



Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web site: www.sirinc2.org/branch35/



- NEXT MEETING -

3rd Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Doors Open 11:00am, Lunch at Noon

Menu: Whatever you order from Saltalk.com!

Business 12:30pm, Speaker 12:45pm

Join Zoom anytime after 12:30pm

Zoom instructions will be emailed in advance

PROGRAM

Jitze Couperus

Aerial photos of the SF Bay



Jitze was born in Kenya and was conscripted into the British armed forces at 18 years old as a result of unrest in the neighboring Belgian Congo.

After serving with the The Kings African Rifles, he ended up as a Policeman, serving in various temporary posts within the colonial administration until Kenya too achieved independence. This included volunteering for missions

as a pilot with the Air Wing of the Kenya Police Reserve, and the AMREF Flying Doctors service in Kenya.

He subsequently trained in Britain for two years as an apprentice in a new profession – at that time referred to as “Computing Machinery” and conducted by the Government’s “Post Office Training School” in a small village called Bletchley located just North of London.

He worked for a British Computer manufacturer, designing and installing mainframes in various countries. in Africa and Europe. While working at one point in Holland, he was approached by an attaché at the American Embassy. This meeting resulted in his recruitment by Seymour Cray, the chief architect at that time for Control Data Corporation – the American company specialized in building the biggest and fastest computers in the world.

Jitze joined their Palo Alto-based Research Division in 1968. After working for this company for over three decades, he retired and has

since been active in the Town of Los Altos Hills including stints as a Fire Commissioner and currently as a Planning Commissioner.

In his talk he will show his aerial photographs of the Bay Area, taken with our own Gary Waldeck as pilot.

The Big Sir says...

April is the month of “Hanami” (flowering view) in Japan. The Japanese viewed the beauty of the blossoming “Sakura” (cherry blossoms) in Spring as a metaphor for life itself, luminous and beautiful, yet fleeting and ephemeral as these flowers would bud, blossom, and die within a short two-week period.



Did you know that among other things, April is the National Month of Hope? A wise man once said, that if you only carry one constant throughout your entire life, let it be hope!

So, we had hoped that our first meeting in March would be a good one such that we could build a solid, long-term foundation from this start. I can now say “we had a good one” and your team did a great job. Be sure to thank the teams that made our first meeting a success:

Audio Visual Team: Richard Blackborow, Mike Kerr, Don Fidler, and Ron Schoengold who had to bring in their own audio system, manage through the dim visual system, and accept the last moment window blind failures that caused more light to stream into the room.

Beverage Operations Team: Ben Gikis, Ken Jones, and Jim Miller for procurement, delivery, setup, sale, and wrap up of beverage operations to include complimentary water on each table.

Set Up and Clean Up Teams: Andy Danver, Bill Young, Stan Barkey, Paul Schutz, Larry Low, and Peter Wong, helped set up our signs, check-in, and policed the area so that we could return it in good condition.

A special thanks to Wayne Dexter for rummaging around his garage to find the flag and stand that we used and can continue to use at our luncheons. Pledging to a real flag is always more sincere than a video version.

I applaud everyone’s professionalism at our meeting. I didn’t hear any cell phones ringing, members were sitting, attentive to the speakers, few bolted to the exit and most allowed our keynote speaker time to address questions without distractions.

Bruce Karney has tallied your responses in the mini questionnaire and results are reported in another article. We will work with our host facility as they upgrade their AV system, and we will outline a table plan that allows for a walking aisle. We will also work with our state

organization so that we can use vendor food services for our next meeting.

We hope to improve upon our good start and make our new home visits ever better.

One last comment, we are closing out our membership renewal period so if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so by clicking on the link in your renewal email.

Ron Nakamoto

LUNCH BY SALTALK.COM AT APRIL 19TH MEETING

The State SIR President has recently met with his Board and we heard that he is drafting a letter to authorize all Branches to use meal delivery programs (such as Saltalk) starting with our April 19 luncheon meeting. In order for you to use this luncheon program you must agree to the following waiver which will be part of your lunch invitation/registration email.

SIR INC. BRANCH 35 MEAL DELIVERY WAIVER

I RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND WAIVE MY RIGHT TO SUE SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC. AND/OR SIR BRANCH 35, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, INCLUDING CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE, RESULTING IN ANY ILLNESS (INCLUDING DEATH) OR ECONOMIC LOSS I MAY SUFFER OR WHICH MAY RESULT FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN ANY THIRD PARTY MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM, OR ANY EVENTS INCIDENTAL TO SUCH ACTIVITY.

SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- What happened to Trail Tips? Pat was away and off the grid learning about the rock formations of the Calico Hills in Southern California. My apologies for the delayed publication, I hope late is better than never!
- Our membership dues for 2023 will be \$35, due NOW. Login to your [profile page on the Membership Website](#), hit the blue 'Renew' button and pay by credit card!

APRIL 2023 ROSTER

Active Members: 329 Net Monthly Change: -1

In Memoriam

Peter Mueller (Palo Alto), a member of the biking group.
He will be missed! R.I.P.

NEW MEMBERS



Jay Mark
(Vicki)
Cherry Ave.,
Los Altos

503-807-5083
jaybmark@gmail.com
Intel Corp.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

John Daines (13)	Jay Jonekait (15)	Gordon Mullin (20)
Jim Dunaway (19)	Harold Kaye (13)	Glen Pedigo (12)
Mickey Ellingson (17)	Stu Kennedy (16)	Jim Sandstrom (13)
Rolf Fromm (13)	Frank Kiss (21)	Stan Scardino (14)
Del Hanson (10)	John Kolb (10)	

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Mack Asrat	Ben Kuckens	Dan Schettler
Bill Blockie	Max Lun	Dell Smith
Jerry Borden	Jim Lunt	Mark Taylor
John Brittain	Joe MacIntosh	Steve Vonderach
Mike Hammond	Neil Miotto	Gary Waldeck
Dick Henning	Pat OConnor	Bob Willwerth
Hutch Hutchinson	Mark Rosenthal	Jack Wu
Andy Jurian	Sam Sammis	Phil Yurtis
Frank Kiss		

BOOK SWAP

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



The book swap can be found at the April 19th luncheon meeting. Bring a favorite book to share, grab one that catches your interest!

BOOK CLUB

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



The Book Club is an activity where most months of the year, all members read the same new book and then meet to discuss it. For our March meeting, we read "Dear Committee Members" which is a novel told entirely through various letters of recommendation from Professor Jay Fitger, an acerbic and scathingly witty professor of English at appropriately named Payne University. Fitger promotes the most deserving while decrying the disrespect into which the Humanities generally and the English Department in particular have fallen. The letters tell stories of both triumph and sadness while skewering bureaucrats with his razor-sharp pen. Several readers thought the book was hilarious while several others disliked its negativity. Everyone seemed to find the format original and interesting.

For the April meeting, we will read and discuss "Riders of the Purple Sage" (F) by Zane Grey.

BIKING

GORDON TONG 408-242-0557
gordy6850@gmail.com
 HANK BOTTINO 650-207-4320
bottinoh@comcast.net



SIR Branch 35 Biking, 2nd Thursday, 13 April 2023 at 11:00AM. Wives, S.O.s and guests welcome; helmets required and face masks optional but read latest CDC guidance [here](#).

Foster City Bay Trail

Ride: We will ride the scenic and picturesque Foster City Bay Trail from the Oracle Corporate Headquarters to the Poplar Creek Golf Course at Coyote Point. There is another 4 mile extension that would take us to the very Southern edge of the SF International Airport for a total round trip of 22 miles. The trail is paved and level but there is on-going construction that will detour us on to some city streets with well designated bike lanes. We can decide on whether to ride the 4 mile extension on the day of the ride. There are several restaurants along the ride for lunch options. It might be windy, so bring a windbreaker or vest.

Directions: Get off Highway 101 at Marine Parkway/ Ralston. Turn right on Marine Parkway, then an immediate left onto Oracle Parkway. The meeting point is a tree-shaded parking lot with restrooms to the left of this intersection. If the parking lot there is full, backtrack over the creek to 401-501 Island Parkway and park in the Oracle lot. Ride your bike across the pedestrian bridge to the meeting point.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact either Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 (gordy6850@gmail.com) or Hank Bottino at (650) 207-4320 (bottinoh@comcast.net).

WINE FINDERS

ALAN GAUDIE 650-964-6510
alanguaudie@yahoo.com
 RUSS AYRES 650-776-6391
rres3@hotmail.com



This activity is for couples who want to have fun and meet new people. We gather at the home of a host couple to blind taste and grade wines and share appetizers. Contact either Alan or Russ to join or for more information.

HIKING

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



Our March 2023 hike took us to Calero County Park where we hiked the Los Cerritos, Pena and Figueroa Loop Trail. After so much rain this year we had Blue Sky and Bright Sun which was a welcome relief. Nineteen people participated (6 women and 13 men) and everyone seemed to have a good time. Our after hike debriefing took place at The Running Shop and Hops in Morgan Hill.

For the April hike we will be hiking the Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve in Portola Valley, taking the Arroyo, Old Spanish and Toyon Trails. Approximately a 4.6 mile trail with a 900 foot elevation change this should provide us with some good wildflower viewing. This is a moderate challenging route. Our after hike debriefing will be at Rossetti's Alpine Inn in Portola Valley. Contact me if you would like to attend.



Bring your spouse, significant other or friend and join us. There are many opportunities to socialize and make new friends. Pack a trail lunch and we will find a scenic spot to eat and enjoy nature. Hikes normally occur on the 4th Friday of the month.

John Tucker

BOCCE BALL

GIL EAKINS 650-400-5813
gil.eakins@gmail.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.

Weather has been the big challenge for Bocce play this past month. When rain has let up, we wait for a few days of sunshine, alert our players that Bocce is on for the upcoming Friday, and then that morning, before the start of play, attendees are busy preparing the surfaces of the two courts so the bocce balls will move appropriately. It is encouraging to see players arriving and willingly take up tools and rake and brush the crushed oyster flour surfaces before the start of play.

BOWLING

BOB TAGGART 650-321-2654
chtaggart@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 are open for additional bowlers AND we are co-ed, so check for interest with your wife or significant other. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.

The Spring Session started on March 28th so it's still an excellent time to join the league. We bowl every Tuesday (1:00 PM for a couple hours) at Homestead Bowl in Cupertino. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.



STANDINGS - FINAL - WINTER 2023

1st PLACE - Les Fisher, Jim Holman, Don Haythronwhite
2nd PLACE - Nancy, Ken Jones, Gerry Cooley, Bob Garten
3rd PLACE - TIE - Fred Emmenegger, Doug Anderson, Ron Nakamoto, Perry Brown
3rd PLACE - TIE - Bob Feigelson, Bob Taggart, Marc Haberman
5th PLACE - Brian Lin, Stan Barkey, Jay, Jonekait
6th PLACE - Harold Kaye, Darryl Walker, Norm Hackford, Joe Enos
7th PLACE - Ranney Thayer, Alan Gaudie, Jerry Ososkie
8TH PLACE - Peter Wong, Rick McColloch, Larry Low, Arnie Satterlee

LAST WEEK'S TOP SCORES

Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	524 - Jay Jonekait	1st	181 - Perry Brown
2nd	472 - Darryl Walker	2nd	177 - Arnie Satterlee
3rd	469 - Joe Enos	3rd	171 - Larry Low
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	633 - Ken Jones	1st	230 - Jim Holman
2nd	638 - Harold Kaye	2nd	233 - Gerry Cooley
3rd	624 - Norm Hackford	3rd	219 - Bob Taggart

SEASON HIGH SCORES

Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	586 - Larry Low	1st	225 - Perry Brown
2nd	577 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	217 - Bob Taggart
3rd	529 - Arnie Brown	3rd	204 - Joe Enos
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	715 - Marc Haberman	1st	271 - Brain Lin
2nd	700 - Jim Holman	2nd	269 - Fred Emmenegger T
3rd	666 - Ron Nakamoto	3rd	269 - Jerry Ososkie T

CHESS

BEN KUCKENS 650-400-0353
benkg@att.net



The Chess group meets on Wednesdays 9am to 1pm at the Los Altos Civic Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, in the senior center room. All are welcome to come and play non-competitive friendly games of chess (no time clocks). All levels of players are welcome. Ben and a few others are available to play on many other days, dates and times are flexible. If interested, contact Ben.

GOLF

BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567 bkarny@comcast.net
 LES MILES 408-528-5473 lpomi@yahoo.com
 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651 llow1721@gmail.com

**Nakamoto Has the Round of the Month**

Congratulations to Big Sir Ron Nakamoto for firing the Round of the Month. He shot 3.5 strokes under at Bayonet on March 27. Way to go, Ron!

Branch 35 Golfers Win Top Spots in Regional Event

Six of our golfers (Gikis, Joyce, Mattson, O'Meara, Petersen and Wong) played in the Friendship Tournament hosted by Branch 161 at the Discovery Bay Country Club on March 6. They were paired with members from other branches in a 4-man, 2-best-ball format. 28 teams (112 players) participated. A luncheon was included to enhance the "friendship" part of the event. Walt Joyce's team

finished first and Herb Petersen's finished second.

Fixtures for the Coming Month

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by April 14 for the following:			
San Jose Muni (SJM)	Mon May 1	10:00	\$47
	Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1(at)gmail.com / Kalsi		
Callippe Preserve (CPR) (Cart)	Thu May 4	10:04	\$57
	Barkey 408-996-3133 stanbarkey(at)gmail.com / Wilson		
Los Lagos (LLS)	Mon May 8	10:03	\$35
	** Need TC ** / ** Need ATC **		
Pacific Grove (PGR)	Thu May 11	10:00	\$59
	O'Meara 408-506-4714 omearatimo(at)gmail.com / Hall		
Crystal Springs (CSP) (Cart)	Mon May 15	10:00	\$61
	Cioni 650-393-5711 jacion(at)yahoo.com / Holman		
San Ramon (SRM)	Thu May 18	10:00	\$38
	Mattson 650-949-3739 donmattson(at)yahoo.com / ** Need ATC **		
Shoreline (SHL)	Mon May 22	9:30	\$39
	McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath(at)yahoo.com / Garten		
Las Positas (LPS) (Cart)	Thu May 25	10:00	\$57
	Gikis 650-948-9523 gikisben(at)yahoo.com / Mattson		
Poppy Ridge (PPR) (Cart)	Wed May 31	10:00	\$65
	Nakamoto 408-440-2330 Ronandelaine(at)comcast.net / Hall		

The Rules Corner

Bruce Karney tees up the questions and Joe Cioni answers them.

The Situation: On the par-4 18th hole of the Arnold Palmer Invitational on March 5, Kurt Kitayama was on the green in two and needed a par to win. He stroked a long birdie putt that came to rest overhanging the hole, a scant millimeter or two from going in. As he walked toward the ball, the TV announcer excitedly said: "Tap it in, don't get the 10-second penalty right now." What the heck is the 10-second penalty?

The Ruling: After putting, the player has a reasonable amount of time to walk to the hole, and then has 10 seconds to see if his ball drops. A smart player will start counting out loud when he arrives at the hole. If the ball falls within 10 seconds, it is considered holed from the previous stroke. If it falls after 10 seconds it is also holed, but with a 1-stroke penalty.

Joe says: I always have a stopwatch around my neck when officiating to time three-minute ball searches and for overhanging putts like this. On the PGA Tour there is an official following every group. I am pretty sure they do the same. The announcer was wrong. No matter whether Kurt tapped it in or it fell in after more than ten seconds, the result would be the same: a par and victory.

The Quiz: Last month's Trail Tips asked readers to send in their answer to this Quiz Question: "A ball lies on the green in 2. The player marks and lifts it, then unintentionally places it at another player's nearby ball-marker and sinks the putt. Another player informs him that he played from the wrong ball marker. The player places his ball at the correct marker and holes the putt. What is the player's score for the hole?"

Quiz Answer: He scored 5. After holing the first putt he had completed the hole, unless the other ball marker's location gave him a significant advantage. His second putt was immaterial; he'd already finished the hole. But he must assess himself the general penalty (2 strokes) for playing from the wrong location, giving him a score of 5.

Who got it right: Nobody! Only one person ventured a guess, but he gave the wrong answer – 6 -- so I won't reveal his identity.

The Situation: A golfer who has no physical handicap often parks his cart on the collar of the green to save a few steps. Is there a

penalty associated with this? More generally, do the rules impose penalties for boorish behavior, such as intentionally coughing during an opponent's backswing, failing to rake traps, etc.?

The Ruling: Rule 1.2 Standards of Player Conduct applies.

1.2a Conduct Expected of All Players

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

- Acting with integrity - for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
- Showing consideration to others - for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there might be a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning, such as the traditional warning of "fore."
- Taking good care of the course - for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.

There is no penalty under the Rules for failing to act in this way, except that the Committee may disqualify a player for acting contrary to the spirit of the game if it finds that the player has committed serious misconduct. "Serious misconduct" is behavior that is so far removed from what is expected in golf that the most severe sanction of removing a player from the competition is justified. Report serious misconduct to the Tournament Chair, who will then report it to the Branch 35 Golf Committee.

Why are Some Names Printed in Red?

Achievements in red are **outstanding efforts** that should be applauded by all Branch 35 members. 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 on a course rated 66 or higher. The cash prizes are \$15 for IPL, \$25 for eagle, and \$200 for the very first time you shoot your age or better in a SIR tournament and \$25 for each subsequent occurrence, but no more than one cash prize per calendar year.

State SIR also provides a "SIR Feather" trophy to golfers who shoot their age or better. It is a two-inch wooden feather with a metal backing with the name, age, golf course and date etched on back and the score of the round etched on the front. The trophy is awarded only once per golfer per year, no matter how many times he shoots his age or better.

Golf Results

Poppy Ridge (Zinfandel/Merlot)			Par 72			Mar. 2, 2023		
Palmer Fit. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Fit. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Fit.	Net	\$
Joe Cioni	72	\$20	Bruce Karney	69	\$20	Don Mattson	76	\$17
Jim Thorne	73	\$15	JT Tompane	75	\$15	Gerald Cooley	78	\$10
J. Rittweger	74	\$10	Stan Barkey	75	\$10	Man Tran	79	\$5
Rob't Manetta	75	\$5	Dave Squellati	76	\$5			
Inside Putter Length: JT Tompane (Zinfandel #7) \$15								
Low Gross (forward tees): Dave Squellati 95								
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 81								

Bayonet			Par 72			Mar. 27, 2023		
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize			
Ron Nakamoto	69	\$25	John Ray	72	\$18			
Larry Low	75	\$19	Tim O'Meara	72	\$14			
Robert Manetta	75	\$14	Jim Narva	73	\$10			
Brad Methenany	75	\$9						
Inside Putter Length: None								
Low Gross (forward tees): Richard McGrath 87								
Low Gross (back tees): Robert Manetta 86								

2023 Team Match Play Tournament Results				
Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
1	Bayonet	B. Gikis & K. Jones def. R. Garten & L. Miles	3 & 1	\$10@

APRIL

PAT O'CONNOR



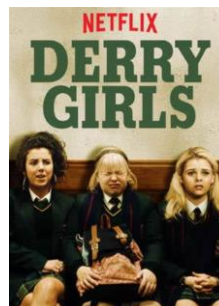
Some special dates this month!

- 5th Start of Passover
- 6th – 9th The Masters (Augusta, GA)
- 9th Easter Sunday
- 15th NBA Playoffs begin
- 17th NHL Playoffs begin
- 21st End of Ramadan
- 27th Take Our Kids to Work Day
- 27th – 29th NFL Draft

MOVIES

MOVIES

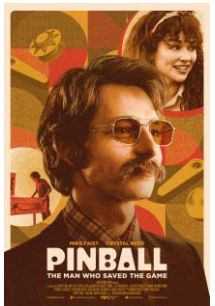
JIM QUILLINAN
jvquill@pacbell.net



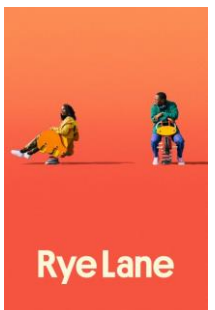
Derry Girls. The Netflix series has ended with eight episodes. The young ladies of Northern Ireland are entering their adult lives as the Troubles end with the Good Friday Agreement. Being Catholic in Northern Ireland has its challenges. The young women of the convent school see a bright future. Their language and behavior are crude and hilarious as they adjust to the strained times in which they live. Even the stern Sister Michael (Mother Superior) has a funny bone. There are many laugh out loud moments that make this journey through The Troubles memorable. Rated TV MA for language.



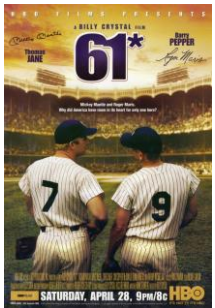
John Wick: Chapter 4. Keanu Reeves is back in the fourth (last?) episode of the carnage known as John Wick. Wick seems to be unharmed by endless rounds of machine gun bullets, being run over by cars, falling from great heights, crashing down steep flights of stairs and assaults of all kinds. He is also a terrible shot himself but does have an endless supply of ammo. John Wick is trying to free himself from the curse of The High Table. As their hired assassin, he made many enemies and some friends. He now must vanquish his enemies who are everywhere and keep on coming. If you like non-stop action, this is the film for you. Note this is a mindless bloodbath that should also be sunned. Rated R for pervasive strong violence and some language. In Theatres.



Pinball: The Man Who Saved the Game. If you spent countless hours pumping quarters into Pinball games, this is a wonderful trip down memory lane. The 1970s come alive. The film combines documentary elements using contemporary interviews with the actual participants and dramatic presentations of the events and people who saved the Pinball Machine for posterity. It is the story of Roger Sharpe, a young man from Chicago who was instrumental in New York City repealing its 35-year-old ban on pinball machines. Roger was a writer who became obsessed with playing pinball while in college. He used his skill to demonstrate to NY authorities that pinball was not a gambling device but a game of skill. Along the way he shares with us the history of pinball and how it came to be. The film tells an interesting tale with a fresh approach to its presentation. Not rated. Available on Amazon Prime Video. It is a Peggy's Pick.



Rye Lane. This is a refreshing new approach to a Rom/Com. David Johnson is Dom and Vivian Oparah is Yas. Make note of these two young actors. They both command the screen. Dom and Yas are both suffering from bad breakups. Dom is shy and reticent. Yas is ebullient. They meet in the bathroom of a South-London club. As they crash around the art and club scene of London, they tell one another stories and get into all sorts of predicaments as they begin to form a relationship. The two characters are engaging. We root for them to connect. Many good laughs and poignant moments. This is one to see. Streaming on Hulu. Rated R for language, some sexual content and nudity. It is a Peggy's Pick.



61* (Added by Bruce Karney) In honor of Opening Day, I'd like to share a movie recommendation: Billy Crystal's film 61* about the 1961 home run hitting battle between teammates Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris. The asterisk in the title reflects the decision by the Commissioner of Baseball that if either Yankee surpassed Babe Ruth's record of 60 homers, but took more than 154 games to do so, their season record would forever wear the asterisk of shame.

(The length of a season had recently been extended to 162 games.) The movie itself is wonderful, especially for those old enough that their nostalgia sensors to be tingling throughout. But I urge you to watch the hour-long "Making of 61*" feature on the DVD before you watch the film. Crystal's love of the Yankees, Mantle and Maris in particular, is poignant and relatable. And for those baseball fans under 40, you'll be amazed at how modestly these titans of the game lived -- because their meager salaries didn't allow them to live any other way!

Bruce

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

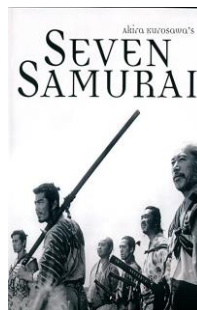
RON NAKAMOTO

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

While Asian American month is in May, that is also the month for Memorial Day, and I want to focus my selections on honoring our service men and women that month. So, I chose this month to recognize our fellow Asian Americans with these movie and music selections. If you have an Asian friend, bring him to our meeting. We could use more diversity in our membership!



Movie: Seven Samurai

If you are not Japanese, you may still recognize this movie title, by the number of western movies it has spawned with the same or similar movie plot. "The Magnificent Seven", with Yul Brynner, Charles Bronson, Steve McQueen, James Coburn, Eli Wallach, Robert Vaughn and a few others you probably remember. Or how about "The Dirty Dozen" with Lee Marvin, "The Last Samurai" with Tom Cruise, or even "Star Wars" with Alec Guinness, Harrison Ford, and Mark Hamill. The central story line is the same, a motley band of ronin (samurai without a master- the good guys) are hired to defend a village from an army of bandits (the bad guys) wanting to steal their harvest and abduct the defenseless women and children of the village (the innocents).

Akira Kurosawa, who wrote and directed this classic, was known as the most "western" of Japanese filmmakers and in turn, was influenced by the cowboy films of director John Ford. "Stagecoach", "Rio Grande", and "Yellow Ribbon", all had the same strong main character, played by John Wayne as does Kurosawa with Toshiro Mifune as his main character actor.

Some interesting but little-known facts:

- George Lucas said, "Kurosawa had a tremendous influence on my life and work."

- The Kurosawa film, "Hidden Fortress" was a major influence on the story line for "Star Wars".
- Lucas offered Toshiro Mifune, the lead actor in many of Kurosawa's films the role of Obi-Wan, and later for Darth Vader, but Mifune turned both down.
- Sergio Leone's "A Fistful of Dollars" originated from "Yojimbo" another Kurosawa film.
- "Rashomon" was reconfigured as the 1964 Paul Newman film "The Outrage".

The sharing and copying of movie storylines and cinematic technology and techniques between Hollywood and Uzumasa (the district of Kyoto that's known as the Hollywood of Japan) is one more contributing factor to a very close relationship between the two countries.

Here is some background information on this film and the director.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0047478/trivia/>



Music: Sukiyaki - Kyu Sakamoto

In 1963, "Sukiyaki" was the first-ever Japanese song to hit No.1 on the U.S. singles chart and remained on top for the next three weeks. The song sold over 13 million copies, making it one of the best-selling singles of all time.

The song is a sorrowful song but filled with hope. The story is about a young couple falling out of love. A few translated verses capture its story:

"Walking along, looking up, so that the teardrops won't flow out of my eyes / I look back on a spring day on this lonely night. 'A good fortune is beyond the clouds / A good fortune is beyond the sky / So I'm looking up and I'm looking forward, imagining that good fortune in the future."

"It really is a song about the sadness of looking back, but also being on the cusp of something being better in the future. In some ways, that also helps explain the timelessness of that kind of sentiment." (Ian Condry, MIT)

The inspiration for the song's mournful lyrics wasn't love, but the political tension and protests the lyricist, Rokusuke Ei, experienced after a student demonstration protesting the continued U.S. Army

presence in Japan. He was feeling dejected about the failure of the protest movement as by the late 1950's the Japanese people wanted the U.S. occupation to end and control of their own country. Yet, in spite of the massive protests the Japanese government needed America's protection and signed a security treaty in January of 1960.

The protest movement in Japan failed to stop the signing and ratification of the treaty but after over 120,000 people rallied around the Diet (Parliament) with such anger and passion, the Prime Minister, Kishi Nobusuke resigned the next day. The American protest movement did the same as protests against the Vietnam War continued to grow and eventually influenced Lyndon Johnson to not run for reelection in 1968. The student radicalization movement of the 1960-1970s was in full bloom.

Here is a link to the song "Sukiyaki" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74ydMlobSqQ>

If you want to listen to a fascinating audio explanation of the history and meaning of "Sukiyaki". Click on this link and then click on the "3 Minute Listen" play button.

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/196618792>

If you are interested in the full lyric translation, click on this link.

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/ue-o-muite-arukō-sukiyaki-i-look-when-i-walk.html>

East meets West and West meets East. We are all of the same cloth. As Paul Harvey says, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."



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 Kindle	209-652-8608
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BRANCH 35 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Director (Membership).....	Paul Schutz	408-313-6852
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Director (Events).....	Ben Gikis	408-802-0794
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Director (Nominations).....	Andy Danver	650-906-3747

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Car Pools.....	Ken Jones	650-492-1461
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New Member Orientation.....	Paul Schutz	408-313-6852

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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 - April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Golf 10:00am Boulder Ridge -- \$85	28 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	29 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	30 Golf 10:00am Poppy Ridge -- \$65	31 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	1
2	3 Golf 10:00am Boulder Ridge -- \$85	4 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	5 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	6 Golf 10:30am Poppy Hills -- \$130	7 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	8
9	10 Golf 10:00am Eagle Ridge -- \$74	11 Golf TBD (SIR State Napa) Eagle Vines, Chardonnay -- TBD Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	12 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Golf TBD (SIR State Napa) Eagle Vines, Chardonnay -- TBD	13 Golf 10:02am Rancho Solano -- \$54 Biking 11:00am Foster City Bay Trail Meet at Oracle Parkway parking lot	14 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	15
16	17 Golf 10:00am Santa Teresa -- \$78	18 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	19 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Branch 35 Monthly Meeting Mtn. View Community Center Doors open 11:00, Zoom starts 11:30 Lunch delivers - 11:30am, Biz 12:30pm Speaker: Jitze Couperus, Photography	20 Golf 10:05am Seascape -- \$65	21 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve	22
23	24 Golf 10:00am Bridges -- \$85	25 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	26 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	27 Golf 11:30am The Villages -- \$73	28 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	29

