



# SIR BRANCH 171

## February 2019

<http://branch171.sirinc2.org/>

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation for Retired Men Devoted to the  
Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



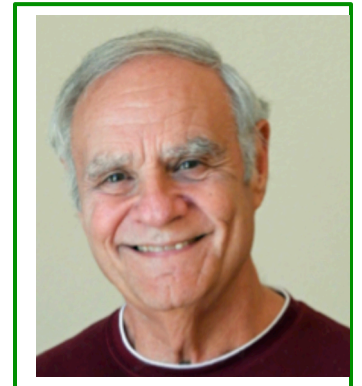
### Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **February 6** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

1700 School St., Moraga  
Social time begins at 11  
Meeting begins at 11:30

#### **BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN**

My Fellow SIR 171 Members,

The new Sirs State President, Ed Benson, has set a 2019 goal to stop the decline in State membership (4% per year). To address that and other items he held a Leadership Meeting at Rossmoor on January 18. There were 25 key Branch leaders/others that attended. The following questions were addressed:



1. How to ensure we get the right Big Sirs as Branch Leaders?
2. How to reverse our continued net membership loss?
3. How to improve volunteerism at all levels of Sir?
4. How to reduce the median age of Sir members

The group provided recommendations to the Sirs State Board in all four areas with emphasis on the key role of the Nominating Committee, broadening the market for future Sirs members, and increased emphasis on recognition for those who contribute to Branch success.

The State Sirs leadership team voted to eliminate the “inactive” title for members not present at a set number of luncheons per year. All members will now be called “active” whether or not they attend luncheons or Branch activities. Our insurance coverage is driving this change since those that had been identified as “inactive” were not covered if they attended limited lunches or just branch activities. The process as it affects current inactive members will be reviewed by the BEC.

Sirs is continuing to offer the opportunity for members to make contributions for SIR members affected by the recent fires in the Chico area. Please make your contribution via the following link -- <http://bit.ly/Donate2ParadiseSirs>

We are exploring with Branch 174 the use of the Serbian church for the next Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon in order to reduce our cost per person.

Although it is early 2019, we want to identify a Branch 171 Little Sir for 2020 when Rick Fend becomes Big Sir. Please let me or Tom Marnane know of your interest.

Our greeters at the February meeting will be Al Donner and Chris Lyne.

*Barry Leskin, Big SIR*

---

## LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

The speaker on January 2 will be **Gisela Zebrowski**, who will present a program titled:

### **“The Berlin Airlift, the Candy Bomber, and I”**

In 1948 Stalin challenged the West to a showdown between communism and democracy. Berlin set the stage. By blocking all land access routes to the Western Zones of Berlin, Stalin took 2.3 million Berliners hostage - doomed to starve to death unless the West surrendered their territory to the Soviets. A massive blackmail.

Over the following 11 months the Allies airlifted 4.6 billion pounds of supplies to Berlin, thus sparing West Berlin from Soviet occupation. By treating the hungry children of West Berlin to candy, Lt. Hal Halverson, turned former enemies to friends and the airlift to a joint venture. He is known as the CANDY BOMBER.



*Rick Fend, Little SIR*

**JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS** -- club photographer Russ Aubry was on vacation; thus, no meeting photos this month.

## Featured Photo of the Month



A Hearty group of SIRS Walkers verified that the mighty Moraga waterfall was turned on, Tuesday, Jan. 22 on their weekly wander. This time they walked on the L-M Trail, a 2 1/2 mile walk with immensely thoughtful conversation and incredible bits of wisdom about the world.

They followed the walk as usual with coffee at SiSi's.

The SIRS walk group is open to all SIRS members - just show up on Tuesday morning at 9 am in the big parking lot across School Street from the church.

## FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

### FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MENU

Lasagne with meat; Caesar Salad; Garlic Bread; Fresh Roasted Vegetables  
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad; Dessert

### FEBRUARY SIRS BIRTHDAYS

**Gene Bell --- Lee De Mara --- Ed Drasin --- Dan Flower --- Wayne Hahn**

**Jim Hardy --- Paul Oxley --- Alan Traenkner --- Bob Traynor --- Francis Wong**

One of the above members with a birthday in February will win a free lunch if he attends the February meeting. Members whose birth month is in February, and who do not see their name in the above list, should contact the Big SIR prior to the meeting to ensure that their names are included in the drawing. **NOTE:** Members 90 years of age or more will receive a free lunch on their birth month each year, but they must notify the Big SIR prior to the meeting. Big SIR Barry Leskin can be reached at [barryleskin@gmail.com](mailto:barryleskin@gmail.com).

### GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

#### **\$15 Luncheon fee for first time guest**

The first time a guest attends a meeting the lunch fee is \$15. The regular luncheon fee will be charged for subsequent visits as a guest.

*If you are inviting a guest don't forget to call the hotline at 925-377-5880. Provide the name of your guest and let us know if he is a first time guest.*

## BRANCH REPORTS

### ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 88 attendees at the last meeting, which included 86 members, one speaker, and one guest. There were two inductees. There were 24 no-shows and 32 excused sign-outs. 61% of our membership attended.

This was a discouraging start to 2019. The problem was an exceptionally high number of no-shows. We thus missed our newly negotiated minimum number of 110 lunches.

**PLEASE CALL THE SIR 171 "HOT LINE" at 925-377-5880 BEFORE 1:00PM ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE MEETING IF YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE MEETING OR IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE WILL SUBJECT THE MISSING MEMBER TO THE \$25 NO SHOW CHARGE.** It is not necessary to call the HOT LINE if you have placed your name on the "Absence Notification" sheet at a prior meeting. Leave a message as soon as you can if the absence is due to a medical reason. **Please note:** If you are requesting a SIR membership status change, contact Stew Chalem, Membership Chair (377-0698) rather than calling the SIR 171 HOT LINE.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Krompholz**

**DECEMBER 2018**

Beginning	6,691
Receipts	(27)
Disbursements	(295)
Ending	6,369

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

---

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT: STEW CHALEM**  
JOHN SCHICK

**ACTIVE**

Prior Month:	140
Inductees	1 David Zeimer (#8), Sponsor, Eric Cho (#28) David is transferring from Br. 174. 1 Alan Kite (#43), Returning Member
From Inactive:	None
Deductions	None
<b>Total, This Month:</b>	<b><u>142</u></b>

**INACTIVE**

Prior Month:	33
Additions:	None
Deductions	None
<b>Total, This Month:</b>	<b><u>33</u></b>

**APPLICATIONS AWAITING INDUCTION (This Meeting)**

David Zeimer (#8), Sponsor, Eric Cho (#28) David is transferring from Br. 174.  
Alan Kite #43), Returning Former Member

**APPLICANT LIST**

Bob Schwab (Former member), Sponsor, Karl Droese (#108)  
Pending.

**NOTES**

Walt Sasser, Deceased, active Branch 174 member, joined Branch 171 at age 59.

---

Membership Application Forms are always available at the desk at the meetings, or from Stew Chalem.

**ROSTER CORRECTIONS: STEW CHALEM**

**NOTE:** Please contact Stew Chalem whenever your personal information changes (i.e. email address, home address, and/or phone number) or whenever you wish a membership status change (i.e. to request inactive status or to resign). Stew will in turn update the master Roster.

---

## **SUNSHINE REPORT: MONTE LOGAN**

### **Branch 171**

- As reported earlier, it was sad to report the passing of **SIR Bill Howard**. He joined Br. 171 in the year 2000 and remained on the active list until his passing at age 92. A private burial was held. His obituary is listed in the Dec. 23rd East Bay Times and may be viewed via cutting and pasting the following link into your internet browser -- <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/eastbaytimes/obituary.aspx?n=william-howard&pid=191024908>
- It is very sad to report the passing of **SIR Bill Bondy** on Thursday, Jan. 17th. He underwent a serious surgery; after the operation he was at the Orinda Convalescent Hospital where he was placed under hospice care. Bill joined SIR's Branch 171 in 2002 and ran our Bocce Ball Activity for many years.
- **SIR's Tom Keele** and **Al Simonsen** are being treated for medical problems. We wish them the best in treatment.
- It was good news as **SIR Tom Lenz** was at our January meeting after several months recovering from a heart operation.
- We also note that our Sunshine Chairman, **SIR Monte Logan**, had eye surgery on Jan. 15 and is now doing well.

### **Branch 174**

- There will be a celebration of life for **SIR Walt Sasser** on Saturday, February 16 at 12 Noon at the Lafayette Veterans Hall. His obituary is available by cutting and pasting the following link into your internet browser — <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/eastbaytimes/obituary.aspx?n=walter-joseph-sasser&pid=191281680>
- **SIR Marv Ellenberg** is doing well and is home after being treated for pneumonia.

•••Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. A friendly call is welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you are aware of an ill SIR, please let Monte Logan know by e-mail or phone.

## **KNOW YOUR SIRs**

### **DAVID ZEIMER**

David Zeimer was born in San Francisco, California on March 18, 1949. He grew up in the Sunset district, attended Lincoln High, then graduated from San Francisco State University in 1971 with a degree in Marketing.

He went into the women's garment business as a manufacturer's representative and from 1971 to 1982 traveled Northern California to sell his wares to women specialty stores and Department Stores. David reminisces that most of the stores like Capwell's, Grodins, and Liberty House are now gone.

In 1982, he and his childhood best friend decided to go into business for themselves, selling women's sportswear and dresses. He was enticed to join the manufacturer Byer California in 1989 as national sales manager for one of their biggest divisions. He also ran their production department and was their Human Resources Director for 11 years. David worked at Byer California for 25 years and retired in June, 2014.

David met Renee in 1981 and married a year later. They have two grown children: Jamie, living in San Diego, and Hilary, living in Denver, Colorado. David and his wife have lived in Moraga since 1984. David enjoys golf, travel, his grandchildren, hiking and walking. His interest in history leads him to attend frequent Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) classes in Concord.

David is a transfer from SIR 174.

**Know Your SIR is edited by Dave Humm [dmh2@silcon.com](mailto:dmh2@silcon.com) 376-5895.** We would like to have all of our members, who wish to do so, be included in this directory. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page) and provide it to Dave (via e-mail if possible). It will then be written up in a future newsletter. Dave has copies of all past "Know Your SIR" reports. Access to them is available via e-mail; or a hard copy can be had for the cost of printing.

---

**BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER:** Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG.** The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. E-mail to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net) is preferred.

Also enjoy reading SIR Happenings, our State Newsletter, and find out about all the fun things that are going on throughout our organization. You can find the most recent edition of SIR Happenings on our SIR State website -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- [www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/) Some very interesting articles highlighting news of interest from other SIR branches including several of our branches in Area 2. Send comments and article to [jlsabo2@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo2@comcast.net) or [HappeningsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:HappeningsEditor@gmail.com)

---

## **BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)**

**ACTIVITY LIST** *(items in blue are informational; items in red have updated information)*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">Apple Users Activity</a>       | <a href="#">Astronomy</a>                  |
| <a href="#">Barbershop Harmony</a>         | <a href="#">Bocce Ball</a>                 |
| <a href="#">Book Club</a>                  | <a href="#">Bowling</a>                    |
| <a href="#">Bridge – Social</a>            | <a href="#">Bridge – ACBL Duplicate</a>    |
| <a href="#">Computers &amp; Technology</a> | <a href="#">Couples Dining Out</a>         |
| <a href="#">Dominos</a>                    | <a href="#">Fishing</a>                    |
| <a href="#">Golf – 18 Holes</a>            | <a href="#">Golf – 9 Holer</a>             |
| <a href="#">Historical Adventures</a>      | <a href="#">Investment Group</a>           |
| <a href="#">Pinochle</a>                   | <a href="#">Poker</a>                      |
| <a href="#">Stamp Club</a>                 | <a href="#">Table Pool</a>                 |
| <a href="#">Tennis</a>                     | <a href="#">Travel</a>                     |
| <a href="#">Walking – Original Group</a>   | <a href="#">Walking – Senior Strollers</a> |
| <a href="#">Walking – Big Hikers</a>       | <a href="#">Wine Tasting</a>               |

**ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: SAM ZORICH (BR. 171)**



The Activity Chairman's role is to keep in close contact with each of the chairmen of the branch activities in order to understand what they are doing and how things are going, to determine if they are planning any special activities that they want to communicate to the rest of the Branch, and to determine if there is anything special that requires assistance. Also, the Chair keeps in communication with the other branches in the area to determine if there are additional activity announcements that should be made to our branch.

The Chair is always looking for suggestions for additional activities (e.g. Chess, Cooking, Current Events Discussions, etc etc), and is the focal point to communicate with if you would like to chair any of the open activity groups.

**APPLE USERS ACTIVITY: DICK MACY** (Br. 171)  
JOE TRACY (BR. 174)



Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 4th Monday of odd number months from 10:00 a.m. to noon. [Our next meeting will be held on March 25.](#) The meetings are held in the conference room of the Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor's Office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, adjacent to the fire station and across from El Charro restaurant. Enter through the left side door at top of steps.

The meetings focus on Apple/Mac computers, iPhones, iPads, and other Apple devices. Meetings include a roundtable on products, applications, rumors, issues, problems, and Q & A. Special discussions will occur after major product announcements and developer conferences.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

---

**ASTRONOMY:** (OPEN) Br. 171  
GEORGE COBB (Br. 174)  
**BILL HUNTER** (Area 16 - Br. 8)



We meet the [second Monday of each month](#) in the Tilden Room at the Concord Hilton Hotel on Diamond Boulevard. Our meetings commence at 1:30. Please join us for an entertaining meeting. All are welcome. Call or e-mail George ([GECBlue@aol.com](mailto:GECBlue@aol.com)) for details and further information.

---

**BARBERSHOP HARMONY: BRAD DEWEY** (Br. 171)  
RON LEIKER (Br. 174)



The SIRpremes are a barbershop octet, composed of members from both 171 and 174, that sing songs in four-part harmony. By having two people on each part, the problems caused by absences are greatly reduced – obviously. The group's self-determined purpose has been to periodically add a little variety to the monthly luncheon meetings of Branches 171 and 174.

[The group meets every Tuesday at 3:00 pm at Brad Dewey's.](#) Contact Brad Dewey, Sam Zorich, or Ron Leiker for additional information.

---

**BOCCE BALL:** STEVE PATTON Br. 171  
ED PROTIVA (Br. 174)



**BOCCE PLAY IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.**

**WILL BEGIN NEXT APRIL OR MAY**

[When in season, Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday.](#) The group meets at 10 am, just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons, located at the corner of Moraga Road & St Mary's Rd (next to the bandstand). The cost is all of \$2; the game is really easy to learn and is great fun, including a lot of good chat. You can be a part of this great group of guys, and can play on either or both days.

The Bocce game consists of 4 players on each court, creating 2 teams of 2 members each. Each team has one player at each end of the court. It is quite easy to learn.

---

**BOOK CLUB:** **BOB KROMPHOLZ** (Br 171 co-chair)  
**AL DESSAYER** (Br 171 co-chair)



The group develops a twelve month calendar of agreed upon book selections with each member hosting a book review where we will discuss his book. An attempt is made to vary the selections to include the latest best sellers as well as some classics and non fiction.

Each member selects a book he has read or would like to read and suggests it to other members, who will then read the book and be ready for discussion at subsequent meetings. This is a great way not only to diversify your reading enjoyment, but also to discuss your comments and ideas with other intelligent, curious, cerebral fellows like yourself.

Book reviews are usually scheduled on the **last Wednesday of the month @ 7-8pm**. There are currently 12 members of the club. Contact Bob or Al if you are interested in joining.

---

**BOWLING:**

(OPEN) Br. 171

**AREA 2: MIKE CROFF** (Area)



Area 2 Tournament and league bowling is held at Clayton Valley Bowl **every Wednesday**. Be there at 9:30 am. More members are welcome. Call for more information.

---

**BRIDGE -- SOCIAL:** **JOHN SCHICK** (Br. 171)



The group meets at the Moraga Hacienda on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of each month**. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at **10:00 am**. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call John for further information

Over the years attrition has taken its toll, so at this time we are looking for new players. If you have ever played bridge in your life or are still playing, please consider joining us, regardless of what level you play at.

We play for fun and though we may give advice, we never criticize. Some of us play conventions, many play mostly basic bridge. Please contact John Schick if you are interested and we will get you signed up. (see *Organization chart for contact information*).

If transportation is an issue, let us know and, if possible, we can arrange rides. The group meets at the Moraga Hacienda on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at 10:00 am. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call John for further information.

---

**BRIDGE – ACBL DUPLICATE**

(OPEN) Br. 171

**TOM HENRY** (Br. 174)



From Tom Henry -- I am happy to announce a new Area 16 Activity open to all SIR members and guests. An ACBL\* sanctioned duplicate bridge game will be held on the first **Tuesday of the month** beginning February 5, 2019. This is an official game and will be played in accordance with the ACBL's Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Masterpoints will be awarded to the top three pairs.

The game will be held at the Contra Costa Bridge Center; First Christian Church Fellowship Hall; 3039 Willow Pass Rd.; Concord, CA. Registration will begin at 9:15AM. A lesson is available from Ravi Bhalla at 9:30AM. The game will begin at 10:00AM. The cost is \$7.00 plus \$2.00 if you take the lesson.

The Area 16 chairman is Tom Henry of branch #174 and the game director is Conrad Robertson of branch #116. \* ACBL -- American Contract Bridge League

---



---

**COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY:** (OPEN) Br. 171  
**NEIL SCHMIDT** (Area - Br 116)



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where we discuss applications for computers and technology. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic covering everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to learn about new technology and to also get answers to your computer questions or problems.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 21. The presentation topic will be "**Smart Home Starter Kit**" by Neil Schmidt. There are many new and creative smart home devices that may be added to an existing home for added convenience, improved home security and increased energy efficiency. Neil is going to present some examples of devices available, their cost and "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) steps needed to implement both a simple, as well as a fully integrated, smart home ecosystem. Using automation, motion detection, geofencing, and other control techniques, smart home systems can be fun to implement and extremely useful.

Presentation notes should be available on the CAT Web page ([a2cat.sirinc2.org](http://a2cat.sirinc2.org)) several days prior to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 AM, Thursday September 20.. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

-----

Information about the group, including current and past presentations, is available on the SIR Area 2 Computes and Technology website -- <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/> Make sure you are on the CAT mailing list by sending an e-mail request to: [sir.area2.cat@gmail.com](mailto:sir.area2.cat@gmail.com)

-----

**COUPLES DINING OUT SAM ZORICH** (Br. 171)



Nine couples dined at the Claremont Country Club on Wednesday, Jan. 16. The evening was arranged by Joan and Fred Patton. The March dinner will be at Zio Fraedos Restaurant. Date to be announced

The group dines out every other month at a fine location in the East Bay. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

-----

**DOMINOES TOM WESTHOFF** (BR 171)

The SIR 171 Domino group meets every Thursday at Moraga Royale from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Contact Tom Westhoff for further information.

-----

**FISHING: KARL DROESE** (Br. 171) HARRY SHERINIAN (Area 16)

All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 28th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30am. You can order breakfast and have it served in the meeting room.

Whether you fly fish, spin fish, troll or bait fish there will be events of interest. If you are new to fishing or are interested in trying a different type of fishing we have experienced and knowledgeable members happy to share their expertise, and even their equipment. With over 100 events scheduled throughout the year, some type of fishing is available almost every week.

**January Results:** Very few ventured out in the stormy weather and those that did were not successful. Our January activities also included a trip to the International Sportsmens Expo in Sacramento and a speaker from the Golden Gate Salmon Association at our breakfast meeting.



**Activities Scheduled for February and March:** Several SF Bay and Delta trips on private boats, and six packs for stripers and sturgeon; trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs and at San Pablo; Lafayette and Contra Loma Reservoirs. A fly fishing show in Pleasanton; A lunch at Barbara's Fish Trap; and a trip to Fisherman's Warehouse and Bass Pro Shop.

-----

**GOLF – 18 HOLES: GENE BELL** (Br. 171)  
**BILL WADSWORTH** (Br. 174)



Our officers for 2019 are Bill Wadsworth, Interim Chair; Steve Wright, Vice Chair; Ron Leiker returns as Handicap Chair; and Bill Wadsworth, Treasurer. We are always looking for new members of any skill level to come out and play with our fun group. Check out our website at [www.sirlamorindagolf.com](http://www.sirlamorindagolf.com).”

The schedule for February includes Deer Ridge on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Rancho Diablo on the 18, plus play on most or all of the remaining Mondays.

The SIR 171/174 golf website ( [www.sirlamorindagolf.com](http://www.sirlamorindagolf.com) ) includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2017 schedule, the results of prior events, and other pertinent information for members and prospective members.

---

**GOLF – 9 – HOLER: \_TIM FREEMAN** (BR. 171)



For those that don't want to play 18 holes, or want to play a shorter course on occasions, there is a 9 hole group that meets each Friday morning at Diablo Hills Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Tim Freeman coordinates this and sends out a note to all members on his interested party list each week, a few days before the game, to see who is interested in playing. Lunch follows at the Diablo Hills clubhouse. Contact Tim ([timfre@comcast.net](mailto:timfre@comcast.net) ) if you would like to be added to the interested party list.

---

**HISTORICAL ADVENTURES: JIM KLINE** (Br 171 co-chair)  
**KEN FISCHER** (Br 171 co-chair)



The group focuses on highly popular and educational tours. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Port Chicago National Memorial, Computer History Museum, and Oakland Aviation Museum are some of the sites that have been included in the past.

Please inform Jim or Ken if you have requests or suggestions for additional adventures.

---

**INVESTMENT GROUP:** (OPEN) Br. 171  
**TOM HENRY** (Br. 174)  
**DAVID SUTTON** (Br-8)



shutterstock · 104489462

\$UMS in Retirement meets again on [Wed Feb. 27](#) at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

Our speaker will be Jamshed Gandhi, CPA. He's the Branch 8 member who spoke to us last January about the new tax law. A significant amount of Jamshed's services are related to income and estate taxes, retirement planning, wealth preservation and business valuations. He will update us on the law and help us prepare for the 2018 tax filing season.

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

**BTW, we ask that everyone donate \$2 each month to cover expenses.** We pay the restaurant \$40 each time in lieu of tips and rent. If everyone pays, we break even with 20 attendees. But not everyone pays and we're going in the hole. Please remember the donation box.

Information about the group, including past and current presentations, is available on the \$UMS website -- <http://a2sums.sirinc2.org/> \_\_\_

---

**POKER:**

OPEN) Br. 171  
**DICK MEDEL** (Br. 174) & **BILL WIEGMANN** (Br. 174)



Our low-stakes poker group meets the **fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 4:30pm**. We meet at various locations. To join us please contact Dick or Bill for information.

---

**STAMP and COIN GROUP:** **LARRY BEANS** (Br. 171) STAMPS  
**BRUCE BERMAN** (BR 171) COINS



We usually meet on the **Friday following the Branch 171 monthly meeting at 9:30 am**. The group meets at Larry Beans' home at 20 Carr Drive in Moraga. Please call Larry questions and a possible change of meeting schedule.

---

**TABLE POOL:** (OPEN) Br. 171  
AREA 16: **BILL WEINBERG**



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet **each Monday at 11:30 am** at Masse's – 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs are welcome.

---

**TENNIS:** (OPEN) (Br. 171)  
**RALPH THORNICROFT** (Br. 174)



The Tennis Group plays at St. Mary's College **every Tuesday and Thursday. Times vary between 8:00am and 8:30am, depending on the weather**. Players are at varying skill levels, mostly around the 3.0 range. Members' wives are invited to join us, so let them know they are welcome. Call Jim or Ralph for information.

---

**TRAVEL:** (OPEN) Br 171  
JOE TRACY Br 174)  
**TOM MOLINARI** (Area 16)



**Trips currently scheduled in 2018-19 and sponsored by our SIRs Area 16 follow:**

**May 2-13, 2019: 12 Day Cruise and Land Tour.** Including a 8-day Mediterranean Cruse aboard the Crystal Serenity sailing from Athens to Rome with a one night pre-cruise stay in Athens and two night stay in Rome. Port stops include Navplion, Santorini, Valletta, Taormina and Sorrento. Cost is \$5350 to \$7595 which includes all beverages restaurants, room service, entertainment, gratuities, fitness center, and enrichment classes. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

**June 1-18, 2019: Machu Picchu & the Galapagos.** Small ship adventure to Lima, Cazco, Machu Picchu Quito and 4 night Galapagos Cruise. Cost is \$6,995 including airfare, transfers and taxes, 38 meals, 21 small group activities , 2 local Trip Leaders, gratuities for local guides , drivers, ship crew and luggage porters. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

**Aug 23-Sep3,2019: 12 Day Land and Sea Scenic Alaska Adventure.** 4-day pre-cruise Denali Tour followed by an 8-day cruise from Anchorage to Vancouver on the Crystal Symphony. Ports of call include Seward, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Tracy Arms Glacier. Cost of \$5250 to \$6425 now includes everything. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897

---

The quarterly **State SIR Happenings** travel web page at [http://www.sirinc.org/new\\_site/travel.html](http://www.sirinc.org/new_site/travel.html) offers additional SIR travel options. Be sure to check these tours out!!

---

**WALKING:** *There are three walking groups. There is a group for each of us based on our needs and abilities*

**WALKING – ORIGINAL GROUP**

**AL DONNER** (Br. 171)  
**LYLE DECK** (Br. 174)



**Rain rules now in play.** That is, if it is raining on Tuesday mornings when we walk, our default exercise drill is to meet in front of **Nation's** in the Rheem Shopping Center. We walk the full length of the Rheem Center back and forth a couple of times, then coffee in Nation's. The idea is to stay under the ample overhangs of the shopping center and stay dry while we get exercise. Usually we announce it in advance, but changing weather conditions occasionally prevent us from notifying the herd, so if it is raining and we are not at the usual Tuesday meeting place, Rheem is where you will find us.

If you feel left out of something good, come join the group. Just show up across from the Serbian Church by **9 am any Tuesday** and you are good to go. No initiation fees, hazing or other sophomoric rituals, just walking and talking and coffee after. The group walks for about three miles.

And if you want a slower pace, try the SENIOR STROLLERS group. If you want to try a faster pace, try the BIG HIKERS group.

---

**WALKING -- SENIOR STROLLERS:** (OPEN) (Br 171) Al Donner oversees the activity.



Meets **every Wednesday** at 9:15 AM for a casual slower-paced, shorter distance, level-land, sidewalk group of walkers. No plans ahead. Just meet in front of SiSi's at 9:15 every Wednesday morning to walk and then have coffee.

If you want a longer walk, try the WALKING group. For an even longer walk, with some elevation, try the BIG HIKERS group.

---

**WALKING -- BIG HIKERS:** **AL DONNER** (Br. 171)



One of three SIRS walking groups, the Big Hikers aims to engage SIRS who want some longer and stronger routes than our two around-town walking groups. The "**Big Hikers**" offer opportunities to do some hikes more than 3 miles in length and sometimes do a little more elevation. They can be further afield, Mt. Diablo or other regional parks, such as Vasco Caves. The Big Hikers operate on a varied schedule, trying to do a couple hikes each month. They go to interesting places as the spirit moves us. Contact Al Donner (to get the on the Big Hikers notice list. If you want a slower pace, try either the WALKING or the SENIOR STROLLERS group. **BIG HIKER walks are scheduled periodically.**

---

**WINE TASTING: GENE BELL** (Br. 171)  
**JON LEUTENEKER** (Br. 174)



There are now two wine tasting groups. Both are couples events and normally held in-home starting about 7:00 p.m. with a cost per person averaging about \$15. Jon Leuteneker is chairman of the group that meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** - this group has a full roster. Gene Bell is chairman of the group that meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** - membership in this group

## Activity Calendar -- February 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	Next meeting Mar 25				
Astronomy	2nd Monday of month				
Barbershop Harmony		Every Tuesday of month			
Bocce Ball	Closed for the season. Will begin next April or May. Tuesdays and Fridays				
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling			Every Wednesday of month		
Bridge		2nd & 4th Tuesday of month			
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate		2nd Tuesday - next is Feb. 5			
Computers and Technology				Next meeting Feb 21	
Couples Dining Out	March -- date TBD				
Dominoes				Every Thursday of month	
Fishing				4th Thursday of month	
Golf	Each Monday				
Golf - 9 Holers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	None scheduled				
Investment Group			Feb. 27		
Poker			4th Wednesday of month		
Stamp & Coin Club					First Friday after Club Meeting
Table Pool	Every Month of month				
Tennis		Every Tuesday of month		Every Thursday of month	
Travel	No meetings scheduled. Only trips				
Walking - Original Group		Every Tuesday of month			
Walking -- Senior Strollers			Every Wednesday of month		
Walking -- Big Hikers	As scheduled				
Wine Tasting		2nd & 3rd Tuesday of month			