



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter April 2022

*Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life*

## Message from Fred

The Spring Season is finally here in force with just a little bit of rain on the side. Our grass is therefore green, the annual flowers are slowly making it into our yards, and as a Branch We are Back!



Covid remains in retirement despite the fact that a renegade band of covid variants have been attempting to create some spring heartburn without much effect.

Our April Boundary Oaks meeting is on schedule for April 18th and our speaker will be Major James Sullivan who is the Divisional Secretary for the Salvation Army of Alameda County. As you know we are forming a Community Service Activity and James will be able to provide us with an overview of community service needs in the Bay Area.

By the way it has come to my attention that some of our members had some difficulty with the Corned Beef Jerky that was abundantly served at our last Boundary Oaks Luncheon. In talking with Boundary it seems that a gang of Irish Leprechauns invaded Boundary's kitchen and inflicted a significant degree of havoc in the process

Boundary assures us that the culprits have been apprehended and retired from their overactive endeavors.

**Now that we are back, we are reverting to our former luncheon protocol of assuming that every member will attend. We ask you to advise us on the Luncheon Line when you are unable to attend. The Telephone Number is 925-322-1318 and the e-mail address is luncheon116@gmail.com**

What would you think about holding a grand luncheon in lieu of our May meeting at the Crow Canyon Country Club? Though we haven't been able to assemble a Spring Fling activity this year, we are looking into scheduling such an event to include spouses and friends. We are thinking that this could be a fun event for our branch. What do you think?

This would also be a good time to invite that friend of yours and his spouse that may be interested in becoming a member as your guest.

Since we can now get all of our activities back into high gear, we can really use a few more volunteers to help us with publicity (posting to Patch and Nextdoor), Treasury, the speakers committee, and our recruiting team. Contact Al Farbman, Alan Fitzgerald, or Don Schroeder or myself if you can help. The fuel for our success is volunteer leadership so don't be shy to call.

See you on April 18th if not before at one of our activities.

*Fred Wachowicz, Big SIR*

**Next Meeting**  
Apr. 18 @ Boundary  
Oak, 11:30 AM

## Topics Index

- Amiable Amblers .. 16
- Big SIR Report ..... 1
- Birthdays..... 4
- Bocce ..... 11
- Book Group 1..... 13
- Book Group 2..... 14
- Branch Officers ..... 2
- Bridge..... 14
- Calendar..... 3
- Community Service10
- Dine-O-SIR..... 11-12
- Fishing..... 11
- Golf..... 17
- Golf Clinic..... 19
- Golf- Monterey..... 18
- Golf- Reno ..... 14
- Luncheon Mtg ..... 6-7
- Little SIR Report ..... 5
- Membership..... 4
- Member Relations ... 5
- New Member Photo 8
- Pickleball..... 10
- SIR Web Addresses · 4
- \$UMS Investment· 10
- Sunshine Report ..... 4
- Travel ..... 10
- Treasurer's Report... 5
- Walking Tours..... 9
- Wine-O-SIR..... 15

**Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
luncheon116@gmail.com  
by the Monday  
prior to the meeting  
to cancel your  
standing  
reservation.**

Trampas Topics

## 2022 SIR Branch 116 Officers



**Big SIR**  
Fred  
Wachowicz



**Little SIR**  
Roger  
Craig



**Treasurer**  
Alan  
Fitzgerald



**Asst.Treas.**  
David  
Ferm



**Asst.Treas.**  
Al  
Satake



**Secretary**  
Paul  
Ramacciotti



**Asst. Sec.**  
Alan  
Pope

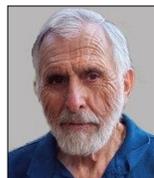


**Member.Sec.**  
Phil  
Goff

## 2022 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Don  
Benioff



Sam  
Beret



Kevin  
Donahue



Al  
Farberman



Darrell  
McClaughry



Dave  
Williams

### 2022 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads:**

- Recruitment Don Schroeder
- Activities Mike Ward
- Member Relations David C. Harris
- Publicity Allan Farberman

#### **Branch Support Chairmen:**

- Audit Committee Ron Armijo
- Nominating Committee Michael Barrington
- Sunshine Committee Matt Arena
- Computer Support Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff
- Webmaster Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff
- Newsletter Editor Neil Schmidt
- New Member Orientation Dave Williams
- Membership Roster Prep Phil Goff
- Compliance Officer (COVID) Kevin Donahue

#### **Diversity Support Team**

- Team Leader Fred Wachowicz
- Team Member Sam Beret
- Team Member Terry Sherman
- Team Member Al Satake
- Team Member Jerry Hicks
- Team Member Michael Barrington
- Team Advisor Lee Moy

#### **Luncheon Support Team:**

- Attendance Mike Scheneider
- Audio Visual Neil Schmidt
- Chaplain Committee Terry Sherman
- Greeters Committee Ramacciotti, Grummitt
- Raffle Committee Ben Bryce
- Storytellers Committee Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer

#### **Speakers Committee**

- Team Member James Dawe
- Team Member Allan Farberman
- Team Member Paul Freitas
- Team Member Roger Craig

### 2022 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
• Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
• Bocce	Paul Russell	Bob Huck
• Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
• Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
• Book Exchange	John Fraser	Dick Kauffma
• Bridge	Jon Dickson	Bob Wolf
• Community Service	Jeff Johnson	
• Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
• Dine-O-SIR	Alex Lutkus	Marty Katz
• Duplicate Bridge	Conrad Robertson	Tom Henry
• Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
• Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Jim Johnson
• Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
• Golf—Treasurer	Alan Pope	
• Golf—Carmel	Jim Barstow	JJ, Harris, Eller
• Golf—Reno	David Harris	Harry Oberle
• Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	Jeff Johnson
• Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
• Parties	Marty Katz	
• Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
• Poker	Lou Sandor	
• Saturday Tours	Greg Hughes	
• \$ums in Retirement	Ben Smith	
• Travel	Jeff Johnson	
• Wine-O-SIR	Lou Meylan	

### **Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities**

Apple User Group	Dick Macy (Br.171)	376-1180
Astronomy	Bill Hunter (Br.8)	947-6947
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	935-5510
Digital Photo.	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	254-8338
Pocket Pool	Jerry White (Br.8)	944-9068
Tennis	Ralph Thornicraft (174)	376-8140

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## April 2022

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
					<b>1</b> <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Valley Vista Staging, Moraga) <b>Pickleball</b> (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	<b>2</b>
3	<b>4</b> <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:30@ Lone Tree GC )	5	<b>6</b> <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton GC)	7	<b>8</b> <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Heather Farms Swin Parking) <b>Pickleball</b> (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	<b>9</b> <b>Golf Clinic</b>
10	<b>11</b> <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak GC )	<b>12</b> <b>Bridge</b> (10:00@ Diablo Country Club)	<b>13</b> <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>Mexican Train</b> (10:00@ Church of Christ)	<b>14</b> <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	<b>15</b> <b>Tax Day</b> <b>Pickleball</b> (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	16
17	<b>18</b> <b>SIR Br. 116 Meeting</b> (11:30 @ Boundary Oak)	<b>19</b> <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Redwood Canyon GC)	<b>20</b> <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC) <b>Dine-O-SIR</b> (5:30@ La Veranda Café, Clayton)	<b>21</b> <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ WC Ygnacio Valley Library)	<b>22</b> <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Stone Valley Rd West, Alamo) <b>Pickleball</b> (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	23
24	<b>25</b> <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15 @ Orinda Books) <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:02@ Rancho Solano)	<b>26</b> <b>Bridge</b> (10:00@ Diablo Country Club)	<b>27</b> <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	<b>28</b> <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek GC)	<b>29</b> <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ TBD) <b>Pickleball</b> (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	30



# Branch Administration



## Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Current Membership: 197

- Nicholas, Irvin New Member,  
Sponsor is Dick Breitweiser
- Janes, Doug New Member,  
Sponsor is Dennis Snarr
- Lichtig, Ed New Member,  
Sponsor is Dick Chaffee
- Magliano, Vito Resigned
- Miller, Don Resigned
- Nigro, Ken Resigned. Moving to Florida
- Vardas, Leo Resigned

## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site  
[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf  
[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Branch 116 Shopping Cart  
[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

Area 16 Computer and Technology  
[sirinc2.org/a16cat/](http://sirinc2.org/a16cat/)

SIR Happenings State Newsletter  
[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)



## Sunshine

Matt Arena

Past Big SIR **Marty Katz** is doing well and is following surgery with needed therapy. Marty was in great spirits when I last talked to him and we wish him a speedy recovery.

SIR **Mike Ward** has been discharged from John Muir Medical Center. He is following his doctor's orders and we wish him a speedy recovery.

SIR **Bill McCord** is pain free following a treatment on his back. His back has been a problem for some

time so let's hope he is finally on the mend.

SIR **Norm Jokerst** fell again and is also dealing with COPD. He is resting well and brings much joy to Nancy and his family. Norn is at home and enjoying his retirement.

*Women are like tea bags. They don't know their strength but until they are in hot water.*

Elinore Roosevelt

## April Birthdays

*When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!*

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Lyle Buckert       | 8. Mac McLoughlin |
| 2. Dick Chaffee       | 9. Alan Pope      |
| 3. Jim Clizbe         | 10. Bob Romero    |
| 4. Whitey Davis       | 11. Bob Shader    |
| 5. Denny Giambastiani | 12. Ben Smith     |
| 6. Bill Hemmelsbach   | 13. Marsh Stashyn |
| 7. Richard Madden     |                   |

## Pay Your 2022 SIR Branch 116 Dues Now!

The SIR Branch 116 annual dues for 2022 are \$10 (What a great price!) and can be paid either through our Branch Shopping Cart system or by sending a check to our Treasurer Alan Fitzgerald (see page 5 for more info on sending a check.)

A button link to the Branch Shopping Cart system can be found on the home page of our Branch website ([branch116.org](http://branch116.org)). Try it—It is similar to ordering things on Amazon.

# Branch Administration



## Treasury Report

Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer

There was a lot of financial activity in March. Collections for the March Lunch; upcoming Dine-O-Sir at La Veranda; Annual Dues; Regular Golf; and the Special Golf Event at Monterey. These funds are passed through the Bank Account until the bills come due. The actual Bank Balance in March is about the same as February's ending balance.

**There are a few members who have not paid their annual dues of \$10. You can pay using the Branch Shopping Cart or send a check made out to Sir Branch 116 and mail it to Alan Fitzgerald, 1805 Wales Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.**



## Little SIR Report

Roger Craig

'Twas' an Irish good time as we returned to our in person lunches.

We welcomed 12 new members to SIR.

We renewed acquaintances we hadn't seen for quite awhile.

We acknowledged 14 March Birthday boys with Bob Loder winning the "Free Lunch".

Centurion Bill Hayes was in attendance. His 100th birthday was acknowledged earlier via Zoom . It was great to see him at the luncheon.

Speaker Carolyn Jackson the Interim General Manager of the Leshner Center for the Arts had no trouble connecting with an audience of avid theater goers. She was well received.

It is important to note that we are returning to a standing reservation for future meetings. If you are unable to attend for any reason please don't fail to call the luncheon phone line @ (925) 322-1318.

As we cautiously get back to normalcy it is hoped all members can begin enjoying their activities of choice once more.



## Member Relations

David Harris

### SIR April Anniversaries

We recognize the members of SIR Branch 116 each month who have an anniversary with SIR.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years with SIR</u>	<u>Date Joined SIR</u>
Ron Armijo	22	04/17/2000
Charlie McInnis	22	04/17/2000
Dirk Meyer	21	04/24/2001
Bill McCord	20	04/15/2002
Neil Schmidt	17	04/18/2005
Roger Smith	17	04/18/2005

Bob Conlon	16	04/17/2006
John Antczak	14	04/21/2008
Dick Kauffman	13	04/20/2009
Walt Kawecky Jr.	13	04/20/2009
Mike Corker	12	04/19/2010
Jerry Christopherson	11	04/18/2011
Rudy Gebert	10	04/16/2012
Bob Price	8	04/21/2014
Ed O'Rourke	7	04/20/2015
Jerry Zampino	4	04/16/2018
Jim Dawe	3	04/15/2019

# Luncheon Speaker

## Speaker for April Meeting

### “THE KETTLES ARE ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG”



The speaker for our April 28th lunch will be the Salvation Army's Major James Sullivan, the Divisional Secretary for Alameda County. His background is all in non-profit leadership with The Salvation Army. He has 31 years' experience in leadership position as a Salvation Army officer, including appointments in Sacramento, CA; Gresham, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; Monterey, CA; Nampa, ID; and Salem, OR.

Major James received a BA and MS degrees from

Northwest Nazarene College (Nampa, ID) received two years of seminary training at the College for Officer Training (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA), and was commissioned as an officer in The Salvation Army in 1991.

He was born in Prescott AZ and was raised in Boise ID and Portland OR. His wife, Major Laura Sullivan is the division's Oakland headquarters campus coordinator. They have three children with a son in Portland OR and a daughter in Eugene Or, and a son attending DVC.

## April Luncheon Menu



### SIR 116 Luncheon

April 18, 2022

#### Salad

Chef's Salad

Mixed Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Onion  
Red Wine Vinaigrette

#### Entrees

##### Classic Meat Loaf

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Seasonal Vegetables

Or

##### Sautéed Dory Piccata

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables  
White Wine Caper Sauce

Or

##### Vegetarian Option

#### Dessert

##### Chocolate Fudge Cake

Caramel Sauce

## Important Luncheon Notice!

We are returning to our normal "Standing Reservation" system for Boundary Oak luncheons attendance starting this month (April 19th). That means **everyone is expected to attend the luncheon unless we are notified via the luncheon hotline number or via email at least one week prior to the meeting.** Individual who forget to notify and don't show up will be billed for the luncheon.

1. Call luncheon hotline at: 925-322-1318
  2. Send an email to: [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)
- Prepay via credit card using our Branch Shopping Cart system. Use "Shopping Cart" button on Branch website ([branch116.org](http://branch116.org))

# Branch Luncheon Photos (No mo' Zoom)



COVID Vaccination List Screening Before Entry



Welcome Table (Payment, Booklet, Raffle, etc.)



Branch Executive Committee Meeting



Big SIR Fred Wachowitz Kicking Off the Festivities



Speaker Carolyn Jackson From Leshar Center



It was great to get together again!

# New Branch Members at March Luncheon



**Jim Hemmenway**



**Jack Minicucci**



**Doug Janes**



**Nick Nicholas**



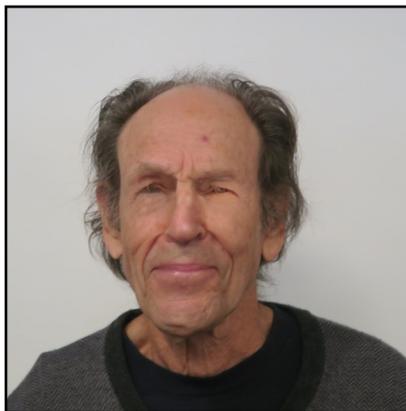
**Bill Foulds**



**Rob Lemmo**



**Rich Yamanaka**



**Bruce Kessler**

**When you see  
these new  
members,  
introduce your-  
self and  
say hi.**

# Branch Activities



## Walking Tours

Greg Hughes

On March 26 the Saturday Walking Tours group visited the Meek Mansion Historical site in Hayward CA. The mansion was built by William Meek, one of the early pioneers of commercial agriculture in Alameda County. When he built his mansion he had planted over 3000 acres of cherry apricot, plum and almond orchards at that site. Our tour was conducted by Ms Caroline Sandoval, Outreach and Educational Manager, Hayward Historical Society.

### 2022 Proposed Future Activities

Port of Oakland—Ferry Boat Tour

Sunol Steam Train & Town History Tour

Walnut Creek Downtown Walking Tour

CCC Central Sanitary District Facility Tour



Pictured from right to left are Marilyn & Greg Hughes, Sharon & Mike Schneider, Jayne & David Harris, Kathy & Jerry Hicks, Marilyn & Nick Bowles, and Carol & Gary Bonfiglio.

# Branch Activities



## Community Service

Jeff Johnson

### **PAY-IT-FORWARD – Community Service**

Our first Community Service activity is to work at the Food Bank in Concord the morning of April 28th from 9:00 AM to noon to sort food for the needy. Please join us – we have a couple of slots available.

The speaker for our April in-person chapter lunch will be Major James Sullivan, the Salvation Army

Divisional Secretary for Alameda County speaking on “The kettles are merely the tip of the iceberg”. He will inspire the chapter membership with volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in being a volunteer or joining the committee, please contact Jeff Johnson – 415-652-4840 – jeffjohnson9000@att.net.



## Travel

Jeff Johnson

Some good news, the state board has reinstated the foreign travel insurance, each SIR traveler will need to pay \$27 per person to offset the cost.

Alaska Land & Sea May 23 June 4th. 2022 8-day cruise Majestic Princess including one night Fairbanks, two nights Denali National Park, and one Night Mt. McKinley Lodge. Land & Cruise including roundtrip Airfare \$2995.

Columbia & Snake River Cruise 8 Nights starting May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines following the path of Lewis and Clark. Starting from \$5,600.

For more information, contact Jeff Johnson 415-652-4840 or jeffjohnson9000@att.net.



## Pickelball

Ed Solomon

Join us every Friday at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center in Heather Farm from 8 to 9:30 am. Beginners welcome. We reserve two courts every week. All you need are tennis sneakers, shorts preferred, sun screen, & we have extra paddles.

Pickleball is a fun sport for all ages that combine many elements of tennis, badminton, & ping-pong, played on badminton sized court. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn.

## \$ums Investment

Dave Sutton (Br. 8)

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group on Wed April 27 at 1:30 PM.

This will be a presentation by a Charles Schwab representative at their San Ramon office. You may

wish to attend in person. There will also be a Web Ex link provided for remote attendance.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

# Branch Activities



## Fishing

Harry Sherinian

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Big Fish, Bob Lively 925-383-5193 or Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, 925-846-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, April 28th at 8:30am.

Trout fishing in our local lakes is BOOMING!! Too many of us to mention have been catching, smoking, and baking delicious, sizeable trout. San Pablo Reservoir is the source of this manna. The warm and windless early spring while not great for the drought, has made this outing very comfortable and

pleasant. We also sought sturgeon in the delta, Phil Scimonelli won the prize with a 70 pound sturgy, Mike Browne also got a keeper on the same trip. The rest of us settled for ones too small to keep. Ron Lew caught a big ray in San Francisco bay. Mike Corker and Stan Wong tried for stripers, but the catching was slow. Rich Fiscina went below the border to catch Rooster fish, Dorado, and a Hammerhead shark. Ron Lew started our halibut year with two delicious flat fish in the bay. Halibut will be our target in the bay, and the bite is very good right now. Rockfish starts April first, so we will be very busy, and overfed. The future looks tasty!



## Bocce

Paul Russell

I'm trying to get the Bocce Ball activity going in mid-April this year on April 14. We play every other Thursday beginning at 10:00am for about 2 hours or so. We try to fit in 3 games. Last year we had two teams of nine players each which seemed to work out pretty well so people could miss a few games if they had other plans.

I was trying to get more interest this year and we've

only got an additional 6 or 8 players. So, we could potentially field 4 teams of 6 players each and have an additional roving couple of players who could rotate in and out. It would be nice to have 32 players, so we could have a complete 4 teams of 8.

So if anyone would like to come out to play, please contact Paul Russell ( peruz@att.net ).



## Dine-O-SIR

Alex Lutkus

"The time has arrived for the first Dine-O-SIR event for 2022. Those who have signed up (as of 03/22/2022) have made the list of 70 and will participate with other Sir members and friends at another gala dining event on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 starting at 5:30 pm at the La Veranda Cafe in Clayton, CA.

Though the event is fully booked, we do get drop-outs so send in your reservation slip. If an opening comes up you will be notified (in accordance with your standing on the waiting list) and payment will be accepted, by check, at that time. (See all the details on the following page)."

# Branch Activities

---

## Branch 116 Dine-O-Sirs

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Dining Event

### La Veranda Cafe

6201 Center Street, Clayton, CA

No host bar Social Hour will start at 5:30 PM and Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM

House red/white wine at \$6/glass or \$20/bottle, bar well drinks at \$6; Corkage fee at \$15.00

**Cost, \$49.00 per person, tax and tip included – Limited to 70 persons**

### Dinner Menu

**APPETIZER:** Cheese and Fruit Plate

**SALAD:** Insalata Reigna – Baby Greens, Walnuts & Gorgonzola, with Honey-Dijon Dressing

**ENTREES:** Choice of -

1. Grilled Filet of Salmon in Lemon Cream Sauce
2. Pollo Saltimbocca - Chicken Breast, Prosciutto & Mozzarella in Three Mushroom Sauce
3. Lasagne al Forno – Baked Lasagna with sausage meat sauce
4. Grilled New York Steak – Served with Porcini Mushroom Cream Sauce

**DESERT:** Tiramisu or Crème Brule (provide choice at the dinner) served with coffee, decaf or tea

(cut)----- (cut)

**La Veranda Cafe, Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection: Salmon \_\_\_ Chicken Saltimbocca \_\_\_ Lasagne \_\_\_ NY Steak \_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection: Salmon \_\_\_ Chicken Saltimbocca \_\_\_ Lasagne \_\_\_ NY Steak \_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_ x \$49 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please Note:** A signed waiver and proof of vaccination are required to attend!

Please pay by SIR Branch 116 Shopping Cart System and avoid mailing check or reservation slip (use “Shopping Cart” button on our Branch website at [branch116.org](http://branch116.org)) or, if you must, by check (make check to: SIR Branch 116 Dining and mail your reservation to: Alex Lutkus, 4054 Castlewood Court, Concord, CA 94518)

Call or e-mail Alex if you have questions. 925-827-2828 – [alutkus@yahoo.com](mailto:alutkus@yahoo.com)

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 1

Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books on the following dates:

- Monday, April 25... "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles
- Monday, May 23... "Shadow Divers" by Robert Kurson
- Monday, June 27... "The Cold Millions" by Jess Walter"

Book Group #1 is back at Orinda Books on the fourth Monday of the month and the attached picture by Dick Kauffman proves it. Prospective new members who wish to join our +/- one-hour discussion (not a class) should contact Richard Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net.

Book Group #1 just met on Monday, March 28 to discuss "Madness, Betrayal and the Lash: The Epic Voyage of George Vancouver". A seaman's life in the late 18th century was nasty, brutish and short, a naval captain enforced discipline with the lash, and a captain was as prone to physical and mental ill-

ness like any of the others on board the ships of the day. All that said, George Vancouver was the first to map the Pacific Coast of North America and he succeeded in maintaining a delicate political balance between Great Britain and Spain.

Steve Bort recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Mike Schneider, Dick Kaufman, Richard Rosland, Mac McLoughlan, Nick Bowles, Jim Flessner, Art Donaldson, Garret Girvan, and John Kopchik

Book Group #1 also met on Monday, February 28 to discuss "A Shot To Save the World: The Inside Story of the Life-or-Death Race for a Covid -19 Vaccine" by Gregory Zuckerman. Vaccines were first developed in the 18th century to address the scourge of Small Pox but the roots of the Covid-19 research are in the 1970's. Zuckerman identifies, at times in considerable detail, the researchers and their work which led to several successful vaccines in the winter of 20-21.



# Branch Activities



## Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met March 17 in person at the Ygnacio Valley Library. Eight members attended to discuss the book *Restless* by William Boyd.

*Restless* is a clever espionage book of historical fiction and a vivid portrait of the life of a female spy. It covers the period before, during, and after WW II. The book has tension and drama, and is based on a remarkable chapter of Anglo-American history. Collectively, we rated the book 3.5 on a 5 point scale.

Our April book will be *There is Nothing For You Here: Finding Opportunity in the Twenty-First Cen-*

ture, by Fiona Hill. For a preview of who Fiona Hill is check out the YouTube videos on line. Hill is a State Department Russian policy expert veteran and advisor to three American presidents across both political parties. Given recent events unfolding between Russia and Ukraine this subject matter could not be more timely. Our meeting to discuss this book will be at the Walnut Creek Ygnacio Valley Library on April 21, 11 AM. Attendance is open to all whether you have read the book or not.

## SAVE THE DATES- 2022 Reno Golf Outing

This year we will go back to Reno for golf. The dates will be **Tuesday Sept. 6 to Friday Sept. 9**.

We plan to play Toiyabe Golf Club and Wolf Run Golf Club.

We will arrive Tuesday, play Toiyabe on Wednesday and Wolf Run Golf Club on Thursday, and

come home on Friday. Group dinners will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There will be activities for the men and woman who do not play golf. Save the dates.

There will be more details about the outing this spring. If you have any questions, contact David Harris.



## Bridge

John Dickson

We are in full swing on SIR's Chicago style bridge, with lunch, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. We meet at Diablo Country Club at 10:00 AM for six rounds of 4-hands each, changing partners every four hands.

We had a Post-Covid record turnout last Tuesday, with 23 players showing up for an enjoyable day of bridge.

All players are vaccinated, healthy (as healthy as we older citizens can be) and anxious to return to normal times. We welcome all members (and others) to join us for a fun bridge day.

# Branch Activities



## Wine-O-SIR

Lou Meylan

The Wine O Sirs met March 24th at the home of Kathy and Jerry Hicks. We will meet again on May 26th at the home of Jon Dickson.

These are always fun events. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Jon Dickson directly.



### March 24th Wine-O-SIR Tasting

Five interesting wines that originally purchased through Pleasant Hill store Total Wine. Twenty-four members tasted wine and hors d'oeuvres last Thursday afternoon with a sunny perfect 74 degrees outside on the decks of Jerry and Kathy Hicks. Serving arrival of members began with a Portugal's Aveleda



Vinho, a light young, effervescent verde. Second was a Chardonnay by Muirwood from Zanetta vineyard, Arroyo Seco ASV, Monterey. Red wines from medium to deeper next served Angeline Merlot Reserve from Paso Robles. Cabernet Sauvignon tasted a deep and dense Cabernet Sauvignon from the famous Alexander Valley. Barbera from Macchia, Lodi was a terrific final taste which also almost finished us!

### Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor

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



### SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters>

# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers

John Riordan

March walkers included Richard Black & Donna Argenbright, Steve Bort, Art and Mary Alice Donaldson, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Brad Lee, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, and Joel & Susan White. The March 4 walk at the Martinez Regional Shoreline was cancelled because of rain. John Riordan led the March 11 walk along the Lafayette–Moraga Regional Trail from the Olympic Blvd Staging Area (see photo below). Dick Frankel led the March 18 walk along Contra Costa Canal Trail from Larky Park. Joel White led the March 25 walk along the Iron Horse Trail from the Railway Museum in Danville followed by outdoor brunch at Crumbs restaurant.

The April 1 walk will commence at 9:00 at the Valle Vista Staging Area in Moraga and we will walk south toward the San Leandro Reservoir and the King Canyon Loop Trail. The April 8 walk will com-

mence at 9:00 in the parking lot for the Heather Farm Swimming Pool and we will walk east along the Contra Costa Canal Loop to the Iron Horse Trail. There will be no walk on April 15. The April 22 walk will commence at 9:00 at the Stone Valley Rd West trailhead in Alamo and we will walk south on the Iron Horse Trail. The April 29 walk is TBD. RSVP for April walks to [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com).

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Amiable Amblers at the Olympic Blvd. Staging Area

# SIR Golf



SIR Golf  
Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

## March Match (Golf) Madness

Our Golf Match quarterfinal games will be played on April 4th at Lone Tree. Competitions between Al (Zav) Zavattero vs. Jim (NoDak) Barstow with their foursome including Dave (Davy) Harris vs. Jerry (NoDak) Hicks will progress for the winner's final

in May. After our 18 holes of competition we'll get together in the 19th hole for bragging, crying, and lies.

Join us for a fun day and a mulligan (redo) at Lone Tree. All golfers sign up today on our easy SIR Br. 116 [Shopping Cart](#).

## Branch 116 Golf Website

The Golf Website is: [branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- Annual Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

- 18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.
- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.
- Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Shows who has signed-up for the next two Boundary Oak sessions.

## April: 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 06	10:00	Pleasanton GC	Marty Katz
Wed. 13	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 20	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 27	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

## April: 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 04	9:30	Lone Tree	Gary Boswell
Mon. 11	9:40	Boundary Oak	Gary Boswell
Tue. 19	10:00	Redwood Cyn.	Gary Boswell
Mon. 25	10:02	Rancho Solano	Gary Boswell

## 18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Amount</u>
April 19	Redwood Canyon	April 11	\$37
April 25	Rancho Solano	April 14	\$48
May 23	Paradise Valley	May 13	\$48

Sign-up for Golf via Branch 116 Shopping Cart System at: [sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

# SIR Golf

---



## Branch 116 Monterey 2022 Golf Event

Golf at Bayonet and Black Horse



Wed/Thu May 18th and 19th in Monterey, CA

**Hotel** -- Our Group Hotel will be the near-by Hilton Embassy Suites in Seaside. We have a SIR Branch 116 Group Rate of \$179 for a King plus tax (\$199 for two double beds). Hotel destination and parking fees are waived for our group. This includes a great breakfast buffet and hosted cocktails in the evening. As in the past, all hotel arrangements will be the responsibility of participants. ***You must call Anna at 831-241-9136 (Mon-Fri only) and tell her you are with SIR Branch 116 to get our special rate.***

**Banquet Dinner** — We will have a group dinner on Wednesday the 18th at the Hotel. Total price is \$65 and choices are chicken or vegetarian. Cost is included in your entry fee.

**Golf Course** -- We are playing Ft Ord's beautiful courses, Bayonet and Black Horse. It will be Medal Play on Wednesday (two flights), and a Scramble on Thursday. Thursday's Teams will be determined by blind draw.

**Cost** -- You are responsible for your own Hotel reservations/payments. The tournament entry fee is \$385 pp and includes two days of golf, dinner and \$20 prize money.

Detach Here -----

### ***Monterey Golf Event, May 18th and 19th***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: Chicken \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: Chicken \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_

No. of Golfers x \$385 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-golfers x \$65 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Pay the total entry fee online at the SIR Website. Mail your completed form to SIR Jim Barstow at 48 Brubaker Ct, Walnut Creek, 94596-5408. Questions? Email Jim Barstow, jbarstow@aol.com or telephone at 925-938-2744



## Golf Clinic

Chris Doan

The Golf Clinic theme for 2022 is to provide a foundation for **“generating impressive results”** in your golf game with an initial focus on your short game. The last Clinic of this series is scheduled on April 9 with emphasis on the 30 to 50 yard approach.

*In his Little Red Book (a must-read), Harvey Penick points out that golfers do not improve stroke by stroke. Instead, improvement comes in plateaus. The 90s shooter will suddenly fall into the mid-80s, and the player who hovers around 80 will quickly fall into the mid-70s. As you lower your handicap more and more, the improvement comes more slowly, but you can still drop your scores by a few shots — if you know what to practice.*

*The short game,” Penick wrote. “Those are the magic words. The higher you score, the faster you can lower it — with the short game.”*

*“If you want to see radical improvement in your game and cut off five strokes in a week or two, you must make a radical change in the way you practice,” he said. “For two weeks devote 90 percent of your practice time to chipping and putting, and only 10 percent to the full swing. If you do this, your 95 will turn into 90. I guarantee it.”*

All Clinic sessions will be held at Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord under the direction of Golf Pro Pete Asselin. The cost is \$30 and spouses are welcome to participate.

Members interested in getting involved, please contact Chris at [cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com) or (602) 908-0292 to be added to the Clinic mailing list. The April Clinic will be on the 9th.

FORE !!



Putting Clinic (2/24/2022)



Short Game Clinic (3/5/20-22)



RETURN TO: Neil Schmidt  
2231 San Miguel Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5805

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement**

### **Rules of Attendance & Membership for SIR Branch 116**

**RULE 100.** A member shall be notified in writing and/or telephone by his Branch of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following:

- Miss three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date.
- Did not attend one-half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance.
- All legitimate alternatives to termination shall be explored. The member's response may suggest an alternative to termination such as inactive status.

**RULE 101.** Certification of attendance by a member at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to his attendance record. Individual Branches may limit the number of make-ups during a 12-month period.

---

### **Non Responsibility Declaration**

**RULE 345:** All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

---

### **Checks for Trips**

Trips of 2 days and 1 night or less may be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Trips in excess of 1 night must be made payable to the travel agency involved.