

This monthly article highlights one of our branch members. We hope that you enjoy knowing a little more about your fellow members and the interesting life they have had. If you have someone you would like to nominate or if you would like to help author an article, please email the editor, Ron Nakamoto, at ron.nakamoto@yahoo.com.

JAMES (JIM) QUILLINAN



“I am a movie buff and critic. I spend some time each week immersing myself into movies and draft reviews which I email to thousands of subscribers every Monday morning. Here is one of my recent reviews:

An Evening With Groucho. Groucho Marx comes alive and spends a wonderful 90 minutes with us through the medium of Frank Ferrante. Groucho sings silly songs and provides endless barbs while telling the story of his life with his brothers and the luminaries of the early twentieth century. Everyone’s favorite ditty and bon mot is performed with high energy as Groucho enjoys being himself in front of a live audience. Groucho involves the audience in his hi-jinx to keep us laughing and on the

edge of our seats. The evening is enjoyable as memories are brought back and seems as if time has stood still so we can enjoy Groucho forever. It is a ‘Peggy’s Pick’. Check out <http://www.eveningwithgroucho.com> for more information. We saw the performance at the newly refurbished 3Below Theatres & Lounge (Formerly Camera 3). Check them out at 3belowtheaters.com”

“I have been writing movie reviews for over twenty-one years. My wife, Peggy, and I regularly view three to five movies a week and email the reviews to thousands of subscribers as ‘Q’s Reviews’ early every Monday morning. It all started as a hobby. My wife and I enjoy watching movies and we would routinely fit in a movie viewing or two in our spare time throughout the week and weekend. Every Monday morning my coworkers would start the water cooler conversation asking what movies we saw. My office musings became quite repetitive as I made my office rounds. Thank goodness for modern technology and the advent of the internet and email. I could now email the reviews rather than recount them orally. Soon, all through word of mouth, thousands were on my email list. Subscribers seem to enjoy the short and often humorous reviews and recommendations we called ‘Peggy’s Pick’. My favorite movies of all time are many

but I think Cabaret in 1972 and Casablanca in 1942 top my list. The music of Cabaret is haunting and, of course, you must see Casablanca in a theater with its 30 x 70 foot screen to truly appreciate Ingrid Bergman. If a SIR member would like to receive my weekly movie reviews, please send me an email at jvquill@pacbell.net .

"I am a California native, born in San Francisco and raised in Sacramento. My father was a surgeon for 54 years. He was educated at Berkeley then Stanford and served in the US Army in 1942, eventually becoming Chief Pathologist for the European theater. He experienced the horrors of World War II dealing with the public health issues after the ravages of war and the care of survivors from the concentration camps. My mother was a traditional mom who stayed home and provided us with love and support. She was well known for her green thumb and fabulous rose garden - 124 rose bushes

"I attended Encina High School, ran cross-country and learned to play golf at the age of eleven at Haggin Oaks golf course and later at Del Paso Country Club. In Sacramento I played golf with all the crazy people that liked to play in the heat. I played with Governor Pat Brown once and recall that he was not a very good golfer but had a wicked sense of humor. I attended Stanford and qualified for the Stanford Golf team (I had a golf index of two) and played in my freshman year. I got to meet various golfers like Tom Watson after which it became apparent to me that I needed to go do something else with my time. I graduated in 1970 with a history degree that qualified me for nothing. I decided to seek a law degree after some of my fellow fraternity brothers said that law was just the application of history and it was a great way to make a living and start a family. My love of history made it a natural fit so I enrolled and attended Santa Clara University and graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1974. I've practiced law ever since. I ended my legal career at Hopkins & Carley when I retired in 2017.

"I specialized in estate planning, trust and probate law. I am a Certified Specialist in California State Planning and Probate law and was the very first to earn that certification in 1991. I am also a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Council. I served for eleven years on the Executive Committee for the State Bar Section for Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. I was the youngest member of the Executive Committee and was tasked to coordinate the complete rewrite of the Probate Code. The existing Field code was crafted in the 1930s and was out of date. The new Probate Code consolidated various other codes, case law and uniformed laws into one new, integrated code. Eight teams of eight members each reviewed and commented on various sections of California law. My job was to coordinate all these reviews and present them in a cohesive manner. This was all done before email and when FAX was considered state of the art. The new Probate Code debuted in 1991 and is still the core source for all California Law in this area. Many parts of our Code have been adopted across the country. I also served as Chair of the State Bar Section for Estate Planning, Trust and Probate law.

“I frequently spoke statewide and nationally on the use of computers in the Law Office. I learned numerous operating systems and applications and would both demonstrate their use and critique them. All obsolete today!

“In college, I was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, which was a big part of my social life at that time. At one of the fraternity parties I met Peggy. She was there with her friend Carol who was dating one of my old roommates. I knew when we first met that she would be my bride someday ... and it only took six years. We have been happily married for 44 years with three sons, three daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren. Our entire family lives close by so we are always blessed with family time. While my kids were growing up, I always found time to volunteer to coach baseball and soccer. I even ran our local Little League for two years. Our 50th wedding anniversary is not too far away and we hope to spend it with family.



Jim with the whole gang

“A memorable moment for me was when I achieved my “... eight minutes of fame”... on the David Letterman Show in 1996. My golf buddy said he had two tickets to the April 8, 1996 show but could not attend because of a family Passover celebration so he offered the tickets to me. My wife was a big fan of the show so we were promptly off to New York. As we stood in line waiting for the taping, I wore my blue overcoat and my red Stanford baseball cap. One of the show’s audience handlers picked me out of the crowd to participate as an audience member in one of Dave’s regular gags – The Quiz Machine. I was told what ‘bit’ to do as we were seated in designated chairs. My costars were Robert Duvall, Amy Brennerman and the NYC Ballet. The show started and soon we got to the skit where Dave was to consult a quiz machine that was supposed to spit

out answers to questions yet to be revealed. I revealed the questions. Unfortunately, the machine did not work the first time and the taped show was stopped and later restarted to completion. Dave, the producers and director huddled and decided to reshoot the Quiz machine skit. The audience was patient. The reshoot was successful, I got to do my bit and everyone finished happy. The crew thanked us for our patience and my wife was ecstatic for the experience. I had told the kids to tape the show but then called to stay up to see their Dad on the show! The afterglow continued as a few days later I received a check for \$1,000 for my participation in the show This was compensation worked out a long time ago by AFTRA (now the Screen Actors Guild) since I was on stage and now officially an actor/artist entitled to be paid.”

Jim’s parting message to his fellow SIR members is to “Love your spouse, take care of your family, play golf at least once a week and watch a good movie”.