



SIR BRANCH 171

December 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, January 8
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

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

The annual SIR Branch 171/174 LADIES DAY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

will be held on Wednesday, December 18

**The sign-up form is on the last page of this newsletter and also attached
to this newsletter mailing. SIGN UP BEFORE DECEMBER 8**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The first meeting of 2020 will NOT be on Wednesday, January 1

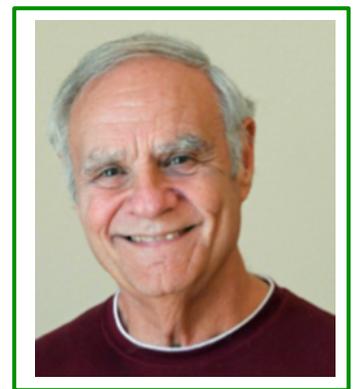
The meeting will be held the following Thursday, January 8

Same time and place where we have all our meetings

BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN

My Fellow SIR 171 members,

This is my last Big SIR Newsletter article as my term completes at the end of the year. Rick Fend will assume the Big SIR leadership role in January and will work in partnership with your 2020 Little SIR, Graig Crossley. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Big SIR the past 2 years. I want to thank the BEC team for helping to ensure things ran smoothly and to the entire membership for helping ensure we have one of the best SIR branches.



Membership: We now have 145 active members and our annual membership of 145 has remained fairly stable. We had an average 67% lunch attendance and 22 luncheon guests. I ask for your assistance to help improve those numbers next year.

Caterer: We will have a new caterer in January. Humberto has provided us with fine meals and service, but it was necessary to make a change to align with our luncheon attendance numbers. Our new caterer has been serving Branch 174 for some time and is excellent. This change should allow us to address the declining financial balance we have been experiencing.

Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon: Our Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon with Branch 174 is coming up on December 18. The deadline for signups is approaching, so please sign up soon. The Devil Mountain Chorus will again entertain us. For any questions, please contact Ed Beatson.

January Meeting: Please remember. Our first meeting in January has been moved to January 8, the second Wednesday of the New Year. Same location and time.

Thank You John Schick: Our thanks to John Schick for the many years of valuable contributions to the BEC. John will be resigning his BEC post at the end of the year, but will still be available to assist in guiding us in the future. He has been enormously helpful to me and the BEC with the experience and knowledge he has about our Branch and the SIR organization – “*the conscience of our 171 Branch*”.

SIR Bios: We have collected new member bios over the years that have been included in the newsletter shortly after the new member induction. The BEC has approved storing those bios in the member-protected area of the Club website to allow member to learn about their fellow SIR members. You may wish to update your bio or opt out of having your bio stored. Please see the Announcement Section of the newsletter for information about the storage of the bios.

Ride-Share Program: Last month we announced a new program we plan to launch in early 2020, a program that focuses on providing rides to the monthly luncheons for those members who are unable to provide their own transportation. Rich Bellows will coordinate the program. Please contact Rich if you would like to use the luncheon ride-share program or especially if you *can assist by driving others*. Rich can be reached by email at rich.bellows@gmail.com or by phone or text to 970-219-9254.

Best of holidays to you and your family.

Barry Leskin, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

No December meeting and program. We have some excellent speakers lined up the 2020. Best wishes to all of you for a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year.

Rick Fend, Little SIR



ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon

The annual Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center on Wednesday, December 18. Luncheon details and the sign-up form are contained on the last page of this newsletter and also as an attachment to this newsletter mailing. Sign up for yourself, yourself and a guest, or to reserve a table of eight for you and your buddies. Also, there will be a singles table this year.

Ed Beatson is the Branch 171 contact for questions and for sign-ups. Get those sign-up forms to Ed by December 8. Ed's mailing address is on the form. Please note there is a request for parking passes on the form.

SIR Bios

Bios were created for most of the SIR 171 members shortly after joining the branch. They were subsequently shared with the membership in the monthly newsletter. The objective has been to allow the current members to learn some meaningful information about the new member.

These bios have been stored by the "Know Your Share Chairman" but were not easily assessable by new members or current members. The BEC voted at the October Board Meeting to store these bios in the member protected area of the club website. This capability will allow each of us to learn more about our fellow SIR members. Other documents that are currently in the member area are the club member directory and organization chart

The target date to store the bios in the member area of the website is January 31. Please contact our "Know Your SIR Chairman", Rich Bellows, at rich.bellows@gmail.com or by phone or text at 970-219-9254, before January 15 if you would like to update your bio or would like to opt out of having your bio stored for member access.

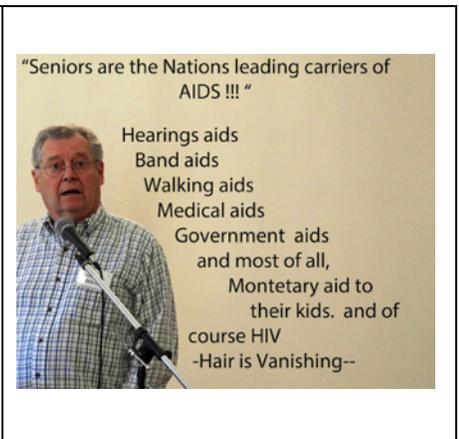
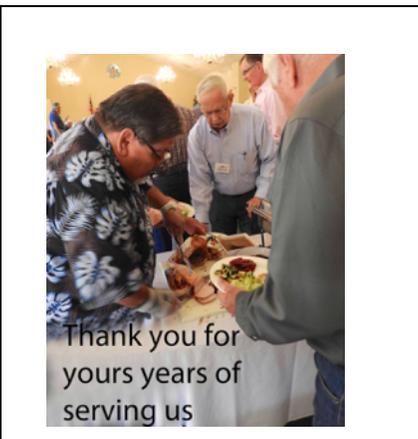
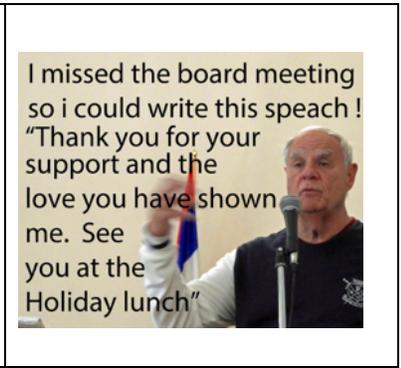
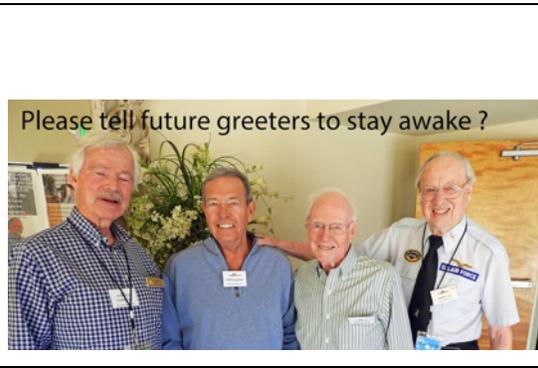
Ride Share Program

Rich Bellows has offered to coordinate this program, which focuses on providing rides to lunch for members who are unable to provide their own transportation. We hope to initiate this practice by early next year. Please contact Rich if you have interest in using the luncheon ride program **or** especially if you can assist others by driving them. Contact Rich by email at rich.bellows@gmail.com or by phone or text to 970 219-9254.

SIRpremes sing "Hello Mary Lou" at the October Meeting

Copy the following link into your browser to check out the movie of the group's performance -- <https://youtu.be/3ZLCMw3SMIM> Thank you Russ for the videography.

OCT. MEETING PHOTOS & COMMENTARY – by club photographer Russ Aubry (with intended typos)



Featured Photos of the Month



The Bocce group celebrated the end of the season with a great lunch and bocce at Campo de Bocce in Livermore. Photo submitted by 174 Bocce member Joe Fitzgerald.



SIRS Walkers Exercise Well and Eat Well in Alameda

The joint SIRS 171/174 walk group had a *GREAT* day on Nov. 19. We began with a stimulating walk (flat) along the Alameda shoreline (great views of downtown S.F.), then retired to a marvelous restaurant (Chef Wok) nearby for a totally delicious dim sum lunch. Eric Cho and Francis Wong did the research, logistics and ordering for the lunch. All agreed they hit it out of the park with their choice. Photo submitted by Walking Group chair Al Donner

We welcome photos from all groups. Send to sir171-news@comcast.net by the 10th of the month.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 16, in lieu of the regular monthly meeting.

See the signup form for the menu.

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

The report this month was prepared by Steve Wright. Francis Wong was out of the country. Thank you Steve.

There were 103 attendees at the last meeting, which included 100 members, the speaker, and two guests. There were 10 no-shows, 23 excused sign-outs, and 12 AR members that did not attend. There was one inductee. Member attendance, including AR members, was 69%.

Members, if not on AR (Attendance Relief) status, need to call the SIR 171 hotline at 925-377-5880 before 1:00pm on the Saturday before the meeting if they will not be attending the meeting or will be 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: "Attendance Relief" (AR) status members need not call to be excused for lunch attendance. However, should an AR status member desire to or is able to occasionally attend a monthly lunch, he must call in to the branch hot line the Saturday preceding the lunch.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair)

JOHN SCHICK (Assistant Chair)

| <u>MEMBERSHIP</u> | |
|---|--|
| Prior Month: | 145 |
| Inductees | 0 |
| Deductions | 1 Tom Keele #151 deceased. |
| Total, This Month: | <u>144</u> |
| <u>APPROVALS TODAY</u> | |
| <u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u> | |
| 1 | Romesh Loomba - transfer |
| <u>APPLICANT LIST</u> | |
| None | |
| NOTES: There is no longer an Inactive Status or Roster. | |
| All members are shown under "Membership" and are in Attendance Relief (AR) status. | |
| Total number of members in AR status is 11. | |

Membership Application Forms are available at the desk at the meetings, from Ed Drasin, or on the Club website (<http://www.sirinc2.org/branch171/>). For the website, select "Application: from within the "Members" selection"

ROSTER CORRECTIONS: John Schick.

NOTE: Please contact John Schick 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 status change or to resign). John Schick will in turn update the Master Roster.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob KROMPHOLZ

October 2019

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Beginning | 4,774 |
| Receipts | 2,495 |
| Disbursements | (2,773) |
| Ending | 4,496 |

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO

Branch 171

- SIR Jim Coy passed away earlier this month. Jim was a charter member of Branch 171 and had been an active member to the time of his passing. A Celebration of Life in remembrance of Jim will be held December 22. For information regarding time and venue please contact Jim's son, Andy, at 925-260-8310
- SIR Tom Keele passed away earlier this month. Tom joined SIR Branch 171 in October 2017 and was on Attendance Relief (AR) status when he passed. There will be a service for Tom on December 1 at 2:30pm at the Willow Springs Church in Moraga.

Eric wishes and hope that everyone stays healthy!

Eric reminds us that Wellness is staying active, both physically and socially.

Branch 174

No reports this month

••• 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.

*** Please contact Eric Cho by e-mail or phone if you are aware of a passing, injury, or illness of a member.

KNOW YOUR SIRs

No bios this month.

Know Your SIR is edited by Rich Bellows. Rich captures bios from new members and they are published in a future newsletter. If you have been a member for awhile, did not have your bio published, and wish to have it published, please contact Rich. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page).

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/ 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 jsabo2@comcast.net or HappeningsEditor@gmail.com

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

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

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

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: STAN HOLCENBERG (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. [The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27.](#)

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) for details and further information.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY: **BRAD DEWEY** (Br. 171)
RICK AVATERO (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 Rick Avatero for additional information.

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



PLEASE NOTE: The last day of Bocce for the year was the **October 29 gathering at Campo De Bocce in Livermore**. Games will begin again in the spring of 2020.

During the 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.



In preparation for 2020..... For those of you that don't know what this shot is, it is called a Casino

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 CROPF (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)
MIKE COX (representing Br. 174)



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 & Area 16)



Area 16 duplicate bridge is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Contra Costa Bridge Center, 3039 Willow Pass Rd, Concord. Guests of SIR members are welcomed. **The next gathering will be on October 1**. Registration is at 9:15am; lesson at 9:30am; game at 10:00am and finishes by 2:00pm.

This activity is fully sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League and, as such, ACBL Master Points will be awarded to the top three pairs

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY: (OPEN) Br. 171
Dick Curry Br. 174
NEIL SCHMIDT (Area - Br 116)



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where the group discusses applications for computers and technology. At each meeting there is 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.

Meetings of the Area 16 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475

Creekside Drive.

There is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 16. The October meeting was cancelled at the last moment due to an Elks Lodge scheduling mistake.

Members usually arrive around 9:15 to enjoy coffee and a chat with friends and new acquaintances before the presentation. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, the group tries to offer something for everyone. They ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and pastries.

Information about the group, including current and past presentations, is available on the SIR Area 2 Computers and Technology website -- <https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/> Make sure you are on the CAT mailing list by sending an e-mail request to: sir.area2.cat@gmail.com

COUPLES DINING OUT SAM ZORICH (Br. 171)



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.

The group recently dined together on November 20 at Jack's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. Mitch Tarkoff hosted the event. The next gathering will be in January.

Contact Sam if you are interested in joining 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. at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30 am. 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.

November Results: Five members participated in successful rockfish and crab combo trips out the Gate. Three others caught trout from local lakes. Karl Droese, Tom Kostick and five others enjoyed very successful striped bass outings in the Delta. Many members attended a fish fry at a member's home. We held our annual planning conference and have prepared an impressive calendar of events for next year.

Activities Scheduled for December and November: Our annual Holiday Dinner at Zio Fraedo's; crab and rockfish combo trips on party and member boats out the Gate; trout fishing (shore and boat) at local lakes; a couple of pier fishing potlucks; numerous trips on member's boats to the Delta and Mothball Fleet for sturgeon and stripers; the International Sportsmen's Expo.

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



As always come out and join the fun. Check out our website at www.sirlamorindagolf.com or contact Bill Wadsworth at 1wadsy@gmail.com. In December the group will play at Monarch Bay on Dec. 2 and Metropolitan on Dec. 16.

The SIR 171/174 golf website includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2019 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) 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)



\$UMS in Retirement meets next on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. The presenter will be the group's own Jamsheed Gandhi, who will give an income tax update. **There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27.**

shutterstock · 104489462 The speaker on January 27 will be Andrew Parrott of |Edward Jones, who will give the group his firm's outlook on investing in the election year.

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

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.

If you regularly have breakfast at Legends, ask the cashier for a Legends card. Once you're signed up, you get \$5 off your bill every time you get up to \$100.

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
DON MERSON (BR 174)



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), stmolinari@sbcglobal.net

June 6, 2020, Grand Baltic Sea Voyage—Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel. Ports of call include This upcoming great trip to the Baltic departs June 6, 2020 and we have 9 Sirs signed up already, but there is still room for more if you act soon. 14 days from \$8,255 includes international airfare from Sacramento. 14 days from \$6,695 without international airfare. Single Supplement: \$1,395. Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and/or Stockholm from \$1,295 each. Please mention code GO-23630 when booking. Reservations & Information call 1-800-955-1925 www.oattravel.com/crb2020. For details contact Milt Smith (Br. 146) (925) 285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com.

September 14-26, 2020 Imperia Splendors and OBERAMMERGAU. Tour includes home pickup, round trip airfare, professional tour manager, 19 meals, 11 nights first-class hotel, land transportation via private deluxe coach, admission to all activities indicated. Tour highlights: Munich welcome dinner, visit the famous Hofbrauhaus, Prague guided sightseeing, Hradcany Castle, Bratislava the capital of Slovakia, Budapest guided sightseeing, Danube cruise, Salzburg guided walking tour and special dinner at St. Peter Stiftskeller restaurant, Oberammergau Passion Play. Cost \$6,267 includes estimated airfare. Larry Yarberry (Br. 8) 925 890-9245 l.yarberry42@comcast.net



The quarterly **State SIR Happenings** travel web page at <http://www.sirinc.org/Travel.pdf> offers additional SIR travel options. There are upcoming tours to:

Be sure to check these tours out !!

Contact Tom Molinari to add trips to the list (*contact information is contained in the link above*).

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)



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 -- December 2019

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Apple Users Activity | Jan. 27 | | | | |
| Astronomy | 2nd Monday of month | | | | |
| Barbershop Harmony | | Every Tuesday of month | | | |
| Bocce Ball | 2020 Season begins in May | | | | |
| Book Club | | | Last Wednesday of month | | |
| Bowling | | | Every Wednesday of month | | |
| Bridge | | 2nd & 4th Tuesday of month | | | |
| Bridge - ACBL Duplicate | | First Tuesday of month | | | |
| Computers and Technology | | | | Jan. 16 | |
| Couples Dining Out | January | | | | |
| Dominoes | | | | Every Thursday of month | |
| Fishing | | | | Dec. 19 | |
| Golf | Dec. 2 & 16 | | | | |
| Golf - 9 Holvers | | | | | Each Friday |
| Historical Adventures | None scheduled | | | | |
| Investment Group | | | Jan. 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. See newsletter section | | | | |
| 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 | | | |



**SIR Branch 171 and 174
Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon**

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2019. Mark your calendars, get into your holiday mood and come along with us for another enjoyable and festive Ladies Day Luncheon at St. Mary's Soda Center. Reception with wine and conversation begins at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch at noon. We will have the Devil Mountain Chorus entertaining us with your favorite holiday songs.

Our lunch menu will feature a choice of either Beef Short Ribs (**BR**) or Chicken Marsala (**CM**) with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Green Beans and Baby Carrots. You'll start with a Mixed Green Salad with Thinly-Sliced Apples, Crumbled Blue Cheese, Dried Cranberries, Candied Pecans and a Dijon Vinaigrette. Dessert will be Holiday Cupcakes and Petit Fours. Wine will also be served at your table during lunch. Please submit your reservations using the form below. A vegetarian (**V**) and gluten free entrée of Sautéed Spinach and Mushrooms with Sun Dried Tomato Risotto will be available.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 8th.

This is a joint event between Lamorinda Branches 171 and 174. Your support is not only appreciated but is essential to both our Branches. Please sign up early. Last year was close to selling out. Guests are welcome.

LADIES DAY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Cost for the luncheon is **\$50 per person PLUS \$3 per parking pass** –Please use the reservation form below. Full table reservations for one party of 8 should be made by one person submitting checks totaling \$400 (plus the cost of parking passes) along with the preferred badge names and menu selections. Please make the checks payable to SIR Branch 171 and mail the check(s) together with this form to:

Ed Beatson, 9 Teodora Ct., Moraga, CA 94556.

| Branch/ SIR# | Member Badge Name | Menu | | | Guest Badge Name | Menu | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------|----|----|---------------------|------|----|----|
| | | V | BR | CM | | V | BR | CM |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
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BR – Beef Short Ribs CM – Chicken Marsala V – Vegetarian Risotto

Number of Parking Passes Required _____