

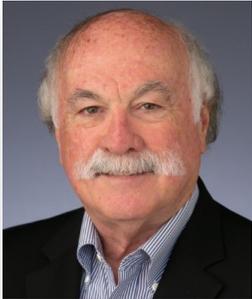


# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

February–March



## Big Sir's Corner Thom Degman

We had a good turnout of about 110 members at our February luncheon where we did our first of two planned buffets, and we would appreciate your feedback both positive and things we can

do better in the future. In April, we will have another buffet lunch, and the menu is BBQ Chicken, Gouda Mac & Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable, Corn bread with honey butter, backyard Cole Slaw Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots, Creamy Slaw Dressing, Fruit display, and Rocky Road Brownie. We hope you will join us then for a true spring luncheon.

Another important topic to discuss is the need for us to replace a couple of members who have been doing a lot of work for SIR146 for several years now in

- 1.) Managing ten of the monthly luncheons, and
- 2.) The set up and tear down of the video & audio system for the monthly luncheons.

These are key monthly tasks that are important to SIR146, and we owe a debt of gratitude to **Steve Oki** and **Bill Holly** for managing these activities for many years. They are willing to work with whomever picks up these tasks to smooth the transition, but we need to find members to step in and help. Please contact me if you might be interested, or if you know someone who might be. Your assistance is appreciated.

### Key objectives for 2026:

**Recruiting:** We are currently initiating an effort to organize, plan and execute our strategy to recruit new members. Several of the SIR groups in the state are struggling to maintain a sufficient level of membership. Attrition generally accounts for the loss of 25 or so members (10%) due to relocation, transfers or the final move. One good step is to invite a prospective member to a monthly luncheon, where other chapters have a had a very high success rate of that individual joining – something to consider. **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.

**Participation:** We want more members to participate in more than 50 activities. We would like to create a committee for each activity to assist the lead, making the task easier. We have many different activities, most of them are coed, and if you want to start an activity, let us know and we will assist you in getting it started. SIR146 needs its members to participate so all members enjoy their monthly activities.

We want to make SIR146 the very best it can be. So, help us keep our organization healthy, vibrant, fun, and growing with the addition of new members!

**Thom Degman**  
Big Sir, Branch 146

## SIR Luncheon Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Boundary Oak 10:30

Robert McNally

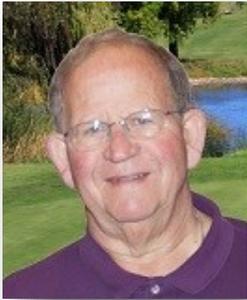
The Untold Story of John Muir, the indigenous peoples and the American Wilderness.

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](#)
- Auracast at our meeting [Page 7](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- Take in a show [Page 14](#)
- Travel Tips for Seniors [Page 17](#)
- For the birds [Page 20](#)
- Latest on the food scene [Page 23](#)
- MTD reports [Page 26](#)



## Little Sir's Corner Jim Pope

The speakers' committee and I have been working on speakers for the year, and we have a slate of speakers set up through September. The subjects of the April and May speakers will be

David Townsed on "How Politics Really Work" and Patrica Bracewell's book "The Steel Beneath the Silk Series".

### Now, the future of SIR 146.

We lost 30 members last year and we need to bring 30 new members on board this year. You are the key to this goal. Find a friend and bring them to an activity, introduce them to SIR and many benefits that it provides for its members.

### Our speaker for March is Robert McNally.

Robert McNally has long sought out stories linking humans and the wild. His book is **The Untold Story of John Muir, the indigenous peoples and the American Wilderness**. Robert will outline John Muir's relationships with California politicians and President Roosevelt which leads to the establishment of Yosemite National Park. This book shows how these relationships with the president and State opened Yosemite and brought up the concerns of the impacts on peoples by focusing on little-known aspects of America's troubling history with indigenous peoples and their homelands.

John Muir is rightly lauded as the nature mystic who added wilderness to America's vision of itself. That vision came at a cost, however: the dispossession of the tribal peoples whose homelands the national parks once were. Muir argued for wilderness that would offer spiritual enlightenment to the conquerors, not the Indigenous peoples they conquered.

**Our CPR Training Classes** have been a great success. **There is still time to sign up.** 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 exercis-

es, 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 SIR 146 CPR Training Class on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Time: 8:45 am to 11:45 am
- 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.

**NEW MEMBERS:** 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!**

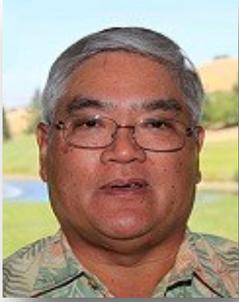
Scan this QR code to open SIR Call in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[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

One new member was approved for membership in February.

**Steve “Newby” Newburn** lives in Danville with his wife **Candice**. He was the vice president of Webcor Builders. He enjoys bocce and fishing. He is sponsored by **Nick Jabuka**.

The 2026 membership count is **242**.

Sadly, we lost **Jim Browning** in October after a short illness. He was 82.

Several members did not renew their membership for 2026 for various reasons.

They are Joe Ambriz, Lee Clark, Stephen George, Scott Graham, John Gray, Charles Kahsen, Pete Salgado, Jim Saller, Ed Smith, and Sid Whalen.

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 in SIR.

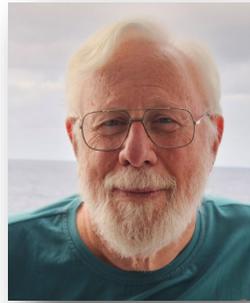
If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**

925.683.0980 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Editor’s Ramblings Clint Collier

We have a couple of transitory articles in this month’s edition of SIRCall that I would like to call your attention to.

First, look for the very informative article by **Milt Smith**, State SIR Travel Chair on tips for seniors when it comes to dealing with TSA when traveling.

It comes from experience just how frustrating it can become dealing with the arbitrariness of “the system”; something is “OK” at check in, only to be “Not OK” at a subsequent check. Some good tips for being prepared and perhaps avoiding some of this.

The second is my article under “Notes from our members” on using Auracast to enhance your listening to our meetings. This was brought up at the start of the February meeting with an announcement that this was now available. Here is more details on exactly what this is along with some help in getting yourself “connected”.

Finally, for those of you with a fascination with the English language, don’t miss this month’s Parting Shot! Unlike previous “shots”, it is going to be a two-parter.

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for the April issue will be March 20<sup>th</sup>... but as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIRCall

925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Wearing the Green

Saint Patrick's day is coming up, and it is that time again to wear the green. Let's have some fun and wear your Saint Patrick's finest for the luncheon. We will

have corned beef and cabbage on the menu as well as a Baileys Irish Cream cake for dessert.

### Buffets for Luncheon

We hope you enjoyed the luncheon in February. It was the first time we had a buffet style luncheon. This year the other SIR branches that dine at Boundary Oak, along with our ours, agreed with them to try multiple buffets in the next few months. Currently planned, we will have buffets in April and July. The price for the buffets will remain the normal \$37.

### 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 co-operation.

The link on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message manually to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto: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, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 to 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, March 6<sup>th</sup> by Noon**

and you will not be charged.

Send email to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 March Luncheon

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Your St. Patrick's Day quiz...  
What is green and stays out all night?

# Put the April Luncheon on your calendar NOW!



**THE CLUBHOUSE**  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 April Luncheon**  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Buffet Lunch](#)

**Salad**  
Backyard Cole Slaw  
Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots,  
Creamy Slaw Dressing

**Entrees**  
BBQ Chicken  
Gouda Mac and Cheese  
Corn Bread with Honey Butter  
Seasonal Vegetable  
Fruit Display

**Dessert**  
Rocky Road Brownie

## 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.

What is green and stays out all night?  
Paddy O'Fruniture



**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!



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](mailto: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!

# March

Rich Ahlf  
Joe Ambriz  
John Biasotti  
Ron Binder  
Bruce Borgman  
Ed Brands  
Jim Burk  
Don Casey  
Chuck Cornell  
Eric Finson  
Bill Holly  
Paul Jones

Dave Kingsbury  
Jonathan Korfhage  
Al Munayer  
Steve Oki  
David Price  
Larry Ribarich  
Ron Self  
Scott Simmons  
David Steinberg  
Joe Stengel



## Sunshine Brian McCarthy

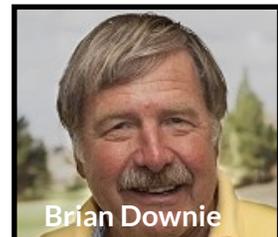
Let us keep the pictured SIR member in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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

*Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keeffe



Brian Downie

# NOTES

## from Our Members



Article by Clint Collier, Editor

Something new is coming to your phone, and the way you use it, especially if you, like many of us in SIR, use hearing aids.

Most of us are familiar with Bluetooth, the ability to wirelessly connect a device to our smart phone. It is used to link shutter triggers to the phone camera, to link our phone to a computer, to link our phone to a TV. To link our phone to our hearing aids. It is a great way to tie many of our electronic “tools” together. But it has one disadvantage: you need to set it up on both devices you are using to look for it and use it.

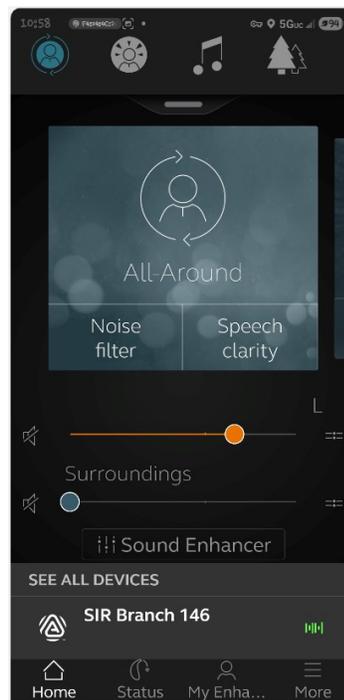
Well, that is in the process of changing. A new Bluetooth standard is making its way to the forefront. It is called Auracast and is designated by the blue symbol you see at the start of this article. Auracast is Bluetooth on steroids because of the one big difference: you do not have to link the devices together and the number of devices that can be linked is unlimited!

What does this mean for you? Well, Branch 146 is now broadcasting our meetings in Auracast. What you hear through the sound system can be picked up directly by you if your hearing aids are Auracast compatible. You can control the volume, the pitch, the tone of what you are hearing just as you can adjust your hearing aids to get the best sound quality for you!

So, if you have Auracast compatible aids (check with your audiologist) bring up the smartphone app for your aids and look for the Auracast broadcast labeled “SIR Branch 146” and get connected. Most likely it will occur automatically! Different brands of aids will do this in different ways but all are similar. I use Jabra 500 aids and here are two screenshots showing my connection to help you in what to look for.

Fist, make sure your phone has “LE” turned on (it will be in the Bluetooth settings for your hearing aids). LE stands for Low Energy. Auracast (and much of Bluetooth) requires this protocol so it is most likely already activated. Then start up your hearing aid app on the phone. You should see a screen similar to the one on the left. At the bottom you can see, it has already detected the presence of our broadcast (if it hasn't tap on “see all devices”) and there are two volume sliders; the top one for the Auracast, the lower for the hearing aids. Want to hear only your friends? Mute the Auracast. Only want to hear the speaker, mute the hearing aid pickup. Want to take a nap? Mute both! Need your hearing aid's speech clarity? Turn it on and it will be applied to both inputs. You are in control.

The second screen shot is a graphic of this arrangement. Left and right aids are hearing locally and receiving the SIR Branch 146 broadcast!



# FEBRUARY

Photos by  
*Henry Thatcher*



Steve Nubum

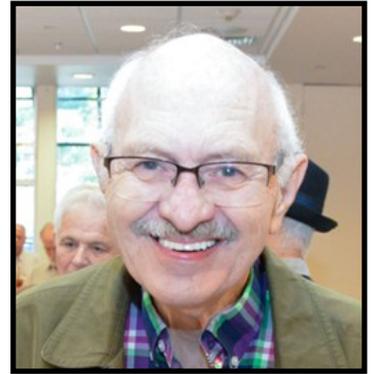
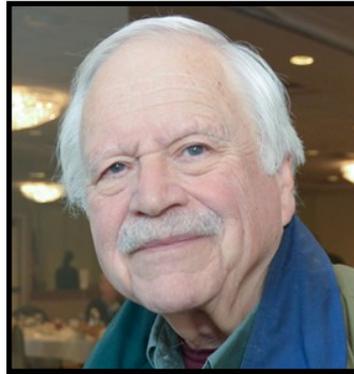
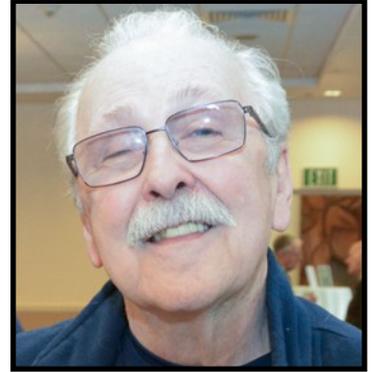


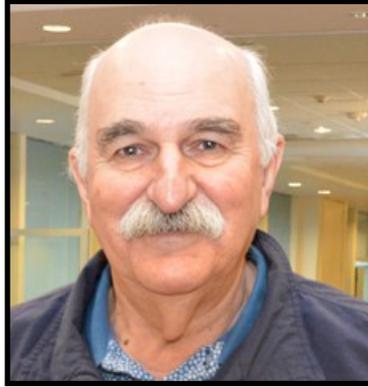
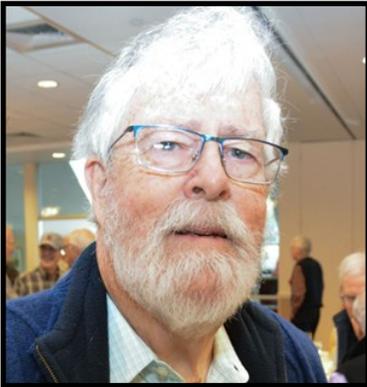
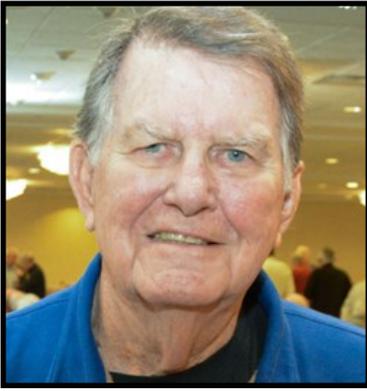
Brad Hatcher presenting  
Senior Sir & Presidential Award to  
Jim Stedman.

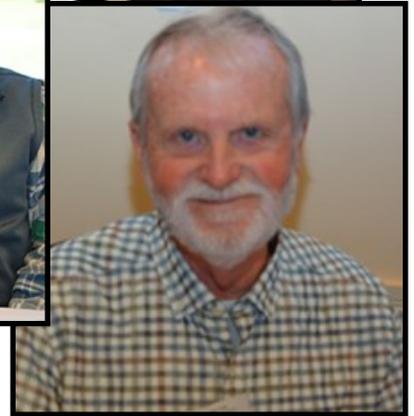


Jim Stedman & Jane











# Activities!

## Stay Active... Stay young



### Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Hi to all SIR Members! Are you aware that SIR Branch 146 has 50 different group activities and 32 of the 50 activities are available to spouses or significant others. If you are looking for something to enrich your life then go ahead and click on any activity, located at [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) . Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know. Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs and what they do to keep our 240+ members involved in stimulating activities. The SIR Mission is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please continue to let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

I appreciate all our activity chairs. You are the reason that SIR146 thrives!

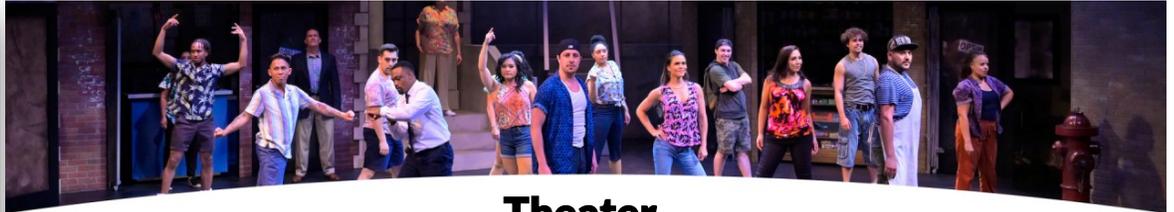
Artificial Intelligence (AI)-**Frank Terzuoli**, Bird Watching-**Ted Robertson**, Bocce-**John Kendrick**, Book Corner-**Paul Kersis**, Book Group-**Nick Jabuka**, Bridge-**John Kluesener**, **Dave Pierce**, **Tony Greco**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Mike Whitaker**, **Jim Pope**, **Jim Stedman**, Cooking-**Steve Ybarra** , **Paul Dubow**, Dining Out-**Al Guzman & Bob Lucido**, Cribbage-**John Kendrick**, Cycling-**Larry Kaye**, Explore and Eat-**Jim Pope**, Fishing-**Paul Dubow**, Gardening-**Ken Studer**, Golf-**David Steinberg**, **Bob Ford**, Guitar-**Curtis Young**, Hearts-**Bob West** -Hiking-**Bob Wilkenfeld**, **Ray Martz**, Ladies Day Lunch-**Steve Ybarra**, Mexican Train Dominoes-**Corrie Oranje**, **Ron Plachy**, **Walt Busenius** , **Jim Pope**, **Steve Lane**, **Bob Lucido**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Cleo Bolen**, Photography-**Moose Kelly**, Pinochle-**Pete McNeill**, Poker-**Sig Kalteis**, **Mark Sorum**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Carmelo Piccolo**, Song Sirs-**Peter Plante**, Sushi-**Clint Collier**, Table Pool-**Jim Barry**, Theater-**Glenn Breslin**, Travel-**Glenn Breslin**, Veterans-**Larry Kaye**, Walking-**Nic Jabuka**, Wine Tasting-**Brian McCarthy**, .

**Glenn Breslin**

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

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

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



## 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 (For this show, check due by 2/23)

To celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> 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 this show, check due by 3/10)

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 swinging' 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](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)



## 9 Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

We are hoping to get some more of our fellow SIR members interested in 9-hole golf. Have you been thinking about joining us but haven't yet? It is as easy as letting me know you are interested. Just

drop me an email to [scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com) and I will add you to our list. 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](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



## 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**



## 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](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)



## Book Corner Paul Kersis

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





## Travel Glenn Breslin

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

If you would like to travel with your fellow SIRs, and have not already submitted the below questionnaire, then can you please fill out the below questionnaire **by 2/28** and email it back to me at [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) ? If your preferred location has been selected for future SIR Multi-Branch travel, then I will contact you to find out how you like to travel (e.g. cost, travel companies, duration, etc.)

During March, based upon questionnaire results, I will select several SIR Travel Trips and report in the next Sir Call.

### SIR TRAVEL SURVEY

1. Where do you want to travel to? Can be multiple travel locations.
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 trips turn out to be candidates for future SIR Travel, then I would like to learn more about how you like to travel, so please list your Name, Email and Phone Number when emailing your response.



### Travel Quotes:

“The best journey is the one taken with friends by your side.”

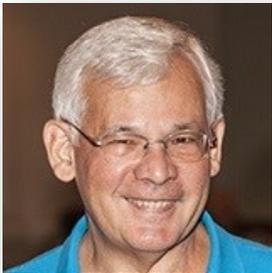
“Traveling with a friend is like stepping into a storybook adventure together. “

“It doesn’t matter where you’re going – it’s who you go with that makes it fun.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

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



## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a program of Irish songs for a March 19 performance at the Kensington in Walnut Creek. We will sing such old favorites as “Cockles and Mussels,”

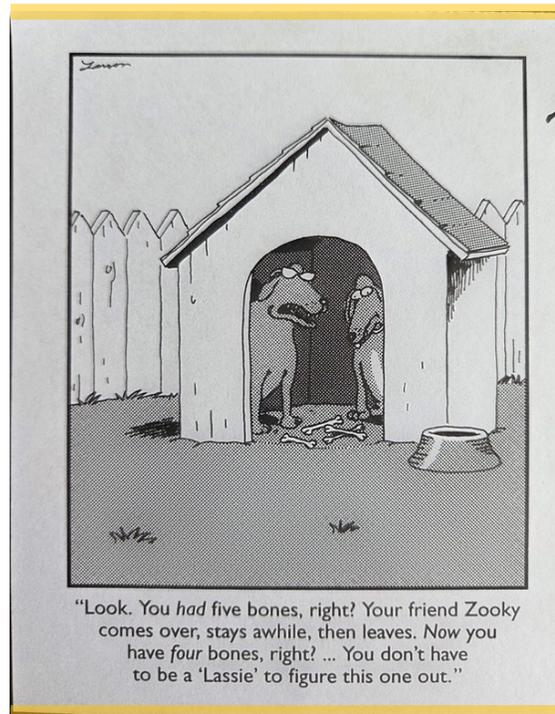
“McNamara’s Band” and “Irish Blessing.”

Our next rehearsal is on March 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** .

Peter Plante

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



“Look. You *had* five bones, right? Your friend Zooky comes over, stays awhile, then leaves. Now you have *four* bones, right? ... You don't have to be a 'Lassie' to figure this one out.”

# Eleven Airline / TSA travel rules relating to seniors... that are new or will get more attention in 2026.

By Milt Smith SIR State Travel Chair



- 1. The check-in trap.** Check-in is usually done online or at an airport kiosk, I recommend printing your boarding pass before you leave home or go to a kiosk that allows you to print it. Keep your boarding pass in three ways, 1. Your printed boarding pass, 2. Your online pass, 3. A screen shot of your online pass. You never know when you might lose phone and Wi-Fi coverage.
- 2. Wheelchair / mobility assistance** needs to be done at least 48 hrs. before departure. It is best to request it at time of booking. Say, "Please add continuous mobility assistance from check-in thru boarding with no handoffs. If you wait until check-in, you may be at the end of a long list of requests.
- 3. Boarding early without a wheelchair:** Early boarding for people with walking, balance or other issues such as slow walking or sustained standing. You may ask for a special service request (SSR) or you may inform the gate agent you need an early boarding for head start. Airlines usually are happy to grant the request as doing so ultimately speeds up the boarding process.
- 4. Staying with your travel companion:** At check in say: "We are traveling together, and I am traveling with mobility assistance please link our boarding for companion continuity." It is a good idea to do this even if you are not traveling with mobility assistance. It will help if flights or equipment are changed along the way and seats are somehow shuffled. If you are being dropped off at the airport you may ask for a non-passenger gate pass for help getting you through TSA and boarding. Do it in advance if possible.
- 5. There are more allowances for seniors than most realize:** Extra medical equipment and supplies are treated as such, not toiletries. Say: "There are medical necessities in this bag." These can include liquid medications of more than 3.4 ounces, important non-prescription supplies such as food supplements. Let TSA know before you are screened and have them available for inspection. In the case of medical devices like pacemakers, artificial joints and other similar situations TSA provides a medical notification card to fill out and present to them so you can be screened separately. You can also let them know if you cannot stand for a sustained time and would like to be screened while sitting. If you cannot find the TSA card you can make your own. TSA now, usually, allows seniors to keep their shoes on. If not, you may ask for assistance, such as a chair, if needed.
- 6. Pills:** Pills in daily organizers are getting more scrutiny particularly at foreign airports. It is best to keep all your medications in their original labeled bottles and use your daily pill holder after arrival at your destination. If you need to take something during your flight it is likely OK to keep those separate. Also, in some countries pills considered to be in excess of what is needed may be confiscated. Always check to see what prescription drugs are allowed and how many day's worth are allowed in the countries you visit. Do this well in advance as some countries require advanced approval through a detailed application process.
- 7. For medications requiring cool temperatures:** If you believe you're not able to keep your meds cool enough for the duration of a flight let the crew know then ask if they can keep them cool. Make sure they are packaged and identified.
- 8. Seat assignment / limited mobility:** With limited mobility you can request aisle or bulkhead seats due to physical mobility issues. Say: "I need a "certain seat" for accessibility mobility and comfort under DOT policy. If not possible, "may I speak with a Complaint Resolution Official."
- 9. Escape noisy terminals:** Many large airports offer quiet rooms, originally designed for neuro divergent passengers but now offered to others. Ask if you are eligible for a quiet room.
- 10. ID and biometric checks:** Take a moment and look at your ID. In the US make sure you have Real ID on your license. No license, be sure you have a state ID or passport. Check your photo related to your older biometric photo. You may have changed so have a recent photo available or update your documents with a new one. If you are traveling abroad make sure your passport has at least six months left, maybe more for some countries.
- 11. Senior fares:** These fares are not always the best. For a few dollars discount you may be giving up several benefits. Research which fare gives you the most flexibility if things change. A slightly higher fare might protect more of your money.



## AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Those who fished this month concentrated on striper fishing. **Tom Kostik, Harry Sherinian, Matt Richards, and Mike Pruett** all had productive days on the

Delta, although most of the catch were not keepers. But **Ken Bellindir and Ron Lew** ventured to the northern part of the Bay and landed some big ones.



Ron Lew Striper

Valentine’s Day has a significance for lovebirds, but it has a different role for trout fishermen. It is the annual opening of the fishery at San Pablo Reservoir. **Stan Wong, Phil Scimonelli, Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, Bob Lively, and Ray Pixton** all tried their luck there. Everybody caught trout, but Stan was the only one to limit out.

April will be a significant month. The rockfish season will open on April 1. For the first time in three years, there will be no limitations on depth. In the past two years, we could only fish below 300 feet in some months and above 300 feet in other months. Salmon fishing normally opens in April. In 2023 and 2024, sport fishing for salmon was closed completely. In 2025, the Department of Fish and Wildlife ordained two eight-day periods for ocean salmon fishing. However, each period only lasted two days because the Department imposed a limit on the total catch and it was reached on the second day on both occasions. There was no limitation on river fishing. So far, we have heard nothing from the Department on this subject and so we have no idea whether there will be no salmon season, an unrestricted season, or a limited season. We also expect halibut to be returning to the Bay in April. I am running a halibut trip on the *Pacific Pearl* on April 14. If you are interested, call me at 510.504.3566. Don’t wait because space is limited.

Our next two meetings are on February 26 and March 26. The March meeting is our annual gear auction and is the sole source of income because we do not collect dues. If you have not fished for awhile or have never fished, and you are thinking of starting or resuming, this will be a great opportunity to pick up excellent equipment at prices far below what is available in stores or online. The meeting is being held at the Legends Bar and Grill on Diablo Creek Golf Course, which is located on Port Chicago Highway, just off the intersection of Highways 4 and 242. The meetings and auction begin at 8:30 am, but you can join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566

When you feel worthless remember you were once the fastest sperm cell.

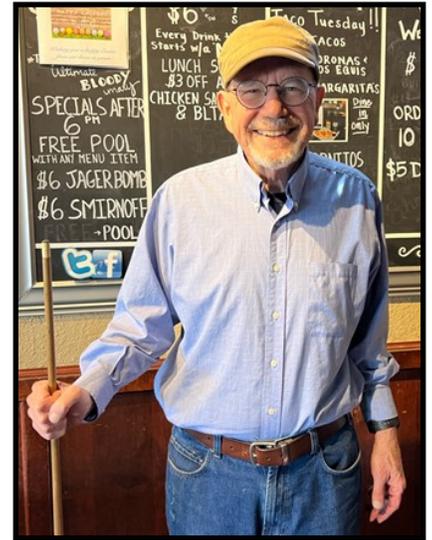
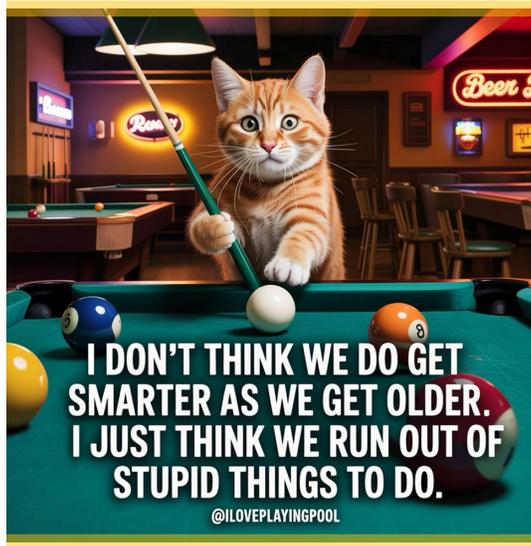


## Table Pool Jim Barry

With the closing of Massès on Super Bowl Sunday, our pool group has elected to play at Cue and Brew in Martinez. This location is smaller than Massès, and there are a couple of downsides; it's further away for our participants and there is no food service, although we can bring food in. The tables themselves are slightly smaller and closer together, so courtesy is necessary between tables. The cost is a little bit more than we were paying, but not excessively so. Cue and Brew charges an hourly rate per table, while we paid a set amount individually at Massès. We have come up with an equitable way to allocate costs to each player, and we think it will work out well. We'll continue to play at Cue and Brew until Massès opens in its new location,

Jim Barry

[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)



I hate it when people say age is only a number. Age is clearly a word!



## Birding Ted Robertson

The SIR Birding trip for February 11<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to rain and could not be rescheduled because of several days of nearly continuous rain and conflicting travel the week that followed. It has been rescheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> (Monday) for 10:00 AM 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.



Various shorebirds  
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Looking for birds at Martinez shoreline (Photo by **Earl Bates**)



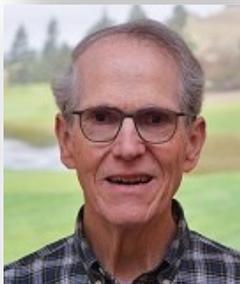
Marbled Godwits  
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



## Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

Our next meeting will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room at NOON. At this meeting, we will present photos from our February 20<sup>th</sup> shoot at the John Muir National Historical Site as well as Port Costa led by **Don Casey**. Don has been working hard to put together a great itinerary to support our theme for the month which is composition. If you want to join us for the photoshoot, then contact **Don Casey**, **Miker Rothman**, or yours truly. We love to have you join the gang!!

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



John (Moose) Kelly  
[Rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:Rollingstone911@yahoo.com) 610.517.0152  
Mike Rothman  
[mrothman9@gmail.com](mailto:mrothman9@gmail.com) 415.937.1846



## Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

With clear weather abounding these past few weeks, we made up for last month with hikes to Black Diamond Mines, and Diablo Foot-hills. Hikers this month included

(but not limited to), **Ray Martz, Earl Bates, Gene Schulting, Roger Meyers, Chris Duffek, Gary Parkhurst, Mike Gipps and Jim Crites. Bob Wilkenfeld** was hiking “down under.”



At 87, **Gene Schulting** is the elder statesman of our hiking group, and he is hard to keep up with! Steep climb; he’s your man. Steep downhill trail: you get to watch **Gene** do the famous “*Schulting Shuffle*.” **Gene’s** idea of a perfect day is to mount one, or more, of the summits of Mt. Diablo and then have a cold beer with friends. **Gene** has hiked the difficult and rugged rim-to-rim trail of the Grand Canyon numerous times and reached the peak of Mt. McKinley. Besides the outdoors, he loves ballroom dancing.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are



always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let Bob know.

Ray Martz [rayhvac@gmail.com](mailto:rayhvac@gmail.com)  
Bob Wilkenfeld [Wilkx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilkx4@gmail.com)



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye



February 6<sup>th</sup>: Yes I know it’s not a Tuesday. It’s Friday and snuggly warm. So? So we rode. **Bob Lucido, Brian Totter, Mike Schrupp, Jim Crites and Larry Kaye.** We went South to try a new donut joint. Well, it was ok but not to our standards. Nice warm ride, one flat but an enjoyable day in the sun. Get out of that door. . **Larry**

February 17<sup>th</sup>: The calendar reads Tuesday. That’s a ride day. Well..... It was a washout. What do 12 guys do? They meet for lunch; **Moose Kelly, Elmer Bricca, Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Brian Totter, Dave Paulson, Larry Kaye, Bob Wilkenfeld, Jim Nelson, Ken Studer, Phil Lee and Eric Finson** at Magueys in Alamo for some Mexican dining. Fun and lots of yak. All subjects covered. We ate we talked we spent some good time as a group together. What’s bunch of SIR athletes supposed to do when their bikes are in the garage? We ate. That was the exercise for the day. Get out of the door and off your butt. **Larry**

Larry Kaye  
925.698.4030





## Book Group Nick Jabuka

**Book Club Review: February**  
We met at Panara’s on the first Tuesday of February for our monthly meeting. As we get there a little before 8 a.m. we are usual-

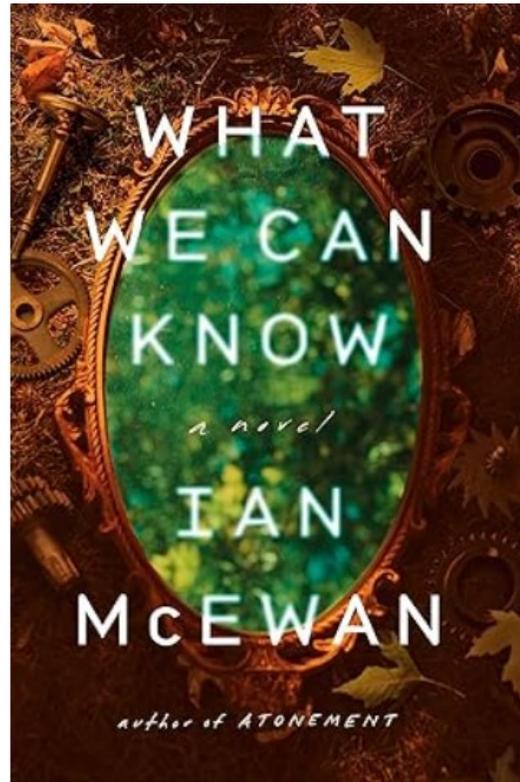
ly able to get a large table that will accommodate our group which on occasion can reach 9 or 10. Normally Panara’s music isn’t too loud which makes our conversations a bit easier to follow.

### Our January Read: “What We Can Know”

“What We Can Know” by Ian McEwan is a novel set primarily in the year **2119**. The novel mixes dystopian fiction, literary mystery, romance, and philosophical inquiry. The novel centers on Thomas (Tom) Metcalfe, a literature professor researcher who is obsessed with a lost poem, written a century before and read out loud in 2014 by a fictional poet Francis Blundy. The story takes place roughly 100 years in the future in a **world transformed by climate change, nuclear conflict, and social upheaval**. Much of Western Europe — including what used to be England — is submerged under rising seas, and societies have fragmented. Tom’s quest to uncover the poem leads him into deeper layers of **love, betrayal, memory, and myth**, and eventually forces him to confront the fragility of what we think we know about the past — and about other people.

### Our Verdict - Not for everyone

While many in our group enjoyed the writing style and the topics examined in the novel, we agreed we couldn’t recommend it for everyone. That said, individuals with a special interest in literature or those enjoying futuristic books are probably good matches for it.



### Next Month’s Book

Next month’s book is “American Bloods” by John Kaag. It’s a factual story of one extended family, the Bloods, one of America’s earliest pioneer families, and how their lives and ideas intersected with the nation’s development beginning in the early 1600’s.

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](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)

---

What are the lessons people most often learn too late in life?

1. Leaving your home and getting back safely is such an underrated blessing.
  2. Faking a smile is easier than explaining why you’re upset.
  3. You are sad for them, they are happy with others.
  4. Perfect people don’t exist, so don’t pretend to be one.
  5. Slow progress is still progress.
-



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

Six members of the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group met at the home of **Dan Holland** on February 18 for our monthly luncheon. We started with rolled prosciutto and cheese appetizers. The main course was a special sausage sandwich accompanied by green salad. **Dan** picked up the recipe for the sandwich while visiting Little Italy in Manhattan earlier this year. The sandwich was delightful and we concluded that **Dan** is either a quick learner or has an Italian hidden in his family tree. We finished with a dessert of chocolate cake.



In the meantime, our wives and significant others dined at Wence's in Pleasant Hill. It was a special occasion to honor **MJ Whalen**. **MJ** and her husband **Syd** have decided to move to an assisted living facility in Petaluma, which is near the home of one of their children, and consequently, **Syd** has resigned from Branch 146. Unfortunately, **Syd** was unable to attend the luncheon at **Dan's** home because of health concerns. **Syd** was one of the original eight members of the LAW Group that was created during a SIR trip to Thailand in 2008. Just two of us remain, but the wives of some of the others are still in the ladies' dining group. In any event, we are going to miss **Syd** and we wish **MJ** and him the best on their new journey..

**Paul Dubow**

510.504.3566 or at [pdubow2398@aol.com](mailto:pdubow2398@aol.com)

## Cooking II Steve Ybarra



The Cooking II group met on February 16th to celebrate our annual Valentine's dinner with our wives or significant others at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Walnut

Creek. We welcomed our newest member **Ron Polivka** and his beautiful and engaging wife **Victoria** to the group. A fun evening was had by all enjoying a variety of meals including ribeye's, filets, sea bass, lobster tails and Ahi Tuna Poke. This outing is a group splurge and not recommended for anyone worried about the numbers on the check. **Bruce Borgman** will next host the group in March on a date yet to be determined.

**Steve Ybarra**

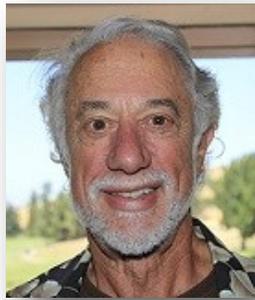
[sybar@gmail.com](mailto:sybar@gmail.com)



## News Flash!

Man who robbed a bank tells police " I want to be thrown in jail to get away from my wife."...

...sentenced to house arrest.



## Couples Dining Out Al Guzman and Bob Lucido.

Dear Members,

This winter has seen the outbreaks of several flu viruses, colds, and measles. Due to this, our members understandably were reluctant to gather in large groups, so no dining activities were planned for January or February.

Anticipating better weather and good health, the CNO committee is working on a venue for mid-March. Our target dates are either Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> or Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

If you are on our email mailing list, an announcement of our future dining activity will be sent to you later this month.

### HOW TO ENROLL IN THE “COUPLES NIGHT OUT” GROUP

- Join in the fun as we dine together with our partners at various restaurants within the county.
- Just email [Bob Lucido](mailto:Bob.Lucido) that you would like to join the “Couples Night Out” Group.
- Bob will confirm your enrollment in the group and notify you about upcoming dining activities, including menu options, reservation procedures, and payment methods.
- When you choose to participate in a particular dining activity, just submit your reservation request, and **Bob** will send you a confirmation.
- It’s a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy great food together. We look forward to seeing you in March!

**Al Guzman**

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

**Bob Lucido**

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

**Mike Riley**

[mike.riley@cbnorcal.com](mailto:mike.riley@cbnorcal.com)

**Rich Lyons**

[7424lyon@gmail.com](mailto:7424lyon@gmail.com)



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier



Five of us, **Bob Wilkenfeld, Brian McCarthy, Paul Dubow, Bill Holly** and yours truly made our way to Amakara in Dublin for sushi this month. This is a restaurant that was featured on *Check Please, Bay Area* and received excellent reviews from the panel participants. It would appear that everything they praised was right on. Very modern, trendy Japanese style with a lot



to select from on their menu. The tempura shishito peppers we had as one of our starters was a great example: hot, crispy, a tempura delight! Most of us then enjoyed the lunch sushi special. Surprisingly, they were willing to make minor modifications to this so we were able to customize it to individual tastes. An excellent bottle of saki completed a fantastic lunch! And, believe it or not, we encountered a new sushi we had not seen before, unakyu. Turns out it is a roll made with grilled eel and cucumber. Yummy, if you like unagi.

Our next gathering will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. Not set in stone yet but leaning towards revisiting the sushi buffet at Fuji in Concord..

**Clint Collier**

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



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The first wine tasting of 2026 was held at the home of **Larry and Ann Kaye**. It was a fun afternoon, and everyone enjoyed the wines and appetizers. The flu bug was

lurking around, and three couples had to cancel at the last moment.

The red varietal was Sangiovese. **Clint and Bev Collier** won for the favorite red. The white was Prosecco. **Thom and Diane Degnan** won for the favorite white.

We want to thank **Larry and Ann** one more time for opening their home to us. We cannot have these events without members stepping forward to host.

So now we look forward to the next wine tasting. It will be on **MONDAY, April 27**, at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**. (Please note the date change. The tasting is usually on Tuesdays.)



The tasting will be strictly Italian. Reds are Chianti Classico, Barbera, Brunello, Barolo, Super Tuscan, Primitivo and Montepulciano. There are others but these are the most popular. For whites, there are Soave Classico, Etna Bianco, and Pinot Grigio. Again, there are other whites. It might be fun hunting for that special Italian

wine. There are so many to choose from.

You can RSVP by calling Brian at 925-324-2463 or emailing us at [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com).

**Brian McCarthy**

925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)



My three favorite things are eating my family and not using commas.

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

The train arrived and departed on schedule last February 13th for the Mexican Train Uno group.

Our 3 winners were Richard (3rd), Peter Plante (first) and Re-Pete in second place. The big smiles reflect the big winnings! We officially upped the ante to \$5 for 2026!

The game of luck and skill continues to trick us....how can Jim go out 5 times and end up the highest score guess that is why we keep coming back! The Bishop's were wonderful hosts with lovely appetizers of cheeses and snacks. And yes, yummy apple strudel at half time.

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

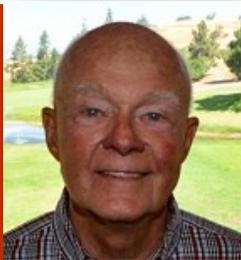


Richard, Peter Plante and Peter Bishop



Jim Stedman, Jane Bryant, Richard Hockenbrock, Virginia Tygart, Peter Plante, Corrie Oranje, Martha Plante, Bruce Borgman, Gabriela Bishop, Re-Pete Bishop

Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

After our two months break, we resumed playing on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. All our regular players were there

and pleased to be together once again.

Play was at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**. The snacks and appetizers were good and plentiful.

One table took command of the night with all three winners. **Dan Holland** came in 1st with a very respectful 11.1 average. **Anne Plachy** came in second with a 16.4 average. Our host, **Clint Collier**, grabbed 3rd with a 17.4 average..

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





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 started the new Mexican Train season on January 28 with a gathering at **Brian and Mary McCarthy's** beautiful home in Clayton. We started with a selection of snacks prepared by **Mary**, washed down with the various bottles of wine brought by the group. We wound up with a smaller than usual number of players – since some of our regulars were off on trips or had other conflicts. But, the group of eight enthusiastic players split into two tables of four for some competitive playing. At the end of the evening the run-a-way winner was **Bruce Borgman** with a low average score of just 4.6. The second-place winner was **John Kedrick** with a score of 15, and the third place winner with 16.9 was **Kathe Mitchell**. We did award losing scores with scratcher tickets to **Brian McCarthy** and **Steve Lane** as you can see from their chagrined

expressions in their picture next to the happy faces of winners **Bruce, Kathe** and **John**.

**Bruce Borgman** for  
**Steve Lane**

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



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In January the **McCarthy's** bravely hosted our MTD 7 showdown – twelve players two tables, and absolutely no mercy. The competition was fierce, the snacks were endangered, and the trash talk was...

let's call it "enthusiastically friendly."

When the dust settled, **Mary McCarthy** strutted off with first place, **Bev Collier** snagged second with style, and **Wendy Lucido** slid into third like she planned it that way all along. A truly heroic performance by all, and no reported injuries except to a few egos.

**Bob Lucido**

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



DOWNTON TABBY

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



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

This month we had fifteen players making their way to my house to play Mexican Train Dominoes 8 (OCHO).

This is down slightly from our usual group size of seventeen to nineteen players.

Before we began domino play, I introduced the group to a musical song I created using entirely AI. The song’s title is “MTD Ocho”.

At our break at 8:30, we were treated to some delicious snacks and deserts provided **Joe** and **Chris Flannigan**. As the evening rolled around to our normal stop time at 9:30, the group gathered in the kitchen to hear who the winners were and who were destined to receive a CA Lottery Scratcher.

Shown below were our winners for the evening. **Frank Terzuoli** came in first place with an average score of **11.3**. In second place was **Steve Ybarra** with a score of **11.8**, and in third place was **Alicia Baily** with a score of

**18.0**. \$1 lottery tickets were awarded to **Bill Holly** and **Sue Loftin** who had the highest scores.

Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday, March 4th.

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



L/R Frank Terzuoli (1<sup>st</sup> place), Alicia Baily (3<sup>rd</sup> place), & Steve Ybarra (2<sup>nd</sup> place)



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve”

In January, the **McCarthy’s** opened their home for our MTD 9 gathering, and the

place was buzzing – a single full table of four players,

all ready to battle it out. After an evening of plays and close calls

**Brian McCarthy** rose to the top and claimed first place. **Mary McCarthy** followed with a strong second, and **Jane West** rounded out the winners’ circle with a well-earned third.

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

Be decisive. Make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels that couldn't make a decision.



The Swedes have a proud tradition of craftsmanship.



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Men's Hearts

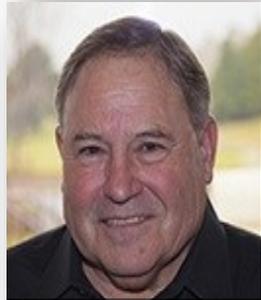
**Bob West and Steve Ybarra**

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The big winners were **Frank Lucas, Bob Finlayson and Steve Ybarra** each with 3 wins. **Bill Vizza** had 4 2nds, and **Dave Smith** had 3. The lowest average scorers were **Brian McCarthy** with 53, and **Jim Passaglia** with 54. **Will Stratton** had 3 STM's, and **Frank Lucas** and **Ron Polivka** each had 2.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>rd</sup>, and March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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



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



January 23rd Hearts players having lunch at Rocco's before playing. Seated Left side first then around the table are: **Jim Passaglia, Dave Smith, Steve Ybarra, Frank Lucas, Will Stratton, Brian McCarthy, Bob West and Bill Vizza.** **Bob Finlayson and Bob Campbell** had not yet arrived.



## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

**Dick and Christy DeVoe** hosted our February 3<sup>rd</sup> event. We thank **Steve and Sue Loftin** for subbing for **Dick and Maggie Chaffee** who we anticipate will be back joining us next month.

After 2 rounds of play, the **Grecos** and **Klueseners** were opponents competing for last place. The **Klueseners** easily won the last place position. But then they made the comeback of the decade by scoring 1300 points in round 4 and 1620 points in round 5 and finished only 130 points from 1st place. Congratulations! And yes you guessed it, the **Grecos** were able to firmly secure last place. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3780 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 3650 points - **John and Kathy Kluesener**
- 3rd PLACE with 2550 points - **Steve and Sue Loftin**

Our next event will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and hosted by **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**.

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



## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was nicely hosted by **Paul Dubow** at his home in Rossmoor. Regulars, **Paul, Steve Ybarra, Frank Lucas, Melo Piccolo** and **Brad Hatcher** were joined by two substitutes, **Bob Campbell** and **Joe Karg** (from Branch 8).

Over our three hours of play, money moved around the table. There were several hands with larger than usual pots. As we cashed out at the end of the game, **Melo's** wallet was bulging and **Paul** and **Brad** were lamenting the thinness of theirs.

We will again play on the first Thursday of the month. We look forward to the game at the home of **Rich Ahlf** in March.

**Brad Hatcher**



## Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our February game was at the home of **Ray Bland**. We had 6 players with **Melo** and **Ray** taking the money. **Melo** couldn't lose at 7/27 with the closest to 7. **Ray** won at Omaha. Funny how **Melo** kept calling 7/27 and **Ray** kept calling Omaha. Smart.

Games are scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on March 16 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](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

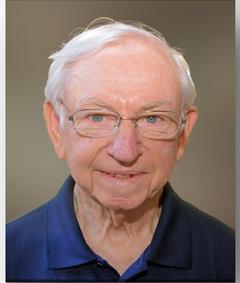


## Party Bridge

### Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

We had a two-table game at the home of **Mike Davidson** on Monday, Jan 5, 2026. **Mike** was a terrific host as usual. The players were: **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dining, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, and Jim Stedman.**

The high scorers were **Ray Bland** with 6050 points, **Steve Dinning** with 4810 points and **Bud Pearce** with 3930 points. Congratulations.



**Jim Stedman** is retiring. After serving as co-chairs of Party Bridge for several years he decided to retire. We thank all players for supporting party bridge. It has been a pleasure being with you each month. **Bill Schaaf** has volunteered to assume chairmanship beginning Monday February 2, the date of our next game which will be hosted by **Jim Stedman** at The Waterford in Rossmoor.

We wish **Bill** the best and plan to continue playing and supporting him.

**Jim Pope**

[jimpe24@comcast.net](mailto:jimpe24@comcast.net)

**Jim Stedman**

[jim.r.stedman@gmail.com](mailto:jim.r.stedman@gmail.com)



## Party Bridge

### Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson

We had an 8-player game on February 2 at the home of **Bill Schaaf**. As usual, **Bill** was a terrific host with good snacks. The players were **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Jim Stedman and Bob Yolland.** **Mike Davidson** finished first with 6270 points, **Max Hinkle** second, with 4530 points, and **Jim Stedman** third, with 4160 points. Congratulations.

Our next game will be on March 2 at the home of **Bob Yolland**. Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to play. Thanks to **Jim Stedman** and **Jim Pope** for running Party Bridge for many years.



**Bill Schaaf**

925.899.5913 [billschaaf13@comcast.net](mailto:billschaaf13@comcast.net)

**Mike Davidson**

925.324.1867 [mdavidson065@gmail.com](mailto:mdavidson065@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](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

On rainy February 10<sup>th</sup>, Margot Somerville and Marilyn Miller hosted us in Margot's comfortable home. Marilyn and Dave Pierce were both celebrating birthdays that evening. What better way to celebrate than to play bridge with good friends.

Consensus was that the cards were boring that night. Indeed no slams were bid although Brad and Lynne Hatcher made six on Board 6, and Tony and Cindy Greco made six on Board 18, for tops. However, seven boards out of 20 had biddable makeable games (and at least two pairs succeeded on all of them). This is actually well above average; one pair will have a game about 25% of the time. So maybe people were forgetful and just distracted by all the good food we shared between hands.

At evening's end, Tony and Cindy were third (48%), Dick and Christy DeVoe were second (55%), and Joan and Dave Pierce were first (64%). Many thanks to subs Max and Ardith Hinkle, December's winners, for filling out the field.

### Dave Pierce

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



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Friday, February 6 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by Jim Pope. Thanks, Jim!

Mike Whitaker and John Rexroat tied for 1st Place with 29.5 points each. Congratulations, Mike and John! Max Hinkle was 3rd, with 27.0 pts.

First Half (Bds. 1-12)	Second Half (Bds 12-24)	Overall (Bds 1-24)
1st-Brad Hatcher-Mike Whitaker	Dick Devoe	Mike Whitaker- John Rexroat—30.0
2nd —	John Rexroat	—
3rd John Rexroat	Mike Whitaker	Max Hinkle—28.5

### Dick Devoe

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



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

### John Kluesener

Our group kicked off the New Year Bridge nights at the home of Margot Somerville on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Some of our normal group were unavailable so Sue and Steve Loftin and Bud Pearce and Bob Yolland kindly agreed to help fill in for the evening play.

Thanks to them, we were able to field our normal three tables. Margot, the ever-gracious hostess served a fine mix of cheeses, crackers, chips, dips and brownies to go along with the soft drinks, wine and coffee. Honors for the evening play went to Cristie and Dick DeVoe as well as Bud Pearce and Bob Yolland who tied for third place with a score of 19.5 points. Kathy and John Kluesener squeezed into second place with a total of 20 points but Margot and partner left no doubt as to their superiority with a total of 30 points for the night. Next up on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February is play at the Ahlf's residence

### John Kluesener

[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)

# Parting Shot



An editor's playground; making English interesting. A look at "Janus Words". Named after the Roman god of beginning and ending, their actual name is contronyms. They are words that have double, and often opposite, meanings... depending on how/when/where they are used.

1. Sanction (via French, from Latin *sanctio(n)-*, from *sancire* 'ratify,') can mean "give official permission or approval for (an action)" or, conversely, "impose a penalty on."

2. Oversight is the noun form of two verbs with contrary meanings, "oversee" and "overlook." Oversee, from Old English *ofersēon* ("look at from above") means

"supervise" (medieval Latin for the same thing: *super-*, "over" plus *videre*, "to see.") Overlook usually means the opposite: "to fail to see or observe; to pass over without noticing; to disregard, ignore."

3. Left can mean either remaining or departed. If the gentlemen have withdrawn to the drawing room for after-dinner cigars, who's left? (The gentlemen have left and the ladies are left.)

4. Dust, along with the next two words, is a noun turned into a verb meaning either to add or to remove the thing in question. Only the context will tell you which it is. When you dust are you applying dust or removing it? It depends whether you're dusting the crops or the furniture.

5. Seed can also go either way. If you seed the lawn you add seeds, but if you seed a tomato you remove them.

6. Stone is another verb to use with caution. You can stone some peaches, but please don't stone your neighbor (even if he says he likes to get stoned).

7. Trim as a verb predates the noun, but it can also mean either adding or taking away. Arising from an Old English word meaning "to make firm or strong; to settle, arrange," trim came to mean "to prepare, make ready." Depending on who or what was being readied, it could mean either of two contradictory things: "to decorate something with ribbons, laces, or the like to give it a finished appearance" or "to cut off the outgrowths or irregularities of." And the context doesn't always make it clear. If you're trimming the tree are you using tinsel or a chain saw?

8. Cleave can be cleaved into two homographs, words with different origins that end up spelled the same. Cleave, meaning "to cling to or adhere," comes from an Old English word that took the forms *cleofian*, *clifian*, or *clīfan*. Cleave, with the contrary meaning "to split or sever (something)"—as you might do with a cleaver—comes from a different Old English word, *clēofan*. The past participle has taken various forms: *cloven*, which survives in the phrase "cloven hoof," "cleft," as in a "cleft palate" or "cleaved."

9. Resign works as a contronym in writing. This time we have homographs, but not homophones. Resign, meaning "to quit," is spelled the same as resign, meaning "to sign up again," but it's pronounced differently.

10. Fast can mean "moving rapidly," as in running fast, or "fixed, unmoving," as in holding fast. If colors are fast they will not run. The meaning "firm, steadfast" came first; the adverb took on the sense "strongly, vigorously," which evolved into "quickly," a meaning that spread to the adjective. [It can also mean "to deny oneself of something", like food... thank you RP, proofreader]

11. Off means "deactivated," as in to turn off, but also "activated," as in the alarm went off.

12. Weather can mean "to withstand or come safely through" (as in the company weath-

...more next month