



Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web site: www.sirinc2.org/branch35/**- NEXT MEETING -****3rd Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Doors Open 11:00am, Lunch at Noon

Menu: Surprise! (contact not available to confirm)

Business 12:30pm, Speaker 12:45pm

Join Zoom anytime after 12:30pm

Zoom instructions will be emailed in advance

PROGRAM**Conrad Ray, Stanford Director of Men's Golf**

Conrad Ray, a former Cardinal standout student-athlete and touring golf professional, has served as Stanford's Knowles Family Director of Men's Golf for the past 18 years. He was a multisport athlete growing up with his heart set on the gridiron, but when he entered Stanford his golfing talent won him a walk-on spot on the Cardinal golf team. He was the only freshman on the national championship team that also included Tiger Woods,

Notah Begay, and Casey Martin. He went on to be a three-year letterwinner for The Cardinal, which he captained in 1997.

After graduating from Stanford with a bachelor's in public policy, Ray competed professionally on the Nationwide Tour for 6 years with 12 top-10 finishes, before returning to Stanford as a coach.

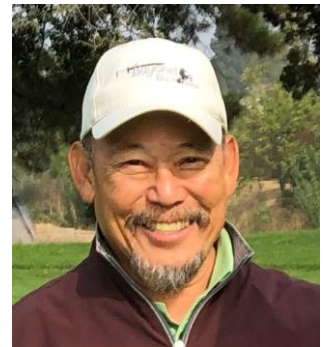
In his 17-year tenure as head coach, Ray led The Cardinal to 14 appearances in the NCAA Championships including the school's eighth and ninth wins in 2007 and 2019. Stanford student-athletes have done well under Ray's watch, with 28 All-Americans, 4 Pac-12 Players of the Year, 3 Pac-12 Scholar-Athletes of the Year, 3 Pac-12 Freshman of the Year and 23 All-Pac-12 first team selections.

Ray has been a member of the Golf Coaches Association of America National Advisory Board since 2006, has served as president and a member of the board of directors of the Association. He was one of three coaches selected to lead the United States Team for the Palmer Cup in Scotland in 2008 and in 2011 was inducted into the NCGA Hall of Fame.

Peter Wong and Richard Blackborow

The Big Sir says...

The new year always brings an opportunity for a new beginning. This notion started with Julius Caesar who introduced the Julian calendar which closely resembles what we use today. January 1st was the first day of the year (vs. March) to honor Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. In celebrating the New Year, the younger of us make goals and resolutions to give direction and purpose for the year while the older are content to enjoy each day with a morning cup of coffee and some news!

**Looking back:**

The year for us ended with a festive and memorable Holiday Luncheon replete with a variety of main dishes, good banter at the tables and the wonderful Madrigal Singers from Mountain View High School. You cannot but marvel at their youth and trained voices and reflect a bit on what we did when we were that young. Our State President Dave Gonzalez, our Area Governor Foster Kinney along with our Big Sir Andy Danver, presided over our Branch Award presentations and the inauguration of our new Branch Officers.

Facing Forward:

Your new branch management team will strive to maintain the traditions of the branch but will always be open to suggestions for improvement wherever and whenever needed. Our membership ranks are robust as are our many activities. As always, we face both opportunities and challenges; Starting with the good, Peter Wong, our new Little Sir, has bravely stepped up to schedule our speakers for the year, filling out an exciting lineup you'll hear about at our January luncheon. We've received good feedback on the quality, variety, and price of our lunches and have discussed this with our facility hosts, so we look forward to improvement in January.

One challenge is that our host facility is warning of a substantial price increase in 2023. I've secured our current rates through January but while we negotiate rates for the new year a committee led by Ben Gikis is identifying and qualifying alternative facilities, already finding some affordable and even closer options with more lunch variety and lower cold meal prices. I will be transparent and will communicate Branch Executive Committee (BEC) decisions on this

matter. Another challenge is our 2023 budget which includes an estimate for a move to a new facility plus a technology upgrade, both of which will result in some increase in membership dues. Once the BEC approves the new budget you will be notified of the renewal amount. While we strive to keep our cost of operations down, we expect our dues will continue to be low in comparison to other social clubs, especially given your membership benefits.

Some closing remarks:

Two of the simplest ways to keep your mind and body fit is to join and participate in some of our organized group activities. Life is more enjoyable when you are active and socially engaged.

Ron Nakamoto

DECEMBER 2022 HOLIDAY PARTY



Our Holiday lunch was held at the Elks on December 14th and we had 130 folks attending! The program included an Induction Ceremony for our new 2023 Officers and an Awards Ceremony for great contributors to SIR Branch 35 in 2022. We were entertained by the wonderful Mountain View High School Madrigal Singers. Everyone agreed it was a success and so nice to be back to an in-person celebration of the year!

Induction Ceremony: December marks the end of the term for the 2022 Branch Officers and the induction of the 2023 Officers. We heartily express our thanks to Andy and his team for managing through the COVID pandemic and making the bold decision in April to reinstate live, in-person luncheon meetings. To-date, our COVID policies ensured our members were safe at our gatherings, with no reported incidents, but we will continue hybrid meetings to accommodate those wishing to attend by Zoom. We welcome the 2023 Branch Officers, in the center panel photo from left to right: Andy Danver, Richard Blackborow, Ben Gikis, Paul Schutz, Jim Narva, Larry Low, Dave Squellati, Peter Wong and Ron Nakamoto. Absent were Leonard Chan and Bruce Karney. Three Cheers and a hip, hip, hooray!



2023 SIR BRANCH 35 OFFICERS

Big Sir: Ron Nakamoto. Ron has been an active member of Branch 35 for 12 years. He has previously served on the BEC as Membership Director and as a BEC Director. He retired from Lockheed Martin Corp. Notably he has written 80 profiles of members which were published in Trail Tips and are available on our website. He's an active golfer and bowler.

Little Sir: Peter Wong. Peter has been a member of Branch 35 since 2016. He retired from satellite design and engineering working at Lockheed Martin Corp in Sunnyvale. He brings new blood to the Branch Executive Committee. He has been active in other community activities in support of his children and is an active Branch 35 golfer and bowler.

Secretary: Dave Squellati. Dave has been an active member for 15 years and been a supporting member of the BEC for several years including backing up our retiring secretary Jim Quillinan. Dave has stepped up to assume the position while also continuing to serve as the Golf prize distribution czar.

Assist Secretary: Leland Chan. Leland has been a member for eleven years and felt it was time to volunteer to help the branch out by serving on the BEC. Leland retired from Lockheed Martin Corp. and had an extensive background in finance and corporate law.

Treasurer: Larry Low. Larry joined the BEC earlier this year when Gerry Feeney, then Assistant Treasurer, took over a major accounting function for the golf activity. Larry joined Branch 35 in 2019. Larry has an extensive background in finance and will focus on optimizing financial operations to ensure every dollar is spent wisely. Larry is an excellent golfer and bowler.

Assist Treasurer: Jim Narva. Jim has been our Treasurer for the past few years and helped us evolve from a check and cash-based organization to a more efficient online one. He is familiar with SIR's required forms and processes to keep Branch 35 running as an independent 501 (c) (4) non-profit. Jim has been so gracious to switch positions with Larry as he has served for the last three years but still was willing to ensure continuity by providing legacy knowledge support in the Assistant position. Jim has been a member of Branch 35 for 7 years and is an avid golfer.

2023 SIR BRANCH 35 DIRECTORS

Stan Barkey, who was then Senior Advisor, will finally step down from active support of branch operations except for COVID check in duty. He has served twice as Big and Little Sir, one term as Area Governor and is one of our special SIR Honorary Life Members. He has asked to retire from the BEC to become "just a member and golfer again."

Activities & Special Events:	Ben Gikis
Communications:	Bruce Karney
Membership:	Paul Schutz
Nominations & Senior Advisor:	Andy Danver
Technology:	Richard Blackborow



NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

SIR provides three levels of meaningful and visible awards to recognize the contributions of its members. The Honorary Life Member (HLM) award is the highest and most prestigious award. It is bestowed only on those who are found to have clearly earned it through extraordinary service and are recognized by their peers. Ron Nakamoto and Bill Young are our two most recent HLM Recipients.

Ron Nakamoto joined Branch 35 in February of 2010. In 2013 Ron was elected to serve on the Branch Executive Committee and acted successfully as our Membership Director for 2015 and 2016. Perhaps Ron's greatest contribution has been his monthly Member's Profile in Trail Tips. Ron interviewed and wrote over 80 monthly profiles that have effectively served to enable all of us to get to know other members of the branch.

Bill Young joined Branch 35 in November of 2000. He quickly became involved in tracking membership activities and attendance at monthly luncheons. He accepted responsibility for purchasing and maintaining our computers that are used to check members in at meetings. He produces a report for the BEC each month that enables the leadership team to analyze monthly and annual trends in attendance of members, guests and visitors. His thoroughness and accuracy in managing this data has contributed to the effectiveness of our leadership team.

JANUARY 2023 ROSTER

Active Members: 330 Net Monthly Change: +1

In Memoriam

**Bob Simon
Nick Vicari**

NEW MEMBERS

Alvin S. Begun (Marsha) 1230 Vancouver Ave. Burlingame, CA 94010	650-533-4950 alvinbegun@gmail.com Edify, Watson Wyatt, UC Office of President Golf, Hiking, Book Club
Ben Kuckens (Helen) 1871 Orangetree Ln. Mountain View, CA 94040	650-400-0353 bengk@att.net Morgan Stanley Travel, Investments, Chess
Richard Lowenthal (Ellen) 21602 Villa Maria Ct. Cupertino, CA 95014	408-529-4395 richard@lowenthal.com ChargePoint, Cisco, StrataCom Golf, Hiking, Bicycling, Bocce Ball, Investments
Howell (Chip) Williams (Bonnie) 17410 Lakeview Dr. Morgan Hill, CA 95037	409-425-8085 chipwilliams@verizon.net Siemens, GE Nuclear Energy Golf, Hiking

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YEARS

Stan Barkey (18)	Herb Fischgrund (19)	Ernie Robertson (12)
John Brown (12)	Dick Knock (19)	Dick Treakle (11)
Jim DeLong (22)	John McGowan (9)	John Wong (23)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ben Adelman	Gerry Feeney	Cal Morris
John Ahn	Don Fidler	Tom Moulton
David Arata	John Files	Joe Mullen
Russ Atkinson	Joe Geist	Ron Murphy
Richard Blackborow	David Gobuty	John Richardson
Vince Ciampa	Clive Hallatt	Joe Scheid
Dick Costa	Rob Lipshutz	Wendell Stephens
Dick DeLoof	Robert Manetta	Ranney Thayer
John Faucett	Les Miles	JT Tompane
Ron Wilensky		

BOOK SWAP

TIM TOPOLE 650-793-0838
ttopole@yahoo.com



The book swap has resumed with in-person meetings. We hope that after two years everybody has books to share!

BOOK CLUB

JERRY BELDEN 650-322-1391
jerry@gbeldenlrc.com



The Book Club is an activity where the members read a new book every month and then meet to discuss the content.

At our December meeting, we discussed "The Premonition: A Pandemic Story" (NF) by Michael Lewis. It was written in 2021. It's about an unlikely group of freethinking pandemic researchers whose work puts them at odds with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Trump administration. Their stories unfold against the backdrop of the poor US response to the threat of COVID-19. Generally, everybody found the book very interesting.

This month is "reader's choice" meaning that each member who is at the meeting simply describes any book he just read.

BIKING

GORDON TONG 408-242-0557
gordy6850@gmail.com



SIR Branch 35 Biking, 2nd Thursday; Jan. 12, 2023 @11:00 AM.

Wives and guests welcome; Helmets required and Face masks optional (please refer to link below for the latest CDC guidance)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Stevens Creek Trail & Shoreline Park (Mt. View)

Ride: We will ride a flat, scenic 14 mile round-trip to Michael's Restaurant in Shoreline Park, plus an optional 5-mile loop to the Palo Alto Duck Pond, next to the Palo Alto Airport (total ride 19 miles). Lunch will be the Baylands Cafe (1875 Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto) at the Baylands Golf Link before the PA Duck Pond.

Directions: Meet at the south end of the Stevens Creek bike path at the corner of Sleeper Ave. and Franklin Ave. From Palo Alto, go south on El Camino Real to Grant Rd; turn right. Drive past the 3rd

traffic signal to Sleeper Ave. and turn left. Drive to the end of Sleeper Ave., which intersects with Franklin Ave. Park your car near the intersection. If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 & gordy6850@gmail.com or my co-leader Hank Bottino at (650) 207-4320 & bottinoh@comcast.net.

The objectives of the monthly rides are to promote fellowship, share experiences, exercise and above all, have FUN! All a rider needs is a bike (or e-bike) and a helmet. Rain will cancel the planned SIR ride. We ask that all riders exhibit a positive attitude, exercise good judgment when riding such as maintaining a safe distance between riders, obey all traffic signs, stop lights, etc. There will be a designated lead rider and a sweeper (or last rider) to ensure that all riders stay on course.

CHESS

BEN KUCKENS 650-400-0353
BENCK@ATT.NET



Ben has organized a weekly chess meeting at the Senior Center in the new Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos. All are welcome to join these chess matches - all levels of play are welcome including beginners and experienced players. Ben has a small group playing on Tuesdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm; however, dates and times are flexible. If interested, contact Ben.

HIKING

JOHN TUCKER 408-655-5435
tuckerjg6@gmail.com



We will be doing our January hike on the Monte Bello / Black Mountain Loop trail. This is located in the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. The hike will be approximately 5.4 miles long with an elevation gain of roughly 1,000 feet, a moderately challenging route. Departure time will be 10:30 am on Friday, January 27, 2023. Please let me know if interested and I will add you to the follow up email.

Our monthly hikes are designed to encourage spouse participation. There are many opportunities to socialize and to make new friends. Pack a trail lunch and we will stop at a scenic spot to eat and enjoy nature. Branch 35 members, spouses and friends who have signed the [Covid-19 Waiver](#) and can enjoy a moderate hike of up to 5 miles and up to 1,000 feet elevation gain are invited to join us. Hikes normally occur on the 4th Friday of the month. If you wish to join, send an email to John Tucker, tuckerjg6@gmail.com.

BOCCE BALL

JOHN RICHARDSON 650-996-7787
JLR@RCGC.COM



ED AUSTIN – PLAYER DEV'T 650-468-5341
AUSTINV@AOL.COM
NORM PASS – SCHEDULE & CANCELLATIONS 408-737-7639
NORMPASS@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Every Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Guests are welcome.

Location: Bocce Ball Courts at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos (off San Antonio Road), 650-947-2790. Ample parking in front. The Bocce Ball courts are in the left rear of the site as you face the front entrance of the Center.

We've had a rainy day or two in the last weeks as the courts become unusable. But we look forward to our next outing on Jan. 6th to continue the fun and camaraderie on the courts!

BOWLING

BOB TAGGART 650-321-2654
CBTAGGART@EARTHLINK.NET

DOUG ANDERSON 415-407-4000
MARKTINTI@AOL.COM



PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (for a couple hours), at Homestead Bowl, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

We have completed 5 weeks of the Winter session and didn't play on December 27th. January 3 will be our starting date in 2023. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.

STANDINGS – WEEK #5 – WINTER 2023

1 ST PLACE – TIE - Fred Emmenegger, Doug Anderson, Ron Nakamoto, Perry Brown
2 ND PLACE – TIE - Wes Fisher, Jim Holman, Don Haythronewhite
3 RD PLACE – Harold Kaye, Darryl Walker, Joe Enos
4 TH PLACE – Peter Wong, Rick McColloch, Larry Low, Arnie Satterlee
5 TH PLACE - TIE – Bob Feigelson, Tim Eastham, Marc Haberman
6 TH PLACE - TIE – Brian Lin, Stan Barkey, Jay Jonekait
7 TH PLACE – Les Fisher, Alan Gaudie, Jay Jonekait
8 TH PLACE – Ranney Thayer, Alan Gaudie, Bob Taggart, Jerry Ososkie

SEASON HIGH SCORES

Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	571 - Marc Haberman	1st	217 - Bob Taggart
2nd	563 - Larry Low	2nd	207 - Perry Brown
3rd	513 - Joe Enos	3rd	202 - D. Haythronewhite
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	700 - Jim Holman	1st	253 - Jerry Ososkie
2nd	661 - Arnie Satterlee	2nd	251 - Peter Wong
3rd	640 - Tim Eastham - TIE	3rd	241 - Les Fisher - TIE
3rd	640 - Darryl Walker - TIE	3rd	241 - Alan Gaudie - TIE

LAST WEEK'S TOP SCORES

Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	545 - Perry Brown	1st	202 - Jerry Ososkie
2nd	493 - Marc Haberman	2nd	175 - Jay Jonekait
3rd	470 - Don Haythronewhite	3rd	163 - Darryl Walker
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	655 - Peter Wong	1st	241 - Les Fisher
2nd	640 - Tim Eastham	2nd	226 - Alan Gaudie
3rd	631 - Ron Nakamoto	3rd	225 - Ranney Thayer

GOLF

LES MILES 408-528-5473
LMPOMI@YAHOO.COM



SIGN-UP with John Gerich (jgerich@juno.com) by January 13 for the following:			
Callippe Preserve (CPR)	Thu Feb 2	10:04	\$39
Jones 650-492-1461 crusingken@gmail.com / Petersen			
Sunnyvale (SVL)	Mon Feb 6	9:30	\$38
4 Club - 2 Man 1 Best Ball Garten 408-253-5860 xonon1@comcast.net / Hall			
Metropolitan (MET) (Cart)	Thu Feb 9	10:00	\$45
Rittweger 650-740-3156 olygolfjr@aol.com / Enos			
Salinas Fairways	Mon Feb 13	10:00	\$37
O'Meara 408-506-4714 omearatimo@gmail.com / Stephens			
Monarch Bay (MNB) (Cart)	Thu Feb 16	10:00	\$51
Cioni 650-393-5711 jacioni@yahoo.com / Holman			
Coyote Creek Valley (CCV) (Cart,Range)	Mon Feb 20	9:35	\$75
Taboada 925-785-4318 tjtaboda@earthlink.net / O'Brien			
Moffett Field (MFD)	Thu Feb 23	9:30	\$48
Barkey 408-996-3133 stanbarkey@gmail.com / Wilson			
Castlewood CC Hill (CWH) (Cart,Range)	Mon Feb 27	10:00	\$110
Shotgun Start McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com / Stephens			
Poppy Hills (PPH)	Thu Apr 6	10:30	\$130
O'Meara 408-506-4714 omearatimo@gmail.com / ** Need ATC**			

GOLF NEWS

Jonekait Wins Round of the Year Honors

After reviewing all the "Rounds of the Month" for 2022, the best of the bunch belongs to Jay Jonekait. He shot 9.7 strokes "under" at Moffett on July 6. An amazing accomplishment!

Ron Nakamoto Shoots the Round of the Month

Ron Nakamoto had a great day on Dec. 8, shooting 2 strokes "under" at Los Lagos. Congratulations to our new Big Sir!

The Rules Corner: How Do Branch 35 Golf Tie Breakers Work?

Branch 35 uses the USGA "Matching scorecards tie breaker method." If two or more players have the same net score, then we apply as many of the four calculations below as necessary to achieve a non-tied result.

- Gross score for last 9 holes minus one-half handicap
- Gross score for last 6 holes minus one-third handicap
- Gross score for last 3 holes minus one-sixth handicap
- Gross score for 18th hole minus one-eighteenth handicap

The handicap used is the "tournament handicap," also known as the "playing handicap," which is always a whole number. The fractional handicaps are **rounded before being subtracted**. So, if a golfer's playing handicap is 23, half of that is 12 (not 11.5), one-third is 7, one-sixth is 4 and one-eighteenth is 1.

It is possible that a tie cannot be broken, but it is very rare for that to occur. Imagine a case in which two golfers with the same tournament handicaps tie on the front nine and shoot identical scores for every hole on the back nine. Such a tie is unbreakable. When golfers are still tied after all four tiebreakers have been applied, then they split the prize money equally.

Example:

Assume Dan has a 10 handicap and Joe has a 14 handicap.

Last 9 holes

Dan **39** - (10 / 2) = 39 - 5 = **34**

Joe **41** - (14 / 2) = 41 - 7 = **34** so still tied...

Last 6 holes

Dan **27** - (10 / 3) = 27 - 3.3 = 27 - 3 = **24**

Joe **29** - (14 / 3) = 29 - 4.7 = 29 - 5 = **24** so still tied...

Last 3 holes

Dan **15** - (10 / 6) = 15 - 1.7 = 15 - 2 = **13**

Joe **14** - (14 / 6) = 14 - 2.3 = 14 - 2 = **12** so Joe WINS!

GOLF RESULTS

Spring Hills			Par 71		Nov. 28, 2022	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Brad Metheany	75	\$18	Jim Narva	71	\$15	
Richard Pattisson	77	\$14	Ben Gikis	72	\$7	
Jay Jonekait	77	\$10				
Inside Putter Length: None						
Low Gross (forward tees): Brad Metheany 97						
Low Gross (back tees): Jay Jonekait 93						

Los Lagos				Par 68		Dec. 8, 2022		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Alan Pye	67	\$24	R. Nakamoto	66	\$24	Peter Lau	70	\$17
J. Rittweger	68	\$19	D. Squellati	74	\$19	Tim O'Meara	74	\$10
Larry Low	71	\$13	T. Barnhart	74	\$13	Ben Gikis	74	\$5
Jim Thorne	71	\$8	B. Metheany	74	\$8			
Inside Putter Length: Alan Pye on the 12 th \$15								
Low Gross: Jim Thorne 77								

Sunnyvale Christmas Ball		Par 70	Dec. 15, 2022	
Team			Score	Prize
Walt Joyce, Ken Jones, Herb Petersen, Richard Pattisson			133	\$18 @
Larry Low, Dave Squellati, Milt Wehrman, John Ray			145	\$12 @
Chris Weberg, JT Tompane, Tom Taboada, Joe Enos			147	\$8 @
Inside Putter Length: Paul Schutz on the 7 th (\$25)				
Low Gross: Walt Joyce 85				

Shot Their Age In 2022

Congratulations to Don Mattson, Joe Cioni, Bob Garten, Jay Jonekait and Richard McGrath who shot their age in 2022!

Why are Some Names Printed in Red? Most Recent Aug. 2022

Not surprisingly, achievements in red are **outstanding efforts** that should be known to all Branch 35 golfers. There are four ways to join the red brigade: (1) if your "over/under" is -2.0 or better; (2) if your tee shot on a Par 3 is within a putter length of the hole; (3) if you eagle a hole; or (4) if you shoot your age or better. The first three achievements are shown in these results sheets but if you shoot your age let Bruce Karney (bkarney@comcast.net) know so he can give you the credit you deserve.



MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN
JVQUILL@PACBELL.NET



The White Lotus.

The White Lotus is a luxury hotel chain that caters to the very rich and those who want to be. Season One was set in Hawai'i. This new season of six episodes is set in Taormina, Sicily. The story revolves around a very needy, buxom, and wealthy heiress, Tanya (Jennifer Coolidge). The hotel is run by Valentina, a very conflicted lesbian. Three generations of the di Grasso family from Los Angeles are spending a week trying to connect with their Italian roots. Two call girls are on the prowl. Two young couples are vacationing together with hidden agendas. A group of gay guys are on an adventure and get a lot more than they bargained for. The first five episodes of Season Two build tension and intrigue but barely kept my attention. All of this prologue pays off in a spectacular final episode that is far different than anything you could imagine. All Hail Jennifer Coolidge as the Queen of dark comedy. Rated TV MA for language, strong sexual content, and drug use. Available on HBO MAX.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

The movie opens with the death of King T'Challa, the Black Panther, as a tribute to him and to Chadwick Bozeman who played him in the first 2018 film. The film then goes on for two hours and forty minutes of endless fighting, posturing and eventual reconciliation. Queen Ramonda and her acolytes have to protect Wakanda and its vibranium from a secret world of human/fish characters that live at the bottom of the sea. Somehow the CIA gets involved. I found the film silly, boring, and way too long. The characters were uninteresting. I don't think my age group is the intended audience. The kids in the theatre seemed to love it. Rated PG-13 for sequences of strong violence, action, and some language. In Theatres.

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO
RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET



There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe a period we lived through. When you encounter the Rock of Gibraltar on your maiden trip to the Mediterranean Sea you remember the moment. On subsequent trips, your memories flood back to that time. It has become one of those constants in time for you, forever more. Movies and Music elicit those same moments for all of us, constants of where we were and what we were doing when we first saw or heard it. This monthly article recalls the bits of movie and music history keyed to the month of its release. Ron

Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

"It's a Wonderful Life" is based on "The Greatest Gift," a 1939 short story written by Phillip Van Doren Stern. Frank Capra's 1946 film is hard to avoid during the holidays. After spending several years trying to sell his story to publishers with no success, Stern self-published his work and sent it to 200 friends as a 21-page Christmas card in 1943. RKO Pictures wound up getting a hold of "The Greatest Gift" and bought the rights to the story with Cary Grant pegged as the star. As they tend to do in Hollywood, things fell through, and the project languished before acclaimed director Frank Capra came on board in 1945 and named Jimmy Stewart as his leading man in the role of suicidal do-gooder George Bailey. Donna Reed, an actress who went on to become the ultimate upper-middle-class TV housewife, ultimately secured the role as Mary Hatch Bailey. Released on January 7, 1946, the film received mixed reviews but did garner five Academy Award nominations, winning none.

Filmed in the backlot in the San Fernando Valley during the middle of summer, you've probably noticed the over 6,000 gallons of cornflakes painted white to simulate snowflakes. The only drawback to this Hollywood creativity was the loud crunching noise made as the actors stepped on the snowflakes. In the years that followed, it received some serious loving and in 1990 was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress. And another interesting casting note: That's a grown-up Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer in the small role of Freddie, Mary's obnoxious date in the film's famous dance floor-turned-swimming pool scene (and yes, that pool exists at Beverly Hills High School). "It's a Wonderful Life" was one of Switzer's few post-"Our Gang" adult roles as he shifted his

attention to hunting-dog breeding. He was killed in 1959 at the age of 31 after being shot in the groin in a drunken dispute over \$50.

From: <https://www.liveabout.com/things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-its-a-wonderful-life-4864136>

Music: I'll Never Smile Again

January is the month that wipes the music slate clean and opens our ears to the first new sounds of the year. "I'll Never Smile Again" is a song written by Ruth Lowe, recorded by Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra, with vocals by Frank Sinatra and The Pied Pipers. This version of the song was first on Billboard's "National List of Best-Selling Retail Records" and stayed there for the next twelve weeks. Here is the backstory to the creation of this song.

Flash back to the 1930s. The Great Depression lingers. Unemployment is high. Europe edges closer to another World War. In Toronto, Ruth Lowe had just lost her father and so she supported the family by selling and performing songs she had written. This was the start of the golden age of the Big Band era and Lowe climbed aboard. After hearing her sing one night, bandleader Ina Ray Hutton invited her to join her all-female orchestra. Lowe did and hit the road.

After a gig one evening in Chicago, the singer/songwriter had a blind date with song man Harold Cohen. The two fell in love and soon married. After only one year, tragedy struck Lowe for the second time when Cohen died unexpectedly.

"Losing the two men she loved in her life, in such a short time, created such heart break in her and was the background that inspired the song", says Lowe's son. She said to my aunt, "I'll never smile again without him," and the next day she sat down and wrote the words to this haunting song.

Dorsey was introduced to the song through one of his bandmembers who was dating Lowe's friend. He liked it, rearranged it, and brought it to Frank Sinatra and the Pied Pipers to record it. This song ended up launching Sinatra's career. With the war now raging in Europe in 1941, there was a lot of heartbreak going on, and more to come.

From: <https://www.socanmagazine.ca/features/how-the-song-happened-ruth-lowes-ill-never-smile-again/>

Original song recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pusdvcy-DLw>

As Paul Harvey says, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."

SIR
 HAPPENINGS

Our State SIR Organization publishes a quarterly bulletin highlighting SIR events, branch activities and state-wide activities. It's called **SIR Happenings**, and you can read the latest issue [here](https://sirinc.org/newsletters/)

<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>

STATE OFFICERS

State President..... Richard Kindl 209-652-8608
 Vice President..... David Gonzales 916-587-3538
 Governor Area 13..... Foster Kinney 650-575-4920

BRANCH 35 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big Sir..... Ron Nakamoto 408-440-2330
 Little Sir..... Peter Wong 408-921-4884
 Secretary..... Dave Squellati 408-334-7988
 Assistant..... Leland Chan 510-490-5369
 Treasurer..... Larry Low 408-533-2651
 Assistant..... Jim Narva 408-930-3353
 Director (Activities)..... Ben Gikis 408-802-0794
 Director (Membership)..... Paul Schutz 408-313-6852
 Director (Communications)..... Bruce Karney 650-450-0332
 Director (Events)..... Ben Gikis 408-802-0794
 Director (Technology)..... Richard Blackborow 408-314-2378
 Director (Nominations)..... Andy Danver 650-906-3747

STAFF

Attendance..... Bill Young 650-493-1710
 Audio/Visual..... Ron Schoengold 408-309-9830
 Auditing..... Gerry Feeney 408-515-8604
 Car Pools..... Ken Jones 650-492-1461
 Historian/Photographer..... Frank Crossman 650-493-9182
 Luncheon Host..... Terry Barnhart 408-594-5949
 Medical Emergency Response Team..... Dave Ogle 650-704-2130
 Membership Data Base..... Richard Blackborow 408-314-2378
 New Member Orientation..... Paul Schutz 408-313-6852

STAFF (CONTINUED)

Membership Roster..... Jerry Belden 650-207-6280
 & Gordon Tong 408-242-0557
 Trail Tips Editor..... Pat OConnor 408-480-0409
 Website..... John Ray 408-386-3573
 Well and Comfort Wisher..... Don Lintz 408-888-7391

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Bicycling..... Gordon Tong 408-242-0557
 & Hank Bottino 650-207-4320
 Bocce Ball..... Gil Eakins 650-400-5813
 & Norm Pass 408-737-7639
 Book Club..... Jerry Belden 650-207-6280
 Book Swap..... Timothy Topole 650-793-0838
 Bowling..... Doug Anderson 415-407-4000
 Bridge..... On-Hold..... Mark Levi 650-305-9132
 Dining In..... TBD TBD
 Golf..... Les Miles 408-528-5473
 Hiking..... John Tucker 408-655-5435
 Investments..... Jim Dunaway 650-229-4602
 Bob Booth 408-307-3274
 Movies..... Jim Quillinan 408-838-4379
 Trail Birds..... David Skurnick 650-796-5314
 Wine Finders..... TBD TBD

WELL & COMFORT WISHER: Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Don Lintz (408-888-7391 or donlintz(at)comcast.net)**. He will express concerns of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements immediately among members via e-mail.

All activities arranged for or by Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of its members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in any matters pertaining to said activities.

SIR Branch 35 Activities - January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Golf 9:30am Los Lagos -- \$37	3 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	4	5 Golf 9:30am Deep Cliff -- \$39	6 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	7
8	9 Golf 10:00am Bayonet & Black Horse -- \$95	10 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	11	12 Golf 9:30am DeLaveaga -- \$61 Biking 11:00am Stevens Creek Trail Meet at Sleeper Ave. & Franklin Ave	13 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	14
15	16 Golf 9:30am Los Lagos -- \$37	17 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	18 Branch 35 Monthly Meeting In-Person at Elk's Lodge Doors open 11:00, Zoom starts 11:30 Lunch 12:00pm, Business 12:30pm Speaker: Conrad Roy 12:45pm	19 Golf 10:00am Spring Valley -- \$46	20 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	21
22	23 Golf 9:30am Moffett Field -- \$48	24 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	25	26 Golf 9:30am Los Lagos -- \$37	27 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:30am Monte Bello / Black Mountain Loop trail	28
29	30 Golf 10:00am Poplar Creek -- \$44	31 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	1	2 Golf 10:04am Callippe Preserve -- \$39	3 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	4