

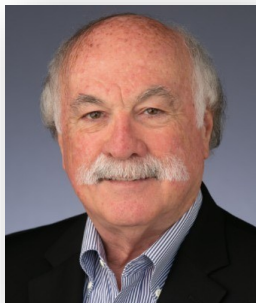


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

September—October 2026

Call



Big Sir's Corner Thom Degnan

We have had good results from our recruiting efforts this year, and as of early August our membership count stands at 259, and growing. Additionally, we had a recruiting stand at the recent Walnut Creek Wine Festival which was attended by thousands, and had lots of prospective members stop by and learn more about SIR146. I wanted to extend our sincere thanks to **Glenn Breslin**, **John Kluesner**, **Bob West**, **Mark Raaberg**, **Steve Knight**, **Al Guzman** & **Brad Hatcher** for their efforts to organize, do the booth set up, staff and manning the booth highlighting the benefits of SIR146, and to **Bob Lucido** for loaning us his canopy which was very much appreciated. This was also a good test run for the upcoming Walnut Creek Oktoberfest on Friday, Sept 25th and Saturday, Sept 26th. We will need a lot of people to assist on this two-day effort so please let **Glenn Breslin**, glennbreslin@gmail.com, or myself, Thom.Degnan@gmail.com know if you'd like to help out on this effort.

As you are aware, we have had several email scam events this month with me asking for money, one to call me, and one to come to an event for John Rexroat, all from strange email addresses. Please do not respond to these emails as SIR146 would never send out these types of emails. Also, if you receive one, please call me or forward me the email so we can alert our members. Your Little Sir, Jim Pope, is organizing a task force to deal with this and we might even consider using an outside company to secure our website.

Again, please be aware of the scams and we will keep you posted as to the changes that are coming to enhance our security.

The SIR146 team has been hard at work to make the SIRs experience as interesting as possible, and promote attendance. The Picnic Committee has set a date for the SIR146 Picnic, Friday Sept 18th at The Hanna Picnic Area at Old Borges Ranch in Walnut Creek from 10:30 am till it ends. It will include BBQ catered from *Kinder's Deli*, and it will be free of charge for our members and a guest to participate. Please let **Bob Lucido**, bobwendy3@comcast.net know as soon as possible so we can order the correct amount of food. This will be a fun day to relax and enjoy good food and conversation! We hope to see you there.

Also, In December we have moved the Ladies Luncheon on Thursday December, 10th to an evening event, we will be calling it the SIR146 Holiday Dinner, and it will be from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The event will include a cocktail hour with served appetizers and a drink coupon, in addition to a live choral group and dinner. We want to make this a more festive event for all, and **Steve Ybarra** and the team are working on doing just that. So put the date of Dec 10th on your calendars now! Again, plan early to attend as this will be a festive kickoff to the holiday season.

At our September luncheon we will be awarding three new Distinguished Service Awards to members who have substantially contributed to SIR146 success. We will also be awarding a Senior SIR Award to a member. Please come to the luncheon so we can show the re-

Continued on the Following Page

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, September 10th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Dr. Maureen Stevenson
Upgrades and Services at John Muir Medical
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
[Click Here](#) to go to page 4

Activities for you and your spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Notes from Members [Page 12](#)
- Theater [Page 16](#)
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- It's a PICNIC [Page 25](#)
- Coupes Dining Out [Page 28](#)

spect and appreciation that these awards represent.

We have a new AHA CPR/AED CPR Certification Class planned for Tuesday, September 15th and Saturday September 19th, which is different from our previous training classes. This is a hybrid class with some three hours of online work that gives you a completion certificate at the end, and then an on-site skills class for about one hour to complete your final CPR Certification. Please let me know of your interest level as the classes are limited to just twelve people per class.

SIR146 is only as rewarding as the members participation levels so I want to extend an open invitation to all members to come to our BEC leadership team monthly meeting which takes place at 9:30 am on the Thursday before our monthly luncheons in the meeting room to the right as you enter the building. Come in and join the discussion to see how and what we are doing, and give us your insights as to how we can improve the organization. Each and every suggestion will be discussed.

We all want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. We are in SIR to enjoy life, so help us keep our organization healthy, interesting, fun, and growing for all of us!!

Thom Degnan
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner **Jim Pope**

Speaker For September – **Dr. Maureen Stevenson**, an internal medicine physician and executive leader at John Muir Health, currently serving as Chief Accounting/Administrative Of-

ficer for Ambulatory Services and Population Health, and former SVP of Foundation Practice Operations. She will outline the many new upgrades and services available at John Muir facilities in the Tri-Valley.

John Muir Health includes two of the largest medical centers in Contra Costa County: John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek, a medical center that serves as Contra Costa County's only designated trauma center; and John Muir Medical Center, Concord. Together, they provide services in neurosciences, orthopedics, cancer care, cardiovascular care and high-risk obstetrics. Other areas of specialty include general surgery, robotic surgery, weight loss surgery, rehabilitation and critical care. Both hospitals are accredited

by The Joint Commission, a national surveyor of quality patient care.

Since its inception in 1996, the John Muir Physician Network has become one of the largest physician networks in Northern California, with more than 900 primary care and specialty physicians. Physicians associated with the Physician Network belong to either John Muir Medical Group (JMMG) or Muir Medical Group IPA, Inc. The Physician Network owns and operates primary care practices staffed by JMMG physicians in 23 locations from Brentwood to Pleasanton.

In addition, John Muir Health provides outpatient services throughout the community and urgent care centers in Brentwood, Concord, San Ramon and Walnut Creek.

Show Your Colors: Lunch this September 9/10 lunch. Wear the colors of your favorite team at our September 10th lunch.



Recruiting: We've had good recruiting so far but we need to continue the search for, and recognize potential new members. Bring a possible new member to lunch or the September BBQ. That would be great.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

Six new members were approved for membership in August.

Richard "Ricky" Moreno lives in Concord. He was a Postal Carrier for USPS. He retired in 2022. He enjoys playing the guitar with other SIR members. He is sponsored by **Bruce Kimmis**.

Mark Hildreth lives in Concord with his wife **Rosane**. He was the Regional Sales Manager for New Haven Moving Equipment. He heard about SIR through the local newspaper. He

is sponsored by **Glenn Breslin**.

Steve Kutay lives in Walnut Creek. He worked at Lodestar Luxury Travel prior to retirement. He is an Opera lover and a linguist. **Glenn Breslin** also sponsored **Steve**.

John "Tom" Byrom lives in Concord with his wife **Rebecca**. He was the Chief Financial Officer for Belvedere Capital. He enjoys Chess, Reading and Travel. His sponsor is **Frank Terzouli**.

Stephen Ingraham lives in Walnut Creek. He was a Safety Officer for United Airlines. He was a former Smoke Jumper for the US Forest Service. He is sponsored by **Walt Busenius**.

Kirby Hoy and his wife **Laura** live in Walnut Creek. He was an Educator for the San Ramon Unified School District. He was the Principal of Iron Horse Middle School when my kids were there. He enjoys 18-hole golf. His sponsor is **Roger Stephens**.

One member, **Dale Dalgaard**, decided to rejoin our branch after a two-year absence. Welcome back **Dale**.

The 2026 membership count is **259**.

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

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

George Mon

925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net



HEY PADNER...

Y'ALL SIGNED UP FOR THE FREE...

THIRD ANNUAL SIR 146 PICNIC?

GIT ON DOWN TO

[PAGE 22](#)

AND GIT YOU AND YOUR FILLY SIGNED UP...

SO'S YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

....DID I MENTION IT'S FREE?!

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan
 Little Sir.....Jim Pope
 Secretary John Rexroat
 Assistant SecretaryMike Davidson
 TreasurerMike Ball
 Assistant TreasurerPaul Jones
 Director 1st TermGlenn Breslin
 Director 1st TermBob Lucido
 Director 1st TermOpen
 Director 2nd TermJim Crites
 Director 3rd TermJohn Alexander
 Director 3rd TermMark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander
 Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

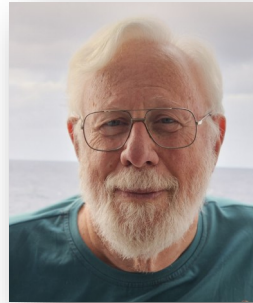
Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Alex Borders

Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIRCall in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[Current Issue of SIRCall](#)



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Is this year going by as fast for you as it is for me? Hardly seems possible that I'm sitting here almost ready to put the finishing touches on the September issue of SIRCall but obviously that is what is occupying

my mind at this time. Finish this up and what's next? Maybe one more summer fling with the SIR BBQ but then it is time to start the fall festivals and move into full holiday mode. Next month I will be writing about Halloween, The Day of the Dead... one of my favorites with its colorful costumes, but more importantly, emphasis on honoring and recognizing our ancestors... Then, before you know it you are out looking for that "just right" turkey, prepping for Black Friday, part of the reason I refer to the coming tidal wave as "HallowGivingMass", and then closing the year with, if not Christmas. what I like to think it really means, the spirit of Christmas. A time to celebrate family, help neighbors, help others less fortunate in life than I, and let my friends know how much I appreciate their friendship. Perhaps even a time to at least wish for peace on earth since it is starting to look like a wish is all we will get. Maybe Ebenezer got it right, "Bah! Humbug!" but deep down I hope not.

The gristmill of time does not stop turning.

The cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the October issue will be noon, September 22 but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. It 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!

M N T H L Y L U N C H O N S

SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 10th, 2026

Salad

Blue Cheese Wedge Salad
with bacon Bites and Tomatoes

Entrees

Herb Marinated Roasted Chicken,

Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans

Citrus Marinated Snapper

Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans

Vegetarian Portobello Mushroom

Farro and Garlic Green Beans

Dessert

Baked Peach Tart



SIR Branch 146 meets monthly

on the second Thursday of the month
at Boundary Oak golf course in Walnut Creek.

This is a luncheon meeting and

A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCH.

Twice a year, in May and December, we have a Ladies' Day event with spouses invited.

The meetings start at 11:30 but the doors open around 10:00 so members can congregate, order drinks, talk with friends and socialize.

We realize that plans change, things happen. If you have made a reservation but find you can not keep it, let us know! We will try to use it but, be aware, if it is less than a week in advance you may still be charged for the lunch!

Bringing a guest? You, as their sponsor, are responsible for making a reservation for them and we suggest you coordinate this with the luncheon secretary.

Any problems or questions?

925.979.5721 AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com

How to Reserve

- **Email:** AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.
 - To make this easy for you, click on the link in the menu (links are bold, underlined and blue) corresponding to your menu choice. If the lunch is a Buffet, click on "Buffet"; no menu choice is required. This will initiate the correct email form for you to fill in your name and send.
 - If your pdf reader does not support calls to your email client you should simply initiate your own email; be sure to include your menu choice in the body of the email.
- **Call:** 925.979.5721 and leave a message indicating your name and menu choice.

How to Pay

There are three ways you can pay!

- **Pay annually!** One payment, once per year with your dues and all is well. Plus you get 10 lunches for the price of 8! That's 2 FREE lunches!
- **Pay with Zelle.** Use your phone and your bank's mobile app. In the "send money" option of Zelle you should see "scan a QR code". Well, here it is. Scan away! Hint... save it for next time!
- **Pay by check.** Mail in or bring your check to the luncheon*, made out to SIR Branch 146, and give it to the member handling check in.
- The current cost is **\$37.00**.



* Same day payment not available for Ladies' Days Luncheons!

SEPTEMBER

Russell Anderson
Joseph Barry
Bob Campbell
John Dorr
Bart Gledhill
Tony Greco
Max Hinkle
Moose Kelly
Paul "Bocce-ace" Kersis
Phil Lee
Scott Macdougall
Richard Moreno
Jeff Morrow
John Pearl

Rob Peters
Rog Rivers
Jim Rowland
Bill Schaaf
Michael Weiner



Put the September Luncheon on your calendar NOW!

SIR 146 October Luncheon

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Salad

Arugula with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese and Herb Vinaigrette

Entrees

Crispy Chicken Costaletta

Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables with creamy Lemon Sauce

Herb Roasted Cod

Garlic Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables with creamy Lemon Sauce

Vegetarian Manicotti

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti
Fresh Mozzarella and House Marinara

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

Let us keep the pictured SIR member 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.*



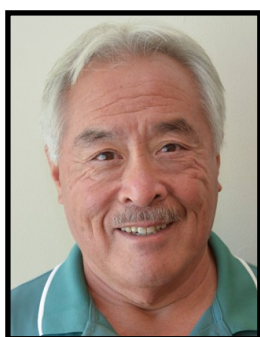
Pat O'Keeffe

SIR Mission Statement

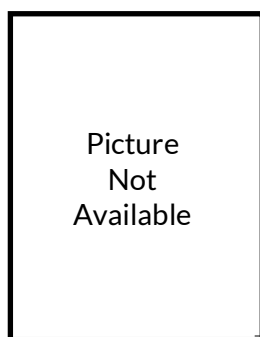
The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons, while making friends for life.

AUGUST

Photos by Henry Thatcher



Kirby Hoy



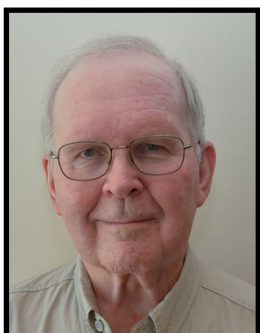
Steve Kutay



Richard Moreno



Rick Mestrich



Tom Byrom



Mark Hildreth

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Bert Payne	2021	5
Mac Mcallister	2019	7
Mike Wallace	2018	8
Michael Weiner	2017	9
Paul Beretz	2016	10
Malcolm Harrison	2015	11
Steve Ondeck	2015	11
Dan Holland	2011	15
Walt Busenius	2008	18
Cliff Perkins	2005	21
Jim Baldrige	1994	32

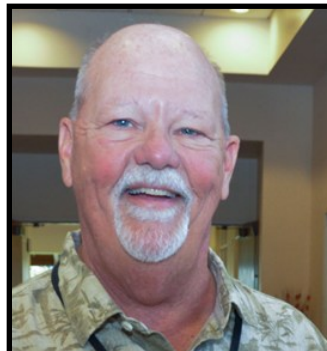


welcome
BACK

Dale Daalgarrd



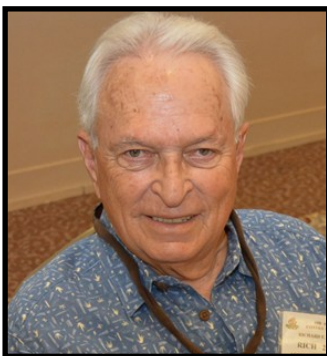
August
Aubry Moore



Can you hear me now?

Monthly meetings are now being broadcast to the room via AURACAST. If you have hearing aids that support this new Bluetooth technology you can "tune us in" through your aid's phone app for better sound quality.







NOTES

from Our Members

CPR Classes Thom Dagnan

All, As many of you know, we have been offering CPR Training Classes, and after several requests from our members, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, under the direction of EMS Battalion Chief, Jesse Ingram, we are now working to take the next step and offer an AHA CPR/AED CPR Certification Class. This would be a hybrid class with a couple of hours of online work that gives you a completion certificate at the end, and then an on-site skills day for about an hour, to complete your final CPR Certification. This is an outstanding program, and if just one person benefits, the effort would be more than worth it. Please let me know of your interest level as classes are being limited to just 12 people per class. Here are additional details.



CPR Certification Class

- Date: Tuesday, Sept 15th, or Saturday Sept 19th, 2026
- Time: 9:15AM to 10:30AM
- Locations: On Tuesday, Sept 15th, CCCFPD EMS Admin Building, 4005 Port Chicago Highway, Suite 250, Concord, CA, and on Saturday, Sept. 19th, CCCFPD Training Division, 2945 Treat Blvd, Concord, CA
- CPR Instructors: The highly professional Contra Costa County Protection District led by EMS Battalion Chief Jesse Ingram, plus 5-6 team members to assist.
- CPR Class: A review and discussion update on the best CPR techniques and practices, inclusive of mannequins for each participant. The agenda for the class is:
 - * What are the state CPR guidelines in California?
 - * Provide a structured which allows any trained individual to act decisively in emergencies potential saving lives when if matters most
 - * Provide a uniform approach to performing is CPR which helps minimize confusion during emergencies
 - * Understanding the standardize steps can affect how quickly you respond to a situation requiring CPR
 - * Evaluating the general state of the victim
 - * Providing rescue breaths when necessary
 - * How does California protect someone who uses CPR to help others
 - * Q & A Session
- Limit: Class will hold up to 12 people, spouses, relatives and friends are entirely welcome. These classes will fill up quick.
- Contact: Thom Degan, thom.degnan@gmail.com or 760.815.5204 to reserve your spot. It is first come, first serve.
- Cost: Thanks to The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, there is no cost for the class.
- [Here is the link for the Community CPR Certification interest form.](#)

We look forward to you joining these classes so you can get to trained to make a difference in a difficult situation.



Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

NOTES

from Our Members



SIR146 has an excellent opportunity to recruit new members at the Walnut Creek Oktoberfest. We primarily need people on Sat 9/26 12 PM to 9 PM. A 2 or 3 hour shift would work best. If you can only work on Friday (5 to 9 PM), then also let me know. We would like to create final event rosters by 9/5. It would be great if you can get back to us soon, but by 9/5 at the latest.

Responsibilities:

- Sit in a shaded booth and communicate SIR146 activities and your SIR experience to new SIR member prospect
- Hand out flyers and refer new members to SIR146 websites and brochures
- If we are assigned to a beer booth, then pour beer and receive tickets in payment

Event Description

<https://walnutcreekdowntown.com/events/oktoberfest>

September 25 & 26, 2026 - Friday • 5:00–10:00 PM - Saturday • 12:00–9:00 PM

Raise a stein and celebrate the season at Walnut Creek's Oktoberfest, a lively two-day festival filled with music, community, and classic Bavarian-inspired fun.

Set in the heart of downtown, this high-energy event brings together live bands, traditional dancing, local food, artisan vendors, and a vibrant biergarten featuring dozens of craft beers and more. Whether you're in the mood to sip, shop, dance, or just soak it all in, there's something for everyone, including a family-friendly Kinder Karneval. Throw on your dirndl or lederhosen and join us for one of the most anticipated events of the year.

Join in the camaraderie with your fellow SIR members

Thanks

Glenn Breslin
SIR146 - Recruiting Chair
glennbreslin@gmail.com
925-788-6520



Activities!

Stay Active... Stay young



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

A new **SIR146 Film Group** is now forming. Contact Frank Terzuoli if interested: frankterz@hotmail.com. Here is some information about this group:

- One 2 hour meeting each month in the WC library to discuss up to three films.
- Attendees don't need a film background. The focus is on what made the film fun to watch vs. analyzing why in detail.
- The technical factors discussion is just a way to articulate why it is a good film vs. over analyzing the film. This will enable the group to understand what good direction entails and why it is challenging.
- Another area of discussion will be comparing the film to a good one from a recent past. This often gives better appreciation for the current film upon review.

2026-2027 Several theater plays and musical events have been announced. For complete information, and instructions on how to "sign up" to attend one of these events with us refer to the details in the Theater section of this newsletter on the following page.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities! Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

Artificial Intelligence	Men's Duplicate 3	Dixieland Musician	Tres	Group 4
Birding	Men's Party	Fishing	Cuatro	Group 6
Bocce Ball	Chess	Gardening	[cinco is inactive]	Group 8
Book Corner	Cooking:	Golf—9 Hole	Seis	Song SIRs
Book Group	Cooking II	Golf—18 Hole	Siete	Table Pool
Bridge:	Lunch and Wine	Guitar	Ocho	Theater
Beginning/Refresher	Cribbage	Hearts	Nueve	Veterans
Couples Duplicate 1	Cycling	Hiking	Diez	Wine Tasting
Couples Duplicate 2	Dining Out	Mexican Train	Photography	
Couples Party	Couples Dining Out	Dominoes	Pinochle	
Men's Duplicate 1	Explore and Eat	Uno	Poker:	
Men's Duplicate 2	Sushi no Tomodachi	Dos	Group 3	



Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater and Music Shows

- For many of the below shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, send a check made out to SIR146 and mail to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- For the 4/3 Doo Wop Show, please e-mail me with your interest, but do not send a check just yet

Sat 9/26/26 at 2:30 PM – Glass Menagerie, group tickets are \$43 each.

At Lesh Theater—e-mail me then send a check!

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-glass-menagerie>

Join us for a powerful evening of classic American theatre! *The Glass Menagerie* is Tennessee Williams' most intimate and emotional play — a beautifully staged story about family, memory, and the dreams we chase. This production has earned outstanding reviews for its acting, atmosphere, and emotional impact. It's a perfect outing for those who enjoy meaningful stories and great conversation afterward. Expect a moving, relatable performance that stays with you long after the final scene.

**Sun 12/6/26 at 5:00 PM – Snow Day (Walnut Creek Concert Band), general admission tickets are \$12 each.
at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church—e-mail me then send a check!**

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20554/3144>

Let's welcome the holiday season with music that lifts the spirit. The Walnut Creek Concert Band's *Snow Day!* concert is packed with joyful winter melodies, festive favorites, and the kind of bright, feel-good energy that makes December evenings special. This performance blends heartwarming storytelling with the rich, full sound of a live concert band — the kind of music that instantly puts you in a good mood. It's cheerful, nostalgic, and perfect for sharing with friends. An early evening start, a friendly community setting, and a program designed to make you smile — this is exactly the kind of outing that leaves everyone feeling lighter and happier. Join us for a warm, uplifting holiday concert. RSVP to enjoy a festive night out with our group.

Sat 4/3/27 at 7:30 PM – The Doo Wop Project: Echoes of the Street, \$75

At Lesh Theater-e-mail me with interest. Do NOT send checks, too early; only RSVP at this time.

Do not send checks ! Too early. Only RSVP Yes at this time

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20834/3224>

<https://www.thedoowopproject.com/>

America's premier group dedicated to preserving and expanding the genre of this great music we know and love, Doo Wop! The Doo Wop Project brings the classic sounds of the '50s and '60s to life with incredible harmonies, slick choreography, and a modern twist that keeps the energy high from start to finish. Expect beloved hits from groups like The Drifters, The Platters, and Frankie Valli. The boys of the Doo Wop Project also take contemporary songs and give them a Doo Wop twist make the show feel both nostalgic and brand new. It's upbeat, polished, and guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Thanks to this exciting approach, DWP appeals to every generation.

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below. I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are **Pedro Contreras**, 925.837.4847; and **Carl Moyer**, 925.378.9389. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, September 24th at 8:30am. Come early.

On a new adventure, launching from the beach in a dory, **Pedro Contreras**, **Ken Bellen-dir**, **Brion Beetz**, **Gino Calhau**, **Steve Smith** and **Rich Fiscina** slayed 6 salmon, 4 ling cod, 48 ginormous black rockfish and 140+ Dungeness Crabs in two days of fishing in Pacific City, Oregon. It was an eleven drive one way. **Matt Richards** and **Dave Paulson** got salmon locally. **Tom Slivinski** entertained some small stripers from the shore in the delta. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Pruett** played catch and release with black bass in the delta. **Ken Bellinder** was our busiest. Bass in the Delta, Walleye at Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin, and Bass at Lake of the Four Seasons, Indiana.

Brad Hatcher for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

A TIME TO SAY FAREWELL...

Eighty five years ago my dad drove me to a farm in New Jersey through which the south branch of the Raritan River flowed. A small bridge used by the farmer's cattle crossed it and the farmer allowed my dad to fish from it for trout.

That day my dad was there to teach me to fish. After an hour of casting but no catching my dad said he would wade for trout around a nearby bend and asked me to stay on the bridge and continue practice casting.

Not long thereafter I felt a big strike, hooked it in reaction and horsed it in over the bridge railing! My dad heard the commotion and upon his returning I showed him the catfish I just caught.

But it wasn't a catfish. It was a 22 inch brown trout! My dad's reaction was to toss it back to the river under the rule that if you don't eat fish you don't keep fish.

Side points:

- That trout was not only the first fish I have caught but is also the biggest trout, although I came close with a pair of 21 inchers in the Yampa River in Colorado in 1984.
- I have never caught a catfish.
- I now eat fish.

That adventure on the farm commenced 85 years of fun. I have fished in 22 states plus New Zealand, Australia, Iceland, Canada, Mexico, Panama, and Peru. The biggest was a 200 lb. halibut caught in Alaska for which I take credit because I hooked it but my son Jim hauled up. My favorite was a one hour fight with a 42lb. roosterfish in the Sea of Cortez. Both of these biggies were released.

In April I caught a pair of 10 pound bonita off Half Moon Bay. Since then age and health have caught up and I must bid farewell to the sport. The joy of fishing does not stem from catching fish. The joy is from being on the water, away from the tress of life, and having fun with your friends (some of whom you just met at sunrise).

Try it some time.

Paul Dubow

Travel

Elimination of SIR Travel as an activity.

We regret to announce that, at the July State SIR BOD meeting, the State BOD voted to eliminate travel as one of the SIR activities, effective Aug. 1, 2026. The reasons given were the inconsistent collection of the fees for and the expense of the SIR insurance rider for foreign travel as well as the annual number of travelers dropping from around 100 before Covid to 35-40 since Covid.

They also voted to eliminate domestic travel as an activity. I am not able to articulate the reasoning, so I'll leave that to someone else.

IMPORTANT

This decision does not affect

- John Cardoza's Branch 143 16 Night Hawaiian Cruise, Oct. 23-Nov. 8, 2026, or
- Bill Britton's Branch 101 Christmas on the Danube Nov. 27 -Dec. 8, 2026, or
- Milt Smith's Branch 146 Crossroads of the Adriatic May 4 – 21, 2027, featured below.

These trips were already in progress at the time of the decision and had people signed up so they will still go. Feel free to promote them...*

I cannot add much but feel free to contact me if you wish...

***Contact info: John Cardoza 209.483.7722 Bill Britton 925.200.1062 Milt Smith 925.285.2897**

Milt Smith your erstwhile State Travel Chair
925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

Special Trip from Milt Smith, State SIR travel.

SIR Members! I have booked a May 2027 trip called Crossroads of the Adriatic. It is with Overseas Adventure Travel; Departure date is May 4. '27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available for Albania. Until they fill single traveler supplements are free.

This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Price, including airfare, starts at \$7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIR to keep our group. I will also be advertising this with other SIR Branches. So... please take a look at the brochure, if you sign up be sure to use **our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know.** I can email you the brochure. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text...I do all three.

[Click Here for Trip Brochure](#)

Milt Smith
925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

A man was sitting at a bar looking down and dejected. "Everything OK" asked the barman. "I got into a fight with my wife and she said she wasn't going to speak to me for a month."
he replies.

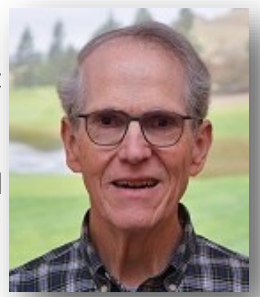
After a moment of reflection the barman replies "Well, maybe that's a good thing. A bit of peace and silence, you know."

"Yeah, I know, but today is the last day!"

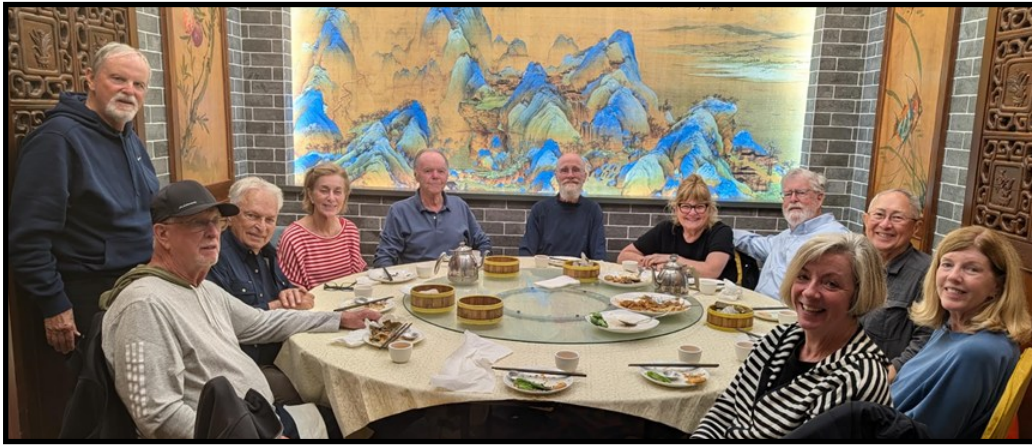


Photography Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 3rd at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. At this meeting, the results of the night time photography photoshoot in Chinatown – North Beach that was planned and led by the Professor of the Lens, **Don Casey**, will be discussed. The participants will present their best five to seven pictures that they took. Discussion will be focused on why they choose the picture and additionally ways to make the picture better.



There were seven photographers that participated in this event: **Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Tom Amann, Earl Bates, Phil Lee, Don Casey**, and **Moose Kelly**. We were also joined by four wives to expose them on our photography venture. They were **Kim Pace, Chris Lee, Linda Casey**, and **Mary Schmidt**. I have attached a picture of all of us having dinner at the Lai Hong Lounge in Chinatown. A GREAT choice and an inexpensive dinner that was chosen by Professor **Casey**! WAY TO GO, **DON**!!



Other topics that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting will be underwater photography, vineyard photography, and a possible Peju Winery photoshoot and outing at the beginning of October. We will also review the rest of the photography calendar for 2026.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our photoshoots or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact John “**Moose**” Kelly or Miker **Rothman**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

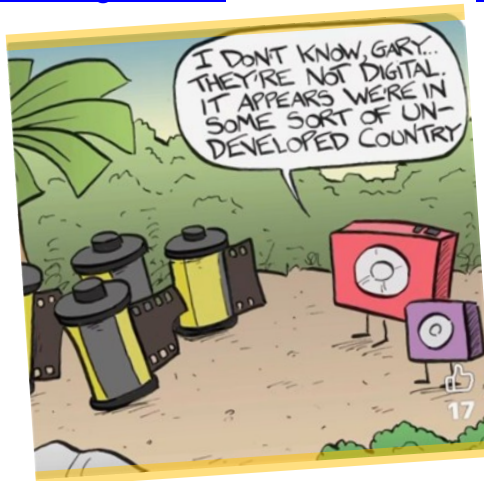
Be safe, be well and be sure to “Say Cheese”!

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman

415.937.1846 mrothman9@gmail.com





Birding Ted Robertson

Monday, August 10, 2026

At 8:30 am, a group of six SIR birders explored the wonderfully diverse Tilden Botanical Garden. It was a lovely morning filled with birds visiting beautiful flowers like the bright orange-red tiger lilies, Matilija poppies that look like sunny-side up eggs, and brilliant yellow flannel bushes. We saw pipevine swallowtails hovering not far from their host plants and great looks at a pair of bright yellow Wilson's Warblers.

Because of my busy fall travel plans, the next SIR birding field trip is scheduled for later in September, it will be at 8:30 am on September 21st (3rd Monday). Likewise, the October Field trip will be on Oct. 7th (Wednesday) The trip locations have not been determined yet; I will be following the latest bird and weather reports in order to find the most unique bird sightings. I will be sending out the location and detailed directions about 1 week before the trip. If you are not on my mailing list, please contact me at tedr@berkeley.edu so that I can add you. Beginning birders are welcome along with their spouses or close friends. I have a few loaner binoculars for those of you just starting out. .

Ted Robertson
tedr@berkeley.edu



Group photo. (Photo by **Ted Robertson**)



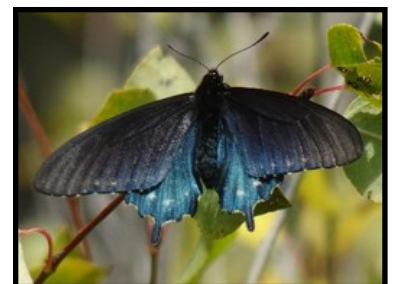
Wilson's Warbler (Photo by **Bob Hislop**)



Juvenile American Robin
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Tiger Lily
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Pipevine Swallowtail
(Photo by **Bob Hislop**)



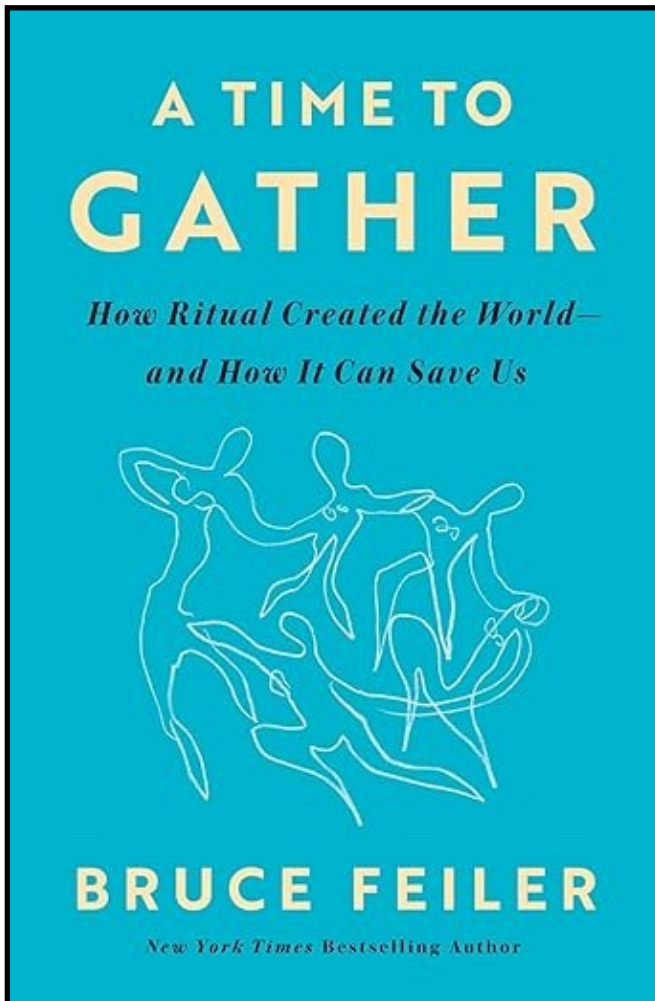
Book Group Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: July

We met on Wednesday, August 5th, at the Panera on Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek. We had a good turnout, including our new-

est member, Tom Byrom. Panera was moderately busy, and the music seemed a little louder than usual—or perhaps it was just the buzzing from my hearing aids

Our May Read: *A Time to Gather*



In *A Time to Gather*, Bruce Feiler explores the important role that **rituals and gatherings play in creating connection, community, and meaning**. He argues that many traditional rituals—birth celebrations, coming-of-age ceremonies, weddings, funerals, and other communal traditions—have declined in modern society. As people become increasingly isolated and immersed in digital life, we have lost some of the practices that once brought people together.

To understand how ritual continues to shape people's

lives, Feiler travels to **sixteen countries on six continents**, participating in and observing ceremonies ranging from a mass baptism at the Vatican and a South African bride-price negotiation to Balinese coming-of-age rituals, Las Vegas weddings, and Irish funerals.

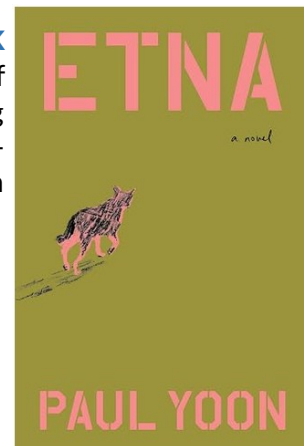
Or Verdict – Important Topic...Maybe too long

The group found both the topic and much of the book very interesting. While we were generally aware of the decline of many traditional rituals in the United States, it was fascinating to learn about similar changes in other parts of the world, as well as the efforts being made to revive old traditions or create new rituals that bring people together. However, the majority of members present, along with those unable to attend who shared their opinions, felt the book was overly long. Many believed the subject could have been explored just as effectively in a more concise format.

Next Month's Book

We chose *Etna* by Paul Yoon. If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love you to join us! We welcome new members.

Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 [njabu-
ka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, July 28th. We had eleven riders. The peloton consisted of the following riders: **Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg, David Paulson, Brian**

Lotter, Eric Finson, Jim Roland, Phil Lee, Michael Schrupp, Bob Wilkenfeld and Moose Kelly. A welcome back to a solid rider we haven't seen in a while was **Pat Hoy**. Pat is member of Branch 8 SIRs. He has ridden many miles with us through the years. Welcome back **Pat!!**



If you are interested in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at 925.698.4030. So, dig out your old bike and dust it off. Come out and join us. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of riding for coffee, having fun, solving the world's problems and staying healthy through exercise. The cycling group's motto: **HEALTH IS WEALTH**

We started at 8:30 AM since it was going to be a warm day on the Ponderosa for these 11 riders. I had warned the gang that this was going to be a vigorous outing with lots of hills. Thus, leaving the parking lot of Pleasant Hill Park, we headed up Gregory Road on a steady incline until we got to the other side of Taylor Avenue. Then a good climb to Alhambra Valley Road where we followed the up and down hills for the next three miles. Everyone was probably cursing me at that point but when we stopped to catch our breaths, it was a different story. We continued down toward Martinez where we joined Alhambra Road that led us into the town. It was gratifying to learn that this main street has been recently resurfaced in certain areas for a nice smooth ride. The men of spandex rode through Martinez and up the other side of the city heading South on Pacheco Blvd to Morello Avenue. We climbed Morello passed a couple of 7% percent grades that were short and sharp. On to Center Avenue where we stopped for a nature break and to rehydrate before descending onto the flats. There was a heavy head wind heading South along the Iron Horse Trail. UGH!!! AND we thought that this segment of the ride was going to be relatively easy. NOT!! We stopped at Peet's in Pleasant Hill for coffee and eats.

Overall, the gang was tired but happy with finishing the 22mile ride on the highways and byways of hilly Contra Costa County. Congrats to the riders!!! Well done!!!

In the picture of the sunglass riders, from left to right:

Bob Wilkenfeld, Jim Roland, Tom Alborg, Pat Hoy, Brian Lotter, Phil Lee, Eric Finson (hiding behind **Thom Degnan**), **Thom Degnan, David Paulson. Michael Schrupp** came later. Photographer and rider: **Mr. Moose Kelly**



August 4: The forecast said "heat warnings", we said let's ride. So at 8:30 we did. **Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Dave Paulson, Tom Alborg, Jim Rowland, and Larry Kaye.**

We toured the El Capitan route. It was a cool, soft breeze and no heat. Great ride. Back to Peets for Java. As we sat the thermometer began to rise. Ha Ha we laughed. See that knob? Turn it and step outside. It's life. **Larry**

August 11th: Today we rode out the Bollinger Canyon. A very scenic and quiet ride. Tough hills. It was a good ride and everyone enjoyed it. Today we had: **Thom Degnan, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Tom Alborg, Brian Lotter Phil Lee and Larry Kaye.** The ride back was a back street trip thru Danville. No Traffic and a few nasty hills. All told the ride was great. We finished the trip at Peets. Feel the wind in your face, reach out and touch the blue sky, get outside. **Larry**

August 18th: Back to school. Off we went to the Tassajara school house. Long ride. Fun ride. Weather was super. The school house was reached and we stopped there to reflect. It's the oldest in the County. Heading back we had a tail wind. Fun and easy ride. The guys wanted some variants so I threw in some hills. A blast, steep but we did them. Back to Peets for Story time, Guy gab. We had: **Moose Kelly, Brian Lotter, Jim Rowland, Bill Holly, Tom Alborg, Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye.** Exercise is fun and can be done in many ways. It's important as we age to get outside. Walk, work in the garden, ride a bike. Just get out that door. **Larry**

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Dublin Regional Park (July 27): Our 5-mile hike with ~1100 feet of climbing took us along the Martin Canyon Creek and Donlin Loop Trails. A hidden gem, this route takes you along a shady stream bed, nestled in a residential area, and then provides a panoramic view of the 580 corridor near

Castro Valley. **Earl Bates, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps, Prashant Gupte, Mark Hildreth, Ray Martz and Gene Schulting** made the trek.

Redwood Regional Park (August 3): Our planned 4.5-mile hike ended up being 7 miles. (At least the "AllTrails" app got the forecasted elevation gain of ~800 feet correct.) The cool temps of the heavily wooded redwood forest were greatly enjoyed by our 7 hikers.

Little Yosemite (August 10): To beat the 90-degree heat of midday, we hiked our usual route to Little Yosemite Trail backwards. (No we didn't walk backwards!; our route took us counterclockwise.) This allowed **Chris Duffek, Prashant Gupte, Roger Meyer, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** to enjoy the morning breeze along the higher trails and a shady lunch along the return trail to our cars. We finished the 5.4-mile hike, the 950 feet of elevation gain before the thermometer read 85.



Sibley and Huckleberry Regional Parks (August 17): We've done this 4.2-mile hike before and know how steep the second half can be with 1100 feet of climbing. So, we decided to do the hike in the opposite direction. A brilliant idea! **Earl Bates, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps, Roger Meyer, Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed this pretty route much more.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with around 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let Bob know.



Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilx4@gmail.com



Book Corner Paul Kersis



The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book – borrow a book!





SongSirs

Don Casey

Steve and Peter are back (for the most part); good to have them back in the band, and we are hoping things continue to be positive in their lives.

The group and I continue to progress in learning how best to mutually support one another, a process called (in the 1960s) Forming/Storming/Norming/Performing. Normally used for new teams but similar stages exist when roles change in an organization. We're getting better at understanding what the performers and the guy with the stick need to do to help the group as a whole.

Example: after struggling with "Margaritaville" we had a breakthrough at the last rehearsal. This is a difficult song with unusual timing on entrances and exits... we seem to have jointly sorted it out.

Work continues on finalizing the set list for our next external performance in about a month, and rehearsing to the point of risking being infected with multiple earworms.

We're also looking for another audience participation sing at the September meeting... this may be an 'audience choice' selection.

Don Casey

925.689.4209 donjcasey@comcast.net



Bocce John Kendrick

Start your Monday mornings with fresh air, friendly competition, and good company. Join fellow members and guests for relaxed bocce games at Newhall Park—no experience (or special attire) required!

Games are played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from May through September, starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing approximately around 10:00 a.m.

All games take place at the Bocce Ball Courts at Newhall Park, located near the corner of Turtle Creek Road and Ayers Road in Concord.

Join us for a fun and relaxed Monday morning of bocce and camaraderie. Ladies are welcome, and formal bocce attire is not required—just bring yourself and enjoy the game.

Please note: Games will be cancelled in the event of rain.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



9 Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi everyone. As summer is wrapping up why not come out and play some golf. Please email at the link under my name if you would like to play with us. 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. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com

The day when I can yell "where is my phone?" and it yells back "Down here on the couch!" then it will really be a smartphone...



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Group, sans **Paul Dubow**, met in the beautiful back yard of **Bob Spellman**. **Bob** volunteered to host on short notice because **Paul** has been recuperating from an illness. Thanks **Bob**; it was great! **Paul**,

we missed you!

The shady setting was perfect on a warm day and lively conversation proceeded over appetizers, complemented by a variety of wines provided by the members which included a Sauvignon Blanc, a Chardonnay, a Pinot Noir to a couple of nice Cabs.

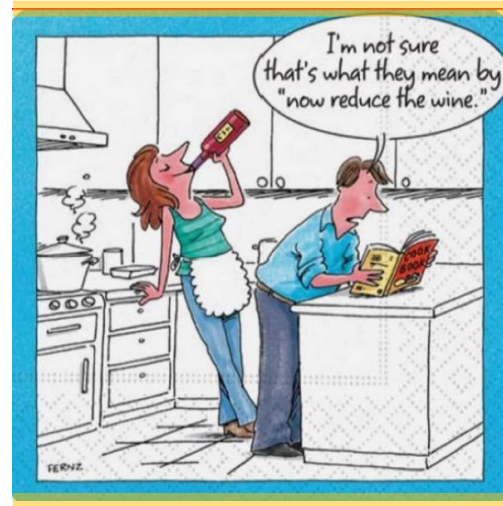
Bob's grilled burgers and condiments, along with several side dishes were a hit. During the lunch, we addressed a few business issues and set the calendar for the rest of the year. **Dan Holland** will host the September lunch on the 16th. The October event will be our dinner-out with the ladies on the 9th, at a location to be determined. As usual, no events are planned for November or December.

The ladies enjoyed lunch together on the outdoor patio of Mona's in Pleasant Hill.

Pete Gates for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 pdubow2398@aol.com

All animals are equal, but some animals are
more equal than others.

Animal House—George Orwell



寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Two last minute no-shows left only four of us to descend upon Wasabi, a new Japanese restaurant across the street

from Toda Santos park in Concord.

Three of us went for the sushi/sashimi plate combo, one stuck with a couple of rows. Everyone agreed that the fish was excellent, the quantities very satisfying. And that wasn't just the saki talking! Sadly, we were the only four in the restaurant... sadly for the restaurant; for us the service was excellent! People who love sushi are missing out, nice small restaurant with great fish and very reasonable prices. A hidden gem.



We meet on a bi-monthly schedule so no gathering in September but put October 15th to "save the date" Our target restaurant for then is tentatively Bamboo in Bishop Ranch!

[Clint Collier](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



THIRD ANNUAL SIR 146 PICNIC

Boots, Brisket and Brotherhood!

Round Up Your Appetite for a Free BBQ!

Saddle up for the 3rd Annual SIR 146 Picnic, where the spirit and flavor of the West come alive! Grab your partner, dust off your cowboy hats, string ties and boots for a barbecue you won't want to miss.



Event Details

When: **Friday, September 18**

Where: **Hanna Picnic Area at Old Borges Ranch, Walnut Creek**

Time: **Mosey on over as early as 10:30am
—food served at 11:30am—celebrate all day long!**

GRUB'S ON!



We're servin' up a smokin' selection of BBQ favorites, including beef, chicken and pork ribs. Soda and water will also be served.

This shindig is free but limited to the first 100 who register! No alcoholic beverages will be provided. Picnic tables, plates, utensils, and napkins are on us. Don't like bench sittin'? Bring a comfy chair to kick back in style.

To secure your seat at the hottest party this side of Lost Wages, shoot an email to Bob Lucido bobwendy3@comcast.net letting us know whose comin'. Feel free to bring a prospective new member!

Don't miss out, as we must limit the group to 100 folks! (We will keep a waitlist, so don't despair!) This is your chance to enjoy great food, warm company, and western fun at an unbelievable price. Dust off your spurs and join us for a day of laughter, barbecue, and good ol' SIR camaraderie! **And remember to thank our Board members for their generosity.** We'll see y'all at the ranch!



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The July wine tasting was held at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido** who opened their lovely, shaded backyard to 40+ people. We welcomed **Doug and Lori Richardson** and **Phil**

and **Christine Lee**, first timers, to the wine tasting. We tasted eighteen bottles of French white and red Burgundy wines. With the wine, the tasty appetizers, the nice weather, and the wonderful camaraderie, it was a terrific event. The winner voted for bringing the favorite red was **Ross Abbott** and for bringing the favorite white was **Phil Lee**.

Bill **Holly** and I want to thank all who attended the wine tasting but especially the hosts, **Bob and Wendy**. Without hosts, there is no wine tasting.

Our next wine tasting will be Tuesday, October 27, at the home of **Norm and Mary Azevedo**. The wines will be Zinfandel and Sauvignon Blanc. RSVP by calling me (925.324.2463) or emailing us.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



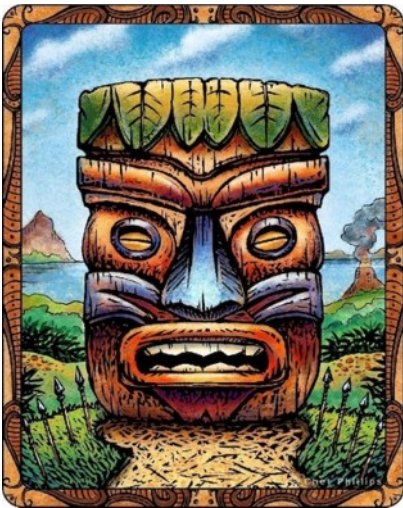
Apologies to the older folks we used to judge for eating dinner at 5 and being in bed by 9.

You guys were really on to something.





Join us for Aloha Hour



Aloha! No Hawaiian vacation this year?

No problem!

Bring a little island spirit closer to home by joining us for our Dine Out Aloha Hour at Kaia's Island Kitchen & Bar.

Come relax on Kaia's tropical patio, catch up with friends, and enjoy a delicious selection of Happy Hour appetizers, small plates, and refreshing drinks. If you're still in vacation mode and decide to stay for dinner, that's perfectly fine—we won't make you leave!

Friends are always welcome, so grab your favorite travel companion (no passport required) and join us for an evening of good food, great conversation, and plenty of aloha.

Mahalo—we hope to see you there! ☺☺

- When: Tuesday, August 25th 2026
- Happy Hour: 3pm to 6 pm
- Location: Kaia's Island Kitchen & tiki Bar,
- 480 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

Parking is easy — there's a convenient municipal parking lot close to the restaurant.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food, friends, and laughter!

Please let us know if you will join us. Contact **Bob Lucido** so we can inform the restaurant of how many will be attending.

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Al Guzman

mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbtnorcal.com

Couples Dining Out



Wence's Restaurant

Join the Dine Out crew for an evening of laughter, delicious food, and great company. We're happy to once again be gathering at one of our favorite restaurants, Wence's.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 20th 2026
Time: Happy Hour: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 1922 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill CA, 94523
Cost: \$60 per person



~~ MENU ~~

STARTER's (Select one)

Organic Mixed Greens Salad, cherry tomatoes, red onion, asiago-herb dressing or Lobster Bisque Soup

ENTREE SELECTIONS (Select One)

- #1 Pacific Coast Wild Prawns Scampi, fettuccine, grape tomatoes, and shallots with white wine lemon caper sauce
- #2 Grilled Free-range Chicken Breast Piccata, sherry mushroom demi-glace, broccolini, and garlic mashed potatoes
- #3 Lemon Dill Wild Charbroiled Salmon, with garlic mashed potatoes, broccolini, and lemon corn dill relish

DESSERT (Select One)

Tiramisu or Vanilla Gelato or Chocolate Gelato

We must have your check by noon Tuesday, Oct. 13th 2026.

Regretfully, no cancellations after deadline.

Please indicate your names and meal choices.

Check No:

Name:	Guest name:
☐ Green Salad ☐ Lobster Bisque	☐ Green Salad ☐ Lobster Bisque
☐ Shrimp Scampi ☐ Chicken Piccata ☐ Salmon Lemon Dill	☐ Shrimp Scampi ☐ Chicken Piccata ☐ Salmon Lemon Dill
☐ Tiramisu ☐ Vanilla Gelato ☐ Chocolate Gelato	☐ Tiramisu ☐ Vanilla Gelato ☐ Chocolate Gelato

Return the bottom portion of this form with your check.

Make checks payable to SIR Branch 146

Mail Check to: Bob Lucido 541 Lilly St. Walnut Creek 94595

Al Guzman

mrलगuzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbtnorcal.com

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Corrie Oranje

The Mexican Train stopped at the Oranje's last August 14th for another fun night. We gathered around in the family room catching up with one

another and then decided since we were here to play dominoes, maybe we should. The games started on time at 7:00pm with the usual dessert break at 8:30. Sue served a yummy Almond Cake with ice cream. Our winner's were **Richard** in first place, **Alicia** in second place and **Peter Bishop** in third. The losers felt that scratchers should be reinstated in recognition of their galant efforts. September's game will be hosted by The Bishops.

Corrie Oranje



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

Ron Plachy

We played at the Walnut Creek home of **Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti** on Friday, July 24th. Marlene

had fruit, cheese, and snacks prior to the game. Her signature carrot cake was served with coffee at the break.

We could not get substitutes and played with only our 10 regulars. It seems most people that want to play are already in a group or playing in multiple groups.

Dan Holland had a really fantastic night. He only won 4 games but had very low scores on those he lost. He finished with a fantastic low average of 8.0! (He was keeping score but...) **Anne Plachy** took second with a 24.6 average. **Dan's** better half, **Mary**, captured 3rd with a 24.8 average.

Next month we will play at the home of **Dan and Mary Holland** in Martinez.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Walt Busenius

We last met on the Good Ole Friday afternoon of July 25th at the home of **Alicia Baily**.

The Friday special huffed and puffed its way to her creekside doorstep. Gathering around the table were **Linda and Larry Brown, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Alicia Baily**. Alicia is always a joyful host who spoils us with munchie table treats and half-time faire.

Bringing her best game to the outing was **Alicia Baily**, taking home 1st Place. Both **Larry** and **Linda Brown** played very well, coming in 2nd and 3rd.

There always is a lot of chit-chat, and everyone very much enjoyed the afternoon. Goodbyes were expressed, and then the sun was followed home.

Our next meeting will be in August at the home of **Sue** and **Walt Busenius**.

All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Linda Brown, Larry Brown and Alicia Baily

I just told my kids I'm older than Google.
They think I'm joking.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro"

Jim Pope

On August 21st, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim**

and **Renie Pope's** home with 16 players. Those in attendance this evening were: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Ken and Carol Sout, Rich and Kim Pace, Scott and Marie-Claire MacDougall, Fred and Katie Morehouse, Susan and Steve Oki** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed outstanding goodies provided by the members and some wine and beer, too. We had 16 players, so we played at 2 tables of 5 and one table or 6. The low score winners at each table were **Ken Sout, Katie Morehouse, and Jim Pope**. We paid each table winner 5 or 6 one-dollar California Lotto tickets respectively. There were three high score players at each table: **Lessie Firth, Henry Thacher, and Renie Pope**. They received one Lotto ticket each. (see

pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on September 18th. (Photos by Steve Oki)



Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

Steve Lane

Our July 22 Mexican Train gathering was once again held at the home of **Kathe Mitchell**, with **Kathe** serving

as our most wonderful host.

Congratulations to **Kathe Mitchell**, who continued her winning streak by taking first place once again! Mr. **John Kelly** finished in second place, and **Stevo** claimed third. **Kathe** is going to be out of town next month – so the winning streak will be over, if being out of town counts??

Semi-special recognition goes to **Carol Lane** and **Mary McCarthy**, who shared a scratcher prize for their semi-outstanding play.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Mexican Train gathering on August 26, 2026, at **Peter**

and **Martha Plante's** home.

Cheers... Mr. **Stevo**

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com



Semi-Outstanding players
along with the winners.

L to R: **Mary McCarthy**, **Carol Lane**, **Steve Lane**,
Moose Kelly, **Kathe Mitchel**.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

With six regular MTD players away on vacation, we once again invited substitutes to join us. **Glenn**

Breslin (Activities Chair) also introduced me to **Tom Byron**, who became a SIR member the very next day. Group 8 remains committed to welcoming new members who would like to experience SIR Mexican Train Dominoes.

Jeff and **Peggy Dreyfus**, who joined MTD 8 just a few months ago, generously volunteered to provide the evening's snacks.

The final standings placed **Steve Ybarra** first with an average score of **11.42**, **Tom Byrom** second with **13.57**, and **Jim Barry** third with **13.71**.

Our next games will take place on Wednesday, September 2nd, with **Steve Dinning** serving as host.

Richard Hockenbrock

rlhock@outlook.com



Winners L to R: **Jim Barry** (3rd), **Steve Ybarra** (1st), and **Tom Byrom** (2nd)



Gang's All Here!



CARD GAMES

...we play



Cribbage John Kendrick

A lively group of cribbage enthusiasts gathered at Rocco's Restaurant on the afternoon of July 22, 2026, for an afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie.

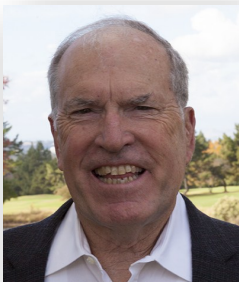
Participants included **Ron Afdal, Micheal Kimsal, John Pearl, Peter Plante, Mark Raaberg, Roger Rivers, Jack Starr**, and event organizer **John Kendrick**. throughout the afternoon, players enjoyed several competitive rounds while sharing conversation and good sportsmanship in a welcoming atmosphere.

When the final scores were tallied, **John Pearl** claimed first place with an outstanding performance. Event organizer **John Kendrick** earned second place, while **Jack Starr** finished in third.

The gathering was another enjoyable opportunity for local cribbage players to come together, celebrate their shared love of the game, and look forward to future tournaments.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by **Steve Ybarra** on the first Thursday. Thanks, **Steve** for providing beverages and snacks to keep us going!

Substitutes **Bob Campbell, Sig Kalteis** and **Dan Holland** helped make the player group six as regulars **Melo Piccolo, Brad Hatcher** and **Steve** attended.

After three hours of mostly split pot (high/low) play, **Melo** improved his wealth for the second month in a row.

Our next game is scheduled to be hosted by **Frank Lucas**.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Since the prior SIRC call submission, we are reporting on results for July. The major winner was **Frank Lucas** with 4 wins, and **Ron Polivka, Jeff Dreyfus, Dave Smith, and Bob West** with 2. **Steve Ybarra** had 4 2nd's. **Dave Smith** had 2 STM's. Lowest Average Score was **Ron Polivka** with 33.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with 20 wins followed by **Ron Polivka** with 15 and **Bob Haber** with 12. In winning percentage **Jim Passaglia** leads with 63%, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 50%, and **Bob West** with 41%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** leads with 17, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 13. In lowest average score **Jim Passaglia** leads with 43.6 and **Ron Polivka** has 52.9. In STM's, **Ron Polivka** and **Frank Lucas** lead with 7. In most improved over 2025, **Will Stratton** is 200% better, followed by **Bob Haber** at 170%, and **Frank Lucas** at 158%. Best Sheriffs: **Brian McCarthy, Ron Polivka, Bill Vizza, Jim Passaglia** and **Dick Wade**, all had no uncovered passes this year.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be August 28th, September 11th, and September 18th.

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

A Special Note: **Bill Vizza** passed on June 8th, at 84 and had been a member since 2020. Several of us attended his celebration of life in Benecia on August 2nd. It was very interesting to learn of his first 77 years before he met us. I didn't know he was a singer but in his last few days he kept singing songs, and he was in the Navy choir that sang at John Kennedy's funeral.

Co-Directors **Bob West** and **Steve Ybarra**

robwtawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

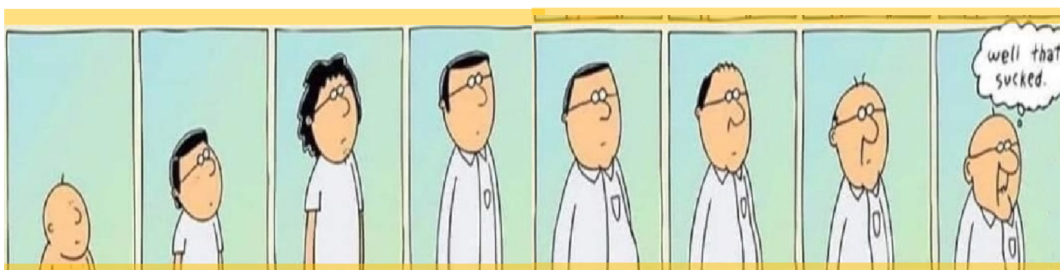
Margot Somerville and **Marilyn Miller** were our gracious hosts on August 11th. I noticed that the creamy onion dip, which we hadn't seen in a long time, was a popular favorite at the snack table.

Slams? As is so often the case, none were bid. On Board 19 every pair bid four hearts and made six, so there was clearly at least one opportunity. Board 17 was a curiosity. Every pair bid four spades. One pair made four, one pair went down one, and **Margot and Marilyn** made seven. How about that!

We are grateful to **Dave and Nancy Steinberg** for being our sixth couple. They came in third at 50%. **Margot and Marilyn** were second (53%), and **Joan and Dave Pierce** were first (64%). No game in September as too many couples will be enjoying wonderful travels.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, August 7 with four tables and 16 players at Boundary Oak was unhosted, but **Joe Fuchs** deserves much appreciation for getting the venue approved, paying for the coffee, and bringing lots of goodies. Thank you, **Joe**!

Apparently by doing all those things, **Joe** continued to remain focused throughout the day-earning 1st place at lunchtime, at 1st Half, and Overall! He also scored well in Best Partnerships, Least Zeros, Most Threes, and Most Threes Less Least Zeros. Congratulations, **Joe**!

John Kluesener was 2nd, only 1 point away. **Bob Yolland** was 3rd, only 1.5 points away. **John Rexroat** was 4th, only 2 points away.

Dick Devoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Brad and Lynne Hatcher hosted our August 4th event. All our regular couples participated.

It was a very competitive event. The lead changed hands multiple times after almost every round.

- After Round 1, **Dick** and **Maggie Chafee** held the lead
- After Round 2, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** took the lead
- After Round 3, **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** took the lead
- After Round 4, **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** barely held onto the lead by 20 points

During the Final Round 5, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** surged ahead for 1st PLACE

We had a first time unusual occurrence at the end of play. One of our couples misplaced their Score Card. After an exhaustive search it still couldn't be found. Their recollection of their final score kept increasing to the point where they thought they may have finished in 3rd place. Fortunately, our hosts found the Score Card the next day and their actual score only placed them in 5th place. Perhaps a little too much wishful thinking. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3550 points - **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 2430 points - **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**
- 3rd PLACE with 2050 points - **Chaffees** and **Hatchers** with a Rare Tie

Our next event will be held on September 1st and dual hosted by **John** and **Kathy Kluesener** (house) and **Dick** and **Maggie Chafee** (all food & beverages)

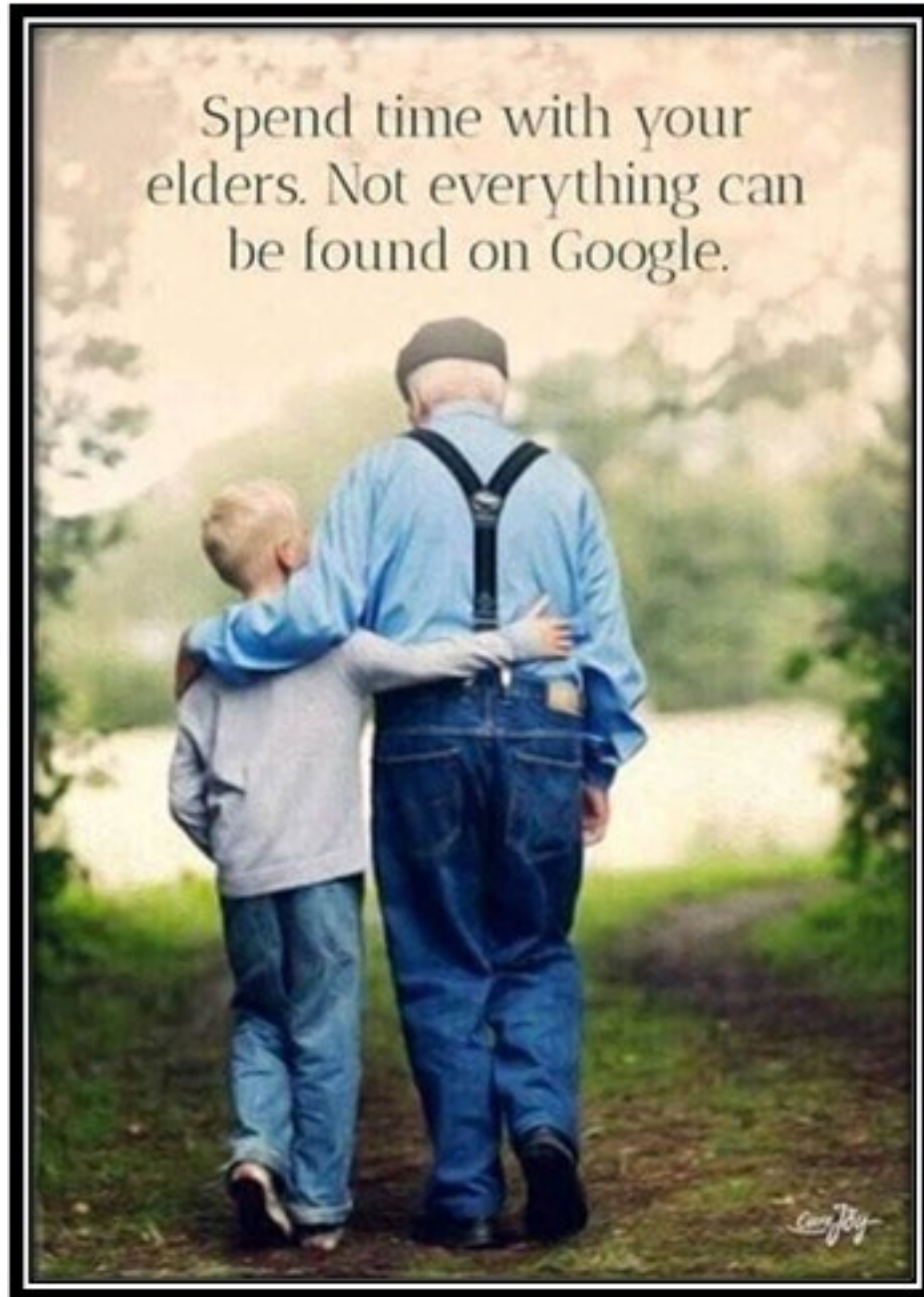
Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

You know you're getting older when you
start to notice little gray hairs...
In your children's hair!

You'd think that the part of the brain that
used to remember phone numbers would
take over and remember passwords!
But... Nooooo!

Parting Shot



You are a treasure house for someone!