



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

We had a smaller than usual turnout at our September 9th Zoom luncheon meeting but that did not deter those who showed up to hear Ms. Shawn Gilbert from the League of Women Voters talk about the special election concerning the Gubernatorial recall election. She presented a slide show that was very informative.

Little Sir **Jerry Kaplan** had originally planned to have Wes Goldberg, Warriors beat reporter for the Bay Area News Group speak in concert with our traditional sports-oriented theme of September's meeting but Wes had to cancel at the last minute. **Jerry** anticipates he will now speak at our October meeting.

Our branch continues to grow as **Bert Payne** sponsored by **Clint Collier**, **Bill Fritz** sponsored by **Paul Beretz**, and **Jack Dadam** sponsored by **Dick DeVoe** were all approved and welcomed at our earlier 9 am BEC meeting. Our total membership now stands at 294. as reported in **George Mon's** Membership column.

It was truly a special occasion when **Jim Burk** rose to the podium to present **Dominic DiMatteo** with SIR Branch 146's first ever Century Award denoting Dominic reaching 100 years of age. Congratulations to **"Dom"**!

Jim also presented a Certificate of Appreciation Award to **Tony Greco** for his outstanding service to the branch over his many years of volunteering.

The birthday boy drawing winner for September, **Joe Nelms**, received a SIR baseball style cap.

Looking forward to seeing you in October once again via Zoom. Come support your organization!

Zoom, Zoom...
ZOOM Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, October 14th
Zoom Session opens at 11:45am
for Noon Meeting

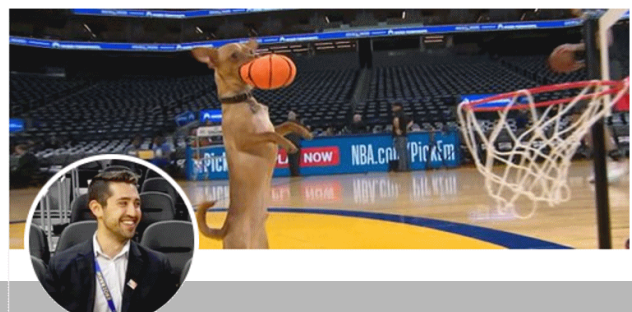


Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

We are back to Zoom meetings for a little while longer as we all look forward to seeing one another without a mask on and sharing a glass of wine and lunch with each other.

Until Contra Costa County, as well as State SIR guidance, allows in person meetings, we will continue with Zooming. At this point we are not sure when our next in-person meeting will be held. I hope most all of you will be ready and able to attend one of the luncheons in the next few months. Stay tuned!

Our October luncheon speaker via Zoom will be Mr. Wes Goldberg. (He had a conflict and was unable to speak at the September virtual meeting). Wes has been the Warriors beat reporter for the Bay Area New Group for the last two years. He has appeared several times a week on the front page of the East Bay Times sports section. He expects to be available during the 30 minutes set aside for the speaker to focus on responding to questions and promises to answer every question we throw at him about the Warriors (and possibly other NBA teams).



Please have your questions ready beforehand. To save time, I ask that you **send your Warrior questions to me at least a few days** before the meeting starts. (mtdana@aol.com)

Please plan to sign on for his appearance at Noon on Thursday, October 14th. We have eliminated the Breakout Room portion of our Zoom luncheon meetings so the meeting officially begins at Noon.

Volunteers Always Needed

It is important that all members, and in particular, newer members, volunteer to take a role in making the branch successful and welcoming to all. The branch is always in need of people to:

- check in luncheon attendees,
- help with audio/visual setups,
- assist in treasurer responsibilities,
- assist several other volunteers in carrying out their duties - badges, biographies, monthly calendar, greeters, e-communications, and many other "chores" that allow the branch to function successfully.

Please consider attending one of our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meetings (even via Zoom) to see how the organization functions and how you may be able to help. The BEC meets at 9:00 AM, prior to every luncheon. And look at the branch website <https://www.sir146.com/> to see the Administrative committees where assistance is almost always needed and especially welcomed!

During September, three new members joined our branch: **Jack Dadam** (sponsor-Dick DeVoe), **Bill Fritz** (sponsor-Paul Beretz), and **Bert Payne** (sponsor-Clint Collier). A warm welcome to all of you; we look forward to meeting you in person, hearing some of your interesting life stories, and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

As you think about life during these days of COVID 19, consider:

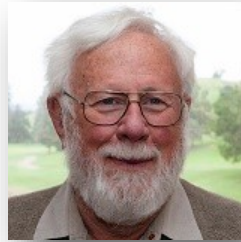
"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain" — Dolly Parton.

and...

"You never really learn much from hearing yourself speak." — George Clooney

and... one more...

"Life is really simple, but men (and women) insist on making it complicated." — Confucius



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Since becoming editor I have been trying to give our newsletter a little more "organization" by defining sections and giving each section a distinctive heading. All of the "organization's business" reports now come first with the second half, titled "Looking for something to do?" devoted to our activities.

That section now has several major subsections devoted to Mexican Train Dominoes, Card Games and food and going out activities. And, of course also the unique activities we have like bicycling, hiking, and other activities remain here on their own. I hope this will make the activities you are most interested in easier to locate and read about but I encourage you to read it in its entirety... you don't want to miss any of the jokes. We need more humor these days! I don't want to trivialize Thomas Payne but I wonder if he had a crystal ball to the future when he wrote "These are the times that try men's souls..."

Deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 25th unless you plan to turn your submission in late in which case it is October 22nd.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, 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 available issue.

Clint Collier — Editor SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489
br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor

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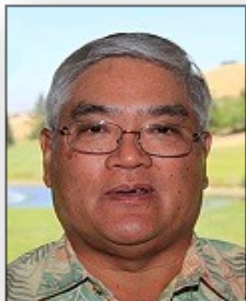
Proofreaders

Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage

Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved by the BEC in September. We welcome Jack **Dadam** sponsored by **Dick DeVoe**, **Bill Fritz** sponsored by **Paul Beretz** and **Bert Payne** sponsored by **Clint Collier**. **Jack** lives in Lafayette, **Bill** lives in Walnut Creek and **Bert** lives in Concord.

The 2021 membership count is at 294. That's 26 new members since the beginning of the year. Not bad considering the pandemic.

"SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19" and copies of vaccination card tally as of September 4th with 86.1% responded.

That still leaves 41 members that have yet to submit their documentation.

As the Directory will be 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



Congratulations to **Joe Nelms** our September Birthday winner! Remember... you have to be Zooming to WIN!

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap, modeled by our leaders on their article pages earlier in this newsletter!



Luncheon Co-Chairs Bruce Borgman Rich Lyon

The optimism of your luncheon chairs that we might be able to have an in-person luncheon in October is not to be realized- so we will continue with another month of a Zoom meeting. We encourage all of you participate so that we can at least keep the spirit of our social engagement active. There is a glimmer of hope with the improving of the Covid statistics that we may be able to greet one another in person before the year is out. In the meantime, stay healthy!

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary	Rich Lyon
Assistant Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Peter Plante

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

SIR Mission Statement

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

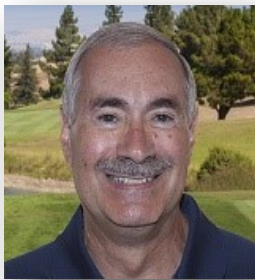
Your 2022 Nominations



Big Sir: **Jerry Kaplan**



Little Sir: **Rich Lyon**



Secretary:
Bob Wilkenfeld



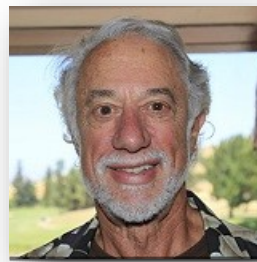
Assistant Secretary:
John Kluesener



Treasurer:
John Alexander



Assistant Treasurer:
Dave Steinberg



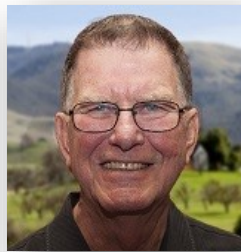
Director 2nd Term:
Bob Lucido



Director 1st Term:
Bob Ford



Director 2nd Term:
George Mon



Director 2nd Term:
Henry Thatcher



Director 1st Term:
Ed Brands



Director 1st Term:
Frank Lucas

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Director 1st Term	Bob Ford
Director 1st Term	Ed Brands
Director 1st Term	Frank Lucas

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Open
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Open

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



Paul Beretz
 Larry Brown
 Robert Calloway
 Teddy Coggiola
 Dennis Dale
 Brian Downie
 John Foster
 Joe Hunt

Larry Kaye
 John Kluesener
 Phil Lendaris
 Bob Lucido
 Rob Melrose
 Ron Millican
 Byron Nelson
 John Nelson

Stephen Ondeck
 Jitu Patel
 Fred Reich
 William Ross
 George Sabbagha
 Joe Starkey
 Rick Tye
 Charlie Walker

Bill Weinberg
 Herb Wilson
 Bob Yolland

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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.

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



Hugh Ferguson



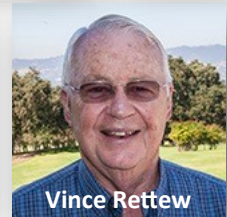
Joe Hunt



Verner Laursen



Stan Stricherz



Vince Rettew

September Award Ceremony Honoring Tony Greco



At the September 9th Zoom meeting, your honoree committee recognized **Tony Greco** for his outstanding contributions to our branch by presenting him with the **Branch Certificate of Appreciation Award**.

Tony was born in New York City in September 1945, and grew up in the Borough of Queens, and on the north shore of Long Island. He attended City College of New York and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1967, and a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1969. He subsequently began a career with the Sperry Corporation over the next 26 years. Relatively soon in his career, he transferred to the bay area where he met his wife **Cindy** in 1970. After he retired from Sperry, **Tony** continued his professional career with AT&T for another 12 years before retiring a second time in 2012. **Tony** and I (**Jim Burk**) share an experience with AT&T even though he was in construction & engineering and I was in marketing.

Tony joined our branch in August 2012 and was sponsored by **John Boyan**. Among his numerous activities, leading up to the point where the pandemic shut down our fun and challenging adventures, **Tony** served 3 years as a Director on the BEC and our Member Relations Chair; and 6 years to this date keeping our branch badges current. If you think organizing badges is a simple task, we have a job for you to consider. In addition, he and his wife have headed up the couple's party bridge activity, which they continue to lead to this day.

Tony and **Cindy** have two children and four grandchildren. They also enjoy spending time at their vacation home in the Lake Almanor area. Up until recently, the beauty of the landscape has been part of the intrigue of the area, and then came the Dixie fire. The good news is that their home has been saved by the first responders of Cal Fire as the fire came within 200 feet of their home. The fire has moved on through the area and barring unforeseen developments, it is no longer a dangerous issue for them. He and his family consider themselves very fortunate, and we agree.

Tony's other recreational interests include golf and cribbage. He says he also plans to get back into fishing, so fish you are forewarned.

Please join me in honoring this very active and contributing member of Branch 146, and one of our many members who make our branch one of the strongest in the state. Thank you, **Tony**, for your contributions to the significant leadership of our branch.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the September 9th Zoom Luncheon



September Award Ceremony Honoring Century Sir Dominac DiMatteo



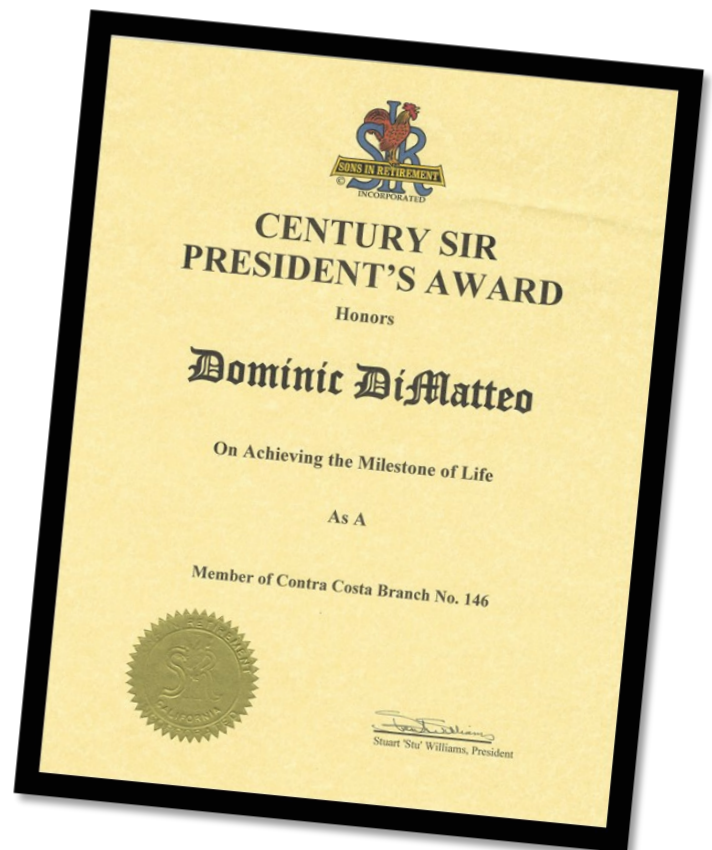
At the September 9th Zoom meeting, we had a very special anniversary award to present as we recognize our first and only 100-year young member of branch 146 . . . At least so far. What contributes to one reaching this significant age? For the answer to this question, you will have to speak with **Dominic DiMatteo**. By the way we call him “**Dee**.” His response will at least give you his answer to this successful long life lived question.

Dee was born in 1921 on September 2nd. He may be the only military man you know of that participated in the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War - all in the same lifetime. What a guy! **Dee** served as a naval pilot for many years and retired from the Navy, only to join BART and then subsequently retire from that agency as well.

As is true with many ex-pilots, **Dee** passed on his love of aviation to his sons. Two of his sons served as naval pilots, and one, John, a Northgate high school and Cal grad, achieved the enviable honor of being recognized as a naval ‘top gun’ pilot.

Dee joined our branch in 1991, sponsored by **Bob Wedin**. **Dee’s** wife, **Florie**, has passed away, and **Dee** still lives in Walnut Creek. Five years ago, **Dee** became our first Super Senior Sir at age 95, and today he is our first Century SIR. Please join me in honoring **Dee** for achieving this milestone and for being branch 146’s most experienced SIR. Congratulations, **Dee!**

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the September 9th
Zoom Luncheon

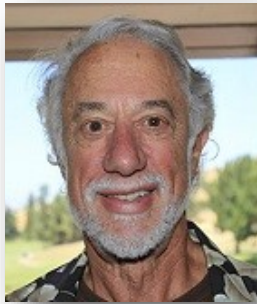




Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of activities listed in the following pages. Many activities are now open for in person participation and more will soon follow.

We have so many activities, but there is always room for more. If you've got an idea, we would love to hear it, and Bob Lucido, our Activities Coordinator, would love to help you start a new activity by seeing if there is interest in it, and if so, help you set it up.



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

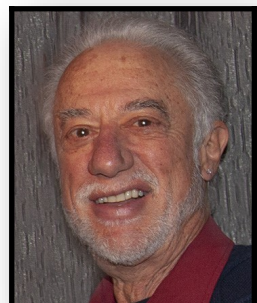
The main direction of SIR is to encourage members to be active in activities.

We can pat ourselves on the back that were doing a good job, but we have no idea how many members are active.

I know there is a percentage that only come to the luncheons and don't participate in activities, of course that is their choice. That may be due to their advanced age.

I have contacted all of the Activity Chairmen and requested their membership lists. I am gathering all the information and will publish the results in the next SIR Call.

Bob Lucido
925.899.0974
bobwendy3@comcast.net



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

In October we are planning a trip to Petaluma.

Bob Lucido
925.899.0974
bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

Our regular meeting for September, scheduled for the 22nd, was cancelled due to many conflicts, family issues, and vacations. However, we are planning on meeting at Rocco's on the fourth Wednesday, the 27th.

I did learn more about the variety of cribbage boards that have become available. This one was shared with me by **Charlie Kahsen**, of our Branch's Pinochle group.

John Pearl
mcpearl@astound.net



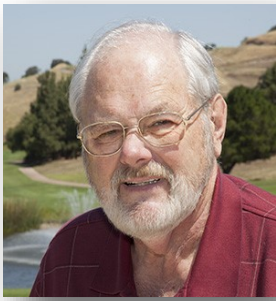
SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

2020 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2022 Today

October 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	29	30	Oct 1
<p>8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>
4	5	6	7	8
<p>9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts</p> <p>Online Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)</p>
11	12	13	14	15
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #1</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting via Zoom</p> <p>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon via Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Cuatro</p>
18	19	20	21	22
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2</p> <p>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet</p> <p>11:30 AM Sushi no tomodachi</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts</p> <p>Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)</p>
25	26	27	28	29
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting</p>	<p>12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis</p>	<p>7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>



Theater Gary Schaub

SIR146 members and guests have been invited for this special evening on Friday, November 5 at 7:15 p.m. Deadline to reserve has been extended to October 15.

Back in April, 2019, forty SIR members and guests visited the California Magic Club in Martinez for a gourmet dinner and a wonderful evening of prestidigitation by one some of the most talented magicians in the area. It was one of the most popular SIR theater parties.



The California Magic Club provides an evening of good food, witty conversation and spellbinding entertainment. It's like a private dinner party. The Club seating capacity has been reduced to only thirty guests to allow better social distancing. The magical evening begins as soon as you arrive, and the fun begins! You'll enjoy a three course dinner and signature drinks with close-up magic performed right at your table. After dessert, you'll be amazed by an hour-long stage show featuring a popular professional magician.

The California Magic Club has been presenting magical entertainment for 15 years.

Dinner features a tasty fresh green salad, roasted tri-tip beef or marinated breast of chicken with seasoned vegetables and herb rice. A pasta vegetarian option is available if ordered in advance with ticket order. A tasty dessert completes the meal.

Beer and wine are also available.

Full COVID compliance is expected for the evening. Guests must wear masks (except when eating/drinking), and Vaccination proof is required. Guests must have submitted their waiver form to SIR.

The California Magic Club is located at 514 Main Street at

Alhambra Avenue in downtown Martinez. Street parking is available. Guests must arrive no later than 7:15 p.m.

Seating is limited to 30 guests.! Advance reservations are essential – no later than October 15. A group rate for SIR 146 is \$89.00 per person which includes both dinner and show.

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



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

September 2nd: What a great start. Cool and fresh. Grey Skies with a promise of sun. Off we rode. **Michael Wolfson, Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Pat Hoy and Larry Kaye.** Out towards Blackhawk with a nice tailwind. As we reached the

Crow Canyon turn one of the riders commented: "My shorts are backwards". What???? So we stopped and he spun them around in the Chevron bathroom. Onwards we rolled. Over the Crow Canyon hill and into Danville. Grabbing the Iron Horse Trail, which I personally hate, we turned to the North. Fighting zillions of walkers, talkers, skaters and assorted droves we pedaled North. After sometime I took us off the trail. It was nuts. Taking the backroads we skirted the trail and all the people and enjoyed a more country flavor as we headed to our start.

Back in town we took over Peets and enjoyed some java and belly bombs. Saying goodbye is always hard but lunch called. The friendships shared are why we are SIR guys.





SongSirs
Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs continue to wait along with many other branch activities for some improvement in the Covid statistics, which will allow us to resume our social calendars with Branch 146. We did cancel the September rehearsals and since yours truly will be out of town for at least the first rehearsal in October, the earliest we will consider getting together will be Wednesday, October 20. Stay tuned for a final decision on this date. The SongSirs are encouraged to keep those voices tuned by singing in the shower.

Bruce Borgman

925.932.3961 bgborgman@aol.com



SIR BRANCH 146
Hiking
Mark Curtis

So here we are in the COVID environment. Do we stick our heads in the sand? I really hope not. For those of us in our Golden years, (I want to choke the guy that came up with that Golden thing), I/we just keep doing what we do.

I /we continue to hike/walk. There is a very core group that walks regularly. There are also 20 or more on my email list that I have not yet met!! I typically publish a planned walk for after the ZOOM or lunch meeting. I am not going to do that this time, because it doesn't seem to make any difference.

Spouses always welcome

Dogs on-leash allowed on this trail

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Travel
Milt Smith

We now have two great cruises scheduled for 2022 - Take a look and let Milt Smith know if you'd like to go or if you have any questions.

PRINCESS CRUISE: Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco aboard the Ruby

Princess: sailing **March 12-27, 2022** via the Panama Canal; ports of call: Cartagena, Colombia; Panama Canal (new locks); Panama City; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. **Balcony Staterooms starting at \$3,824 pp. Ocean view at \$3,369** Contact Milt Smith SIR146 - miltsmith549@gmail.com or contact Lisa Mittone, agent, directly at lisa@tctat.com 800-528-2223 be sure to mention SIR 146.

8 Night Autumn in the Northeast - CRUISE ABOARD THE CRYSTAL SERENITY QUEBEC CITY TO NEW YORK CITY October 5-13, 2022. Ports of call: The Bay of Fundy, Saint John, Bar Harbor, Boston, Newport, NYC. *Crystal Cruises are all inclusive!* **Pricing from \$4898 pp dbl. occupancy, including airfare.**

Contact Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897.

Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

miltsmith549@gmail.com

Thoughts on Travel

- "Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer" – Anonymous. ...
- "The journey is my home" – Muriel Rukeyser. ...
- "To travel is to live" – Hans Christian Anderson. ...
- "It feels good to be lost in the right direction" – Unknown. ...
- Life is a journey, not a destination" – Ralph Waldo Emerson



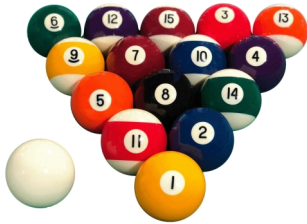


Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

Reported by **Jim Barry**

Table Pool is back in business and we're meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 Noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games!!!!!!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional information.



Bill Weinberg
(925) 682 0962



Bocce John Kendrick

Want more Bocce Ball Time? You got it! Our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity at Newall Park in Concord will extend playing through October 2021. Come out and enjoy the fun and great weather before

the rainy season starts.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585
jmkendrick23@gmail.com

How does an attorney sleep?
First he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Our latest Tuesday tournament was the Bill Schultz Memorial. It was a modified Ryder Cup competition. **Dave Steinberg** put it together and reports that we had a great turnout with thirty-six

branch 146 golfers and ten guests. In Bill's Memory we raised \$704 for the U.S. Marine Memorial in San Francisco. Thanks to everyone who participated.

We previously reported that the rest of this year's Away golf events would be canceled. However, **Colin Holland** and **Mark Curtis** have stepped up to put together a final Away Golf for the year at Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa on October 21. The cost will be \$45 payable in advance to SIR 146 Golf. Please pay attention to your emails from Mark and kindly respond with your intent to play and your payment.



Pickleball

Jim Burk

The Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) Commission for the United Methodist Church just held its most recent meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2021 with the intent to decide when this site for

Pickle ball would reopen its doors for play. The conclusions were unclear.

On the one hand it was clear that the players were interested in seeing the opening of the indoor facility take place in light of cooler weather and possible rain coming as Fall approaches. On the other hand, it was not clear as to when this might occur as many players hope beyond hope that good weather will occur for outside play. Outside play provides the opportunity for play without masks, whereas the Contra Costa County guidelines state that indoor play needs to be played with a mask, regardless of one's vaccination status. This rule limits indoor play as most players prefer to play without a mask.

My suggestion is to call or e-mail me to learn the most up to date rules as to whether play mandates a mask when playing indoors or not. Rules are changing very quickly and it seems that it is hard to know what pertains at any given moment. I wish it were different.

Jim Burk
(925) 285-3575 or jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

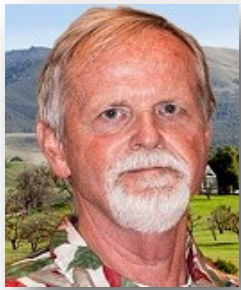


Ping Pong

Ron Afdal

We have put our ping pong Fridays, 1 to 4 pm, on hold, mostly due to Covid indoor activity mandates, until resuming play again on Friday, October 15

Ron Afdal
(925) 825-4809 ronafdal@comcast.net



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 22nd from 9 AM to 11 AM on Zoom Our theme for this meeting is Sports Photography.

The summer months have many different sports that are being played professionally and or at an amateur level. Take your camera and go photograph and or video a swim meet, a baseball game, or whatever other sporting events that are available in your area. Since the subjects will be moving quickly, practice your photography skills with using different aperture settings. Once you have completed this assignment, put your pictures on a thumb drive and bring them to Rocco's or send them to me for the Zoom meeting.

We will review the I-Phone 13 Pro and the I-Phone 13 Mini which was just released this past week. If there are any other new photography equipment, then please notify me about it. I will put it on the agenda for our upcoming meeting.

I will be forwarding an agenda by email roughly one week prior to our October 22nd meeting.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

text/call at 610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

text/call at 925.997.5032 henrythatcher@gmail.com

The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion.

...Paulo Coelho



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi, I am **Bob Ford** and I have recently taken over the SIR BRANCH 146 Thursday 9-Hole golf group. 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. We play the nine-hole course then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. If you are interested, let me know by sending me an email and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, 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!!



The group is also wishing **Vern Laursen** a speedy recovery. We hope to see you soon Vern.

Scubabob.ford@gmail.com.





AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

This month, the group chartered the *Sea Wolf* for an expedition to the Farallones. So 18 of us plus one guest (**Carl Moyer's** daughter) set out for the two hour ride to the islands where we were rewarded with an excellent day of fishing, returning home with limits of extra large rockfish and ling cod. It was the first time we chartered a craft of this size, but it won't be the last.

In fact, the rockfishing this year has been terrific and it has made up for our inability to fish in the inland lakes and streams for trout as a consequence of the drought. We are also enjoying salmon fishing but, alas, the season will end on October 31. **Harry Sherinian** gets the prize for the largest salmon of the month, which he landed while aboard **Ron Lew's** boat.

Some of us were adventurous and traveled outside of the Bay Area to catch fish. **Stan Wong, Pedro Contreras, Steve**

Paulick, and Ben LaSala drove to San Diego where they boarded a boat for a five day trip off the Mexican coast. The trip was quite successful, as they caught yellowfin tuna, including some monsters over 100 lbs., as well as smaller yellowtail. Yellowtail, incidentally, are not tuna but are members of the jack family. But they taste good!

Tom Kostik was also a traveler, making his annual trip to the Klamath River, where he caught three salmon. **Tom** also fished in the Delta for black bass. He did catch a few, but the fishing was slower than normal.

All SIR members are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in our trips even if they have never fished or have not fished in a long time. You can learn about our trips by joining us at our next meeting, which is scheduled for October 23 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek golf course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast and conversation beginning at 7:30. For further information, you can contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925.550.4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415.496.6504.



Photo by Jon Yokomizo

The Fishing Group aboard the *Sea Wolf* after returning from the Farallones



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime, we are on Covid-19 hold, and we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all SIR members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447



Cooking Lunch & Wine Syd Whalen

The LAW LUNCHEON GROUP {Lunch & Wine} had their semi-annual LADIES' NIGHT on September 15th at the Creekside Restaurant in Rossmore. We had a good group with 10 attending.

We had **Dick** and **Janice Woodman**, **Pete** and **Ann Gates**, **Vince** and **Bonnie Rettew**, **Syd** and **MJ Whalen**, **Bob Spellman**, and **Joe Barry**.

A good time was had by all.

Syd Whalen

(925) 332-5230 sydwhalen@aol.com



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We wish we could report some specific plans for resuming the Couples Dining Out activity, but, along with many other activities we are in a hold pattern. We decided to not have the event for

September as we had originally planned – and are awaiting some clearer guidelines from our state and Branch 146 leadership with respect to activities, which involve a larger number of participants. Many of you will have returned to restaurants in pairs, or small groups but the prospect of having a group of 40 or more is a bit more daunting. Nevertheless, we will continue to check out restaurants and we will let you know when we decide to make definite plans for an event.

bgborgman@aol.com

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind

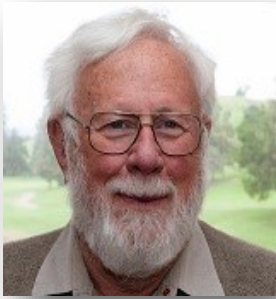


Cooking II Steve Ybarra

On Monday, September 13, the Cooking II group gathered in **Steve Ybarra's** welcoming backyard for a relaxing lunch. The afternoon began with nuts, cheese, salami and ham. We also enjoyed spinach and feta phyllo

triangle pastries as a warm appetizer. The wine that the members provided paired quite well with the appetizers. The main course, Viva la chicken, was a layered entree that was accompanied by a corn, avocado and tomato salad. Cold watermelon bite size cubes completed the main course plate. The afternoon was completed with an apple crisp and ice cream dessert. Many thanks to **Corrie Orange**, who helped me plate and serve this lunch in an organized manner. **Bob Yolland** will host next month's lunch on Monday, October 11.

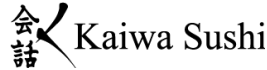
Steve Ybarra



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

No meeting in September, we meet every other month to enjoy sushi and each other's company. Our next meeting will be October 21st, at 1543 Locust Street, Walnut Creek.



And, don't forget... mark your calendars for December 16th for our visit to Morimoto's in Napa. This will be by reservation only, and spouses and up to one guest per participant can be accommodated. Most



of you are aware of "Iron Chef" Morimoto and his upscale Japanese cuisine. More details will be available at the October lunch but you can expect this to be an extraordinary sushi/Japanese experience.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?
There's no menu - you get what you deserve



Couples Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Our next wine tasting will be on Tuesday, October 26th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm at the home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld** at 3407 Withersed Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

This time we will be tasting Argentinian wines



red wine: Argentinian Malbec

white wine: Argentinian white wine

Please bring a bottle (under \$30) of either a red or white wine and an appetizer to share.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, all attendees must have turned in their signed SIR waivers and proof of full vaccination in order to participate in this event.

br146winetasting@gmail.com
phone 925.324.2463



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Jerry Kaplan

We are holding off for another month or two before we get all 16 to 18 players together in one room. COVID 19 has stopped us again!

We hope that those in the group that feel comfortable in an indoor group setting will reach out to others to play some Mexican Train Dominoes, even if with only one or two other couples. Remember, don't forget to tap!

After a few more weeks we'll see when we may be able to all get together again. We'll keep you posted.

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

Ron Plachy

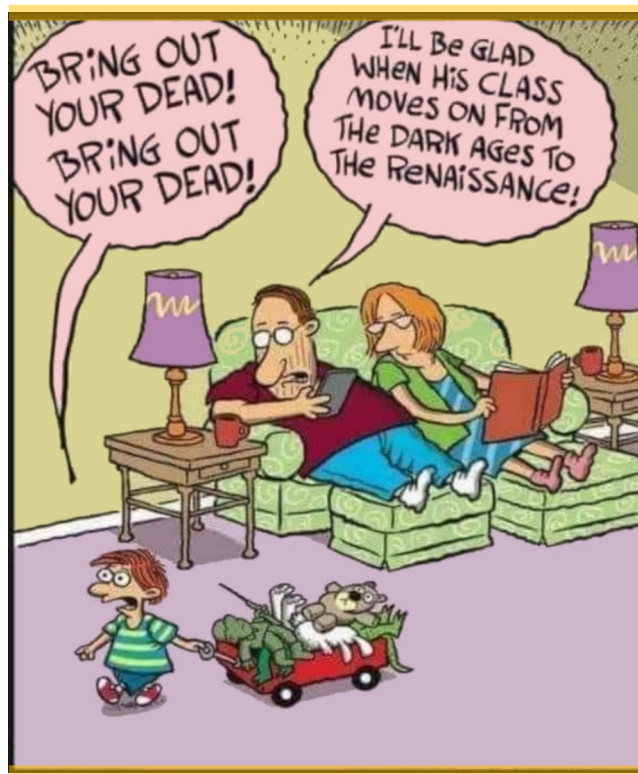
Mexican Train Dominoes Dos met at the home of **John and Nancy Pearl** on Friday, September 24th. We had 14 players at three tables, some noisy, some quiet, all having fun.

Our hostess put out a scrumptious bevy of snacks along with the wine and soft drinks our host supplied. One table managed to play 12 games, another 11, and one only managed 8.

Maybe there is more in less as **Nancy Pearl** took 1st place and **Bill Holly** grabbed 3rd while playing at the table with 8 games. **Nancy** had an admirable average score of 13.8. **Bill Holly** had an average of 17.1. **Rich Ahlf** came in 2nd with an average score of 16.8.

We look forward to October at the home of **Don and Etta Dotson**. We are still looking for additional couples, or singles for that matter, that want to play. Drop me an email, rjplachy@icloud.com if you're interested. Please contact

Ron Plachy (rjplachy@icloud.com) if interested.



Grupo Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro"

Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train dominos meetings are on hold due to the Covid-19 Delta variant restrictions and "It's Better to Be Safe Than Sorry" principle. We will resume as soon as the restrictions are changed. We meet the third Friday of the month. Everyone stay safe and we'll see you all soon, I hope.

Jim Pope

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?

I don't know and don't really care



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

Various venues including the American Contract Bridge league have suspended face to face games for the time being, and I am following their lead.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net

How do you make holy water?
You boil the hell out of it



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Brian and Mary McCarthy hosted our MTD group this month.

There was a small turnout but there was plenty of energy and Clint Collier came in first. He's winning so often that I think he's marking the tiles.

Mary Ellen came in last and won the lottery ticket.

Next month it will be at Bob & Wendy Lucido's home.



Mary Ellen and Clint Collier

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" John "Moose" Kelly

There will be no Mexican Train Dominoes activity for Group 6 due to the continual surge of the Delta Variant. I will reassess the situation for next month to determine whether we will play or not. Hopefully, the surge will be on its way down that we can resume our festivities even if it is in smaller groups. Keep the faith MTD Group 6!!!!

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our September Sir Call report, we have had online matches on Friday August 27th and Friday September 10th. We also met on Friday September 24th which will be reported in October. We are playing both matches online because of the recent indoor mask requirements caused by the Delta variant. We will revisit this in October.

Match Summaries: **Bob Finlayson** won 4 games, followed by **Brian McCarthy** and **Bill Vizza** with 3. **Brian** had 5 seconds followed by **Ron Polivka** with 4. **Ron, Rich Lyon** and **Bill**, each had 2 "Shoot the Moons". In lowest average score, **Ray Bland** had 59, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 61.

YTD Statistics: Wins: **Bob Finlayson** leads with 23 followed by **Ron Polivka** with 18 and **Ray Bland** with 17. **Ray** won 42% of his games, followed by **Bob Finlayson** at 39% and **Ron Polivka** at 35%. Lowest average score, is led by **Ray** with 71, followed by **Jim Nelson** with 75. "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray** with 11, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 9. **Ray** "STM" in 26% of his games and **Frank** in 18%. 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** with 23, and **Bob Finlayson** and **Bob West** with 17. The best "sheriff's" are **Bob West** and **Rich Lyon** each with having had an uncovered call in only 4% of their games.

Future Meetings: In October, we will be playing online on the 2nd Friday, October 8th at 1pm, and on the 4th Friday, October 22th, at 1pm.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

The Couples Party Bridge activity re-activation scheduled for October 5th was cancelled due to continued COVID Delta variant concerns and the need for booster shots. We all should take into consideration our age and health when making decisions regarding activities that can be impacted by COVID.

Our re-activation event is now re-scheduled for November 2nd. As we get closer to this event, we will re-evaluate and make a decision on whether to proceed with this event. Stay tuned.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?
One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 will not play in October. Our hope is to return to the tables in November.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?
A maybe



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

The ACBL has suspended all its face-to-face games and I am following their lead for now. The case rate in Contra Costa County continues to rise, albeit slowly, and is about what it was in late January. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

We tried to meet but due to unavailability of players and substitutes, we came up short. We recognize we need more subs and/or regular players. If you have an interest in joining our exclusive (not) group, please contact me at 925-935-1571. Fingers crossed for October..

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you're interested in joining our group, or if you'd like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email **Charlie Kahsen** (contact information below) and he'll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

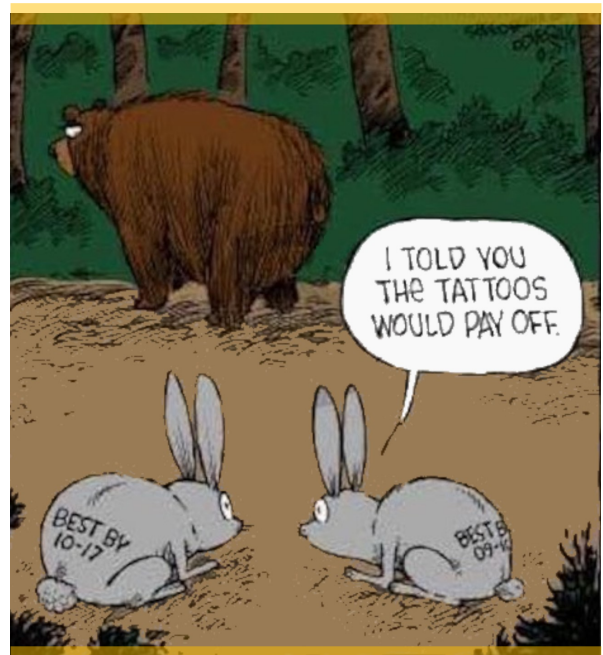


Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group has cancelled its October event due to several players' COVID concerns. Contra Costa County has recorded significantly increasing daily new cases from the year's low in June until end-August. Since Sept. 1, daily new cases have been dropping quickly.

However, the CDC was reporting that vaccinated persons also could be carriers. This fact has become a concern for bridge participants playing indoors for several hours, who also enjoy time with grandchildren too young for shots.

It may be possible to restart in November if daily new COVID cases continue to diminish significantly,





Book Group
John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Six members of the Sir 146 Book Group met Monday morning, September 27th, at the Greenery restaurant.

Our “Book of the Month” was *The Guest List*, by Lucy Foley. It is set at a wedding on an island off the west coast of Ireland. The group gave it a weak B. One of the group suggested that it was essentially a racy Agatha Christie story. That sentence pretty well sums it up.

As a murder mystery, it was the reader’s job to figure out who would get killed, and then of course who the murderer was. I won’t tell you, so no spoiler alert needed.

A wedding for two well-known society types is set, and the bride, a successful publisher of an on-line magazine, starts making arrangements. The location is an island off the west coast of Ireland in the Atlantic Ocean. The only practical way to get there is by boat. The woman who owns the island recently purchased it, partially renovated the residence there, and called it the “Folly.” There are some out-buildings, and they have their own generator, which is a bit erratic in operation. The Folly can accommodate a limited number of overnight guests. It so happens that the owner is also a wedding planner and her husband is also the talented resident chef.

The bride wants to make this a very unusual wedding and wants to feature the island and the manor house in her magazine. This would be the new owner’s first big soiree and she would love the publicity. She gives the bride a major discount to attract her and the event. The wedding party stays at the Folly, and the other guests come and go

by boat the day of the wedding.

The author does an excellent and very complete job of character development, and we know a lot about the lives of the wedding party who happen to be the suspects in the murder case and could include the victim (the parents are also included in this group).

Naturally there is a big storm the evening of the wedding. And naturally that is when the deed is done. There is an amazing amount of interconnectedness among the core group – your job is to figure out what this all means as the coincidences begin to line up.

Family feuds and not-forgotten prep school issues are of course part of the story, as well as things like former lovers. There are lots of opportunities for things to go wrong. The phrase “and then the lights go out” concludes the last few chapters as we visit the characters and the venues again. All fueled by good champagne and liquor.

Besides the questions of who did what to whom, there is also the question did the police arrest the real killer when they arrived on the island late that night?

While the book is a pretty fast read, the pace of the story is pretty slow during the book’s first half, but picks up quickly in the second half. There is a lot of time spent setting the scene for the big event. That is why we gave it a weak grade of B.

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 25th, and the book we will be reviewing is *Tangled Vines* by Frances Dinkelspiel. Also on our list of books to read is the *Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles, the author of the excellent book *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor



Book Corner
Peter Plante

The Book Corner will return as soon as the next in person meeting is authorized. Enjoy your reading.

Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products. If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com
Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their 4th Wed, October 27, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.

The topic will be announced. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list.

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net



Computers and Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

There will not be a SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group Zoom meeting in October. The next CAT meeting will be on Thursday, November 18th.

The November presentation by Alan Baker will be "Two-Factor Authentication: Beyond Text Messages."

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to sir-area2cat@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

SIR Bill Phelon
rphelon@juno.com
925.254.8338



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!

THE FACE YOU MAKE

**WHEN YOU DIDN'T PAY THE
ELECTRIC BILL**

Parting Shot

I can't believe we've gotten all the way to the end of our October issue without saying something about Halloween, other than the one cartoon on page 16 where Margaret avoids the grim reaper through her generosity.

October traditionally marks the start of the American Holiday season with our first "event" being Halloween at the end of this month. Unfortunately, at least in my opinion, the season has become "somewhat" commercialized... to the point that I now often refer to it as "Hallogivingmas"!

Perhaps more effort should be given to keeping them as separate entities, each with its own traditions and joys so I leave you with a quick Halloween joke and wish you and yours the best through the remainder of the year.

Why did the
ghost go into
the bar?



He was looking for some Boos