



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

April–May 2024



Big Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Our recruiting efforts headed by **Randy Graham** and **Glenn Breslin** and their team are paying dividends. This month we enrolled 7 new members, three attending the lunch and four unable to

attend due to previous commitments. We also entertained three guests this month. While we have added about 24 new members so far this year, we have lost 13 due to relocation, illness or other commitments resulting in our total population increasing from 249 at the start of the new year to 260 in April. Our success is mainly due to one-on-one discussions with acquaintances and inviting the individual to one of our activities. **Do a friend a favor and tell them about SIR and invite them to see what we do!**

Many of you have no doubt heard that **Larry Kaye** had a heart attack on a recent biking trip. Part way through the trip he didn't feel well, rested and asked the group to go ahead, he would catch up. Still not feeling good he turned back but collapsed along the trail. Fortunately, a passer-by saw him, performed CPR and called 911. He saved **Larry** who is now well into recovery. One of our very new members, **Thom Degan** who was on the trip, has volunteered to organize CPR/first aid training for any member who is interested. I for one would love to be more prepared to step in and help someone in distress. Thank you, **Thom**, for stepping up!

From a safety perspective we should maintain a "buddy system" on our excursions so no one is left on his or her own.

Our luncheons are averaging a little over 100 members or about 40% of our membership. Starting in June we will have a meat salad option one month followed by a fish salad option the next month. There will still be three options, meat, fish or vegetarian but one of those will be a salad. We continue to work with

Boundary Oak to improve our lunch experience. However, we continue to experience challenges with walk-ins and no-shows. So far this year we have had 19 no-shows, 13 of whom are annual payers. **Annual payers and monthly payers both need to respect the RSVP process.** Annuals who miss more than 2 lunches when they have RSVP'd will be expected to pay for the lunch unless they have a satisfactory excuse. We have also had 23 walk-ins so far this year. While we are happy to try to accommodate you, it is a challenge and an embarrassment for those who wind up anxiously looking for a seat when the meeting starts. Help us make everyone comfortable with the meal they prefer and a seat at the table by respecting the RSVP process!

John Kluesener
Big Sir, Branch 146

Luncheon
Thursday, May 9th, 2024
Boundary Oak 11:30

Ladies Day!

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entree
go to page 3. (click this box)



Happy May Day!



Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, I would really like to know what people thought about not having a speaker in April. I had several requests to have a meeting without a speaker so I would appreciate any feedback you

might have. I do have speakers planned for the rest of the year except for September. So, if we want another no-speaker lunch, we could do that in September. Here is a recap of who we have lined up for the next few months. For our Ladies Day luncheon in May we have an author, Michael J. Barrington, Ph.D. who will be talking to us about his historical novels. Here is his website: www.mbwriter.net. In June we have Ted Clement, Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo. In July we have Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings, two retired SFPD Homicide Inspectors. In August Fernando Ramirez from the CA Department of Water Resources will join us. I hope to see you all in May.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Kind of a slow month. Reminds me, for some reason, of the bluegrass/folk music I enjoy. But in reverse. Looking forward to "winter's almost gone" rather than summer.

News of our upcoming Fiesta is the top of the line news I guess... who doesn't like a picnic, fiesta, whatever you want to call it; chance to get outside, kick back enjoy the outdoors, good food and good company. This was recently announced through an e-blast. You can see it on page 13 (we're not superstitious) but I hope those of you who wanted to come have gotten signed up following that e-blast. Understand that the 70 slots are filling fast. If you are one of the participants keep your eye peeled for the announcement in the next issue of the SIRCall Cantina!

Last submission date for the next issue will be May 18th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@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 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

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.



Ladies Day Luncheon

Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 9th, 2024. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations with the below form must be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by May 1, 2024. Please use the reservation form provided in this SIRCall and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39.00 per person.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use this reservation form. The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon (next page)



SIR 146 May Luncheon
Ladies Day
 Thursday, May 9th, 2024

Sesame Ginger Salad
 Mesclun Greens, Mandarin Oranges, Fried Wontons, Sesame Dressing

Entrées
Teriyaki Chicken
 Marinated and Grilled Chicken Breast, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Seasonal Vegetable, Teriyaki Sauce.
 —or—
Salmon Teriyaki
 Marinated and Roasted Salmon Filet, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Seasonal Vegetable, Teriyaki Sauce
 —or—
Vegetable Stir Fry
 Stir Fried Season Vegetables, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Teriyaki Sauce

Dessert
 Lemon Coconut Cake



SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 9th, 2024

Number of Tickets _____ at \$39 ea. amount Enclosed \$ _____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra
 142 Leonard Dr
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Teriyaki Chicken	Salmon Teriyaki	Vegetable Stir Fry	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!
 Reservations must be received by May 1st.*



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

In June, we are introducing luncheon sized salads instead of one of the luncheon entrees. This month we will replace the meat entree with a Chicken Caesar Salad. This will continue into both July and August as an experiment for lighter fare being available for the membership for lunch. If it is popular, we may consider doing this more often or reserve it for certain times of the year.

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. If you have to cancel your reservation after the due date and time, please let us know as soon as possible. If you let us know before Boundary Oak has our final numbers, we do not waste food orders and there will not be a cost to you.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Be sure to include your menu choice!

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, June 13th, 2024

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, June 7th 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, June 7th 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.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 June Luncheon
Thursday, June 13th, 2024

Salad
Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrées
Chicken Caesar Salad
Citrus and Herb Grilled Chicken Breast, Hearts of Romain, Shaved Aged Parmesan Cheese, Garlic Croutons,
Creamy Caesar Dressing
—or—
Herb Roasted Cod Marsala
Herb Marinated Cod, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce
—or—
Vegetarian
Spinach Ricotta Manicotti
Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni, Seasonal Vegetable,
House Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert
Apple Pie with Whipped Vanilla Cream

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.



Membership George Mon

Seven new members were approved for membership in April.

Patrick "Pat" Tidmarsh lives in Moraga. He was an Analytic Consultant for Wells Fargo Bank. He is interested in Photography, Poker and Hiking to

mention a few. Pat is sponsored by **Paul Kersis**.

John Dorr lives in Lafayette. He worked for IBM in the Marketing Dept. His interest is in Golf, Cribbage and Fishing. His sponsor is **John Kluesener**.

George Denney and his wife **Joan** live in Lafayette. He owned his own Commercial and Residential Real Estate business. **George** is also sponsored by **John Kluesener**.

David "Dave" Smith and his wife Karin live in Concord. He was a BMW technician for Concord BMW. His main interest is playing Hearts. **Jim Passaglia** is his sponsor.

David "Dave" Paulson live in Walnut Creek with his wife **Katherine**. He was an office manager for the California Department of Transportation. Later, he owned a PC Support business. His sponsor is **Don Shaw**.

Thom Degnan and his wife **Diane** also live in Walnut Creek. He was a Consultant for Mobile First LLC. He likes cycling, wine tasting and traveling. He is sponsored by **Larry Kaye**.

Scott MacDougall and his wife **Marie Claire** live in Walnut Creek. He was an Educator for Diablo Valley College. He is interested in starting a new activity – Beer. He is sponsored by **Jim Pope**.

Two memberships were cancelled due to unresponsiveness after many efforts to contact them. They are **Charles Schreiber** and **Edward Gamsky**. These members are always welcome to return.

Sadly, **Ron Sparacino** passed away due to a heart attack. Our thoughts and prayers to his family.

It is important to grow 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. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at

the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a member of SIR.

The 2024 membership count is 259.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in 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

RAMP-Chair Members

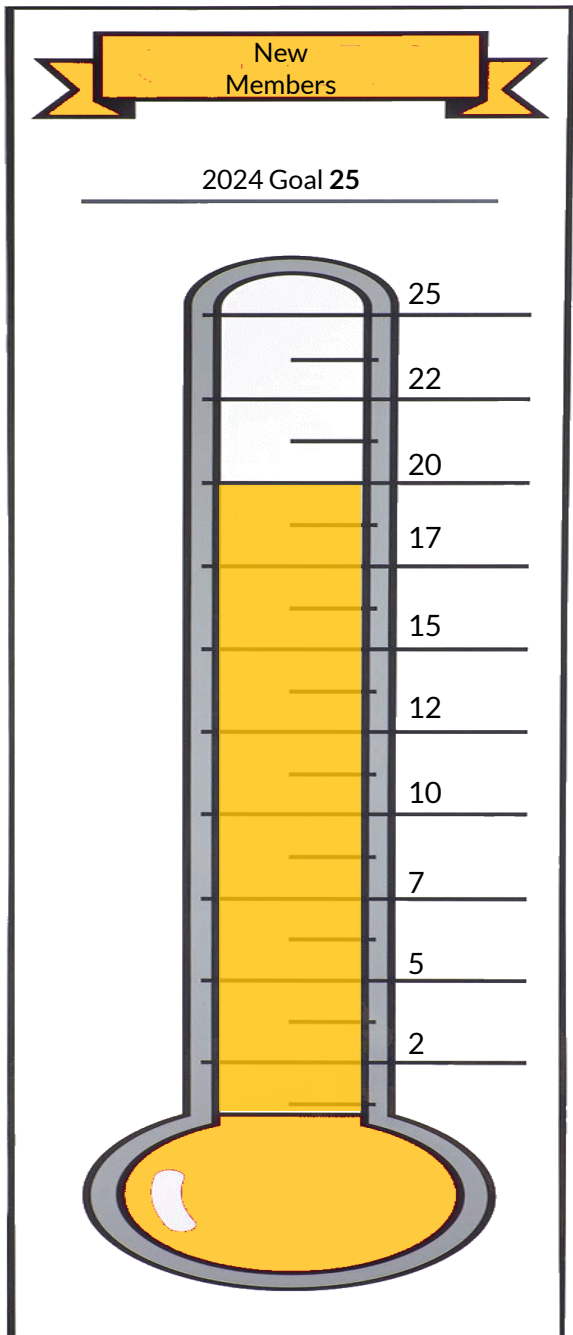
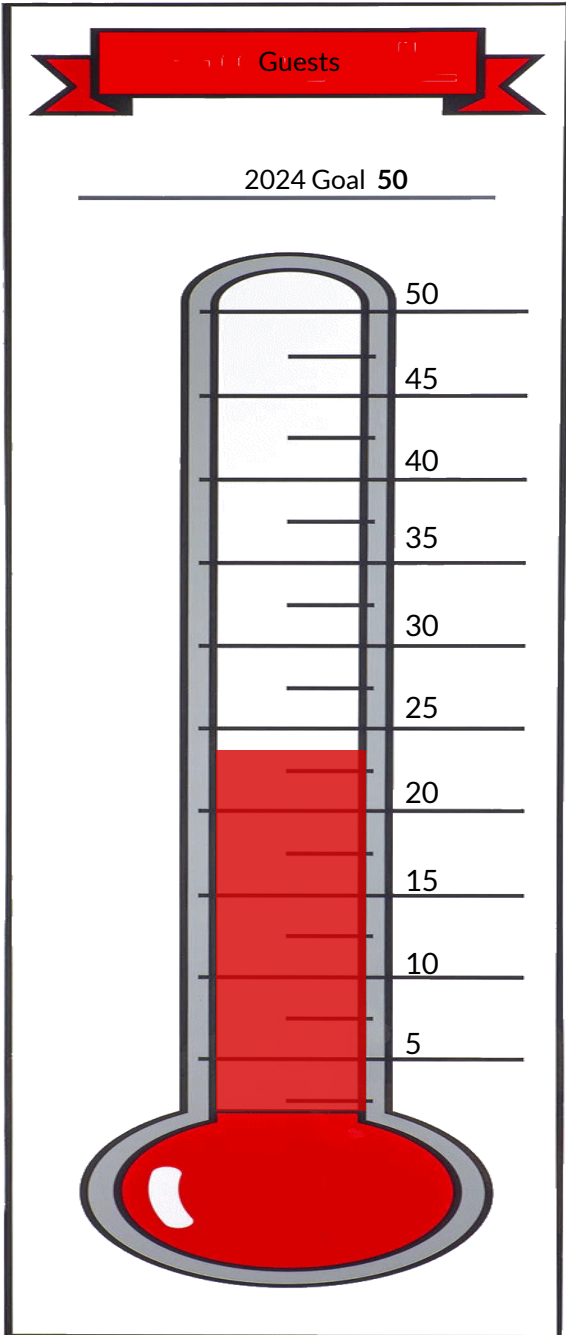
Recruitment	Paul B.Beretz
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant



People BORN IN

MAY

are

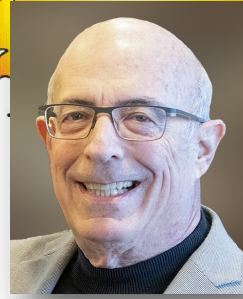
AMAZING!

Robert Burley
Ross Hallberg
Bruce Kimmis
Joseph Lamanna
Vern Laursen
Roger Meyer
Corrie Oranje
Ron Polivka
Don Seaton

Bill Vizza
Scott Golde
Bob Lively
Steve Knight
Vern Rookh
Ron Sparacino
Sid Landman
Thom Degnan



Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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

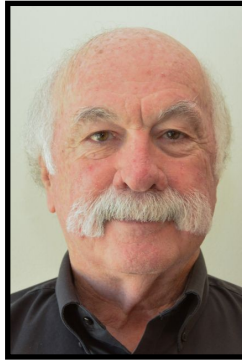
Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Bill Hartman

April

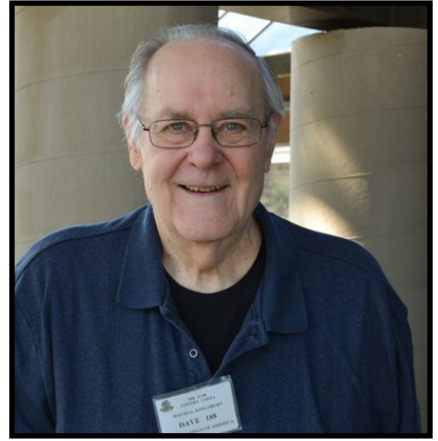
YIPPEE!
New Members at the
Meeting!



SIR Meeting Pictures by Henry Thatcher









Food Donation Success!

Bob Soldano, April's Birthday



NOTES

from Our Members

You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

John Wooden



UPDATE ON OUR PICNIC, MEXICAN FIESTA!

🌮 🍷 🎉 Hold onto your sombreros, folks! It's time to unleash the tortilla chips and let the salsa flow freely at the First Annual Branch Picnic! We're bringing the fiesta to the **Hanna Picnic Area at Borges Ranch** in Walnut Creek on **June 5, 2024**. Get ready for a day packed with more fun than a piñata. You may arrive as early as **10:30 am** and keep the party rolling **until noche** (that's evening amigo)!

Now, amigos, prepare your taste buds for a culinary journey south of the border because we've got **El Molino Tortilleria** catering up a storm. **The buffet line will be open from noon to 2:00 pm**, it's a Mexican feast fit for a luchador! You'll have to make the toughest decision of the day - which tantalizing entrée will you have? Will it be the savory **Chicken Taco**, the cheesy **Cheese Enchilada**, or the mouth-watering **Pork Tamale**? Of course, we will have all the usual trimmings (i.e, rice, beans, chips, salsa) and you can enjoy more than one entree!

And what's a fiesta without amigos and amigas to share it with? Bring your spouse, your significant other. **We're opening the doors to 70 lucky folks, so RSVP faster than you can say "¡Olé!"**

It's **\$28 per person** for this shindig, **but remember**, amigos, **you'll need to BYOB - Bring Your Own Beverage**. We've got the picnic tables, plates, utensils, and napkins covered, so all you need to bring is your appetite and a comfortable chair (if you don't like bench seating.) **To secure your spot** at the hottest fiesta this side of the Rio Grande, **shoot an email over to Bruce Borgman (bgborgman@aol.com) and make sure to follow it up with a check made out to Branch 146, sent straight to Bruce at 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.**

So, dust off your sombrero, practice your salsa steps, and get ready to spice up your summer with the First Annual Branch Picnic - because life's too short for boring lunches and dull gatherings. Let's fiesta like there's no mañana! 🌮 🍷 🎉



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Hi to all SIR Members,
We have three new exciting activities. If you are interested, please reach out to the activity chair or reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you again in our shared activities !!

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

#	Activity	Description	Meets	Contact
1	Beginning and Refresher Bridge	We schedule times, find venues, and provide experienced players to work with beginners and with those needing a refresher.	Varies	Dick DeVoe dicknchristy@comcast.net 925-876-7044
2	Chess	Multi SIR Group Activity Beginner to Intermediate Players. Some chess instruction is included.	PH Senior Center 2nd Friday of month afternoons	Steve Schram Br 8 Cell 925-222-0801 sschramm01@gmail.com
3	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	The AI Discussion Group aims to provide a comprehensive platform for beginner and enthusiasts to engage in robust discussions, exchange ideas, and collaborate on topics within the expansive domain of artificial intelligence.	The first Monday of the month at Walnut Creek Library	Frank Terzuoli frankterz@hotmail.com 415-706-6113

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:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[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](#)

[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 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar May 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	May 1	2	3
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	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	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
6	7	8	9	10
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	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	11:30am–1:30pm Ladies Day Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
13	14	15	16	17
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 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	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi Tatsu, Ygnacio Plaza 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group T Casey Library 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 5:30pm–8:00pm Couples Dining Out Fiore's Restaurant 5100 Clayton Rd., Concord	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	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm–2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
27	28	29	30	31
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			



Theater Glenn Breslin



If you are interested in Cabaret, then please let me know (glennbreslin@gmail.com) ASAP. A few Cabaret tickets are still available in the SIR146 ticket block. Or send in your check, all details are below.

The next SIR146 theater activity will be the **Cabaret** musical show at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek (details below). **30** people have signed up. **Only a limited number of tickets are still available.** If interested, please make a check out to SIR146 for \$35 per person and send your check to Glenn Breslin at 3480 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549.

An **optional dinner** has been scheduled after the show at **OPA Greek Restaurant** (3 blocks from the Theater – 1532 Main St, Walnut Creek). OPA has agreed to create individual checks for each couple. If further interested, then please see [OPA's General Site](#) or [their online menu](#) .

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.

Instructions

- As soon, as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.
- Some seats are much better than others.
- 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.
- Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.
- The Leshner Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced (especially when compared with SF Theater prices).

Please reach out to me should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below.

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

Glenn Breslin
SIR146 Theater Chair
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

My wife crashed the car again today. She told the police the man she collided with was on his mobile phone and drinking a can of beer.

Police said he can do whatever he likes in his own living room.



Travel Glenn Breslin

Please find this upcoming SIR trip – open to all SIR members and their guests.

SIR146 Trip

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
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.	SIR46—Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Day	Tour Location
Day 1	Fly From SFO Arrive in London, Meet Tour
Day 2	London World War 2 Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 3	London World War 2 Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 4	Portsmouth - Museum, Military Headquarters
Day 5	English Channel, Sword & Juno Beach
Day 6	Museum, German Battery, & Harbor
Day 7	Omaha and Utah Beach, Cemetery, Musuem
Day 8	Countryside, Monet Giverny, onto Paris
Day 9	Paris World War 2 Tour, Multiple Sites
Day 10	Paris and Tour Ends, Fly Home or Extend France Nearby Travel On Your Own

What is included

- Round Trip Airfare.
- Transfers to and from the home airports.
- 10 day guided tour with a full time Travel Director.
- 4 Dinners and 8 Breakfasts.
- Tips are included on below:
 - Waitstaff
 - Bellman
- Other tips are up to the traveler’s discretion
 - Tour Manager
 - Bus Driver
 - Local Tours



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Hiking Mark Curtis

I suspect that from now through October, we will experience very little rain. We are also on the cusp of warm weather returning. Over the past couple of

months, we had to change plans either due to an impending storm or the trails that we had planned to hike on were sloppy with mud.

Well, we are close to having the significant rain behind us and can look forward to sunny weather and more or less dry trails for most of the balance of 2024. We should also be able to look forward to fabulous wild flower displays from now through at least June.

The most recent hike was at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. This was 2 days after a mild but wet storm. The trails (or fire roads) were mostly dry. The previous hike was in Mount Diablo State Park (MDSP) where we did the Falls Loop trail. We observed plenty of water cascading over the several falls encountered as well as lots of wildflowers. This MDSP hike was at 6.2 miles and 1200 feet of climbing. I had trouble finishing this one; it's getting to be too much for this worn out body!

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.

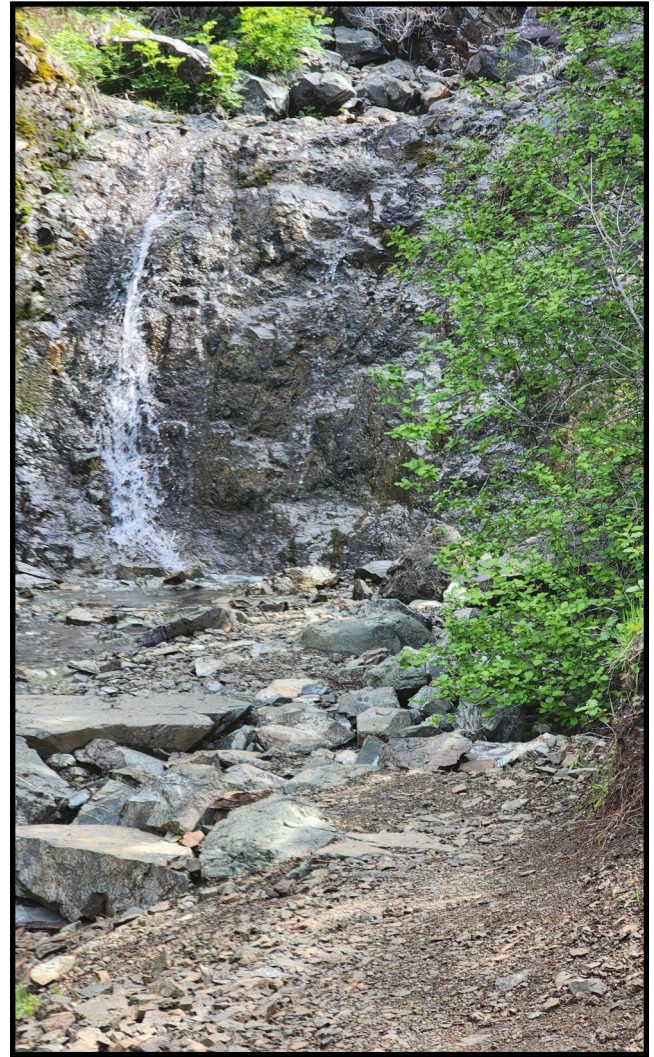
If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

From forever great Johnny Carson
Last week a lady was arrested for
soliciting a spaghetti dinner in return
for sexual favors.

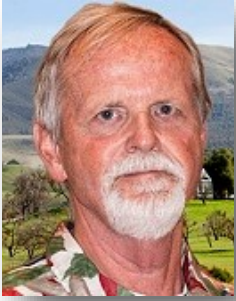
She was charged with pastatution!



Waterfall Photo by Mark Curtis



From L to R: Frank Terzouli, Gene Schulting, Dick Devoe, Mike Rothman and his pooch Rosie, Photo by Mark Curtis



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group met at the Thurman Casey Memorial Library on Friday, March 22nd. The following members were present for the meeting: **Henry Thatcher, Bill Holly, Jim Rowland, Peter Plante, Larry McAllister, Frank Terzuoli, Clint Collier, Ron Polivka, Bob Wilkenfeld, Mike Rothman, Glenn Breslin** and the **Moose**.

Donuts and coffee were provided by **Clint Collier** and **Ron Polivka**. A HUGE thank you for making this happen, guys!!!

Our meeting agenda was busy with the following topics with comments:

- Discussion on upcoming photography shots > Filoli Gardens on Monday, April 29th.
- How to use aperture, a basic video! > Level setting for all photographers
- Comparison of Sony A7 IV vs. Canon R6 Mark II vs. Canon EOS 8 > Winner – Canon EOS 8
- Five tips of photographing the solar eclipse > IT'S GOING TO BE SPECTACULAR!!
- 10 most common mistakes in bird photography with solutions > Better bird photos
- Presentation of bird photos from our Heather Farm Shoot with Ted Robertson. The photographers presented their best five photos for everyone to evaluate. I have attached several super pictures to the article. Great job, Gentlemen!!!

Our April theme is flower photography. We will be practicing in our gardens and elsewhere. Our big opportunity will be at Filoli Gardens on Monday, April 29th. We will be leaving from Rocco's the morning of April 29th. If you are interested in joining us, then please contact Henry Thatcher or Moose Kelly. Our contact information is at the end of this article.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, May 31st at the Thurman Casey Library on Oak Grove Rd in Walnut Creek starting at 9 AM. Come and join us for donuts and coffee at 8:45 AM.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to one of our meetings to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you information on upcoming meetings.

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



Black Crown Night Heron
Photo by **Jim Rowland**



Dark Eyed Junco
Photo by **Jim Rowland**

More Pictures on following page



Great Blue Heron
Photo by **Moose Kelly**



Dove
Photo by **Peter Plante**



Taking Off
Photo by **Bill Holly**



Still trying to id this bird!
Photo by **Moose Kelly**

SIR146 Photo Group

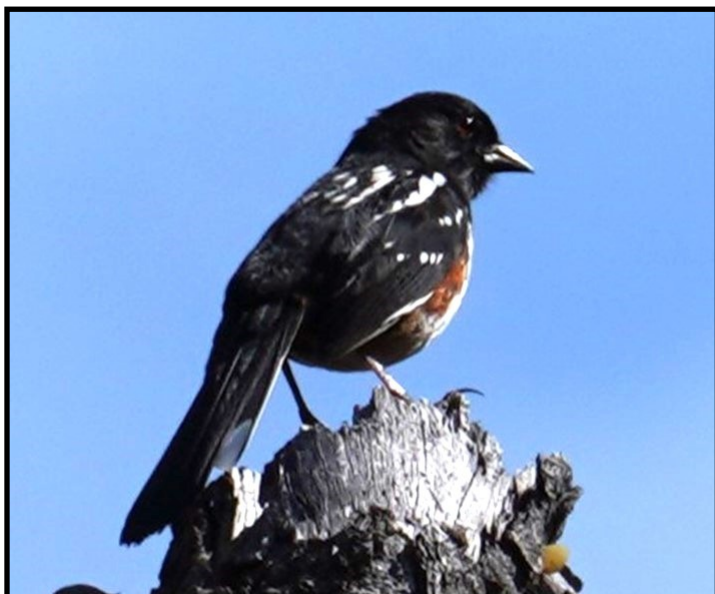


Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:00 AM, a group of three SIR birders hiked Mitchell Canyon to Red Rock Road on the north side of Mt. Diablo to catch spring migrants at a funnel point. We ended up spotting or hearing 39 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included seeing and hearing 7 species of warblers, and a close-up view of a pendulous Bushtit nest hanging at eye-level in a manzanita bush.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on May 8th (2nd Wednesday) at Castle Rock Regional Recreation area located at the end of Castle Rock Road in Walnut Creek. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Ted Robertson
925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



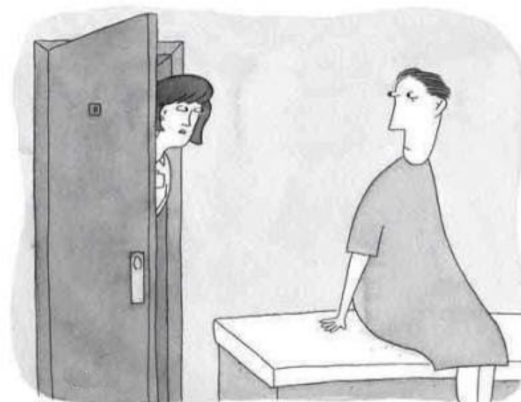
Spotted Towhee. (Photo by Bill Holly)



Bushtit nest in a manzanita.
(Photo by Jim Rowland)



Orange-crowned Warbler with shadow streaks.
(Photo by Ken Studer)



"The doctor will be with you in a few minutes. He's trying to figure out what disease goes with your insurance."

State SIR Golf Presents
In Concert with Branches 35 & 149
A 2 Day Golf Event



2024 Spring Fling in Napa

Wednesday, April 24 at Chardonney Golf Club, a Four Man, 2-Best Ball Tournament with consecutive tee times.
Thursday, April 25 at Eagle Vines Vineyard & Golf Club, a Four Man Scramble with a Shotgun Start.

Ladies Welcome. Cash Prizes will be awarded for top teams and Closest-to-Pin. Entries can be for one or both days. Further details and Entry Forms will be posted later on SIR State Golf Website at <https://www.sirgolf.org>. For more information contact **Ben Gikis** (408) 802-0794, gikisben@yahoo.com.

Reserve the Dates Today!



TUESDAY GOLF
Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Eighteen-hole golf is open to all branch members. We play each week at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Most weeks we compete in flighted stroke play competitions. Once a month, we hold a special tournament which may be individual or team competition using a format other than stroke play. In addition our weekly golf at Boundary, we arrange monthly events at other area golf courses during the months of April through October. Our golfers are eligible to participate in area and State SIR golf events.

“The cost of membership is \$106 per year which confers NCGA membership, member’s lunches following certain selected golf events, a prize fund and our administrative costs.

SIR State Golf arranges a number of events each year. These are described at the State Golf website <https://www.sirgolf.org>.

Ed Marlovits



Nine Hole Golf Group
Bob Ford

I think the last of the rainy weather is behind us so please come out and take advantage of the nice weather. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on 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 at 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 with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford
scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Bocce
John Kendrick

Per the calendar on your cell phone, the World famous 2024 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity finally officially starts on Monday, May 13.

As a reminder, the Bocce Ball courts are located near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Bocce Ball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.

Have fun, stay safe and healthy.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

As you may have already heard, our fearless activity chair, **Larry Kaye**, suffered a cardiac arrest on a bike ride late last month. Fortunately, several passersby found **Larry** collapsed on the road, still straddling his bicycle and immediately contacted 911 and began

effective CPR. The arriving paramedics were able to restart his heart and rushed him to San Ramon Valley Medical Center where he received excellent care. **Larry** has undergone several surgical procedures at John Muir Concord Hospital to repair his heart and we are hopeful that, following some rest, he will again be riding the pavement with his SIR buddies. Please keep **Larry** in your prayers.

Back to School: On March 26, **Larry** and **Jim Nelson** led



a 25-mile ride from Alamo to the oldest school in Contra Costa County. Upon arriving at the school, we were pleasantly surprised to find an elementary school class from the San Ramon district touring the Tassajara School in period costumes and enjoying games from the 1800s. After the ride, our group enjoyed a well-deserved stop at our favorite coffee shop in Alamo.

We Ride for Coffee: On April 2, we rode roughly 18-mile ride from Civic Park in Walnut Creek to Danville. Our outbound route was a straight shot down Broadway and Danville Blvd. to a coffee shop in downtown Danville. We encountered about 25 members of the Contra Costa Cycling group and **Bob Lucido** and several others in our group did a great job talking up SIR 146. Hopefully their recruiting efforts will pay off! Our return trip took us through the back roads of Danville, Round Hill, Alamo and Walnut Creek. Everyone seemed to enjoy this new route, so we may repeat it in the future.

Ride for Coffee Part 2: On April 9th, the SIR Cycling Crew took to the hills of Pleasant Hill into Martinez. The first segment of the ride was challenging with eight riders making the charge. After coming down from the hills, we picked up “the Pixie Land” trail



which is part of the Costa County Regional Trail Network. We cycled on the trail until we hit Walnut Creek at Bancroft where there was a Starbucks to quench our coffee addiction. The riders consisting of **Jim Nelson** (paceman extraordinaire), **Jim Roland**, **Bill Ross**, **Ron Lew**, **Bob Lucido**, **Thom Degnan**, **Paul Browne** and **Mr. Moose** took a breather. After refreshing ourselves, we headed for the parking lot at Pleasant Hill Park where we started our 22-mile journey. A surprise from **Ron Lew** awaited us with as much grapefruit as we could carry. THANK YOU, **RON!!!** The picture of the “gang” is when we returned to our starting place. **Jim Roland** and **Paul Browne** had to depart a bit earlier; hence they are missing from the photo.

Riding North: Our weekly ride on April 16th was a 22-mile outing that started at the Alamo Peets, went up Danville Blvd, across Walnut Creek on the Iron Horse Trail, then on the Contra Costa Trail to Citrus, then out Oak Grove heading up North Gate



Road to the Rangers Station, where we did a U-Turn. On the way back we stop at Whole Foods for a coffee break, then down the Contra Costa Trail to the Iron Horse trail, to south on Danville Blvd ending at the Alamo Peets. Leading Tuesday’s ride was **Larry Kaye** (in spirit), joined by **Jim Nelson**, **Patrick Hoy**, **Bob Wilkenfeld**, **Roger Meyer**, **Bob Lucido**, and **Thom Degnan**. The weather was great, and we look forward to continue riding into the summer season.

Moose Kelly, Thom Degnan, and Bob Wilkenfeld
subbing for
Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



AREA 16 Fishing Report

The shoe has finally dropped. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that there will be no salmon fishing in California waters for the second straight year. We actually were relieved

because the alternate proposal before the DFW was for three days of salmon fishing in each of the summer months. If that proposal had been adopted, every salmon boat in the state may have been on the fishing grounds hunting for salmon in this limited time frame. Given that salmon boats troll for salmon, rather than anchor, there would have been an immense danger of collisions or lines being tangled when fishermen were either trolling or pulling in fish. We look forward to next year!

Meanwhile, April proved to be a very erratic month in the fishing department. We were hoping for a good halibut run, but the month started slowly. **Nick Jabuka**, **Lee Clark**, and **Rich Fiscina** set out towing **Nick's** new boat to Richmond for what they hoped would be a nice day fishing for halibut. Unfortunately, the highway was blocked and a normal 30 minute trip took three hours. Once they launched the boat, they headed for the Alameda rocks but failed to get a single bite. **Ron Lew** also returned empty handed from a trip on his boat in the Bay.

As you can see in the picture below, things turned out a bit better for yours truly. I am the fishmaster for four halibut trips scheduled for the *Sundance* this year. The *Sundance* holds six fishermen and I normally fill a trip on the day I post it. But this year, I could only attract two other fishermen, **Lee Clark** and new member **Cleo Bolen** for the April trip because the March fishing was so bad. But it wasn't bad on the day we picked. We had our limit by 9:20am! That included a 12 pounder that I pulled in. We then spent about an hour looking for stripers but there were none on the fish finder and so we called it a day and ate our packed lunches at home.

Even though our *Sundance* crew failed to find stripers, the striper fishing this month was better than the halibut fishing. **Stan Wong** caught and released 20 keepers on two separate trips in the Delta. **Tom Kostik** caught and released 59 stripers, including 38 keepers, in ten trips beginning in late March. **Dave Havlik**, **Ron Lew** and **Pedro Contreras** also brought home limits. **Phil Scimonelli**, our Big Fish, who regularly catches lots of stripers on the Antioch and Point Pinole piers but never any keepers, caught two keepers this month. **Don Arington** had a slow day on the Sacramento River, but caught a few. **Mike Corker** had the roughest time. He caught a single striper after fishing for 7 ½ hours on Honker Bay and it wasn't a keeper.

Carl Moyer was our only member who fished for rock-

Article continues on next page



fish this month. He booked a trip on the *Sea Wolf* and caught his limit off the Farallones.

Our trout outings suffered a blow when Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, our alternate venue, closed because of an algae problem. But San Pablo Reservoir is open and on several trips, **Bob Lucido** (that's him below), **Brion Beetz**, **Carl Moyer**, **George Vogt**, **Phil Scimonelli**, **Ray Pixton**, **Sam Oomman**, and **Gordon Linebaugh** were quite successful. **Bob** and **Sam's** catch included lightning trout, in addition to rainbows.

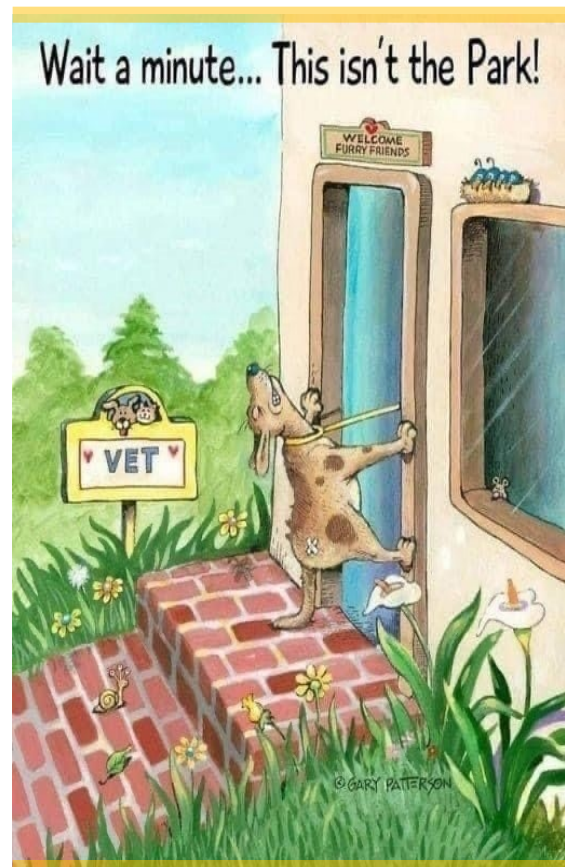
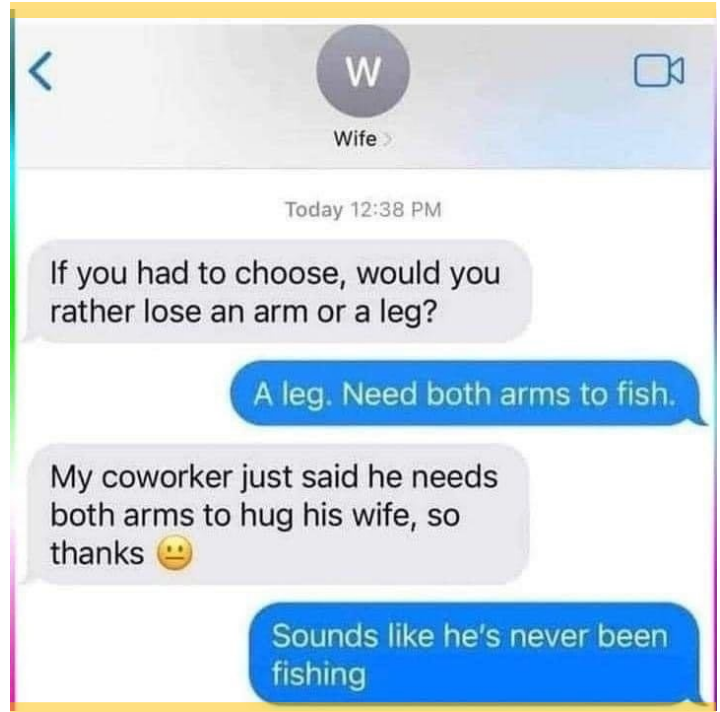


Ken Konzak and **Ernie Wong** journeyed to Pyramid Lake in Nevada and fished for cutthroat trout from ladders just off the shore. They had plenty of strikes, but could not land any. However, **Chuck Vanoncini** fished from a boat on the lake and hooked a near limit.

Our next two meetings will be on April 25 and May 23 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. The meetings begin at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories. We have lots of trips planned in May for halibut, trout, sturgeon, and stripers. We are also looking forward to a temporary change in the rockfish rules. In May, one can only fish for rockfish in depths less than 200 feet and so fishing just offshore is available. On the other hand, the April rule was that fishing was only allowed in depths deeper than 300 feet, which meant that one had to travel two hours in each direction to fish off the Farallones.

For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in February to discuss our “Book of the Month,” *Oath and Honor*, by the former US Representative from Wyoming, Liz Cheney. This is her story of events in Washington DC,

focusing on the White House and Donald Trump, and then the Select Committee which was convened by the Speaker at the time, Nancy Pelosi, who recruited Cheney, even though they had little prior interaction beforehand. The select committee focused on the events surrounding January 6th.

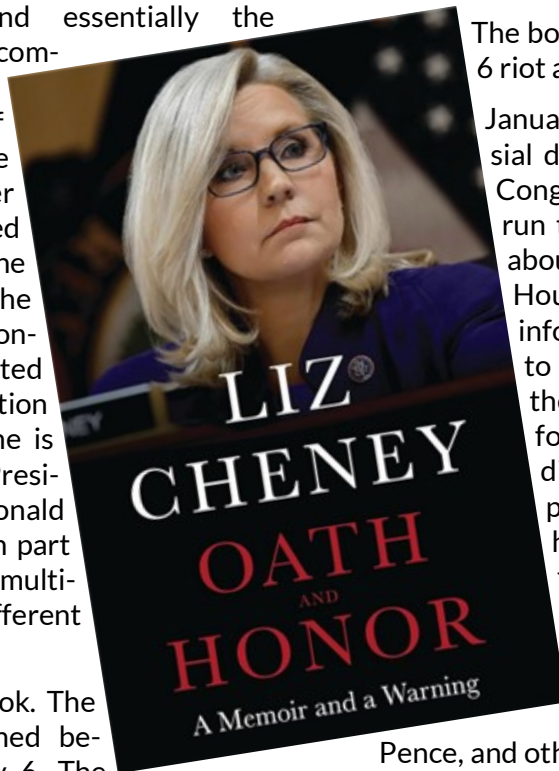
Liz was one of two Republicans on the committee. She became the Vice Chair, and essentially the “prosecuting attorney” for the committee. A lawyer by training, Liz had worked in several areas of the federal government before being elected to the House. Her husband is also an experienced trial lawyer who did work for the government. He assisted her as she put together the case against Donald Trump and those who assisted him in trying to overturn the election results and remain in office. She is the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who is not a Donald Trump fan. This family had been part of Wyoming political history for multiple generations, serving in different roles in government.

This is in essence a two-part book. The first portion tells what happened between the election and January 6. The second is about what happened when the committee took up its duties. Her time in government and the House had educated her in the ways of Washington DC and she had made a lot of contacts in the Executive branch.

Of course the election results were not popular in the White House, and the Trump team began to look for ways to overturn the election. The book details the approaches and efforts made to achieve this. She goes into great detail about what took place and who was involved. Many of the names of those involved are easily recognized.

At the end of the day, all the efforts to disprove the election results went for naught, and the electors showed Joe Biden as the winner. Donald Trump did not accept this.

The next and almost final step in the electoral process was the official counting of states’ ballots, a holdover from the early days of the country. This was seen by most as a ministerial duty of the Vice President, Mike Pence. President Trump “instructed” Vice President Pence to reject the slates of several states that had favored Joe Biden, and to choose slates of alternate delegates that Trump supporters had put together. This was their last shot at winning, short of going to the courts. And even though the mob interrupted the ballot counting the Congress resumed it later and completed the task.



The book transitions to the post January 6 riot and subsequent committee work.

January 6 was a difficult and controversial day for our country. Members of Congress, including the author, had to run to safety. The author talks a lot about the information that the White House had, which contained a lot of information about who was coming to town on the 6th. One might ask if the Capitol Police had this same information. If not why not? If they did, why were they not better prepared? One can find some holes in her story, but the essence of it tells the sad tale. She holds Donald Trump directly responsible for what happened on the 6th. He did eventually tell the mob to go home, but long after Cheney,

Pence, and other individuals at the Capitol were in danger and long after his aides told him to act.

She does not much have good to say about some of her Republican colleagues, and in particular Kevin McCarthy, who was then the Republican leader in the House and would soon be the Speaker. Lots of these people wanted to be “on board” with Donald Trump, and would not risk their political careers by opposing him.

The committee soldiered on, assembling a lot of witnesses and documentation, including lots of names you would know. Some of these “took the 5th” rather than admitting to or justifying their actions of that time period. Some people went to jail.

Some summary thoughts: Cheney calls this the betrayal of the American people, and she tells the readers she is focusing on our Constitution, quoting the guidance given her by her father. The Republican caucus voted her off the island, i.e., the Caucus leadership, because of her committee role, and she was defeated in the Wyoming primary when she ran for re-election. She calls herself a "Reagan Republican," essentially saying that Donald Trump in no way resembles him. She is a tad annoying, self-righteous, and admiring of herself. There is lots of repetitive phrasing.

In reading the reviews of this book, one professional reviewer said things like "a mostly straightforward, occasionally repetitive, literarily undistinguished account of that investigation as well as its antecedents and aftermath;" its tone "rarely veers beyond strident anger and self-righteousness, however well-earned."

The author's strongly stated opinion is that Donald Trump must never be allowed near the White House again.

Our book for March was *The Showman*, by Simon Schuster, and is the story of President Zelensky of Ukraine.

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



"Book club. Why?"

Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went in there.
It was the bathroom, but still....

Due to extreme cold, all Walmart customers are being urged to wear two pair of pajamas



The most expensive vehicle to operate in 2024



SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs will perform a program for the residents of Byron Park Retirement Home on June 22. We are rehearsing such favorites as "Mack

The Knife," "Beyond The Sea," and "America The Beautiful" for a 40 minute performance.

Our next rehearsal is on May 1 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 we meet at Masses at noon. Send me an email if any questions

Jim Barry

jbarry@sbcglobal.net

When people see our cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat" I just say, "No, it's for company!"

A man came home from work, pulled his wife into the bedroom, threw her on the bed and pulled the blankets over them.

She was shocked - he hadn't been like this for 20 years.

Then her husband said:

"Look! My new watch glows in the dark!"

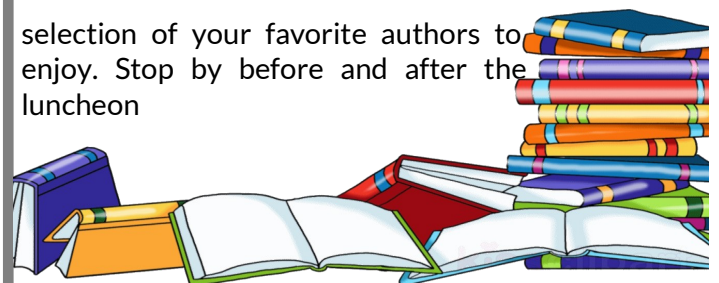


Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in May for the Ladies Day Luncheon. We have a terrific

selection of your favorite authors to enjoy. Stop by before and after the luncheon





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group had lunch in April at Melo's restaurant in Pleasant Hill. This family owned restaurant has roots in a remote village in the lush hills of the province of Calabria in the south of Italy. **Carmelo Piccolo** and his brother Gaetano (Guy) opened up this original Pleasant Hill restaurant in 1971. **Carmelo**, who is now retired, is a SIR Branch 146 member. Our group ordered pizza, spaghetti, a meatball sandwich and salad. All of the dishes were delicious and are highly recommended. Our next month's lunch will be home-hosted on May 13 by **Steve Ybarra**.

Our upcoming get together is a members' choice event. Everyone in the group was asked to submit the name of a sushi restaurant, either one we have visited in the past or a new one they think we should try. I then put each name in a pot and drew one, not a popularity vote, just a random pick but, of course, if more than one person selected the same restaurant it increased the chances that that restaurant would be chosen, and that is pretty much what happened. At least three people suggested this restaurant and it ended up being the one selected. So we know at least Three3 of our members will be happy! So without further ado, drum roll please, we will be going to this restaurant on May 16th. This was the first restaurant we visited as the Sushi no Tomadachi group, back at the start of 2022!

Steve Ybarra

sjybar@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

The Lunch and Wine group (LAW), enjoyed one of their biannual dinners out with the ladies on April 17th. Joining together at

Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, they found lots to like on the menu. The food and service were great and a good time was had by all.

Pete Gates

petegates10@gmail.com

I asked my waiter why he has his thumb on my steak.

He said "Because I don't want to drop it on the floor again."



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our upcoming get together is a members' choice event.

Everyone in the group was asked to submit the name of a sushi restaurant, either one we have visited in the past or a new one they think we should try. I then put each name in a pot and drew one, not a popularity vote, just a random pick but, of course, if more than one person selected the same restaurant it increased the chances that that restaurant would be chosen, and that is pretty much what happened. At least three people suggested this restaurant and it ended up being the one selected. So we know at least Three3 of our members will be happy! So without further ado, drum roll please, we will be going to this restaurant on May 16th. This was the first restaurant we visited as the Sushi no Tomadachi group, back at the start of 2022!



They are located in Ygnacio Plaza at 1387 Ygnacio Valley Blvd. Unlike many of the establishments recently, they do not open for lunch until Noon so we look forward to seeing everyone at 12:00 this day. Watch for an e-mail in May to confirm. If you are interested in joining our group contact me now about signing up.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum



Theater: 37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont CA

The first person to exhibit regular movie shows in Niles was Charles Esselstyne, under the name The Edison Moving Picture Company, in 1912. Called the Edison Theater, it opened on November 4, 1913, with a program of five reels of film and illustrated songs performed by Mr. & Mrs. George Wellington of San Francisco. The theater was licensed by the Motion Picture Patents Company to show films from its members, which included the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company. On April 29th 1914 with a one week old Essanay film, *Broncho Billy Treacherous Pal*, a two-reel Pathe film, *The Frozen Trail*, and a Keystone comedy was a hit production. Essanay personnel, including movie icon Charlie Chaplin, made films with these studios and watched his films in this theater until the Essanay studio closed in 1916.

Signup: Send a check for \$8/person (SIR146 w/ note: Museum Tour) to Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507. Lunch following at [The Nile Café 121 I Street, Niles/Fremont.](#) Details for lunch to follow.

Tour on June 20th 10:00

Signup Deadline June 14th

Banks should do a better job of keeping their ATMs filled. This is the fifth one I've been to that said "Insufficient Funds."



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We are pleased to announce that we have made the arrangements for dining at Fiore, in Concord for our May Couples Dining Out event. It will be on Tuesday, May 21st. We will follow our usual protocol with our social time at 5:30pm with the dinner to follow at 6:15pm.

You will recall that we had our January event at Luna, where we had such a good response that we wound up doing the dinner over two evenings. Chef Habib Jacifi also manages Fiore and encouraged us to have our Dining Out event there in May. The cuisine at Fiore is described as Italian Fusion with Mediterranean Influences and the menu does present the diner with many traditional dishes. But, since Chef Habib's roots are in Morocco, we decided to offer you an opportunity to try this more unique cuisine. We will start with a customer favorite - an olive pesto dip. Since Habib's other specialty is his excellent soups, we will offer the choice of either a classic Caesar salad, or his choice for "Soup du Jour". For the entrée, you may choose one of four,



an excellent homemade Lasagna, or the Gamberi Fiore tiger shrimp in a creamy dill sauce. Or you may choose one of the two Moroccan specialties. Either the Moroccan chicken or the Moroccan Beef Tagine is sure to surprise your taste buds with the amazing flavors thanks to the earthy and exotic spices. For dessert we will have a raspberry cheesecake.

The total cost of the dinner will be \$55, including tax and gratuity.

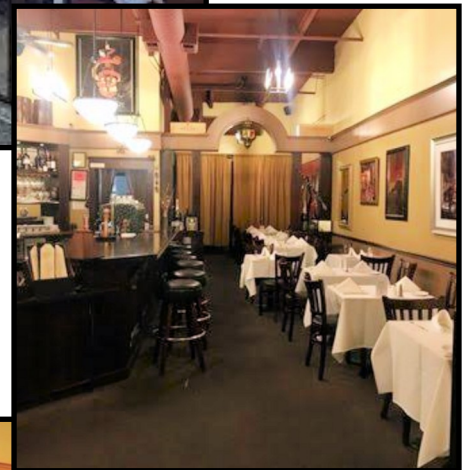
The restaurant is small so we will likely limit the total attendance to about 45. The wine list lists most wine from \$9 to about \$14, but we have asked to have a wine for \$8 available as well. Corkage will be \$20. Parking is convenient in the shopping area where the

restaurant is located.

We will no doubt sell out quickly so you will want to send me an email quickly to reserve your spot and confirm with a check made out to branch 146 and send to me as noted in the attached flyer.

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

fiore

Italian Fusion Cuisine with Mediterranean and Moroccan Influence

5100 Clayton Road - A14, Concord

Olive Pesto Dip

Mediterranean mixed olives with walnuts, pesto, balsamic, cheese and olive oil

Choice of Chef Habib's Soup du Jour

or

Classic Caesar Salad

Romaine hearts in a classic Caesar dressing with Parmesan cheese, and croutons

Entrée choices

Homemade Lasagna

Meat Lasagna with bolognese and bechamel sauce topped with tomato cream sauce

Gamberi Fiore

Tiger Shrimp with mushrooms and cream dill sauce paired with roasted vegetables

Moroccan Chicken

Oven-braised chicken with green olives, caramelized onions, potatoes, and lemon in a saffron sauce

Moroccan Beef Tagine

Slow-cooked cubes of beef with green peas, potatoes, and caramelized onions in a Spanish saffron sauce

Dessert

Raspberry Cheesecake

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com, Confirm with check to SIR 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598 \$55.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. Please Indicate your choice of soup or salad and entrée with your reservation!

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

April's Winners, Mexican Train Uno (To qualify, one had to have gray hair and wear glasses!)" **Peter**

Plante came in third, **Alicia Baily**, the champion (average score 9.25), and **Peter Bishop**, second.

Our group met at **Richard Hockenbrock's** lovely home in Walnut Creek.

At our meeting in March, we discussed how we as group would like to handle filling vacancies with summer and travels and events ahead. It was agreed upon, that in the event that we did not have a full 12 head count for game night; the host could invite anyone to join in for the evening, either SIR member or not. The only requirement would be that they would be knowledgeable of the game. (The thought of inviting non-SIR guests might bring in a potential new membership.) And having someone from outside our

usual group adds a new complement to the evening. We anticipated a full house with the addition of Joe and Christine Flannigan as guest substitutes added to our roster for April. I do believe they had a fun time, because there was a lot of hoop-la coming from their table!

Richard and **Virginia** provided us with non-caloric carrot cake and lemon cake for half time dessert.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on the afternoon of March 22nd after SIRCall went to press. The good ole Mexican Train chugged alongside the flowing Walnut

Creek to the home of **Sue and Walt Busenius**. Along for the ride were **Sally & Lynn Shafer**, **Linda & Larry Brown**, **Alicia Baily**, **Sharon Varner**, and **Linda Siljestrom**. **Sue's** tasty treats made us smile and helped us enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

We played with enthusiasm and some banter. Coming in 1st Place by a millennium was **Lynn Shafer**. **Lynn** was on fire all night averaging 10.11 per game and going out in 5 of 9 games played. Yes, this is true and not a misprint. **Larry Brown** was in mild pursuit coming in 2nd; averaging 19.11 per game. Finally, **Walt Busenius** limped into 3rd place and some prize money. We said

our goodbyes, boarded our cars and followed the sunset home.

We will meet next on April 26th at the home of **Sally & Lynn Shafer**. All Aboard in Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius
 925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



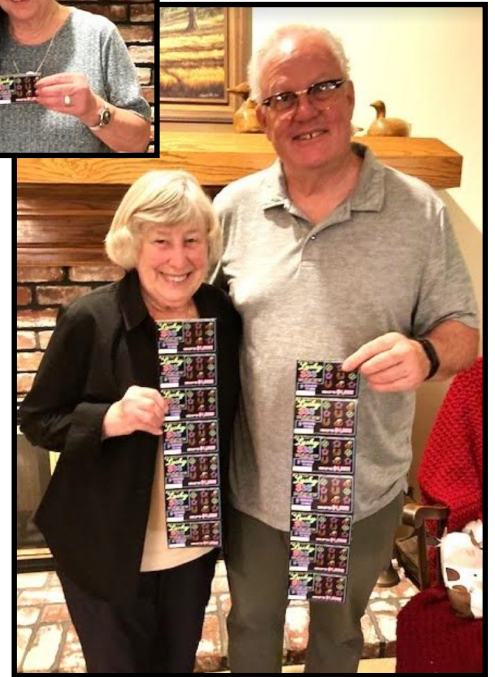


Mexican Train Dominoes “Quatro” Jim Pope

On April 19, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope’s** home with 14 people. In attendance this evening were: **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Dick and Leslie Firth, Scott and Claire MacDougall** (New Member), **Ken and Carol Soutl, Steve and Susan Oki, Henry and Barbara Thatcher,** and **Jim and Renie Pope.** Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of seven. We paid the player at each table with low table score 7 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Scott MacDougall** (New Member) and **Christy DeVoe** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players. **Ken and Carol Soutl** were awarded one Lotto ticket. The next El Quatro MTD will meet next on May 17th (Photos by Jim Pope)

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

With the background of a beautiful April evening, **Anne and Jim Burk** hosted our gathering on April 18th 2024.

We all missed the company of **Joan and Dave Pierce** but look forward to their return next month. The Men especially needed **Dave’s** steadying influence as they struggled to shuffle the tiles and consistently take the correct number.

The Ladies were very much in control with **Ann Hallett** exceeding all expectations while demonstrating her mathematical skills without the aid of a calculator.

Once again, the ladies secured first place with **Ann Hallett** winning four games out of seven. **Bob Yolland** and **Doug Eisner** claimed second and third places respectively.

The highlight of the evening came when **Anne Burk**

served a berries pie with vanilla ice cream. The Men cleaned their plates in record time and went on the hunt for second servings. Playing the remaining games was an anti-climax.

It was a treat to see everyone so relaxed and enjoying themselves. We all look forward to the next gathering on May 16th 2024 hosted by **Jim and Judy Baldrige.**

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Breaking News: Missing MTD 7 Results Unveiled by Runaway Attendee

In a twist that no one saw coming, **Bob** and **Wendy**, notorious for their escapades, skipped out on MTD 7, opting instead for a spontaneous week-long disappearance. However, fear not, as **Bob** has resurfaced to regale us with a tale of mystery, mischief, and missing information.

While the details of MTD 7 remain shrouded in uncertainty for **Bob** and **Wendy**, the event was reportedly hosted by an enigmatic couple whose names remain elusive. Despite their absence, **Bob** assures us that these mystery hosts were nothing short of spectacular.

As for the results of MTD 7, **Bob's** recollection is as hazy as a foggy morning. First place was awarded to someone who scored an unknown amount of points, earning them an undisclosed sum of cash. The second place mirrored this mysterious scenario, with another individual claiming a prize of unspecified value. And as for last place? Well, **Bob** vaguely remembers a tale being spun, but the details are about as clear as mud.

In a daring move to fill in the blanks, **Bob** has attempted to recreate the winners' image with his artistic flair. The result? Well, let's just say it's open to

interpretation.

"I hope you enjoy my artistic adventure," **Bob** quips, "but if not, please refrain from commentary."

So there you have it, folks. While the specifics of MTD 7 may forever remain a mystery, **Bob** and **Wendy's** escapade certainly adds a touch of humor to the proceedings. Until next time, stay curious, stay spontaneous, and remember, sometimes it's the unknown that adds the most flavor to life's adventures.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Picture from left to right, unknown woman, unknown man, suspicious person





Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

Fourteen of our regular players participated in the Wednesday evening games on April 3rd, at three tables. For the first time, that I can recall, we had no substitutes joining us.

The competition was fierce as you can guess from seeing the scores. **Virginia Tygart** placed first with an average winning score of 13.0. A tenth of decimal point behind her with a second-place score of 13.1 was **Pam McAllister**, and to complete the trio of the winners was **Sue Loftin** with a third-place score of 16.2.



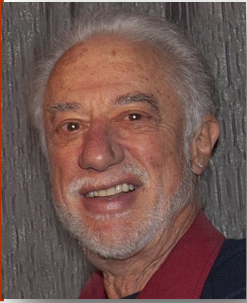
Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in May, which is the 1st. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com

Next it was time to go through the list of high scores looking for the two highest. **Ellen Breslin** and **Ron Polivka** were the top two. Unfortunately, they did not win any money with their scratchers either.



The exact moment young Colonel Sanders conceived his secret recipe for fried chicken.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” Bob Lucido

Women sweep MTD event

Gather 'round, folks, for the tale of MTD 9, where the shindig was hosted by none other than **Bob** and **Jane West** in their charming abode nestled snugly in Walnut Creek. Now, if you're scratching your head wondering where in the world Walnut Creek is, fret not, my friends. Travel back in time, approximately 50 years, to a land where walnut trees stood tall and proud, and a creek babbled its way through the countryside. And now to the game

In a turn of events that left the menfolk scratching their heads and muttering under their breath, the women of the event stole the show, leaving the gentlemen in their dust to ponder their defeat over multiple glasses of wine.

First up, we have **Mary Ellen**, affectionately named after everyone's favorite jar of jam, who swooped in with a score of 9.4, surprising even herself. Rumor has it she might've been fueled by pure luck, **Jane** managed to clinch third place, proving that sometimes a little bit of charm goes a long way.

So, there you have it, folks. Another day, another victory for the ladies, leaving the menfolk to ponder their strategy for the next showdown. Visions of toast on the horizon.

Coming in hot at second place is **Mary McCarthy**, the woman with a computer in her head that spits out the odds of every move she makes. Whether it's a knack for numbers or just a knack for outsmarting the competition, **Mary** certainly knows how to play her dominoes right.

And last but certainly not least, we have **Jane West**, who pleaded with the other players to cut her some slack and give her a chance. Whether it was her heartfelt pleas or just

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Koi fish always travel in groups of four. If attacked, Koi A, B and C will scatter, leaving behind the D Koi.

Guys, when a woman is mad, just tell her that she is overreacting. She'll realize you're right and she will calm right down.



CARD GAMES

...we play



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



**Old Money Poker
Group 6**
Brad Hatcher
Generous!

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we met on March 22nd and April 12th.

The big winners were **Brian McCarthy** and **Jim Passaglia** each with 4 wins, and **Bob Finlayson**, **Steve Ybarra**, **Norman Cox** and **Dave Smith** with 3 wins. **Bill Vizza** had four 2nds, and **Frank Lucas** and **Norman Cox** had 3. The lowest average score was **Bob Finlayson** with 39 and **Bob West** with 45. **Dave Smith** shot the moon twice.

YTD: **Brian McCarthy** leads with 11 wins and **Frank Lucas** is 2nd with 9 wins, followed closely with 8 wins by **Bill Vizza** and **Norman Cox**. **Bob Finlayson** leads with a 50% win rate followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 42%, and **Norman Cox** with 40%.

Bill Vizza and **Steve Ybarra** lead in 2nds with 11 followed by **Bob West** with 10.5. **Norman Cox** leads with 4 STM's followed by **Frank Lucas** with 3. Most Improved are **Glenn Breslin** and **Norman Cox** which have a 180% and 170% higher win rate than last year.

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 May on the 10th and 24th.

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

Co-Directors
Bob West and Steve Ybarra

robrtawest@aol.com & sjybar@gmail.com

That is what **Frank Lucas** is as he offered his home for our April game. He kindly was our substitute host after illness of a spouse caused the cancellation of our game at its regular time and date.

Five players gathered to help Frank diminish his wine supply. **Bruce Kimmis** was the primary cash gatherer. The game was highlighted by back-to-back four aces winning hands.

We look forward to our May game on the first Thursday of the month.

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2**
Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, April 5 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Jim Pope**.

Steve Dinning won 1st Place overall by hanging around 2nd and 3rd place the entire game, which vaulted him into the winners circle at the end. Scores were very close for the top players, with only 4 points separating 1st from 5th place overall. Congratulations, Steve!

Jim Pope came in 2nd, **Rex Rexroat** and **Rich Ahlf** tied for 3rd, and **Mark Curtis** placed 5th.

Dick DeVoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Farley greeted us as warmly as hosts **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** when we arrived on sunny April 9th. How nice to see all our regulars, not to mention **Margot Somerville** and **Marilyn Miller**, who graciously filled in with only two days' warning. Although there were many interesting hands with long suits and good strength, no successful slams were bid. After 20 boards, **Ken and Elaine Richter** were third (49%), **Joan and Dave Pierce** were second (65%), and **Margot and Marilyn** were first (69%). We've often seen subs do very well in our group, so this was not totally unexpected. We finished in only three hours and 15 minutes, unusually timely for us, and nobody had to drive home in the dark.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Larry and Linda Brown hosted our April 2nd event. All of our regular couples participated in this event. The **Browns** graciously provide new cards for this event. The cards proved to be lucky for some, as there were 4 small slam attempts with 3 being made. This is unusual in that we average less than 1 slam attempt per event.

Dick and Christy DeVoe courageously attempted a small slam of 6 no-trump in round 1, but fell short. In round 2, **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** also bid a small slam of 6 no-trump on hand 1, making 7. And then came back with a small slam bid of 6 clubs on hand 2, making 6. The odds of bidding and making 2 small slams in a round is extremely unlikely. The **Hatchers** requested to take the lucky cards home with them, but were declined.

At the end of the event, **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** took 1st Place, but were almost overtaken by **Dick and Maggie Chaffee** who came on strong in the last 2 rounds with 2980 points. They had their own small slam hand of 6 hearts, making 6.

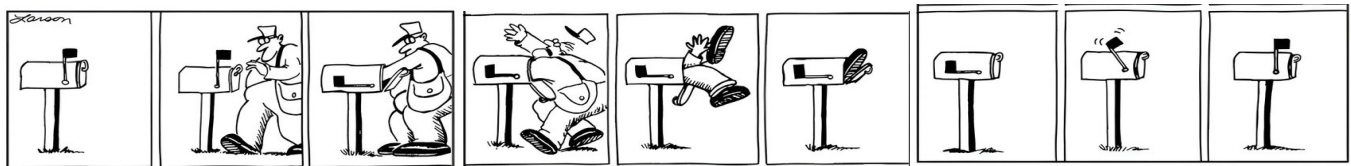
The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3940 points - **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**
- 2nd PLACE with 3760 points - **Dick & Maggie Chaffee**
- 3rd PLACE with 2650 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**

Our next event will be held on **May 7th** and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

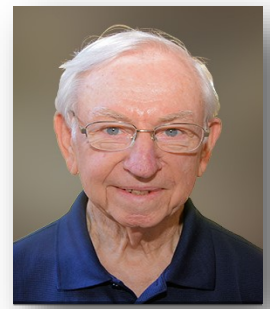
Any one interested in joining the group should give Stan Johnson a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next event is planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 2/27/24.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a spirited three table game at Jim Stedman's in The Waterford of Rossmoor. The players were: Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.

The top scorers were Dick DeVoe with 5,590 points, Bob Yolland with 4,910 points and Ray Bland with 4,680 points.

The next game will be on Monday May 6, 2024, in Walnut Creek at Boundary Oaks Golf Course hosted by Joe Fuchs and Steve Dinning.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



Duplicate Bridge 3

Michael Whitaker

Duplicate 3 Bridge was gratuitously hosted on Friday, April 19 by Billy Schaaf. 16 hopefuls played 24 hands of duplicate bridge. Ray Spears ended up in 4th, Bob Yolland in 3rd, Mike Whitaker in 2nd and Dick DeVoe in 1st. Our next game will be on May 17th.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

On the 4th Wednesday, April 24 at 1:30pm, our guest speaker will be John Gardner of Blackhawk Wealth Advisers. His agenda will be decided by the members. Suggestions welcome. Our next meeting on the 4th Wednesday, May 22nd at 1:30pm. Topic to be announced

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



It's a wonderful world... enjoy it!