



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

February 2023

Are you joining us for lunch on the 9th?
IF NOT
YOU MUST OPT-OUT BY FEBRUARY 3RD!
attendlunchbr146@gmail.com



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

AWOL

NOON, FEBRUARY 3
Remember that date!

In some ways, our January luncheon was a success. We had 7 guests and 135 members in attendance, our largest since 2019. Our speaker, member **Joe Starkey** regaled us with stories of his career and the many memorable sporting events he witnessed. Joe was so engaging his presentation went for over an hour without a member departing.

However, in another way our January luncheon was a disaster. We had 54 members fail to show up and not opt-out by the deadline. Because of this, the Branch paid Boundary Oak \$1600 for many uneaten meals. This represents an unplanned expense that is roughly 20% of our annual budget! Obviously, we cannot repeat such a loss.

For our February luncheon YOU MUST OPT-OUT BY NOON ON FEBRUARY 3 IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND. Failure to opt-out by this deadline will result in you having to reimburse the Branch for your meal. So, remember this date and mark it on your calendar.

The path to happiness...

Harvard University's Study of Adult Development is the longest running investigation of men's mental health. Started in 1939 with 724 participants, it seeks to understand what makes for a good life. The study has resulted in over 100 scientific papers, several pop-

ular books and has spawned parallel investigations in women and children. So how do the lessons learned from this study apply to SIR Branch 146?

Key to lifelong happiness, the Harvard investigators found, is relationships; the more the better. Solid relationships take effort – about 90 hours to establish friendship with someone else, and over 200 hours to make someone a “best friend.” Our Branch's activities (from group luncheons, card games, physical activities, to wine tasting) are designed to provide the opportunity to establish and nurture relationships among members and their partners. So, feel free to join a Branch (or SIR Area) activity, or volunteer to support the Branch's operation in some manner; you will expand your “network” and promote your own health.

Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears.

– John Lennon

Don't let the past remind us of what we are not now.

– Stephen Stills

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, February 9th, 2023
Boundary Oak
11:30

Dr. Murali Dharan, a thoracic cardiologist
Advances in Cardiac Surgery
Opt Out by February 3rd if not attending



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

While our first opt-out luncheon of the New Year had a disappointing turnout of only about 140 of our 235 members, the speaker presentation by our very own **Joe Starkey**

was an outstanding success. **Joe** described how he transitioned from a successful Human Resources manager to sportscaster by tape-recording his version of play-by-play action at games he was watching and then reviewing his performance to hone his abilities. Once he felt comfortable with his own performance he approached the management of the Golden State Seals hockey team with the proposal to describe their games on the local radio. After reviewing the tapes, management opened the door to broadcasting for him and the rest is history. That was back in 1972. As his skills became more broadly recognized he began broadcasting Cal Bear games, was selected by KGO as their Sports Director, and eventually the sportscaster for the 49ers — a career of nearly 50 years of broadcasting because he had the drive and confidence to reach boldly for his dream. He said his two biggest thrills were describing 1) the Cal/Stanford game where the Stanford band helped the Bears win the game and 2) describing the USA hockey team's defeat of the Russian team at the Lake Placid Winter Games. An amazing career.

Our February speaker is Dr. Murali Dharan, a thoracic cardiologist who will speak on the **Advances in Cardiac Surgery**. He has 31 years of surgical experience and is looking forward to helping us better understand our hearts and how the medical profession *"helps keep them ticking"*.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

There were no new members in January.

Sadly, we lost **Max Burchett** after a long illness. He was a member for 18 years.

Sixteen members decided to resign for various reasons. They are **Sid Landman, David Devincenzi, Todd Lockwood, Arthur Mancini, Stan Stricherz, Frank Ascatigno, Jerome Baer, Agnelo Braganza, Bruce Bush, Ronald de Golia, Jack Dadam, Don Dotson, Gary Eames, Richard Fiscina, Richard Kincaide** and **James Koeppen**.

The 2023 membership count is at 235. However, there are still 15 members who have yet to pay their 2023 dues. We are making vigorous attempts to contact these members to let the branch know of their intent going forward.

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

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.



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

January's luncheon was a social success, but a financial disaster as noted in an earlier message. It is assumed at this time that you are attending the luncheon unless you OPT-OUT or have approved exempt status from the BEC. You are financially responsible for the lunch cost if you fail to OPT-OUT before the February 3rd at noon due date. If you are late to respond, it is still best that you let us know you cannot make the luncheon and the reason why. Why are we doing this? Because this is what our by-laws required up until the Covid intervention.

The Luncheon team and the BEC can consider the reasons why you are not able to make the meeting and may waive or reduce your responsibility for the wasted luncheon cost. It is also expected that you will attend at least five regular luncheons of the ten regular luncheons each year and miss no more than three in a row. (Regular luncheons do not include May and December, which are our Ladies Day events.) Also, note that, due to inflation, Boundary Oak has increased the cost of our luncheons and they will now cost \$36.

It will take everyone's cooperation for this to work!

- **Where:** Boundary Oak.
- **Cost:** \$36 per person.
- **Payment**
The preferred payment method is by check at the luncheon payable to SIR Branch 146.
- **Opt-Out**
 - * **If you cannot attend, you must Opt-Out by Friday, February 3rd at Noon.**
 - * Ways to Opt-Out
 - ✓ Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - ✓ If you don't have email access, call: [925.979.5721](tel:925.979.5721) and leave a message.
 - ✓ All Opt-Outs will be acknowledged
 - * If you find that you will be able to attend after opting out or you find that you are unable to attend after the deadline, please let us know ASAP.

- **Special Requests**
You can choose your entrée from the menu at check-in, but if you have dietary restrictions or want a vegetarian meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the deadline.
- **Sponsors**
If you are bringing a guest who may wish to join our Branch, please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.
- **Questions**
If you have any questions, please call please call **Steve Oki** at [925.831.9380](tel:925.831.9380) and leave a message with your question or request. **Steve** will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 February Luncheon
Thursday February 9th, 2023

Salad
Little Gem Salad
Watermelon Radish, Pickled Onions,
Candied Walnuts, Manchego cheese,
Goddess Dressing

Entrees
Grilled New York Steak
Potato Pave, Asparagus, Red Wine Sauce
Grilled Prawns
Winter Ratatouille, Polenta, Salsa Verde
Vegetarian — by prior request only
Polenta and Winter ratatouille

Dessert
Mocha Cream Cake



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Hey, it's February and my birth month! Happy Birthday to me! And, surprise, it is the birth month of my fellow editor, **Bob West** as well. Never realized... all great editors are born in February it appears.

As you can perhaps tell, not much for me to talk about this month. Our contributors are starting to turn in their copy throughout the month which makes this job a little easier, our monthly meetings are back on track. Maybe the world is going to return to normal and I hope all of you are enjoying SIR as much as I.

As I was editing this month's issue and writing this, I noticed something that caught my eye. **George Mon's** column on membership caught my attention for a couple of reasons starting with the passing of **Max Burchett** and that changes that would be needed in this issue because of that and the fact that I knew **Max**. It reminded me of the fact that I knew all of the SIR members that have passed away the past two months. A couple I knew before I joined but most I knew because of SIR and I am richer because of that and will miss them. But then **George** went on to list too many members who have resigned. And oddly, I didn't recognize a one. That is when it hit me... why did I know so many but still so few? It appears it is because one group participated, the other did not. And that is unfortunate. I urge you, our readers, to remember the SIR mission "Making Friends for Life"; read it again, it is at the bottom of page 2. Don't miss out, do it!

The deadline for submissions for the March issue **February 22nd**. Sounds early, but February is a short month.

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
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
Secretary	Bob Ford
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 3rd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 3rd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Larry Kaye
Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

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

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka, Bruce Borgman Hank James
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

JANUARY



SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Richard A. Morgan	2017	6 Years
Donald R. Seaton	2015	8
Stephen J. Ybarra	2015	8
Anthony Adduci	2014	9
John H. Alexander	2011	12
John W. Boyan	2011	12
Douglas L. Eisner	2010	13
James P. Passaglia	2010	13
Randall N. Becker	2008	15 Years
Paul J. Dubow	2008	15 Years
Ray W. Spears	2007	16
Jim Burk	2006	17
Daniel D. Schlatter	2006	17
Peter R. Gates	2002	21 Years
Charles Eichten	1999	24 Years
Lewis I. Thompson	1996	27 Years
James Stedman	1993	30 Years

New Feature

Starting this month we will be running a new feature to recognize and honor our long time members, those who have been with us five or more years.

To kick it off, we slipped back a month to January so that we could pick up everyone who had passed this goal this year (above). Future articles will, by default, be for the SIR-Call publication month (right).

Walt Busenius will be monitoring this feature and providing the names for us!



FEBRUARY



SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Aubrey Moore	2018	5 Years
Michael Wolfson	2018	5 Years
Ross Abbott	2017	6
Robert P. Greulich	2017	6
James E. Browning	2016	7
Loren J. Delaurenti	2015	8
Jeffrey D. Morrow	2015	8
Gary P. Brown	2014	9
Charles Cornell	2014	9
James P. Mcmanus	2014	9
Joseph H. Nelms	2013	10 Years
Paul A. Masta	2012	11
William R. Dastic	2011	12
Charles R. Denney	2011	12
Verner R. Laursen	2011	12
David Steinberg	2009	14
Lynn F. Shafer	2007	16
Thomas J. Boltz	2006	17
Kenneth Richter	2000	23 Years
Robert M. White	2000	23 Years
Salvatore Costanza	1997	26 Years

February

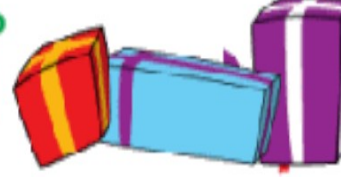
Tony Adduci
Peter Bishop
William Cammerer
Clint Collier
Dale Dalgaard
Mike Davidson
Dick Firth

Steve Loftin
Rich Lyon
Jack Menzhuber
Carl Pagter
Bud Pearce
David Pierce
Bill Rees

Walter Schmidt
Ben Smith
Ray Spears
Jim Stedman
Dave Svoboda
Bob West



Happy Birthday!



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



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon
Thursday March 9th, 2023

Salad

Organic Mixed Greens Roasted Beets, Goat
Cheese, Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette.

Entrees

Grilled Heritage Pork Chop
Sweet Potato Puree, Brussel sprouts, Natural Jus

or

Local Petrale Sole

Sweet Potato Puree, Grilled local Asparagus
Meyer lemon butter sauce

or

Vegetarian Option – by prior request only
Curried Vegetable Stew, Jasmine Rice

Dessert

Apple Spiced Cake, Vanilla Cream

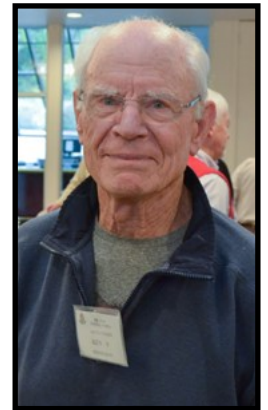


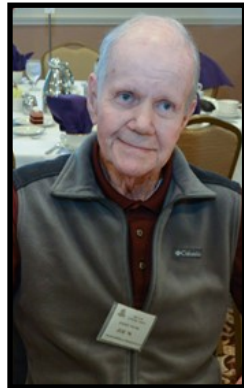
What do you see?

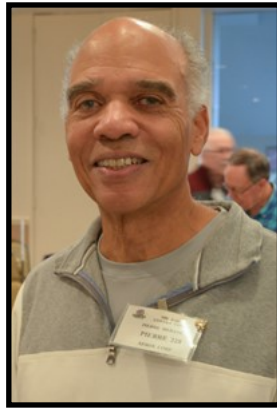
Answer in the Notes from Members

January '23 Lunch

Photos by Henry Thatcher









NOTES

from Our Members

Answer to question on page 6

Which message did you see? There are two here.

In black, which you probably saw, is the word *GOOD*.

However, if you look closely the white word *EVIL* appears.

(Inside each black letter is a white letter.)

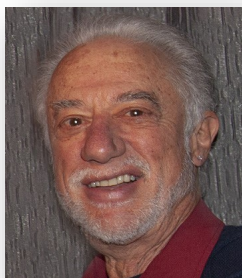
It is all very physiological, because it visualizes the concept that good can't exist without evil or the absence of good is evil.



If you get this joke I automatically have more respect for you!



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido with Glenn Breslin

As Activity Chairman, I have been overworked and underpaid, even though they have offered to double my salary from nothing to twice nothing.

To my rescue comes **Glenn Breslin** who offered to be my assistant.

Glenn is a new member of SIR and is so gung-ho that he has also volunteered to be the next SIR 146 Travel Chairman.

Keep an eye on **Glenn** because he may be Big Sir for the State next year.



Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in Branch 146 and, in some cases, SIR. Click on the link (the activities that are underlined) to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if your are interested in participating.

Birding

Bocce Ball

Book Corner

Book Group

Bridge

Couples Duplicate 1

Couples Duplicate 2

Couples Party

Men's Duplicate 1

Men's Duplicate 2

Men's Duplicate 3

Men's Party

Cooking

Cooking II

Lunch & Wine

Tres Gourmet

Cribbage

Cycling

Dining Out

Couples Dining Out

Explore and Eat

Sushi no tomodachi

Golf-18 Hole

Golf-9 Hole

Hiking

Hearts

Mexican Train Dominoes

Uno

Dos

Tres

Quatro

Cinco

Seis

Siete

Ocho

Photography

Pinochle

Poker

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Group 6

RV-ing

Song Sirs

Table Pool

Theatre

Travel

Wine Tasting

Other Branch Activity

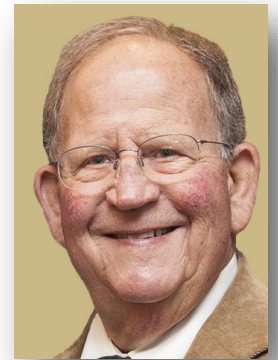
Chess

Fishing

Investing

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar February 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>Feb 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	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
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
9:45am – 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm Poker Group #1 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am – 10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am – 1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm – 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
10:00am Hiking 11:30am – 1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 	7:00pm – 10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW)	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi Toyosu Sushi 1552 Locust St., W.C. 7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am – 11:00am Photography Group Rocco's Italian Restaurant 10:00am – 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
10:00am Hiking 10:00am – 3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am – 1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	10:00am – 11:00am Birding Rocco's Italian Restaurant 12:30pm – 3:30pm Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30pm – 3:30pm Area 16 \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom Mtg 6:45pm – 10:00pm Mexican Train Group 6 Seis	7:30am – 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3	12:00pm – 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>Mar 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	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



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope

Shadelands Ranch Tour

March 14th Tuesday at 10
2660 Ygnacio Valley Road Walnut Creek

SOLD OUT

**B
U
T**



A site on the National Register of Historic Places, the Shadelands Ranch Museum is a time capsule of turn-of-the-20th-Century Walnut Creek. Completed in 1903, the Museum was originally the ranch home of [Hiram Penniman](#), an early Walnut Creek pioneer who came to Walnut Creek in 1850 and eventually owned some 500 acres of fruit and nut orchards in the Ygnacio Valley. Penniman and his second wife, Carrie Morris, raised four children, two sons and two daughters. Penniman built the large redwood-framed Colonial Revival house on the ranch to provide for the future security of his unmarried daughter, Mary. The house is furnished with many original family furnishings and treatments. The Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum is operated by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The building also serves as the Society's headquarters. **Send a check to Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507 for \$7.50 per person made out to SIR 146 Branch. Maximum 30 people.**

After the tour proceed to lunch at **The Greenery Restaurant** in Walnut Creek, 1551 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. More details to follow.

Second Tour March 28th 10:00



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Wow! What a wet end to 2022 as well as to the beginning of 2023. Most of the trails that we walk on have minor or significant issues. Minor issues are that

the trails are very soggy which results in wet and muddy boots. Major issues include collapsed trails or



trails blocked due to fallen trees. I'm aware of a trail in Shell Ridge that is closed now due to a 10 feet diameter by 6 feet deep sink hole. I'm fairly certain, though, that the park staff for WCOSF, EBRP, or MDSP keep those trails off limits until repairs can be made. But there are lots of trail issues out there, and staffing is fairly limited to deal with these

types of problems, so be patient as repairs are made.

As to plans for 2023, I think we can all look forward to plentiful wildflowers and swollen creeks for at least a few months. We will do a Falls Loop hike in MDSP most likely in late February. And there will be at least 1 bird watching walk in late winter or early spring.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome.

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



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Short but sweet. Finally after 1 month of rain we rode. **Bill Ross, Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye.** The object was to reacquaint our legs and bottoms

with the saddle. Rebuild some endurance and in general, just have some fun. We did just that. A short tour of the Valley and some hot java did it. Always fun to remount your bike after a long spell away. I think we will pay the price with sore aches on Thursday but what the heck? Mission accomplished.

...and from **Bob Wilkenfeld**

It had been about a month since most of us had ridden (due to our recent monsoons), and the weather was great so five of us headed out to stretch our legs again. Led by **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly, Roger Meyer, Ken Studer and Michael Wolfson** took a 21-mile round-trip ride from downtown Walnut Creek to San Ramon. Despite several construction zones and wind on the return leg, we all made it. Hey, can I borrow someone's hot tub??

Spandex Forever!

Larry Kaye

1925.698.4030



"You have fits of rage, followed by temporary spells of euphoria, all within several hours. Are you, by chance, a golfer?"



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The rain played havoc with our fishing activities this month. Obviously, it was difficult to fish during the onslaught of the atmospheric rivers but difficult fishing persisted even after the rains stopped because waters were muddy in the local lakes and downed trees and other detritus made it dangerous for boats to try the Delta.

For example, **Carl Moyer** encountered loads of loose weeds when he attempted to fish at Lafayette Reservoir. A few days later, **Mike Browne** of Branch 146 and **Phil Scimonelli** tried the reservoir again and found most of the docks under water. They did find one usable dock to fish from, but they were unable to land any fish. **Mike** and **Phil** also tried their luck at the Antioch pier. The Delta waters were dark and muddy, but they did manage to land seven small stripers, far less than their usual catch at the pier. **Mike** was more successful when he visited one of his sons in St. Louis. He fished at a nearby reservoir and caught a limit of four trout.

Our most successful outing occurred just before the rockfish season ended on December 31. **Stan Wong**, **Dave Havlik**, and **Brion Beetz** sailed on the *Sea Wolf*, first heading to Point Bonita where they limited on crabs and then to the Farallon Islands for a limit of rockfish. The rockfish at the Farallon Islands are larger than coastal rockfish and are at a depth of from 250 to 300 feet. Thus, it takes a lot of work to pull them in. However, some of the fishermen on the *Sea Wolf* were using electric reels. That is something that we may try in the future.

Tom Kostik made five trips to the Delta this month and landed 31 stripers, five of which were keeper size. He also caught a large flounder and broke his rule of releasing all fish he catches. He kept the flounder and enjoyed a tasty dinner.

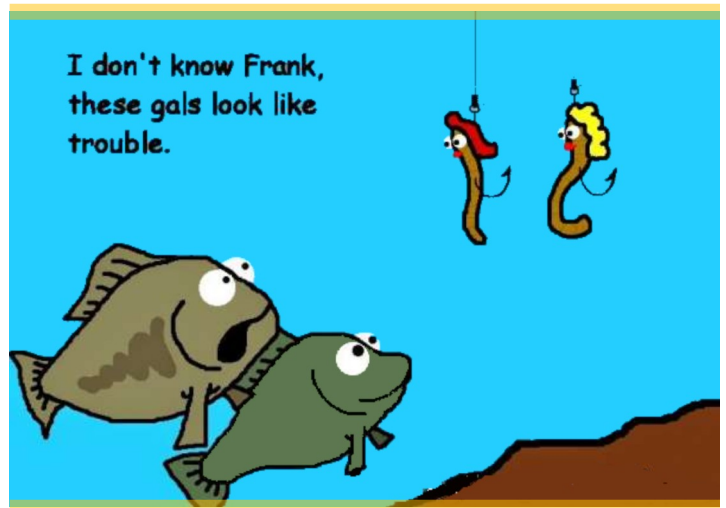
Our only sturgeon foray was by **Ron Lew** of Branch 146. He scouted for the big fish in the Delta, but the water was muddy and hence there was no action.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 23, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course

at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7 am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. You are also welcome, even if you have never fished before, to join us for our regular fishing trips. In February, we are planning striper outings at the Point Pinole pier, striper and sturgeon trips in the Delta, and trout trips at Lafayette Reservoir, San Pablo Reservoir, and perhaps Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair ...

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566





Travel Glenn Breslin

Hi to all potential SIR146 Travelers. I am the new Travel Chair. I love traveling. Yes, I do love everything about it. I very much look forward enabling SIRS to share travel experiences

with other SIRs. SIR Travel goals will be to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together !!

I want to thank **Milt Smith** (prior SIR146 Travel Chair and current SIR State Travel Chair) for successfully heading up SIR146 travel for many years. His experience leading multiple successful trips will support my ability to also succeed. I am also grateful for the fabulous information and contacts that he has just turned over to me.

Travel Group Plans

I am excited to learn more about where you want to go and what you want to do once you arrive. I am here for you. So that I can learn more about your travel needs, I will email out a travel questionnaire for you to fill out. I will provide progress updates during SIR Luncheons

and in subsequent SIR-Calls.

What I need for you to do

Look for the travel questionnaire in the next couple of weeks in your email. Then can you please fill out the travel questionnaire soon after you receive it and email it back to me (glennbreslin@gmail.com). The questionnaire contains valuable information (e.g., your travel preferences that I want to include). I will then compile all the questionnaire related information and provide the short travel list for SIR146 member review. I will also ask SIR members interested in travel to attend Travel meetings so that your input can be heard.

Next Steps

I look forward to hearing your travel needs (on the filled-out questionnaire), using that information to offer travel alternatives, collaboratively choosing trips and then sharing wonderful travel experiences with you! Please reach out to me.

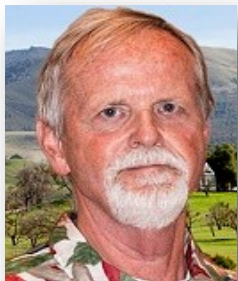
Quotes

"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams".

"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take".

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting will be on Friday, February 17th at 9:00am at Rocco's. The theme for our meeting will be Bird Photography. I am working with **Rich Ahlf** to coordinate a place, date, and time for this photoshoot.

STAY TUNED!! In addition to this theme, **Bill Holly** will be presenting photos of his East Africa trip from this past August. This presentation is a must see from our past BIG, BIG SIR!!

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

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair

The Branch 146 Book Group met Monday, January 16th, to discuss our most recent book, *Demon Copperfield*, by Barbara Kingsolver, which has been on various Best Seller lists recently.

The story parallels the book *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, as the main character tells his story, and that of the community in which he lives, in the first person. The story is set in what appears to be modern-day Appalachia, specifically Lee's County, which seems to have one industry, which is coal country. The author grew up in east-central Kentucky, and now lives in southeast Virginia, so she knows the territory of which she writes.

The book begins with the birth of the main character, Damon Fields, but evolved to *Demon*, due to all the Copperhead snakes in that area. The story that follows details his travels through life and the county to the end of the book that has, at least for me, a somewhat happy ending.

His young mother dies early in Damon's life, and his scrambling to survive really begins then – his real father was not a nice guy and not interested in raising and providing for his son. This lack of parenting lets us see how Damon, as a youngster, makes his way through life, which exposes to the world of drugs and alcohol in Lee's County and the surrounding area of Appalachia, and it is not a pretty sight. The author, through Damon's life, describes what the society is like in those times and places. Social Services provide some support, but as the indirect supplier of money, and foster parents are not always successful in seeing to his best interests. His foster parents sometimes seem to use him as a source of money through the foster care program, a source of almost free labor in their business or on their farm, or sometimes even both.

There are lots of different people in his life, and some of the more important ones are his grandmother who finds him a decent place to live with the local high school football coach, Coach Winfield and his daughter, nicknamed Angus; the nurse, June, who gets him into the rehab program in a town away from his troubled youth; and his aforementioned grandmother who takes him while engaging her Rolodex in her efforts to find him a good foster home, and in this case, with the

coach.

He learns the world of drugs and alcohol, as many of the young crowd he knows are members of it. He can sober up and clean up, but not for a long run, slipping back into this world – hence the going away for a rehab stint of multiple years.

Coach made him into a tight end football player and local star at his high school, (high school football is really big in Lee's County), but this was ended when he was seriously injured – which was a major setback. The author made sure that he was exposed to and had to weather all the travails of life as a youth in the County.

One of his desires as a youth was to visit the ocean, and he seemingly accomplished this at the end of book, accompanied by the girl he met while staying at the coach's home, who just happened to be his daughter. She seemed to believe in him and encouraged him as he moved through his early years.

The book seems overly long to me, as the author leaves no stone unturned in being sure that all the bad happenings that our eventual hero experiences are shown. The author has a very broad vocabulary and displays it with the lingo and times of the area. She has been awarded multiple awards for her writings, has been an activist for liberal causes, and was an advocate for growing your own food, as she has done.

She is a very popular author, and the reviews of the book by its reader are mostly four and five stars. Her most-read book is probably *The Poisonwood Bible*. We are recommending this book to those who want to see what life at the bottom of ladder looks like.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 20, where we will review *The Passenger*, by Cormac McCarthy, his first book in 15 years. The runner up was also a detective/mystery novel, *Black Echo*, by Michael Connelly, a much more prolific writer than Mr. McCarthy

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor

mcpearl@astound.net

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

It looks like we made it through our winter deluge and are looking at much nicer weather. So why not get out of the house and join us for some golf! Our group tees off at 9:30am 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



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are working on a selection of Irish songs for our next performance at Montecito Retirement Home in Concord. We will sing such favorites as "Danny Boy", "McNamara's Band," and "Who Threw The Overalls in Mistress Murphy's Chowder." There's also "Teddy Bear" by the honorary Irishman Elvis Presley.

Our next rehearsal is on February 1 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30pm.

Come join us for a rollicking good time as Hennessy Tennessee tootles the flute as McNamara's band is the finest in the land.

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

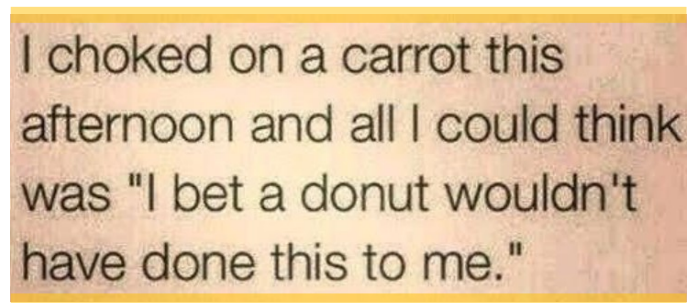
The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and

Ayers Roads in Concord.

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

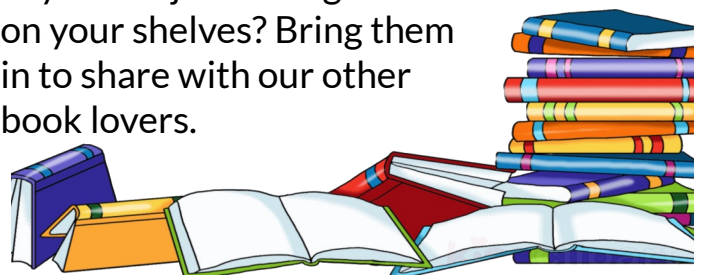


John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in February to browse for more of your favorite authors in hardcover or in paperback. Have any books just sitting around on your shelves? Bring them in to share with our other book lovers.

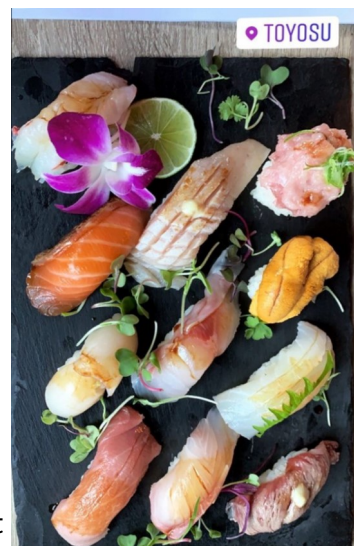
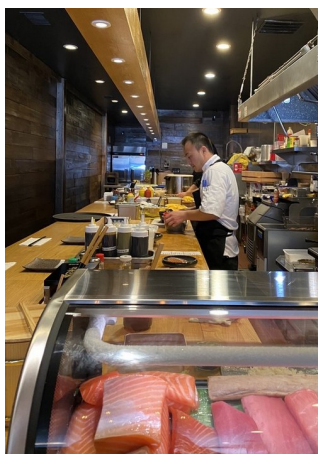




寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

February is one of our “on” months (we meet every other month) and we will be gathering at a Walnut Creek sushi restaurant Toyosu,



located at 1552 Locust Street (suggest you park in the Leshar Theater parking garage across the street) at 11:30 on Thursday, February 16th. They appear not to have a website for the restaurant but a [number of interesting pictures of their fare which shows](#) unusual and well presented dishes.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The LAW (Lunch and Wine) Group met at Paul Dubow's home on January 18. Paul served appetizers of asparagus rolled in prosciutto and mushrooms stuffed with cheese. The main course was salmon seafood chowder with cornbread and pear salad. Paul caught the salmon on one of his fishing trips this summer. Dessert was fruit pie. All but the fruit pie were homemade.

We also decided to modify our format going forward. In the past, each of us has prepared lunch when it has been our turn to host. Now the host will have the option of preparing lunch or having lunch at a restaurant (with each member paying for his meal). We will continue our practice of a semi-annual dinner with spouses/significant others. In addition, our spouses/significant others will continue to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant when we are hosting.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

I was sitting in a coffee shop and overheard a guy telling his friend that his wife's birthday was in four days and the he was giving her a robot vacuum cleaner.

It felt odd to be sitting there looking at someone knowing they only had four days left to live.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Our first foray in the new year for our Dining Out event was scheduled for January 23 – and we had decided to return to the Brass Door. This restaurant is one of the oldest in the East Bay, as it dates to 1946, when San Ramon boasted a population of just 100. In 1955 it was renamed the Brass Door and it continues to be a popular gathering spot for local diners and folks just dropping in for a cocktail.

We have dined there with our Couples Dining Out activity on two other occasions and decided to return for our first event of 2023. We negotiated a relatively simple menu, which focused on the prime rib for which the restaurant is known. In addition, our group had a choice of fried prawns, chicken piccata, or salmon. We elected to have the 12 oz Prime Rib, which many of us were not able to finish! We started with a Caesar Salad and had an ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert.

We had been able to negotiate an all-inclusive price of just \$47 per person, which we thought was a very reasonable cost in these inflationary times. Truth be known, the owner/manager later confided in me that she had really miscalculated our price and that it should have been \$51 per person- but we were pleased that we got this deal on the dinner. The house wines by the glass were just \$8, also a bargain, and corkage a reasonable \$16.

We wound up with a total of 61 diners after we had some late cancellations. Out of this number, there were three who were not able to make it, but the restaurant prepared the dinners to go and the meals were delivered to the diners that evening.

All in all, it was clear that everyone had a great time, and we enjoyed seeing our SIR friends in such a pleasant setting. It was particularly gratifying to have several couples who had not participated in this popular SIR activity before. We are looking forward to our next event which will be in March. No restaurant has been selected yet, and we are always open to your suggestions!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out Hosts
bgborgman@aol.com

Photos by Bruce Borgman



Pictures Continue on next page

Couples Dining Out

Pictures by Richard Hockenbrock



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The group met at the home of **Corrie Oranje** on January 9, 2023. **Corrie** started us off with appetizers of cheese, cold cuts, nuts, crackers and deviled eggs.

The deviled eggs were **Corrie's** special recipe which included bacon and other undisclosed ingredients. Very delicious! We were then treated to a large wedge salad that most of us had a challenge keeping on our plates. The main course was classic lasagna with Bolognese sauce. **Corrie** then served a remarkable Tiramisu which completed our lunch. The Cooking II group will next meet on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, for our annual dinner with our Ladies. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our better halves, at Fiore's Italian Restaurant in Concord.



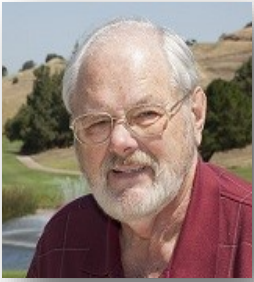
Corrie Oranje



Birthday Boys, Dennis & Ken with candles in hand.



Richard Hockenbrock, Dennis Hallett, Ken Richter, Bruce Borgman and Steve Ybarra.



Theater
Gary Schaub

SIR 146

DINNER THEATER
IT'S MAGIC TIME

ON MAY 5

It's about time!
Theater parties are returning!

After a hiatus because of COVID, we've scheduled a return visit to the California Magic Club in Martinez. SIR 146 has enjoyed the dinners and lively presentations by the Club's professional magicians on previous occasions, so we're going back!

SIR 146 members and guests are invited for this special evening on Friday, May 5 at 7:15p.m. Deadline to reserve is Tuesday, April 25.

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

Dinner features a tasty fresh green salad, roasted tri-

tip beef or marinated breast of chicken with seasoned vegetables and herb rice. A vegetarian option is available if ordered in advance when reserving. A tasty dessert completes the meal. Beer and wine is also available.

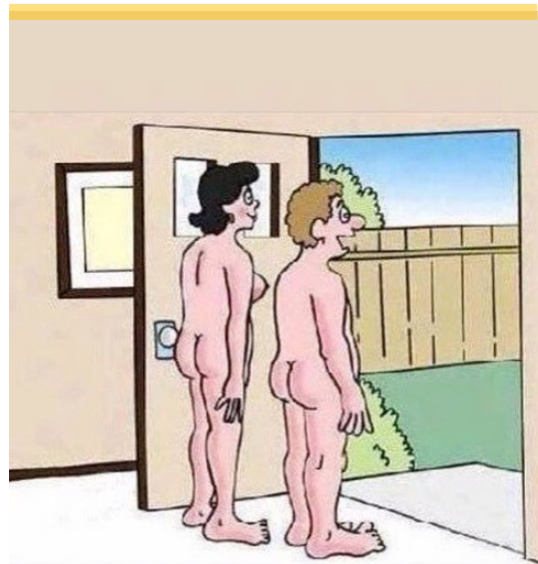
The California Magic Club - which has been presenting magical entertainment for 17 years - is located at 514 Main Street at Alhambra in downtown Martinez. Street parking is available. Guests must arrive no later than 7:15p.m.

Seating is limited - the Club seats only forty patrons! Early paid reservations are essential - no later than April 25. The group rate for SIR 146 is \$99 per person which includes dinner and show and related tax.

Send a check payable to SIR146 to Gary Schaub, 1500 Canyonwood Ct, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Specify your meal option, beef, chicken or vegetarian when reserving. For additional info, call Gary at 925.938.5454 or an e-mail to gschaub1@gmail.com.



"You'll just feel a slight prick...then a little burning, your eyes will roll back into your head, you'll start screaming uncontrollably..."



I'll Bet That's The Last Time Those Jehova's Witnesses Ring Our Doorbell!

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno welcomed in the New Year on January 13 at SIR member **Richard Hockenbrock's** spacious

home.

We planned for our usual group (minus one) but were stricken with last minute cancelations.

The healthy among us had a fun evening but no extraordinary winning hands. It looks like taking some time off for the holidays did not work to our advantage!

Richard provided lots of yummy treats and cake at half time and it was great to reunite.

The winners were **Richard**, our host, coming in first place with an average of 22.

Second place went to **Virginia Tygart** and third place to **Sue Sheldon-Borgman**.

Next stop: February 10, hosted by SIR member **Jim Stedman**.



Sue Sheldon, Richard Hockenbrock, Virginia Tygart

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We will play our first game of 2023 on Friday, January 27th. We are in need of several additional players,

preferably permanent, but substitutes would also be welcome. We play on the 4th Friday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. If you are interested in playing this fun game with a group of friendly people please contact me.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?



Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

In December, the ol’ choo choo train left the roundhouse after the SIR-Call was published. On December 30th, just before New

Year’s, the MTD 3 choo choo huffed and puffed its way to the lovely home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry** up in the hills of Clayton for a fun night of MTD’s. In addition to our hosts were **Judy** and **Dick Richmond**, **Jim Stedman** and **Alicia Baily** who enjoyed the **Wells/Barry** wonderful hospitality and tasty treats on hand all evening before retreating to the old choo choo train and their rides home.

When the dust cleared, **Alicia Baily** with an average score of 17.0 was the grand winner. **Judy Richmond** with avg of 19.3 finished in 2nd place, and **Jim Stedman** garnered 3rd. How often has this happened: **Dick Richmond** was the first to go out in three consecutive games. Way to go **Dick**.



Jim Stedman, Judy Richmond and Alicia Baily

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes “Quatro” Jim Pope

In January, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope**’s home with 13 people.

We began the New Year off with a festive Birthday Bang. We had two significant birthdays in the group to celebrate; 1. **Ron Louis**, 90 and 2. **Dick DeVoe**, 84 (See Photos). We all had chocolate cup cakes (see picture). In attendance this evening were; **Dick and Leslie Firth**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Rich and Kim Pace**, **Susan Oki**, **Ken and Carol Soult**, and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The delightful sweets and savories were provided by several women in the group and wine by several men in the group. We played at two tables; one table of seven and another of six. We paid the player with low table score at each table. The winners were **Christy DeVoe** and **Jim Pope**. (See photo). They each received Chinese New Year Scratcher Lotto Tickets. We also paid one (1) Lotto ticket to the individuals with the highest score at each of the tables. The winners of the highest score were **Dick Firth** and **Dick DeVoe** (See photo).



Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net



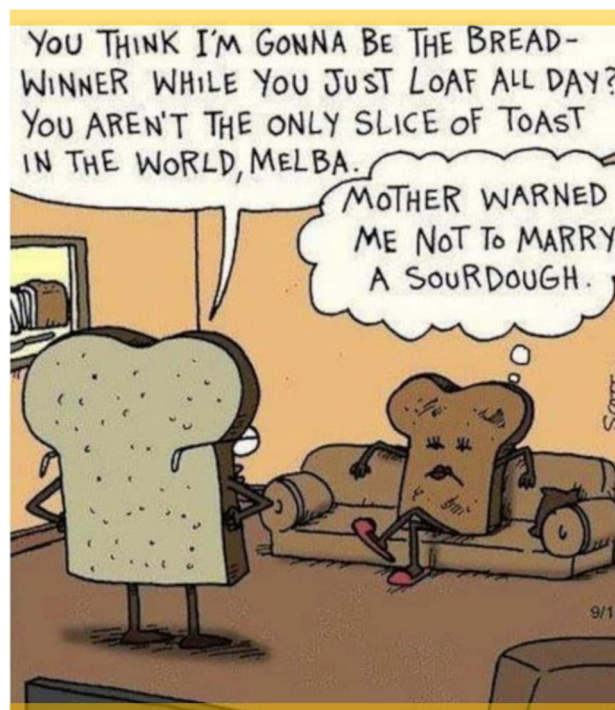
Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

After an extended holiday break, MTD Cinco group met on Thursday, January

19th 2023 and the home of **Ann and Dennis Hallett**. Everyone was pleased to welcome **Tony and Cindy Greco**, who kindly substituted for **Judy and Jim Baldrige**, who were enjoying a stay in Palm Springs. **Joan Pierce** made the ladies proud by being the clear winner with **Bob Yolland** second and **David Pierce** third. The men promised to do better next time!! A fun time was had by all.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

After Thanksgiving break **Brian and Mary McCarthy** were our gracious hosts for the

MTD6 players on December 28, 2022. The group was able to enjoy Holiday treats and libations. Attendees included **Peter and Martha Plante**, **Brian and Mary McCarthy**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**, **John "Moose" Kelly** and **Mary Schmidt**, **Kathe Mitchell**, and **Steve Lane**.

The winners of the night's activities were - **Moose** with the winning hand, followed by **Bruce Borgman** - second place, and **Kathe Mitchell** sharing the winners' circle. And solidly in the loser's circle was yours truly.

We look forward to our next get together on January 25, 2023, at the home of **Peter and Martha Plante**.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.





Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 8 (OCHO)

Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, January 4th with 13 players showing up on a cold, rainy, and otherwise dismal evening. Of course, these are SIR members who are not dissuaded easily. **Bill Holly**, who was the food and refreshment host for the evening, arrived early and set up a fine assortment of meats, fruits, candy, popcorn, and ice cream for the group to enjoy both before and at the break at 8:30.

Play began utilizing three tables with players sitting in a 4, 4, and 5 configuration. The kitchen table, otherwise known as the green table, produced two of the night's winners. **Steve Ybarra** with an average low score of 15.3 was the overall 1st place winner and **Larry McAllister**, who claimed this was his first time ever winning at a Mexican Train event came in at 3rd with an average score of 19.0. **Ron Polivka**, who played in the living room designated as the blue table, placed 2nd with an average score of 16.9.



Steve Ybarra 1st, Larry McAllister 3rd, and Ron Polivka 2nd.
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sue Loftin and Jan Ondeck — last place
"winners"!
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

This year we began handing out consolidation prizes of lottery scratchers to the two players who had the highest scores for the evening. **Jan Ondeck** and **Sue Loftin**, with respective average scores of 38.6 and 34.4 each received a ticket, but they were coy as to whether they won any money after scratching their tickets.

Bellow are just some members of our group. We are currently looking for both regulars and substitutes. All games are played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek with a rotating voluntary host that brings the pre-game snacks and dessert.



If you would like to get in on the action, our next event is February 1st. We always play on the first Wednesday of every month. Our social gathering begins at 6:30 p.m. with some light hors d'oeuvres, and then play starts at 7 p.m. We take a 20-30-minute social break at 8:30 p.m. for dessert, and then play concludes at 9:45 p.m. at which time the prizes for the evening are awarded. Send **Richard** an email if you are interested or have any questions.

Richard Hockenbrock
RLHock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to Dale and Mary Ellen Dalgard for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Congratulations to **Bev Collier** who won \$24 with a low average score of 9.0, and **Brian McCarthy** had the highest score winning a lotto ticket.

Now for the big news.: The low average score for the year was 16.7 by **Mary McCarthy** who was rewarded with \$44. Second place went to **Brian McCarthy** with an average score of 21.6 who received \$26. Third place went to **Jane West** for \$13.

Very suspicious that the wife and husband came in first and second. I would demand a recount, but I added the scores myself.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Brian McCarthy and Bev Collier



Jane West, Brian McCarthy and Mary McCarthy,



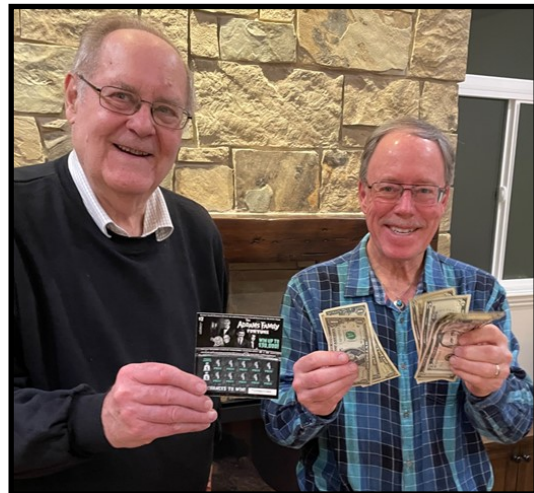
Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Congratulations to **Bob West** who won \$24 with a low average score of 7.9, and

Dave Kingsbury had the highest score winning a lotto ticket.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the January SIR-Call submission, we met on January 13th and will again meet on January 27th (to be reported next month). The big winners on January 13th were

Bill Vizza with 2 wins and **Ron Polivka** with 1.5.

The lowest average score was **Bill Vizza** with an amazing 34, **Ron Polivka** with 55 and **Frank Lucas** with 66. Both **Bill** and **Ron** were the only ones to "Shoot the Moon".

2022 Winners:

Bill Vizza had the most wins of 18, **Brian McCarthy** had 15.5 and **Frank Lucas** 11. The highest win rate was **Bob Finlayson** with 43%, **Bill Vizza** with 42% and **Brian McCarthy** with 34%. The most improved in win% over 2021 was **Brian McCarthy** with 34% compared to 14%, and **Bill Vizza** with 42% compared to 29%.

Steve Ybarra had the most 2nds with 18, **Ron Polivka** with 17 and **Brian McCarthy** with 16.5.

Ron Polivka had the most "Shoot the Moons" at 7, **Bill Vizza** had 6 and **Steve Ybarra** and **Brian McCarthy** had 4.

The best sheriffs, were **Bob Finlayson**, **Rich Lyon** and

Bob West. All 3 of them had no one that they passed to in 2022 "Shoot the Moon". That's amazing considering each of them averaged 232 passes in 2022.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in February on the 10th and 24th.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robtawest@aol.com



12/9/22 Hearts Participants (L to R, top to bottom): Frank Lucas, Glenn Breslin, Brian McCarthy, Bill Vizza, Bob West, Steve Ybarra and Ron Polivka.

Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?

Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 2 Event was hosted by **Steve Dining** and **Joe Fuchs** at Boundary Oak on Friday, Jan. 6. This was the **first** time four tables of 16 players had played together since well before COVID hit.

Mike Whitaker and **Dick DeVoe** spent considerable time putting all the pieces together, since the documents/player movements/board movements/scoring are all different than with a 3-table game. In addition, 96 more scores had to be posted into the computer before the results could be announced.

RESULTS

1st Place — **Joe Fuchs** — 46.0 points.
2nd Place (Tie) — **Ed Marlovits/Tony Greco** — 42.5.
4th Place — **Max Hinkle** — 41.0.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (2 boards with maximum 6 points)

Boards 11/12 — **Max Hinkle/Ray Spears**.
Boards 13/14 — **Dick DeVoe/Joe Fuchs**.
Boards 15/16 — **Tony Greco/Dick DeVoe**.

MOST TWO'S

Tony Greco — 8.

LEAST ZEROS

Joe Fuchs and **Ed Marlovits** — 1 each. (amazing!)

Richard Devoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 on 1/6/23 at Boundary Oaks



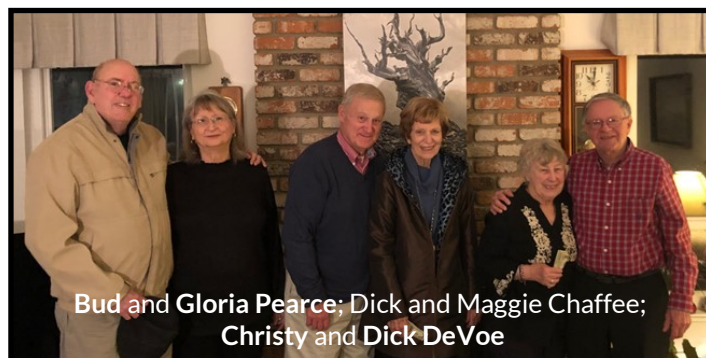
Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 group met on the 18th of January at the home of **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni** after a very unusual day of sunshine, rather than the rainy stuff with which we have been blessed of late. Our hosts provided excellent wines and snacks to refresh the group between arduous hands of bridge. Our guest players for the evening were **Maggie and Dick Chaffee**, standing in for travelers. Results were very close with third place honors going to **Gloria and Bud Pearce** with 20.5 points while second place went to our guests, **Maggie and Dick Chaffee** with a total of 21.5 points. The powerhouse team of **Christy and Dick DeVoe**

stole away with first place with a total of 22 points. Departure was met by what else — Rain!

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Bud and Gloria Pearce; Dick and Maggie Chaffee; Christy and Dick DeVoe



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean hosted our first 2023 event on January 3rd. A big thank you to them for stepping up and swapping hosting with **Larry & Linda Brown** who cancelled due to unexpected family visiting

from out of town. **Dick & Maggie Chaffee** also stepped up and subbed for the **Browns**.

Dick & Christy DeVoe took a sizable early lead during Round 2 by doubling a 4 Spade bid-down 6 for 1700 points. In all fairness the 4 Spade bid was a “senior moment” which was pounced on by the opponents. The bidder couldn’t explain what happened. Possible legal recourse may be pursued for taking advantage of the elderly, but it may be to no avail due to the fact the perpetrators were also elderly! Lol. In general, I frown upon doubling in Couples Party Bridge unless you feel the opponent is aggressively overbidding to keep you from playing a game hand. I like to encourage the “Party” more so than the “Bridge” in Couples **PARTY** Bridge. **Tony & Cindy Greco** made a valiant effort to catch the **DeVoes** with a strong finish, but fell a little short.

The official results are as follows:

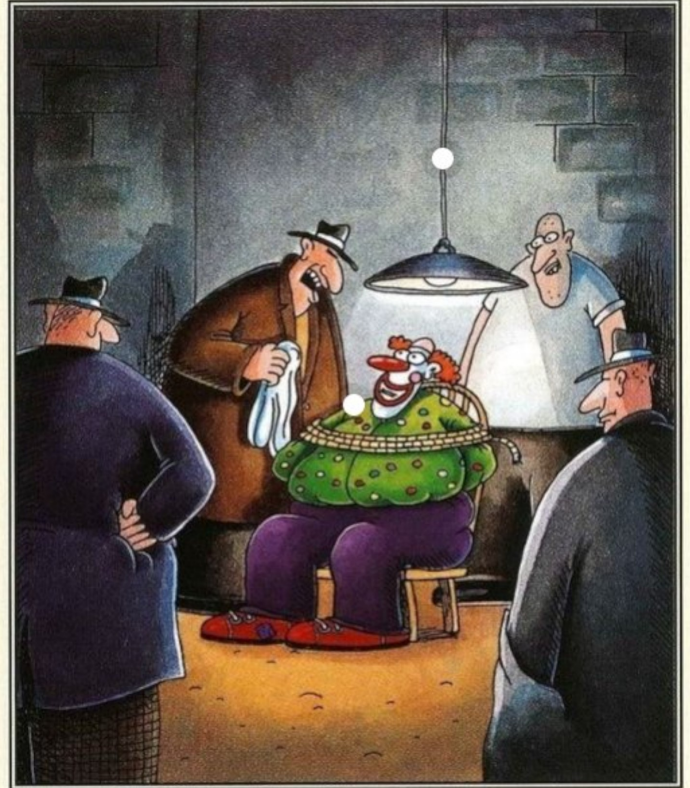
- 1st PLACE with 3860 points
Dick & Christy DeVoe
- 2nd PLACE with 3670 points
Tony & Cindy Greco
- 3rd PLACE with 2735 points
Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean

Next month’s event will be held on **February 7th** and hosted by **Tony & Cindy Greco**. Bring your **PARTY** with you!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

I used to work for Pepsi Cola.
I left because the job was soda pressing.



“The first thing I’m gonna do is wipe that smile off your face!”

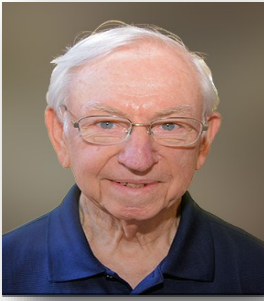


Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Was your new year’s resolution to bid more slams? When we kicked off the year at the home of **Joan and Dave Pierce**, only **Dick and Christy DeVoe** bid a slam; but on four of 20 boards, at least two couples made six. Missed opportunities. Well, we have 11 more months to improve. As often happens, our subs **Bob and Janet Yolland** were first (60% game), followed by the hosts (58.8%) and the **DeVoes** (57.5%), barely edging **Cindy and Tony Greco** (56.3%). Only 1.5 match-points separated the top four couples, in a tight match. Nice work.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



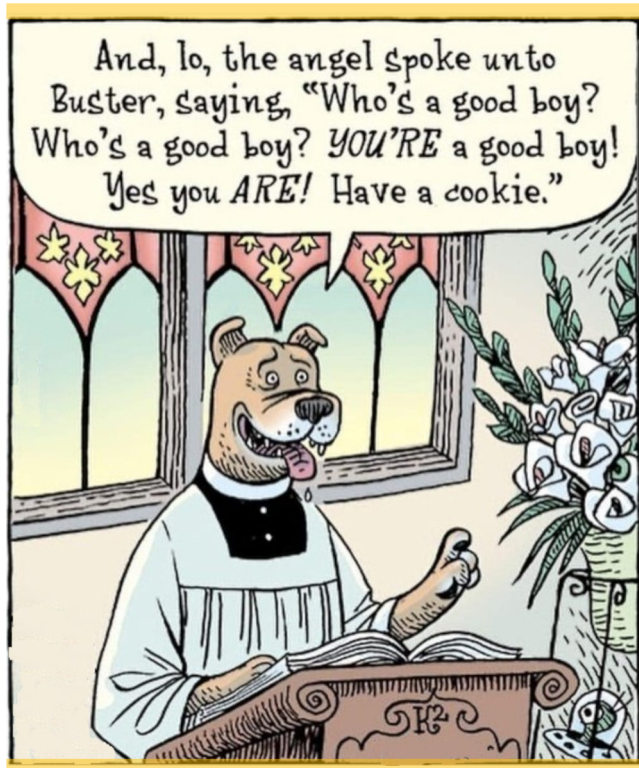
Party Bridge
Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a lively bridge game at the home of Jim Pope. As usual Jim was a terrific host, and the food was outstanding. We had 8 players: **Joe Fuchs, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, and Jim Stedman.** This was the first game of a six-month contest. Players must play at least 4 games to qualify for the six-month contest.

The January winners are **Bob Yolland** with 5260 points, **Jim Pope** with 4420 points and **Bud Pearce** with 3850 points.

The next game will be on February 6th at the home of **Bud Pearce.** Please let us know if you would like play.

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



Old Money Poker
Group 6
Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by **Rich Ahlf** on our usual first Thursday of the month date. Six of us sat at Rich's poker table. The table is convenient

for both the chips, glasses. and snacks. Thanks for your hospitality, **Rich!**

There was one problem with the table. It was slanted toward **Steve Ybarra,** Chips kept piling up in front of him. He may well have set the group record for winnings at one game. Way to go **Steve!**

Our next game is scheduled to be hosted by **Norm Baietti** in February.

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Cribbage
Ron Afdal

Our cribbage activity is open to all SIRS members, and after a recent hand vote by group members, coed participation is welcome. We are a group of avid players

and have time to help past players remember the game; provide competition to current players or take time to teach those wanting to learn. Competition is friendly as is the atmosphere of our meeting place.

We meet at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 94598, on the 4th Wednesday of the month, 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Food and beverage service is available but not required. Please feel free to join us there or telephone: Ron Afdal 925 852-5125 or John Kendrick 925 899-9132 for inquiries. We hope to see you soon.

Ron Afdal
ronafdal@comcast.net

Why is DARK spelled with a K?
 Because you can't C in the dark.

Area 16 Activities



MUG Mac User Group

Verner Laursen is the leader and is 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 Verner is here to help Mac users with problems, that don't exist, 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



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed Feb. 22 at 1:30 PM. The topic will be Interest Rate drivers and trends and their impacts on selected Investment Choices. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair – Tom Henry – Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton – Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

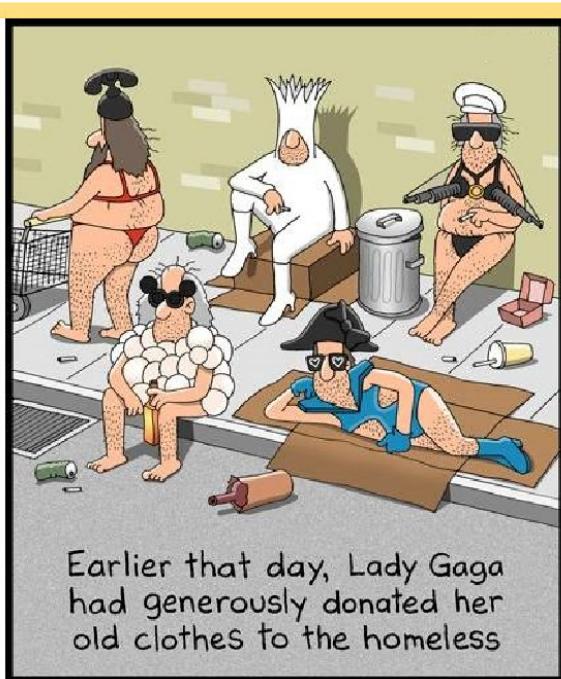
Branch 161

Friendship Golf Tournament

Branch 161 invites all SIR golfers and guests to a Friendship Tournament on March 6, 2023 at Discovery Bay Golf & Country Club

Click on the button below to read the UPDATED flyer with all the details.

[Click for Flyer](#)



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

An Editor's Play Ground...

Last month we left you with a bunch of contronyms to ponder. This month we are going to follow up on that report...

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now ... my time is UP!

Oh ... one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

UP !

Did that one crack you UP?

Now I'll shut UP!