



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

December 2023–January 2024



Big Sir's Corner

John Kluesener

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all the good SIR members and SIR families!! I am looking forward to filling the shoes of Bob Wilkenfeld and all of our

past Big Sirs! It will be challenging, but I know I can count on you all for the generous support you have provided in the past.



One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership. In the fourth quarter of 2023 our membership stood at 249 and at that point the state froze our membership number for the purposes of defining the amount we pay the state for their support. A very significant chunk of that support (70%) is the cost of the liability insurance policy that covers all of the Branches. Our quarterly assessment amounts to \$622.50 (249 members x \$2.50/member). This cost

comes out of our annual dues which this year increased from \$25 to \$35 since the quarterly assessment went up from \$1.00 to \$1.50. We currently have 209 of our members from 2023 who have paid dues for 2024. We will be contacting those who have not as yet signed up for the new year in early January.

The State SIR is seeing a general decline in membership throughout the state. Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting. Fixing membership for each branch at the Fall quarter value is meant to reinforce efforts to recruit members since if we go above our fixed number of 249 we do not have to pay any additional amount to the state but if we are below 249 the assessment stays the same.

So how do we increase our membership?? Each one of us has friends or acquaintances who could benefit from membership in our branch or a neighboring branch. Talk to them. Tell them there is such a thing as "a free lunch" and bring them to one of our meeting. Tell them about our activities and ask them what activity they would put high on their list if they were a member.

John Kluesener
Branch 146 Big Sir



Little Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

Hello all and Happy New Year!! I am looking forward to the challenge of finding excellent speakers for our luncheons. I would really like your help in procuring speakers that you think will be

interesting for the remainder of the year. My email address is scubabob.ford@gmail.com. Please feel free to send me any suggestions you might have for speakers. With **John Kluesener's** help we have speakers lined up for the first three months of 2024. Here is a recap of who we have lined up so far. In January we will have Janet Hoy to talk to us about Mis and Dis In-

Luncheon
Thursday, January 11th, 20234
Boundary Oak 11:30

Janet Hoy
Mis and Dis Information

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

formation in the media and in our political process. The impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be discussed. In February we will have Courtney Webb from AMR Ambulance services to give us some First Aid tips. In March we will be hearing from Zach Harris, Vice President, Ancillary Services, John Muir Health to speak on the Future of Healthcare.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Another year has come and gone. I think it appropriate to express my thanks for the support I have gotten as your editor for this past year. Certainly from my fellow editor, **Bob West**, from our

Proofreaders, **Ron Polivka**, **Bruce Borgman**, and **Frank Lucas**, our photographer, **Henry Thatcher** and, lastly, **Ron Plachy**, who posts everything on our website. But I would also like to add to that mix all of the activity chairmen, who, month after month, feed us the news that makes up SIRCall. So... as we head into another year... a big, big THANK YOU, one and all.

Last submission date for the next issue will be January 18th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

*On behalf of your Newsletter Group
I want to wish you all a...*


HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

Membership George Mon



There were no new members to approve for membership in December. However, two members resigned. **Mike Browne** moved to Ohio and **Darlo Boone** moved to Iowa.

The 2024 Dues letter was sent out in mid-October and a reminder to pay dues was sent in an email blast at the end of November. As of this writing, about 82% have paid dues. This leaves 43 members who have not yet sent in their dues. So, this is another reminder to please do so. Also, certain BEC members may have already contacted these folks to encourage payment of dues.

The 2023 membership count is 249.

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

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

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

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

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Happy New Year! The Ladies Day Luncheon was well attended with 191 people attending.

A reminder, you should send in your yearly dues (\$35) if you have not done so already. In addition, if you want to be an annual payer this is the perfect time to sign up as you get 10 lunches for the cost of 8 lunches.

Stephen Lane will be handling the sign-up duties this month. He has been kind enough to help me out during a busy month for me. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want.

It is always best to let us know you are coming or not even if you are late with your reservation or cancelation. All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: January 11th, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu on the right makes this easy for you to do this: simply click the appropriate link. If you find you have a problem using the links on the menu, just send an email to attendlunch-br146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice (meat, fish, or vegetarian)

If you do not reserve by Friday, January 5th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

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

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

Other matters

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

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

**Friday, January 5th by noon
and you will not be charged.**

Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

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

Questions:

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



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 January Luncheon
Thursday, January 11th, 2024

Salad
Boundary Oak Green Salad
Mesclun Greens, Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts,
Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées
Chicken Piccata
Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Garlic and
Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable
White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—
Cod Piccata
Herb Marinated Cod Filet, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf,
Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—
Vegetarian
Creamy Tomato Tortellini
Five Cheese Tortellini in a Creamy Tomato Sauce,
Seasonal Vegetable

Dessert
Tiramisu

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

2024 Officers and Directors

Big Sir..... John Kluesener
 Little Sir..... Bob Ford
 Secretary Don Shaw
 Assistant Secretary John Rexroat
 Treasurer Mike Rothman
 Assistant Treasurer Tom Amann
 Director 3rd Term Edward Brands
 Director 1st Term Mark Curtis
 Director 2nd Term Randy Graham
 Director 1st Term John Alexander
 Director 4th Term George Mon
 Director 1st Term Don Rhoads

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment Larry Kaye
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member Relations Edward Brands
 Publicity Randy Graham
 Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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

MAKE SURE... YOU HAVE THE FEBRUARY MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR



SIR 146 February Luncheon Thursday, February 8th, 2024

House Salad

Spring Mix, Grape Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrées

Bistro Filet

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Caramelized Shallot Jus

—or—

Citrus Salmon

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable,
Creamy Lemon Garlic Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Penne Pasta

in a Creamy Tomato Vodka Sauce

Dessert

Molten Lava Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

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

SIR Mission Statement

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



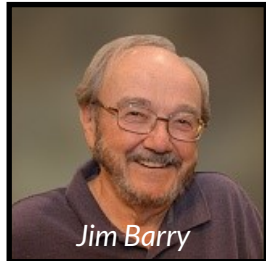
Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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



Jim Barry



Bud Pearce



Chuck Denney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Jim Barry
Frank Barton
Garth Cummings
Dick Devoe
Charles Eichten
Carl Feil
Ben Gleason

Dennis Hallett
Bill Hoban
Colin Holland
Bob Lyman
Pierre Mebane
Peter Plante
Ken Richter

Mike Riley
Lynn Shafer
Robert Storkan
Steve Ybarra
Rob Mcspadden
Roger Pytlewski
Michael Sulyma

Mike Rothman
Steve George
Pat Okeeffe
Steve Taylor
Ted Robertson
Dick Wade

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Dale Dalgaard	2019	5
Jack Menzhuber	2019	5
Earl Nevares	2019	5
Richard Morgan	2017	7
Don Seaton	2015	9
Steve Ybarra	2015	9
Tony Adduci	2014	10 Years
John H. Alexander	2011	13
John W. Boyan	2011	13
Doug Eisner	2010	14
James Passaglia	2010	14
Randy Becker	2008	16
Paul Dubow	2008	16
Ray Spears	2007	17
Jim Burk	2006	18
Dan Schlatter	2006	18
Pete Gates	2002	22
Charles Eichten	1999	25 Years
Lew Thompson	1996	28
Jim Stedman	1993	31

DECEMBER

SIR meeting

Pictures by Henry Thatcher





Looking for your picture with the Christmas Tree?
All of these have been uploaded to the internet



[CLICK HERE](#) 

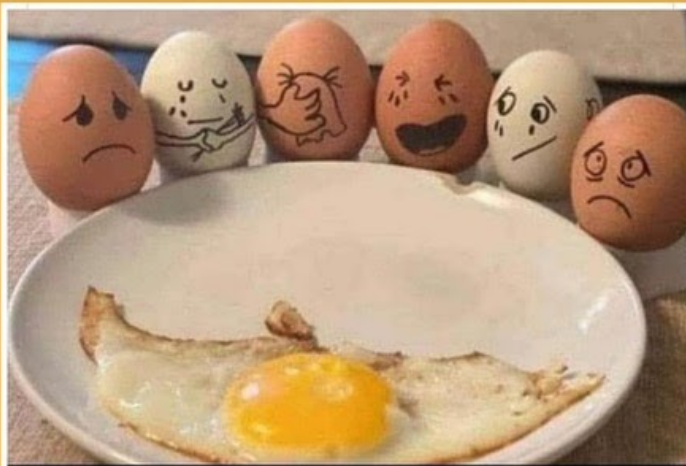
to view them

NOTES

from Our Members

BREAKING NEWS!

Today I used a piece of wood that I kept in my garage since 2006 in case I might need it.



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

shared by silversurfers.com

NOTES

from Our Members

"TIME WARP"

It is clear to me now
Someone has stolen my Week.
In it were things, thoughts, and deeds
I had desperately wanted to keep
Close to my bosom, my memory, my loves
Now lost to me as though in sleep
My Pill Case lies empty...

This Week was special
I said to myself
The choir moved my soul with weaving chords of song
First with disturbing dissonance,
Then harmonious resolving of the musical wrong.
Handel, Mendelssohn, Bach, great impressions made,
Now lost to me, I'm afraid,
...For my Pill Case is again empty

Our children, now parents
Fought in their own worlds, dragons and beasts
Yet the Week tamed them for a Thanksgiving feast.
Grandchildren played and projects were made
Oh, why had they grown so fast?
Those pictures of youth in our minds
Were made I thought, to last
... But my gaping Pill Case today lies empty

How can that be?

I planted them in my being so's not to forget
These wonderful memories deep in my mind.

I pondered and refreshed each

Tiny Jewel of past life

And yet only ghosts of these things remain unkind

...And now the mocking Pill Case is empty

Yet maybe thoughts, experiences, deeds, music and
children

are like little white pills

To be taken each day, savored, to keep us alive.

In a sense, it would be worse that the pills were still
there

Unused, forlorn, symbols of a life not tasted, con-
sumed, or lived.

So where did these pills go?

Like last week's life, consumed and dissolved into dust
So with a happy heart, fill it once more with pills of life I
must

...Cause the damn Pill Case again is empty

Lynn F. Shafer



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Hi all SIR Members,

I would very much like to plan some fun 2024 SIR146-Wide Events! Please send me any and all suggestions for SIR146 wide events that would be fun and popular. Send to glennbreslin@gmail.com. I am all ears.

SIR recently attended 2 events:

- 49ers Game at Masses Sports Bar
- Holiday Happy Hour at Yard House Restaurant

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



SIR Activities!

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

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan 1	2	3	4	5
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF 1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
8	9	10	11	12
10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm—7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am—10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am—1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm—2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 5:30pm Couples Dining Out Luna, Concord	9:00am Golf 5:30pm Couples Dining Out Luna, Concord	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm—10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 2:30pm—5:00pm Wine Tasting	12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom	9:00am—12:00pm Photography Group Ygnacio Valley Library 12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
29	30	31	Feb 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



Theater Glenn Breslin

Happy Holidays !!

The SIR146 Theater group has planned two outings to attend the following musical shows at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek: Mystic Pizza and Cabaret! The Leshner Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced (especially when compared with SF Theater prices).

- Some seats are much better than others. At this time, some very good seats are still available.
- As soon as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.
- If interested, please make out your check to SIR146 and send to me at Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549.
- Your Guests are also welcome to attend
- Both shows: Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.
- Closer to the date, I will add on an optional dinner, for those that want to socialize after the performance.

Mystic Pizza

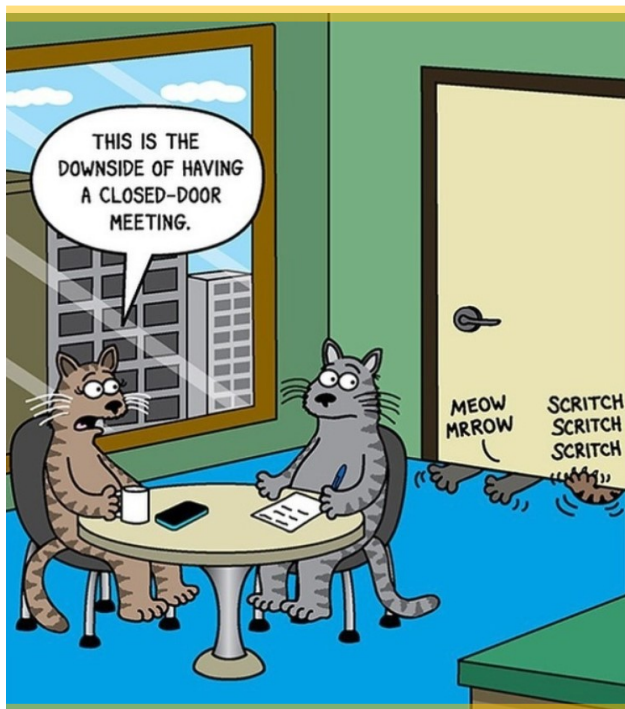
- Date: Sat, Feb 24, 2024—Time: 2:30 pm
Ticket price is \$68
- The story centers around the lives of three young working-class waitresses at the Mystic Pizza shop in Mystic, Connecticut. The script includes very familiar 1980s songs by such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Van Morrison, Melissa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

Cabaret

- Date: Thu, June 22, 2024 –Time: 2:30pm
Ticket price is \$35



Glenn Breslin
glennbreslin@gmail.com





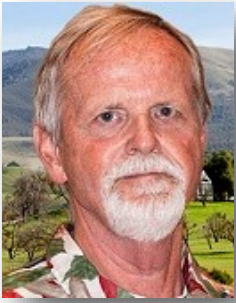
Travel Glenn Breslin

Please find these upcoming SIR trips – open to all SIR members and their guests. Rows 3 and 4 are SIR146 specific trips. Row 5 is a new Statewide SIR trip.

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
1	Rose Parade and New Year's Eve	12/30/23 to 1/4/24	\$3375	Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxury bus, lodging, 9 meals.	Contact Joe Salamida 408-767-2838. ascreenman756@gmail.com
2	Alaskan Cruise	5/26 to 6/6/24	\$2590 to \$3322	Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada.	Contact John Cardoza 209-483-7722 johncardoza@hotmail.com
3	Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7395	Airfare and 15 day guided trip. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes Tips. Discounts may still be available.	SIR146 - Glenn Breslin 925-788-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
4	Memorials of WW II	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10-day trip, highlighting WW II events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 din-	SIR146 - Glenn Breslin 925-788-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
5	Prague to Budapest Cruise	11/6/24 to 11/20/24	\$3195 to \$3995. Additional \$1000 discount for early bookers.	Danube River Cruise - Link HERE for trip info Multiple says at all these destinations: Budapest-Hungary, Bratislava-Czech Republic and Vienna-Austria, and others. Excursions are included.	State SIR Chair: Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 1-925-285-2897



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



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

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

John (Moose) Kelly
610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or
Henry Thatcher
925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com

Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group met on Friday, December 8th, at Rocco's. The attendees consisted of the following: **Frank Terzuoli, Michael Rothman, Dave Tucker, Bill Holly, Clint and Bev Collier, Steve Dick, Glenn Breslin, Richard Ahlf, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ron Polivka, Ken Studer, Barbara and Henry Thatcher, Peter Plante, and Moose Kelly.**

Our business meeting was brief with **David Tucker** presenting his photos from the SIR outing on the *USS Potomac*. NICE shoots, **DT!!** We then reviewed a YouTube video on the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max from **Ted Forbes** who is a Professional Photographer. The group then viewed pictures from **Moose Kelly** on the colorful and unique Reno Balloon Race. The next segment of the meeting was a brainstorming session with all the present members on what they like / don't like about our meetings, 2024 photographic themes tied with places to do photographic shots with the themes. Henry and I were pleased with the response of the photo members in this session. We received lots of great feedback and suggestions for themes with photo shoots for 2024. THANKS to all the attendees!!!

The final portion of our gathering was our annual Christmas Luncheon to celebrate what occurred during the year. Henry and I felt that we had accomplished quite a bit during 2023. Some of those memorable events were photo shoots at the Martinez Marina on bird photography, at the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco, at Pier 24 / Embarcadero waterfront. Other events include a visit to the Ansel Adams exhibit at the De Young Museum. We had the Manager, **Andrew Krebs**, from Mike's Camera Shop come to our November meeting to discuss the latest and greatest photography equipment. All in all, we had a great year with the help of all the members of the photography group. You GUYS ROCK!

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



Photo Group December Meeting
photos by **Henry Thatcher**

Reno Balloon Races
Moose Kelly



Photos by David Tucker



Photos from the USS Potomac excursion

The California Coast at Moss Beach



Morrie





146 Hiking Mark Curtis

At this season of the year, I feel fortunate if we can get out and walk on our wonderful local trails. But this is, after all, our normal rainy season; which is a good thing. We also have

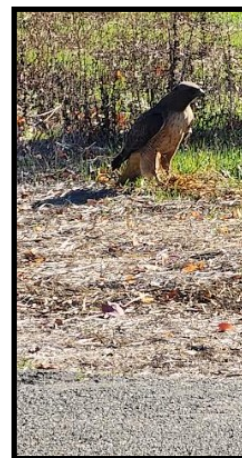
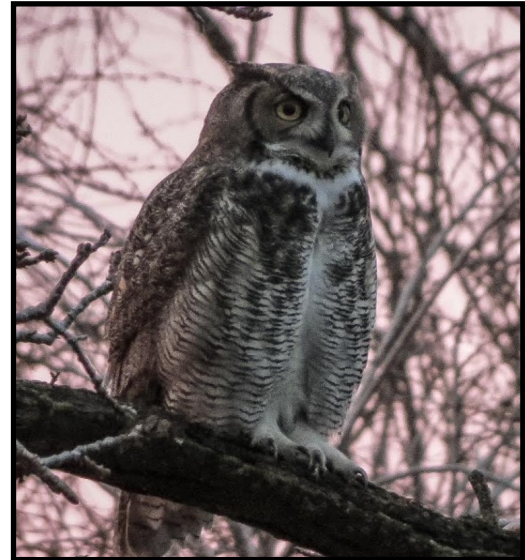
Thanksgiving and Christmas which each preclude doing a large group hike. Oh well, all is good. I have also been unavailable due to some physical/medical issues, which at this age happens to all of us ultimately.

I'm including a few photos of birds observed locally. One is of a Red Tail Hawk (RTH) which **Bob Lively, Pete Gates,** and I observed on our round trip walk from the Clayton Library to Starbucks. The other is a photo taken by one of our members, and hiking buddy, **Earl Bates,** of a Great Horned Owl in his backyard.

I hope we can get back on the trails soon, but I also hope that we get a lot more rain. I volunteer for Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation on the Oak Forest Restoration project, and the oaks do much better when seedlings if they get a relatively frequent drink.

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

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



Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group

I am looking forward to another great year of 9-Hole golf. I get a lot of feedback that what the guys like about 9-Hole golf is that it only takes about two hours to play. They also like our

discussions at lunch following the round. Why don't you come out and join us for a round? 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



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



Bocce John Kendrick

Hopefully Santa answered your Christmas wish and brought you your very own set of Bocce Balls. Safety tip – don't practice inside the house.

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

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

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

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

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Guitar Group Curtis Young

SIR 146 Guitar Group. We have a small group of dedicated players in our Guitar Group. I am looking for more people interested in playing in a group setting. All skill levels will get

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

Thanks and Happy Holidays!



Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com



Table Pool Jim Barry

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

Contact Tim at tamann1@yahoo.com

Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Crab/rockfish fishing is in full swing. The group made three combination crab/rockfish trips out to the Farollones on the *Sea Wolf* and limited out every time.

Each trip produced bigger rockfish. The happiest fisherman probably was **Dave Havlik**. On one trip, five of his ten fish were the largest on the boat. On another outing, **Pedro Contreras** caught and released two rare yelloweye rockfish. **Ron Lew** also limited out on three crab outings in his own boat. Unfortunately, the rockfish season ends on December 31 and so future outings on the *Sea Wolf* will have to be limited to crab.

Striper fishing in the Delta has been terrific. In the past, while stripers were plentiful, most were under the 18-inch size limit and majority of the keepers were barely over the size minimum. During this month, more than half of the fish caught were keepers and many were more than 25 inches. **Tom Kostik**, our Delta expert, made four trips in which he caught 88 stripers, 57 of which were keepers. On one of his forays, he was accompanied by **Harry Sherinian**, who landed a 30-inch striper and a 29-inch striper. They were the largest stripers that **Harry** has hooked in the last 20 years. **Tom** also picked up a 29-inch striper that day. All of the fish were caught on rattle-traps, rather than live bait and all were released. **Ron Lew** also nailed quality stripers, fishing in Spoonbill Creek, which is an arm of Suisun Bay.

Stan Wong did his striper fishing in the Sacramento River and he was trolling, using live bait. He still did quite well, and his keepers averaged 10 lbs. **Phil Scimonelli** fished for stripers from the Point Pinole pier and caught many fish, but none were keepers. However, a nearby seal was much more successful in the keeper department.

Trout fishing has slowed. **Ron Lew** managed to catch just one trout at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, while **Phil Scimonelli** had no bites fishing in Lafayette Reservoir. However, **Bob Lively** did land six trout at Shadow Cliffs.

At our December 21 meeting, we conducted our annual election. **Phil Scimonelli** was elected Big Fish. **Brian Beetz**, **Dave Havlik**, and **Ray Pixton** will continue as secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer respectively.

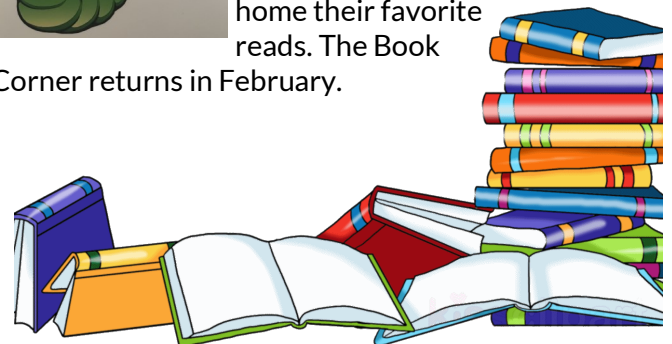
Our next meeting will be on January 25 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories. All SIR members are welcome, even if one has never fished before or has not fished for a long time and all SIR members are invited on our outings. If you have no equipment, we will lend you ours. For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow**

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their favorite reads. The Book Corner returns in February.





Book Group

John Pearl

James McBride's "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" excavates the buried narratives of Chicken Hill, a Pottstown, Pennsylvania

neighborhood teeming with immigrants and African Americans in the 1920s and 30s. .

At the heart of Chicken Hill stands the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, a haven owned by the irreverent and bighearted Chona Ludlow, a Jewish woman who is adored by her husband, Moshe, a Romanian immigrant who operates a successful music theatre in downtown Pottstown. In their employ are Nate Timblin, a strong, kind, and independent individual with a mysterious background and his wife Addie. The store is a crossroads, as all of the interesting residents of Chicken Hill pass through it, each with something to say..

The book's plot starts slowly (although it is still a fast read) as McBride introduces the reader to the various residents of Chicken Hill. They are an interesting group and the dialogue is really good, particularly from Fatty, the owner of the local juke joint, a mild cynic who enjoys teasing his pal, Big Soap, an Italian and one of the few residents of Chicken Hill who is neither Jewish nor black. We also get to meet the white leaders of Pottstown, none of whom are treated kindly by McBride. The last group that are introduced are the Lowgods, a large family of pragmatic blacks who do not live on Chicken Hill, but nearby.

The plot begins with the appearance of Dodo, a black orphan who has been rendered deaf by a stove explosion in his home when he was three years old. Although Dodo is deaf and cannot speak, he is an intelligent young man with a lively mind. The town leaders consider him to be an imbecile and are bent on institutionalizing him at Pennhurst, a large and menacing place, that once really existed. They succeed in accomplishing this objective and the storyline of the book is how the residents of Chicken Hill conspire to get him out. Dodo is ultimately rescued and almost everyone in Chicken Hill has a part to play in the caper.

The book is really a tribute to America. On one side are the diverse residents of Chicken Hill who band together to rescue an innocent boy from a terrible fate and on the other side are the racists of downtown Pottstown whose view of America is skewed. This view is illustrated by certain comments from Chona and from Doc Roberts, the local physician and Ku Klux Klan leader who is the book's chief villain.

Early in the book, Moshe informs Chona that they should move to downtown, given the financial success that they have achieved. He tells Chona, "Down the hill is America!" but Chona responds by stating "America is here!" and so the Ludlows remain on the hill. Later in the book, during a July 4 parade, Doc Roberts muses to himself that Pottstown is a wonderful place repeating Moshe's statement that it is America. That is so because white people like himself enjoy the good life and the Jews and the blacks are incapable of doing that and are relegated to a life of poverty on the hill. But it is the people on the hill who ultimately win. And, in a final twist of irony, the pseudo-patriotic Roberts has no problem donning a British red-coat uniform when marching in the parade. This proves to be a very fateful but you will have to read the book to find out why.

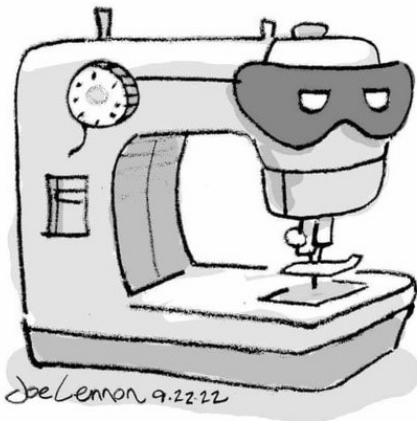
Generally, we liked the book, although some of us thought that McBride should have developed the plot earlier. On balance, we recommend it.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor

jpearljr@gmail.com

Alcohol is not in my Vodkabulary
However, I looked it up on Whiskeypedia
and learned if you drink too much, it's likely
Tequilya

THE MASKED SINGER



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs went to Ivy Park Retirement Home on December 7th and sang a program of Christmas carols for the residents. We did such favorites as "The First Noel," "Deck the Halls" and two of our favorites - "Wrap Your Presents" and "Sam and Roz Are Coming To Town." The residents had a good time and sang along with us. Our next rehearsal is on January 3rd in preparation for a March 6th performance of Irish and contemporary songs.

We are always looking for new members.

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

.Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Steve Dinning on piano, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Kimmis, Mike Ball, Lynn Shafer, Frank Lucas, Bud Pearce, Bruce Borgman as MC



Our maestro Steve Dinning



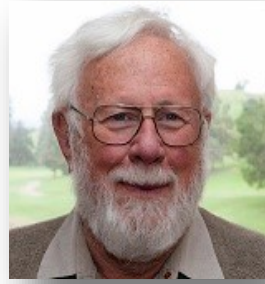
Peter Plante, Brad Hatcher, Steve Dinning, Bud Pearce, Lynn Shafer, Frank Lucas, Mike Ball, Bruce Kimmis, Bruce Borgman

MOSQUITO BITE? HEAT A SPOON WITH A BLOW TORCH AND PLACE IT UPON THE BITE.



THE HOT SPOON WILL
STOP THE ITCH FAST!
TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR
"HOW TO TREAT A BURN"

AMERICASBESTPICS.COM



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Our annual December/Christmas event was held at Mikuni, in the Veranda shopping center, where we held it last year. Eight of us

gathered with and without our spouses to enjoy the excellent sushi of this establishment which also offers something for the “non-sushi” significant others who are invited to join us for this gathering. Once again we ordered one of the fabulous platters and dove in!



Some changes are coming. We meet every other month and we started in February two years ago so we have been meeting on the same months for two years. With the coming of 2024 we're going to change that... our first meeting will be in January on the 18th and then every other month after that; same good sushi, same good fellowship. So, come January plan on joining us at Fuji in Concord



on the 18th at 11:30. It should be interesting, Fuji is an all you can eat buffet with sushi delivered constantly on a conveyor belt... or by special order! Come hungry!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Dennis Hallett hosted our December Lunch on a beautiful fall day. **Dennis** began the meal with a spread of delicious appetizers. A selection of cheeses, salami, prosciutto, grapes and crackers paired well

with white and light red wine. **Dennis** next treated the group to a hearty meal of Tri-tip steak, twice baked potatoes and asparagus. This meal paired very well with our bolder red wines. **Dennis** then served us an excellent chocolate topped cheesecake and raspberries. **Dennis**, still wearing his apron, then served coffee, mints, and choice of single malt whiskey or cognac. **Richard Hockenbrock** will restaurant host our next lunch on January 8, 2024.



Steve Ybarra

I just fired myself from cleaning my house.
I don't like my attitude & I got caught
drinking on the job!



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Hello diners,

Firstly, we want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season as you celebrate this special time of the year with family and friends. I'm sure you are all busy as you decorate your homes, shop for gifts and enjoy the all the festive concerts, ballets, and other special events. We were no less busy than all of you, but we squeezed in some time to search out a Couples Dining Out restaurant for January. Thankfully several of you have made suggestions for possible locations which made our search very much easier. And, it was one of several that **Glenn Breslin** suggested that turned out to have the winning combination. You will recall that for our November event, we went a bit afield by choosing a cuisine that may not have been familiar to many of you, We enjoyed the Nusantare California SanDai restaurant and became familiar with the Malaysian and Indonesian dishes - we hope you were pleased with this excursion into a less well known cuisine.

So, we concentrated on a more familiar cuisine and considered some Italian restaurants. I'm very pleased to tell you that we will be going to Luna Ristorante - a more intimate restaurant near Todo Santos plaza in Concord. It had been suggested before but thought to have been too small to accommodate our group. After visiting the place and having a pleasant discussion with the executive chef / owner Habib, he assured us that if we took over the entire restaurant, he could accommodate up to 50 diners - and was most cooperative in agreeing to a wonderfully diverse menu. We will start with a Caesar salad, or a Cream of Spinach soup, then a choice of four entrees and then a choice of desserts with coffee included. The total cost is just \$55 per person. Check out the attached menu .

This will no doubt be a popular restaurant selection so you will want to respond quickly to secure your place. Send an email to reserve and follow with a check to confirm. Be sure to indicate your choice of soup or salad, entree, and dessert. Call or email any question!

UPDATE: A second date has been added: Tuesday, January 16th.

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



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



We will start the new year with our January wine tasting. It will be held on January 23 (the 4th Tuesday of the month) at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**. The 23rd is correct. There was a typo in last month's SIR Call.

The wines will be from Italy so bring either an Italian red or an Italian white. It would be great if your wine was in a brown bag. Don't forget to bring an appetizer to share. The wine tasting begins at 2:30 and goes until 5:00. RSVP by email or calling. See the info below. Looking forward to toasting the new year with you.

Brian McCarthy
br146winetasting@gmail.com 925.324.2463



COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday Jan. 15, 2024



2118 Willow Pass Road, Concord

Monday January 15th and Tuesday January 16th

Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

Choice of Soup or Salad

Caesar Salad - Romaine hearts in a classic Caesar dressing
with parmesan cheese, croutons and tomatoes

or

Cream of Spinach Soup

Entrée choices

Chicken Piccata

Chicken sauteed with lemon, white wine and butter sauce

Gamberi

Linguini with tiger shrimp, crab and spinach in a creamy parmesan sauce

Lasagna

Classic meat lasagna with bolognese and bechamel sauce
topped with tomato cream sauce

Braised Short Ribs

Slow cooked boneless ribs with demi glaze and blue cheese sauce

Choice of Dessert

Tiramisu or Limoncello cake

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

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno is taking the month of December off to prepare and gather with friends

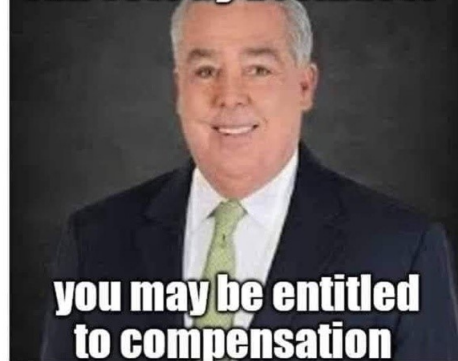
and family to celebrate the holiday season.

Happy Holidays to all!

Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



If your grandma got run over by a reindeer



Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on November 17th after The SIRCall went to press when the ole Mexican Train carried us to the home of Alicia Baily in Walnut

Creek. Sue and Walt Busenius, Sharon Varner and Judy Richmond enjoyed the train ride and Alicia's wonderful hospitality and treats.

We competed and we chatted, but Judy Richmond garnered the grand prize with Walt Busenius coming in second . We said our goodbyes, boarded the train, and followed the sunset home. We are not meeting in December but will be All Aboard in January. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!!!

Walt Busenius
 925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

No man has ever won a game of "Notice anything different about me?" ...

Singers of the 60's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate baby-boomers

New Releases Include:

- Herman's Hermits*
- Mrs Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker
- Ringo Starr*
- I Get By With A Little Help From Depends
- The BeeGees*
- How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?
- Roberta Flack*
- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face
- Johnny Nash*
- I CAN'T See Clearly Now.
- Paul Simon*
- Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver
- The Commodores*
- Once, Twice, Three Times To The Bathroom
- Procol Harum*
- A Whiter Shade Of Hair
- Leo Sayer*
- You Make Me Feel Like Napping
- The Temptations*
- Papa's Got A Kidney Stone
- Abba*
- Denture Queen
- Helen Reddy*
- I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore
- Lesley Gore*
- It's My Hormones & I'll Cry If I Want To
- Willie Nelson*
- On the Commode Again



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

Marty Campbell graciously hosted a special Christmas gathering on

Thursday December 7th 2023. Everyone enjoyed a delightful two course dinner, plus a selection of appetizers and wine, before the games began.

This evening, the format of the play was changed. The men and ladies each sat at their own table and played two games. The top two players from each table then played a final game. It was a close game with the winner being **Bob Yolland** and the runner-up **Judy Baldrige**.

Dessert, consisting of Chocolate Cheesecake with Raspberries, plus beverages was then served along with a selection of homemade cookies. This combination, once consumed, sparked a spontaneous exchange of stories and humor. It was great to see everyone relaxed and in a holiday mood.

A memorable evening was had by all, and much was owed to our wonderful host.

Our next gathering is on Thursday January 18th 2024 and will be hosted by **Anne and Jim Burk**.

Happy Christmas everyone and best wishes to all in the New Year.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Kathe Mitchell's** beautiful home with **Mary Schmidt** and **John "Moose" Kelly** hosting on Thursday, December 14.

This is our November/December holiday get together as our normal fourth Wednesday dates are a "no go" due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you, **Kathe, Mary, and Moose** for making it a special holiday treat.

So on to the games "with vision of sugarplums dancing in the air."

With 7 players at each table, the games were fast and furious with **Kathe Mitchell** winning (15.6), **Richard Hockenbrock** second (16.7) and **Mary Schmidt** the final winner (18.3). The rest of the gang at the tables fighting for the sugarplums (scratchers) were **Sue and Bruce Borgman, Mary and Brian Mc Carthy, Peter and Martha Plante, Steve and Carol Lane, Virginia Tygart, John Kendrick** and **John "Moose" Kelly**.

And the scratcher winners were **Martha Plante, Virginia Tygart, and Brian McCarthy**.

We are looking forward to our next get together - on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at **Sue and Bruce Borgman's** home. We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

. . Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.





Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob the Poet Lucido

Breaking News: Chaos Erupts in SIR MTD 7 Tournament Fallout at Brian and Mary McCarthy's Residence!

ence!

In a shocking turn of events, the serene atmosphere of a friendly SIR MTD 7 game night turned into a full-blown riot at the home of **Brian and Mary McCarthy**. Tensions reached a boiling point when the final scores were tallied, leaving **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Mary McCarthy** deadlocked for third place and a modest \$3 prize.

As the dispute unfolded, the living room transformed into a battleground. Tables were overturned, prized wine bottles were shattered, and the sophisticated ambiance was replaced by chaos, much to the dismay of wine connoisseur **Brian McCarthy**, who was understandably distressed by the spilled nectar of the gods.

Amidst the mayhem, onlookers reveled in the spectacle, finding entertainment in the fracas unfolding before them. The dispute over the meager cash prize continued to escalate until a peculiar resolution was reached.

In a bizarre compromise, **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Mary McCarthy** decided to settle their financial quarrel by literally cutting a dollar bill in half. Each combatant

walked away with their share, putting an end to the dispute, if not the lingering tension in the room.

Despite the dramatic climax of the evening, the less headline-worthy outcome revealed **Brian McCarthy** as the true victor of the SIR MTD 7 tournament, securing first place with a score of 16.9. **Bob West** secured the runner-up position with a score of 17.

In an attempt to prevent future fiascos, the organizers announced that ties in upcoming tournaments would be resolved by the classic game of rock, paper, and scissors, ensuring a less tumultuous outcome for all involved.

Stay tuned for more updates on the SIR MTD gaming community and the aftermath of this unforgettable evening at the **McCarthy** residence.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



At this point, I'm convinced some people were put on the planet just to test my anger management skills..



Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

A group of 16 regular members and two substitutes attended our Mexican Train Dominoes



Group Photo Mexican Train 8: Top(L-R): Richard Hockenbrock, Glenn Breslin, Steve Ondeck, Ron Polivka, Mary Jo Potter, Sandi Foster, Jan Ondeck, Victoria Polivka, Pam McAllister, Steve Ybarra, Virginia Tygart, Steve Loftin, Bill Holly, Larry McAllister, Sue Loftin, Steve Dinning and Karen Dinning. Missing from photo is Alicia Baily who had to leave early.

Our next game will be January 3rd 2024.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com

Group 8 (OCHO) on December 6th, 2023 welcoming the evening with a nice array of snacks provided by hosts, Steve & Karen Dinning.



Like November, we had a husband-and-wife place 1st and 3rd as winners shown below. Mary Jo Potter, a substitute, came in 2nd. December 6th Winners (L-R) Mary Jo Potter 2nd place, Larry McAllister 1st Place, and Pam McAllister 3rd Place.

Scratcher tickets awarded to the two players with the highest nightly scores, Karen Dinning, and Glenn Breslin.



My wife is blaming me for ruining her birthday.

That's ridiculous!

I didn't even know it was her birthday!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Tragedy Strikes as **Bob**
Faces the Wrath of MTD
Gods: Hides in Shame in

Backyard Shed!

In a devastating turn of events, **Bob and Wendy** made the unfortunate decision to attend the SIR Dining Out event instead of the highly anticipated MTD 9 extravaganza. Little did they know that the MTD gods were not to be trifled with.

In a divine act of retribution, the MTD gods have mysteriously hidden the score sheets and event photos, leaving **Bob** in a state of utter despair. Sources close to the situation report that **Bob** is now in self-imposed exile, seeking refuge in the backyard shed, vowing never to show his face in public again.

Neighbors have reported hearing muffled cries of "Why, MTD gods, why?" emanating from the shed, as

Bob contemplates the gravity of his unfortunate decision to prioritize fine dining over the sacred MTD 9 gathering.

Wendy, left to fend for herself in the harsh aftermath, has tried to console **Bob** with comforting words like, "It's just a game, Bob," and "Maybe the MTD gods have a sense of humor." However, her attempts have been met with the sound of silence punctuated by the occasional sob from the shed.

As the MTD community anxiously awaits **Bob's** return from his self-imposed exile, there are whispers of an elaborate forgiveness ritual involving sacrificial board games and a heartfelt apology to the MTD gods. Only time will tell if **Bob** can appease the deities and emerge from the shed with his dignity intact.

In the meantime, let this serve as a cautionary tale to all MTD enthusiasts: never underestimate the power of the MTD gods, and always prioritize the sacred over the sumptuous!

.Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Check Before You Hit the Send Button!

One spelling mistake, and a
husband cannot go home.

A Husband wrote a romantic
message to his wife on his
official business trip, and missed
an " e " in the last word. Now he
is seeking police protection to
enter his own home.

He wrote: "Hi darling, I am
experiencing the best time of my
life, and I wish you were her."



Never forget where you came from!
That's probably where you left your cell phone.



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we met on November 27th and December 8th. The big winners were **Ron Polivka** with 3 wins and **Frank Lucas** with 2.5. The lowest average score was **Ron Polivka** with

60 and **Bob Finlayson** with 65, followed by **Bill Vizza** with 63. **Bill Vizza**, **Jim Passaglia** and **Bob West** had two 2nd place finishes. **Ron Polivka** had 2 STM's, and **Bill Vizza** had 1.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 21.5 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 17 and **Brian McCarthy** with 16.

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 December on the 12th and 26th.

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

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

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by **Paul Dubow** who kindly arranged for five other players to enter Rossmoor and meet him at his home. **Paul** provided tasty snacks and nice wine. He even tried to help a couple of players build their stacks by coming in second for several hands. **Steve Ybarra** did not need **Paul's** assistance as he garnered success with various high/low games and went home as the overall winner. We look forward to our first game of 2024 on January 4th hosted by **Brad Hatcher**.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Behind every husband who thinks he wears the pants...
Is a wife who told him which pants to wear.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, December 1st with four tables was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**.

Dave Steinberg won 1st Place overall with 48 points. Although 3rd in the first half, his second half included getting high board or tying for high board 7 of 12 times.

Congratulations, **Dave**. **Mark Curtis** took 2nd Place overall with 45 points. **Ed Marlovits** was 3rd with 43 and **Bill Schaaf** was 4th with 37.

Richard Devoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

The Christmas elves provided some challenging hands when **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** hosted us on December 12th. On Board 7, every E-W pair got to 3 NT, but made six. On Board 17, E-W pairs got to game in three different denominations, but all made six. On Board 10, East had an 8-card heart suit, and West had a powerhouse. **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher**, and **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** bid and made the slam.

At evening's end, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were third (51%), 1% ahead of **Ken** and **Elaine Richter**; supersubs **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** were second (54%), and the **Pierces** were first (63%). As the year ends, we are all grateful for the fellowship and the friendly competition we have enjoyed at the bridge table in 2023. Many thanks to all our subs, who helped make it possible. To all: better cards and more slams in 2024!

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Tony & Cindy Greco hosted our December 5th event. For this event I'm pleased to announce that we had all 6 regular couples participate, which is difficult to achieve with all our busy lives.

The mood was festive with the house fully decorated for Christmas, especially with all of Cindy's many Christmas quilts displayed on every available wall space throughout the house. The festive mood inspired everyone to partake in beverage and snack consumption. It seemed like some of us were enjoying that more than playing bridge. Lol.

On average, everyone seemed to get their fair share of good hands and played an even mix of offense and defense hands.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3030 points—**Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 2800 points—**Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 2440 points—**Dick & Maggie Chaffee**

Due to the proximity to New Year's Day, there will be no game in January. Our next event will be held on **February 6th** and hosted by **Dick & Christy DeVoe**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

I'm trying to get into the Christmas Spirit but
I can't seem to open the dang bottle!

Did a little mechanics work today.
Put a rear end in a recliner.

Area 16 Activities



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting. We may change the meeting date, so stay tuned. The topic will be announced. .

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

The problem is, we look for someone to grow old together.
While the secret is to find someone to stay a child with.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Our couples duplicate bridge group 1 met on the 20th for an early bit of Christmas cheer and some very competitive card playing. Janet and Bob Yolland were the gracious hosts providing rich snacks, fine wine and soft drinks. Sue and Steve Loftin were our guests for the evening. Honors for the night went to our guests, Sue and Steve with a third place score of 22 points. There was a tie for first place between Christy and Dick DeVoe and Margo Somerville and her partner Marilyn who had scores of 22.5. The evening closed with hugs and wishes for a very Merry Christmas!



John Kluesener

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How your House is looked at:



...by you



...the buyer



...the Bank loan

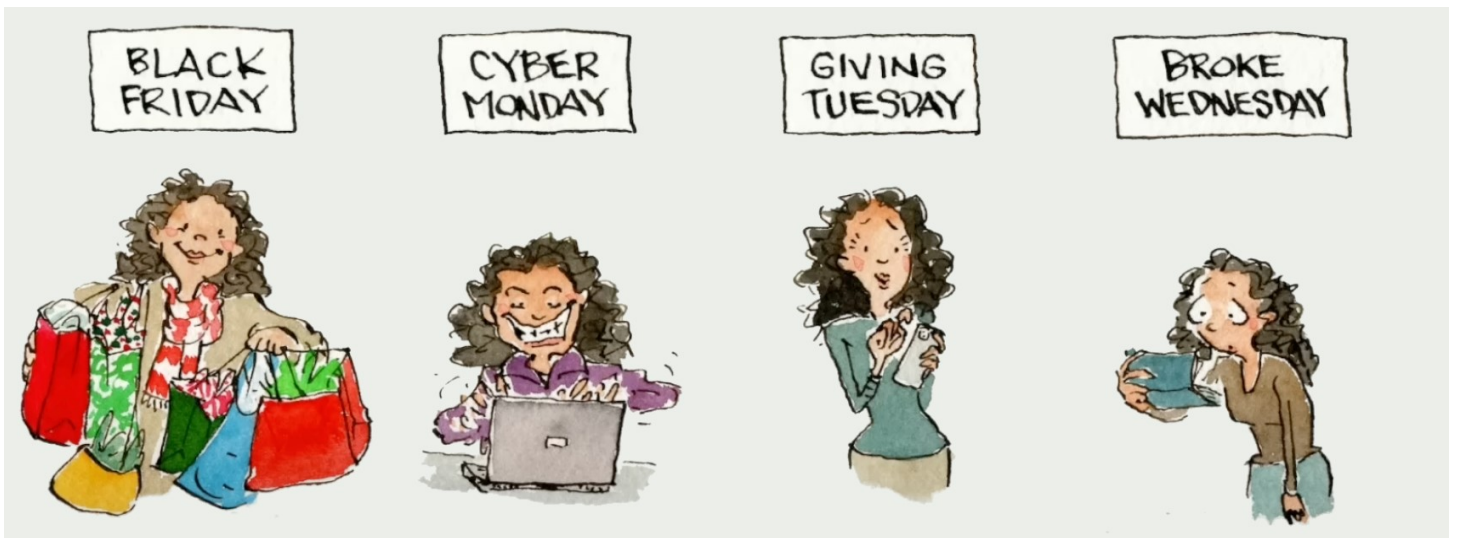


...the Insurance Evaluator



...by the Municipality for rates and taxes

Parting Shot



*We hope you and your family had a
Great Christmas!
Happy New Year!*