



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

I am happy to report that we are planning for a live In-Person luncheon on November 11th. This follows a special BEC meeting where the board approved a motion for the branch to proceed in having our first In-Person luncheon in over 20 months. We've been down this road before in August only to have canceled at the last minute due to the spreading of the new Covid variant. Let's hope we are successful this time!

In addition to approving the November luncheon, the board also approved us gathering for a Ladies Day Luncheon on December 14th. Both of these events will require us to wear masks when we are not eating or drinking. We are hoping the membership can put up with the masks until finally there comes a time when no masks are required.

We had a good speaker at our October luncheon, fitting for our scheduled sports minded theme. Wes Goldberg spoke to us via Zoom from Miami, Florida. He is moving on from his job as a reporter for the Bay Area news group where he has been reporting on the Warriors for several years. We learned a lot about Warriors from the many questions that he asked the membership to submit ahead of time.

We had one new member join us in October, **Curtis Young** sponsored by **Brian McCarthy**. Our membership count stays at 294 as we had a member resign.

Doug Eisner presented **Dave Pierce** with a Branch Honoree Award, the branch's highest award. **Dennis Hallett** received a 20 Year Membership Award.

The birthday boy drawing winner for October was **Bob Yoland** who will receive a SIR baseball style cap.

In closing, I hope you will consider coming to the November luncheon, especially those of you who have never attended a live meeting. I am excited to have you enjoy

See page 2
Zoom, Zoom...
No Zoom!
We're back Live!

the full SIR experience of eating, drinking, and having conversation with your fellow SIR members. Take care and stay safe.

Our November Luncheon is always memorable as it's the one where we honor our members who served in the armed forces. You are encouraged to wear a part of your uniform if you still have it! **Charlie Koeber** and **Bill Holly** will be presenting a slide show of all those who were in one of the branches. The SongSirs will be honoring the branches by singing the hymns of all the branches.

We are also looking forward to our Ladies Day Luncheon in December — you will find the sign up form on page 3 of this Sir-Call — Please be sure to submit your reservations early for this special year ending event.



Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

We're trying again for November to meet in person! Invitations are going out to all Branch members to ask them to **RSVP by November 4th** so our Luncheon Chair, **Bruce Borgman**, can get an accurate count of those who want to attend.

If you decide not to attend because of some hesitancy due to your concern about COVID and/or have an immune compromised health issue, we will understand. We look forward to seeing all of you, especially some of the newer members, at a future meeting when we can all so-

Continued on next page

cialize and get together like before.

At the November meeting, we honor the many Veterans in our branch as well as all those who have served the country in the past and may have given their life for all of us. This year, instead of inviting an outside guest speaker, we will have our own members who served in one of the four major branches tell a little about themselves and share a story or two about their experience, whether it be in Viet Nam, Korea, Europe, or some other location in the world.

Bill Holly has updated the slide show that he developed to pay tribute to the almost 150 Branch 146 veterans; that excellent set of slides will be shown at the meeting.

George Carpenter, our Veterans Committee chair, will again set up the Missing Man table, which our chaplain, **Jim Baldridge**, will explain -especially to our newer members – as he offers the invocation.

Volunteers Always Needed

As SIR branches throughout the state begin to return to normal luncheon meetings and activities that keep us "active" as well as the important "act" of socializing with others, please take a few minutes as the New Year will soon be upon us to consider helping your branch through some form of volunteering. Everyone who chairs one of the 50 or so activities, as well as those individuals greeting you at the door, checking you in for the luncheon, or taking on one of the myriad large or small responsibilities that keep us functioning, will someday want to "retire" again and hand over their role onto others. If you want to give back in some fashion (and we are not asking for money!), feel free to call or write to me anytime to discuss where your interests could best fit in the branch.

And a few quotes for Veteran's Day:

"The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude."

Jeff Miller

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

José Narosky,

And, not to forget,

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

Abraham Lincoln



Luncheon Co-Chairs

**Bruce Borgman
Rich Lyon**

We are pleased to announce that we will resume our traditional monthly Branch 146 Luncheon for the November Luncheon on November 11, at Boundary Oak.

The meeting will be held following the County's protocol for indoor meetings. We will not limit the attendance and if we exceed attendance of 100 members, we will be required to wear masks except when eating or drinking. Please bring your mask. Cost of the Luncheon will be \$28, payable by check made out to Sir Branch 146 on the day of the Luncheon.

As we did in August before we were forced to cancel at the last minute, you **MUST** do the following to attend the Luncheon:

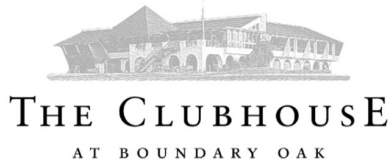
- Make a reservation by providing your name and badge number to either: Email attendlunch-br146@gmail.com, or phone (925) 979-5721
- Have your COVID vaccination info on file, including the waiver; or a negative COVID test results within three days prior to the luncheon

The deadline for making your reservation is noon on Thursday, November 4

More Good News

We will also plan to have a Ladies Day Luncheon in December, as we traditionally have had. **Steve Ybarra** and **Max Hinkle** will be coordinating that event which will be held on Tuesday December 14. **Note that this is a Tuesday, not our regular Thursday. It needed to be moved due to scheduling conflicts at Boundary Oak. Details on confirming for this lunch are on the next page!**

Return of Live Luncheons!



SIR 146 Luncheon November 11th, 2021

Salad

Spicy Carrot Salad

Baby Greens, Carrots, Pineapple, Citrus Segments Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

Holiday Turkey Dinner

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Sautéed Vegetables

or

Pan Seared Pacific Dory

Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce, Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables

Vegetarian

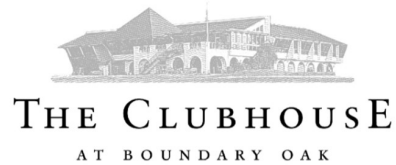
Roasted Vegetable Napoleon

Layers & Served with Melted Plum Tomatoes & Fresh Basil

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Cream Angles, Whipped Cream



SIR 146 Annual Ladies Day Luncheon December 14th, 2021

Salad

Beet & Citrus Salad

Mixed Greens, Roasted Beets, Seasonal Citrus, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Entrees

Holiday Pork Chop

Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Apple Ginger Compote

or

Seared Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Burre Rouge Sauce

Vegetarian

A vegetarian option will be available

Dessert

Holiday Chocolate Cake

Chantilly Cream, Raspberry Coulis

Date Change!



SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021

Number of Tickets _____ at \$30 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ _____ We are sitting with: _____

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

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

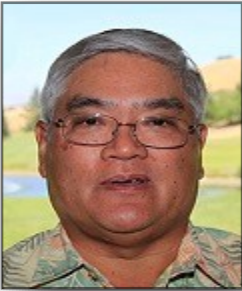
Steve Ybarra,
142 Leonard Dr.,
Concord, CA 94518-1213.

Name	Pork	Salmon	Vegetarian	Pay?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!

SIR Mission Statement

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



Membership George Mon

One member was approved by the BEC in October. Let us welcome **Curtis Young**. **Brian McCarthy** sponsored him. **Curtis** lives in Concord and he owns Young's Jewelry.

We had one member resign. **Doug Timmel** moved out of California. The 2021 membership count stands at 294.

2022 Sir Branch 146 dues letter will be mailed out at the end of October.

The dues will remain at \$20. Please look for the letter, make any changes to your contact information and return the bottom half of the form along with your check of \$20 made payable to Sir Branch 146 in the return envelope provided.

A revised "Application for SIR Membership Branch 146" can be found at our website for download. The new form cleaned up the look from the previous form and is easier to fill out.

"SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19" and copies of vaccination card tally as of October 9th is at 86.6%.

As the Directory will be updated monthly, it is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, are sent to me in an email so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Things are looking up! Covid is down, rainfall has returned, we have a live meeting scheduled, it's a magical time of the year. Maybe something to be truly thankful for.

Deadline for submissions for the December issue is November 22nd. Please note that this is a bit earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving weekend.

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

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editors	Bob West
	Dave Kwinter
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

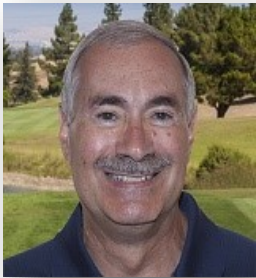
Your 2022 Nominations



Big Sir: **Jerry Kaplan**



Little Sir: **Rich Lyon**



Secretary:
Bob Wilkenfeld



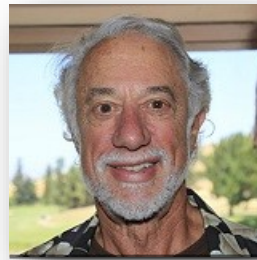
Assistant Secretary:
John Kluesener



Treasurer:
John Alexander



Assistant Treasurer:
Dave Steinberg



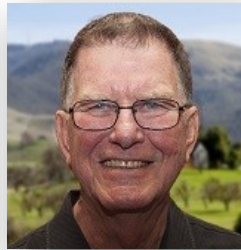
Director 2nd Term:
Bob Lucido



Director 1st Term:
Bob Ford



Director 2nd Term:
George Mon



Director 2nd Term:
Henry Thatcher



Director 1st Term:
Ed Brands



Director 1st Term:
Frank Lucas

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- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| John Aaro | Bob Greulich | Pete McNeill | Jim Saavedra |
| Perry Allen | Edward Hewitson | Denny O'Loughlin | Daniel Schlatter |
| John Boyan | Richard Hockenbrock | Jim Owen | Jim Solomon |
| Jim Brown | Dan Holland | Rich Pace | Ken Sault |
| James Browning | Siegfried Kalteis | Cliff Perkins | Martin Steinpress |
| Don Dotson | John Kendrick | Don Rhoads | Lewis Thompson |
| John Elstead | Ronald Louis | Michael Roach | Bob Wilkenfeld |
| Hugh Ferguson | Frank Lucas | Michael Rose | |



Congratulations to **Bob Yolland** our October Birthday winner!
 Remember... you have to be Zooming to WIN!

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



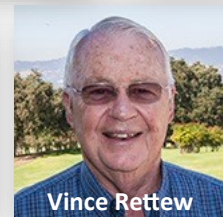
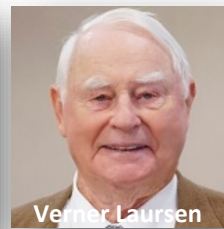
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



October Award Ceremony Branch Honoree Dave Pierce



At the October 14th zoom meeting, we were honored to present the Branch's highest award, that of Branch Honoree, to **Dave Pierce**. This award acknowledges **Dave's** exceptional service to the branch over many years and is confirmed by his accumulation of more than 45 LP's during that time.

Dave joined our branch in 2008 sponsored by **John Pearl**. **Dave** is an avid bridge player as indicated by his branch service resume that includes leadership of 3 duplicate bridge groups, each for a period of 7 years beginning in 2014, as well as one men's bridge group for another 4 years beginning in 2017. **Dave** also served as Branch Membership Chairman in 2017 and 2018 as well as a director during those same 2 years. I am sure you agree that this is an impressive resume.

Dave was born in Boston and lived in the Boston and Washington D.C. areas as a child. He graduated high school in Boston and then enrolled at Cornell University where he earned BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering. Go Big Red, eh **Dave**?

Dave joined the army in 1966. In true army clueless fashion, this chemical engineer, comfortable around large heavy equipment and hazardous chemicals, was assigned to work with polar opposite materials: the tiny life-saving pills in the pharmacy at Fort Belvoir, near Washington DC. However, all was not lost as Dave met his future wife, **Joan**, during that assignment.

Upon discharge, **Dave** joined Chevron in the processing group and remained in that capacity until retirement.

Dave and **Joan** live in Walnut Creek and have a son and a daughter, as well as a grandson and a granddaughter.

The membership of Branch 146 congratulates **Dave Pierce**, as he becomes the 37th Branch member to be honored with the Branch Honoree Award!

Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the October 14th Zoom Luncheon



October Award Ceremony Honoring Dennis Hallett



At the October 14th zoom meeting, we were pleased to present the Branch's 20 Year Service Award to **Dennis Hallett**. **Dennis** joined our Branch in November 2001, sponsored by **Maurice Mitchell**.

The first thing you need to know about **Dennis** is that he is British. Yeah, I know it is hard to believe but he was born in London, England. **Dennis'** early childhood was rather exciting as he and his family spent a number of months avoiding the Nazi bombing of London during WWII. Fortunately, they were successful and **Dennis** went on to complete high school and commercial college in England.

Dennis is one of those rare individuals who spent his entire working career with a single firm, The Bechtel Group. **Dennis** joined Bechtel in 1959. During his 46 year career, he held numerous engineering and construction positions up and down the Bechtel organizational chart and across its business portfolio. **Dennis** travelled extensively in the Middle East and Far East, including countries such as Kuwait, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. When **Dennis** left Saudi Arabia for the last time, he did so voluntarily and on good terms. There is absolutely no truth in that nasty rumor that he left in protest of the Kingdom's alcohol policy.

Dennis and **Ann** were transferred to the USA and settled in Walnut Creek in 1977. **Dennis** became a US citizen in 1986. **Dennis** and **Ann** have a son, a daughter, and 5 grandchildren. **Dennis** has numerous interests, including sports, movies, travel, and enjoying his grandchildren.

Dennis' service resume includes Little Sir in 2009, Big Sir in 2010, golf chairman and Mashers Golf chairman for several years, and Honorees Chairman for 3 years. He was awarded the Branch Honoree Award in 2016.

We all thank **Dennis** for his 20 years of outstanding service to Branch 146 and wish him many more years of membership!

Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the October 14th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members



Scammers - Surprise Package Delivery

The following is a recounting of the incident from the victim.

A week ago I had a phone call from someone saying that he was from some outfit called: "Express Couriers" (This name could be any courier company). He asked if I was going to be home because there was a package for me that required a signature.

The caller said that the delivery would arrive at my home in approximately an hour. Sure enough an hour later a uniformed delivery man came with a beautiful basket of flowers and a bottle of wine. I was very surprised since there was no special occasion or holiday, and I, certainly, didn't expect anything like it. Intrigued, I inquired as to who the sender was, the courier replied, "I don't know, I'm only delivering the package."

Apparently, a greeting card was being sent separately. (The card has never arrived!) There was also a consignment note with the gift. He then went on to explain that because the gift contained alcohol, there was a \$3.50 "delivery/verification charge" providing proof that he actually had delivered the package to an adult (of legal drinking age), and not just left it on the doorstep where it could be stolen or taken by anyone, especially a minor.

This sounded logical and I offered to pay him cash. He then said that the delivery company required payment to be by credit or debit card only, so that everything is properly accounted for, and this would help in keeping a legal record of the transaction. He added, "Couriers don't carry cash to avoid loss or being, likely, targets for robbery."

My husband, who by this time was standing beside me, pulled out his credit card, and the "delivery man" asked him to swipe the card on a small mobile card machine with a small screen and keypad. My husband was asked to enter his PIN number and a receipt was printed out. He was given a copy of the transaction.

The guy said everything was in order and wished us a good day and left. To our horror, between the next day and the following 4 days \$4,000 had been charged/withdrawn from our credit/debit account at various ATM machines.

Apparently, the "mobile credit card machine" which the delivery man carried, had all the info necessary to create a "dummy" card with all our card details including the PIN number.

Upon finding out about the illegal transactions on our card, we immediately notified the bank which issued us a new card and our credit/debit account was closed. We personally went to the police where it was confirmed that it is definitely a scam because several households had been similarly hit.

WARNING: Be wary of accepting any "surprise gift or package" which you neither expected nor personally ordered especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know, or there is no proper identification, of who the sender is.

Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you yourself initiated the purchase or transaction!



Looking for something to do...

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

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



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Life is getting better with fewer restrictions for mask wearing at inside gatherings in private locations.

With your COVID vaccination document and waiver form submitted, you can participate in

your activities without masks, as long as there are less than 100 people. In general, most of us don't have houses that can hold 100 people.

I encourage the activities that are still on hold to evaluate the new rules and decide if they want to restart.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

Five of the best players in the Branch 146 Cribbage Group met Wednesday, October 27th, at Rocco's. As we played we exchanged "Barney-isms" that we learned from our mentor, **Barney Meade**.

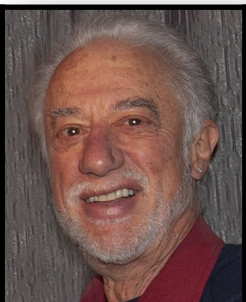
When we added up the scores and divided the money in the pot, it was discovered that **Ron Afdal** had a perfect afternoon, with not one loss! Second place went to **John Pearl**, and winning back his ante with a third place finish was **Jeff Bailly**.

The food was very good, too.

We meet again in November, but because of Thanksgiving, the date is not yet finalized..

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

We are looking for new members to join us, so go out and buy a \$100,000 motor home and join us.

If you're looking for a more affordable option, contact me and I will give you more options including renting one to see if you like it.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



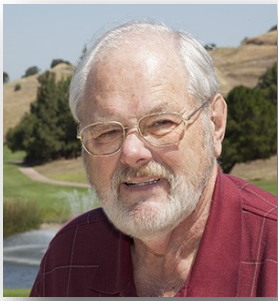
SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

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

November 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov 1	2	3	4	5
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 7:15 PM California Magic Club 514 Main Street, Martinez
8	9	10	11	12
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
15	16	17	18	19
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Computers & Technology Via Zoom 2 Factor Authentication 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo
22	23	24	25	26
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom	THANKSGIVING 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
29	30	Dec 1	2	3
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos



Theater Gary Schaub

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

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



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

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

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

Beer and wine are also available.

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

The California Magic Club is located at 514 Main Street at

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

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

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



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

SIRs 146 cyclist met at a parking lot at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Blvd. Leading this peloton of six riders was SIR **Jim Nelson**. Jim was joined by SIR **Ken Studer**, SIR **Roger Meyer**, SIR **Michael Wolfson**, SIR **Paul Brown**

from SIR branch 8, and last but not least SIR **Mooseman**. The ride started on this cloudy, cool day in Lafayette on the trail to Moraga. A quick pit stop in Moraga was certainly warranted by one and all. We carried on through Moraga and entered Orinda with a short burst of drizzle. Shocked by this event, we stopped at Peet's in Orinda to refresh ourselves with coffee and belly bombs. We then carried on a trail running parallel to Route 24 back to through the streets of Lafayette to our place of origin. Another ride in the books for our cycling group minus our fearless leader, **Larry Kaye**. Get well Larry! We miss you!!



Ken Studer, Jim Nelson, Roger Meyer, Paul Brown, Michael Wolfson



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

As we are planning our first in-person Branch Luncheon for November – the SongSirs are also preparing for that event. The November meeting is traditionally the one where we honor those of our members who served in the

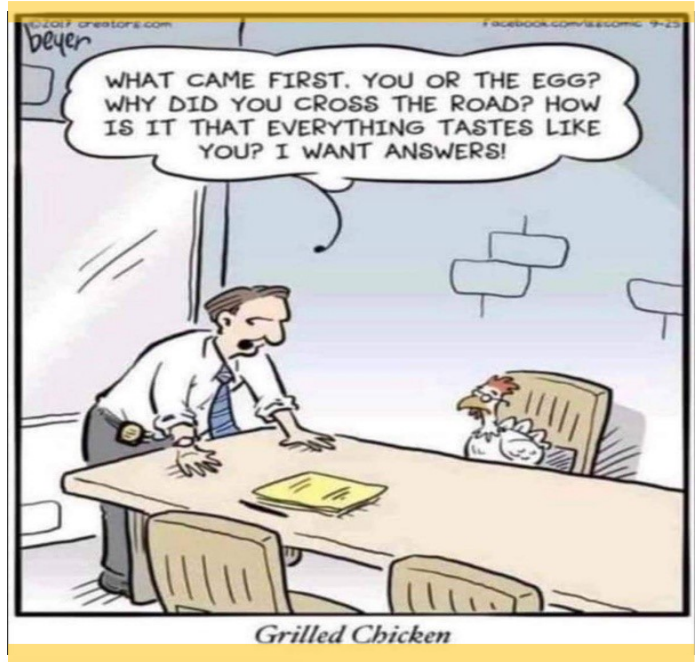
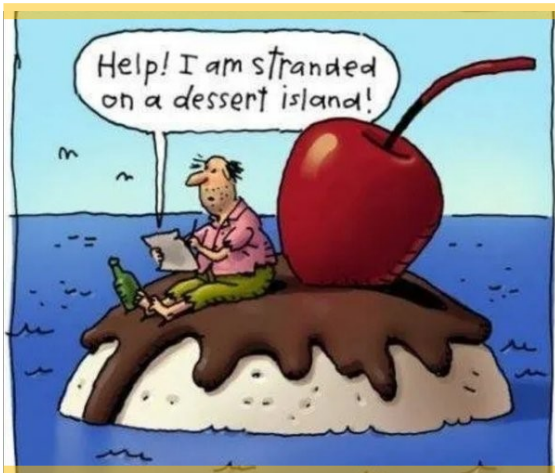
Armed Forces, and the SongSirs have participated by singing the service hymns of each of the branches. Since we have not practiced for some time, we will be rehearsing these familiar tunes for the November 11 Luncheon on November 3 – at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30pm. In polling our group, we have at least 10 members anxious to get started and sing together again. We have a few new members, and we would invite anyone else who likes to sing to join us for this revival of our practices. We will, of course also review singing “God Bless America” and will look forward to ending our November meeting on that inspiring note.

After this rehearsal and performance for our membership at large, we will discuss continuing with our regular rehearsals – the next one would be on Nov. 17. We had put together a group of our well-known tunes, which we can practice, so we are ready to go. Also, we have already gotten an enthusiastic “Come!” from one of our regular venues – Byron Park Senior Living Home – and it will be easy to resume our performances, which are always so well received!

Like the rest of you, the SongSirs are anxious to resume our lives and activities after the Covid year.

Bruce Borgman

925.932.3961 bgborgman@aol.com



Grilled Chicken



Ping Pong Ron Afdal

Table Tennis has been one of my passions for well over 50 years, during which the problem of locating a quality playing facility almost always persisted.

How ironic that now that a superior facility is available, a consistent group of players is not!

During my years of participation, there have been innumerable opportunities for forming friendships and meeting players from countries worldwide. Last week, my attendance at the World Senior Games at St. George, Utah, reaffirmed that. But the reality here, for our SIRS Table Tennis activity, is the lack of participation. Consequently, the decision to have a go at it for 3 more weeks has been made: Fridays, 1 to 4 pm. at the ARC Gymnasium, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5. After that, the decision will be made to either continue or discontinue this activity.

Ron Afdal

(925) 825-4809 ronafdal@comcast.net

Without freedom of speech we would not know who the idiots are



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The 2021 fishing season is soon coming to an end and the best that we can say about it is that we are looking forward to 2022. We had a shorter salmon season than usual that started well and then petered out. Bay fishing was slower than

normal with very few sturgeon caught, although the striper catch was about the same. The lakes were so low that they looked like creeks and the only element that increased was the wind. We had higher winds than normal almost every day of the summer.

However, the intrepid members of our fishing group were not deterred. Many of us just fished elsewhere. **Brion Beetz** and **Stan Wong** made their way to Lake Almanor where they caught some nice rainbows, including a six pounder that **Brion** landed. **Martin Steinpress** of Branch 146 and **Chuck Vanoncini** went on separate guided fly fishing trips on the Sacramento River. **Chuck** caught a nice salmon and quite a few rainbows. **Martin** hooked rainbows as well, including one that was king sized, plus he caught a steelhead. **Tom Kostik** traveled to Pinecrest Lake, where he found both rainbows and smallmouth bass.

A few of us did stay home and were happy to report that they caught some fish. **Tom Kostik** and **Brion Beetz** caught black bass in the Delta and, on another trip, **Brion** and **Stan Wong** limited out on stripers in the Delta. **Carl Moyer** set out for trout in San Pablo Reservoir and came up empty handed, but the day was saved when he caught a ten pound catfish. San Pablo, incidentally, will close on November 14 for its annual winter hiatus, which ends on February 14. **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 took his sons and



Martin Steinpress displays the big rainbow that he caught on the Sacramento River

granddaughter out on the Scallywag and were joined by **Carl Moyer**. It was a great day, as they caught a limit of 60 rockfish plus one ling cod by 11:30.

We also held our semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer's** home, enjoying fresh rockfish and other delicacies as well as a few lies here and there.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 18 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, but our meetings in November and December are on the third Thursday because of the holidays. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast and conversation beginning at 7:30. For further information, you can contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-496-6504.



Members of the Area 16 Fishing Group at Carl Moyer's Fish Fry



Travel Milt Smith

You may still be reluctant to begin making travel plans again, but I want to assure you that the time is right to do so. During Sept. and Oct. there have been three successful tours by SIRS and other senior travel groups I

know of. Branch 143 led a group to the Great Smokey Mountains in Sept. Another SIR member just returned with rave reviews from a Crystal Cruise to Bermuda he did on his own. A senior group is currently aboard the American Queen paddleboat on the Mississippi. In all cases the travelers were happy and comfortable with the steps taken to assure Covid safety.

Many of the best trips are filling fast so the time to resume with your travel plans is NOW! With so many trips being canceled in the past 18 months, many trips including 2 SIR 143 trips for 2022 are already sold out and taking wait-lists

The Crystal Cruise to Canada and New England was canceled last Oct. but is being offered again in 2022, see below. The tour "America's Music Heritage" is popular and particularly appealing for those who want to stay in the US.



Time to go see some more stuff...

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

Milt Smith



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Our first October Tuesday golf was the week after Boundary Oak re-worked the Greens and despite the fact that it was only one week later, the greens were in great shape. Once again we can be grateful that CourseCo manages the course so well.

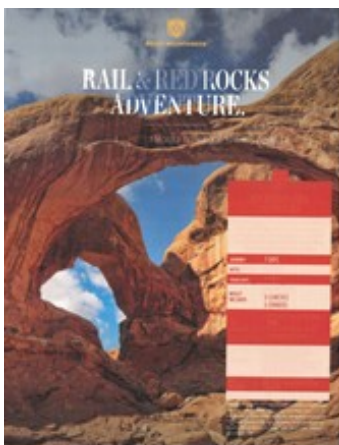
Fortunately our October Away Golf event at Chardonay was scheduled for just before the arrival of the "Bomb Cyclone" but it was after the start of a fair amount of rain. Not everybody who signed up and paid showed up, but the skies cleared and we actually had a nice day for golf and the course was in great shape. We did have cart path only conditions, so we got a fair amount of exercise. Thanks to Mark Curtis for setting it up and to Colin Holland for getting us organized.

October's Tournament Tuesday will be a competition in which we can eliminate our two worst holes. This should be a big favor to those of us whose play is wildly erratic.

Ed Marlovits

(925)285-2897

miltsmith549@gmail.com



How about a trip by rail? A train trip through the Canyon lands by rail aboard the Rocky Mountaineer. Date: To Be Determined.

Take a look at these trips, then let me know ASAP if you are interested, since trips are filling up. Also, let me know if there are specific destinations you'd like me to look into.

Join SIRs America's Musical Heritage with an extended

stay in New Orleans. It is set for May 27-June 7. 12 Days with two nights in Nashville and Memphis, four in New Orleans .

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

"dammit I'm mad" is "dammit I'm mad" spelled backward.



SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Well, here we are in Autumn of 2021 and still alive and kicking. We have done some great hikes over the past month, most of which were more challenging than even I can handle comfortably! But I/we just have to persevere and accept the challenge, don't we? We've done a nice walk in Briones on the Briones Crest trail, a very easy walk at Point Pinole, and a challenging walk at the Lafayette Reservoir rim trail over the past month.



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Dave Steinberg, Ray Martz, Mike Brown, Earl Bates, and Mark Curtis. Gene Schulting is kneeling.

My intention is to continue to organize a hike/walk on each and every Monday. I have 2 guys that have agreed to help with planning and organizing these outings; **Ray Martz** and **Bob Wilkenfeld**. I cannot keep up with either of these 2 on the walks that we've been on over the past few years, but each of them has a wealth of knowledge with respect to local trails. **Ray** is a volunteer for East Bay Regional Parks, and even participated in search and rescue efforts at Pleasanton Ridge for a lost person. And I will assign **Ray** or **Bob** to planning a hiking activity fairly regularly!

My intention is to publish the hikes/walks that we challenge ourselves with kind of towards the end of each week via email with the activity being on Monday. At this point in the year, it's not real clear as to which trails might be "pleasant". So, I will continue to send out emails in the middle of the week to advertise where we might be going.

If you are interested in this hiking activity, please contact via email or phone and I will add you to my email distribution list.

Spouses are always welcome to participate in these hikes/walks, unless they have not signed off on the COVID waiver. Dog participation depends on the venue. Most require a 6 foot leash withing the parking areas.

Mark Curtis

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



THE "NEW" NFL



"It's not his knee. It appears his feelings have been hurt an they've called the new 15 yard "butt-hurt" penalty. The psychologist is attending to him on the field now."



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2021 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity was a huge success. There were several new players and their wives who joined the Bocce Ball activity. Per the calendar on the wall, the 2021 Bocce Ball activity has ended. Rest up because

the 2022 Bocce Ball activity will start the second Monday in May 2022.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and that you and your family stay safe and healthy.

John Kendrick

(925) 827-0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi, I am **Bob Ford** and I have recently taken over the SIR BRANCH 146 Thursday 9-Hole golf group.

Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play.

We play the nine-hole course then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. If you are interested, let me know by sending me an email and I will put you on my list.

On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning.

I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com

The irony for mankind is that a computer program asks a human to prove that they are not a robot.

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



Pickleball Jim Burk

Drop-in pickle ball has experienced a significant "hit" that has taken two forms. One, the initial interest in the sport among our SIR players has fallen dramatically. Two, the pandemic has taken

its toll on the number of players, as well, and has been a definite negative factor with respect to the turnout. Bill Law gets the award for hanging in there with respect to his attendance. I feel strongly that the sport deserves our focus. With this thought in mind, I want to try to encourage members from other Branches to look seriously at competition among the Branches in our Area. Hopefully, we can energize the players in the other Branches and use this approach to regain interest in our own Branch.

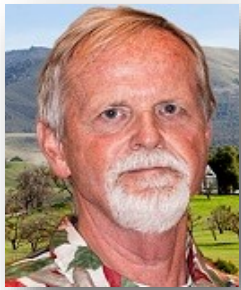
As for what's happening at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) in Alamo, things in the Covid world have improved to the degree that consistent with the County health officials, we are going to open up competition once again from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday thru Friday, starting Monday, November 1. Potentially, players will be able to play without masks which is the players preferred manner of play. At the same time, I will contact the other Branches within the Area, in hopes of encouraging them to play. In the meantime, players who come to play will be required to prove to the attendant they are vaccinated. This can be best accomplished by showing their vaccination card as proof to the attendant.

Let's hope for a positive re-start.

Jim Burk

(925) 285-3575

iimanneburk@sbcglobal.net



Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met on Friday, October 22nd via Zoom Videoconferencing. The themes for this month's meeting were Sports Photography and Vacation Travels. There were 9 SIRs on the Zoom call with great photographs to share focusing on the stated themes. Those SIRs attending were: **Bobbie Schmidt, Dean Mayer, Mike Rothman, Richard Ahlf, Clint Collier, Peter Plante, Bill Holly, John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher.** Theme photos were shared by **Sir Richard Ahlf, Sir Dean Mayer, Sir Peter Plante, and Sir John "Moose" Kelly.**

Attached are some of the Sports and Vacation Travel pictures that were shared.

Other agenda items that we showed were three videos: 1) Reviewing the new I-Phone 13 and the I-Phone 13 Pro Camera phone, 2) Reviewing the Tensor Chip Technology for the Pixel phones, and 3) Reviewing the new Pixel 6 and Pixel 6 Pro Camera phone. There was one member attending that just purchased the I-Phone 13 Pro but hasn't used it as of this writing. The photography club will look forward to seeing I-Phone 13 pictures taken by members at a future meeting.

The Photography Group has not decided whether to meet in December. If we do meet, then Henry and I hope we can do a live meeting at Rocco's. More to come on this decision and the theme of the meeting.



Photo by: Richard Ahlf



Photo by: Richard Ahlf



Photo by: Dean Mayer



Photo by: Peter Plant

If you are not on the Photography Group email list and would like to join us for future live / Zoom meeting, then please contact **Sir John "Moose" Kelly** by email at Rollingstone911@yahoo.com or text / call at (610) 517-0152 or **Sir Henry Thatcher** at 1henrythatcher@gmail.com or text / call at (925) 997-5032.

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



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

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

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Clint Collier

Our lunch for October was held at Kaiwa Sushi, a smaller restaurant located in downtown Walnut Creek. Sushi was great, atmosphere nice and the wait staff very attentive... maybe because we were the only "dine in" customers that day?



Sushi Chef

Bruce Borgman

Bill Holly

Bob Wilkenfeld

Brian McCarthy

Clint Collier

Jerry Kaplan

The main topic of discussion was our next outing. It is December 16th and we are going to Morimoto in Napa. This is a very upscale Japanese restaurant and items other than sushi will be available. Wives are invited to this special "holiday" party of the group. Members are cautioned to check their credit card's available credit before their wives see the wigu beef on the menu!

We have a table for up to 16 participants so people attending must make a reservation with me. We will not be able to accommodate anyone showing up at the last minute and I am trying to make arrangements for a special sushi presentation.



Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met on October 11, at **Bob Yolland's** lovely home. The group was treated to a surprise Oktoberfest, including an Oktoberfest Beer Keg! We filled our mugs and toasted to **Richard Hockenbrock**,

our newest Cooking II member. We began lunch, in **Bob's** welcoming backyard, with starters of Munster cheese, summer sausage, crackers, Herring, olives, pretzels and mustard. After much lively world topic discussions, we then proceeded inside to enjoy the main course lunch. True to **Bob's** Oktoberfest theme, **Bob** served us a lunch of BBQ Beer and Chicken bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad, a fresh dill pickle and a lettuce & tomato salad with Blue Cheese. **Bob** finished the meal off with an ice-cream dessert. **Bruce Borgman** will host our next luncheon on November 8, 2021.



Photo by Steve Ybarra

Dennis Hallett, Ken Richter, Corrie Orange, Bob Yolland, Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock and Bill Cammerer.

Steve Ybarra

Here's a question for all you mind readers out there.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

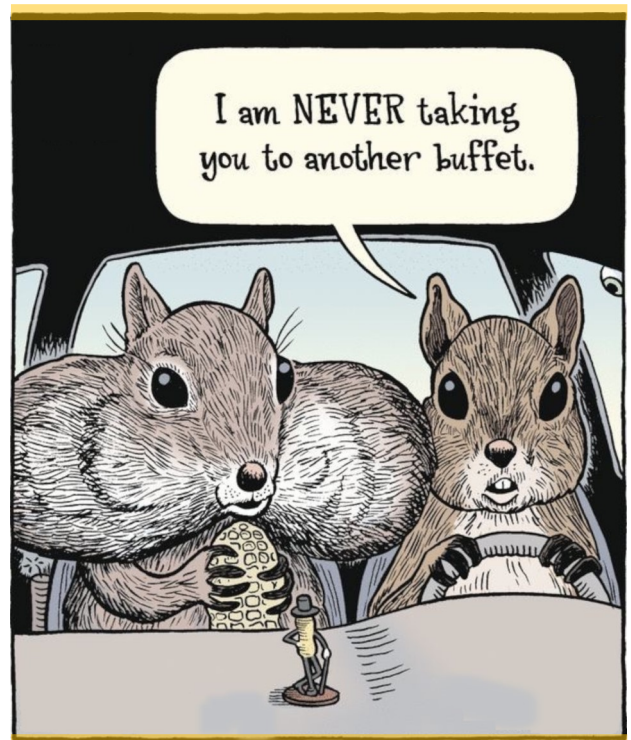
Things, they are a-stirring! We are seeing some of our branch activities making efforts to get together and resume seeing our friends. The Couples Dining Out group is still sitting on the sidelines, and we do not yet have any definite plans for a Dining Out event in November. As we've noted, our activity is a bit more challenging since we would have a group of 40 plus diners. Our latest foray in the activity was back on July 19, and by all accounts worked out fine. However, since that time health regulation were tightened, and only as of November 1 loosened again.

Your hosts have also been out of the country in October, enjoying a memorable trip to Greece. That time, as well as the jet lag recovery period has slowed us a bit in searching out a restaurant for our group to enjoy. We will get back in the groove, hopefully, as the covid statistics continue on a positive direction.

It is thus likely that we will not have an event in November, and will probably wait until January to resume our popular activity.

We wish all of you good health and a wonderful holiday season!

bgborgman@aol.com



OUR SUSPICIONS FINALLY CONFIRMED



Okay, you guys know the drill.
Our customers finally know
where to find everything.
Tonight we mix it all up again.



Cooking Lunch & Wine Syd Whalen

On October 20th the Law Group {Lunch and Wine} met at Syd Whalen's apartment in Pleasant Hill, for a luncheon of hot & sour soup and Chinese chicken salad.

In attendance were **Pete Gates, Bill Hartman, Dick Woodman,**

Bob Spellman and **Syd Whalen**. Discussion was lively and pretty much solved the problems of the world.

So much so that **Syd** forgot to serve the desert, and no water or coffee or coffee were offered, Just a little wine. We had prepared the Klondike Dessert - so we gave it to our son, **Brad**, for his family.

A good time was had by all.

Syd Whalen

(925) 332-5230 sydwhalen@aol.com



Couples Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Our last wine tasting was on Tuesday, October 26th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm at the home of **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld** . Look for a report

on this event in the December issue of SIR-Call.

br146winetasting@gmail.com 925.324.2463

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Grupo Uno 1



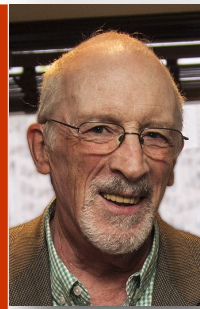
Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

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

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

After a few more weeks we'll see when we may be able to all get together again. We'll keep you posted. We may set up some type of Holiday-themed Game Night in December.

Grupo Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Jeff Baily

¿Donde esta Ud. Tres?

Grupo Cuatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

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

Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population?
Ireland Every day it's Dublin .

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We had a small group, 12 players at two tables, on Friday 10/22. We met at the home of **Don** and **Etta Dotson**. **Don** is the chef and he outdid himself once again with a heartwarming soup plus

many other goodies.

For the first time in a long time, we had no substitutes, only regulars. Guess we're getting down to a core group at less than our normal three tables of six.

Rich Ahlf squeezed by for 1st with a 13.0 average. **Ismini MacLean** was hot on his trail and came in 2nd with a 13.1 average. Our host, **Don Dotson**, captured 3rd with a 19.8 average.

Ron Plachy (rjplachy@icloud.com)

Grupo Cinco 5



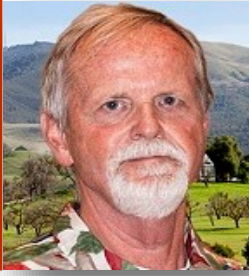
Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

¿Donde esta Ud. Tres?

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877

dwpi@astound.net

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm.
One asks,
"What's your favorite kind of music?"
The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

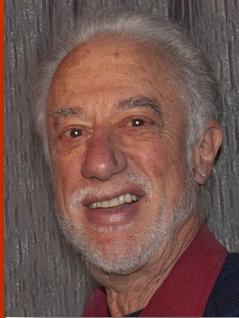
John "Moose" Kelly

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 will be playing on October 27th at the home of BIG SIR, **Richard Hockenbrock**.

The results of our competition will be published in the December SIR CALL. Until then, I wish our Group 6 and all the readers of this space a very, Happy Thanksgiving!

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

Bob and Wendy Lucido hosted our MTD group this month. **Richard Hockenbrock** was the big winner.

Richard is a substitute and wins every time he plays. I warned him if he wins again, we are not going to invite him back, and he just smiled.

Mary Ellen Dalgaard was the big loser. **Mary Ellen** was the big loser twice in a row. I think she did that on purpose because she wants the lotto ticket for the big loser. What she doesn't know is that no one in our group has ever won anything on our scratchers.



Photo by Moose Kelly



Photo by Bob Lucido

Mary Ellen Dalgaard
Richard Hockenbrock

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net





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

The SIR 146 Book Group met Monday, October 25th, at the Greenery. Our book for October was *Tangled Vines*, by Frances Dinkelspiel, a writer who lives locally in Berkeley.

This is a book that combines two topics, the history of California as related to the wine industry/business and the intrigue/crime that was/is endemic in it.

The wine industry actually started in southern California, in Riverside and Los Angeles Counties. As one reviewer put it, "History, wine, and crime intertwine to create a dark and deep portrait of three centuries of wine culture." The author's subtitle: "Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California." This alone should have your attention.

Early "players" include Tiburcio Tapia, a descendant of some of the area's earliest Spanish settlers, who was granted the 13,000 acre Rancho Cucamonga in 1839. He was the first who planted grapes there. The land passed through many hands and families as it was farmed and developed, and is now part of suburban Los Angeles. Very little remains of the wine business there. Once upon a time there were 32,000 acres of grapes around Rancho Cucamonga, making it the largest grape-growing region in the United States-larger than Napa and Sonoma combined. Basically this has been replaced by urban development.

Another important person was Jean-Louis Vignes, a French immigrant who arrived in Los Angeles around 1831, when California was still part of Mexico. He was an important wine maker and encouraged French immigration to southern California. His vineyard of 104 acres was planted along the Los Angeles River, and was a showplace and a center of Los Angeles society.

Wine production began with the Franciscan Fathers in 1769 when they opened a string of missions, which we visit today. Serious wine production started around 1784, where it was used for both the mass and for the table. There is a short discussion here of how the Native Americans were misused by the Franciscan Fathers. After the Mexican government secularized the missions in 1833, the wine making operations shut down, and the small pueblo of Los Angeles became the center of wine making in California.

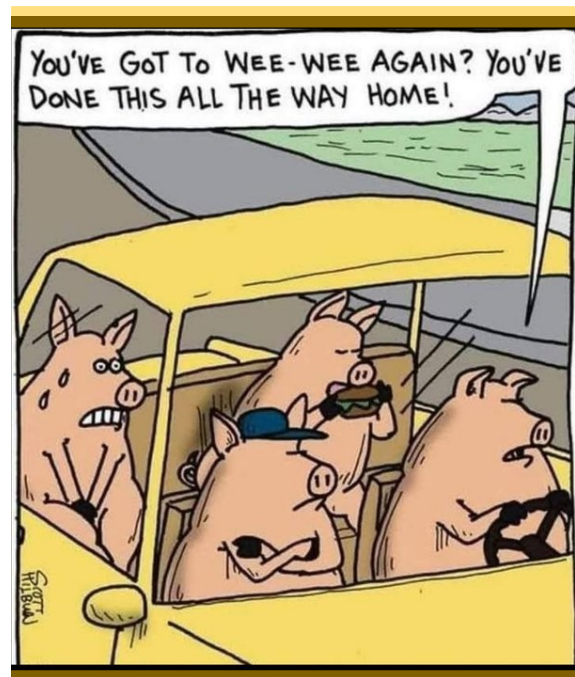
Intrigue and crime continued in the southern California wine "business." Five men were murdered over the years, and several of these remain unsolved.

While the book continued to discuss the southern California wine industry, it also moved the "action" northward. Much of the focus here is about Mark Anderson and the big fire you may remember in the wine warehouse in Vallejo in 2005. This building was a large, thick-walled concrete former Navy facility that was converted to store wine. In fact, it was to home some very high end, unusual, and expensive wines. Mark Anderson was a unique individual, who was a "man about town," a columnist for the local Sausalito newspaper, and a person who was active in the community's organizations and seen in the local restaurants. A Sausalito A-Lister if you will, with a strong connection to Japan and Asia.

He created a wine storage facility in Sausalito which he named Sausalito Cellars, touting many high-end features such as access to one's inventory via the very new internet, a feature which never existed. He was a great talker and story teller, including the stories he told about his storage facility. He was also a self-taught wine connoisseur. He opened his facility in 1999, with an initial inventory of wine from two other storage facilities in San Francisco he had purchased.

Wine theft has been going on for years. But wine fraud was an even bigger business. Grapes were stolen, wine was counterfeited, misrepresented and sold as something

Continued on next page



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worth much more than actually it was worth. These stories go on and on – it’s amazing.

Mark Anderson turned out to be adept at wine fraud. He sold wine that his clients stored at his warehouse! This was a low-risk high-return operation. Most wine was stored for the long-term, and not “managed” by the owners. There is lot more to this story; even Leland Stanford attempted to get into the wine business.

When wine prices fell through the bottom in the very late 1800’s, growers and processors formed organizations in an effort to increase their bargaining power with mixed success.

Then 1906 happened in San Francisco. Some stored wine survived and some didn’t. Following the earthquake a storage facility opened at Point Molate near Richmond – it was a city-state with workers living on the grounds. This facility operated for 11 years before prohibition.

In 2003. Mark Anderson’s wine storage business started to fall apart, when one of his customers discovered that much of his wine was missing and made an official complaint with the Sausalito Police Department.

Soon after, a new company called Krystal decided to make a bunker-like building on Mare Island into a wine storage facility, and called it “Wines Central.” Anderson rented space there and transferred wine he had in his other facility to the new one.

On August 25th, 2005, the roof fell in on Anderson. Personnel from several government agencies appeared on his doorstep with search warrants and removed a lot of documents. Including some providing evidence he was planning on leaving town. He was not arrested at this time. Shortly thereafter Wine Central cancelled his lease and told him to move out in ninety days.. Meanwhile he continued to sell his clients’ wine. This is when he considered burning the evidence, which he finally did on October 12th. The warehouse fire was a disaster for many of those storing high-end wines there.

Soon the ATF and FBI were involved. The Grand Jury handed down a 19 count indictment. He was soon arrested on criminal charges, while simultaneously facing several civil lawsuits. The criminal charges added up to the possibility of 240 years in prison. He was bailed out of jail for \$500,000, which was cancelled by a federal judge who deemed Anderson a flight risk. Anderson had an excellent defense attorney who was opposed by an excellent prosecutor, who were old adversaries.

Two years and nine months after Anderson’s arrest, the trial began on November 17, 2009. The two sides made a deal for him to serve nearly 15 years, to which he agreed in front of the judge. At this point Anderson initiated a lot of communication with the book’s author. Anderson soon convinced himself to “vacate” his guilty pleas, asserting without foundation that his attorney did not adequately represent him. The downside of this strategy was that it waived the attorney-client privilege and his attorney was obliged to testify against him. Anderson succeeded in cancelling the plea deal, but it came at a huge cost. Although Anderson’s new attorney asked for a sentence of 10 years, the prosecutor asked for 30 and the testimony of two victims visibly influenced the judge, who sentenced him to 27 years, to be served at Terminal Island in San Pedro. His latest appeal was in 2012 and was denied.

We would recommend this book to those who are interested in the history of the wine industry in California and the State’s history during this time. It is filled with rich detail about its subjects.

Our next book is *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles, who happens to be the author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, which we also read and much enjoyed.

We meet again on Monday, November 29.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor

Brain cells, hair cells and skin cells; they all die constantly, but freaking fat cells seem to have eternal life.



Book Corner **Peter Plante**

The Book Corner is BACK for our November Meeting. Lots of books to choose from, and all returned books are welcome. See you in the usual place.





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our October Sir Call report, we have had online matches on Friday October 8th and 22nd. For November because of Thanksgiving, we will be having only 1 match on the 2nd Friday in person.

Match summaries of top players: **Ron Polivka** was the big winner having won 5 games. **Brian McCarthy** had 2.5 seconds. **Ron**, had 2 "Shoot the Moons". In lowest average score, **Ron** led with 58.

YTD Statistics:

Wins: **Ron Polivka** leads with 24 followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 23 and **Ray Bland** with 18. **Bob** won 39% of his games, followed by **Ron** and **Ray** at 38%. Lowest average score, is led by **Ray** with 72, **Ron** with 73, and **Jim Nelson** with 75. "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray** and **Bill Vizza** each with 12, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 10. **Ray** "STM" in 26% of his games and **Bill** in 19%. 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** with 26, and **Frank Lucas** with 18, and **Bob Finlayson** and **Bob West** with 17.. The best "sheriff's are **Bob West** and **Rich Lyon** having had an uncovered call in only 3 and 4% of their games respectively.

Future Meetings: Because of upcoming holidays we will be playing once in November and December on the 2nd Friday of November 12th and December 10th. Since booster shots are available we will be meeting in person at Rocco's. Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

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



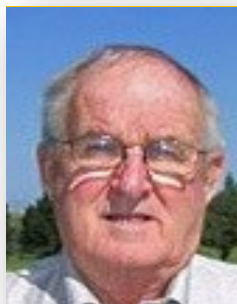
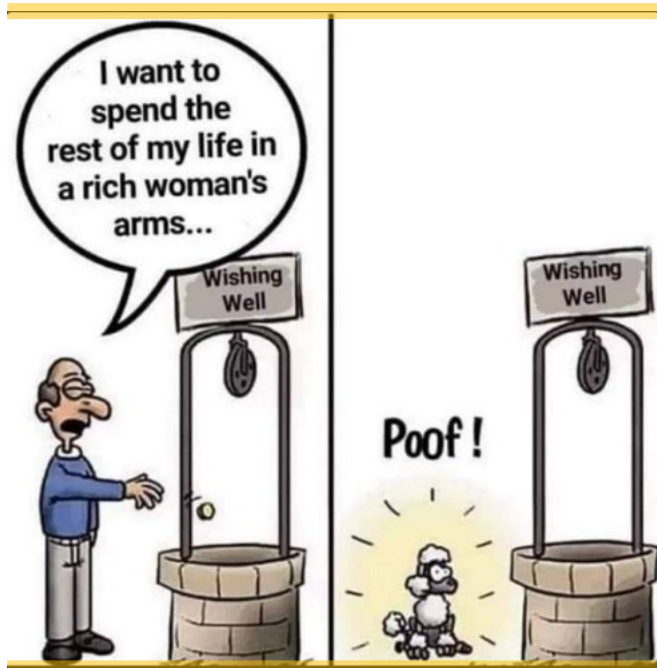
Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Bridge Group 1 took a pass for the month of October due to the resurgence of the Delta variety of Covid. We are looking forward to re-grouping and playing this November on the 17th.

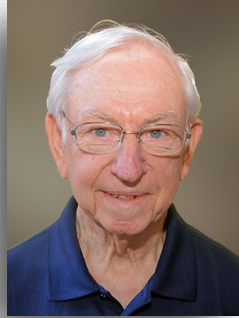
John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 had it's first card game in over a year and a half. A good time was had by all, looking forward to next month.



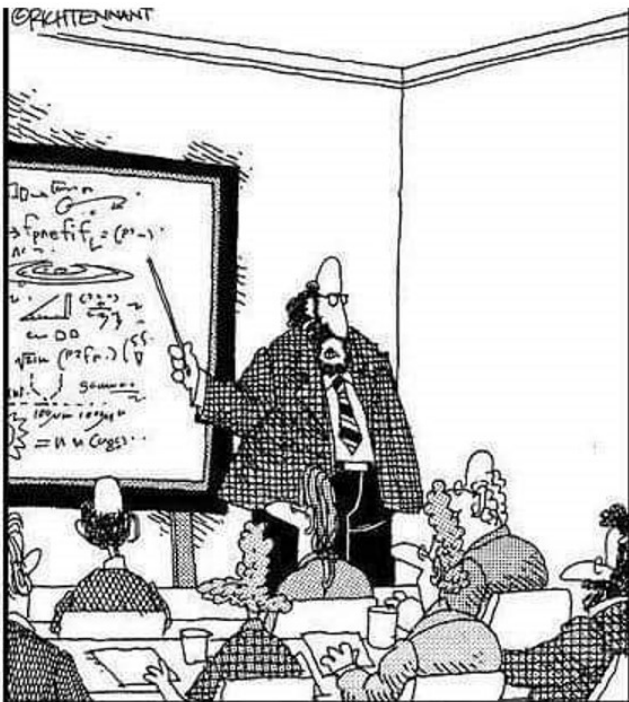
Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

SIR Party Bridge meetings are on hold due to the Covid-19 Delta variant restrictions and "It's Better to Be Safe Than Sorry" principle. We will resume as soon as the restrictions are changed. We meet the first Monday of the month at a SIR member's house that they host for the game with 12 players and 3 tables.

If you are interested in playing Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope** to get signed up and put on the email list.

Co-Directors

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



"Along with 'Antimatter,' and 'Dark Matter,' we've recently discovered the existence of 'Doesn't Matter,' which appears to have no effect on the universe whatsoever."



Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

The Couples Party Bridge activity re-activation is on schedule for November 2nd. We have five regular couples and one pending sub couple that are scheduled to play. We have not played since March 2020, 1 year and 9 months ago. Wow! I hope we can remember how to play. I encourage everyone to get their COVID vaccine booster shots ASAP.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

10 REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS WEIRD

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his desert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.

If anyone is alone with no one to spend Christmas with, please let me know.

I need to borrow some chairs.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was again cancelled due to lack of available players. It did not seem Covid related, just calendar conflicts. We would gladly like to hear from others interested in joining our motley crew of usuals

and substitutes. We play on the first Thursday of the month starting at 12:30 PM for about three hours. Our location of play is at a member's home and that alternates monthly. Please call **Brad Hatcher** (925-935-1571) if you want to learn more.

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

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

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

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

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

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

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

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group has been following the Contra Costa County's 7-day average for new COVID cases throughout 2021.

The high was reached in mid-January with over 700 new cases for the 7-day average. By March it had dropped to less than 100, and by end-May to under 50.

So- our bridge group started up once again on May 28 and played in June, July, and August. By end-August, though, the 7-day average had climbed to over 650 once again. We didn't play in September or October, but were heartened by a continuing decrease in daily new cases during those months. On October 24, in fact, the number was below 30- even better than when we started up back in May.

The plan is now to (finally!) hold our post-August event on Dec. 6 at **Dick DeVoe's** home. Yay!

I feel bad for parents nowadays. You have to be able to explain the birds and the bees...

The bees and the bees...

The birds and the birds...

The birds that used to be bees...

The birds that look like bees...

Plus, bees that look like birds but still got a stinger!

Area 16 Events



Computers and Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

The next SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology meeting will be on November 18th at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

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

The discussion topic, led by **Alan Baker**, will be "Two-Factor Authentication: Beyond Text Messages".

When security matters, we use two-factor authentication as a second layer of protection. We usually use text messages, but recent breaches of cell phone carriers have shown that this is not the most secure approach. There are better alternatives.

These alternatives include authenticator applications and hardware keys. An authenticator app generates a unique 6-digit code every 30 seconds and a hardware key can be plugged into your computer's USB port.

In this presentation we will discuss a range of two-factor authentication methods and demonstrate an authenticator app and hardware key. If security is important to you, plan to attend on November 18th.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to

SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

Bill Phelon
rphelon@juno.com
925.254.8338


Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their November/December Zoom meeting on December 8 at 1:30 PM to avoid conflict with the holidays. Michael Young, Elder Law Attorney, will be the presenter. He covers such things as:

- Dementia Planning
- Nursing Home issues
- Considerations for Widow and Widowers
- Multi-generation Planning and Inherited IRAs (do's and don'ts) and IRA Legacy Trusts
- Charitable Trusts and Charitable Giving
- Impacts of Tax Proposals

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net





SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

Parting Shot

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving



Blessed God, Great Spirit
Your Breath fills all creation.
It fills this country, making sacred
the land, the water, the sky.
It fills each of us,
making us all Your children,
sisters and brothers of many roots and colors,
who happily call ourselves "Americans."

We give thanks to You today for Your many gifts to us,
Your beauty and depth are mirrored to us
in the many faiths and cultures
that enrich us as a people.
Help us to reverence our diversity
as an expression of Your Divine Creativity.

We are a people with many names.
We thank You especially
for the names that have shaped us as Americans:
Washington, Lincoln, King -
Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth -
Geronimo, Joseph of the Nez Percé, Sacajawea.

We thank You for those whose names
have blended into the silence of history;
for the Native American who held this land
as a sacred trust;
for pilgrim, pioneer and patriot,
for suffragette, soldier and saint...
for those in our own families
who first came - full of hope - to these shores,
and for the searching immigrants who come here now
to find the dream of peace.

We have many hopes and fears, dear God,
as a nation, as individuals, and as world citizens.
On this Thanksgiving Day, move us to bless and
reverence one another as sisters and brothers
and to renew ourselves in the grace
of respect, justice and mercy.

Amen.