



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter July 2023

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

## Message from Roger

Wishing all a happy 4th of July!



A recent Dine-O- Sir event seemed very much like a 4th celebration with barbecue and a picnic like atmosphere at Hazy's in Danville. Thanks to Jerry Hicks and his committee for another fun evening.

Hard to believe the year is half over. In the last six months we have lost some cherished members from our ranks. We remember them fondly for their friendship and contributions to SIR.

A tip of the hat must go to our membership and publicity committees for their tireless efforts to recruit new members. We welcomed four new members at our June luncheon. Social media is becoming an excellent source for new members , but ,

a tried and true source will always be our members and their friends and relatives who are excellent candidates for membership.

It's great to see so many activities in full swing, indoors and out . Our luncheons continue to reflect increased attendance even though we are in the midst of vacation time.

There will always be activity and event committee positions available. I urge you to become involved. I promise you a rewarding experience.

Again, Happy 4th of July and be safe.

*Roger Craig, Big SIR*

**Next Meeting**  
July 17 @ Boundary  
Oak, 11:30 AM

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**Trampas Topics**

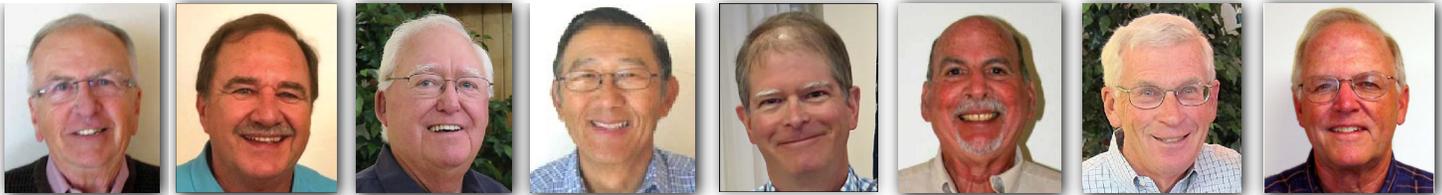


## Some Important Upcoming Branch 116 Activities

Branch Luncheon at Boundary Oak	July 17
Theater - Anna Christie	Sept. 15
Travel - 7 SIR Travel Opportunities	Various

Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
[luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)  
by the Monday  
prior to the meeting  
to cancel your  
standing  
reservation.

## 2023 SIR Branch Officers



<b>Big SIR</b> Roger Craig	<b>Little SIR</b> Alan Pope	<b>Treasurer</b> Jeff Johnson	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Al Satake	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Charlie Guthrie	<b>Secretary</b> Paul Ramacciotti	<b>Asst. Sec.</b> Greg Hughes	<b>Member.Sec.</b> Phil Goff
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## 2023 SIR Branch Directors



Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Kevin Donahue	Darrell McCloughry	Fred Wachowicz	Dave P. Williams
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### 2023 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Recruitment      | Don Schroeder      |
| • Activities       | Mike Ward          |
| • Member Relations | Michael Barrington |
| • Publicity        | Paul Russell       |

#### **Branch Support Chairmen**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee        | Ron Armijo             |
| • Nominating Committee   | Fred Wachowicz         |
| • 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              |

#### **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, Datzman      |
| • Raffle Committee       | Ben Bryce                 |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

#### **Speakers Committee**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Team Member | James Dawe    |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas  |
| • Team Member | Alan Pope     |

### 2023 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Paul Russell	
Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
Book Exchange	Dick Kauffman	
Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
Community Service	Open	TBA
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
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	Goff, JJ, Harris
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Golf—Reno	Alan Pope	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Open	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Lou Sandor	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	TBA
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Marty Katz
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

### **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

## July 2023

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
2	3 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	4 <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>	5 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Dublin Ranch GC)	6	7 <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Arbolado Park) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	8 <b>Golf Clinic</b>
9	10 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	11 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door, San Ramon)	12 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>Mexican Train</b> (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	13 <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	14 <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Lafayette Reservoir) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	15
16	17 <b>SIR Br. 116 Luncheon</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	18 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:36@ Chardonnay)	19 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC)	20 <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group</b> (11:00@ Ygnacio Valley Library)	21 <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Wa;mit Creek Civic Park) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	22
23	24 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:02@ Rancho Solano)	25 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door, San Ramon)	26 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton GC) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	27 <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	28 <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Stone Valley Rd. Trailhead) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	29 <b>Golf Clinic</b>
30	31 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Eagle Vines) <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@ Orinda Books)					



# Branch Administration



## Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 188	
Terry Fleming	New Member Sponsor is Dennis Snarr.
Al Guzman	New Member Sponsor is Don Schroeder.
Terry Legler	Return to active membership.
Gil Menegus	Tsfr from Branch 128 Sponsor is Dave Havlik.
Jim Wilson	New Member Sponsor is Don Schroeder.
Brent Chaney	Passed Away on 6/13/2023.
John Maerske	Resigned Moved out of area.



## Treasury Report

Jeff Johnson, Treasurer

	6/28/23	2023 YTD
Beg Bal 2023		\$ 10,996.81
Contributions	\$ 5,743.87	\$ 43,259.34
Disbursements	\$ (6,884.75)	\$ (40,805.85)
Net (gain/loss)	\$ (1,140.88)	\$ 2,453.49
June Cash Balance		\$ 13,450.30

## 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>

## July Birthdays

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

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Michael Barrington | 10. Jack Minicucci    |
| 2. Don Benioff        | 11. Tom O'Brien       |
| 3. Gary Boswell       | 12. Hal Redsun        |
| 4. Dick Frankel       | 13. Tim Tinnes        |
| 5. Garrett Girvan     | 14. Chuck Vanoncini   |
| 6. Al Hutchko         | 15. Bob Vetro         |
| 7. Doug Janes         | 16. Jim Videle        |
| 8. Paul King          | 17. Bernie Wroblewski |
| 9. Brad Lee           |                       |

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

## 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)

In Memoriam  
**Donald Roberts**  
 Jan. 4, 1945 - June 15, 2023

In Memoriam  
**William Brent Chaney**  
 Nov. 30, 1946 - June 13, 2023

# SIR Luncheon

## Speaker for July Meeting

### Jamil Hassan: "An Afghan Interpreter at The Fall of Kabul"



#### Little SIR Report

Allan Pope

There was a good turnout for the June lunch that provided a great opportunity to catch up with long-time friends. The birthday boys who won the raffles and will receive free lunches are Paul Russell for May and Harry Sherinian for June.

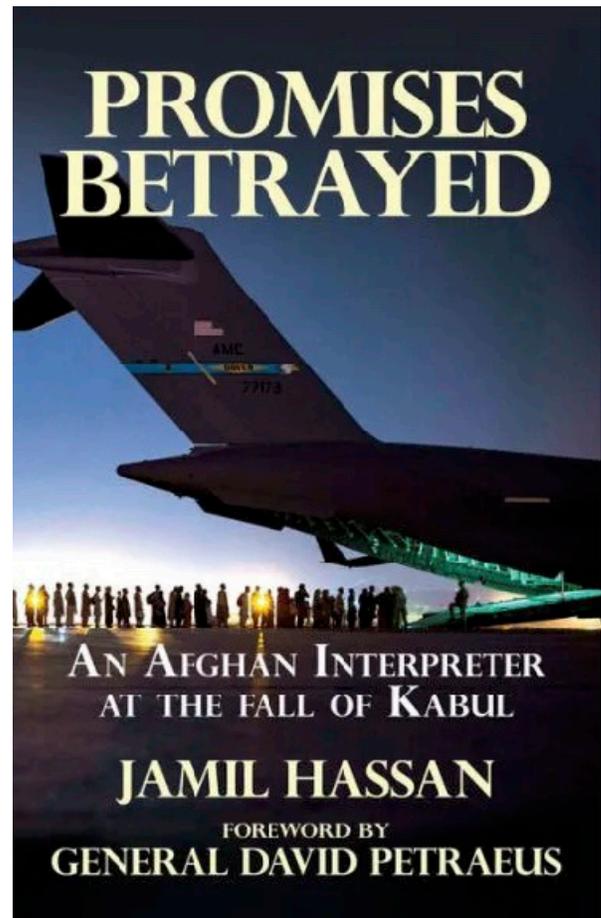
Our June speaker, John Doolittle, told a fascinating story of his family's experience during Iran's political and violent transition from the Imperial State of Iran led by the Shah of Iran to the theocracy of the Islamic Republic led by the Ayatollah Khomeini. This was a true story of what happens to regular people in a foreign country just trying to do their jobs.

Our July speaker is Jamil Hassan. Mr. Hassan is an

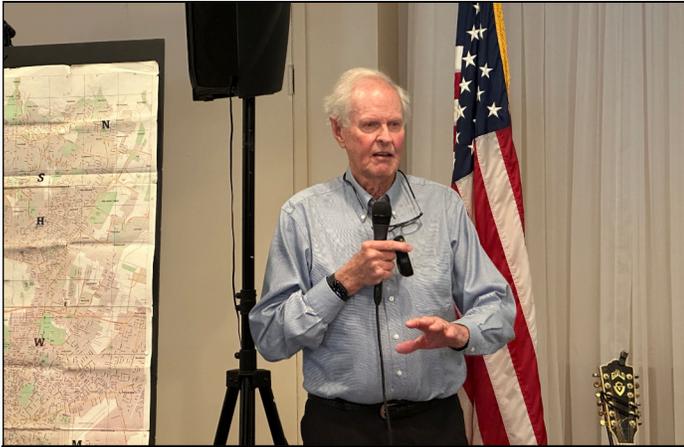
Afghan interpreter who worked with Italian, American and other NATO forces when those forces fought in the Afghanistan war. He will describe how it felt to have to flee his home country with his wife and daughter, even though he never wanted to leave his country because he had freedom, democracy, prosperity, and a good life. But his family's life irrevocably changed when a political decision was made to withdraw all American and NATO forces from Afghanistan. Mr. Hassan will describe his duties as an interpreter and his harrowing ordeal that risked the lives of his family when he had to leave his homeland.



Jamil Hassan with  
General David Petraeus



# SIR Luncheon



June Speaker John Doolittle talking about his experiences in Tehran, Iran in June 1978

## REMINDER

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)

by the Monday prior to the meeting to cancel your standing reservation.

## The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak Luncheon Menu

Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

### Salad

#### Butter Lettuce Salad

Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments, Feta Cheese  
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Entrees

#### Marsala Mushroom Chicken

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Vegetable  
Medley Marsala Mushroom Sauce

Or

#### Parmesan Crusted Cod

Orzo Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables  
Fire Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce

### Vegetarian Chef's Choice

### Dessert

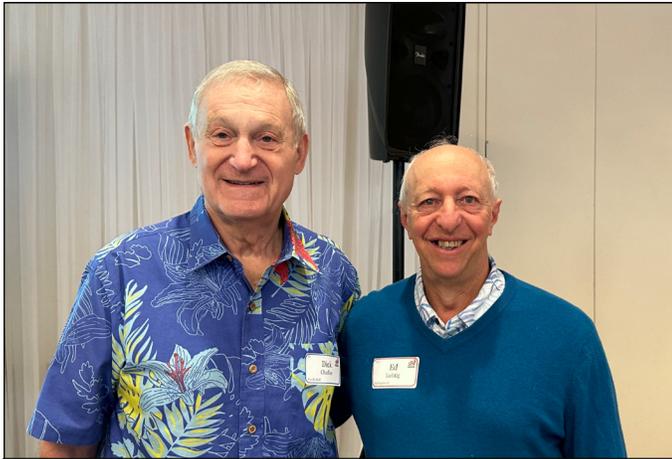
#### Strawberry Shortcake

Whipped Cream



Big SIR Roger Craig with new Senior SIR - 90 Year Presidential Award Recipients (left to right):  
Charlie McInnis, Chuck Gilliam, Rudy Gebert

# New Members



**Sponsor Dick Chaffee with  
New Member Ed Lichtig**



**Sponsor Don Schroeder with  
New Member Todd Berman**



**Sponsor Don Schroeder with  
New Member Jim Wilson**



**Sponsor Dennis Snarr with  
New Member Terry Fleming**



**Sponsor Dave Havlik with  
New Member Gil Menegus**



**Sponsor Don Schroeder with  
New Member Al Guzman**

# Branch Activities



## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

On June 17 the Walking Tours Activity enjoyed a backstage tour of the Leshner entertainment complex. The tour was conducted by Carolyn Jackson, General Manager of the Regional Center for Arts. Carolyn previously spoke at one of our SIR Lunches. Over the years, many of our SIR participants have enjoyed shows and presentations at the 3 theaters. It was very interesting to learn

how these productions were stage and run by the support staff. For those who missed the tour please see the attached 12 minute video : <https://lesherartscenter.org/support/back-stage-tours>.

After the backstage tour the participants enjoyed lunch at the Lettice Restaurant.

In August the Walking Tours activity plans to visit the Essanay Silent Film Museum in Niles.



The Margaret Leshner Theatre Walking Tour Group on June 17

## Golfing Joke

Two older men are golfing on a beautiful spring day.

As they approach the 8th hole, a funeral procession passes by on the road. One man takes off his hat and looks down solemnly until it passes, then resumes walking.

"Wow," says the other man. "I have never seen such thoughtfulness by someone busy with a game of golf!"

The first man replies humbly, "well, it's the least I can do. After all, we were married for 42 years."

# Branch Activities



## Theater Terry Sherman

### O'NEILL'S "ANNA CHRISTIE" ON SEPTEMBER 15

Three area Branches of SIR are working together to promote a Theater Party for an award-winning play by Pulitzer-Prize playwright Eugene O'Neill at Danville's Tao House.

"Anna Christie" will be staged in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the hills above Danville on Friday evening September 15 for a 7:30 p.m. performance.



Members of SIR Branch 146, Branch 116 and Branch 128 have joined together for this Theater Party event. A special discount is available for members and guests of these three SIR Branches.

Tickets are \$60 on sale on the Eugene O'Neill's Foundation's website beginning July 6. There will be a special page on this website offering a limited

number of \$5 discounts for members of the three SIR Branches. Tickets are available for purchase on July 6; purchase by August 15 to get the discount. Click on <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/sirs-tickets-to-anna-christie-sept-15/>.

Information on required shuttle access to the National Historic Site via NPS from Museum of San Ramon Valley in downtown Danville will be provided on the website: [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org). Contact Terry Sherman ([dtsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtsh@sbcglobal.net)); (925-786-0598) if you need further information.

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. He lived at Tao House in the hills above Danville from 1936-194, where he authored many notable works including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh." "Anna Christie" premiered in the 1920s, and evolved to become one of O'Neill's most popular works, and one of his only two comedies.



## Bridge Jon Dickson

We are continuing our run of bad cards and the winning player's score is below 5,000 points. Somebody has to get lucky, plus bid their cards, and get a score over 5,000 points soon!

On June 13th, Denny Morrissey got top board with 4,980 (close to 5,000), topping Gordon Gonsalves' 4,180. Both not the largest scores to brag about. Then on June 27th, Rudy Gebert was on top with 4,180 points, with two close behind, Denny

Moffissey had 4,160 and Ben Bryce had 4,140. Who said that one extra trick is not important? Our average score on June 27th was only 2,778 points, close to an all time low. Through all this there are no slams bid or made, so cards are just poor.

If you have an interest in bridge, with some laughs and teasing, do join us at the Brass Door for lunch & bridge the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month**, starting at 10:30 AM.



# 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 and Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, Harry Sherinian, 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, July 27th at 8:30am**. Come early.

Salmon fishing will not happen for us from the bay area. Closed for the year. Brion Beetz, Gordon Linebaugh, and Carl Moyer took the long trip out to

over 300 feet and caught rockfish, sable fish, petrale sole, and ling cod. Brion, Gordon, Stan Wong, Steve Paulick, Tom Chapman, Dave Havlik, Ken Bellinder and Dave Miller went far south to La Paz, Mexico for 4 days of panga fishing for dorado, yellowfin tuna, roosterfish, and wahoo. They caught a lot fish and had a good time. Almost everybody caught halibut and stripers in the bay. Carl Moyer caught trout from San Pablo reservoir. Ernie Wong began his fly fishing summer after shad on the Yuba River by catching a few. Tom Kostik, Mike Corker, and Harry Sherinian sought black bass in the delta with limited success.



## Wine-O-SIR

David Havlik

There were no WINE-O-SIRS activities in June. However, Tom and Ellen Ellen will host a wine tasting at their home on Thursday afternoon, **July**

**27th**. If you would like to join the WINE-O-SIRS, please contact me at [jdhavlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdhavlik@sbcglobal.net).

## \$ums Investment

Dave Sutton (Br. 8)

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on **Wed July 26 at 1:30 PM**. The topic will be announced.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.(mailto:[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)).



## Bocce

Paul Russell

We started playing Bocce Ball on April 13th on every other Thursday (that was what the schedule was to be) until I received an email from CBCA telling us that the city of Clayton would be doing maintenance on the courts the first week in July.

Our original schedule had us playing on the July 6th which we won't be able to do because of the maintenance. I sent an email to the Capos of each team to get their input on this and we've decided on

playing on the **13th and 20th of July**. Every other week should remain the same.

We play at the Clayton Bocce courts in downtown Clayton at the corner of Main St. and Oak St. We begin at 10:00am and play until noon. Each game (or frame) is played to a total of 9 points and must be won by 2 pts in order to fit in 3 frames.

Come on out and watch, you may like it.

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10.15 on the following dates:

- Monday, July 24...“Elephant Company” by Vicki Croke
- Monday, August 28...“Horse” by Geraldine Brooks

Book Group #1 met on Monday, June 26 at Orinda Books to discuss “Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind” by Yuval Harari. The book was ambitious, to say the least, covering our species from the big bang to today’s onset of artificial intelligence. The titles of the four parts, [Cognitive Revolution, Agricultural Revolution, Unification of Humankind,

and Scientific Revolution] give some idea of the scope of this ~400-page book. “Thought provoking” was one of the most frequent phrases applied to the book with one SIR giving it a perfect 5.0 and another a 4.9. The average was 4.25 stars.

Richard Black led the discussion with Nick Bowles, Dick Kauffman, Mac McLaughlin, Mike Schneider, Richard White, Paul Freitas, Larry Setren, Richard Rossland and John Riordan.

New members are always welcome. It’s a discussion, not a class. If possible, contact Rich Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net ahead of time.



## Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Seven Book Club 2 members met June 15 to discuss The Fall of the Roman Empire by Peter Heather.

The title is self explanatory. The author relates the story of how Europe's barbarians, the Huns, Goths & Vandals, transformed by centuries of contact with Rome on every possible level, eventually pulled the empire apart. He shows first how the Huns overturned existing strategic balance of power on Rome's European frontiers to force the Goths and others to seek refuge inside the empire. This prompted two generations of struggle, during which new barbarian coalitions, formed in response to Roman hostility, brought the Roman west to its knees.

The author is considered a leading authority on the late Roman Empire. He argues convincingly that the Roman Empire was not on the brink of social or moral collapse. What brought it to an end were the barbarians.

This book reads like a dense academic text book.

Beyond the facts presented, no story here. A high level of prior knowledge and interest in the Roman Empire would be helpful to digest this book. We had two members that came close to meeting this criteria. We rated the book 2.4/5

Our meeting dates and books for July and August are as follows:

**July 20**, The Silent Patient, by Alex Michaelides.

**August 17**, Billion Dollar Whale, The Man Who Fooled Wall Street, by Bradley Hope & Tom Wright.

We conduct our summer meetings in beautiful Arbolado Park Walnut Creek. You will find us in the shade at the picnic tables in front of the basketball courts. Park in the upper lot.

All summer meetings start at 11 AM.

All are welcome to attend whether you read the book or not. For more information contact Scott Clark at 925-998-4553

# Branch Activities



## Pickleball Ed Solomon

**Pickleball**, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we now start **7:30 to 9 am every Friday**, at The Tennis Center in Heather Farm, Walnut Creek. Here's a brief Introduction to Pickleball...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEYsymCtIDY>

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

sneakers. ( We have extra paddles and balls) Beginners all welcome....it's the best way to see what all the excitement is about. Come on down!!!

Ed Solomon. Co-Chair —415-215-2684 m

Gary Bonfiglio. Co-Chair —925-330-9612 m

COME ON BY TO PLAY, OR JUST WATCH!!!!  
We're not bad for a bunch of **SIR Dudes!!**



## Golf Clinic Chris Doan

We have designed the 2023 schedule incorporating input and ideas from the SIR Golfing community. Starting in June, the new rotation and schedule will begin with...

- Putting & Sand Shots June 17
- then Chipping July 8
- then 50-70 Yards Short Game July 29
- followed by Fairway Shots Aug 26
- and finally, Tee Shots Sep 23
- These five topics will be supplemented with an opportunity to Play-With-The-Pro (dates TBD)
- as well as a classroom session on Course Management (date TBD).

Other details about the Clinic offerings ...

**Clinic Location:** Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord

**Clinic Pro:** Pete Asselin, dedicated to the SIRs Clinic and also available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr.

**Times offered** for Saturday Clinics: 9:15, 10:30, 11:45 and 1:00

**Skill Level:** All from low handicappers to beginners

**Clinic Fees:** \$30 for one hour Clinics

**How to register and participate:**

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to cdoan99@gmail.com to be added.
- Each Clinic details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to the e-mail.
- That's all there is to it ... hope you will join us in 2023 to tune up your game.

FORE!



# Branch Activities



## Travel Jeff Johnson

Here are trips being planned by other chapters – let me know if you are interested in joining any of them and I will put you in touch with the appropriate party. Jeff Johnson (jeffjohnson9000@att.net):

**Disney's Aladdin Wed. Aug. 9, 2023 1pm at the Orpheum Theatre.** Branch 7 & 8. Cost \$110 pp. Includes Lunch at Max's Opera Café, luxury motorcoach transportation, driver gratuity.

**Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks Sept. 10 – 18 2023. Branch 32. Cost \$3,649pp.** Includes r/t air, 11 meals 8 breakfasts, tour director, motorcoach transportation, all admissions, baggage handling. Highlights: 3 train experiences, Durango, Pikes Peak & Royal Gorge. 4 National Parks, Mesa Verde, Arches, Canyon Lands & Great Sand Dunes.

**Croatia and Its Islands. Sept. 24 – Oct. 7, 2023. Branch 101. Cost \$6,714 – 7,214pp depending on cabin.** Highlights: Dubrovnik, 7-night Adriatic Cruise, Slano, Mljet National Park, Korcula, Vis, Bisevo, Blue Cave, Hvar, Bol, Trogir, Slit. Choice on tour; Sibenik, Cathedral of St. James, Krka National Park, Zagreb, Stone Gate. The price includes round trip flights from SFO, Travel Insurance and tips. 3 cabins still available (6 people max.)

**Autumn Colors Oct. 13 – 22, 2023. Branch 143. Cost \$4,330pp.** Boston to Boston. Includes air & bus

transportation. Highlights: Boston, Mohawk Trail, Mount Washington.

**The Lion King, Matinee Wednesday December 13 Branches 7, 47 & 22. "The Musical of a lifetime!" Orpheum Theater SF.** Departs San Rafael 10am returns 5:30pm \$125pp. Includes luxury motorcoach, gratuity, hosted lunch at Max's Opera Café and rear orchestra seating.

**Rose Parade & New Year's Eve Dec. 30, 2023 – Jan. 4, 2024. Cost \$3,375pp.** Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxury bus, lodging, 9 meals.

**Best of Spain and Portugal April 27 – May 12, 2024. Branch 146. Cost \$7,895pp.** Madrid, Segovia, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona, round trip airfare, 15-day guided tour with Travel Director, 14 nights at centrally located 4star hotels, 5 dinners and 2 lunches including wine, all tips, transfers and baggage handling.

**Memorials of WWII Tour Sept. 6 – 15, 2024 Cost \$4,972pp dbl.Occ.** London, Portsmouth, Paris, D-Day Museum, Landing R/T air, motor coach, ferry from England to France. 8 brkfst. 4 dinner.



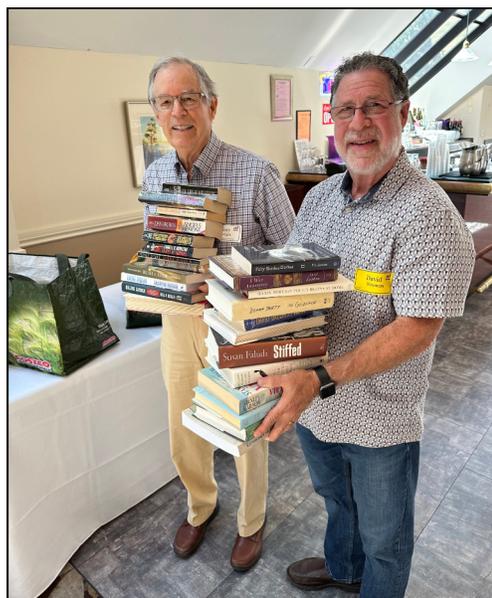
## Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

The Book Exchange continues to have 150 to 200 books at each luncheon. These are all for SIRS members at no cost, like FREE. The drill is to exchange books. Bring a book(s), take a book(s). If you enjoy reading, this is an ideal way to get books.

We hope you enjoy your reading.

Photo on right →

Book Exchange Sherpas Gary Bonfiglio and guest, David Neuman help set up books at the June Luncheon



# Branch Activities



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

### Midsummer Eve Summer Solstice

Estival and Festival brought a perfect summer evening on the patio at **Hazy Barbeque** of Danville. On June 21 Dine-O-SIRs celebrated the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year with 16 hours of sunlight and natural 75 degree air conditioning. Our Sirs couples enjoyed social hour, with music by our talented member, Tony de Grassi. Hard-working servicers led by owner, Tami Harrigan, brought many refreshments during Happy Hour. It was another wonderful evening with many compliments for the ambiance, weather, drinks, food and service. As said by Shakespeare: "All's Well That Ends



Well!"

Two evenings at the **Brass Door** in San Ramon are scheduled for Wednesday evenings, **August 16th and 23rd**. Through our 14 years of Dine-O-Sirs, we have enjoyed four dinners at the Brass Door; many have again requested it. The food, especially their prime rib, is well known. Details with the Brass Door will soon be finalized and you will be will notified with flyers and emails. Save the dates.



Your Committee: Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale.



77 Folks at the Hazy BBQ Dine-O-SIR Dinner on June 21

# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

June walkers included John Alonzo, Richard Black, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Dave & Debbie LaDue, John & Gail Riordan, and Joel & Susan White,

On June 2 we walked from the Moraga Commons along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Town Bakery and Café. On June 9 we walked from San Miguel Park along the Ygnacio Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Panera Bread. On June 16 we walked in the Martinez Regional Shoreline, with a post-walk gathering at States Coffee and Bread. On June 23 we walked from Osage Park along the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Black Bear Diner. Dave LaDue led the June 30 walk from Newhall Community Park, with a post-walk gathering at Huckleberry's.

The July walks will begin at 8:30AM. Joel White will lead the **July 7** walk, meeting at Arbolado Park and walking NW along the Ygnacio Canal Trail; the post-

walk gathering will be at the Counrywood Panera Bread. On **July 14** we will meet at the Lafayette Reservoir and walk the loop trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Tutu's. On **July 21** we will meet at the Walnut Creek Civic Center Park and walk north along the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffe La Scale. On **July 28** we will meet at the Stone Valley Rd trailhead and walk south along the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Peet's Coffee.

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.



## Mexican Train Dominos Richard Madden

"Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

We normally meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ

located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek.

We met in June and had five in attendance. Present was one guest, Earl Gore, a first time participant, John Mulgrew, Gary Bonfiglio, Alex Lutkus and Richard Madden. The scores ranged from 161 to 456.

Please email me and if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out when the May plan is determined. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

You can contact Richard Madden, [maddenram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maddenram@sbcglobal.net) or 925.788.4223

# Branch Golf



**SIR Golf**  
Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

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.

## 15 ways to be a faster golfer (Golf Digest)

1. Leave the driver headcover in the car
2. Next person to tee off? You better be ready
3. Limit the practice swings
4. If you're walking, place the bag on your shoulder before the last player hits; if riding, be at the cart
5. Watch other players' tee shots
6. Hit a provisional
7. While it's someone else's turn, figure out your yardage and be ready to play
8. Yes, there's an efficient way to clean your clubs
9. On par 3s on a course you play all the time, skip the rangefinder
10. Place your bag in a spot near the walk to the next tee
11. On the greens, line up your putt while others are putting
12. Do not mark a two-footer
13. Stop writing down scores after you exit the green
14. Move away from the 18th green
15. Tips for playing with a caddie (Doesn't apply for SIR Golf unless you want to tip me)

### July 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 05	10:00 AM	Dublin Ranch	Marty Katz
Wed. 12	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 19	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 26	10:00 AM	Pleasanton GC	Marty Katz

### July 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Neil Schmidt
Mon. 10	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Phil Goff
Tues. 18	10:36 AM	Chardonnay	Jimmy Johnson
Mon. 24	10:02AM	Rancho Solano	Jimmy Johnson
Mon. 31	9:45 AM	Eagle Vines	Jimmy Johnson

## Golf "Pay in Advance" Change

We no longer pay in advance by credit card for "away" golf outings. Rather, payment for "away" outings will be made at the course on the day of the event, just like we do at Boundary Oak.

Signing up for "away" tournaments is still available through our web page, but only by filling in the "Pay at the Course" box.