



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call

JUNE , 2022



Big Sir's Corner

Richard Lyon

Rich Lyon
Big SIR Branch 146

In spite of the new variant's resurgence, the Lady's Day Luncheon had a good turnout. **Steve Ybarra** orchestrated a delicious luncheon, and with **Max Hinkle's** trusty assistance everyone enjoyed the perfect weather and each other's company! The invocation by **Cal Tucker** was about love and it was beautiful, heartfelt, and perfect for the occasion. **Bill Holly** set up and managed the audio and slide show. Thank you, **Steve!** Thank you, **Max!** Thank you, **Cal!** Thank you, **Bill!** Please check out the Ladies Day photos in the SIR-Call by our photographer, **Henry Thatcher**.

Branch 146 SIR Activity Directors, please email your activity photos with a caption and photo credit to the Sir-Call email address of BR146SirCall@gmail.com. **Clint Collier** Editor, **Bob West** Asst. Editor and Proofreaders **Jonathon Korfhage** and **Ron Polivka** produce an outstanding newsletter every month and can only do so because of the contributions of SIR members **Bob Lucido** Activities, **George Mon** Membership, **Ron Plachy** Internet Website, **Brian McCarthy** Sunshine, **Walt Busenius**, **Jim Burk**, **Doug Eisner** Honorees, and many other contributors. Thank you for contributing to the SIR-Call, our branch's voice to our SIR.

Whenever a friend is interested in socializing in one of our activities, check with the activity chair to get them an invite and share a link to the SIR-Call or download a PDF copy of it and email it to them. Your friends can participate in a branch activity a couple of times or so and joining is only \$25 a year. SIR membership is a bargain and one of the best activity programs anywhere!

To regrow our SIR membership to 300 by year-end, seven luncheon guests who want to join Branch 146 are needed at each of the next six, monthly luncheons. The BEC and BEC RAMP team **Bob Ford**, **Bob Lucido**, and **Ed Brands** are working hard to get the word out. Please give them a hand and invite your interested friends to one of our activities.

I hope to see you at the June luncheon.

Little Sir's Corner

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, June 9th, 2022
Boundary Oak
12:00 Noon
Walnut Creek past mayor Loella Haskew



Robert Wilkenfeld

What's the BEC Been Up To??

The State SIR organization has declared 2022 to the "year of the branch." The goal of this effort is to rejuvenate and re-energize the many SIR branches across the state. Though our branch's membership count has remained relatively stable through the pandemic and our branch continues to have many enjoyable activities, you may have noticed that our members "ain't getting any younger." The average age of Branch 146's members is now ~78. To address the "aging" of our group, the BEC is strengthening our recruitment efforts by broadening our existing use of social media (i.e., Patch and Next-door Neighbor), and examining the use of Facebook and the possibility of becoming a coed organization. We recognize these options have both pros and cons, and welcome your input should you have strong feelings about either idea. Regardless, the BEC promises to study these options carefully before moving forward.

Our BEC has also been working to bring our records and communications into the 21st Century. This has meant digitizing older documents, reorganizing our online record keeping system (Dropbox) and ensuring that Branch Officers, Committee and Activity Chairs, and other important contributors to our group's success have access to the communication and record keeping systems needed to perform their role.

No More Politicians!

Yes, our last two luncheon speakers have been elected officials; and our June speaker, Loella Haskew, is a long-term member of the Walnut Creek City Council and past Mayor. This "streak" of elected speakers was not intentional; it was a result of many factors, most notably the lack of available speakers. However, I promise that the speakers already lined up for the remainder of this year will be quite varied. Future topics include, CCWD's short- and long-term plans to deal with our droughts, advances in cardiac care, alternative energy supplies for your home, and canine "medical technologists." As I've said before, if you know of an interesting, and willing, speaker please let me know; I'll gladly take the help!!

Bob Wilkenfeld
Little Sir Branch 146



Luncheon Chairman Ben Gleason

As we have done for the lunches this year, the June 9th meeting will utilize an "opt-in" reservation system in order for us to give Boundary Oak a more accurate estimate and guarantee of

attendance. Please see reservation information below:

June 9th Luncheon

- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$32

Payment

- The preferred payment method is by check payable to Sir Branch 146.

RSVP

- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, June 3rd before Noon
- Show or have proof of vaccination on-file with Waiver of Liability
- Ways to RSVP
 - Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - If you need to call: (925) 979-5721 and leave a message with your information.
 - All RSVPs will be acknowledged

Special Requests

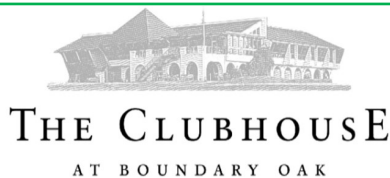
- If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegan meal or can't consume a meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the Deadline.

Sponsors

- If you are bringing a guest: please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Guests must have proof of vaccination and sign a Waiver of Liability which will be available at the sign-in table.

Questions

- If you have any questions please call Steven Oki at (925) 831-9380 and leave a message. I will give you a call back as soon as possible.



SIR 146 June Luncheon

Thursday June 9th, 2022

Salad

Caesar Salad

Entrees

Shrimp Scampi

with Lemon Caper Sauce, Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetable

or

Chicken Parmesan

with Marinara Sauce, Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables

or

Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Tiramisu

Chocolate Sauce

SIR Mission Statement

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



Membership George Mon

Due to the Ladies Day Luncheon in May, the BEC did not conduct a formal meeting. All new member applications will come up for vote in the June meeting.

Sir **John Hammond** passed away on May 12th due to kidney and heart failure.

The 2022 membership count is at 274. We ended 2021 with 280 members.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly. There is an updated section describing the new process to opt-in for the monthly luncheons. 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
gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Jim Barry retired last month as one of our proof readers. I want to thank him for providing this vital service over the time I have been editor... and even before. It really helps to have many eyes on the SIR-Call before it goes out. Thanks **Jim!**

Jim's retirement leaves us looking for one or two additional proof readers. Is this something you are good at? It only takes an hour or so of your time sometime during the last 2-4 days of the month. If you are interested in contributing to the branch in this capacity, shoot me and e-mail; we can discuss the specifics or I can add you to our list of proofreaders!

Does your activity meet after the due date for SIR-Call input? If it does you should consider postponing your reporting on the result of that get together until the following month. Instead concentrate on promoting the upcoming meeting. Much less pressure on everyone

Deadline for submissions for the July issue is June 25th.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

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

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Lyon
Little SIR.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Secretary	John Kluesener
Assistant Secretary	Bob Ford
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 2nd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 2nd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Vacant
Director 1st Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Frank Lucas

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jonathan Korfhage and Ron Polivka
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

JUNE

Ray Bland
Thomas Boltz
George Carpenter
Mike Conners
Steve Dinning

Gary Eames
Joe Flannigan
John Hammond
Richard Hanford
Richard Kincaide

Ron Lew
Dean Mayer
Dick McElroy
Jim Pfohl
Ronald J. "Ron" Plachy

Jim Pope
Milt Smith
John Wall
Mike Wallace
Mike Whitaker



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

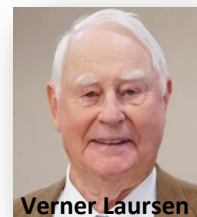
Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



Hugh Ferguson



Verner Laursen



Jim Saavedra



"Moose" Kelly

May Ladies Luncheon





Bruce Borgman & Jonathan Korthage



Cal Tucker
Delivering the Invoation



Corrie & Sue Oranje



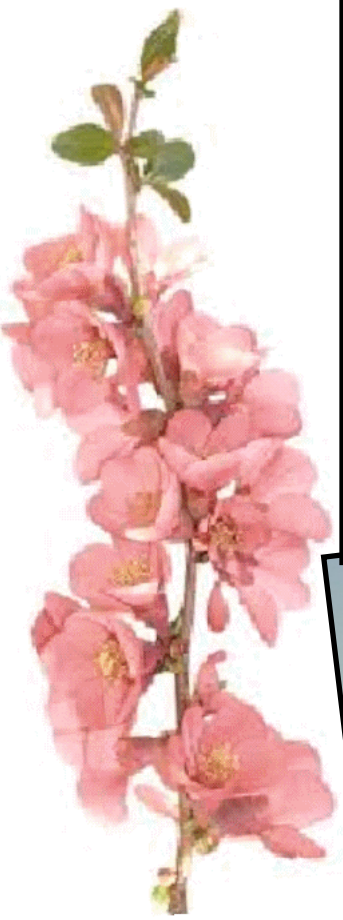
Dick & Janice Woodman



Frank Lucas & his daughter Laura Nakamura



Guest Speaker - Karen Mitchoff
Contra Costa County Supervisor

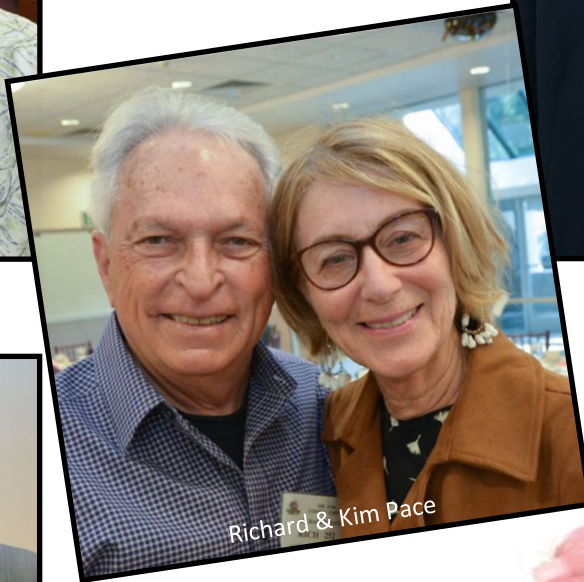




Paul & Joan Dubow.



Pete & Ann Gates



Richard & Kim Pace



Richard Hockenbrock & Virginia Tygart



Jim & Christine Nelson - Bob & Sheila Ford



Little Sir Bob Wilkenfeld



John & Sandy Foster



Self Portrait
Henry Thatcher



Tony & Cindy Greco



Hank James & Janet Guibault



Jim & Maria Pfohl



Paul & Jane Beretz



Steve & Dana Ybarra



Tom Amann



Tom Boltz - Steve Loftin - Dennis Dale



Tony & Cindy Greco

Photo Montage by Henry Thatcher



Looking for something to do...

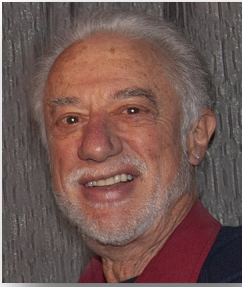
SIRS ACTIVITY REPORT 4.13.22					
Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	New members	Co-Ed
Bocce	John Kendrick	12 to 24 couples	8:30 2nd & 4th Mondays May through October	yes	yes
Book Corner Chair	Peter Plante	open	Jan > every other month	N/A	N/A
Book Corner Asst. Chair	Dick McElroy				
Book Group	John Pearl	5 to 10	variable - every 1 to 2 mo.	yes	no
Bridge - Couples Party	Tony Greco	6 Couples	Monthly	Yes	yes
Bridge Couples Duplicate 1	John Kluesener	6 Couples	7:00-10:30 PM Third Wednesday	yes	yes
Bridge Couples Duplicate 2	Dave Pierce	6 couples	Monthly - 2nd Tues. 7 PM-10 PM	yes	yes
Bridge Men's Duplicate 1	Max Hinkle	16 plus subs	Monthly - 3rd Monday	yes	no
Bridge Men's Duplicate 2	Dick DeVoe	18 plus subs.	Monthly - 1st Friday 10-2:30	yes	no
Bridge Men's Duplicate 3	Mike Whitaker	18	Monthly - 3rd Friday	yes	no
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	J.Pope/J. Steadman	16 plus 4 alt.	9:45-3:00 Monthly - 1st Monday	yes	no
Cooking II	Steve Ybarra	8	Monthly - 2nd Monday	no	conditional
Cooking Lunch & Wine	Syd Whalen	8 plus 3 subs.	Monthly - 3rd Wednesday	no	conditional
Cooking Tres Gourmets	Ron Binder	8	Monthly - Jan. to Oct.	no	conditional
Cribbage Chair	Ron Aldal	8 to 10	12:00 - 4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	yes	no
Cycling	Larry Kaye	10 to 15	every week	yes	yes
Dining Out	Bruce Borgman	~20 to 30 couples	Every other Month	yes	yes
Dinner/Dance Social	Jonathan Korfhage	25 to 40 couples		yes	yes
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	H.Thatcher&J.Pope				
Fishing	Paul Dubow	~10 to 15 Br 146	7:30-9:30 Breakfast mtg. 4th Thurs.	yes	conditional
Golf - 18 hole Chair	David Steinberg	~100 to 115 active	9:00 Every Tuesday	yes	no
Golf - 18 hole-away games	Ed Marlovics				
Golf - 9 hole	Bob Ford	~25 members	9:30 every Thursdays	yes	no
Hiking	Mark Curtis	6 to 12	10:00 am - varies Monday or Friday	yes	yes
Ladies Day Luncheon chair	Steve Ybarra	~250 people	*Semi-annually	N/A	N/A
Men's Hearts	Bob West	6 to 12	Meet 2X a month - 2nd & 4th Friday 12:45-3:30	yes	No
Mexican Train Dominoes (1) Uno	Jerry Kaplan	16 to 18	Monthly -plays Friday eve. after luncheon	yes	yes
Mexican Train Dominoes (2) Dos	Ron Plachy	14 to 18	6:30-10:00PM 4th Friday	yes	yes
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Tres	Walt Busenius	18 to 20	Monthly - 4th Friday eve.	yes	yes
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quattro)	Jim Pope				
Mex. Train Dominoes (5) Cinco	Dave Pierce	12	monthly -3rd Thursday eve.	yes	yes
Mex. Train Dominoes (6) Seis	Moose Kelly	10 to 20	6:30-10:00PM 4th Tuesday	yes	yes
Mex. Train Dominoes (7) Siete	Bob Lucido	14	monthly -2nd Wednesday eve.	no	yes
Mex. Train(8) Ocho Dominoes (8)	Richard Hockenbrock	18	Monthly - 1st Wednesday of every month	yes	yes
Photography Co-Chair	John "Moose" Kelly	10 to 20	meets 4th Fri. of every other month	yes	yes
Pinochle Co-chair (Br 146 & Br 8)	P.McNeill/S.Johnson	8 to 12	2nd and 4th Wed after lunch	yes	yes
Poker Group #1	Dan O'Sullivan	7	Monthly - 2nd Wed. 1:00-4:00	no	no
Poker Group #3	Sig Kalteis	7	Monthly 4th noon	yes	no
Poker Group #4	Rich Hanford	7	Monthly 4th Monday 1-4 pm	no	no
Poker Group #6	Brad Hatcher	6	Mo.-1st Thurs 12:30-3-30	No	no
Song Sirs	Peter Plante	about 20 active	Monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed.	yes	no
Sushi no tomodachi	Clint Collier	undecided	One a month	yes	yes
Table Pool	Bill Weinberg	10 to 16	Every Monday 11:30 AM	yes	no
Theater	Gary Schaub	~30 - 40 people	2 to 3 theatre parties/yr.	yes	yes
Travel	Milt Smith	~15 - 50 people	*As scheduled	yes	yes
Wine Tasting	Brian McCarthy	~30-50 people	4th Wed. 2:30 - 5:00p.m.	yes	yes

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

June 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	31	Jun 1	2	3
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf	8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:45 AM Explore and Eat Black Diamond Mine Tour 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch		12:30 PM Poker Group #8	
6	7	8	9	10
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts
10:00 AM Hiking	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	Rocco's Italian Restaurant	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	Rocco's Italian Restaurant
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		1:00 PM Poker Group #1		8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
		8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete		
13	14	15	16	17
8:30 AM Bocce	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Photography Group Meeting
Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek			11:30 AM Sushi no tomodachi	Rocco's Pizzeria, W.C.
10:00 AM Hiking			Tachi Sushi Bar, Clayton	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses			7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
20	21	22	23	24
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 18 Fishing Group	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		Rocco's Italian Restaurant	Legends Sports Bar	Rocco's Italian Restaurant
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle	Diablo Creek GC	8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos
		Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
		1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom		
		8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis		
27	28	29	30	Jul 1
8:30 AM Bocce	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	
Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek				
10:00 AM Hiking				
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses				
1:00 PM Poker Group #4				



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

COVID had a major impact on our Activities which caused many of them to be put on hold. As of today, we only have two activities on hold, and they may open back up in the next month. We now have 41 active activities. There are a few more proposed activities coming up in the next few months, stay tuned.

With my added duties as State Activity Chairman, Frank Lucas has graciously offered to assist me with B146 Activities duties. Thank you, Frank.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net



GOLF Ed Marlovits

We held the Area 16 Qualifier for the State Team Championships on a cold, windy May 26 at Blue Rock Springs East in Vallejo.

Like many other activities, participation was down significantly from pre-pandemic levels. We had only three teams compete, one from Branch 146 and two from Branch 19. I am sad to announce that our team of **Brands, Wallace, Marlovits, and Hinkle** came in second and probably did not qualify for the finals at Rancho Solano in Fairfield on Monday, August 8. Normally the second place team would have qualified but only the first place teams are guaranteed slots, the others are allocated based on Area participation.

Our next State Event will be the individual Championship. The Area 16 qualifying event will be held at Blue Rock Springs West on Thursday July 7. An invitation to sign up will be circulated shortly. Blue Rock Springs will allow a shotgun start if we have at least 64 people participating, a number that seems somewhat unlikely at this point. The state spring fling event had just under 100 players participate and the Reno event had to be canceled due to lack of participation.

Tuesday golf typically has participation in the mid-thirties. I have been using a range finder app that tracks my rounds and it seems we are typically done in about four and one-half hours. It wasn't that long ago that pace of play caused a lot of consternation.



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2022 season of SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity officially started.

The courts are located in the Newhall Community Park in Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in . Bocce

Ball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September.

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

Rain Cancels Play.
Come and join us.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





SongSirs Peter Plante

Since our main guy, **Peter Plante** is travelling in Italy for an amazing six weeks(!), I, **Bruce Borgman**, am filling in on updating you on the SongSirs happenings. We have been practicing a new song

list that **Peter, Steve** and **Bruce** have put together. They include the traditional songs in our repertoire of Embraceable You, Pretty Baby, Greenfields and Get me to the Church on Time, but we've added some Elvis classics such as Love Me Tender and It's Now or Never, and a few other new ones such as Old Cape Cod, and Roses are Red. It seems that May and June are busy vacation times for our Sir group so it's sometimes difficult to get all of us together for rehearsals. We're pleased to have added a few new members – **Bud Pearce** and **Curtis Young** and our other relatively newbies **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Brad Hatcher** as well – but, we can always use some more of you closet shower soloists.



SongSirs
at the May Ladies Day Luncheon
photo by **Henry Thatcher**

Steve Dinning, our eminent pianist, and resident musicologist has been working to convert a number of our songs to a PDF format which we can send in electronic format to our singers, rather than making copies of copies. He has set up a separate section for the SongSirs in Dropbox and we are slowly learning the details of that major improvement in how we maintain our music library.

We have gig scheduled in July at the Concord Royale Senior Living Facility – a place where we have been received with enthusiasm. We will be practicing our repertoire in preparation.

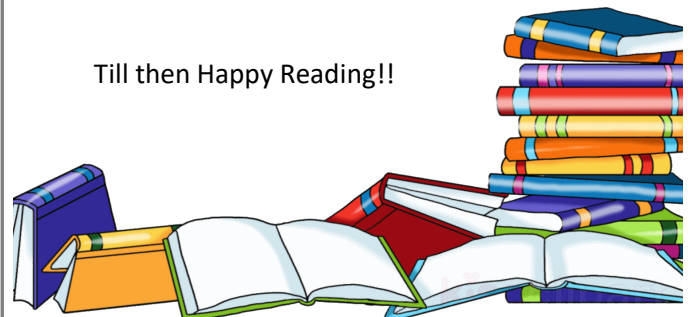
Bruce Borgman—Peter Plante



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner will return for the June luncheon. Bring back what you have read and stock up on some new books.

Till then Happy Reading!!





Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Do you want to get out and tune up your golf game? Come join us for 9 holes of golf. It's a great time of the year to play and the course is in excellent condition. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on

every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course.

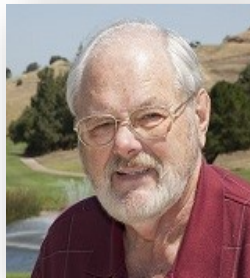
If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Some of the 9 hole golf group having lunch on 5/26 at The Greenery restaurant.



Theatre Gary Schaub

A NIGHT AT THE THEATER IN 'OUR TOWN'

After an "intermission" of almost two years, twenty SIR146 members and guests gathered at Lesh-er Arts Center on May 6 for Center

REP's production of Thornton Wilder's award-winning play, "Our Town".

The American classic -- set in the mythical village of Grover's Corner, New Hampshire, provides an allegorical representation of life in all its joys and tribulations -- timeless questions about the meaning of Love, Life and Death.

Now that area theater companies are operating following the pandemic, SIR146 members can expect more theater gatherings to come.



Curtis & Karen Young



Richard Hockenbrook and his guest Virginia Tygart; and Bruce Borgman & Susan Sheldon
photo by Gary Schaub



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul DuBow

May has been the best fishing month of the year to date. The highlight was our semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor. In the past, the Lake Almanor trip was headquartered at the Quail Lodge in Canyon Dam. Our hosts were

John and Deb Crotty. John served as our guide and Deb provided us with delicious meals. Unfortunately, the lodge burned down in the Dixie Fire this winter. However, we found a VRBO only five minutes from John and Deb's new home. And so, eight of us journeyed to the lake for two days, where John continued to guide us and Deb continued to feed us. And the results were great. Deb's meals were terrific and we caught 36 trout, mostly rainbows plus two large browns. Our second trip to the lake is tentatively set for October 17-18.

We had two other out of town trips. **Tom Kostik** made his annual trek to Pinecrest Lake, where he caught seven smallmouth bass and three rainbows. **Joe Miscione** and his son had an unusual time at New Melones Reservoir. They set out on a kokanee trip on the lake. Within the first fifteen minutes, they caught two large rainbows on kokanee rigs. Then their outboard motor died and they had to quit. Thus, their kokanee trip resulted in two trout and no kokanee.

Most of our local activity in May was in the Delta and San Pablo Reservoir. In the Delta, **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, **Karl Droese**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, and **Dick Thomson** spent a morning on the San Joaquin and Mokelumne Rivers and landed a dozen stripers, seven of which were keepers. **Tom Kostik** caught thirteen stripers, including three keepers, on an all day trip. On another outing, he landed nine black bass. **Harry Sherinian** caught five black bass on a Delta foray. However, **Mike Corker** failed to get a bite fishing from his boat. Timing is everything! Not all Delta fishing is from boats. **Phil Scimonelli** and his wife, along with **Mike Browne** of Branch 146, caught seven trout and a ray fishing from the Point Pinole pier.

At San Pablo Reservoir, the results were mixed. **Bob Lively**, who fishes from a kayak, picked up trout on several trips to the reservoir. **Mike Browne** and **Phil Scimonelli** hooked several trout fishing from the shore, but **Brion Beetz** and **Gordon Linebaugh** failed to catch a single trout fishing from a boat. **Brion** did catch a catfish the size of a pinky. But that actually was a good thing. It was a sign that catfish are now spawning in the reservoir and we are

looking forward to catching some good sized ones next month.

Although the salmon season began in late April, none of us ventured out to fish for them. The season closes temporarily on June 1 for three weeks, but we will be out there when it resumes on June 22. In the meantime, the salmon fishermen tried their luck fishing for halibut in the Bay. **Lee Clark** and **Brad Hatcher** of Branch 146, along with **Carl Moyer**, took home limits of halibut fishing on the *Sundance*. The catch included two good sized halibut, both landed by **Brad**. **Dave Havlik** caught quite a few halibut on another trip, but none were keepers. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, along with **Ken Bellindir** and **Pedro Contreras**, fished all day on **Pedro's** boat, but only were able to land a few undersized halibut. Near the end of the day, **Ken** hooked something heavy. It turned out to be two fishing rods with reels attached!

Brion Beetz and friends went clamming at Dillon Beach for two days and brought home 190 clams. **Mike Browne** and **Phil Scimonelli** surf fished at Bodega Dunes, but came home empty handed, but it was a nice day at the beach.

Our speaker at the May meeting was Otto Szilagyi, senior vice president of the company that produces Tsar Nicoulai caviar. It raises sturgeon at its farm in Wilton and the fish produce enough eggs so that the company is able to plant over 80,000 eggs in the Sacramento River, some of which will grow to be the large sturgeon that we catch and release. The company also processes smoked sturgeon and smoked salmon. We have decided to take a trip to the farm after one of our future meetings.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, June 23, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7:30 am 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 trips to San Pablo Reservoir and the Delta and in the Bay for halibut and the ocean for salmon and rockfish. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

Why are we part of SIR146? For me it was an opportunity to meet some new people, and to perhaps learn new skills and rediscover activities that I loved as a junior citizen. As I'm sure with most of our guys including me, we have forgotten how active we were in our early years.

So, what is the primary function of SIR? In my opinion, that purpose is to encourage social interaction and to engage both mind and body.

I've been coordinating the hiking activity for a few years now, and the focus is on several key park systems; (1) Mount Diablo State Park (MDSP), (2) East Bay Regional Parks, and (3) Walnut Creek Open Space, Lime Ridge and Shell Ridge. The focus has also been to offer a more frequent opportunity to hike, once each week instead of once per month.

We typically observe about 4 to 10 guys on each hike. And we've recently been joined by outdoor enthusiast and relatively new SIR146 member, Mike Rothman. I'd also like to point out that spouses are always welcome to participate in the hiking activity.

Most recent venues for these hikes have been Black Diamond Mine, Del Valle, Huckleberry/Sibley combo, Point Pinole, and The Grand Loop in MDSP. After the Black Diamond hike, I got home about 3 PM, took a 3 hour nap, went to bed at 9 PM, and woke up at 7 AM. This was a challenging hike! The MDSP walk (I did not attend!) took its toll on **Ray Martz**, **Gene Schulting**, **Mike Browne**, and **Earl Bates** as well. This MDSP walk was about 6.5 miles with about 2000 feet of climbing.



Mark Curtis

Cell (925) 360-3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Mariposa Lily.
By Bob Wilkenfeld



Bob Wilkenfeld, Mike Rothman, Mark Curtis, Gene Schulting,
Ray Martz (foreground: Rosy)
Photographer: Earl Edward (non-member)





Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

The Sir 146 Book Group met at the Greenery on Monday, May 16th to discuss our “Book of the Month,” *Portrait of a Thief*, a first novel by Grace D. Li. At the time she wrote

the book, she was a medical student at Stanford following her graduation from Duke.

The plot line centers around the story of five Chinese Americans, four of whom who were college students at Harvard, Duke, and UCLA nearing graduation. The fifth dropped out of MIT after her junior year to take a job at Google. Their leader was Will Chen, an art history major at Harvard, who knew a lot about Asian art and Chinese art in particular. Will and the fellow team members who joined him were flown to China where they were “recruited” by the leader of a major Chinese company to “reclaim” ancient Chinese art that had been “stolen” by people from other countries. The recruiter relied on the ethnicity of the individuals and their torn loyalty between the country where they were citizens and the land of their parents. She also threw in a bonus of \$10 million dollars each if they successfully robbed five museums in different parts of the world. They all signed on, and away they went to remove bronze heads from the five museums to fill in the blanks on a display in China that housed the remaining seven heads of the original art work.

The book’s chapters are laid out in a series, each titled with the name of a team member and focusing on the life, times, and feelings/emotions of each member. Lots of attention was paid to schools, work situations if any, and their families. The effort was seemingly to fill in the blanks about their lives and their motivations in joining the team.

Will had a great job lined up in the Asian Art Department at the Metropolitan Museum in New York following his upcoming graduation from Harvard. The only problem was that one of the bronze heads on the list was there, but he was committed. The team made their plans for the robberies via secure Zoom calls, and each played a different role, such as getaway car driver, security system hacker, etc. The first robbery (in a Stockholm museum) went pretty much according to plan, so they were on a roll.

However, as plots do, there was a complication. The father of Danny, one of the team members who was a naturalized citizen of the United States, was the FBI’s expert and chief investigator of Asian art thefts from museums in the US, and consulted on overseas thefts.

We learned an awful lot of each team member (too much in my opinion) as we went through the book. Lots about feelings, motivations, families, and the angst they suffered because they felt they were neither Chinese nor American. They all had great careers in front of them, and given the substantial risk they faced in trying to rob five museums in different parts of the world with no experience in the world of crime, acceptance of their willingness to take on this assignment is difficult.

The shortened version of the story is that they were in fact found out, but evaded punishment because Daniel’s father decided to look the other way. They also discovered that another team of Chinese “princelings” was on a similar mission, even robbing a museum just moments before they came upon the scene!

The team members did what they had to do to survive, and returned to their real worlds with their reputations intact.

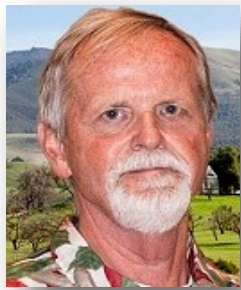
Our group thought this was a non-plausible story about five complete amateurs, who while being very high achievers in their own worlds, had no real idea what they were up against. There was a lot of discussion/comments/worrying by the main characters about “what’s going to happen to me next,” and conflicting thoughts around nationalism as they wrestled with their loyalties to China and the United States. Their lives in this country as Chinese-Americans were not always simple or easy.

One almost thought that this was a story by the author, who like one of the team members, grew up in rural Texas, to deliver the message that museums around the world must return the “stolen” pieces that are in their collections. And yes, there is a surprise ending.

Our group is giving this a C- rating and not recommending it. It is not a “true detective” story, but plays on various themes such as nationalism, life with mixed ethnicities, the feelings that stolen artwork should be returned, and life in their families.

Our next book is the *Tango War*, by Mary Jo McConahay, which examines the relationship between the United States and countries in Central and South America during World War II. We meet again at the Greenery at 9 am on June 13th.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor



Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Eight members of SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met on May 3rd at Migration Winery which is part of the Duckhorn Winery Group in Napa to photograph the vineyard. Those photographers that attended were **Bobbie & Walter Schmidt, Steve & Sue Oki, Richard Ahlf & Ismiri MacLean, Bill Holly, and Moose Kelly**. After an hour of photographing the vineyard and the surrounding area, we relaxed and had a tasting of Migration's array of Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. Everybody left Migration with a smile on their face but a bit hungry even with a cheese plate that was provided. The photography "crew" literally went across the street to the Smokehouse Deli and had a nice lunch before returning to Walnut Creek. A couple of pictures are attached for your viewing pleasure.

Our next photography meeting will be on Friday, June 17th at Rocco's with our gathering time at 8:30 AM. The meeting will kick off at 9 AM sharp. Coffee and yes, DONUTS will be served. Topics will include the Migration Vineyard Field Trip, pictures and videos of **Moose's** dive trip to Palau, New camera phones, and lots more. Henry and I will be forwarding an email to the photography group in the second week of June with the details.

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



Ismiri MacLean, Richard Ahlf, Bobbie and Walt Schmidt, Susan and Steve Oki, Bill Holly, and Moose Kelly.





Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Thanks to everyone who attended yesterday's wine tasting at **Brian and Mary McCarthy's** home. Pictures of this event are on the right.

We tasted ten red and four white wines. The winners voted for bringing the favorite Chenin Blanc wine were **Henry and Barbara Thatcher**. The winners voted for bringing the favorite Zinfandel wine were **Bruce Kimmis and Christina Stratton** (as an aside, **Bruce** says he is willing to provide a bottle of the Rombauer Vineyard's 2019 Zinfandel for those who want it for \$30 a bottle).

As usual we had an excellent assortment of appetizers. They are always a highlight of the wine tasting.

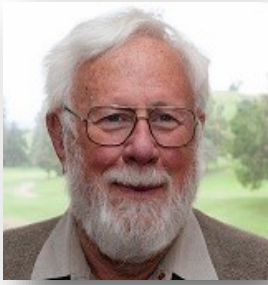
Larry Kaye emailed that he was "touched" by the outpouring of well wishes by the group for his speedy recovery from his recent heart surgery.

Please mark your calendars for the next wine tasting on Tuesday, July 26th at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**.

Brian McCarthy
925-324-2463 Br146winetasting@gmail.com



Photos by Bill Holly



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

May was a "bye" month for us since we only get together every other month.

At **Brian's** suggestion, we will visit Tachi Sushi Bar at the corner of Ygnacio Valley Blvd. and Clayton Road this month! Hopefully you have saved the date, **June 16th**. We have two new potential members who have inquired about our activities so maybe we will see a couple of guests! Look for a confirming e-mail shortly after the beginning of the month.

SUSHI TYPES



Pop Quiz... what type of sushi did we have at Tatsu Sushi that is not reflected on this list of sushi types?

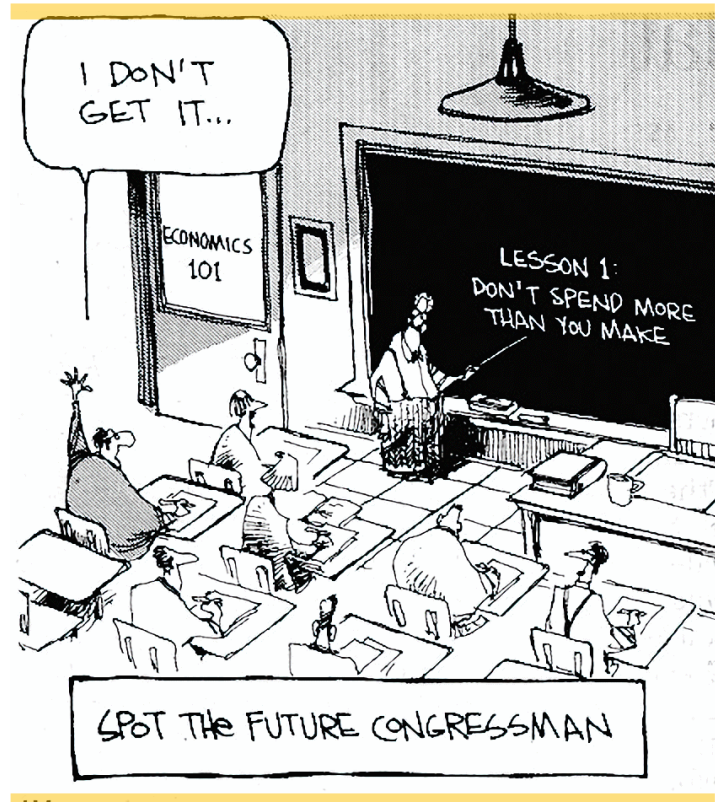
Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org

presented.

We had Chirashi (scattered) Sushi where the fish is placed on a bed of rice rather than individually

ANSWER





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Corrie Oranje** on May 9, for a hosted lunch. The meal began with a delicious spread of appetizers as can be seen in the photo. After some light conversation, we adjourned to **Corrie's** dining room. There we were treated to Dutch split pea soup. Many at the table could be heard asking for seconds. **Corrie** then treated the group to grilled cheese sandwiches. This meal turned out to be a fabulous combination of soup and sandwiches. Finally, lunch was completed with fresh strawberries over vanilla ice cream. As has become a tradition, **Corrie** served us an after dinner shot of libation. The Cooking II group will next meet at the home of **Ken Richter's** on June 13, 2022.



Bill Cammerer, Richard Hockenbrock, Bruce Borgman, Bob Yolland, Corrie Oranje and Dennis Hallett.
Photo by Steve Ybarra

And...

The Cooking II group, wives and guests met at 10:00am Saturday morning and caravanned to the Oakland A's Coliseum. We set up a tailgate lunch consisting of many dishes that complimented the grilled hot dogs and sausages. After finishing lunch, including dessert of cookies and lemon bars, we proceeded to the Westside club, suite 67. There we enjoyed the A's vs Guardian's baseball game with stadium seating, sofas for comfort and our own privy. Alas, the A's lost by a score of 3-1. An enjoyable day was had by all at this Cooking II group outing.

Steve Ybarra



Bob Campbell (a prospective Sir 146 member), Steve Ybarra and Corrie Oranje
Photo by Bruce Borgman



(Standing left to right) **Dennis Hallett, Ken Richter, Corrie Oranje, Steve Ybarra, Bob Campbell.**
(Seated from front center clockwise) **Barbara Roberts, Elaine Richter, Janet Yolland, Dana Ybarra, Ann Hallett, Kim Campbell, Bob Yolland, Sue Sheldon, Richard Hockenbrock, Bill Roberts and Sue Oranje.**
Photo by Bruce Borgman



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The May Couples Dining Out event was successful beyond our expectations. We had arranged to dine at Uncle Yu's in Lafayette on Monday, May 16. This is by most accounts the best restaurant for Chinese cuisine in our area and our experience in dining here did not disappoint.

As we mentioned last month, we did send out our announcement to our recently joined SIR members a few days before our regular mail list and did get a few new diners to join us. The restaurant had a capacity of 50 and we exceeded sign-ups within a few days. After the wait list reached 20 we did add a second evening on Tuesday, May 17, which **Jim and Renie Pope** agreed to host. In the final analysis with some of our diners switching nights, we wound up with 44 diners on Monday and 28 on Tuesday for a total participation of 72. Both evenings were thoroughly enjoyed by our diners. We had large tables on 9 to 11 or so which lent itself to a lot of good conversation and camaraderie. Since this type of cuisine is served family style, we were able to enjoy a larger variety of dishes than one usually has when dining in pairs or a small group. Particularly notable were their signature honey walnut prawns and the Du Breton spareribs. We were particularly pleased that our expatriate members **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone** joined us while they are back visiting in the States from their current home in Mazatlan. We weren't sure if they were trying to convince others to join them in their newly discovered paradise!

You will see several pictures taken by **Clint and Bev Collier** which will testify to the wonderful dinner we all enjoyed.

We will now revert to our regular schedule of dining every other month so the next event will be in the third or fourth Monday or Tuesday in July. As you know, it is difficult to find a restaurant that can accommodate our group which now seems to exceed 60 diners. We may consider having the dinner on two evenings as we did in May, but that brings its own set of challenges. If you have a restaurant discovery that we should consider, let us know and we'll check it out.

We will see you in July at the Couples Dining Out event!

Looking forward to another fun evening!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon

Dining Out hosts

bgborgman@aol.com



Carmen Schiavone
and Jane West

Night One
Photos by Clint and
Bev Collier



Bev and Clint Collier



Cindy and Tony Greco, Nancy Pearl, Janet Abbott



John Pearl, Ron Plachey, Anne ?



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

A small and intimate gathering of 8 met at host SIR member **Jim Stedman's** lovely community room at Rossmoor for the May 13th Mexican Train Uno games.



Jeff and Alicia Baily & Jim Stedman
photo by Bruce Borgman

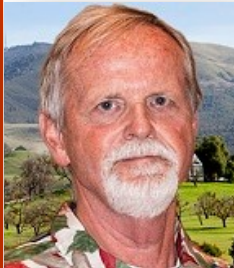
We missed **Sig Kalteis** (recovering from hip surgery) and his wife **Nancy** as well as **Peter** and **Martha Plante** (who are traveling).

The scores were quite competitive with the majority of the group averaging less than 20 points per game, with the exception of two (names not to be mentioned) that were collecting points.

Our host, **Jim** came in first with an average of 14.7 points, followed second by **Jeff Baily** (16.4) and his wife **Alicia** (18.7) coming in third.

We look forward to meeting in June at the **Plante's**.

Group Seis 6



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Moose Kelly

MTD 6 met Wednesday, May 25 at the home of Brian and **Mary McCarthy**. It was a small but fun group. Lowest score for the evening was **Bob**

West. **Carol Lane** came in second and **Jane West** was third. **Steve Lane** won the scratcher for high point score. Looking forward to seeing everyone in June.

**Brian McCarthy covering for
Moose Kelly**

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com



Bob West, Carol Lane and Jane West.
Photo by Brian McCarthy





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Walt Busenius

The ole Mexican Cho Choo train headed South Friday evening, May 27th stopping on a siding at the welcoming home of **Judy** and **Dick**

Richmond. The **Richmond's** are excellent hosts and treated us like first-class travelers. In attendance were the **Richmond's**, **Brown's**, **Shafer's**, **Busenius'**, **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**, and **Jim Stedman**.

We settled into 2 tables of long games with high and low scoring when the train smoke settled in the wee hours. **Jim Stedman** easily won the gold with an average score of 15.1 and went out 3 times. **Sally Shafer**, at the same table as Jim, garnered the silver with an average of 24.3 and went out 2 times. Winning the bronze was **Judy Richmond** with an average score of 25.0 and she went out 2 times. It was a close finish for our two lady winners.

Our next meeting in June will be at the home of **Alicia** and **Jeff Baily**. All aboard.

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



May Winners L to R: 1st **Jim Stedman**,
2nd **Sally Shafer**, 3rd **Judy Richmond**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro"

Jim Pope

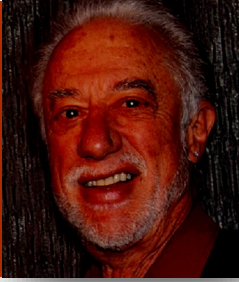
In May the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met with 17 people. We played at three tables of 2 with six and one with 5. In attendance were;

Henry and **Barbara Thatcher**, **Don** and **June Seaton**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Jonathan** and **Barbara Korfhage**, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, **Rich** and **Kim Pace**, **Ken Sout**, **Steve** and **Susan Oki** and **Jim** and **Renie Pope**. We paid three low table score at each table. The winners were **June Seaton**, **Ken Sout** and **Renie Pope**. (See picture of winners). They received 6 \$1000 Lotto Tickets. The evening was a lot of catching up with people as we have not been together for almost 2 years. The sweets and savories were prepared by all in the woman in the group and the wine was provided by the men in the group. All in all, the comradery, food and wine made for a wonderful evening of joy and laughter.

Jim Pope



June Seaton, **Ken Sout** and **Renie Pope**.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Bob & Jane West** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Clint Collier successfully established a new record by playing 3 doubles in a row.

Congrats to **Bob Wilkenfeld** for winning the MTD tournament, that's a big change from last month when he came in last. **Bob West** took the consolation prize for highest score and he's still smiling even after hosting the Activity.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD 7: Bob West and Bob Wilkenfeld
photo by Bob West



Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, May 4th with 15 members

and guests in attendance.

(Top L to R): Steve Loftin, Jan & Steve Ondeck, Sue Loftin, Tony Shebanek, Richard Hockenbrock, Karen & Steve Dinning, Steve Ybarra, Victoria & Ron Polivka, Mary Jo Potter, Bill Holly, and Brian McCarthy (Picture taken by Mary McCarthy)

Winners for the evening were 1st place **Sue Loftin**, 2nd place **Bill Holly**, and new SIR women member from Rossmoor Branch 81, in 3rd place **Mary Jo Potter**. (Picture taken by **Richard Hockenbrock**)

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, June 1st starting at 6:30 pm. All games are played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek. If you would like to play, send Richard an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM to get on the list.

Richard Hockenbrock

RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM

Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713



Photo by Mary McCarthy



Sue Loftin, Bill Holly, Mary Jo Potter
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since the last SIR-Call reporting, we have had in person matches on April 22nd and May 13th at Rocco's. Our May 27th meeting will be reported next month.

The big winners were **Bill Vizza** who won 2.5 games, and **Brian McCarthy** with 1.5 wins. These two were also the top winners last month. **Ron Polivka** had 2 seconds and **Bill** and **Brian** each had 1.5 seconds. The only persons to "Shoot the Moon" were **Ron, Bill, Brian** and **Steve Ybarra**.

Bill Vizza had the lowest average score of 56, followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 73.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** is still the leader with 10 games followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 6 and **Brian McCarthy** with 5.5. **Ron Polivka** leads YTD seconds with 7 followed by **Frank Lucas** with 5.5. **Brian McCarthy** is the most improved over 2021 with a winning percent of 34% which is 243% higher than his 2021 performance. **Bill Vizza** is 2nd with his 50% win rate which is 170% over 2021.

Future Meetings: We are playing at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month Our June games, will be Friday, June 10th and 24th at 12:45 pm., with an optional lunch at noon.

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



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

It's always fun to have 12 guys get together for any of our duplicate bridge events- having lots of camaraderie; playing friendly yet competitive bridge while continually learning as we go; enjoying social time at lunch; hoping to do much better in the 2nd half; congratulating the ultimate winners; and looking forward to the next event. It doesn't get much better than that.

Our May 6 event was graciously hosted by **Tony Greco**. Thank you, **Tony** (and **Cindy**).

Our May 6 event was graciously hosted by **Tony Greco**. Thank you, **Tony** (and **Cindy**).

- 1st Place- Dick DeVoe, 33 points.
- 2nd Place- Rich Ahlf, 27.5 pts.
- 3rd Place- Joe Fuchs, 25.5 pts.

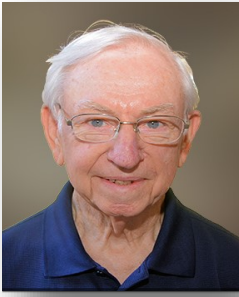
Best Partners (maximum 6 points):

- Boards 7-9: Ed Marlovits/John Kluesener (6 pts.)
- Boards 10-12: Bob Yolland/Tony Greco (6 pts.)
- Boards 16-18: Rich Ahlf/Joe Fuchs (6 pts.)



How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?

Four. Saying that a tail is a leg doesn't make it a leg
...Abraham Lincoln



Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

The SIR Party Bridge group met at **Jim Pope's** home on May 2nd. We had 12 players in attendance; **Rich Ahlf, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Doug Eisner, Joe Fuchs, John Kluesener, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman** and **Bob Yolland**.

The Winners were 1st-**Steve Dinning**, 2nd **John Kluesener** and 3rd **Jim Pope**.

The next SIR Party Bridge will be at Waterford in Rossmore on June 6th at 9:45.

Co-Directors

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



Couples Duplicate
Bridge 1

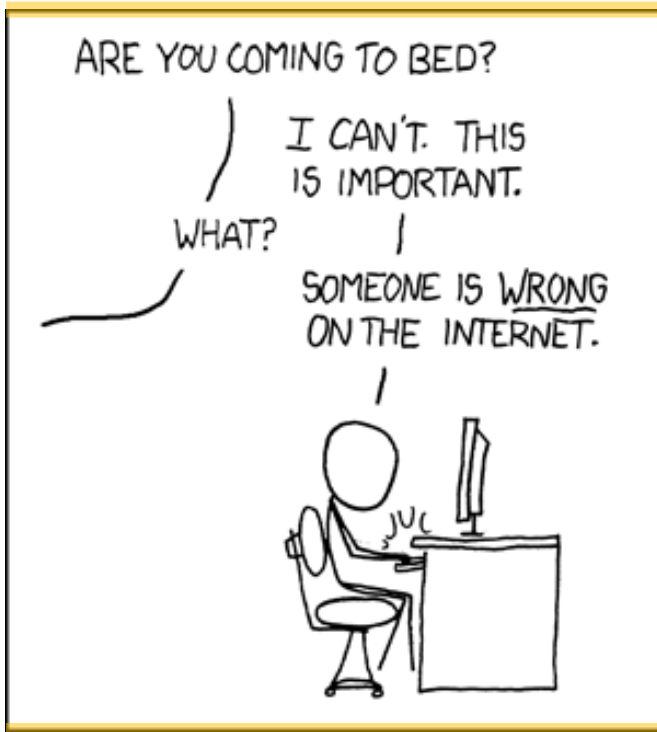
John Kluesener

Couple's Duplicate Bridge had a great evening Wednesday May 18th, hosted by **Bob and Janet Yolland**. Our leaders, the **Kluesener's**, were attending their grandson's Virginia Tech University graduation and commissioning as a Naval Ensign headed for our country's nuclear submarine program. Substituting for **John and Kathy** were **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** who played really well and took first place with 25.5 points. Second place went to **Dick and Christy DeVoe** with 24 points and third to **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 23. A close match at the top scores and lots of fun. **Janet** provided an array of goodies for this warm evening of bridge. Our next event is Wednesday June 15th hosted by **Rich Ahlf and Ismini**.

John Kluesener



Bob and Janet Yolland, Christy DeVoe, Brad and Lynne Hatcher and Dick DeVoe
 Photo by Rich Ahlf



It has been 2 months since I ordered the book "How to Scam People Online" and it still hasn't arrived 😞



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Larry & Linda Brown hosted our April 5th event. The last time **Larry & Linda Brown** hosted was over 2 years ago on March 3, 2020. The significance of this is that it turned out to be the last time we played couples party bridge pre-COVID.

Back then we didn't realize how much COVID would impact our lives and our lifestyle. Much has changed since March 2020, but we adapt and move on.

For our April event, we thank **Bud & Gloria Pearce** for subbing for one of our regular couples. We also thank Brad Hatcher for finding a new partner, at the last minute, to replace **Lynne**. He partnered with **Ray Spears**, whom we also thank for subbing even though he refused to wear a dress. It turns out that **Ray Spears** was a hustler and coasted into 1st PLACE with **Brad Hatcher**.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3390 points - **Brad Hatcher/Ray Spears**
- 2nd PLACE Tie with 2700 points - **Larry & Linda Brown & Tony & Cindy Greco**

John & Kathy Kluesener hosted our May 3rd event. Being brand new as regulars, this was the first time they hosted. We thank **John & Kathy Kluesener** for joining our "elite" group of regulars and for doing a superb job hosting. They definitely raised the bar in hosting protocol. We thank **Bud & Gloria Pearce** again for subbing for one of our regular couples.

To show our appreciation, we let the **Klueseners** win. On the last hand of the evening, one of our regulars sacrificed themselves and let the **Klueseners** make 6 No Trump vulnerable.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4000 points - **John & Kathy Kluesener**
- 2nd PLACE with 2860 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 3rd PLACE with 2560 points - **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**

Next month's event will be held on June 7th and hosted by **Tony & Cindy Greco** at the start time of 4:00 pm. Have a great Memorial Day weekend.

Tony & Cindy Greco
(925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



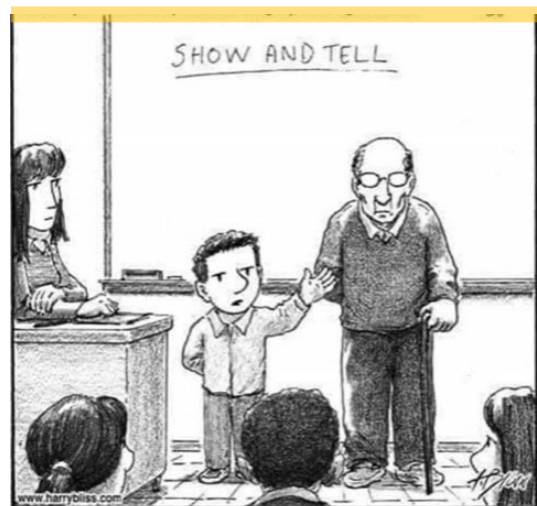
Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Mike Whitaker

On Friday, May 20, Duplicate Bridge III held it's first restart game of 2022. The game was hosted by **Bob and Janet Yolland** who served a delicious dessert at halftime. The first half was led in scoring by **Ed Marlovits** and **Ray Spears** with scores of 15.5 and 14.5 respectively. After lunch, however, **Ed** and **Ray** were overtaken by **Mike Whitaker** and **Joe Fuchs** who finished 1st and 2nd overall with scores of 28 and 27.5. **Ed** did manage to hold on for a tie for third with **Tony Greco**. Our next game is scheduled for June 17. New players are welcome, contact me!

Mike Whitaker
925.708.8213.



Tony Greco, Ed Marlovits, Joe Fuchs and Mike Whitaker.
Picture taken by Dick DeVoe.



"This is my grandpa. He's going to explain why this country is going to hell in a handbasket."



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 1
Max Hinkle**

Our group is seeking to add new members. If you are an experience bridge player (any level above a novice) interested in joining us for a congenial game

please message me at hinklemax3@gmail.com or 925.408.6004. We meet at a member's house on the third Monday of each month for a 10:00 am start. Players pay a one dollar fee which is paid out in prize money at the end of the game. Our games usually end around 3:00. We take turns hosting, either a three or four table game, depending upon the host's accommodations. The host usually provides beverages, snacks and a dessert though this is not obligatory. The coordinator takes care of all of the other game preparations. Our next game is scheduled for June 20th. I hope to see you there around 9:30 for a little pregame conviviality.

Max Hinkle

hinklemax3@gmail.com



**Cribbage
Ron Afdal**

The cribbage players met at Rocco's Pizza at 12:30 on the 4th Wednesday, the set, regular scheduled playing time. **Paul Dubow** was the 1st place winner of the matches. 2nd

and 3rd places were much closer with **John Pearl** taking 2nd just a few points ahead of 3rd place **Roger Rivers**. All had a good time, especially, **Paul** who left smiling!

Ron Afdal

ronafdal@comcast.net

**Sometimes it takes me all day to get
nothing done.**



**Old Money Poker
Group 6
Brad Hatcher**

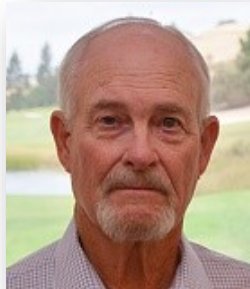
Our May game was delightfully hosted by **Paul Dubow**. Speaking of delight, both **Norm Baietti** and **Frank Lucas** took delight in taking home quite a bit more than they

came with, Congrats!

Our June game will be on Thursday, June 2 hosted by **Frank Lucas** in Martinez.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



**Pinochle
Pete McNeill &
Stan Johnson**



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

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

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

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

Pete McNeill

925-858-9666

petemcgolf@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925-938-7016

stanjohnson88@gmail.com

Area 16 Activities



MUG Mac User Group

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

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

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

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed June 22 at 1:30 PM.
Topic to be announced.

We will be discussing market responses to :

- re-opening from COVID
- Re-actions to Biden initiatives

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

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

SIR Branch 8 Car Enthusiasts Group

Last month **John Pearl** and I [**Jim Nelson**] attended a Cars and Coffee get together in Danville. This was a low key event where local car enthusiasts brought their classic or specialty cars to Danville to share with others. **John** and I joined a group of 14 from the Branch 8 Car Enthusiast Group. The CE Group typically has one automobile related activity each month in addition to their regular meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Members from other SIR Branches are welcome. You don't need to own any particular car, just have an interest in automobiles. If you are interested in finding out more about the Branch 8 CE Group you can contact Chick Lowry at (925) 708-8730 or clowry2845@gmail.com.



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

Normally I, as the editor, place some kind of through or comment here on the last page of our newsletter. Some times pertinent to what has preceeded, sometime just a random though I want to pass along because, as the editor, I can do it.

This month I am doing something different; in effect I'm turning this last page, the final word, over to a "guest editor". This is the article submitted by SIR member **Larry Kaye**, head of the cycling group for this month's issue.

So at this point you may be thinking "so what, I don't cycle". In fact, most of us don't cycle but all of us should read it which is why I placed it here.



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

You're kidding I said. Must be someone else' report. "No" he replied, "its yours".

But how can that be I asked? I've been a competitive Triathlete for 40 years. Winning my age group. "Blame your Dad" he said. "There are no meds for heredity factors".

With that phone call my life changed. The next step would require a stent. Unplug the clogged artery. A full body shave, lots of IVs and asleep I went. Upon awakening the Doc was alongside the bed. I was initially happy as I could go home knowing the clog was taken care of. The face I saw said different. I was told he could not stent the artery and had to stop. Then I was introduced to the Doc sitting alongside him. Dr. Dharan. He was the cardiac surgeon. Dr. Dharan told me that I needed 3 bypasses and he was going to do it in three weeks. I was crushed. He went on to tell that if I hadn't had a life of athletics I would never have survived this long. Seems your heart grows "helper" arteries which carry blood to the muscle and bypass the clogs. That is until you exercise hard and feel the hot spot in your chest. The blood backs up and you hurt.

Three weeks went by agonizingly slow. 5 am on the 21st of April finally arrived. I checked in. By 7 am I was full of pipes, tubes, IV's, all assorted hoses and wires.

Some 6 hours later I was awake in ICU. No pain just bewilderment. Still in disbelief. The Doc came by and told me he had to repair 4 clogs. He said the "widow maker" was clogged shut. Again, exercise saved me.

The surgeon by the luck of the draw was rated the number one guy in California. He glued my new zipper as opposed to stitch and clamp. Lucky me.

After 4 days I was sent home. Medicare sends a team of PT folks, RNs, and assorted professionals to your home. They work with you to get you moving again. Nice people.

Its been 4 weeks now. Recovery is work. I walk, and lift really light weights to begin the process of recovery.

The message here is this: The Doctors are not eager to pursue your ills. They MUST be pushed. You must research the ailment prior to seeing a Doc.

By being persistent you can short circuit a big ouch. We pass thru this life only once. Do not be lazy, get to your Doctor with your aches. Get in his/her face and insist they check you out.

Stay active. Sweat. Do not sit on your butt while your life floats by. If you have a family history of heart problems stay ahead of it.

Don't wind up on the obits we read every day.

Larry Kaye
925-698-4030