

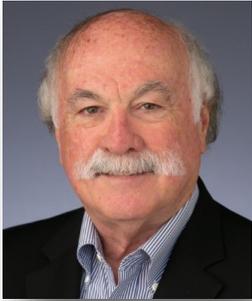


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

January–February

Call



Big Sir's Corner Thom Degman

We had a good turnout of about 118 at our January luncheon, so attendance is remaining steady. However, we had several no shows who were unable to cancel their reservations before the deadline. Remember when you miss a luncheon that you signed up for, we wind up paying for the unused lunches. In this particular case a couple of those who missed were annual payers, so a portion of their meal was paid for through their reduced annual payment. Annual payers are still obliged to let us know if they will not be able to fulfill their reservation, so we do not waste the food.

We still have about 30 individuals who were members last year who have not informed us of their intentions for membership for this year. Little Sir **Jim Pope** has contacted those individuals and several just forgot and are sending in their checks. A few have yet to respond so please check your email and voice messages and let **Jim** know of your intention. Those of you who are over 90 do not have to pay dues but we still need to know if you intend to remain a part of this august group. Please inform **Jim Pope** of your intention, and mail your check to **George Mon** at gckk@comcast.net at 2484 Paddock Dr., San Ramon 94583, for those of you who are returning.

At our BEC meeting we discussed the need to recruit new members to maintain the integrity of our organi-

zation. A number of the SIR groups in the state are struggling to maintain a sufficient membership levels. Attrition generally accounts for the loss of 25 or so members (10%) due to relocation, transfers or the final move. As such, we have highlighted the following objectives:

- 1.) Set a target of at least 30 new members for the year and to call on you, our membership to assist by inviting friends/acquaintances to join us for a free lunch, to meet members and hear about activities that might be of interest.
- 2.) Another positive step is to have guests attend one of the 10 general lunches that we have (we had 1 new member and 1 guest in January). We have historically had a very high percentage of lunch guests joining SIR146, so we would appreciate it if each of you would talk to friends about our organization and the many activities that we sponsor. We have a number of brochures that we will set out on the name-tag table at each luncheon and we invite you to take one or more and use it to help inform a friend.

Glenn Breslin is leading the recruitment activity and if you would like to assist him in this effort, please let him know. He will welcome your support.

Help us keep our organization healthy, vibrant, and fun with new life through new members!!

Thom Degman
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, February 12th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30
Greg Baer, Director of Airports for Buchanan Field
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée go to page 4 ([click Here!](#))

Activities for you and spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Couples Dining Canceled [Page 25.](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 12](#)
- For the birds [Page 20](#)
- Gardening [Page 15](#)
- Use ZELLE to pay! [Page 6](#)



Little Sir's Corner Jim Pope

As Little SIR and the speakers committee have been working on speakers for the year, we have a slate of speakers set up thru May.

Our speaker for February is

Gerg Baer. Greg Baer is the Director of Airports for Buchanan Field and Byron Airport in Contra Costa County. Greg has over twenty-two years of public works experience, including the last seven in airport management. Prior to his current position, Greg was the Airport Manager at Napa County Airport. Previously, he worked for the City of American Canyon, Public Works Department as well as United Airlines.

Talk Overview: Contra Costa County has a two-airport system (Buchanan Field [CCR] & Byron Airport [C83]) operated by the Public Works Department, Airports Division of the County. Both airports are classified as general aviation airports, and Buchanan Field operates under a commercial service certificate where Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) services are maintained. Currently, JSX, a scheduled charter operator is the only scheduled service operating from CCR. The Airports Division is an economic engine for the County and operates as an Enterprise Fund, not a General Fund supported division. While the Airports Division is not a line item within the County's General fund, this Division contributes over \$1M annually in tax revenues that go to the General Fund and to County school districts. Both airports have capacity for future development and are embracing, encouraging, and facilitating innovative technologies.

Greg earned his bachelor's degree in Aviation from San Jose State and went on to receive his master's degree in Public Administration from Sonoma State University. In 2018, he received the Herman C. Bliss Partnership Award from the FAA Western Pacific Region. Greg is also a private pilot, instrument student, and A&P mechanic.

Our CPR Training Classes have been a great success. We have had 5 classes, and we have now involved and updated more than 110 individuals over the past years on current CPR techniques. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR! I know many of you have attended already but we have organized the next SIR146 CPR Training Class on Friday, March 6th, 2026. The details of the class are listed below and as is our practice, the class is coed, open to friends and family, and there is no cost. Please let me know if you would like to join. It's a first come, first serve basis.

Next CPR Class

- Date: Friday, March 6th, 2026, Time: 8:45AM to 11:45AM
- Location: Ygnacio Valley Library, [2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek](#) 94598

If you are interested in joining a CPR class in 2026, please let me or Thom Degnan know, as the next class will occur in March. Also, I want to encourage members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. The more contribution we have from our members, the better SIR 146 will be.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146

Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIR Call 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](#)

SIR Mission Statement

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



Membership George Mon

There were no new members for approval for membership in January. The 2026 membership count is 252.

Several members did not renew their membership for 2026 for various reasons. They are Howard Herbert, Ed Lichtig, Glen Renk, Charles Ward, John Wilson, Tony Astone, and Ted Upland.

The 2026 Dues letter was sent out in mid-October along with a return envelope for your convenience. In the December SIRCall, a Dues Reminder was published. Also, in December an email was sent to the members who have not paid their dues. Our Little Sir made calls to those members in early January. So far as of this writing there are still 12 members that have not yet responded.

Reminder: If you are one of the 12 that have not responded yet for your 2026 Dues by the end of February, then we will assume that you are resigning.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State Sir allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number. Likewise, it is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see our guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a Sir.

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

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

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

George Mon
925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

With no volunteers to maintain it, the decision of the Activities coordinator is that we will discontinue the Branch calendar. It appears that it was getting little or no use by the membership and was a high

maintenance feature in that it took considerable time to maintain as well as to format for printing in SIRCall.

I often get asked why we edit out references to SIRs in this publication because we do do that. SIR is no longer an acronym for Son's In Retirement, what it started out meaning. By action of the state board of the organization over 6 years ago our name dropped the acronym meaning and registered us simply as SIR. Somewhat like IBM; started out as International Business Machines... but today is simply IBM. And as such you would not refer to employees there as IBMs when you mean IBM employees. So similarly, we aren't SIRs, we are SIR members of, if you choose, members of SIR.

I know, sounds nit-picky and I guess in a way it is, that's what editors do. But actually it is important for any organization to put forward a consistent and organized "persona" to project a professional, well run organization that want's to attract business (for us that business is attracting new members) and be recognized as a vital, contributing, member of the local community.

And if we aren't good at the business we are in, attracting new members, we will cease to exist.

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for the March issue will be February 18th... but as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Buffet in February

We will be having a buffet in February. The SIR groups utilizing Boundary Oak agreed to try a buffet set up in February and July this year. As there are no choice requirements, you only need to send a message that you will be attending the luncheon. The price will remain the same at \$37. Tables and help for those with mobility problems will be provided by Boundary Oak.

has over twenty-two years of public works experience, including the last seven in airport management.

Luncheon Information

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

The link on the menu (Buffet Lunch) will generate an email for you to send; if it does not, please send an email message manually to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, February 12th, 2026

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$37 per person

Reservation: All attendees require a reservation including individuals on the annual payment plan.

If you do not reserve by Friday, February 6th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

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

Payment: The preferred payment method is by Zelle ([see page 7](#)) but you can also pay at check-in with a check payable to SIR Branch 146.

Other matters: If you don't have email, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message.

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

Friday, February 6th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members: If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

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



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 February Luncheon
Thursday, February 12th, 2026

[Buffet Lunch](#)

Salad
Iceberg Lettuce, cheddar croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrees
Meat Loaf with Gravy
Mashed potatoes
Four Cheese Cannelloni
Spinach with Tomato Basil Sauce
Broccolini

Dessert
Strawberry short cake

No No-Shows

Last month we had 13 no-shows of which most did not warn us they would not make the luncheon. This is a waste of resources and money. About half of the 13 were annual payers. This is still a waste of resources as Boundary Oak still needs to provide the meals and we are contractually obligated to pay for them. If you are late in letting us know, it is still best to send a message to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com ASAP as you will not be charged if we receive your cancellation before sending the final count to Boundary Oak.

Speaker Information

Greg Baer is the Director of Airports for Buchanan Field and Byron Airport in Contra Costa County. Greg

Put the March Luncheon on your calendar NOW!



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon

Thursday, March 12th, 2026

Salad

Mixed Green Salad; Broccoli, Red Onions, Dried Cherries and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Braised Corned Beef and Red Potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots

Creamy Herb Marinated Cod

Herb Marinated Cod, Red potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots,
Creamy Citrus Sauce

Vegetarian

Pesto Cheese Ravioli.

Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a Pesto Sauce

Dessert

Bailys Irish Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

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

SIR 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!

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....	Thom Degnan
Little Sir.....	Jim Pope
Secretary	John Rexroat
Assistant Secretary	Mike Davidson
Treasurer	Mike Ball
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Jones
Director 1st Term	Glenn Breslin
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido
Director 1st Term	Open
Director 2nd Term	Jim Crites
Director 3rd Term	John Alexander
Director 3rd Term	Mark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Glenn Breslin
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	John Alexander

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

Name	Yr Inducted	Years
Paul Kersis	2021	5
Roger Pytlewski	2021	5
George Sabbagha	2019	7
Joe Flannigan	2019	7
Aubrey Moore	2018	8
Ross Abbott	2017	9
James Browning	2016	10
Jeff Morrow	2015	11
Loren Delaurenti	2015	11
Chuck Cornell	2014	12
Gary Brown	2014	12
Jim Mcmanus	2014	12
Dave Steinberg	2009	17
Lynn Shafer	2007	19
Sal Costanza	1997	29



To pay SIR with Zelle, you must be enrolled in Zelle with your financial institution. Once you are you can send Zelle payments to sir146.treasurer@gmail.com.

But the easiest way may be to open your institution's phone app, go to the Zelle section to send money and select the "QR code" option and scan the above code.

Either way, enter the amount you are paying and, in the comment that is sent with the payment, what you are paying for.

We say "may be" the easiest way because with some banks, even though they appear to have the option to do this, it doesn't work (a bank with the initials WF being the worst offender). You'll simply have to try it with your financial institution and either way there will now be a payment option for SIR in your Zelle record to use for future payments!

FEBRUARY

Norm Azevedo
 Peter Bishop
 Elmer Bricca
 William Cammerer
 Clint Collier
 Mike Davidson
 Dick Firth
 Andy Ford
 Joe Grady
 Abe Lincoln
 Steve Loftin
 Rich Lyon
 Trubador Mason
 Jack Menzhuber

Gary Parkhurst
 Bud Pearce
 Melo Piccolo
 David Pierce
 Sergio Quintor
 Bill Rees
 Walter Schmidt
 Ben Smith
 Dave Smith
 Mark Sorum
 Jim Stedman
 George Washington
 Bob West



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

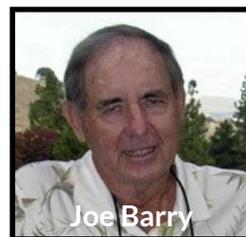
Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keefe



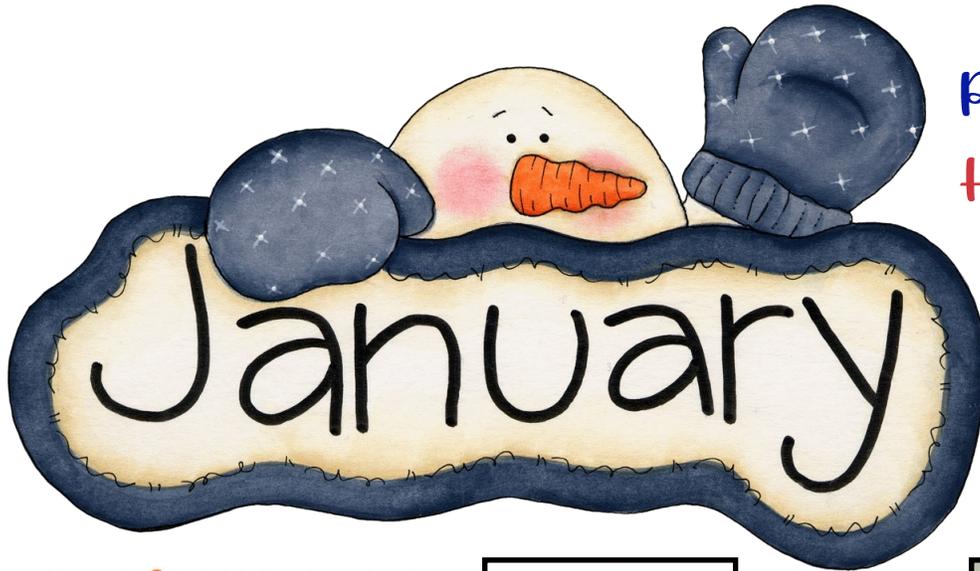
Mark Sorum



Joe Barry



Peter Plante



Photos by
Henry Thatcher



Jeffrey Denny



David Smith

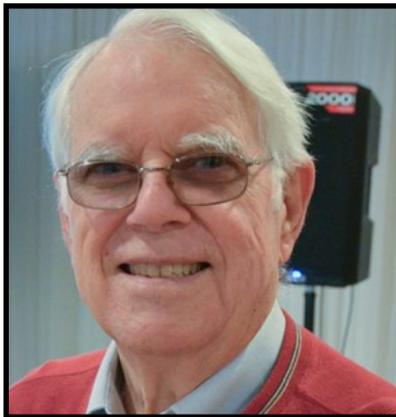


Decemter
George Mon

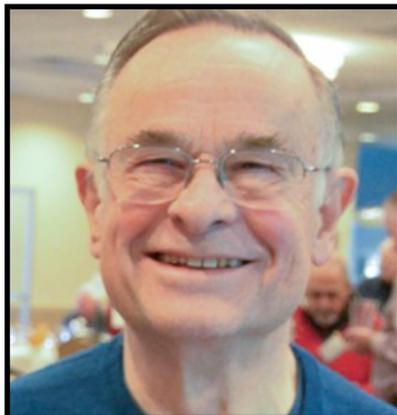
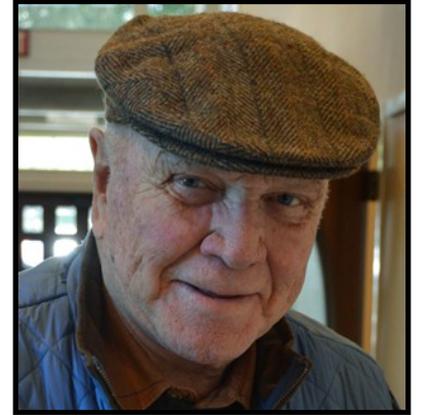
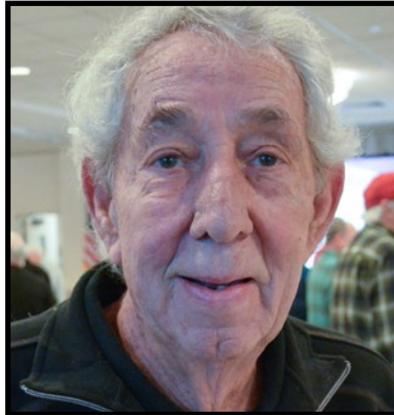
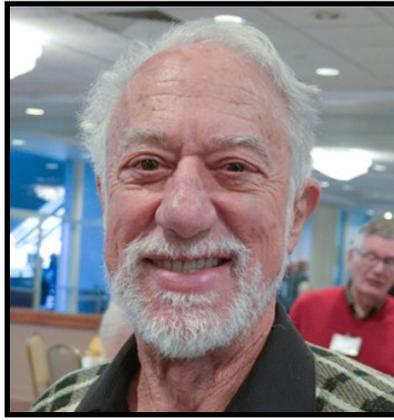
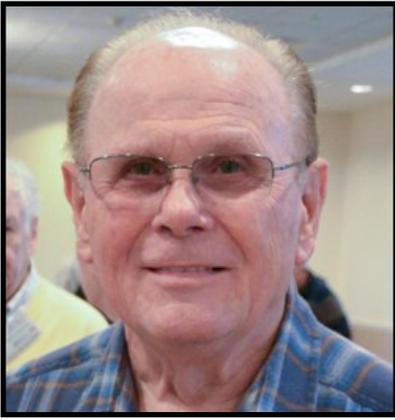


January
Ben Gleason











Speaker Frank Terzuoli





Stay Active... stay young!



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

I am writing to request sharing your SIR146 activities with your non-SIR friends.

One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership. Guests that attend activities many times, join SIR.

Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting. SIR risks having less members and activities and being a less vital organization

If you are involved in any SIR activity, please consider telling your friends how much you enjoy this activity! Ask them if they would like to join this activity as a guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIR members will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others' social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum!

To assure that our branch exists into the next decade, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests will also benefit SIR146! Also consider inviting your friends to lunch.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[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 and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train

Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



Veterans Larry Kaye

Today was the second Veterans luncheon of Sirs 146. We had 15 guys show up. Lunch was terrific. Story time was fascinating. Everyone had a story about his service time and some odd things that took place during that span of time. Our Big Sir joined us in the fun too. What a great group of Americans. The common denominator was we all took an oath to serve our country. The next luncheon COULD be in June. Proud to be a part of this Veterans get-together. Larry

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net



Bocce John Kendrick

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality.

The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during

the months of May through September.

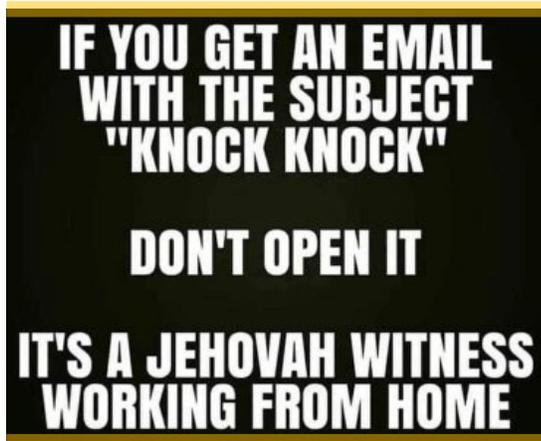
The first Bocce Ball activity will be on May 11, 2026.

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

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

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Guitar Group Curtis Young

Happy New Year everyone. Our first Guitar Group gathering in over a year and a half was Wednesday January 14th and we had a great time. We have a new player **Jeff Denny** and a good player

he is. He played two of his original songs that were very good.

We get together on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-2:30. If you play acoustic guitar and like to play music with others, we are happy to have you. Look up our activity in the SIRCall and join a casual group of likeminded musicians.

Curtis Young

cy3772@gmail.com

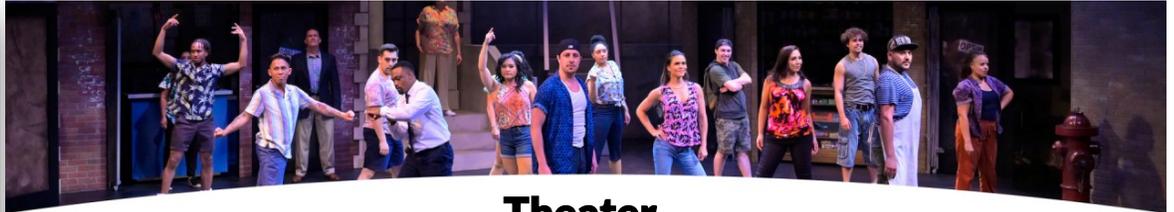
I don't trip, I do random gravity checks.



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!





Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshner Theater

- 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 to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549**
- I will then give you a choice of the available seats

Lost In Yonkers - Sat 4/4/26 - 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Leshner Theater

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the opening of Leshner Center for the Arts, Center REP is proud to present the 35th anniversary revival production of Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning heartfelt comedy. This multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Financially strapped and needing to dig his family out of medical debt, Eddie must leave his two teen boys to live with his sister and mother while he takes to the road as a salesman. A strange new world opens up to the boys as they must navigate their estranged mafia-linked Uncle Louie and authoritarian Grandma Kurnitz (and her odorous mustard soup) while befriending their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation. *Lost In Yonkers* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades. [Link to Show Page](#)

Frank Sinatra / Bobby Darin Tribute Band - Sun 4/19 3:00 pm \$69 Rows B-E, \$59 rows F-J and Q – Leshner Theater

For nearly two decades, Jonathan Poretz, the Bay Area's favorite crooner, has brought them together in his highly acclaimed show, Sinatra vs. Darin! Backed by his super swingin' Mini-Big Band, Poretz will power pack this two-hour show with the very best songs from the Sinatra and Darin repertoires.

Among the songs to be featured:

- Sinatra: I've Got You Under My Skin, Fly Me To The Moon, Come Fly With Me, Angel Eyes, The Way You Look Tonight, You Make Me Feel So Young, and many more.
- Darin: As Long As I'm Singing, Mack The Knife, Beyond The Sea, Splish Splash, Clementine, Artificial Flowers, and many more. [Link to Show Page](#)

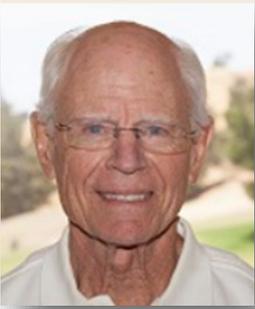
Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Leshner Theater

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family. *Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)* [Link to Show Page](#)

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



Gardening

Ken Studer

During our January meeting at **Bob and Jane West's** home we learned how to fire your Mow & Blow contractor by blowing your leaves onto your vegetable beds and landscape areas to create mulch and compost.

Mulch is the magic that keeps the water in the ground longer and the roots cool. Also, we learned from **Bob** how he overseeded his lawn with white clover. Now he uses less water and mows his lawn a lot less. **Bob** also demonstrated his Rachio irrigation controller which is controlled by a weather station and his phone. This controller saves water and does a better job of deeply watering your plants at the same time. **Winter gardening essentials** performed now will reduce your time trying to save your plants in the hot summers we have here.

Our next meeting in February will be a **fruit tree pruning clinic** where we will have a chance to learn which limbs to cut and which to leave for the health and fruiting benefits of the tree.

All are welcome to join and learn about gardening in your yard. Text me and I will add you to the email list of members.

.Ken Studer

925.963.2536, klstuder1161@gmail.com

Did you know that if you garden in your back yard naked, your neighbors will build you a privacy fence for absolutely no cost to you.



Tuesday Golf

Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play 18 holes weekly at Boundary Oak. Joining has a cost of \$80 per year which covers your NCGA membership and provides a recognized golf handicap. Prize fund participation is an option. Most weeks are stroke play but there are typically monthly team events as well.

In addition to 146 branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. State SIR events are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

Ed Marlovits



9 Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

The course has dried out pretty well since our last round of storms. Come out and join us for 9 holes of golf. 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

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.



Travel Glenn Breslin

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires!

SIRs Multi-Branch Travel just completed 2025 with 13 SIRs traveling to Vietnam. These 3 SIR trips are also sold out for 2026: Australia, Japan and Cuba. It is now time to plan for Fall 2026 and 2027 trips.

If you are interested in traveling with other SIR members during the Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 timeframe, then can you please fill out the below SIR Travel Survey and email to glennbreslin@gmail.com. Your input will be utilized to plan these future SIR Travel Trips. Upon your request, I can also send you the below Travel Survey in an email

SIR TRAVEL SURVEY

1. Where do you want to travel to ?
2. What duration (# of days) works best for you ?
3. Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip ?
4. What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise Companies ?
5. Can you please provide any other comments about SIR Travel?
6. If your preferred trip(s) turn out to be candidates for future SIR Travel, then I would like to learn more about how you like to travel. Can you please list your contact information below ?
Name, Email and Phone Number



Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

January 13th: Had 10 guys today. Toured Danville and back roads of Alamo. Great ride. Fun group. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Moose Kelly, Tom Alborg, Dave Paulson, Ken Studer, Eric Finson, Bill Ross, Mike Schrupp and Larry Kaye.** Weather turned nice and we stopped for Java at Lever in Alamo. Fun day in the country. Take advantage and get out the door. **Larry**

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



*"This isn't what it looks like.
I'm shopping."*

10 FUN FACTS

1. You can't see your ears without a mirror
2. You can't count your hairs.
3. You can't breathe through you nose, with your tongue out
4. You just tried No, 3
6. When you tried, No. 3, you realized that it is possible, only you look like a dog.
7. You are smiling right now, because you were fooled.
8. You skipped No. 5
9. You just checked to see if there's a No. 5.



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The rockfish/lingcod season closed on December 31 and we finished on a good note.

Lee Clark, Ken Bellindir, Brion Beetz, Stan Wong, and Shawn Kelly boarded the *Pa-*

cific Pearl and limited out on rockfish and crab. Brion also caught a large lingcod and the biggest rockfish that he has ever landed. Brion and **Dave Havlik** also fished for rockfish out of Half Moon Bay. Although they only boated five rockfish (half the limit), they limited out on crab and Brion hooked a large cabezon. **Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, Matt Richards and Doug Dukes** also had successful rockfish outings. We look forward to the reopening of the season in April. Unlike the past two years, there will be no restrictions with respect to fishing locations. In 2024 and 2025, we had to fish above 300 feet every other month and below 300 feet in the other months. The latter required a two hour voyage to the Farallons in each direction.

Stan Wong tried his luck fishing for bass off Sherman Island in the Delta but was met by a howling rainstorm. But when the rain ended, Stan landed fifteen bass, including one that weighed in at eight pounds. Stan also caught a dozen leopard sharks fishing off China Camp on another trip. Our resident Delta expert, **Tom Kostik**, outdid him. He caught and released 55 stripers on three trips. 23 were keepers and the largest was 27 inches. **Ben LaSala** and **Steve Paulick** also landed stripers on a Delta outing.

We also had two travelers this month. **Jim DiPippo** drove down to San Diego and took a five day fishing cruise to Mexico on the *Independence*. He was rewarded with a 75 lb. bluefin tuna, which he fought for an hour and a large amount of yellowtail. **Ken Bellinder** flew to Florida where he met up with **Rich Fiscina**, who left us for Port Lucie, Florida, last year. The pair then spent a couple of days fishing for grouper and did quite well.

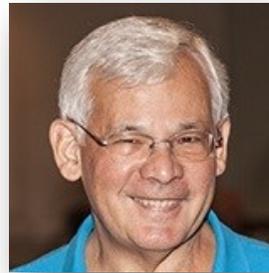
Perhaps the only downer is trout fishing. The December rains made fishing in the local reservoirs virtually impossible. **Dave Havlik** did manage to catch a single trout in Lafayette Reservoir and he saw a trout that he estimated at 16 inches swim by.

We have great plans for 2026. We will resume angling for rockfish at the beginning of April and then start

looking for halibut at the end of the month and through the summer. We hope to have an expanded ocean salmon season in the summer with more opportunities than last year and we will be out in the Delta for stripers, black bass, leopard sharks, and perhaps starry flounder. We also expect to be fishing in the northern rivers for salmon. On top of that, there will be a number of overnight trips to Lake Almanor, New Melones Reservoir, Oregon, Mexico, British Columbia, Alaska, and Mexico.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 26 at the Legends Bar and Grill, which is located on the Diablo Creek Golf Course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us at 7:30 for camaraderie and breakfast. All are welcome, including those of you who have never fished or haven't fished in a long time.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a program of Irish songs for a March performance. We will sing such old favorites as "Wild Irish Rose," "Harrigan" and "Danny Boy."

Our next rehearsal is on February 4, 2026 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

We are always looking for new members, so join us for a fun time and camaraderie. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Contact **Peter Plante** at pcplante109@gmail.com

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com

A printer consists of 3 main parts: the case, the jammed paper tray and the blinking red light.



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

SIR Branch 146 photography members met on Friday, January 16th at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room in Walnut Creek. Those SIRs that attended are the following: **Henry Thatcher, Bill Holly, Frank Terzuoli, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Tom Amann, Don Casey, Ken Studer, Phil Lee, Ron Polivka, Miker Rothman and Moose Kelly.**

A HUGE THANKS to **Ron Polivka** for supplying the coffee and **Phil Lee** for the donuts! Thanks for stepping up, guys!

To start the meeting off, **Moose** and **Miker** played a three-minute clip of the Go Pro Best Videos of 2025. Always interesting to view this fast pace recap. Here is the link if you want to take a look yourself. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqvH1bs8mJc>

Moose reviewed the 2026 calendar for the photography group. We have an active year ahead with great topics and photoshoots to suit everyone's interest as you can see from this list of events/activities.

- January 16th Meeting - Composition theme > **Don Casey**
- February 17th Photoshoot - John Muir National Historical Site / Port Costa > **Don Casey**
- March 6th Meeting - Artificial Intelligence Editing in Photography - **Frank Terzuoli**
- April Photoshoot - Combination of general inside and outside photographs. Then edit using AI to obtain the best result. TBD
- May 1st Meeting - Drone photography > **Don Casey**
- June Photoshoot - To be Determine
- July 10^{th*} Meeting - Photographing Street scenes at night
- August Photoshoot - North Beach / Chinatown
- September 4^{th*} Meeting - Vineyard Photography
- October Photoshoot - Peju Vineyard et al in Napa / Healdsburg
- November 6th Meeting - Photography Innovations - Guest Speaker. Feedback and Planning

for 2027.

- December 4th Meeting - Year end celebration plus best photos of the year awards: 1) Camera Phones and 2) DSLR Cameras.

The main focus of the meeting was the topic of composition which is essential for each and every picture that a photographer takes. **Don Casey** presented a master class on this topic with photo examples of the 13 rules that are outlined in the attached link: https://digital-photography-school.com/four-rules-of-photographic-composition/?user_id=rollingstone91149@gmail.com



A photographer doesn't need to use all 13 rules but if they can focus on 3, then they are a lot further ahead on taking superb photos. Read the article and see for yourself. Another reference on this topic is the book entitled "The Photographer's Eye: Composition and Design for Better Digital Photographs" Michael Freeman. Thanks for the tip, **Phil Lee!**

Our next meeting will be on March 6th at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room from Noon to 3 PM. At this meeting, we will present our photoshoot pictures from Port Costa and Martinez that focus on our theme of composition. Additionally, **Frank Terzuoli** will talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI) in photography and editing.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly photoshoots or 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

Rollingstone911@yahoo.com 610.517.0152

Mike Rothman

mrothman9@gmail.com 415.937.1846

Pictures on next page

Photo Group Continued from previous page



- Credits, left to right, top to bottom
- Ron Polivika
 - Ron Polivika—Ron and Victoria
 - Frank Terzuoli—Triangles
 - Frank Terzuoli
 - Miker Rothman—Christmas Lights



Birding Ted Robertson

On the morning of January 7th, a group of 13 SIR birders met at Valle Vista, an EBMUD park just west of Moraga (permit required) to look for birds in several diverse habitats. Habitats we walked through included chaparral, pine forest, oak woodlands, a freshwater lake (an arm of San Leandro reservoir), and riparian woodlands. Because of the diversity of habitats in a small area, we ended up spotting 45 species of birds. Some of the many highlights of the sunny day included Wood Ducks (my favorite freshwater duck), 60 Ruddy Ducks, an immature Bald Eagle, great looks at a Merlin, two American Kestrels, and California Thrashers displaying their long downward curved bills.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 9:30 AM on February 11th (2nd Wednesday) at Crab Cove EB Park in Alameda. The later start time will avoid most of the morning traffic. We will spend some of the time learning how to identify shore birds that concentrate in the mudflats near shore. If interested, please make sure you are on my birding email list because rain could adjust the date of the trip by a day or two. Email **Ted Robertson** (tedr@berkeley.edu) if you want to be added to the monthly mailing list. Beginners through experts are welcome, plus I have a few loaner binoculars if requested.



Immature Bald Eagle.
Photo by **Jim Roland**



Merlin
(Photo by **Jim Roland**)



Acorn Woodpeckers (Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Coyote (chasing a Roadrunner)
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Looking for birds at Valle Vista
(Photo by **Carl Ludwig**)

Ted Robertson
925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

The last hike of 2025 was along the Las Trampas to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail. This was a short out-and-back 3-mile hike mostly in Alamo. Trail conditions were good despite the recent rains.

Black Point in Mount Diablo State Park was our first destination in 2026. Earl Bates, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Gary Parkhurst and Bob Wilkenfeld climbed 1300 feet in 2.4-miles to reach the peak's summit. We had a great view of the snowy Sierras and green Mount Tamalpais. In all we hiked 5 miles that day.



beginning this month, we are going to introduce you to one of our frequent hikers, starting with our co-leader, **Ray Martz**.

Ray worked in the commercial design and construction arena since high school. He received a BS in Mechanical Engineering and ultimately specialized in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). In 2006, Ray started Pacific Air Solutions Construction Corporation, which did commercial HVAC design-build for office buildings, laboratories (including LLNL) and medical facilities. Ray is an avid hiker and trail runner, putting in many miles each week, despite battling cancer for the past 18 years. He is also a long-time volunteer with the Trail Safety Patrol operated by the East Bay Regional Park Police. We always feel safe (and exhausted) when Ray is leading our hike!



Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilkx4@gmail.com



"ALL RIGHT, EDNA, WHERE ARE MY GOLF CLUBS?"

Meet the dumbest photographer ever



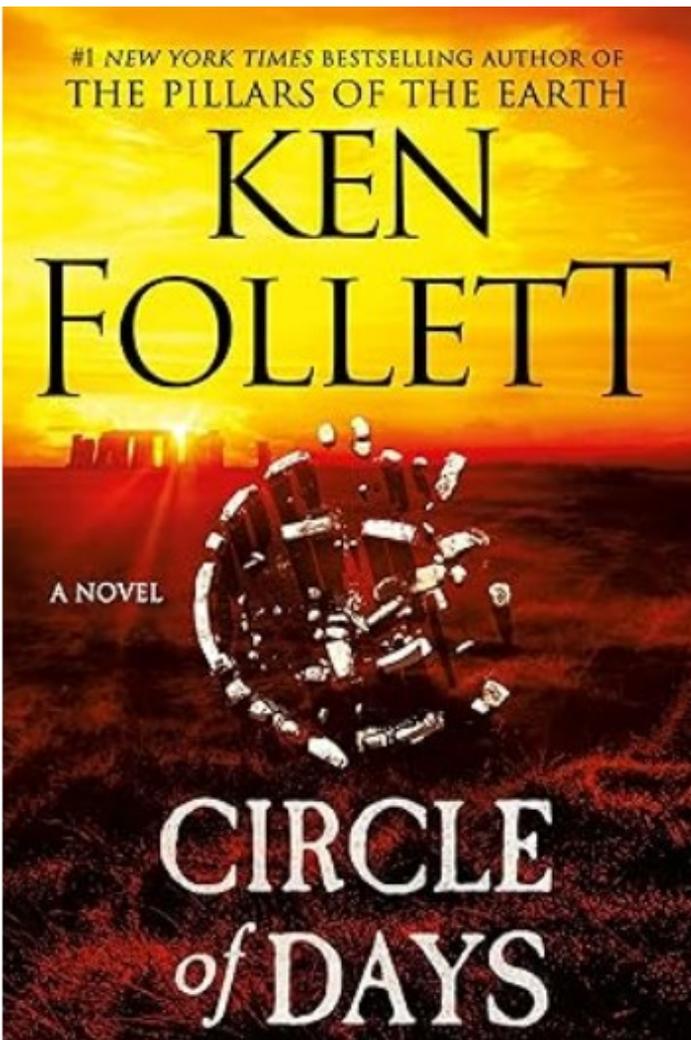


Book Group Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: New Year's Meeting

We met on the Tuesday following New Year's with, for the first time, the entire club of ten members. Great to see everyone and catchup on holiday experiences and recent trips. I always go away from the meetings feeling like I've learned something new from each of the members.

Our November Read: "Circle of Days"



Circle of Days is a historical fiction novel by Ken Follett set in Neolithic Britain around 2500 BCE, focusing on the imagined origins and construction of Stonehenge. The story follows Seft, a young and gifted flint miner who leaves his abusive family and becomes involved with a herder community, and Joia, the visionary sister of Seft's love interest who becomes a priestess with a

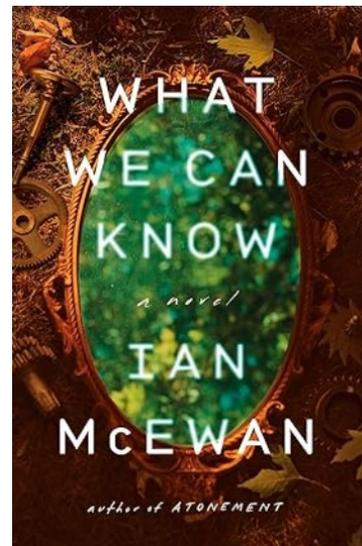
dream of building a lasting monument from stone. As drought and tribal tensions between herders, farmers, and woodlanders escalate into conflict, Joia's vision of a great stone circle unites disparate groups and becomes the defining project of their lives. The novel blends daily life, love, conflict, the battle for survival, and the challenge of cooperation as these prehistoric peoples strive to create something enduring and meaningful.

Our Verdict – "A Neolithic Hit!"

We give this book a solid recommendation as an interesting and easy read about Neolithic England and how Stonehenge was possibly built, a fascinating story with love and tribal conflict and finally a good introduction to Ken Follett's works.

Next Month's Book

Next month's book is "What We Can Know" by Ian McEwan. The novel is set almost a century in the future, in 2119, in a UK partially submerged by rising seas. The novel works on multiple levels—as a love story, an academic satire, a climate change parable, and a meditation on the nature of artistic immortality.



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 njabuka@yahoo.com

You often feel tired, not because you've done too much, but because you've done too little of what sparks a light in you.



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met this month at Steve Ybarra's home. There was no shortage of topics to be discussed. After a couple of glasses of top end wine paired with some tasty appetizers, we were able to easily solve the problems facing the civilized world. The group then enjoyed a delicious lunch that was purchased from Tortilleria El Molina, an authentic Mexican take out Concord restaurant. The group will celebrate Valentine's Day next month with their wives and significant others at a yet to be determined restaurant and date.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



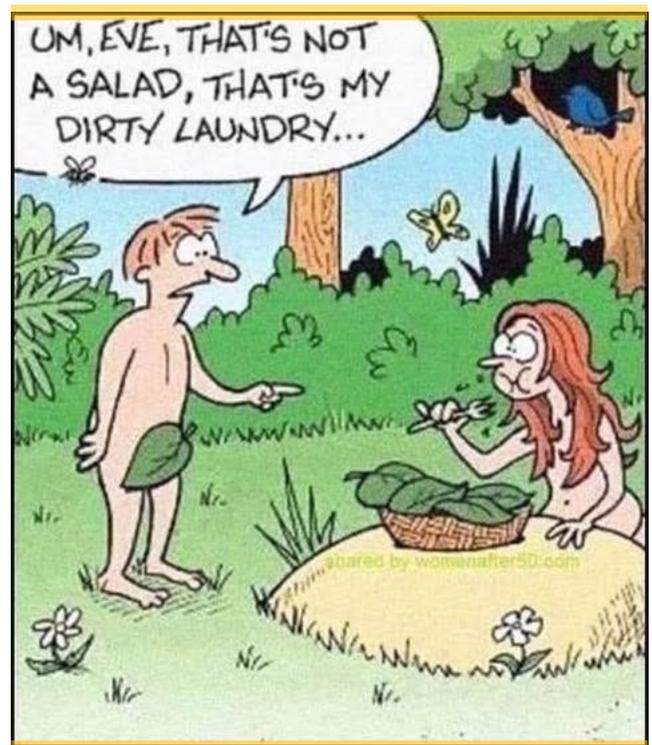
Saaaaay.... This doesn't look spoiled!



Thoughts on the Speed of Light

If your car could travel at the speed of light
 would the headlights still work?

What is the speed of dark?





Cooking Lunch and Wine

Paul Dubow

Six members of the LAW Group began the 2026 season by dining at the Esin Restaurant in Danville. We enjoyed good food and camaraderie and covered a few business matters in discussions led by **Pete Gates**. The other attendees were **Clint Collier, Paul Dubow, Dan Holland, Bob Spellman** and **Henry Thatcher**. In the meantime, our wives and significant others dined at the nearby Piatti Ristorante. After the lunches, both groups journeyed to the **Dubow** home for dessert of fresh baked pie and ice cream. Our next luncheon will be at **Dan's** home on February 18.

Our normal complement of members is eight, but we have one opening. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pete Gates at 925.586.2321. Our format is that each member acts as host in monthly lunches held between January and October. The host has the option of preparing lunch at his home or inviting the group to dine at a local restaurant. When the luncheon is at a member's home, the other members each bring a bottle of wine---hence our name of Lunch and Wine Group. If we dine out, each member pays for his meal. And while the men are dining and discussing unimportant events of the day, our wives and significant others dine out at a restaurant other than the one that the men may be attending. We do not do "lunch" in April and September and instead select a restaurant for dinner attended by everyone. We do not meet in November and December.

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

Our End of Year party/event was held at Tonashi, one of Walnut Creek's newer Japanese restaurants. Because this was a "bring your significant" event we had thirteen celebrants despite losing a couple to the "bug" that seemed to be floating around just before Christmas enjoying various Japanese dishes. Sushi, Chirashi seemed to be a favorite, as well as more traditional dishes, as my wife would say, those not featuring bait, were outstanding and everything received high marks.!

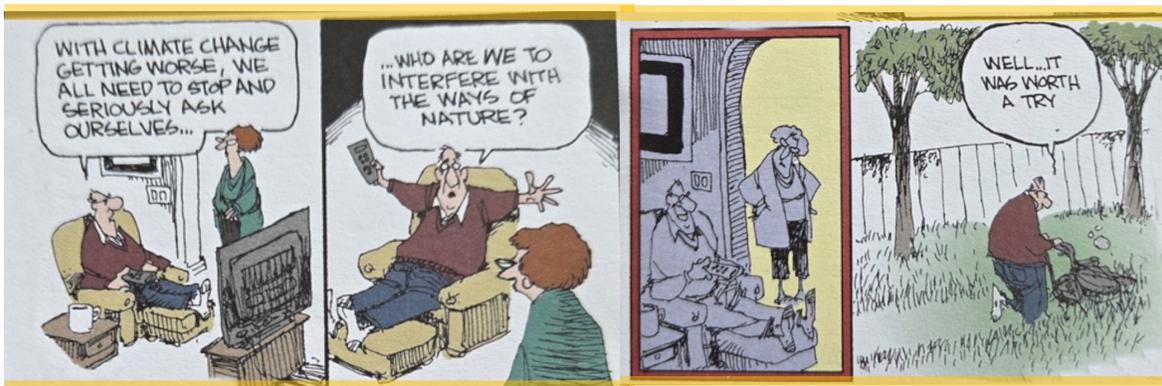


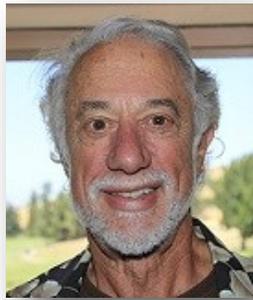
Our first meeting, of 2026 will find us a bit further afield since we have now covered all of the Walnut Creek sushi establishments. We will head for Dublin to check out Amakara at **7568 Dublin Blvd., Dublin**. It was recently reviewed on the PBS dining show, "Check Please, Bay Area" and got great marks from all of the show's participants for their variety and quality of their sushi. This will be on February 18th.

Look for details as well as suggested carpooling to be announced around the end of January when I send out the e-mail notice confirming the lunch.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org





Couples Dining Out Al Guzman and Bob Lucido.

Dear Members,

I'm writing to inform you that we cancelled our upcoming Couples Night Out dinner, which was scheduled for Monday night, January 26th, at Luna Restaurant in Concord.

This decision was due to several health concerns in our area, including an outbreak of three different strains of the flu virus, a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, and reports of measles in our county. We believed this was the best course of action to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

Please rest assured that this cancellation does not mean the end of our Couples Night Out events. **Bob Lucido** and I are committed to continuing the series of dinners throughout the year, and we are already planning future dates and locations. Additionally, please know that **Bob Lucido** has already refunded tickets that were purchased for the January 26th event.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and support. We will keep you informed and share details of the next event as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm for these events, and we look forward to gathering again soon.

Warm Regards...

Al Guzman

mrvalguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Couples Dining Out

Monday, January 26, 2026

Social hour/no host cocktails: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.



2118 Willow Pass Road
Concord, CA 94520

There is ample street parking and in the lot behind the restaurant.



Menu Choices

Appetizer - Olive pesto dip

Salad or Soup (choice of one)

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

Soup - Lobster bisque

Entrée (choice of one)

Braised Short Ribs - Slow-cooked boneless ribs with demi-glace and bleu cheese sauce

Salmon Modomio - Pan-seared salmon with mushrooms in a champagne cream dill sauce

Mushroom Risotto - Mushroom parmesan risotto

Bolognese - Fettuccine with meatballs in a classic meat sauce

Dessert

Tiramisu - Rum ladyfingers, mascarpone, marsala, and espresso



Reservations are due by 4 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2026.

RSVP your choice of Salad or Soup, and Entrée to **Bob Lucido**, bobwendy3@comcast.net.

Cost: \$64 per person includes tip and tax.

Payment for your reservation may be with a check made out to "SIR 146" and mailed to **Bob Lucido**, 541 Lily St, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Or save the stamp and safely use Zelle by scanning this QR code in your bank's app or sending your payment directly to: sir146.treasurer@gmail.com and

please note "Couples Dining Out."

Bob Lucido will confirm all reservations and payments by email.



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Well, I knew we were getting company when the vacuum cleaner and duster came out and I didn't get my afternoon walk.

I was told that we were getting company at 6:30, and true to form, that is when the doorbell rang!

I was so excited!!! It was **Bruce, Richard and Virginia!** I wondered where my favorite **Sue** was (she is so special) and I heard that she wasn't feeling up to par and stayed home with my buddy **Siggy**.

A bit later **Jim and Jane** arrived and all the people gathered around the dining room table to play a game called Mexican Train.

I could tell they were having a good time from the laughs and exclamations.

My mom was excited that she got the biggest award and **Bruce and Jim** were happy too.

All the people really liked their treat at break (individual mini apple pies with ice cream) but I had my

eye on the cheese and smoked salmon and crackers that was served prior to game time.

Unfortunately, the people were so busy at the end of the evening, they forgot to take a group photo, so I am submitting one of myself! **Mieke**



This Month's contributor

Mieke [Oranje?] for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, December 19th at the home of **Joyce Wells and Jim Barry** in Clayton after

December's SIRCall was published. The Mexican choo choo left the roundhouse and wandered through the hills and pastures to beautiful Clayton. Gathering around the 2 tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Linda & Larry Brown, Joyce Wells & Jim Barry, and Alicia Baily**. The group loved **Joyce's** fantastic table treats and delicious half-time faire.

Bringing his very best 1st place finish to the table was **Larry Brown**, including going out 4 times and with a great score of 9.6 ppg. Coming in 2nd place was **Sue Busenius** followed by **Jim Barry** finishing in the money coming in 3rd place.

We enjoy each other's company, say our goodbyes, and head off into the sunset to our various homes.

Our January meeting will be held at the home of **Sue and Walt Busenius** on January 23rd.

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com





**Mexican Train
Dominoes
"Cuatro"
Jim Pope**

On January 16th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 players to play dominoes and to celebrate the New Year. Those in attendance this evening were, **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steve and Susan Oki, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, and Jim and Renie Pope.** The group enjoyed wonderful tasties provided by several members. We played at two tables of 5. We paid the player at each table of 5 with low table score; 5 California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the lowest table scores were **Christy DeVoe and Kim Pace:** There were two high score players at each table: **Dick DeVoe and Jim Pope** received one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on February 20th. (Photos by **Jim Pope** and **Henry Thatcher**)



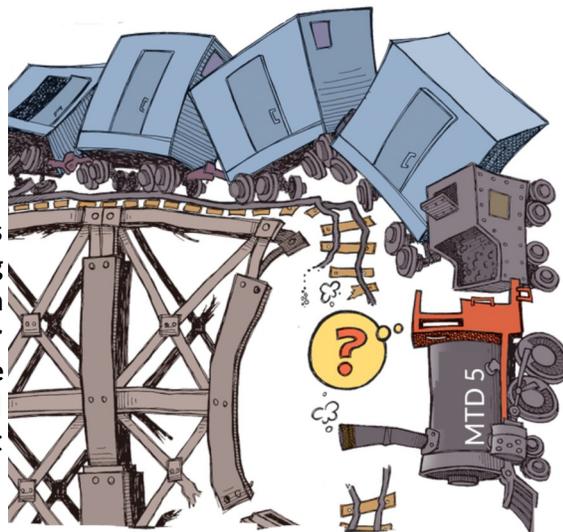
Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



**Mexican Train
Dominoes
"Cinco"
Dennis Hallett**

Mexican Train Cinco has decided to stop playing dominoes, due to a variety of health issues that make it a challenge for some members to play. However, to maintain the social benefits of gathering with good friends, we still plan to get together on a quarterly basis to support each other and enjoy each other's company.



Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net

Never let the sadness of your past and your fear of your future ruin the happiness of your present.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Nineteen players assembled on January 7th for the first Mexican Train Dominoes Group OCHO game of the

new year. Everyone was happy to see each other as play began around 4 tables at 6:45 PM.

Shown below were our winners for the evening. **Pam McAllister** came in first with an average score of **5.57**. Next was **Alicia Baily** with a score of **10.66** and in third place was **Jan Ondeck** with a score of **13.85**. These scores were quite good considering most of the other players who's scores were in the mid-twenties to mid-thirties.

\$1 lottery tickets were awarded to **Jim Barry** and **Virginia Tygart**, who had the highest scores.

The evening's snacks and goodies were hosted by **Steve Ybarra**. Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday in February. Snacks will be hosted by **Joe and Chris Flannigan**.



Winners
L/R Pam McAllister (1st), Jan Ondeck
(3rd) & Alicia Baily (2nd)

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



Scratchers
Virginia Tygart & Jim Barry



Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

We started out 2026 with our first game on January 16 at the home of **Linda and Don Casey**. It was a strange start as we had 12 members scheduled to play but with the flu, last-minute dropouts and no shows we only had 6 to play. We did-

n't get started until 2:00 and one player had to leave early so we only got 4 rounds in.

The winners were **Linda Casey, Phil Lee, and Mark Sorum** with consolation prizes going to **Don Casey and Fred McNeil**. Regarding consolation prizes, **Frank Lucas** won \$10 on his scratcher from the previous month.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For February **Cleo and**

Ann Bolen will be hosting the game on February 20th. We rotate hosting among different homes. This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.



Mark Sorum
925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen
925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



CARD GAMES

...we play



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was delayed until January 15 due to calendar issues earlier in the month.

Steve Ybarra was our host and the usual "Steve spread" was impressive.

Due to varying issues with regulars, two subs helped our game continue with a full set of players. Thanks to **Ron Polivka** and **Bob Campbell** for your time and dollars.

Speaking of dollars, **Steve** may well have paid for a goodly portion of his refreshments with his winnings. Other notes include **Frank Lucas** being late to the game and **Melo Piccolo** choice of 7-27 games were met with exciting results.

We look forward to our usual first Thursday of the month game starting at 12:30. Our host is yet to be determined.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 4

Our first game of 2026 was on January 19 at the home of **Pat Tidmarsh**. **Pat** was a great host with hot pizza and a delicious homemade pumpkin pie! We had a full house with 7 of our regulars attending.

We had a couple of memorable hands to talk about. First, **Pete Gates** had a pair of Aces + 3 wild cards giving him 5 Aces! It's tough to beat that hand. Then towards the end of the day, we had a player go both high and low and win the whole pot. He had a straight flush for high and a wheel for low. It is very rare to win both high and low in the same hand.

Games are scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages.

Our next game is on February 16th at the home of **Mark Sorum**. Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises. Dealer antes a nickel per player. A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.

We are currently full.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925.938.7016, or myself at 925.858.9666. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Life is easier than you think.
But harder when you think.



Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from December 12th and 26th.

The big winners were **Dave Smith** with 4 wins, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 3. **Steve Ybarra** had 4.5 2nds, and **Frank Lucas** had 4. The lowest average scorers were **Frank Lucas** and **Dave Smith** who tied with 47. **Frank Lucas** had 1 STM's

2026 Full Year Results: **Bill Vizza** had the most wins with 28 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 24.5, and **Brian McCarthy** with 24.

- Highest winning percentage is **Jim Passaglia** with 45%, and **Bob Finlayson** with 41%.
- **Steve Ybarra** won 2nds with 25 , and **Frank Lucas** and **Bill Vizza** each had 24.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 49.7 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.7.
- **Bill Vizza** has 13 STM's, and **Brian McCarthy** and **Frank Lucas** both had 9.
- Most Improved is **Bob West** at 142% better than last year, and **Brian McCarthy** at 127%.
- Best Sheriff is shared by **Rich Lyon** and **Bob Campbell** in that in none of their passes, has someone STM. **Norman Cox** had only 2% and **Frank Lucas** 4%.

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 January 9th, January 23rd, and February 13th.

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

Co-Directors
Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**
robtawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Tony and **Cindy Greco** hosted our January 6th event. We thank **Marilyn Miller** and her friend **Mary** for subbing for **Dick** and **Maggie Chaffee**.

Per our standard policy, our goal is to make every effort to let the subs win so they will be willing to sub again when needed in the future. We were very successful in accomplishing this. **Marilyn Miller** and **Mary** took the lead after the first round and never looked back. Congratulations to all the regulars that helped this happen, especially the

Klueseners and **Hatchers**. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4590 points - **Marilyn Miller** and **Mary**
- 2nd PLACE with 2880 points - **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 1880 points - **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**

Honorable mention goes to **Larry** and **Linda Brown** who were only 80 points away from 3rd place.

Our next event will be held on February 3rd and hosted by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** .

Tony and Cindy Greco
 925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

The trouble with being punctual is that no one is there to appreciate it.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

On January 13th we greeted the new [bridge] year at the home of **Joan and Dave Pierce**. Many thanks to **Steve and Sue Lofton** for filling out the field.

The **Pierces**, as hosts, played Board 2 early and reached 6H. All three N-S pairs made seven but nobody else bid slam. **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, in 3 NT, made six for a top on Board 7, and **Tony and Cindy Greco** made six in 3NT on Board 11, but the **Loftons** made seven.

At the end of the evening, **Steve and Sue Lofton** were first (59%), **Margot Somerville and Marilyn Miller** were second (55%) and **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were third (53%). This is the second month in a row that the subs came in first. Well done.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, January 9th with four tables and 16 players and was nicely hosted by **Mike Davidson**.

Ed Marlovits earned 1st place by 11.5 (!) points, with 53.5. He absolutely "cleaned everyone's plow" - tying for 1st at lunchtime and made 1st with the first 12 boards, 1st with the 2nd 12 boards, and 1st with the final score. **Marvelous, Ed!**

Tony Greco was 2nd with 42.0 points.

Ray Bland was 3rd with 39.0 points.

Dick DeVoe was 4th with 38.5 points.

Dick DeVoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Mike Whitaker

We meet on the 3rd Friday of the month, which is usually too late to make the SirCall deadline. This month's results are below.

On Friday, Jan.16, Duplicate Bridge 3 held its January game at the home of Dave Steinberg. 12 hopeful players played 24 hands of duplicate bridge. At the end of the day it was **Sid Landman** in 1st, **Steve Dinning** in 2nd and **Mike Whitaker** in 3rd. We meet and play on the 3rd Friday of each month. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Mike Whitaker at 925.708.8213. We are always looking for new

players.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213

If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants

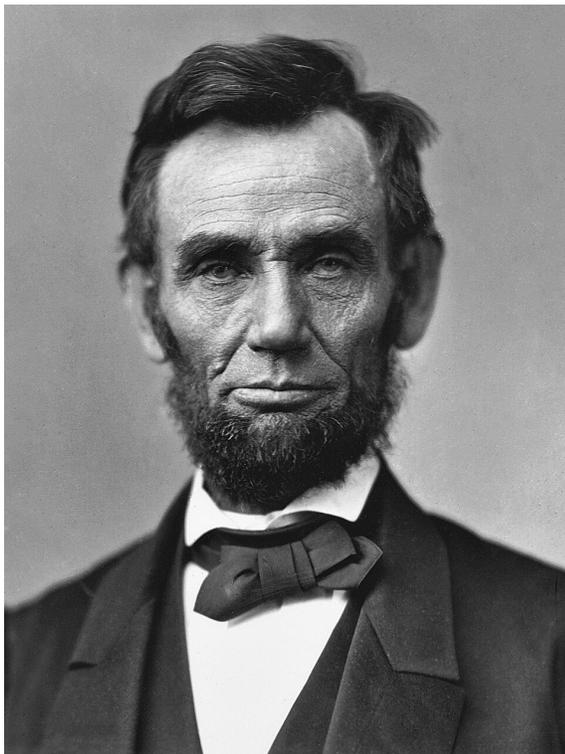
Parting Shot

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863



Happy Birthday!

