



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

April 2023



## Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

### Thank You!

Our Branch took a big risk last month by eliminating our luncheon attendance requirement. I am overjoyed to report that the reservation

approach worked smoothly and greatly reduced the workload of our Luncheon Chair **Steve Oki**, the volunteers at our registration desk, and several Branch Officers. Attendance at the March luncheon remained relatively strong, with 120 members present. We also saved the Branch money, by having fewer uneaten meals that we had to pay for.

Members are now attending because they want to; not because they have to. And we want to make more members want to attend. Therefore, we are working to make the reservation process even easier for you. We will continue to invite interesting speakers, even if they demand a fee. We will maximize your "schmoozing" time at lunches by continuing to optimize the Branch business portion of the agenda. So try out a luncheon in the near future.

### You Get What You Give

The most important people in our Branch are the many volunteers who keep us running day-to-day. It's the Activity Chairs, too numerous to list here, that plan, arrange and sponsor our weekly, monthly and quarterly events. It's the Officers, RAMP Chairs and Committee Chairs who work, often many hours throughout the month, on Branch matters. It's the Hosts who open their homes for our many gatherings. Without their efforts Branch 146 would be a disorganized and dull organization.

Volunteering isn't for everyone—I get that. Most of us are retired, and don't want another job. We all live busy lives. We just want to show up, have fun and then go home. But without volunteers, our Branch starts to fall apart... We can't hold a Wine Tasting event because no one steps forward to host it at their house. Cycling outings become less frequent because no one plans an interesting route and takes the time to send out a

group e-mail. The Assistant Secretary, a critical Branch position, remains unfilled for months. Without assistants, Activity Chairs begin to burnout and events become less frequent. All these things are already happening because members are not stepping up.

Nurturing friendships and sponsoring fun activities; that is what SIR is all about. Contributing a few hours, even on a one-time basis would be a big help to the Branch. Maybe you would enjoy serving as a Greeter or working the registration desk at our luncheon—you will get to expand your network of members. Maybe it's providing rides for elderly members, who live near you, to activities or the luncheons—the smile you put on their face is priceless. Perhaps assisting the Chair for your favorite activity would be rewarding to you and a great relief to them – and it will keep the activity healthy. Try volunteering, you'll like it!

*You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.*

Winston Churchill

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.*

Elizabeth Andrew

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.*

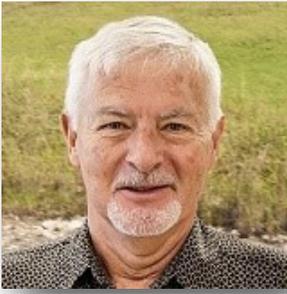
Oscar Wilde

**Bob Wilkenfeld**  
Big Sir, Branch 146

**SIR Monthly Luncheon**  
**Thursday, April 13th, 2023**  
**Boundary Oak**  
**11:30**

Dr. Jon Haveman  
National Economic Education Delegation  
A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entree [go to page 3](#).



## Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Our speaker for the month of March was Ms. Debbie Le Vine, the Director of Infrastructure and Management for the California Independent System Operator or CAISO. They are re-

sponsible for making sure that the instantaneous power demand of the citizens of California is met by the various supply systems in and around the State of California. Their goal is to make sure that power is always available and that we are using the least expensive of the available supply sources. Various power suppliers submit their hourly unit rates to CAISO the day prior to the day of supply and CAISO then estimates the power demand based on the season and the expected weather conditions. Since nuclear power is not easily ramped up and down and is relatively low cost, it, as well as wind, solar, run of the river hydro and geothermal, forms the base of the supply.

As Debbie explained power demand increases in the morning hours as households begin to function and offices and industries begin to operate. Demand somewhat flattens during the late morning to mid-afternoon and then rises again as people return home. Because of solar, during much of the day excess power is produced and can be exported, but in the early evening demand outstrips supply as the sun goes down so more expensive gas plants must come on-line to meet demand. This is the time period when power is most expensive and consumers are asked to defer high demand uses like air conditioning, dish washers, ovens etc. if possible. Lots of good information!

Our speaker in April will be Dr. Jon Haveman who heads the National Economic Education Delegation. He will be speaking on the state of the economy and hopefully will be able to enlighten us on the inflation/recession issue and our current banking challenges.

**John Kluesener**  
Little Sir, Branch 146



## Membership George Mon

There were five new members and one returning member that joined in March. **Pete Salgado** lives in Walnut Creek and is sponsored by **Dave Steinberg**. **Pete** can be seen as a regular with the golf group. **Stephen**

**Dick** lives with his wife **Peg Schultz** in Walnut Creek and was an educator for the San Ramon Unified School District. He is sponsored by **Nick Jacuba**. **Bart Gledhill** lives in Alamo and is a veterinarian. He was a past Boy Scout leader. **Clint Collier** is his sponsor. **Ted Robertson** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Jan** and was a wildlife biologist. He is a professional naturalist guide. His sponsor is **Frank Lucas**. **Dick Wade** and his wife **Janice** also live in Walnut Creek. **Dick** was a landscape contractor and is sponsored by **Randy Graham**. **Reggie Fromm** rejoined after taking time away from the branch due to Covid concerns. Welcome back **Reggie**.

Sadly, we lost **Ed Hewitson** due to heart failure. He was a member for 2 years and was 84 years old.

The 2023 membership count is at 245.

If you want to sponsor a new member please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsor's Role. The Member application is in the Members tab.

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

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

**George Mon**

## SIR Mission Statement

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



## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

In our last meeting we had a very informative speaker Ms. De Vine who described the power supply/demand process of the California Independent Operating System (CAISO). This month we will have Dr.

Jon Haveman of the National Economic Education Delegation to speak on the state of our economy.

This last month (March) our attendance was good with 125 members expected, but we still had members who had not RSVP and walked-in (5) without any warning, and members who did not show (8) for the luncheon after giving a RSVP. On the bright side, we had 93% of the members attending give their meal choice which helps Boundary Oak deliver the meal that each member wants.

**Clint Collier** has created an easy way for you to both RSVP and pick your meal with a single click from the monthly SIR-Call Newsletter and we hope to incorporate it into future reminder e-mails for the Luncheons. Look for it near this article by the April Luncheon Menu.

**Luncheon Date: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Check-In: 11:00am Meeting Starts at 11:30am**

**Where: Boundary Oak**

**Cost: \$36 per person**

### Payment

The preferred payment method is by check at the luncheon payable to SIR Branch 146.

### RSVP

**If you want to attend the Luncheon, you must RSVP (Opt-In) by Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Noon.**

### Meal Preference

Let us know your meal preference. In the past, we have been using a set percentage of fish entrees to meat entrees. In order to get a better count of each type of meal, please include in the RSVP your preference for lunch entree. Your cooperation will help us get you the meal you want (See menu for entrée, choices)

Specify:

- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Vegetarian

Ways to RSVP

- ✓ Email: [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com)

- ✓ If you don't have e-mail access, call:925.979.5721 and leave a message.
- ✓ All RSVPs will be acknowledged by e-mail or call back where appropriate

If you find that you will be unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, via one of the methods above. You will be asked to pay for your lunch if you do not inform us before the Friday deadline at noon.

### Sponsors of Guests and New Members

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with the name at the same e-mail address: [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com). Please be sure to notify by the Friday deadline and if possible determine their meal preference.

### Questions

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at 925.831.9380 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by

## SIR 146 April Luncheon

Thursday April 13th, 2023



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

### Salad

Organic Mixed Greens  
Asparagus, Kalamata Olives, Shaved Parmesan,  
Aged Sherry Vinaigrette

### Entrées

[Grilled Filet Mignon](#)

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potato, Roasted Beets  
Red wine jus

—or—

[Loc Duarte Salmon](#)

Saffron Cous Cous, Broccolini

—or—

[Roasted Beet and Goat Cheese Risotto](#)

### Dessert

Lemon Coconut Cake

### Lunch RSVP required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item!

**[If you can't join us, Click Here!](#)**

Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.



## Ladies Day Luncheon Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 11, 2023. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the Luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations must be made to Steve Ybarra and received by May 5, 2023. Please use the reservation form (below) provided in this SIR-Call and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39 per person.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



## SIR 146 May Ladies Luncheon Thursday May 11th, 2023

### Salad

Organic Mixed Greens  
Local Baby Asparagus, Kalamata Olives,  
Shaved Parmesan, Aged Sherry Vinaigrette

### Entrées

**Grilled Filet Mignon**  
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potato,  
Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Red wine jus

—or—

### **Baked Salmon**

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Chunky Roasted Tomato Sauce

—or—

### **Stuffed Peppers**

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Eggplant Tomato Basil Sauce

### Dessert

German Chocolate Cake

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use the reservation form.  
The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



## SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$39 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

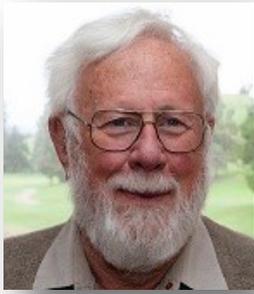
Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Pay?" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

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.

#	F Name, L Name	Filet Mignon	Salmon	Vegetarian	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
Reservations must be received by May 5th.



## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Our "in bulletin" RSVP for our luncheons is now fully operational. The "big red box" on the first page, with the Big Sir's message, announcing the lunch has a link behind it that will take you directly to the

page with the lunch menu if you click on it. This is usually page 3, unless the Big Sir gets extraordinarily verbose. In the menu, each of the entrees is a highlighted link ([in blue, underlined](#)), clicking on the one you desire will generate an e-mail message... Fill in your name and click send and you are all set! Any of you watch the TV series Big Sky? If you did you probably remember, from the first season, Montana State Trooper, Rick Legarski, and his favorite saying "Easy Peasy." That was our goal: make RSVP'ing for our lunches "Easy Peasy!"

Two times a year this will not be available. The Ladies Day luncheons (May and December) will revert to a registration form so that members, desiring to do so, can arrange to sit together at the same table.

My parting shot this month takes aim at Samuel Clemens, an author I admire for his wit but leaves out what I believe may be his most telling quote, although I have never been able to verify that he said it as much as it sounds like him: "sacrilege is another man's disrespect for your religion. There is no word for your disrespect for his." A thought worth remembering.

And, a quick note or thought. This month we received articles written by a computer, two articles to be precise. Obviously artificial intelligence generated in that they were 98% identical, with only individual names changed. This may be an easy way to submit an article but two, with almost identical content, does little other than take up space. We have used our editorial prerogative to cut down one of the articles but I'm not sure if we will continue to accept articles that were machine written. As they said on Dagnet "All we want are the facts, ma'am."

The deadline for submissions for the May issue is **April 24th**. If you have something you would like to say, send it in to [br146SirCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SirCall@gmail.com), putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIR-Call  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)

## Officers and Directors

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

### RAMP-Chair Members

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

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

## SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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

April

Lee Clark  
 Bill Dastic  
 Bob Finlayson  
 Larry Gray  
 Malcolm Harrison

William Hartman  
 Brad Hatcher  
 Paul Masta  
 Jim McManus  
 Bob Soldano

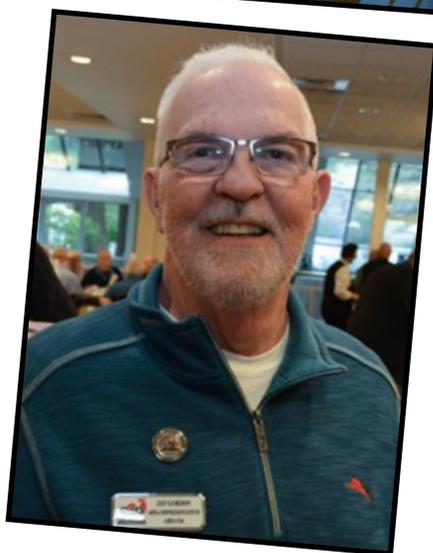
Ken Studer  
 Carl Tilchen  
 Donald Shaw  
 Doug Harris  
 George Radtke



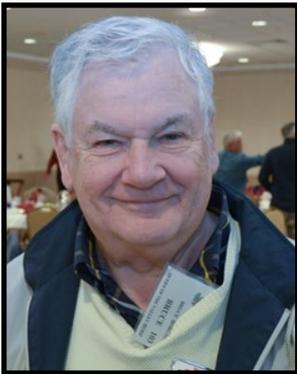
MEMBERSHIP  
 ANNIVERSARIES  
 APRIL 2023

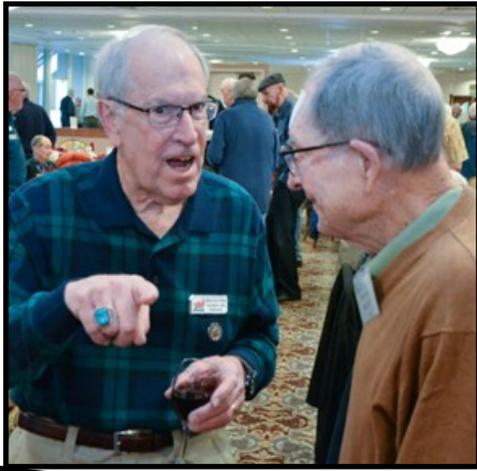
SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
<b>Don Arington</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
<b>Brian McCarthy</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
<b>Byron Nelson</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
<b>Dave Svoboda</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
Steve Lane	2016	7
Joe Starkey	2016	7
Larry Brown	2015	8
John Foster	2015	8
Rich Lyon	2015	8
<b>Jim Barry</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>Mike Connors</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>Roy Hodgkinson</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>John Nelson</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Carl Pagter	2012	11
Frank Lucas	2011	12
Ben Gleason	2010	13
Gene Gracey	2010	13
<b>Bill Hoban</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>15 Years</b>
<b>Steve Sprague</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>15 Years</b>
Joe Fuchs	2007	16
Gene Schulting	2007	16
Glen Renk	2006	17
<b>Bob Spellman</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>22 Years</b>
<b>Syd Whalen</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>22 Years</b>
<b>Jim Brown</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>33 Years</b>

# MARCH 2023 LUNCH



Photos by Henry Thatcher







Ms. Debbie Le Vine, the Director of Infrastructure and Management for the California Independent System Operator—CAISO



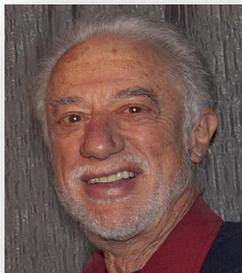
Paul Jones  
Our Birthday Boy!





*Looking for something to do...*

## **Activities Coordinator** Bob Lucido with Glenn Breslin



When you start a new activity you not only help your fellow SIR members stay active but also personally benefit with a good feeling that you are contributing to the health of the organization. So many failing branches I have contacted have members who only want to participate but not lead an activity. Even though you may not see a benefit from developing new skills because you are retired, from a personal perspective it can be rewarding to gain communication, verbal, and writing skills. Also, the reason we are in this organization is to expand our social network. Leading an activity, you get to know members at a closer level. Sometimes it seems a little overwhelming to start an activity, but you will get direction and support from the Branch Activity Chairman to ensure success. There is always an option to be a Co-chairman or Assistant.

You get recognition for chairing an activity by accumulating points that will go towards certificates.

**Bob Lucido**

925.899.0974 [Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)

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## **SIR Activities!**

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146 and, in some cases, through other SIR branches as well. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if you are interested in participating.

### [Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

### **Bridge:**

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

### [Chess](#)

### **Cooking:**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

### [Cribbage](#)

### [Cycling](#)

### **Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

### **Mexican Train Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

### [Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

### **Poker:**

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

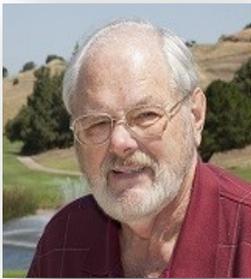
[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar April 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am Nine Hole Golf–1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
10	11	12	13	14
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle @ Rocco's 1:00pm Poker Group #1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am–1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts @ Rocco's 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
17	18	19	20	21
10:00am Hiking 10:00am–3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am–1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am–5:00pm Old Sacramento via Amtrack Train 6:00pm Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00pm–10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30am Nine Hole Golf–2 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am–11:00am Photography @ Rocco's 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
24	25	26	27	28
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool @ Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 2:30pm–5:00pm Wine Tasting	10:00am–11:00am Birding @ Rocco's 12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage @ Rocco's 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle @ Rocco's 1:30pm–3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf–3	12:00pm–3:30pm Hearts @ Rocco's 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
May 1	2	3	4	5
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool @ Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am Nine Hole Golf–1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



## Theater Gary Schaub

Yes, we've reserved a block of tickets for this Tony Award winning Broadway musical for Friday June 16 at Leshar Center for the Arts, produced by Center REP.

"In The Heights", chosen as "Best Musical" on Broadway, with music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda (the creator of "Hamilton") tells the rousing story of three days in the life of Washington Heights, a tight-knit community at the top of Manhattan. "In the Heights" opened in early 2008 and played to *sold-out* houses for four years on Broadway. This hip musical will win you over with its sweet story and hot tunes.

After all the seasonal chilly and wet and windy weather



we've been having this season, you'll find that "In The Heights" will surely warm your spirits.

The group rate for "In the Heights" is \$41.00 per person for reserved seating for SIR members and guests on Friday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Seating for this group rate is limited. Deadline to reserve is Tuesday, May 17.

Send a check payable to SIR 146 to **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Ct., #8, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. For additional info, call **Gary** at 925.938.5454 or e-mail to [gschaub1@gmail.com](mailto:gschaub1@gmail.com).

**This Red-Hot Broadway Musical can be see at the SIR146 Theater Party in June at Leshar Center in June!**



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

On St Patrick's Day the SIR 146 cycling group tried something a little different. Instead of one of their usual bike rides, six riders participated in a "gimmick" bike rally. **Patrick Hoy, Moose Kelly,**

**Michael Wolfson, Scott Simmons, Roger Meyer and Ken Studer** paired up into two-man teams to challenge a route devised by SIR member and rally master, **Jim Nelson**.

What is a gimmick bicycle rally you ask? It is not a race or an endurance event. A gimmick bicycle rally is a point-to-point ride where riders follow multiple sets of instructions to stay on the proper course. They will be awarded points for recording their progress while on the correct route. Points will be deducted for traveling on the incorrect route. The Rally Master will try to trick the riders into going the wrong way, but at the same time prevent them from getting lost. A rider may be off course and never know it until the end of the

ride! For this event no teams were lost. All teams were off course at times but still made their way to the final destination. Over coffee, maps of the correct course were reviewed scores were tabulated. The teams of Hoy-Kelly and Simmons-Studer tied for first place. Everyone enjoyed the event and plans to ride in another gimmick bike rally to be held sometime later this year.

**Jim Nelson for Larry Kaye**  
925.698.4030





**Explore & Eat**  
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



**Bonus Tour**  
**SIR 146 Explore & Eat**

Visit the  
**California Independent System Operator-CAISO**  
**Folsom, CA**

**May 24, 2023**



**A reliable and accessible power grid**

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) maintains reliability on one of the largest and most modern power grids in the world and operates a transparent, accessible wholesale energy market. The organization works diligently around the clock to meet the electricity needs of consumers while increasing the amount of renewable energy to usher in the clean, green grid of the future.

We help make that happen by giving you visibility into procedures, reports and reference information pertinent to grid and market operations, including the full network model, resource modeling, financial settlements, outage and interchange scheduling, transmission maintenance, metering and telemetry.

See how we work:

**Market processes and products:** The California wholesale market operates as other commodity exchanges do and is composed of interrelated processes.

**Network and resource modeling:** Accurate network modeling supports efficient market operations.

**Outage management:** Accurate and complete outage scheduling is vital to the reliable operation of the transmission system.

**Interchange scheduling:** Interchange scheduling contracts energy delivery.

**Metering and telemetry:** Accurate metering of electricity generated or consumed provides key data inputs for accurate settlement calculations.

**Settlements:** Quick and accurate settlements help markets function.

**Transmission operation:** Our operations reporting, coordination and maintenance efforts help keep the lights on for nearly 32 million people in our control area.

The tour is **FREE** and we will start at 11:45 with lunch (not free) in the CAISO Cafeteria. At 1:00 we will tour the ISO Museum, get an overview of the operations at the headquarters, and have a presentation from one of the 5 CAISO Board members. Then we will proceed to the Control Room Viewing Deck to see the operations in action. The tour should be complete by 2:15 and we can all proceed home. We will try to facilitate carpools and as the travel to Folsom is about 2 hours we plan to drive away at 9:30. Please send your RSVP to Jim Pope's e-mail at [Jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:Jpope24@comcast.net) by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Maximum of 25 for the tour.



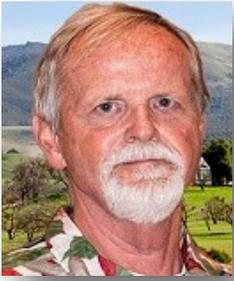
## Explore & Eat Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



### Shadelands Ranch Tour

A group of 24 met at the the Shadelands Ranch Museum, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, to tour the turn-of-the-20th-Century home. Completed in 1903, the Museum was originally the ranch home of [Hiram Penniman](#), an early Walnut Creek pioneer who came to Walnut Creek in 1850 and eventually owned some 500 acres of fruit and nut orchards in the Ygnacio Valley. The house is furnished with many original family furnishings and treatments. The Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum is operated by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The 2 docents conducted an outstanding tour explaining the Ranch's history and Hiram's role in the forming the town of Walnut Creek. They also described the many furnishings, dish and glassware, the old wood stove kitchen, and the many pictures of historic value. All enjoyed the outing and then moved on to The Greenery Restaurant for a lovely lunch gassing up at Mount Diablo. See the pictures that highlight the many features of the Ranch House and furnishings.





## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the photography group consisting of Henry Thatcher, Susan Oki, Bob Wilkenfeld, Peter Plante, Rich Lyons, Clint Collier, Ken Studer, Frank Terzuoli, Mike Rothman, and yours truly captured a number of stunning shots of the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco. We had a spectacular day with abundant sunshine, warm temperatures with a light breeze. After the photo shoot, we adjourned to the café at the De Young Museum for a tasty lunch. There is a photo of the gang that attended attached to this article.

Our theme this month is Spring Photography; hence the reason we choose the Japanese Tea Garden. The photographers will review the pictures they have taken. They will then show the top five to ten photos per person at our upcoming meeting which will be on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Rocco's. Our gathering time is at 8:45am with the meeting kicking off at 9am sharp.

AND YES, coffee and donuts will be served. Please come and join us to review these photos even if you are not part of the photography group.

As we get closer to the meeting date, I will forward an agenda for the meeting to those that are on our mailing list. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

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

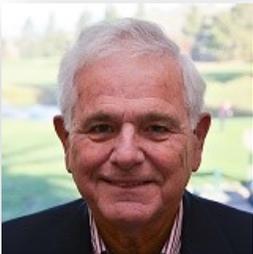
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 [rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)



## Dixieland Band

Ross Abbott

The first SIR Dixieland Band toe-tapping session held at my place on March 22 was an outstanding success (in all due modesty).



The band consisted of **Ross Abbott** on piano, **Chuck Cornell** on Trombone, **Doug Hansen** on Saxophone, **Bud Pierce** on Banjo and a ring-in friend of Ross', Jim Patrick, on stumph fiddle, spoons and other sundry instruments which always guarantees a fun event.

We played stuff like, *Darktown Strutters Ball*, *Beer Barrel Polka*, *Five Foot Two*, and *Carolina*

We plan on doing it again on Wednesday, June 28, and would welcome anyone who plays an instrument and enjoys this type of music.

Ross Abbott

925.939.1121 [rossabbott@hotmail.com](mailto:rossabbott@hotmail.com)





## Travel Glenn Breslin

Hi to all potential SIR146 Travelers. I love traveling. Yes, I do love everything about it. I very much look forward enabling SIR members to share travel

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

### TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE

First, thank you all for your travel input contained in the Travel Questionnaire answers. I am so grateful that so many of you spent their time to share their travel desires. Thank You and More Thank Yous !!! I enjoyed reading each questionnaire. I now have a much better idea of where SIR members plan to travel to, the duration that they prefer to travel and how they want to travel. These questionnaires will provide pertaining input when choosing future same day, overnight, national, and international travel.

Forty seven questionnaires have been filled out and sent to me. I will be sending out the detailed results to everyone in an Email Blast. To summarize the results, see the Travel Questionnaire Summary below. Multiple Day Trips will be planned for 2023. Two total (National or International) 2024 trips will be planned; One for April/May 2024 and one for September/October 2024. Both national and international trips will be planned for 2025. Multiple ongoing day or overnight trips will be planned (see Day Trips Planned - Please Join Us section below).

### TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

This below summary conveys the highest vote counts from the SIR146 Travel Questionnaire.

#### Destinations Highest Votes:

Day Trip or Overnight Trips: Angel Island, Broadway Shows, Carmel, Golden Gate Fields, Oldies Tribute Bands, Presidio, Treasure Island, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Walnut Creek Happy Hours and Winery Tasting.

National 1 to 2 Week-Long Trips: Fall Colors, New England, Nashville, U.S. River Cruises, Washington DC.

International 2 to 3 Week-Longs Trips: Australia, Canada, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Japan, Greece, Portugal, Scotland, Spain.

#### Other Travel Preferences:

4-star hotels.

Structured travel agenda (e.g., planned land tours or planned cruise excursions).

Cruise Preferences were equally divided amongst Moderately Priced Cruise Lines (e.g., Holland-America, Princess), High-End Cruise Line (e.g., Oceania, Ama Waterways) and Very High-End Luxury Cruise Lines (e.g., Regent, Crystal). To optimize participation, future cruises with focus on the High-End Cruise Line category.

To Cruise or to Land Travel came up very close with many votes for each. Let's do both !

To River Cruise or Ocean Cruise also came up very close with many votes for each. Let's do both !

#### DAY TRIPS PLANNED PLEASE JOIN US

##### Day Trip #1

Old Sacramento and California Train Museum Tour



Date: Wednesday, April 19th

Where: California State Railroad Museum - Sacramento, CA

Co-Ed: Yes

Details: Take the Amtrack train from Martinez to Sacramento. Visit the Train Museum. Eat Lunch at Rio City Cafe. Return to Martinez on the Amtrack train. Please see the flier that I will send out to all.

Payment: Please send \$16 check to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St. Lafayette, CA 94549. Make check out to SIR146. Money is due by Mon 4/17 at the very latest.

[Travel Continued on Next Page](#)

Travel continued from prior page

## Day Trip #2

Carole King Beautiful Show

Date: Thursday June 15 for 2pm Show

Co-Ed: Yes

Theater: Show is at the Broadway Sacramento Theater. This is a theater in the round.

Transportation: Due to the high price of busses for small groups, we will carpool to the venue.

Meal: We will meet for lunch before the show.

Timing: We will leave at 10am from Mitchell Park and Drive (2770 Mitchell Drive Walnut Creek) at 10am. Lunch in Sacramento at 11:30 and the show at 2pm.

### Costs:

The show costs \$70. Please send a \$70 check per person to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549 to hold your spot. Make check out to SIR146. Money is due by Wed 4/26. 20 Seats have been blocked in the 12th and 13th row. If you are very interested, can you please send your money in sooner, rather than later—to assure you get seats.

### QUOTES

*"The fastest way to make a friend for life is to travel with a stranger."*

*"Sometimes all you need is a great friend and thirst for adventure."*

*"Sharing adventures means enjoying them 100% more."*

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me. Contact information is below.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

Turn a regular sofa into a sofa bed.

Simply by forgetting your wife's birthday.



## 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

Even though we had a bunch of very welcome wet weather in December and January and the trails were in marginal shape, the guys showed up anyway! I learned a long time

ago that the secret to success is to just show up! I am not going to be able to lead this fabulous bunch of guys through March, so Ray Martz (my lieutenant), Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting, and maybe Mike Browne will take on this chore. This old body is going into the medical shop for an adjustment, and I will not be capable of participating thru March.

We've done Big Break, Marsh Creek, Hayward Regional Shoreline, Diablo Foothills, Brushy Peak, and Point Pinole recently. Plans for the next couple of months will include those venues which historically have fabulous wildflower displays and/or opportunities to observe wildlife.

As to plans for 2023, I think we can all look forward to plentiful wildflowers and swollen creeks for at least a few months, and maybe even into early summer. We will do a Falls Loop hike in MDSP sometime this spring. And there will be at least 1 bird watching walk at Hayward Regional Shoreline.

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

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

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 [Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)



Gene Schulting, Mike Browne, Bob Lucido,  
Dave Steinberg, Ray Martz, Earl Bates.  
Photo taken by Bob Lively



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

As you might imagine, fishing has been very spotty due to rain, wind and rough seas. Much of our attention has focused on new and proposed fishing regulations that in some cases have limited when, where and how soon fishing for different species may begin. The biggest news and the most impactful is the real possibility of having no salmon fishing season this year. Years of drought and other factors have added up to this sad news. It appears that much of the 2023 fishing season will be focused on halibut and striper fishing in the bay.

Despite the many impediments to early year fishing activities there were a few bright spots. **Bob Lively** caught a nice leopard shark (pictured). **Stan Wong, Bob Lively, Mike Corker, Mike Browne, Brion Beetz, and Carl Moyer** caught trout at Contra Loma Reservoir. This Reservoir should remain a good fishing spot for some time as it received extra trout plantings due to other local reservoirs (such as Lafayette) being too flooded to allow fish planting. Party boats have been getting one halibut per rod in the bay.

At our last meeting, we welcomed Branch 146 member **Steve Knight** into the club and held our annual auction, which enabled our members to buy equipment other members no longer needed. It was a great success.



Bob Lively displays his five foot Leopard Shark  
photo by Ron Lew

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend our monthly meetings. Contacts are Bob Lively 925.383.5193 and Paul Debow 510.504.3566 . Our next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Come early.

Lee Clark for Paul Dubow  
510.504.3566

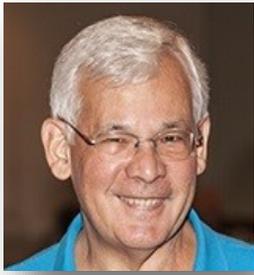


## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Even though it has been a soggy year so far we still have a lot of troopers that are still showing up to play. The course was closed for a week but it is back open and with spring here I feel sure we are going to have some great golfing weather in the coming weeks. So if you are ready to come out of hibernation please join us. Just let me know and I will put you on our mailing list. Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an e-mail asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an e-mail with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford  
[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)





## SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs sang a selection of Irish songs for our performance at Montecito Retirement Home in Concord. (Picture below) The audience members sang along with us, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to SIR **Hank James** for helping organize this event as a resident of Montecito. We heard a lot of heartfelt words of appreciation for our songs and the ballroom was a perfect setting.

Our next rehearsal is on April 5 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be introducing a new set of songs for a July 6 performance at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



SongSirs from left to right: Richard Hockenbrock, Bud Pearce, Frank Lucas, Lynn Shafer, Bruce Kimmis, Bruce Borgman, Ron Lew, Paul Beretz and Curtis Young and Steve Dinning on the piano.

I was at the doctors and he said I had only 6 months to live.  
So I shot him  
The judge gave me 20 years!



## Bocce

John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players.

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

**The First Bocce Ball activity will be May 8, 2023.**

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

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

F.Y.I.—there is a rumor the Olympic Committee is considering adding Bocce Ball to the next summer games. SIR 146 may consider forming a team for the next 2024 Summer Olympic games to be held in Paris, France. Does anyone speak French?



John Kendrick

925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

She only made whisky!  
But I loved her still.



## Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in May for the Ladies Day Luncheon. There's a great selection of your favorite authors in hardcover or in paperback. Come by with your spouse or significant other and take home some terrific reading.





## 寿司の友達

### Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Our next get together will be on April 20th. We are continuing to look for and try

local (Walnut Creek) establishments by going to Oishi Sushi and Grill which is on Newell St. This is a relatively small establishment, across the street from the Kaiser facilities, 1542 Newell. Invitations and details will go out to members the first week of April. If you are interested in joining us, let us know!



Clint Collier

925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)



### Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

Several members of the LAW Group, **Joe Barry, Bob Spellman, Henry Thatcher and Syd Whalen** met at **Clint Collier's**

home on March 15. Since that day was the Ides of March, the anniversary of Julius Caesar's assassination, **Clint** prepared a "Roman style menu"; starting with, what else but, a "Caesar Salad". The main course was composed of items that would have graced a Roman's (albeit a rather well off Roman) table, a spice rubbed loin of pork with pomegranate sauce accompanied by a barley and mushroom pilaf with steamed greens. **Clint** shared his supply of a rather unusual fish sauce that was greatly favored by the Romans, [Garum](#). A dessert of a Roman Fig Cake (more like our pies, really) rounded out the meal and was declared a hit by several of the members. The meal concluded in a non Roman way with shots of **Clint's** home made Limoncello all around... lemons and oranges were introduced to Europeans in the middle ages by the invading Moors.



And, true to our name, about 3 bottles of wine disappeared somewhere along the line

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566



### Cooking II Steve Ybarra

This month the Cooking II lunch group had lunch at the Back Forty Texas BBQ Roadhouse & Saloon in Pleasant Hill. The large menu had something for everyone. The favorites seemed to be the split pea soup

with ham, slow-smoked pork ribs, Texas country fries and we finished the meal with vanilla ice cream. What a hearty and good meal. **Steve Ybarra** will home host our next lunch on April 24, 2023. Chairman **Ybarra** was at Spring Baseball in Arizona and unable to attend this month's lunch. Thank you **Ken Richter** who penned this article and provided the photo. Photo from left to right, **Richard Hockenbrock, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Bruce Borgman and Ken Richter.**

Steve Ybarra





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As we anticipated, the March Dining Out event was one for the books. I believe it was probably the largest gathering that we have had since we started this activity in 2012. We passed

our 10-year anniversary without much ado, but perhaps this was the one to celebrate our good fortune in being able to gather with our SIR friends over a memorable meal.

As I had mentioned, I was a bit concerned that the spicy Sichuan cuisine would scare off some of our gentle palates, but I needn't have worried. The chef prepared all the specialties with an appreciation for our request and there were only a few dishes where the garlic and chilies perked up our taste buds.

We had initially thought to limit the number to 60 diners, but as we quickly exceeded that number, and often those beyond that number were good friends (aren't they all?!) we returned to the manager of the restaurant "Jun" - to finally agree to 72 diners. We did have one late cancellation due to illness but were able to accommodate the one couple on our waiting list, so all was well. One of our good friends, **Steve Dinning**, let the cat out of the bag that I would be celebrating a significant birthday in another day, and I was thus serenaded by 72 of my best friends with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday". I cannot recall a more memorable birthday celebration!

This type of Chinese cuisine is served family style with passed plates which also result in economies of scale so that we were able to have this meal for just \$37 per person, a cost which in these inflationary times was just a distant memory. We had four tables of 10 and four of 8 which also had the benefit of being conducive to good socialization and comradery of our group. We had taken over the restaurant, and while it does not boast of a spacious open space, we managed quite well even during our social hour in chatting elbow to elbow among the dining room tables.

When we finally were seated, we started with some appetizers of pork pot stickers and vegetarian spring rolls followed by the restaurant's classic hot and sour soup.

Then the main dishes were brought out, with one plate after another of the savory Sichuan cuisine, starting with their classic Mongolian Lamb and Prawns with

Honey Glazed Walnuts, always a favorite. Then we enjoyed plates of Hunan Smoked Pork, Lemon Chicken Breast, a Crispy Sweet and Sour Fish filet, and finally a Changsha Beef Clay Pot. For dessert we enjoyed an Eight Precious Ingredients Rice Pudding. It's not only the excellent cuisine but the ability to name their dishes with such exotic names that make this cuisine such an interesting experience.

As we continue in this year having survived the social desert during the pandemic, we will no doubt return to one of the Chinese restaurants in the area to take advantage of the benefits of a fine cuisine and economies of the shared tasty dishes. We have not yet decided where we will enjoy our next Couples Dining Out event. It will likely be in the fourth week in May, possibly on May 22. If we continue to have the large numbers of diners, we may consider a two-day event to have as many as possible enjoy this memorable Branch 146 activity.

We wish all of you a wonderful spring season and look forward to seeing you at the next Couples Dining Out event in May!

**Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon**  
**Dining Out Hosts**  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



**Event Pictures Continued on next Page**

Couples Dining Out Photos By Bruce Borgman from March 20th  
Sichuan House Restaurant Event



**Wine Tasting**  
Brian McCarthy



The first wine tasting of 2023 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, from 2:30 to 5pm at the home of **Larry and Ann Kaye**. Their address is 283 Livorna Heights Rd., Alamo. The Kaye's home has a red door and an American flag flying out front. There is an upper driveway and a lower driveway, use either one. Be aware that out back there are three steps that lead from the house to the patio.

The red wine for the event is Pinot Noir and the white wine is Sauvignon Blanc. When you RSVP let us know if you are bringing red or white. If possible, bring your wine in a brown bag (store logo is OK). Don't forget to bring an appetizer to share. Any questions—give me a call or e-mail us. **Bill Holly** and I are looking forward to seeing you at the **Kaye's**.

RSVP: 925.324.2463 or  
[Br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:Br146winetasting@gmail.com)

**Brian McCarthy**  
925.324.2463

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno was hosted by **Corrie Oranje** and his wife, **Sue**, on March 10th. For the first time in months, we had a

full house of participants. No one feeling unwell, no one on vacation! We were all feeling good and enjoying a social evening. The half time break was complimented with an amazing Almond Cake with ice cream. Winners for the night were **Sue Sheldon** (1) with a low average of 20.9, **Peter Plante** (2) and hostess **Sue Oranje** (3).



MTD 1 Winners (L to R): 1st Sue Sheldon, 2nd Peter Plante and 3rd Sue Oranje.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje  
[corrieoranje@gmail.com](mailto:corrieoranje@gmail.com)

Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our February game at the home of **John and Nancy Pearl**. We had a smaller than normal group of thirteen

for two tables of six and seven players. This worked our fine as there was more of the scrumptious snacks provided by **Nancy** to be had by all.

Coming in first was **Anne Plachy**, second place was taken by **Rich Ahlf**, **Mary Denney** came in third. Our next game is scheduled for Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean**.

Ron Plachy  
925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

The ole choo choo chugged into the Contra Costa Centre and the home of **Sue and Walt Busenius** on the evening of February 24th for another

fun night of MTD's. In addition to **Sue and Walt**, there were **Judy and Dick Richmond** and their guest **Suzie Sainsbury, Lynn Shafer, Joyce Wells and Jim Berry**. A smaller group than usual for various last minute reasons. Everyone enjoyed the table treats, and a very rich and tasty raspberry filled cake.

When the smoke settled, with our hand calculators exhausted and the table treats consumed, we had our February Champions. Guest **Suzie Sainsbury** won the big money and took home first place with an avg score of 12.74 /gm which included going out 3 times. **Judy Richmond** (avg 19.50/gm) and **Joyce Wells** (avg 22.50/gm) were once again in the winner's circle: **Judy R**

winning second place with **Joyce W** coming in third.

On March 24th, the choo choo will leave the roundhouse after the SIR-Call is published. But that will not deter us from telling you next month of our adventure in the hills of Concord and the battle of titans at the wonderful home of **Judy and Jim Baldrige**. Who will be our champion?? All Aboard to find out!!

**Walt Busenius**

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



Judy Richmond 2nd place,  
Suzie Sainsbury 1st place and  
Joyce Wells 3rd place

I showed my wife a  
photo of the fish Sam caught.



Now I'm not allowed to  
go fishing with Sam anymore

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Johnny received his plate, he started eating straight away.

"Jonny! Wait until we've said our prayer." his mother reminded him.

"I don't have to." the little boy replied.

"Of course your do." his mother insisted. "We say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny exclaimed, "but this is Grandma's house... and she know how to cook."



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 14 people. We began with festive St. Patrick Day decorations with green all around the room. Plus, we had a birthday for Steve Oki to celebrate. See all the festivities in the pictures. In attendance this evening were; **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope.** The lovely sweets and savories were provided by several women in the group

and wine by several men in the group. The birthday cake, a *Guinness Chocolate with Baileys Irish Cream Frosting* was prepared by **Renie Pope** and was enjoyed by all. And the evening was greatly enhanced by the bottle of **Jameson's Irish Whiskey** which was imbibed by several in attendance. We played at two tables of seven. We paid the player with low table score at each table of 7 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Ron Louis and Kim Pace.** The contest for Best of Those in St. Patrick's Day Green were: **Rich and Kim Pace**-Best Couple and **Dick DeVoe, Ron Louis, and Susan Oki** -Best Individuals in Costume. (Photos by Jim Pope)

Jim Pope

[jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

Jim and Anne Burk graciously hosted our gathering on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. It was Jim's birthday so congratulations, a song and a cake with ice cream were enjoyed by all.

Everyone was pleased to welcome Marty Campbell after a period of absence. We missed you, Marty. Likewise, the return of Joan Pierce, who broke the Guinness Book of Records, following a rapid recovery from a second knee replacement. Way to go Joan!!

Dennis Hallett, with the help of his coach Jim Baldridge, claimed a rare first place for the men. Joan Pierce kept the ladies' flag flying with a close second

place. Jim Baldridge came third and entertained us all with an explanation of the cause of the current Bank Crisis. Needless to say, we will keep our savings under the bed from now on. All in all, a wonderful fun evening.

Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)



Dennis Hallett, Joan Pierce, and Jim Baldridge



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

The Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 met at the home of Brian and Mary McCarthy on Wednesday, March 22nd. Our

thanks to them for welcoming us into their humble abode. The competition was fierce with laughter abound with a special "happy birthday" recital for Bruce Borgman. Way to go Bruce!! You are DA MAN!!

The result of the evening was

- 1) Bruce Borgman at 11.5,
- 2) Martha Plante at 14.3,
- 3) Mary McCarthy at 20.

The scratchers for the high point awards plus a little extra went to Brian McCarthy and Ann Kendrick.

The next gathering of MTD 6 will be Wednesday, April 26th. Stay tune for further details.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).



MTD 6 Winners—Bruce Borgman, Martha Plante, and Mary McCarthy. Photo taken by Moose Kelly



Most Points Winner and How!!!—Brian McCarthy and Ann Kendrick. Photo taken by Moose Kelly



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

We had two groups of five on two tables playing MTD games in separate rooms, and the sound of their enjoyment filled the air. Despite being physically separated, the shared experience of the game creates a sense of connection between the groups. The sound of the dominoes being played, and the laughter and chatter of the players can be heard echoing throughout the spaces, creating a vibrant and lively atmosphere. It is as though the walls separating the rooms have dissolved, and the players are all part of the same joyous occasion. The anticipation of each move and the subsequent reactions of the players can be heard from both rooms, adding to the excitement and energy of the game. Even though they are physically separated, the shared experience of playing dominoes creates a sense of community and camaraderie that transcends the boundaries of the individual rooms.

It seems that there may have been some dissatisfaction with the previous format of the game, which only awarded a prize to the player who came in first and last place. As a result, the rules were changed to include first, second, and third-place winners.

**Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld** hosted MTD 7. **Bob West** emerged as the winner of the game with a low average score of 13. He was awarded a prize of \$18 for his achievement. **Wendy Lucido** came in second place

with an average score of 21.7 and won a prize of \$9. Despite her success, Wendy did not want to share her prize with the person writing the description. Finally, **Jane West** came in third place with a score of 19.2 and won a prize of a measly \$3.

Overall, it seems that the game was a success, and everyone had a good time.

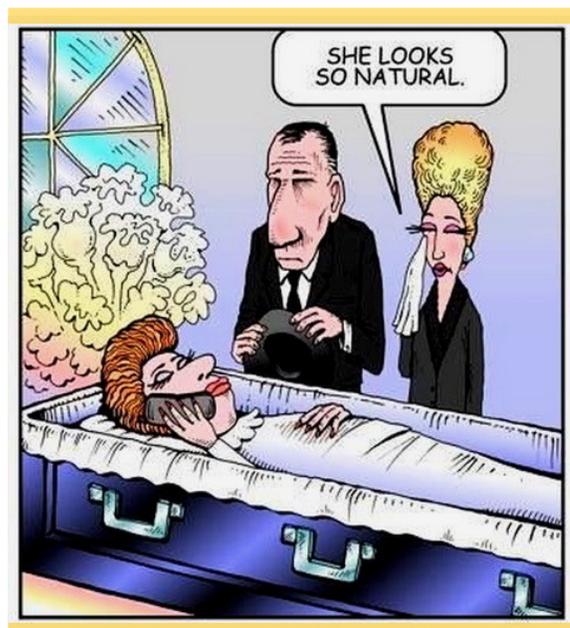
The previous statements although true were not written by me but by a computer. You may be familiar with it, it's called Chat GPT-3, and the best thing is it's a free download, check it out.

Bob Lucido

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 7 Winners: 1st **Bob West**, 2nd **Wendy Lucido**, 3rd **Jane West**.





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes ocho met on Wednesday, March 1st with 10 players in attendance. **Jan** and **Steve Ondeck** were our food and refreshment hosts for the evening.

The evening belonged to our substitute players, **Cindy & Tony Greco** who placed 1st and 2nd in the evening's winnings. **Richard Hockenbrock** was a distant 3rd place winner.

Our next game will be played on April 5th with **Larry** and **Pam McAllister** hosting. If you would like to sign up as a substitute, send me an e-mail.

Richard Hockenbrock  
[rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)

Steve Loftin, Richard Hockenbrock, Sue Loftin, Tony & Cindy Greco, Steve Dinning, Steve Ybarra, Jan and Steve Ondeck, and Virginia Tygart.  
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

We had two groups of six on two tables playing MTD games in separate rooms,.

**Bob** and **Wendy Lucido** hosted MTD 9. It seems that there may have been some dissatisfaction with the previous format of the game, which only awarded a prize to the player who came in first and last place. As a result, the rules were changed to include first, second, and third-place winners.

**Brain McCarthy** emerged as the winner of the game with a low average score of 13. He was awarded a prize of \$22 for his achievement. **Wendy Lucido** came in second place with an average score of 17.2 and won a prize of \$11. Finally, **Jane West** came in third place with a score of 18 and won a measly \$3.

Bob Lucido  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 9 Winners (L to R): 3rd Jane West, 1st Brian McCarthy, 2nd Wendy Lucido.



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the March SIR-Call submission, we met on February 24th and March 10th. The big winners were **Frank Lucas** with 3 wins and **Bill Vizza**, and **Brian McCarthy** with 2 wins.

**Brian McCarthy** led in 2nds with 2.5 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 2.

The lowest average score was **Frank** with 65, closely followed by **Bill Vizza** with 67. **Brian, Ron Polivka, Glenn Breslin** and **Norm Cox** "Shot the Moon" once.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with a winning percentage of 67% followed by **Bill Vizza** with 40%. Most Improved is **Frank** with 303% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Ron** with 173%.

**Future Meetings:** We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in April on the 14th and 28th.

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

**Bob West**

925.518.8472 [robertawest@aol.com](mailto:robertawest@aol.com)



## Old Money Poker Group 6

Our March game was held at **Brad Hatcher's** home on the usual first Thursday of the month. Snacks and wine did a good job of disappearing during the game.

There were two notable hands (both in wild card games). Straight flushes were defeated by five of a kind. It is pretty rare to see either hand, let alone having it occur twice during our game.

We are looking for substitute players for our games. If you have an interest in joining our fun group, please contact **Brad Hatcher**. I know there will be several opportunities to play in the coming months as travel plans are already set.

**Brad Hatcher**

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



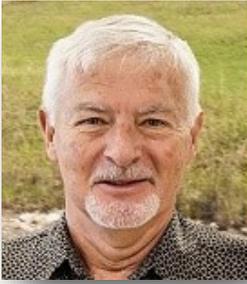
## Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

Duplicate Bridge 3 met on Friday the 17th at Boundary Oak hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning**. 12 hopeful players applied their bridge skills on 24 hands of bridge.

**Tony Greco** went out to an early lead in the scoring and was ahead at halftime by a good margin. After our lunch break, it was **Bob Yolland** and **Steve Dinning** applying the pressure. At the end of the day, it was still **Tony** in 1st place with **Bob** and **Steve** tying for 2nd. We all enjoyed great views and equally great fellowship. Our next game will be on April 21 at the home of **Brad Hatcher**

**Michael Whitaker**

925.708.8213 [mrwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mrwhitaker@yahoo.com)



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Our group met on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at the Kluesener residence with the DeVoes providing the snacks including some distinctive Irish sweets along with the chips, nuts, brownies, sodas and of course the wines. This venue was to accommodate Kathy Kluesener who had broken her hip the week before and was not moving enough to venture a trip to someone else's home. Play was very competitive as only a total of 2 points separated four of the six couples. Third place honors went to the Klueseners who managed to glean 20.5 points while second place went to Ismini and Rich Ahlf with 21

points. Striking away with the first place prize were the DeVoes with a grand total of 25 points. The night closed under stray, dry skies and a toast to Saint Patty! Next gathering is on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the home of the Pearses.

**John Kluesener**  
[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)



Rich Ahlf, Ismini, Dick and Christy DeVoe, John and Kathy Kluesener

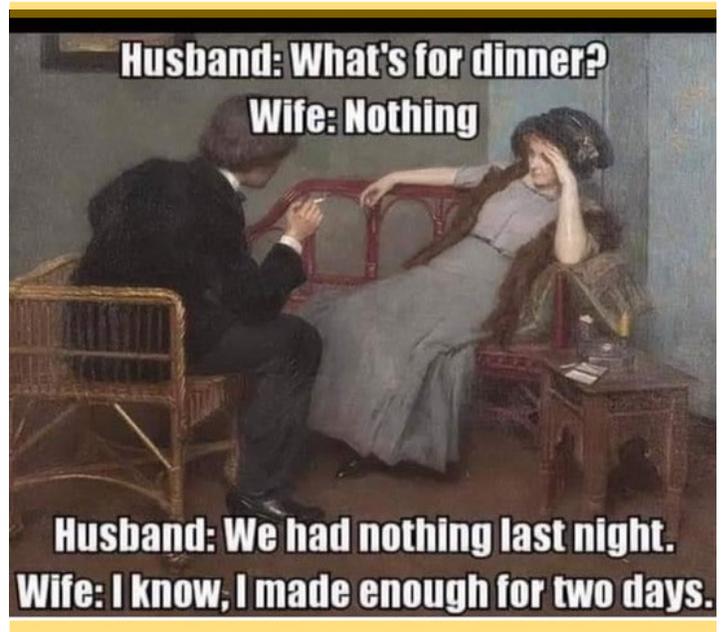


## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Wind, rain: our intrepid regulars braved it all - including closure of Ygnacio Valley Road, to reach the home of **Larry and Linda Brown** for our monthly friendly competition on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The cards were not as wild as the weather; no slams bid. Our hosts were third (48%), **Tony and Cindy Greco** were second (63%), and **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were first (64%) by half a match point. The **Hatchers** had a couple interesting boards: they got a top for making five diamonds on a board passed out at the other two tables, and another top by passing out a hand where their side went down at the other tables. Congratulations.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



What happens when you put your hand in a  
blender?  
You get a handshake!



## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher hosted our March 7<sup>th</sup> event. Bad things seem to happen on the morning of this event. Last February someone injured their knee playing golf on the morning of our bridge event which required

knee surgery. This time someone fell on the morning of the event and broke a hip which resulted in a complete hip replacement. Historically, other lesser things have occurred just prior to this event, resulting in a scramble for a sub, downsizing to two tables, or cancellation. Yet we persevere and this time played with five couples with one couple sitting out for one round.

A big welcome back and thank you goes out to **Jerry & Christine Benoit** for transitioning to active subs and subbing for **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**. They were a little rusty but played well. They were doubled at 4 spades and made 5. In fact, they almost came in second, but that's another story. Lol.

Congratulations to **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** for bidding and making a 6 spade small slam bid. They attempted another small slam of 6 no trump but were one trick short. Others may have missed slams with the Score Pads showing results of 2 spades making 7, and two hands of 3 no trump making 6.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 2880 points— **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 2510 points—**Brad & Lynne Hatcher**
- 3rd PLACE with 2500 points—**Dick & Christy DeVoe** (so close)

Next month's event will be held on **April 4th** and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**.

**Tony and Cindy Greco**  
925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



## Party Bridge



### Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Twelve of us enjoyed party bridge at the home of **Bill Schaaf**. Those in attendance were; **Rich Ahlf, Mike Davidson** (New Member), **Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman,** and **Bob Yolland**. Bill was a terrific host for the first time in his wonderful home. The goodies and dessert were very good and appreciated.

This was the first time we played using the Chicago Scoring method. **Ray Spears** was the winner with the highest score ever of 6,740. Congratulations **Ray**. **Bill Schaaf** was second with 4810 and **Brad Hatcher** third with 4770.

Our next game will be on April 3rd at the home of **Bill Snyder**. Please let **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope** know if you want to play with the Party Bridge group.

Co-Directors

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



# Area 16 Activities



## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed April 26 at 1:30pm. The topic will be Banks.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

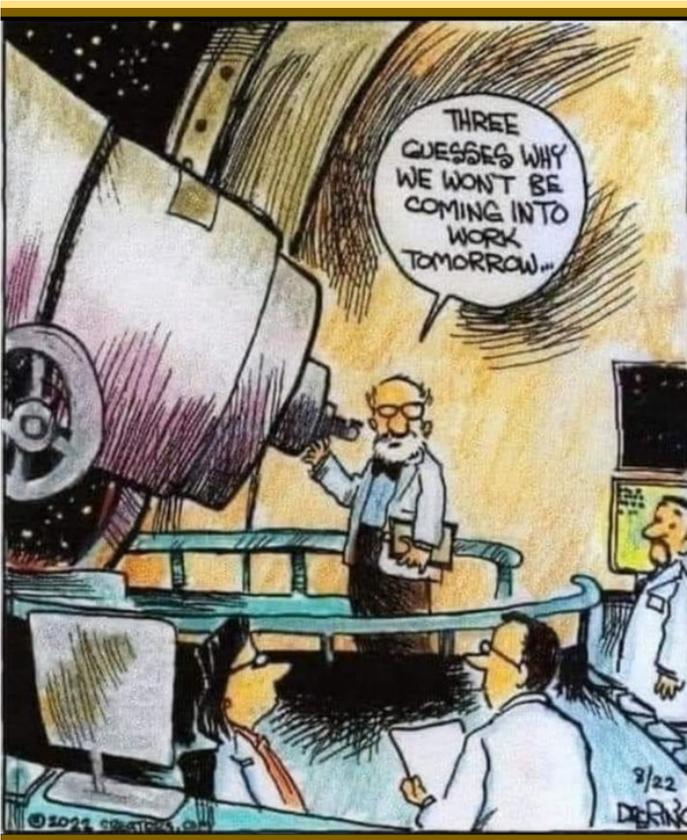
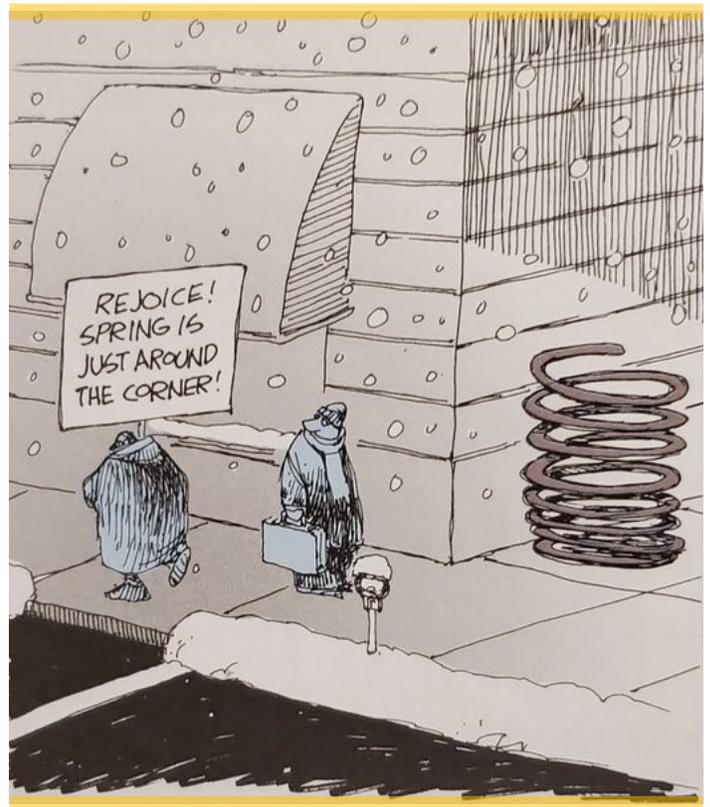


## SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

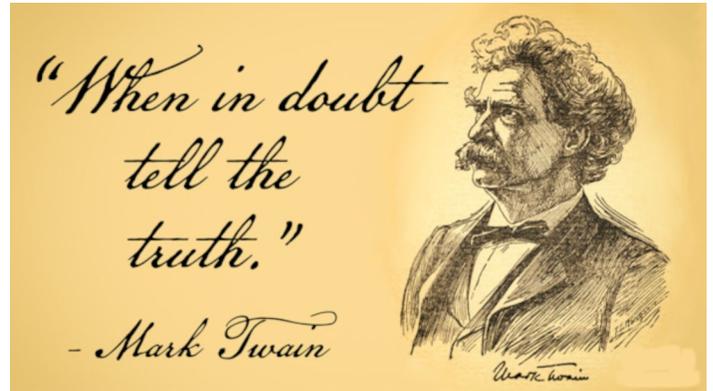
This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

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



# Parting Shot

Mark Twain was one of America's great authors and observers of human nature. His' quotes are applicable for all time but many may not realize the breadth and scope of his wit. Here are some of his satiric and brilliant quotes for your reading pleasure:



Never argue with a fool: a bystander may not be able to tell the difference.

A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.

No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot.

Life is short: Break the rules. Forgive quickly. Kiss slowly. Love truly. Laugh uncontrollably And never regret ANYTHING that makes you smile.

I was educated once—it took me years to get over it.

Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponent will do it for you.

Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from making bad decisions.

When I was 17, my father was so stupid I didn't want to be seen with him in public. When I was 24, I was amazed at how much the old man had learned in just 7 years.

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.

Some people bring joy wherever they go, and some people bring joy whenever they go.

If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed.

How easy it is to make people believe a lie, and [how] hard it is to undo that work again!

If voting made any difference they wouldn't let us do it.

If we were meant to talk more than listen, we would have two mouths and one ear.

The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened.