



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter February 2024

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

Message from Alan

Well, the new year brought unpredictable weather adding a challenge to engaging in outdoor activities. Rain is welcome but let's hope there are breaks in the weather for us to play golf without raingear, play bocce ball, pickle ball, go on walking tours, including Amiable Amblers.



The January luncheon was a success with 111 members and 4 guests attending to hear Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings discuss notorious crimes in San Francisco in the 1970s and 1980s and their resolutions. The presentation was fascinating.

Good news! Our Branch welcomes two new members, Rich Gerchow and Tom Walsh. A special thank you to their sponsors, John Alonso, and Gary Halick respectively.

For the first time in our Branch 116 history, the 2024 Membership Roster has been mailed to all members. Thank Phil Goff and Neil Schmidt for making sure the roster reached everyone. This marks a departure from the tradition of handing the roster out at the luncheon.

During the January BEC meeting, Robin Lemmo reported that both the Danville Today and Alamo Today publications will now impose a monthly fee for running Branch 116 advertisements, making it prohibitively expensive for our Branch. Robin is exploring a shift of advertising to the Diablo Gazette.

For new members, if you have not yet joined an activity, now is the time do so. It's never too early to explore our many activities and meet new friends. Another way to connect is by volunteering for a committee or leading an activity. Currently we're seeking volunteers to organize the Spring Fling in May and the Holiday Party in December.

Please take a moment to read Little SIR Paul Russell's brief description of our February speaker, Jim Griesemer, who will delve into the topic of artificial intelligence. We look forward to seeing you at the February luncheon.

Alan Pope, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Feb. 19, 2024 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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**2024 Annual Membership
Dues (\$15) of are Due**

Call 925-322-1318
or email to
luncheon116@gmail.com

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

2024 SIR Branch Officers



Big SIR Alan Pope	Little SIR Paul Russell	Treasurer Charlie Guthrie	Asst. Treas. Al Satake	Secretary Paul Ramacciotti	Asst. Sec. Dan Lawrence	Membership Alan Fitzgerald	Asst. Membr. Greg Hughes
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Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Jeff Johnson	Sam Beret	Roger Craig	Dave Williams
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2024 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads

• Recruitment	Don Schroeder
• Activities	Mike Ward
• Member Relations	Open
• Publicity	Paul Russell
Branch Support Chairmen	
• Audit Committee	Ron Armijo
• Nominating Committee	Roger Craig
• Sunshine Committee	Open
• 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	Dennis Snarr
• 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

2024 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Bob Huck	
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	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Ed Lichtig
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Harry Oberle	
Golf—Carmel	Phil Goff	
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	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Jim Tamulski
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Apple User Group	Stan Holcenberg (Br.171)	925-376-1180
Astronomy	Larry Lange (Br. 8)	925-254-6281
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	925-935-5510
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.8)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	925-254-8338
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

Monthly Activities Calendar

February 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Olympic Blvd.)	3
4	5 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	6	7 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	8	9 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ San Miguel Park)	10
11	12 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	13 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	Book Group 2 (11:00@ Ygnacio Valley Library)	16 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (10:00@ San Leandro Marina Park)	17
18	19 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	20 18-Hole Golf (9:35@ San Ramon)	21 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields)	Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	23 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Railroad Museum, Danville)	24
25	26 Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books) 18-Hole Golf (9:54@ Chardonay)	27 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	28 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	29		



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Alan Fitzgerald, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 187

Tom Walsh	New Member Sponsor is Gary Halick
Rich Gerchow	New Member Sponsor is John Alonso
Jim Nachtweih	Passed away on 12/25/2023
Dave LaDue	Resigned

February Birthdays

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

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ron Armijo | 11. Pete Kallas |
| 2. Norm Azevedo | 12. Sheldon Lawrence |
| 3. Jon Dickson | 13. Rob Lemmo |
| 4. Merle Eaton | 14. Ed O'Rourke |
| 5. Claes Elfving | 15. Harry Oberle III |
| 6. Max Foust | 16. Fred Schafer |
| 7. Dan Green | 17. Mike Schneider |
| 8. Charlie Guthrie | 18. Ernie Wong |
| 9. Mike Howard | 19. Rich Yamanaka |
| 10. Jeff Johnson | |



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

As of 1/27/2024 127 of 186 active member have paid their 2024 annual dues. The latest list of who has paid and who still needs to pay is available in the Member Info section of the SIR Branch 116 web site: <https://sirinc2.org/branch116/member-info>.

	31-Jan	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 6,670.40	\$ 6,670.40
Disbursements	\$ (5,906.03)	\$ (5,906.03)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 764.37	\$ 764.37
January Cash Balance		\$ 11,986.49

In Memoriam

James Nachtweih

Sept. 18, 1930 - Dec. 25, 2023

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>

BEC Minutes – Summary

Meeting of January 15, 2024

- Financial: Branch cash balance as of 1-1-24 is \$11,813.67. Reserve balance is \$11,222.00.
- Annual Dues: \$15.00. Luncheons: \$37.00.
- Luncheons: 114 attendees were submitted for the January luncheon.
- Attendance: Current active membership is 186. 2024 Rosters have been mailed out to members. The Branch mourns the passing of long-time member Jim Nachtweih.
- Activities: 25 activities were listed in January,

eight currently operating, six piggy-backed with other branches. Three activities still need a chairperson: Parties, Travel and Sunshine.

- \$100 discount travel coupons through Overseas Adventure Travel are available to first time travelers.
- Member Relations: This function is in need of a chairperson.
- January Guest Speakers: Frank Falzon (retired SFPD) and Duffy Jennings (retired SF Chronicle reporter) discussing a number of San Francisco murders during the 1970's and 1980's.

Luncheon Speakers

“AI – Is it a tool or a companion?” By Jim Griesemer



Both lauded as the greatest innovation of technology and condemned as the greatest threat to humanity, AI (Artificial Intelligence) is being thrown around by the media and technology companies as if it is just one thing. But is it just one thing? And is the term “artificial intelligence” an accurate label? Well, it depends. If you want a tool, it’s one thing. If you want an assistant or a companion, the implications are entirely different.

Jim Griesemer will bring his 20 years of experience in the technology industry to bear to lead a discussion on this complicated issue that is front and center in today’s media (e.g. The Hollywood strike). He will give you examples of AI as a tool and examples of it as a companion and what falls in between. As a way of preparing for the discussion, Jim invites you to read his book review of Klara and the Sun, Nobel Prize winning author Kazuo Ishiguro’s latest novel:

beautifulinvisibility.com/klara-and-the-sun/

Jim invites you to comment or ask questions about the review in the field at the bottom of the review.

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak **Luncheon Menu** Monday, February 19th

House Salad

Spring Mix, Grape Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrées

Bistro Filet

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Caramelized Shallot Jus

—or—

Citrus Salmon

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable,
Creamy Lemon Garlic Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Penne Pasta
in a Creamy Tomato Vodka Sauce

Dessert

Molten Lava Cake



Little SIR
Paul Russell

We had two terrific speakers today. They were retired SF Homicide Investigator Frank Falzon and his co-author, award winning SF Chronicle writer Duffy Jennings. The book is entitled “SAN FRANCISCO HOMICIDE INSPECTOR 5-HENRY-7”.

They both had gruesome details of the Zodiac, Zebra murder investigations as well as the murders of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. I felt the stories and details they included in

their speech were really riveting right up until they got to the ... “and you can read about the end when you purchase our book”. This added a bit of levity into what seemed to be a hard core subject.

Our next months speaker will speak about artificial intelligence and maybe give us an idea of the advantages of AI, as well as some potential pitfalls. It sounds like another speaker that should be really good. In his words ‘Is it a tool or a companion’.

New Members



New Member Rich Gerchow
with Sponsor John Alonso



New Member Tom Walsh (R)
with Sponsor Gary Halick

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

January was a great start for 2024 with no rain cancellations and 24 walkers, including Todd Berman, Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Steve Bort, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan Green, Essie Naddaf, John, Gail & Amber Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Tim & Dianne Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

On January 5 we walked around Osage Park and then north on the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Danville Black Bear Diner. On January 12 we walked north on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Moraga Commons, with a post-walk gathering at the Town Bakery and Café. On January 19 we walked from the Countrywood Shopping Center east along the Contra Costa Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Panera Bread. On January 28 we walked from the Walnut Creek Civic Park north on the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala.

The February walks will begin at 9:00AM, except for February 16. On **February 2** we will meet at the

Olympic Blvd Staging Area and walk west on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the nearby Starbucks. On **February 9** we will meet at the west end of San Miguel Park and walk east along the Ygnacio Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner. On **February 16** we will meet at 10:00AM at San Leandro Marina Park and walk south along the Bay Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at nearby El Torito. On **February 23** we will meet at the Railroad Museum in Danville and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk venue is TBD.

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 or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.

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, February 26. "Franklin and Winston" by Micham

Monday, March 25. "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah

Monday, April 22. "Fever in the Heartland" by Eagan

Book Group #1 met on Monday, January 8, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss "Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill" by Candice Millard. As with so many books the group reads, much of Millard's book was new information to most of us who knew little about the early life of Winson Churchill and even less about the Boer War. The book abounds in incidents of Churchill's extravagant luck and had he not had it he would have been a footnote in history by the time he was 28. He survived a Boer ambush, hid ten feet from detection after his p.o.w. camp escape and stumbled on the only English sympathizer within 20 miles at two am. Along with luck went careful preparation. He crafted and practiced each of his speeches carefully. Want to know more about the man who stood up to Hitler? This book is a most readable trove of detail.

Garret Girvan recommended the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Todd Berman, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Paul Freitas, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Dan Renke, Mike Schneider and Tim Tinnes. The group awarded the book 4.1 stars.

Book Group #1 met again on January 29 to read "Longitude" by Sobel

The determination of Latitude from the position of the sun had been posited by Ptolomy since 150 BCE.

Longitude eluded seafarers well into the 18th century, with catastrophic results for sailors turning into land masses they "reckoned" were miles to the east or west, or conversely into uncharted seas instead of safe harbors.

In 1714 the British Parliament, humiliated by the loss of four naval ships near the Scillies Isles just 25 miles from the coast of Cornwall, passed the Longitude Act of 1714 promising the princely sum of 20,000 pounds to anyone who could devise a strategy for determining longitude. Throughout the 18th century two different procedures competed. On the one hand were the astronomers who already could determine longitude by observing eclipses of the moons of Jupiter. This approach was effective on land where ever more powerful telescopes could indeed see these eclipses, but was useless on the pitching decks at sea. On the other hand, was a self-educated clockmaker, John Harrison, who devoted his life to devising a series of clocks, later called chronometers, which so precisely registered time that when compared to the time in London could precisely determine a ships longitude. In 1775 the board appointed to award the prize awarded it to Harrison.

Dan Renke recommended the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Todd Berman, Steve Bort, Jim Flessner, Paul Freitas, Garrett Girvan, Dick Kauffman, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Dan Renke, John Riordan, Brad Stripling, Joel White, Richard White, and Tim Tinnes. The group awarded the book 4.0 stars.

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



Community Service—On Hold Jeff Johnson

"life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" – Rev. Martin Luther King.

In January, 10 members and spouses worked at the White Pony Express receiving produce from large grocery stores and re-packing it in smaller containers for delivery to food banks and kitchens.

Next month we will be at the Contra Costa Food Bank. Let me know if you are interested in joining

us. (jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840.



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 Phil Scimonelli, 661-917-8060 and Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, 510-207-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, February 22nd** at 8:30am. Come early.

Oh! Woe is us!! Rockfish is closed now, nobody knows when it will open. Salmon will most probably be closed for the year. Sturgeon are now limited to one a year in a slot limit. The crab catch is

decreasing, and the commercials started so that is severely diminished. That leaves trout, which has been slow this winter, but Pete Gates caught a nice one almost 7 pounds. Carl Moyer, Stan Wong, and Ken Bellinder got a few. Bob Lively got some on his kayak, and a bonus 5 pound catfish, Ron Lew also kayaked for a few trout. Tom Kostik, Stan Wong, Ron Lew, Phil Scimonelli, and Harry Sherinian got stripers in the delta. Many of us enjoyed our annual Christmas Dinner at Zio Fredo. Thank you, Pete Gates for your work on this. So we wait for warmer weather to chase more trout, bass, halibut in the bay, stripers, black bass, and maybe rock fish.



Harry Sherinian with 32" Striper



Come Join Our Pickleball Group of Fun Players- To Play or Learn The Game - Every Friday!!



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/atc?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!!**

Branch Activities



Walking Tours Greg Hughes

The Walking Tours activity plans 5 events per year. In 2024, we are planning events on the following dates:

1. April 27
2. June 22
3. July 27
4. August 24
5. October 26

Here are the venues that we are currently researching:

1. Bay Model, Sausalito
2. Maritime Museum, SF Aquatic Park
3. Ukulele Concert, Bay Area
4. Presidio Walking Tour, SF Library
5. Giant's Oracle Park & Museum, SF

If you have an idea for a Walking Tour Event, please send your recommendation to either Greg Hughes (greghughes505@gmail.com) or Jim Tamulski (tamulski.james@gmail.com).



Bocce Bob Huck

We will be starting our 2024 season on Thursday, April 18 and ending on Thursday, October 17. We play every other Thursday from 10:00 am until Noon. We plan to have the same 4 teams as last year but additional players and spouses may be added. We will be playing again this year at the Clayton

Bocce Courts on Main Street in Clayton. If you did not play last year but would like to join please contact me.

Bob Huck (bhuck10@sbcglobal.net)



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Sumptuous Sunday Brunch

We rang the bells for 2024 with the first leg of Dine-O-SIR events and it was excellent. Hungry Fifty-eight members and guests enjoyed superb excellent food, service, and views at Lone Tree Golf Course Brunch. Following glasses of Mimosa/s were selections of juices, fruits, breads, salads, eggs, potatoes, vegetables, seafood, custom omelets, meats, sausages, carved beef, and with questionable tummy space – delicious desserts. This ruined my

New Year's resolution! An additional good outcome was that the Brunch was early enough for us to get back home for the NFL Championship with 49'ers going on to Super Bowl! Go Niners!

Your committee is working for Dine-O-SIR dinner for the latter part of March. We will be in touch with you with the information and flyer.

Your Dine-O-SIR committee: Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale

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)

Branch Activities



Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met in January to discuss two books, *Fever in the Heartland*, by Timothy Egan, and *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, by Walter Isaacson. Members in attendance rated *Fever in the Heartland* 4.5/5 and *Benjamin Franklin* 4.2/5.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 15**, 11:00 AM, at Boundary Oaks Golf Club, Walnut Creek. We will discuss *Wine and War* by Don & Petie Klapstrup. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or scottmclark72@gmail.com.

January book summaries

Fever in the Heartland, 2023

An historical thriller by the Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them.

The Roaring Twenties--the Jazz Age--has been characterized as a time of Gatsby frivolity. But it was also the height of the uniquely American hate group, the Ku Klux Klan. Their domain was not the old Confederacy, but the Heartland and the West. They hated Blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants in equal measure, and took radical steps to keep these people from the American promise. And the man who set in motion their takeover of great swaths of America was a charismatic charlatan named D.C. Stephenson.

Stephenson was a magnetic presence whose life story changed with every telling. Within two years of his arrival in Indiana, he'd become the Grand Dragon of the state and the architect of the strategy that brought the group out of the shadows – their message endorsed from the pulpits of local churches, spread at family picnics and town celebrations. Judges, prosecutors, ministers, governors and

senators across the country all proudly proclaimed their membership. But at the peak of his influence, it was a seemingly powerless woman – Madge Oberholtzer – who would reveal his secret cruelties, and whose deathbed testimony finally brought the Klan to their knees. *Fever in the Heartland* marries a propulsive drama to a powerful and page-turning reckoning with one of the darkest threads in American history.

Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

Benjamin Franklin is the Founding Father who winks at us. An ambitious urban entrepreneur who rose up the social ladder, from leather-aproned shopkeeper to dining with kings, he seems made of flesh rather than of marble. In bestselling author Walter Isaacson's vivid and witty full-scale biography, we discover why Franklin seems to turn to us from history's stage with eyes that twinkle from behind his new-fangled spectacles. By bringing Franklin to life, Isaacson shows how he helped to define both his own time and ours. He was, during his 84-year life, America's best scientist, inventor, diplomat, writer, and business strategist, and he was also one of its most practical—though not most profound—political thinkers.

The most interesting thing that Franklin invented, and continually reinvented, was himself. America's first great publicist, he was, in his life and in his writings, consciously trying to create a new American archetype. In the process, he carefully crafted his own persona, portrayed it in public, and polished it for posterity. In this colorful and intimate narrative, Isaacson provides the full sweep of Franklin's amazing life, from his days as a runaway printer to his triumphs as a statesman, scientist, and Founding Father.



Branch Activities



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 January at Kirk McVean's home and had six in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Earl Gore, guest, Alex Lutkus, Kirk McVean, Alan Polanger and Harry Sherinian. Their scores ranged from 279 to 403. We congratulate Alex Lutkus with his score of 403 as the first place winner.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **February 14th** at 10:00am. Contact me for the time and place as I will be traveling.

You can contact Richard Madden, maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

There were no WINE-O-SIRS events in December, and the wine tasting planned for late January had to be canceled because one of the hosts came down with COVID. We all felt it would be a good idea for the WINE-O-SIRS to avoid becoming a colony of

superspreaders so the January tasting has been rescheduled for June 27th. The next tasting event will be at 4:00 PM on **March 28th** at the home of Lou and Carole Meylan.



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

The Clinic offering in January was a club house session on Course Management on January 13 with a good turnout and a lively discussion. Our pro, Pete Assalin, led the two hour session where we explored game strategy, risk/reward considerations for each shot, options and risks when in trouble, game improvement (stroke reduction) strategies, etc. etc. Everyone enjoyed the exchange and felt it was time well spent.

Regular Clinic offerings on the Practice Range will start in late April / early May so stay tuned for more

details.

How to register and participate in 2024:

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to cdoan99@gmail.com to be added.
- Each Clinics details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to that e-mail.
- That's all there is to it ... hope you will join us in 2024 to tune up your game.

Improve your golf game in 2024!

\$UMS Investment Tom Henry (Br. 174)

Next Zoom meeting will be on February 28 at 1:30 PM.

February's meeting discussion will be:
--Does the Economy influence the election and the

markets, or does the election influence the economy and the markets?

Email Dave Sutton at avesutn@comcast.net to be included.

Branch Activities



Bridge
Jon Dickson

We play Chicago Style bridge, changing partners every 4 hands, six rounds, every **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** of the month, starting at 10:30 AM for lunch & bridge at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. All SIR's AND FRIENDS, are welcomed to join us for a fun bridge game.

On the 2nd Tuesday of February we had 17 players

with Bud Grisanti coming in first with 4,550 points and Jon Dickson came in second with 4,350 points.

Due to the calendar, our game on the 4th Tuesday, comes after this publication, and we will wait until next week to find out who will win.

Join us on Tuesday, February 27th for lunch and day of playing bridge



Book Exchange
Dick Kauffman

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The Book Exchange has free books for you. Come and browse our selection before the luncheon and see if there is anything of interest for you. If there is, take the book and bring one to the next luncheon.

Enjoy your reading,
SIR "Sherpas"



REMINDER

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to luncheon116@gmail.com

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



January Luncheon speakers Frank Falzon & Dufffy Jennings talking about SF Homicide Investigations

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf

branch116golf.org

Branch 116 Shopping Cart

sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

sirinc.org/newsletters/

Branch Activities



SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

The Golf Website is: 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.

2024 SIR Golf Dues

It is time to renew your membership with the SIR Branch 116 Golf Club.

There are three options for you:

Option 1) Cost: \$70

18-Hole Golf with an NCGA membership. Allows you to play all 18 and 9 hole events and includes membership in the NCGA, giving you an GHIN / USGA number to post scores. The Branch 116 Golf membership is \$24 and the 2024 NCGA dues is \$46.

Option 2) Cost: \$24

18-Hole Golf membership. Allows you to play all 18 and 9-hole events, but you must have an active NCGA membership with another club.

Option 3) Cost: \$24

9-Hole Golf membership. Allows you to play all 9-hole events. No NCGA membership is required.

Credit card payment will be available for all three options. Go to the SIR Branch main website and look

to the right side and click the "SHOPPING CART" tile. Then, click the "2024 Annual Golf Renewal" tile. From there, you can select which option you wish to pay for.

If you prefer, you can bring your check (no cash) to the SIR luncheon on October 16.

Or, you can send a check to the Golf post office box.

SIR BRANCH 116 GOLF

PO Box 683

Lafayette, CA 94549-0683

The deadline for joining the 2024 Golf Club is December 1, 2023. If you are currently a member of SIR Branch 116 18-hole or 9-hole golf club, and you do NOT wish to renew, please let David Harris know.

If you have any questions, please e-mail David Harris at DcHa65@gmail.com, or call him at 925 672-5543.

February 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 07	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Chris Doan
Wed. 14	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 21	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 28	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

February 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 05	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Mon. 12	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Tues. 20	9:35	San Ramon	Harry Oberle
Mon. 26	9:54	Chardonney	Harry Oberle

