



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter November 2024

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

Message from Alan

This November promises to be an eventful month, with Veterans Day, the end of Daylight-Saving Time, Election Day, and Thanksgiving.

At our November luncheon, we will be honoring the veterans in our Branch. Neil will show a video of the veterans among us. You can show your appreciation by expressing gratitude, inviting them to share their stories, recognizing their service during meetings or events, and supporting veteran-related causes. We must always be respectful and mindful of their experiences when discussing military service. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the veterans in our Branch for your service to our country—we truly appreciate your sacrifices!



The year is flying by, but we still have important events ahead. First and foremost is Election Day on November 5th, and I encourage every SIR to exercise their right to vote for the candidates and propositions of their choice. Voting is a key part of what makes our country great.

Mark your calendars! Our annual **Holiday Party**, including spouses and partners, is on **Tuesday, December 17th**. Be sure to reserve your spot early using our branch website's Shopping Cart system. Great entertainment is planned for a festive evening. Early reservations help us greatly with planning. Check the attached flyer and send in your reservation soon. The event at Boundary Oak is always a delightful way to celebrate the season, with beautiful holiday decorations. I look forward to seeing all our members and their spouses there!

Please remember to let us know ahead of time, ideally 7 days, if you can't make it to the monthly luncheon. You can call 925-322-1318 or email us at luncheon116@gmail.com.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving! Take time to reflect on all the people and things for which you are thankful. May your day be filled with gratitude, laughter, and the warmth of loved ones. Have a joyful celebration and a heart full of thanks! 🍂🌟

Alan Pope, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Nov. 18, 2024 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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Trampas Topics



Don't miss the Holiday Party December 17, 2024



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 Phil Goff	Asst. Memb. Neil Schmidt
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2024 SIR Branch Directors



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 | Sam Beret |
| • Publicity | Robin Lemmo |

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 | Paul Russell |

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
Chess	Gary Bonfiglio	
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	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Paul Russell	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Jim Tamulski
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

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	Meng Horng (Br. 8)	309-287-5654
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

Monthly Activities Calendar

November 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:15@ Newhal Community Park)	2
3	4 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	5 Don't Forget to Vote! Computer & Tech (10:00 via Zoom)	6 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	7	8 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Stone Valley Rd.) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	9
10	11 Veterans Day 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	12 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	13 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	14	15 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@Lafayette Community Ctr.)	16
17	18 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	19 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Napa Kennedy)	20 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks) Wine-O-SIR (4:00@ Breitwieser's)	21 Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek) Book Group 2 (11:00@ Bopunday Oak)	22 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Ccountrywood Shopping Ctr.) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	23
24	25 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Hiddenbrooke) Book Group 1 (10:15@! Orinda Books)	26 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	27 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	28  Thanksgiving	29	30



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 190		
Name	Action	Sponsor
Jerry Coil	New Member	Dave Williams
Zbig Mrozek	New Member	Eric Linak
Al Guzman	Resigned to join another Branch	
Rob Lemmo	Resigned due to health issues	
John Antczak	Passed away on 9/30	



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	28-Oct	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 5,119.00	\$ 57,193.82
Disbursements	\$ (6,923.05)	\$ (60,326.65)
Net (gain)/(loss)	\$ (1,804.05)	\$ (3,132.83)
October Cash Balance		\$ \$8,089.29

November Birthdays

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

1. Norm Alberts	8. Bob Haber
2. Bob Anderson	9. Bill Hayes
3. Bob Campbell	10. JJ Johnson
4. Noel Concepcion	11. Phil Perrelli
5. Bob Conlon	12. Ken Ridings
6. Steve Croshal	13. Neil Schmidt
7. Art Donaldson	14. Harvey Widroe

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 Executive Committee (BEC) Minutes - Summary

Meeting of October 21,, 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial: Branch cash balance as of 10-1-24 is \$9,893.34. Reserve balance is \$12,201.22. A proposed 2025 budget was presented by Treasurer Charlie Guthrie and discussed by BEC membership. The budget will be voted on for approval at the November meeting. • Luncheon Attendance: 102 lunches were paid. The three menu choices for lunch were Crispy Chicken Costaletta, Herb Roasted Cod, and Spinach Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti. The October luncheon was a free lunch for all past Big Sir's. Branches 8, 116 and 146 are meeting with Boundary Oak staff discussing various luncheon options in an attempt to make the monthly luncheon a more satisfying experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Lunch: A motion was made and unanimously passed that members 100 years and older will receive a free lunch for every luncheon they attend. • Membership: Current active membership is 190. • Activities: 22 activities are currently operating resulting in 30 activity days. A new activity, Computer Tech, started this month. • Holiday Party: The date of this year's Holiday Party is December 17th at Boundary Oak. A four-person committee has been formed to organize the evening's festivities. • October Speaker: The October speaker was Nik Dehejia talking about "People & Wildlife Thriving Together: Oakland Zoo's journey".
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Branch Activities



Holiday Party



SIR BRANCH 116
Tuesday, December 17
Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

No host bar Social Hour will start at 5:30 PM and Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM
House red / white wine @ \$5/glass or \$20/bottle; bar well drinks @ \$5.00, corkage \$15
Entertainment by the **FOG CITY SINGERS**, followed by DJ for dancing (8:30 to 10 PM).
Cost, just **\$85.00** per person, tax, tip included. Sign up early as maximum seats at 200 (Golf cart pick up provided from/to parking lots)



Dinner Menu

Appetizers: Crab Cakes, Spring Rolls, and Pulled Pork Sliders

Sunburst Salad: with baby greens, seasonal berries, oranges, gorgonzola cheese & poppy seed dressing

Entrée: Choice of: 1. Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet with caramelized shallot au jus or 2. Herb & Potato Crusted Chicken Breast or 3. Four Cheese & Spinach \ with tomato basil sauce (vegetarian)

Dessert: Tiramisu (Served with coffee, regular and decaf, and tea)

(Cut) -----

Holiday Party Reservation (Deadline December 6th)

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

E-Mail _____ No. Attending: ___ x \$85 = \$ _____

Please pay either by credit card using SIR Branch 116 Shopping Cart System (use "Shopping Cart" button on our Branch website at branch116.org) or by check, (make check to: SIR Branch 116 and mail your reservation/ check to: Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA94803-1930 Call or email Paul Russell if you have any questions. (925) 207-0784 or peruz@att.net

Process: Sign in at registration table and pick up envelope with name tag, table tents, dinner selection. For table selection arrive early and place table tents provided at desired table.

Luncheon Speaker

“California Supreme Court - Reporter of Decisions” by Lawrence Striley



Little SIR
Paul Russell

Our November speaker will be Mr. Lawrence Striley, Reporter of Decisions for the Supreme Court of California and the Courts of Appeals.

Lawrence previously served as a director of content development, an editorial manager and legal editor at LexisNexis, and also as an associate and principal in private law practice in West Virginia and Colorado.

Lawrence was raised in Southern California, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio/Television/Film from California State University, Long Beach, and his Juris Doctor degree from Washington & Lee University and School of Law, Lexington, Virginia. He is a member of the State Bars in Colorado, Wyoming, Virginia and West Virginia.

The reporter of Decisions is responsible for supervising the preparation of more than 12,000 California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal opinions each year. Appointed by the court, the Reporter ensures the editorial integrity of all opinions from filing through publication and posting of the them.



Dave Williams presented an Emeritus award to Matt Arena in Palo Alto. He is residing there in an Assisted Living facility.

The Clubhouse
at Boundary Oak

Luncheon Menu

Monday, November 18th

Salad

Mandarin Orange Salad-
Spinach Salad, Parmesan, Raisins, Poppysseed Dressing

Entrées

Oven Roasted Turkey
Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

—or—

Lemon Herb Baked Cod
Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon Garlic Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian Option

Creamy Tuscan Ravioli
Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried Tomato Sauce

Preset Dessert

Apple Bar

If you can't attend luncheon,
please email
luncheon116@gmail.com or
call 925-322-1318

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 Administration



**New Member Zbig Mrozek
with Sponsor Eric Linak**



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

The Sir Luncheon in November is the last luncheon for the year and therefore the last opportunity to bring your read books to share with others before the end of the year. It is also the last time for the year to get a few extra books for personal reading during the holiday times. Whatever your situation may be, the Book Exchange is available to you in offering free books on an exchange basis.

Enjoy your reading,
The Book Sherpas

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>

**In Memoriam
Marvin P. DeHaus**
Dec. 11, 1931 - Oct. 16, 2024

**In Memoriam
Lloyd George Plank**
Mar. 28, 1926 - Sept. 14, 2024

**In Memoriam
John Antczak**
Dec. 15, 1934 - Sept. 30, 2024

I Want You!



**To submit a photo of yourself in
uniform**

**(If you haven't previously submitted
one)**

**It will be used in our November
Luncheon Veteran's Video**

**Send photo to:
trampastopics@gmail.com**

Branch Administration

SIR Multi-Branch Travel Questionnaire

Many SIRs enjoy traveling with other SIRs. Multiple SIR groups have joined their efforts to increase SIR Travel. The more SIRs that fill out the questionnaire, the greater the opportunity for in-common travel destinations. If you are interested in traveling with other SIRs, can you **please fill out this travel questionnaire and email it to Glenn Breslin at glennbreslin@gmail.com** (SIR146 Travel and Activities Chair)? Trips are currently being planned, therefore, your input is integral to selecting the most appropriate SIR Travel Trips. Potential SIR Travel Trip(s), that match your questionnaire answers, will be communicated to you. A trip may then be subsequently scheduled when multiple SIRs choose the same location and share common travel requirements.

1. What SIR Branch are you in?
2. In your email reply body, can you please list the places that you want to travel to in priority order? You can list up to 4 places. Your answers can be in CA, National or International or any combination.
3. How would you like to travel? - Please choose only one response below:

- a. Land Tour by Bus
- b. Ocean Cruise
- c. River Cruise
- d. Land Tour or Ocean Cruise
- e. Land Tour or River Cruise
- f. Ocean Cruise or River Cruise
- g. Land Tour or Ocean Cruise or River Cruise

4. What season do you want to travel?

- a. Spring
- b. Summer
- c. Fall
- d. Any season

Thanks for reading so far 😊. I would like to leave you with some travel quotes:

"You can pack for every trip, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring!"

"A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed."

"It doesn't matter where you're going, it's who you have beside you."

I very much look forward to reading your travel input.

Thanks So Very Much !

Mike Ward for Glenn Breslin

SIR Branch 116 New QR Code



www.branch116.org

Try scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera to see what happens.

Get a Hardcopy of Your 2025 Newsletter

If you wish to receive, a hardcopy of the Trampas Topics newsletter mailed to your home each month, the 2025 subscription fee of \$20. Send your check, made-out to "SIR Branch 116", to our Treasurer: Charlie Guthrie at 3136 Serene Ct., Richmond, CA 94803.

Branch Activities



Community Service Jeff Johnson

"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be heard."

We had a great turn out at White Pone Express on October 10th, breaking down in-coming produce crates and packing for redistribution to food banks, kitchens and other worthy causes.

We are exploring future opportunities for us:

- Salvation Army – has a facility and pantry in Concord where we can help with stocking and sorting, and perhaps assembling food boxes.
- First Place for Youth – collecting and kitting hygiene kits for emancipated Foster children who have aged out of the county support system. I am working on the inventory list.
- Bay Area Rescue Mission – serving dinners during the holidays. We did that two years ago and had a good turn-out and everyone enjoyed the experience.

We are also working with the food bank to better arrange work days for us. Joe Datzman and I will meet with them next month.

In November, we will be at the White Pony Express

on Thursday the 14th.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Community Service Volunteer activity. Jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840

REMINDER!

Bring your food donations for the Food Bank barrel which will be located at the entrance to our lunch next Monday at Boundary Oaks.

Food Drive Most Needed Items



- Peanut Butter
- Whole Grain Cereals
- Hearty Soups
- Dried or Canned Beans
- Canned Poultry, Meat & Tuna
- Canned Fruit in Juice
- Nonperishable Ready to Eat Meals
- Canned Vegetables
- Brown Rice
- Whole Wheat Pasta
- Canned Tomato Products

PLEASE NO EXPIRED ITEMS AND NO GLASS CONTAINERS



Branch Activities



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS had a quiet October. However, we will have our final wine tasting event of the year on **Thursday, November 21st, 4:00 PM**, at the home

of Dick and Gail Breitwieser. If this sounds interesting to you, please see Dave Havlik for more details.

\$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

Due to the holidays, there will be no \$UMS in Retirement / Branch 128 Financial Zoom meeting in November and the December meeting will be on the held on the 4th.

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the

topic.

Chair: Tom Henry, Branch 174,
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dave Sutton, Branch 8,
davesutn@comcast.net



Chess Gary Bonfiglio

New Branch Activity-CHESS

Chess, a new joint branch activity with BR 8, 116, 146 was formed last month. They meet every second and fourth Fridays at Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, PH. We play in the Game Room Noon to 3 pm in the afternoon. We welcome any one from beginners to expert

players. Please remember to bring your chess set and any beverage you will enjoy during the activity. As we go forward, you will need to become a member of PH Senior Center for a modest fee of \$20 per year. Any questions, contact Gary Bonfiglio of our branch at 925-330-9612. crlbonfiglio@yahoo.com

SIR Computer & Technology

The **SIR Computer & Technology** group will have their 2nd Zoom meeting on Tuesday, November 5th at 10:00 AM.



The topic for this meeting will be "**Password Managers**" by Charlie Guthrie

Everyone should be using "complex" passwords and digital Password Managers are a great way to keep track of your passwords.

Meeting will start via Zoom at 10:00 AM but come 10-15 minutes early if you can't remember how to use Zoom or just want to chat.

Join Zoom Meeting at:

November 5 @ 10:00 AM (or 9:45 AM+)

[https://zoom.us/j/5303483737?
pwd=yDsyGxTjmKwZJ2bAWkmwCMihtj0IEO.1
&omn=94762482509](https://zoom.us/j/5303483737?pwd=yDsyGxTjmKwZJ2bAWkmwCMihtj0IEO.1&omn=94762482509)

Meeting ID: 530 348 3737
Passcode: 123456

If you haven't already signed up for the Computer & Tech mailing list, send a request to: technologyforSIR@gmail.com

Branch Activities



Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met October 17 to discuss The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley. The group voted the book 2.8/5.

A few in our group who like literary fiction were the only fans of this book. Most members felt the the back third of the book really dragged. On line reviews echoed this opinion.

The Ministry of Time, by Kaliane Bradley

In the near future, a civil servant is offered the salary of her dreams and is, shortly afterward, told what project she'll be working on. A recently established government ministry is gathering "expats" from across history to establish whether time travel is feasible--for the body, but also for the fabric of space-time. She is tasked with working as a "bridge": living with, assisting, and monitoring the expat known as "1847" or Commander Graham Gore. As far as history is concerned, Commander Gore died on Sir John Franklin's doomed 1845 expedition to the Arctic, so he's a little disoriented to be living with an unmarried woman who regularly shows her calves, surrounded by outlandish concepts such as "washing machines," "Spotify," and "the collapse of the British Empire." But with an appetite for discovery, a seven-a-day cigarette habit, and the support of a charming and chaotic cast of fellow expats, he soon adjusts. Over the next year, what the

bridge initially thought would be, at best, a horrifically uncomfortable roommate dynamic, evolves into something much deeper. By the time the true shape of the Ministry's project comes to light, the bridge has fallen haphazardly, fervently in love, with consequences she never could have imagined. Forced to confront the choices that brought them together, the bridge must finally reckon with how--and whether she believes--what she does next can change the future. An original and fun fusion of genres and ideas, The Ministry of Time asks: What does it mean to defy history, when history is living in your house? Kaliane Bradley's answer is a testament to what we owe each other in a changing world.

Book Club 2 November Meeting

Our next, and final meeting of the year, will be Thursday November 21 @ 11 am to discuss Hamnet by Maggie Farrell.

Please note, we change our location for the "rainy" season to Boundary Oak Golf Club, upper level, back of the club.

All are welcome to attend. Contact Scott Clark for more information, scottmclark72@gmail.com or 925-998-4553.



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/atcv=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

Finding New Members

Are we enjoying SIR? The luncheons, and the speaker programs, and golf, and the book groups, and... of course we are! And bocce ball, and bridge, and... well, I don't need to sell you. But what about those who aren't with us? So many men out there need what we're enjoying, so we're reaching out to all those we can to draw them in to us!

We need YOU to be part of this! Word of mouth

invitation is always best. Talk to folks! Telephone folks! Take some of our 'recruiting cards' with you and hand them out. **Bring in guests!**

Oh... and the guest enjoys a free lunch, and if he becomes a member so do you! So everyone – do your part! It's for all of us!

Brad Stribling



Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates:

- Monday, November 25... *"James"* by Percival Everett
- Monday, January 6 ... *"The Emerald Mile"* by Kevin Fedarko
- Monday, January 27 ... *"The Frozen River"* by Ariel Lawhon

Book Group #1 met on Monday October 28, 2024 in the gazebo of the Orinda Park to discuss the *"The Women"* by Kristin Hannah, a fictional account of an Army combat nurse in Viet Nam from 1967 through 1969 and her subsequent struggle with alcohol, drugs, and PTSD. Upon her return to America, she found a nation which denied there

were women in Viet Nam and was often hostile to all who served.

Steve Bort introduced the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Tod Berman, Paul Freitas, Garrett Girvan, Dick Kauffman, John Kopchik, Peter Loew, Mac Mcloughlan, John Riordan, Mike Schneider, Brad Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Noel Concepcion. Book Club #1 awarded the book 4.3 stars for this account of those years which held vivid memories for each member of the group.

Book Group #1 sends a special note of gratitude to Dan Renke. When the group learned that Orinda Books was closed from a note on its door, Dan stayed to notify latecomers that the group had moved across the street to the park.



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 Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, Harry Sherinian, 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, November 21st at 8:30am. Come early.

REMEMBER, NOVEMBER'S MEETING IS ON THE THIRD THURSDAY DUE TO THANKSGIVING!!!!

Karl Droese went to Alaska for salmon, halibut, and sable fish. Ken Bellinder and Doug Dukes went the other direction to San Cabo in Mexico for dorado and tuna. Nick Jabuka went to Monterrey for shore fishing in the surf for perch and stripers, then he went to Santa Cruz for rockfish. Gary Paleghy caught trout at Pine Crest Lake. Ron Lew got sharks in the bay, and Phil Scimonelli caught stripers on the Antioch Pier. Tom Kostik and Harry Sherinian worked for black bass in the delta. Stan Wong travelled all over the delta for stripers. Carl Moyer caught rock fish and ling cod in the ocean. Crab catching starts November 2nd.

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

October walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan Green, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

On October 11 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Walnut Creek Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. On October 18 we walked north on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Moraga Commons, with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Cafe. On October 25 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Railroad Museum, with a post-walk gathering at the Danville Black Bear Diner.

On **November 1** we will meet later at 9:15 at the Newhall Community Park and walk the loop; the post-walk gathering will be at Huckleberry's. The other November walks will meet at 9:00. On **November 8** we will meet at the Stone Valley Rd west trailhead; and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail the post-walk gathering will be at Peet's Coffee.

On **November 15** we will meet at the Lafayette Community Center and walk south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post walk gathering will be at the Town Bakery and Café in Moraga. On **November 22** we will meet at the Countrywood shopping Center and walk west on the Contra Costa Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Black Bear Diner. There will be no walk on **November 29** because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.



Bocce Bob Huck

We just finished our season on October 17. We had a great time being competitive, socializing, and having fun. After our last game we all had a lunch celebration at La Veranda Cafe in Clayton. We plan to continue again next year starting in April and

ending in October. We look forward to more players and more teams next year. Spouses and friends are welcome.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net



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 October with seven in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Earl Gore (guest), Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, Alan Polanger, and Harry Sherinian. Our scores ranged from 161 to 469. Alan was low with 218. The average score was 361.

Come join us at our next meeting on November 13th
You can contract Richard Madden,
maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

Now in its fourth year, the SIR Golf Clinic continues to support golfers of all skill levels with an opportunity to fine tune and improve your consistency and handicap. SIR Branches 116, 146 and 19 are all now participating in the Clinic.

In the fall and winter, the Clinic will offer an opportunity to Play-With-The-Pro for on course instruction and separately, a Club House session on Course Management. Then in the spring and summer of 2025, a series of Clinics will be offered to include:

- Putting & Sand Shots
- Chipping
- 50-70 Yards Short Game
- Fairway Shots
- and finally, Tee Shots

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 available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr.

Skill Level: All from low handicappers to high handicappers

Clinic Fees: \$30 for one hour Clinic

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.

If you have other questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Chris Doan
cdoan99@gmail.com
602-908-0292



Bridge Jon Dickson

Chicago Style bridge with SIR's is played every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, starting at 10:30 AM at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. All bridge players are encourage to join us for lunch & bridge.

Next game is **November 12th**. Do join us for a fun day of bridge.

Branch Activities

2025 Annual Golf Membership Dues

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

There are three options for you:

Option 1) Cost: \$82

18-Hole Golf with an NCGA membership.

Option 2) Cost: \$36

18-Hole Golf membership with NCGA from elsewhere.

Option 3) Cost: \$36

9-Hole Golf membership only.

Go to the Golf website for more info:

<https://branch116golf.org/membership-faq/>

Pay via Shopping Cart (+3% added) or check at the November 18 Luncheon, or send check to:

SIR BRANCH 116 GOLF
PO Box 683
Lafayette, CA 94549-0683

The deadline for joining the 2025 Golf Club is December 1, 2024.

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.



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Dine-O-SIR met at Kacha Thai Bistro on Thursday, October 24th and it was the finale Dine-O-SIR of

2024.

Sign up for the Holiday Party on December 17th.



43 Members & their significant others enjoying Kacha Thai Bistro on October 24

Branch Activities



SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

We have an active golf organization consisting of 18-hole and 9-hole groups. A small annual donation is required to play in either group. The 18-hole group plays once a week in a Tournament format with play alternating between local courses and courses that may be 10 to 50 miles away.

In addition to the Tournament format, Special Events such as Match Play, Best Ball, Scramble, and others are also periodically scheduled.

Those playing in the 18-hole group must be members of the Northern California Golf

Association (NCGA) and establish a handicap index. You may join the NCGA through our SIR club or through another club.

Foursomes in both the 18-hole and 9-hole groups are arranged so that players can meet and enjoy playing with most, if not all, the other players in the branch.

All our events are listed in the Trampas Topics and on our web site at branch116.org/116-golf. Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.



9-Hole Golf

Dick Chaffee

The 9 Hole Golf Club is open to SIR golfers of all levels. We play every Wednesday morning except holidays at 4 courses in the area. This year, each month, we are playing Pleasanton Golf Club, Diablo Hills, Buchanan Fields and Dublin Ranch. Our first tee time is 10:00am. Some months have a fifth Wednesday. On the fifth Wednesdays, we schedule

special 9 hole events at courses in the area.

If you would like to play 9 hole golf, please contact Dick Chaffee, the 9 hole golf chairman, (925)-932-5087.

If you would like more information on 9 hole golf, please visit our Branch 116 golf web site.

Golf Website

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.

November 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 06	10:00	Pleasanton	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 13	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 20	10:00	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 27	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

November 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 04	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Mon. 11	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Tues. 19	10:00	Napa Kennedy	Harry Oberle
Mon. 25	10:00	Hiddenbrooke	Harry Oberle