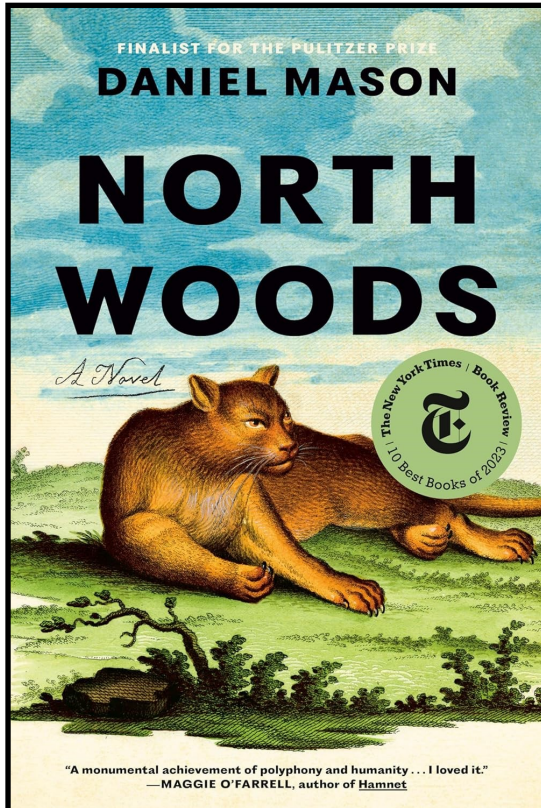
Our meetings begin at 8:30 am, but many of us arrive at 7:30 for breakfast and to spin tales.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

Book Group



The group's selection for January was for two books, with the reader choosing one, or, to read both. The first book was *North Woods*, by Daniel Mason, a well-known author and Pulitzer Prize finalist. The book is a series of stories revolving around the role the main character, a yellow house in the north woods near the Massachusetts-Vermont border, plays in the lives of the succeeding inhabitants from its building to near-present times. The make-up of the groups is extremely varied. The book received major recognition from many reviewers and publications. From a review on Amazon that describes the series of house' occupants:



When two young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to growing apples. A pair of spinster twins navigates war and famine, envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths an ancient mass grave—only to discover that the earth refuses to give up its secrets. We also meet a lovelorn painter, a sinister con man, a stalking panther, and a lusty beetle. As the inhabitants confront the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive.

Again, the only link between them is the yellow house, and the various roles it plays in their lives. One interesting comment was that “The characters change the land, and the land changes them in unusual ways.” This is not surprising, but what is interesting to me as how the author goes about describing the changes and the role the house actually plays in these changes that happen over a 300 year period.

The narrative sometimes drags and requires the reader to press on to reach the meat of the next act in the house's story.

Sometimes the characters, like the house, never die, but reappear as supernatural entities. One who died actually comes back to life and takes up a new profession. When the reader looks up the author, he

finds that the Mr. Mason is an assistant professor in the Stanford University Department of Psychiatry.

The book can also be described as a kind of metaphor, because it has as many different lives as readers, just as a house has usually has many different occupants over its lifetime. The author skillfully weaves these together as he “paints” the time and places in this novel, a group of interesting stories revolving around a house in the woods.

If you like short stories that move along a time line of many years with many different characters, you should like this book.

Our second book that we thought merited reading was *A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pirates, Written by Herself*. The author is Katherine Howe.

The book's summary tells it all: From New York Times: bestselling author Katherine Howe comes a daring first-hand account of one young woman's unbelievable adventure as one of the most terrifying sea rovers of all time. But there is more to the story, as the end reveals.

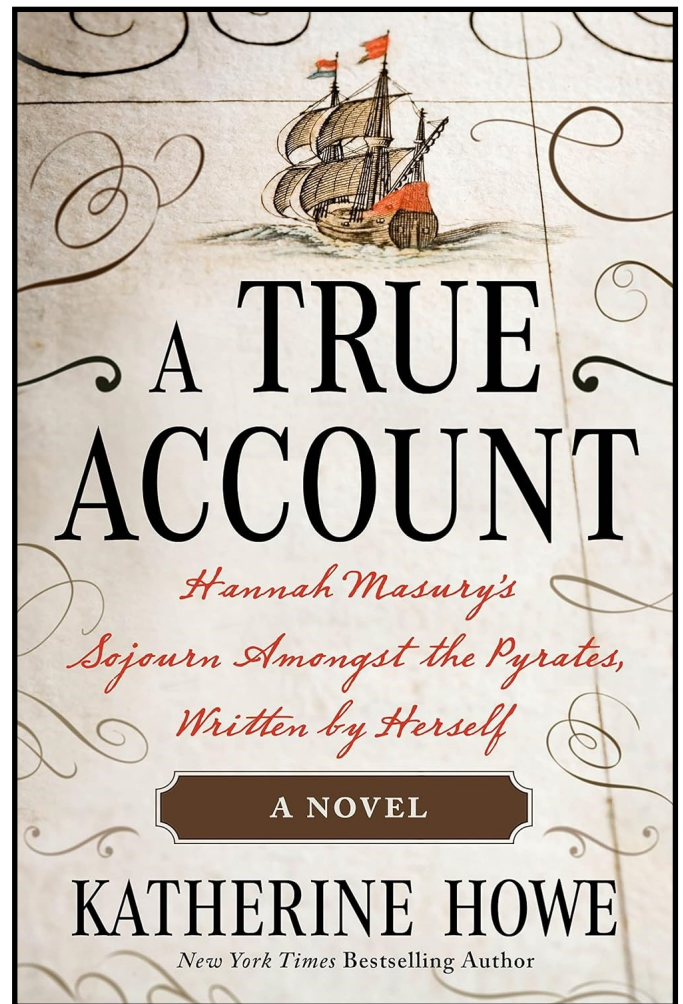
The book begins in 1776 when the main character, Hannah Masury, who works at the Ship Tavern near the Boston waterfront, attends the public hanging of William Fly, a “pyrate” (yes, for piracy). En route, she observes two young boys paddling a rowboat in the harbor. When she returns to the loft which was her sleeping quarters, she

is accosted by one of the boys, Billy Chandler, who asks her to hide him. He provides her with a mysterious paper. Soon thereafter, two ruffians appear with designs to obtain the paper, which apparently contains the key to a hidden treasure. The ruffians kill Billy and chase Hannah through the buildings near the tavern until she is nearly caught. She decides that she needs to leave town in a hurry. Billy had told her that he had signed on as a cabin boy on a ship that was docked in the harbor. She finds the ship at the end of the wharf, embarks on it, takes Billy's name, and begins working as the ship's cabin boy. Not long after the ship sails, crew member Ned Low murders the captain. It turns out that the crew members are all pirates, and that Low is their leader. Hannah adjusts to the situation and takes up her assigned duties. She is able to disguise the fact of being a young woman because her poor diet and hard work at the tavern apparently delayed puberty enough that she could pull this off.

As the ship gets underway, the stage is now set for the pirate tale. And as the ship sails, we move to the other part of the story, which takes place sometime after World War I. The two main characters here are Dr. Marian Beresford, a professor at Radcliffe, and Kay Lonergan, one of her students. They are meeting in the professor's office where Kay has brought what might be a manuscript which she claims was written by a female pirate named Hannah. The book then switches between the time of the pirate ship's travels and adventures, and Marian and Kay's attempts to find the treasure, which they ultimately determine to be on an island off the Florida Keys.

The pirates go on their merry way and do what pirates do, as the two Radcliffe women attempt to authenticate the so-called manuscript to raise money for an expedition. It turns out that Marian's father is a member of the famous Explorers Club in New York and thus might have access to the resources necessary to mount an expedition to the island.

The pirates head south, encounter a French ship which they capture and clean out some arms, jewelry, and money. Ned Low assigns Seneca, Hannah's bunk mate and eventual love interest, to captain the ship and puts a crew on board. Hannah is part of the new crew. They sail alongside the pirate ship and encounter a major storm, which does damage, but they manage to ride it out. It is here that Seneca decides that Ned Low (who is an actual historical character) is not a man they wish to continue with. They sail off on their own, knowing that if caught by Ned Low, he will try to kill them. They



are fairly sure of where they are going and where the treasure may be.

Back in the twentieth century, Marian makes the arrangements for the expedition and she, her father, and Kay travel by train to Key West. This is before the highway replaced the train. Information about the expedition begins to leak to the press, seemingly deliberately, from Kay, which upsets Marian and her father, who worry about the ramifications for the Explorers Club. It is now apparent to the reader that Kay is using the manuscript and the expedition to promote herself, including gaining a career in Hollywood. The book hints that Hannah's tale may be a fake and that Kay knows it.

The book then returns to the pirates' story. Seneca and his crew arrive at their island destination, where they will set up camp and do repair work and hull cleaning. The remains of a previous visit await them, and there is fruit and a neighboring island with wild pigs for food. Hannah learns that William Fly, the pirate whose hanging she observed at the beginning of

the tale, was part of their group until he stole their large treasure and purportedly buried it on a nearby island. Hannah also realizes that Seneca is well aware that she is a woman.

Hannah and Seneca sail alone to yet another very small island where, based on Billy Chandler's map, they suspect the treasure will be found. Their suspicions are confirmed when they find the body of William Fly's mate. They leave the island planning on returning the next day. After they row back to the camp site, they discover that Ned Low has arrived and is anchored next to their ship. Low is back in control of all of the pirates and so Seneca and Hannah have no choice but to flee on one of the ships.

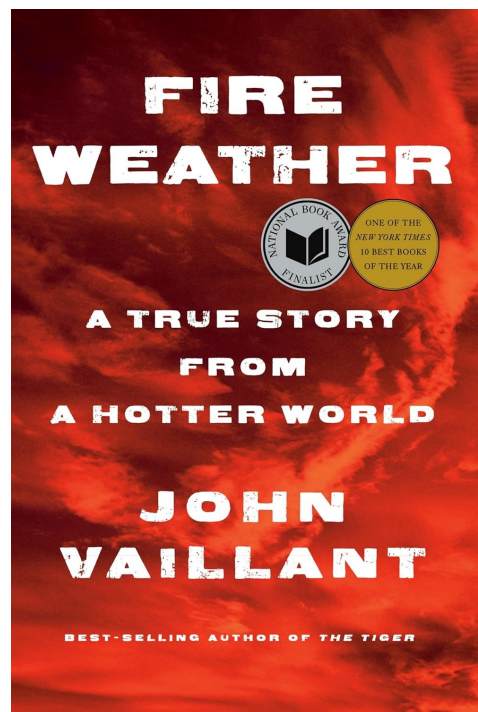
The book switches back to the three members of the Explorers Club expedition. They are settled in at the hotel, ready for the next day's search. In the morning, Marian and her father discover Kay being interviewed in a Movietone newsreel about the expedition! They charter a boat, captained by an old salt who concludes (correctly) that they are on a wild goose chase, but who is happy to collect their money. They head for the island that they suspect holds the treasure. But it is not there because the island where Seneca and Hannah landed was far away in the Caribbean.

The end of this book is full of surprises. All we can tell you is that Marian ultimately deciphers the map and finds the treasure in an unlikely place and that she realizes that Hannah's tale was true and not invented by Kay.

We have mixed feelings about the book. Hannah's story is fun to read and, if you like pirate tales, it is highly recommended. But the part of the book that takes place in the twentieth century seems contrived and the characters are not fully developed. For one thing, it is difficult to believe that a prestigious organization like the Explorers Club would fund an expedition consisting solely of an elderly retired explorer, his middle aged daughter, and an egotistical college student looking for a treasure based on a tale written by a barmaid.

Did you know....

Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.



Our next book is *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant. It is the story of a huge fire that consumed northern Alberta during the summer of 2016.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com





Guitar Group Curtis Young

SIR 146 Guitar Group. We have a small group of dedicated players in our Guitar Group and that the group is getting larger in size with some good players amongst us. I am looking for more

people interested in playing in a group setting. All skill levels will get something out of our get together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Meeting time is 1:00-2:30 at my home. I encourage you to bring music you want to play, share or learn. If you are interested please contact me!



Curtis Young

cy3772@gmail.com



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs will go to the Martinez Senior Center on March 7 and sing a program of Irish music for the residents. We will perform such favorites as "Cockles and Mussels", "McNamara's Band" and two other favorites - "Today" and "All The Way." Our next rehearsal is on March 6 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact Tom Amann, who is subbing for Jim as Jim recovers,

for complete information. Contact Tom at tamann1@yahoo.com

Jim Barry

jbarry@sbcglobal.net



Bocce John Kendrick

In three short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will be active and always looking for new players. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the

months of May through September.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 13, 2024.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their favorite reads.

The Book Corner returns in

April. Significant others are encouraged to come before the meeting and get their favorite authors.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group celebrated a rainy Valentines Day with their wives/ significant others on February 14 at Fiore's Restaurant in Concord. Eight of us were able to attend the dinner event. Fiore's provided a three

course meal, plus appetizers and dessert, a fixed menu that was delicious and enjoyed by all. Next month, **Corrie Oranje** will be home hosting lunch on March 11 at 11:30am. No photo this month.

Steve Ybarra

sjybar@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Gates

The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group was scheduled to hold its February luncheon at Bill Hartman's home tomorrow. Unfortunately, Bill is ill and so it was decided to meet at the

Back Forty for a "catered" lunch, i.e., we will be ordering from the menu. Hopefully, Bill will be up and about and able to attend the luncheon at Clint Collier's home on March 20.

Our spouses and significant others will be enjoying themselves at the Andaman Thai in Walnut Creek.

(Article contributed by Paul Dubow.)

Pete Gates

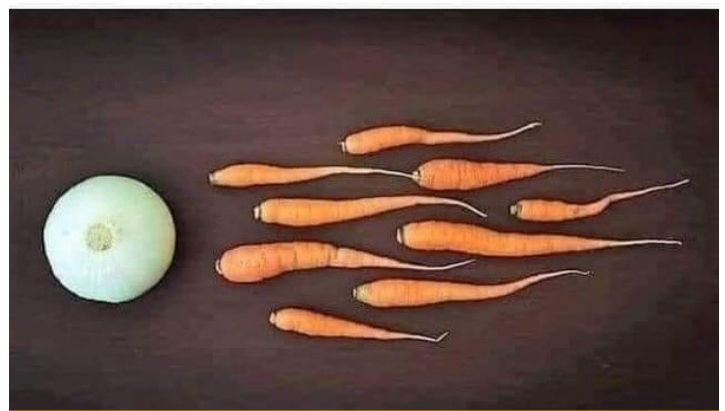
petegates10@gmail.com

**A RARE PHOTO OF A BABY CARROT
CLINGING TO ITS MOTHER, BEFORE
BEING EATEN BY A HEARTLESS VEGAN**



STOP THIS CRUELTY NOW

The beginnings of vegetable stew.





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Where will we go in March? It is really amazing just how many sushi restaurants there are around here these days. We are in our third year of operation,

we have only repeated once (for our Holiday Party) and yet more and more of them seem to be either popping up or were missed.

Here is yet another example



Located in the Crossroads Shopping center in Pleasant Hill at the corner of Monument Blvd. and Buskirk, its address is 2380 Monument Blvd. They open at 11:00 so plan on coming about that time to insure we can get seats together.

They offer a sushi lunch for under \$20 as well as a wide selection of Maki, Sashimi, and Nigiri. They claim to offer traditional sushi as well as contemporary styles of maki. "One of our highest values is customer satisfaction, as we strive to serve the freshest ingredients with the service that is expected of a small, independent restaurant." Don't know about the others, but I'm looking forward to a lobster Temaki!

Lunch is our usual third Thursday of the month, March 21st, or for you Druids, two days after the vernal equinox! A reminder e-mail will go out to members of the group in early March asking for your RSVP. If you are not on our "mailing list" and are interested we do have room, shoot me an e-mail expressing your interest!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



The first wine tasting of 2024 was held January 23 at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**. It was a lovely day for January and the group drifted out to the patio. We are so thankful to **Richard and Virginia Tygart** for being such great hosts.

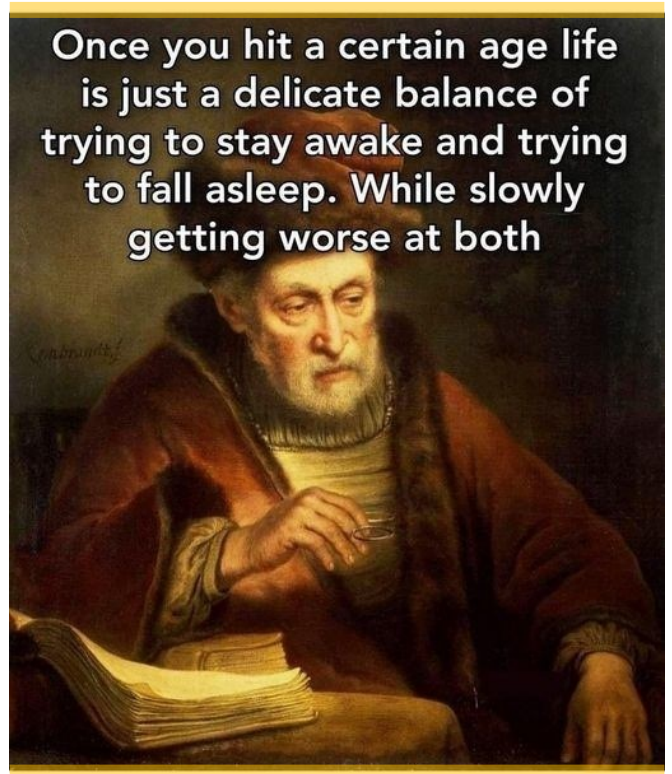
The wine was Italian. We tasted 10 Italian reds and 6 Italian whites. **Joe & Barbara Stengel** won for favorite red (Primitivo) and **Joe Herger & Vicki Smith** won for favorite white (Pinot Grigio). Thanks to all who brought appetizers. They were delicious.

Our next wine tasting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23. Please check the April Sir Call for details. Bill Holly and I hope to see you then.

Brian McCarthy

br146winetasting@gmail.com 925.324.2463

Once you hit a certain age life is just a delicate balance of trying to stay awake and trying to fall asleep. While slowly getting worse at both





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As we indicated in the last issue of SIR Call, we decided to consider a Chinese restaurant for our March event. The one that was recommended by our eminent SIR Call editor was “Three

Brothers from China”, which boasts an authentic cuisine from Hong Kong. It is in a strip mall in Pleasant Hill at 2001 Contra Costa Blvd, with adequate parking and convenient access. It has been a popular restaurant since 1992. Since the restaurant is closed on Mondays, we will be enjoying our March event on Tuesday, March 19. We will have our no host social and cocktail hour at 5:30pm and will start dinner around 6:15pm. The restaurant has a separate banquet area, and we will therefore have plenty of room to socialize and enjoy the family style dinner. We have selected their Banquet #1 which has a fine variety of dishes including a mixed seafood soup, and various savory dishes with chicken, beef, seafood, and crab, as well as their Yang Chow Fried Rice – a unique dish beloved for its colorful and balanced mixture of ingredients. We’ll finish with dessert. The full menu is included on the next page of this newsletter issue. The restaurant’s bar menu is limited to beer and wine, and the good news is that if you wish to bring your own bottle, the corkage is only \$9! The total cost including tax and tip is just \$50 – a good deal that we could not achieve with traditional plated dinners.

As of this writing, on Valentine’s Day, we have 53 diners signed up. While the banquet room can accommodate a larger number, we will probably limit the total number to around 60. This type of meal is served family style with tables of 10 which will allow you to chat with several of your SIR friends. If you wish to be included, send me an email to indicate your interest and follow up with a check made out to SIR Branch 146. We are looking forward to yet another wonderful Dining Out event!

If you are not on our mailing list to get firsthand information about our events, send me an email to be added – bgborgman@aol.com.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



COUPLES DINING OUT



Three Brothers From China

Authentic Chinese Cuisine from Hong Kong
2001 Contra Costa Blvd, Suite A 50, Pleasant Hill

Tuesday March 19, 2024

no—host cocktails 5:30pm Dinner: 6:15pm

Menu

Mixed Seafood Soup

Sauteed Seafood Three Ingredients

Stir Fried Tender Beef

Golden Crispy Chicken with Garlic

Dungeness Crab with Ginger and Scallion

Minced Beef and String Beans with Crispy Tofu

Sauteed Vegetables deluxe with Mushrooms

Steamed live Black Bass

Yang Chow Fried Rice

Dessert of the Day

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com,

Confirm with check to SIR146, mailed to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598

\$50.00 per person,
including tax and tip. — Served family style.

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

I must admit, we have the best group of individuals for Mexican Train Uno! Despite a few last-minute absences, we managed to

pull off a great evening. Thank you to **Martha and Peter Plante** for hosting. **Martha** pulled off a seasonal February dessert by serving homemade Red Velvet Cake!

There were no real upsets to our scores this evening. Average scores ranged from 19.1 to 32.6, no earth shattering playing, although **Martha** did go out 5 times with 10 games played. **Virginia Tygart** had lots of doubles and in most cases, did not have a tile to follow, forcing her to draw. **Martha** being next in play had to satisfy



MTD1 Winners: 1st Marth Plante, 2nd Gabriela Bishop, 3rd Bruce Borgman.

the double, and probably 90% of the time, did!

We look forward to playing in March at **Peter and Gabriela Bishop's** home.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on January 26th after The Sir Call went to press when the ole Mexican Train carried us to the home of **Judy Richmond** in Walnut

Creek. **Joyce Wells & Jim Barry, Sally & Lynn Shaffer, Linda & Larry Brown, Jim Stedman & Jane, Sharon Varner** enjoyed the train ride and **Judy's** wonderful hospitality and treats.

We competed and we chatted, but **Judy Richmond** garnered the grand prize averaging 12.0 per game, with **Jim Stedman** coming in 2nd averaging 17.25 per game. Finally, **Larry Brown** claimed 3rd place and some prize money. We said our goodbyes, boarded the ole train and followed the sunset home.

We will meet next on February 23rd at the home of **Alicia Baily**. All Aboard in the Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com





Mexican Train Dominoes “Quatro”

On February 16th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope’s** home with 8 people. Half of our group were travelling or on family activities. In attendance this evening were: **Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Ken and Carol Sault, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope.**

Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of four. We paid the player at each table with low table score 4 California Lotto Scratchers tickets. The winners were **Renie Pope** and **Sue Oki** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players. **Ron Louis** and **Ken Sault** were awarded one Lotto ticket. The next El Quatro MTD will meet next on **March 15th**.

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



MTD 4 winners: **Sue Oki and Renie Pope**



MTD 4 High Scorers: **Ron Louis and Ken Sault**



Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

On a brisk winter evening **Bob and Janet Yolland** warmly hosted us on February 15th. We were missing our affable coordinator, **Dennis Hallett**, although the reason why did not involve a golf ball.

Dave Pierce went out three times in a row, for a natural hat trick, but that wasn’t good enough to get into the money. The prize money after seven rounds went to our host, **Bob** (75, went out three times), **Joan**

Pierce (80, went out twice), and **Anne Burk** (93). But we were all winners when **Janet** served a delicious cheesecake pie topped with raspberries. Signs of spring.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD6 was back in action after the holidays at **Richard Hockenbrock's** beautiful home with **Steve** and **Carol Lane** hosting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

With 6 players at our two tables, fun and food was had by all. I believe we had a new lowest score ever for our MTD6 group - with **Martha Plante** scoring a 3.4 average over 8 games- WOW. So that left second place to **Peter Plante** and third place to **Kathe Mitchell**, and the rest of us fighting for the scratchers (**Bruce Borgman, Mary and Brian McCarthy, Steve and Carol Lane, Virginia Tygart, Richard Hockenbrock, Mary Schmidt, and John "Moose" Kelly.**

And the scratcher winners were **Carol Lane** and **Richard Hockenbrock.**

We are looking forward to our next get together - on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024, at **Kathe Mitchell's** home.

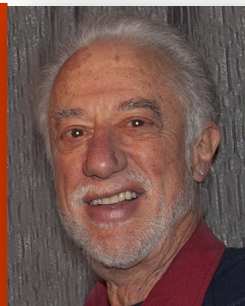
Steve Lane
925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



The Lucky!



The Not so Lucky!



Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob the Poet Lucido

MTD scandal?

At our latest MTD 7 activity, **Bob West** achieved a record-breaking score of 7.6, leaving our group in awe. The score was so shockingly low that rumors started circulating faster than gossip in a hair salon.

The first suspicion? **Bob** must have been pulling some strings as the scorekeeper. I mean, who else could orchestrate such a low score without some behind-the-scenes manipulation? The second, more subtle suspicion was that maybe, just maybe, a cascade of dominoes spilled out of Bob's lap when he stood up. A sneaky domino strategy to secure victory, perhaps?

Bob vehemently denied any slight of hand, claiming his victory was purely skill-based. Naturally, a tribunal was assembled faster than you can say "domino effect." However, the tribunal's investigation was swift, taking a whopping 30 seconds to conclude that **Bob** was just an exceptionally good player, and he was duly awarded the prize money. Case closed, move along, nothing to see here.

Meanwhile, poor **Brian McCarthy** limped in a distant

second with a score of 22, clearly wondering if he accidentally wandered into a parallel domino universe where high scores were the new low scores.

Then there was **Clint Collier**, who shamefully entered the game with a score of 23.2. He bowed his head in faux remorse, as if he had committed the cardinal sin of domino excellence. High scores—what a travesty!

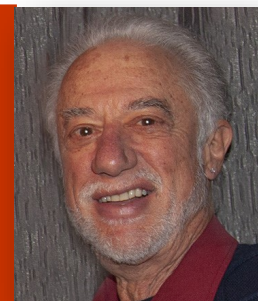
Bob Lucido managed to score 23.88, narrowly missing third place. He demanded a recount, but the group collectively decided to ignore him, leaving him to wallow in his numerical misery. Even his loving wife couldn't muster up the enthusiasm to support his recount plea.

Throughout this domino drama, the evening was hosted by none other than **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld**, the dynamic duo overseeing the chaos with the grace of seasoned hosts. Who knew a humble game of dominoes could turn into such a riveting spectacle?

On a personal note if you enjoy the fantasy of the MTD reports let me know if you think I should continue or resort to the boring reports.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” Bob Lucido

MTD in outer space

Dale & Mary Ellen hosted our MTD event in their new home in the International Space Station (ISS) in orbit around Earth.

We only had eight players on this day so there was plenty of room for us both on the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and the space station.

I have to admit it was a little difficult playing dominos with zero gravity because the pieces kept floating off

the board, and I don't even want to talk about the crumbs from our snacks.

Brian McCarthy came in first with an impressive score of 7.0 in spite of the fact that he had to suit up in an Extravehicular Mobility Unit (space suit) to retrieve some domino tiles that escaped.

Mary followed **Mary McCarthy** close behind with a score of 7.9 for second place but refused to follow him out of the station.

Judy **Wilkenfeld**, always the interstellar strategist, secured third place with a score of 14.4, proving that a steady hand and a sharp mind can prevail, even in the vastness of space.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

The February 7th edition of Mexican Train Dominoes Group 8 (OCHO) kicked off promptly at 7 pm with 17 regular and 1 substitute players inching to get started. Our snack hosts for the evening were **Steve and Jan Ondeck**.

The Winners: In a set of very competitive games at all four tables, **Steve Ybarra** came in first place with an overall incredible average score of 5.00 followed by **Alicia Baily** also with an equally low score of 5.66. And finally, **John Foster** breaking into winner circle for the first time with a third place score of 11.60. Congratulations to all three who had some very meaningful prize money to go along with their wins.

Scratcher Ticket Winners: We like to think that no one is a loser when you play with MTD 8 (OCHO). Last month, **Virginia Tygart** won \$4.00 with her scratcher and for a brief moment this month, everyone thought **Shari Foster** had won \$200. Unfortunately, it takes not only uncovering two equal values of money in the scratcher, but also a small speck of matching two animals, a squirrel and a rabbit or some other unfortunate animal that didn't look like a squirrel. We were all pulling for you Shari!

Scratcher tickets are awarded to the two players with the highest nightly scores who were **Steve Ondeck** and **Sandi Foster**.

Our next game will be March 6th, 2024.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Steve Ybarra 1st , Alicia Baily 2nd and John Foster 3rd



Scratcher winners: Steve Ondeck and Sandi Foster.

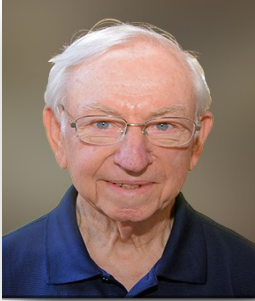


Top (L-R): Richard Hockenbrock, Bill Holly, Steve Loftin, Ron Polivka, Pam McAllister, Sue Loftin, Jan Ondeck, Victoria Polivka, Virginia Tygart, Alicia Baily, Susan Terzuoli, John Foster, Frank Terzuoli, Steve Dinning, Steve Ondeck, Sandi Foster, Steve Ybarra, Steve Dinning and Karen Dinning .



CARD GAMES

...we play



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a wonderful day of Party Bridge on Monday at the home of **Jim Pope** who was a terrific host as usual. The players were: **Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, Mike Whitaker** and **Bob Yolland**.

The high scorers were **Mike Davidson** with 5210 points, **Dick DeVoe** with 4720 points and **Jim Pope** with 4560 points.

The next game will be on Monday March 4th at the home of **Bob Yolland**. Please let me know if you will attend.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

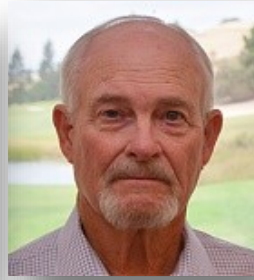
Poker Group 6 met at the home of **Frank Lucas** during the first week of February. As usual, **Frank** was a generous host with his selection of snacks and wine. We were pleased to be joined by the new player **Bruce Kimmis**. **Bruce** certainly added to our enjoyment of our game. At the final count, **Steve Ybarra** was the overall winner. As usual we do not report amounts as that is between the winner and the IRS!

We will meet again in early March on the first Wednesday. That is a change in day as there are conflicts with players on the first Thursday. We will meet at the home of "**Melo**" **Piccolo** for our game.

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



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



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Since the prior SIR-Call submission, we met on January 26th and February 9th.

The big winners all with 3 wins were **Steve Ybarra, Brian McCarthy, Frank Lucas, Dick Wade and Norman Cox (Br8)**. Jim Passaglia had 4.5 2nds followed by **Norman Cox** with 4. The lowest average score was **Brian McCarthy** with 41 and **Steve Ybarra** with 53. **Brian, Jim, Dick, Norman and Ron** each shot the moon.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in December on the 12th and 26th.

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Any one interested in joining the group should give Stan Johnson a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next event is planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1pm on 2/27/24.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Co-Directors

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

robwest@aol.com & sjybar@gmail.com

Lif is too short



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event met on Friday, February 2 with four tables and 16 players and was nicely hosted by **John Kluesener**.

Joe Fuchs gave no one else much chance from the outset- winning the first half, placing 2nd in the second half, and thereby taking 1st place overall. He stayed consistent throughout, with nine 3's (2nd only to **Tony Greco's 11**) and two zeros (2nd only to **Ed Marlovits' 1**). Congratulations, **Joe!**

**Final
(Bds. 1-24)**

1st- **Joe Fuchs 50.5**
2nd- **Tony Greco 47.0**
3rd- **Brad Hatcher 43.0**
4th- **Ed Marlovits 42.5**

Least Zeros

Ed Marlovits- 1
Joe Fuchs- 2
B. Hatcher/M. Whitaker/B. Yolland-3

Most Threes

Tony Greco- 11
Joe Fuchs- 9
B. Hatcher/M. Whitaker/B. Yolland - 3

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

It was another month of wide-ranging results when **Dick and Christy DeVoe** hosted us on February 13th. Guests tend to crowd the snack table at the **DeVoes'** and it was certainly true this evening.

Our quest for slams did result in success, but only once. **Jim Stedman** and **Jane Bradley** bid and made six spades on Board 13, but the other two pairs stopped in game. Congratulations to **Jim** and **Jane**, along with our thanks for being our sixth couple. At the end of the evening, **Tony and Cindy Greco** were third (49%), **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were second (50%), and **Joan and Dave Pierce** were first (69%).

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted our February 6th event. For this event, I'm pleased to announce that once again we had all 6 regular couples participate, which makes it 2 events in a row. Can we three-peat? February's event was the kickoff for 2024, having cancelled January because of its proximity to New Year's Day.

Brad and Lynne Hatcher started the New Year on a positive note. They had good cards which they complimented with good play. They wound up with almost twice as many points as their nearest competitor. Congratulations to **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** for your run-away first place finish.

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 5210 points - **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**

2nd PLACE with 2770 points - **John and Kathy Kluesener**

3rd PLACE with 1970 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**

Our next event will be held on **March 5th** and hosted by **John and Kathy Kluesener**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Area 16 Activities



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

On the 4th Wednesday, March 27 at 1:30 PM, we will have an outside financial advisor speaking by Zoom. As time permits, he will discuss how to choose an advisor, using an advisor vs. selecting your own investments, and various types of income investments such as annuities vs bonds and CD's.

We're staying with our original schedule of 4th Wednesdays. See you Wed February 28th and again on March 27th at 1:30 PM.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

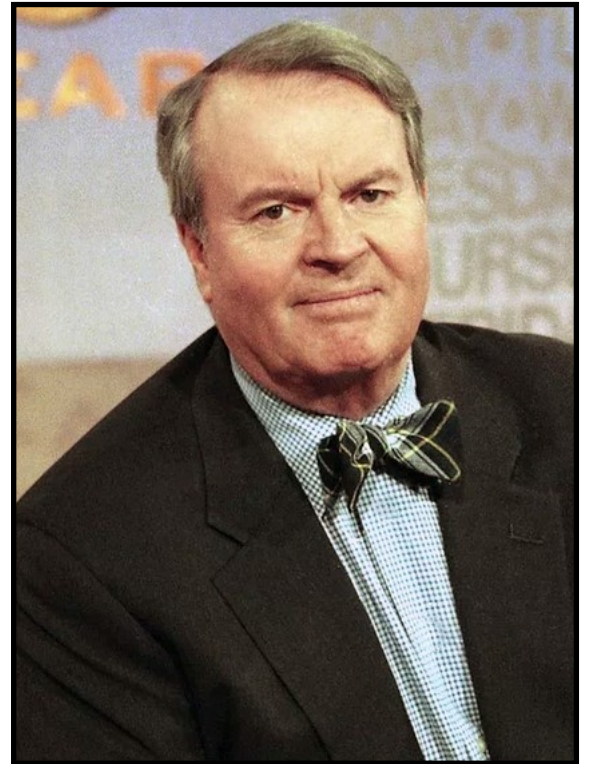
Parting Shot

Man is mortal, this is true.
And that applies to women, too.

To each of us, to those we love,
And to our dearest friends,
At some point human life begins
And at some point it ends.

We don't know when. Life is dispensed
In differing amounts.
But it is not how LONG we lived —
It's HOW we lived that counts.

Death, like life, is natural,
And not to be afraid of.
If you love life, guard well your time —
For time's the stuff life's made of.



Charles Osgood

1933–2024