



Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web www.sirinc2.org/branch35/**- NEXT MEETING -****3rd Wednesday, November 15th, 2023**

SIR Branch 35 Lunch Meeting 11:00am-1:30pm

Business 12:15pm, Speaker 12:45pm

Venue: Mountain View Community Center,

Menu: Catering is BACK!

PROGRAM**Dr. Linda Riebel:****Why Love Opera? An Invitation**

Linda Riebel, Ph.D., is the author of the book *Irene Dalis: Diva, Impresaria, Legend* and of the article on opera in the *Encyclopedia of Creativity (3rd edition)*. She has been a member of the Friends of Opera San Jose since its founding in 2014 and served as its president for two years. A retired psychologist and adjunct professor, she played the harp professionally for 13 years and has given lectures on opera and Shakespeare.

This talk is Linda's way of introducing this splendid art form to newcomers, and to those who are not technically "newbies" but who want to deepen their understanding of opera. She will briefly define opera, share some music, explain why to love opera, describe the different kinds of opera music and end up with easy steps for getting started as an opera admirer. The event will include a rich array of musical selections from opera comedies and tragedies recorded by the greatest singers of our era..

Peter Wong

The Big Sir says...

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving. You know of the history of the Plymouth colonists from England and the Native American Wampanoag Indians whom in 1621, shared their autumn harvest with the struggling Pilgrims in a feast that is cited as the first Thanksgiving celebration. Well, according to the National Park Service, the first recorded thanksgiving actually took place in St. Augustine, Florida in 1565, when Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez de Aviles settled there. Menendez invited the native Selo tribe to their "Mass of Thanksgiving" to celebrate their landing, new home, and neighbors. Wherever the start, the celebration of Thanksgiving became an annual event, and the annual event became a national holiday in 1863. Happy Thanksgiving everyone. Be thankful for your loved ones, your friends, and yourself, as "I'm still upright" is the proper response to "How are you doing?"



This month we recognize those few, special individuals that have regularly contributed their time and efforts in significant ways that have had a beneficial impact on branch operations. The official recognition and instatement of these deserving members will be at this month's luncheon and will include a framed certificate, an HLM medal, and a big "Thank you for your service" from your fellow members.

We will also be announcing and recognizing our Branch Officers for 2024 and thanking those that served for 2023. Each Officer will receive a "Doing My Part" pin for their service dealing with the many challenges we encountered this year.

Finally, our December Holiday luncheon planning is in full swing. We will celebrate the year on December 13 (2nd Wednesday) at our MVCC Redwood Hall. This will be a traditional catered event with a full menu, holiday decorations, entertainment from the MVHS Madrigal Singers, and a bottle of wine on each table. A separate article in this edition of Trail Tips will provide you with more information.

It should be an eventful time for us, so I hope to see you at our November 15th Luncheon..

Ron

SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- See Ron's article about the opera in this newsletter for details about a discount San Jose Opera are offering SIR members!
- See information about our Holiday Celebration in an article in this newsletter!
- The Trading Post section of the newsletter is retired until there is more interest from members.
- Beverage Operations at our luncheon will continue through the November meeting. It has been a success, but the initial reason for starting "Bev Ops" was to use up the excess inventory from the picnic and to provide some drinks during lunch. We will revisit it in January. The operation takes some effort, and if we are to continue it, we will need at least 2 more dedicated volunteers. Contact Ben Gikis or Ken Jones.
- SF GIANTS OUTING-2024 – Ben has 3 dates available for Giants tickets this coming year. Details are not yet complete on the Giants end, but he's sure we will be able to get very good seats at a great price. Possible dates are: April 7 (San Diego), April 28 (Pittsburgh) and May 19 (Colorado). We will choose one of these dates. Ticket sales will begin in December and continue through February. More details will follow, stay tuned!

OCTOBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 308 Net Monthly Change: +2

We added two new members this month. There's room for more, we welcome new members so bring a friend or neighbor!

Remember, you can search our member database at this link:

[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)

NEW MEMBERS

Gerry Czamanske Palo Alto	US Geological Survey
Peter Daley Menlo Park	

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS

Joe Enos (12)	John Files (14)	Bob Garten (23)
Wayne Grove (23)	Brian Hardy (13)	Don Mattson (23)
Carl Moyer (25)	Vern Schmidt (20)	Bob Shaw (23)
Bob Steinberg (12)	Bob Taggart (18)	Mark Temme (29)
Ian Thomson (21)	Phil Vanderwerf (12)	Steve Vonderach (12)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill Baker Jr.	Stan Barkey	Andy Danver
Del Fillmore	Les Fisher	Alan Gaudie
Greg Gomon	Brian Hardy	Jeff Jenks
Balbir Kalsi	Bruce Karney	Buck Kendrick
Dick Knock	John Kolb	Vijay Kumar
Jim LaRoy	Larry Low	Richard Oehlberg
Tim O'Meara	Alan Pye	Jim Quillinan
Bob Rayl Jr.	Karl Reseck	Jim Sandstrom
Mark Sarjeant	Ron Stefani	Bill Young

BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

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



The book swap can be found at the November luncheon meeting. Bring a favorite book to share and grab one that catches your eye. There is always lots of variety to stimulate new interests!

BOOK CLUB

See our [web page](#)

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 book and then meet to discuss it.

For October, we read "The Eagle's Cry" (historical fiction) by David Nevin. The book begins in 1799 with the passing of George Washington. It provides insight into the early years of America's democracy leading up to the Louisiana Purchase. Some members found the book very interesting, but some felt it read too much like a novel with the invented dialog sometimes overwhelming the story. The book is rather long, and not all members completed it.

Our book for November is "The Johnstown Flood" by David McCullough..

BIKING

See our [web page](#)

GORDON TONG 408-242-0557
gordey6850@gmail.com

HANK BOTTINO 650-207-4320
bottinoh@comcast.net



2nd THURSDAY – November 9th, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcomed. Helmets are required and face masks optional but please read the latest CDC guidance below:

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

Los Gatos Creek Trail: We will ride the ever popular and scenic trail starting from the Blackford Elementary School parking lot to downtown Los Gatos for about 7.5 miles. The trail is paved and generally level with some short inclines underneath streets. There are many lunch options in the downtown area. Then, we'll ride back on the same trail for a total of 15 miles.

Directions: Go South on I-280 (past Highway 17) to Meridian Avenue (South); turn right. Go to Willow Street (the third stoplight) and turn right. Take Willow Street until it dead-ends at Blackford Elementary School. Parking is available in the school parking lot and

on neighborhood streets. For an address to plug into your GPS, Blackford Elementary School 1970 Willow St, San Jose.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordy Tong gordy6850@gmail.com or Hank Bottino bottinoh@comcast.net or 650 207-4320.

Gordy

WINE FINDERS

See our [web page](#)

ALAN GAUDIE 650-964-6510
alangaudie@yahoo.com



RUSS AYRES 650-776-6391
rrayres3@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, grade wines and share appetizers. Contact either Alan or Russ to join or for more information.

CHESS

See our [web page](#)

BEN KUCKENS 650-400-0353
bengk@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.

BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI 650-305-9132
mlevi@comcast.net



The Bridge group meets at the Los Altos Senior Center on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at noon. Just drop in and play or let me know you're coming so we can plan a bit.

HIKING

See our [web page](#)

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



Nineteen hikers took part in the October Branch 35 hike at Pulgas Ridge Open Space on Friday, 10/27/23. We hiked 5.75 miles in very comfortable weather, stopped along the way to eat our trail lunch and

finished the day with a debriefing at the Canyon Inn in Redwood City. A very enjoyable day.

Tradition says that we combine our November and December hikes because of the holidays. Therefore our next hike will be on Friday, December 1, 2023. We will be hiking Mount Umunhum in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. This is the location of the 5 story concrete "Cube" that can be seen from much of San Jose. The "Cube" supported a radar antenna and was home to the Almaden Air Force Base that was active from 1958 to 1980. We will eat our lunch at picnic table at the interpretative center where there is an interesting display about the Air Force station. There are bathrooms at the parking lot where we start the hike and also at the top. This hike is 8 miles and an elevation change of 1200 feet. We usually get a good turnout for this hike and the weather is normally good. Even though this is our longest hike of the year the trail switchbacks its way up the mountain so most people are comfortable making the trip.

Come join us! Meet interesting people, enjoy nature and learn local history all while getting some exercise.

To join our hiking group and get more details send an email to John Tucker at tuckerjg6@gmail.com.

John Tucker

NOVEMBER'S SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR
patoconnor61@outlook.com



- 1st-4th MLB World Series games
- 4th / 5th Fall Back! Change clocks 2am
- 5th NASCAR Cup Series Championship
- 5th F1 Sao Paulo Grand Prix
- 6th CFDA Fashion Awards
- 7th Election Day
- 7th PGA Houston Open
- 8th National STEM Day
- 11th Veteran's Day
- 19th International Men's Day
- 19th Billboard Music Awards
- 19th F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix
- 23rd Thanksgiving

BOCCE BALL

See our [web page](#)

NORM PASS – SCHEDULE & CANCELLATIONS 408-737-7639
normpass@sbcglobal.net

ED AUSTIN 650-468-5341
austinv@aol.com

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



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.

Last month in our Trail Tips piece, we pointed out that the primary reason SIR members come to play Bocce is for fellowship, even though it is fun to get a “4 baller” (4 points in one roll), or, for example, to knock an opponent’s ball closest to the pallino (target ball) well away from it so it is no longer a contender for a point.



SIR Bocce players at the old Los Altos Community Center, July 28, 2017

In the picture above, see how many of our SIR Bocce players from 5 years ago you recognize. On the far right is Freddie Schwalbach, now passed on, a Bocce activity co-founder, and on the left side is Norm Pass, also an original co-founder and our co-chair. Behind, on the left side is Bob Taggart, who brings much fun and enthusiasm to our games, and in the left back row is Wayne Dexter, who so expertly managed our SIR interests for the new bocce facility at the new Los Altos Community Center. We enjoy today.

BOWLING
See our [web page](#)

BOB TAGGART 650-321-2654
cbtaggart@earthlink.net



PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

DOUG ANDERSON 415-407-4000
marktinti@aol.com

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

Four weeks remaining in our closely contested Fall Session. 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 - FALL WEEK 12 - 2023	
1st Place	-- Les Fisher, Gerry Cooley, Jim Narva, Larry Low
2nd Place	-- Brian Lin, Bob Taggart, Joe Enos
3rd Place	-- Ruth Ososkie, Rick McColloch, Jerry Ososkie, Marc Haberman
4th Place	-- Doug Anderson, Daryl Walker, Stan Barkey, Bob Garten
5th Place	-- Fred Emmenegger, Ken Allen, Don Haythronwhite
6th Place	-- Ranney Thayer, Jim Holman, Perry Brown
7th Place	-- Alan Gaudie, Arnie Satterlee, Ron Nakamoto
8th Place	-- Harold Kaye, Peter Wong, Jay Jonekait

SEASON HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	583 - Marc Haberman	1st	232 - Jay Jonekait
2nd	561 - Larry Low	2nd	216 - Joe Enos
3rd	524 - Stan Barkey	3rd	209 - Ken Allen
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	695 - Ruth Ososkie	1st	265 - Bob Taggart
2nd	685 - Gerry Cooley	2nd	261 - Rick McColloch
3rd	680 - Brian Lin	3rd	260 - Ron Nakamoto

LAST WEEK'S HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	518 - Marc Haberman	1st	193 - Joe Enos
2nd	490 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	173 - Alan Gaudie - Tie
3rd	462 - Larry Low	2nd	173 - Stan Barkey - Tie
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	685 - Gerry Cooley	1st	244 - Darryl Walker
2nd	626 - Ranney Thayer	2nd	226 - Jim Narva
3rd	586 - Jerry Ososkie - Tie	3rd	221 - Fred Emmenegger
3rd	586 - Rick McColloch - Tie		

GOLF
See our [web page](#)

LES MILES 408-528-5473
Impomi@yahoo.com



BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567
bkarney@comcast.net

LARRY LOW 408-533-2651
llo1721@gmail.com

Fixtures for the Coming Month

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Friday Nov 10			
Castlewood CC Hill (CCH)	Mon Dec 4	10:00	\$115
McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com / Garten			
Los Lagos (LLS)	Thu Dec 7	9:30	\$35
Metheny 408-375-7854 brad_metheny@fuhsd.org / Ogle			
Deep Cliff (DCL2)	Mon Dec 11	10:30	\$41
Eclectic 2	Squellati 408-245-3787 dsqueaky@pacbel.net / Hall		
Sunnyvale (SVL)	Thu Dec 14	9:30	\$39
Christmas Ball	Garten 408-253-5860 xonon1@comcast.net / Ogle		

Stephens Shoots the Round of the Month

The best round of the month was turned in by Wendell Stephens on October 9 at Moffett Field. Wendell’s net 65 was 6.8 strokes “under” and he won his flight by 4 strokes. Well done, Wendell!

Club Championship Results

The Club Championship was played over three days at Baylands. Richard McGrath came in first in the Low Gross competition with 252, followed by Joe Cioni (253) and Jay Jonekait (255). Jay Jonekait (216) was the Low Net winner. Dave Squellati was second (218). Bob Garten and Alvin Begun tied for third (223).

Taboada and Gerich Are Team Match Play Champs

Tom Taboada and John Gerich defeated three other teams to advance to the finals at Moffett Field. Their opponents in the championship round were Larry Low and Joe Cioni.

Tom reports: “It was a really good match. As usual, Joe didn't miss a fairway and Larry made some miraculous bunker shots. We went from 2-up to 2-down and it took net birdies on the last four par 4s for us to come away with the win.” The final margin was 2-up. Hail to the victors!

Low and Rittweger to Vie for Match Play Title

John Rittweger shared the news of the "Battle of the Baylands."

On Monday, Oct. 16, Larry Low defeated Les Miles to reach the Match Play finals. While at the bar afterwards, I recommended Joe Cioni & I play our semi-final match on Thursday, 10/19 and the finals could then be held on Monday, 10/23. That way there would be no advantage to any of the participants and we could get it over with soon. Joe & Larry agreed. All three of us were participating in the Club Championship tournament as well as playing a match, so we had to sink all our putts -- no concessions.

Joe and I had an epic match. We both brought our "A" games and each had several birdies. I was 5 up after nine holes, but Joe came roaring back on the closing nine and we finished all square. We agreed to settle it on Monday in the third round of the Club Championship.

Joe and I were paired with Jay Jonekait and Rich McGrath. I again got up on the first nine and went up two more on the 10th and 11th holes where I was given a stroke. I was five up going into the 12th, but Joe birdied it to trail by four. I thought, "here he goes again with birdies and pars to finish." However, it was not to be. I had a par on the 14th and he missed his putt to put me 5 up with 4 to go.

Larry Low and I will meet in the Match Play finals on Nov. 6 at Poppy Ridge.

O'Meara's Hole in One

Tim O'Meara aced the 7th at Spring Valley on October 2 – his third hole in one. He reports: "There was a breeze into my face. I used a 5-wood teed up about an inch and a half. After I hit it, I saw it go straight toward the pin and disappear, but I thought it rolled off the back. Marc Haberman also hit a great shot right toward the hole and he got to the green first. When he looked in the hole and saw a ball, he raised both arms in a victory salute. When I saw him do that, I thought it was because he had made a hole in one, but he quickly let me know the ball was mine. What a thrill!!"

Jones and Gikis Score Well at SIR State Tournament

The annual State Individual Tournament on October 5 attracted more than one hundred entrants, twenty of whom won cash. Ken Jones's net 66 put him in 2nd place, and he went home \$230 richer. Ben Gikis shot net 70 to finish 8th and win \$120. Way to go, Ken & Ben!

McGrath and Cioni Advance to NCGA Senior Finals

Richard McGrath finished the season in eighth place in the Super Senior Series and will advance to the State Championship at Blackhawk. He and his teammate Joe Cioni finished in sixth place in the team competition and will play in the finals at Boulder Ridge.

No More Feathers for Aces or Shooting Your Age

SIR Feathers have been presented to SIR golfers since 1988. Regrettably, the maker of the Feather pins will no longer be crafting them. Until a source for an alternate memento can be arranged, State SIR will not be awarding Feathers.

Light Sentence for Killing Monarch Bay Worker

From the Mercury News Oct. 19, 2023

An Oakland man has been sentenced to three years and four months behind bars for killing a golf course employee in San Leandro

in a 2022 hit-and-run collision, court records show. Jason McDermott, 44, pleaded no contest to vehicular man-slaughter in the death of Ismael Hernandez, an employee at Monarch Bay Golf Course. The crash occurred on April 18, 2022. Hernandez had been riding a lawnmower at work when he was struck by a stolen Dodge pickup truck driven by McDermott.

The Rules Corner

The Situation: A player's bag contains 14 clubs and a LagShot® training aid. The LagShot looks like a 7-iron but its flexible shaft is made of rubber and its purpose is to train the cocking of the wrists during the backswing. Should the player be penalized for having more than the maximum number of clubs, which is 14?

The Ruling: He can carry it in his bag, but he must declare it to be "not in play." If he takes it out and exercises with it, he is penalized. It's best not to carry it. In stroke-play events the penalty for carrying too many clubs is two strokes for each hole during which you've exceeded the limit, with a maximum penalty of four strokes under Rule 4-1.

2023 Team Match Play Tournament Results

(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" score was -2.0 or better.)

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Final	Moffett Field	Taboada & Gerich def. Cioni & Low	2 up	\$10@

2023 Individual Match Play Tournament Results

(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" score was -2.0 or better.)

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Quarter Final	The Villages	John Rittweger def. Jim Thorne	2 & 1	\$10
Quarter Final	Corica Park South	Joe Cioni def. Alex Bush	3 & 2	\$10
Semi-Final	Baylands (Oct. 16)	Larry Low def. Les Miles	1 up	\$10
Semi-Final	Baylands (Oct. 19)	John Rittweger & Joe Cioni tied	AS	--
Semi-Final	Baylands (Oct. 23)	John Rittweger def. Joe Cioni	5 & 4	\$10

The Villages

Palmer Flt. 1			Par 72			Sept. 28, 2023		
Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Tom Taboada	72	\$18	William Nix	71	\$18	Jim Narva	72	\$18
Bob Garten	72	\$14	B. Metheany	72	\$14	Milt Wehrman	73	\$12
Larry Low	73	\$10	Jerry Ososkie	74	\$10	Larry Wall	73	\$7

Low Gross (forward tees): Larry Low 84 (Jim Thorne shot 82 in match play)

Low Gross (back tees): Chris Weberg 97

Spring Valley

Palmer Flt. 1			Par 70			Oct. 2, 2023		
Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Ken Jones	68	\$20	Peter Lau	69	\$20	Tim O'Meara	64	\$18
M. Haberman	71	\$15	Jerry Ososkie	70	\$15	W. Stephens	70	\$14
Rich McGrath	71	\$10	D. Squellati	71	\$10	Jim Narva	73	\$10
Bob Garten	71	\$5	B. Metheany	72	\$5	Larry Wall	73	\$5

Inside Putter Length: Tim O'Meara, hole in one on #7 (\$200).

Low Gross (forward tees): Tim O'Meara 87

Low Gross (back tees): Richard McGrath 78

Corica Park South

Palmer Flight			Par 72			Oct. 5, 2023		
Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize				
Tom Taboada	72	\$18	Jim Narva	75	\$12			
Les Miles	75	\$14	Peter Wong	76	\$5			
Larry Low	78	\$10						

Shot his age: Joe Cioni, age 84, shot 79 in match play

Low Gross (forward tees): Richard McGrath 83

Low Gross (back tees): Les Miles & Larry Low 89 (Joe Cioni shot 79 in match play)

Moffett Field

Palmer Flt. 1			Par 72			Oct. 9, 2023		
Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Bob Garten	70	\$20	H. Petersen	68	\$20	W. Stephens	65	\$18
Les Miles	70	\$15	M. Haberman	68	\$15	Gerry Cooley	69	\$14
Nick Smyth	72	\$10	Paul Schutz	70	\$10	Tim O'Meara	70	\$10
R. Nakamoto	72	\$5	Larry Baugher	70	\$5			

Low Gross: Nick Smyth and Jim Thorne tied at 83

Crystal Springs			Par 72		Oct. 10, 2023	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Chris Weberg	74	\$21	Joe Enos	71	\$17	
Walt Joyce	74	\$16	Ben Gikis	75	\$10	
John Rittweger	75	\$10	Jim Narva	76	\$5	
Tom Taboada	75	\$5				

Baylands (Round 1)			Par 72		Oct. 16, 2023		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	
Jay Jonekait	67	\$20	D. Squellati	73	\$20	Alvin Begun	66
Bob Garten	73	\$15	Larry Baugher	77	\$15	Peter Wong	70
Larry Low	77	\$10	R. Nakamoto	82	\$10	Don Mattson	74
Joe Cioni	78	\$5	John Gerich	85	\$5		

Baylands (Round 2)			Par 72		Oct. 19, 2023	
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.
J. Rittweger	69	\$20	R. Pattison	69	\$20	Milt Wehrman
Bob Garten	70	\$15	John Gerich	72	\$15	Jim Narva
Joe Cioni	70	\$10	D. Squellati	75	\$10	Alvin Begun
Jay Jonekait	73	\$5	Jerry Ososkie	77	\$5	

Baylands (Round 3)			Par 72		Oct. 23, 2023	
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.
Les Miles	74	\$22	Larry Baugher	68	\$22	Don Mattson
Chris Weberg	75	\$16	D. Squellati	70	\$16	Joe Enos
Jay Jonekait	76	\$11	M. Haberman	74	\$11	Jim Narva
J. Rittweger	79	\$6	Jerry Ososkie	76	\$6	

San Jose Muni			Par 70		Oct. 26, 2023	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Richard McGrath	71	\$25	John Ray	66	\$22	
Richard Pattison	72	\$19	Peter Wong	67	\$16	
Tom Taboada	73	\$14	Gerry Cooley	69	\$12	
Chris Weberg	73	\$9	Jim Narva	72	\$7	



plans. William has the local police in his employ; so, the FBI gets involved to settle the score. The film is based on actual events. Using a radio broadcast of the times, Scorsese cleverly draws the stories to their end. All this film needed was a film editor to stand up to Scorsese and it would be a masterpiece. Rated R for violence, grisly images, and language. In Theatres..



The Creator. This is a so-so Sci Fi Adventure flick that pits humans vs AI robots – how au courant. Joshua (John David Washington) is a hard-bitten ex-special forces operative who is grief stricken over the loss of his wife. He is sent out to terminate The Creator who is behind the AI Robots creation of a super weapon. The Creator turns out to be a young girl. Joshua is torn between his humanity and his task. He must rectify this ultimate dilemma and does so. This film is worth a see but

wait for it to stream. In Theatres. Rated PG-13 for violence, some bloody images and strong language.



The Burial. Inspired by true events, a small-town business owner takes on a behemoth corporation and succeeds. A lot of the action takes place in a court room where the story falters. The real story is the friendship that develops between Jeremiah O'Keefe (Tommy Lee Jones) and his attorney Willie E. Gary (Jamie Foxx). O'Keefe is a funeral director in rural Mississippi. He is trying to save his family business from being

taken over by a soulless corporation. He hires Gary who is a flamboyant and very successful personal injury lawyer. They discover their simple case has much larger implications. There is a lot of soul searching coupled with laughter too as these two unlikely characters develop a bond. Rated R for language. Available on Amazon Prime Video.



Annika. Another charming British Crime Drama series starring Nicola Walker as Annika. Detective Inspector Annika Strandhed leads the Marine Homicide Unit, tasked with solving murders in and around the Glasgow, Scotland waterways. Annika is quite witty and chatty frequently breaking the fourth wall and talking directly to the audience. We, the audience, are brought into her confidence. It's as if we are participating in the search for justice. The backdrop of Scotland and

MOVIES

MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN
jvquill@pacbell.net

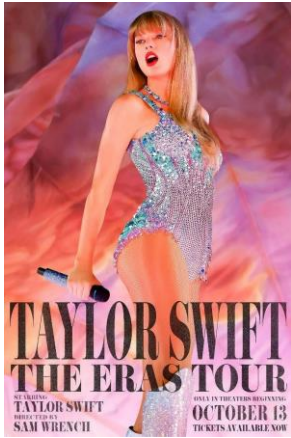


See more of Jim's movie reviews here:
<http://www.qsreviews.wordpress.com>

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on November 14th at 3 PM. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.

Killers of the Flower Moon. Martin Scorsese brings us another great story that at a 3 hours and 26 minutes run-time is way too long. An hour could easily be chopped from the movie, and it would be better. The Osage Nation is assigned a section of land in Oklahoma that is seemingly worthless. When oil is discovered on their land in the 1920s, the Osage become some of the wealthiest folks in the country. When crooked white folks get wind of this opportunity, they devise schemes and murders to deprive the Osage of their riches. The lead crook is William Hale (Robert DeNiro) who corrupts his nephew, Ernest (Leonardo DiCaprio), to carry out his nefarious

its mountains and chilly waters add to the unique feel of this production. On PBS and available on Prime Video. Rated TV 14 for language. This one is a treat so seek it out.



Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour. Miss Swift uses her considerable charm and musicality to deliver this too long presentation of her super-successful stage production. The music pounds, the dancers dance, and Taylor Swift lights up the stage but for almost 3 hours- it is too much. She takes command of the huge stage and brings the audience into her world. I might suggest seeing the film with a teenaged child or grandchild to help translate the lyrics. If you want to experience the

Taylor Swift phenomenon, then see this. In Theatres. Rated PG-13 for language. It is a Peggy's pick but Peggy says wait for the event to stream and turn on the closed captioning.

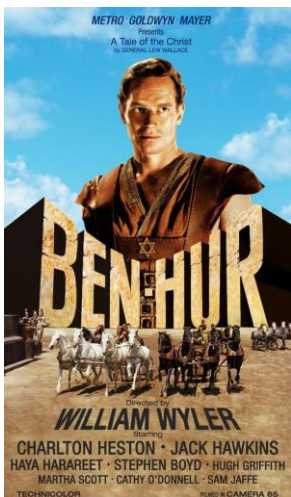
Jim

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO
RONANDELAIN@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: Ben-Hur

Released in 1959, the MGM film was originally announced to be funded in 1952 but it took until 1958 with twelve versions of the script, written by multiple writers to finally satisfy the new director William Wyler. He started with an enormous, \$7 million dollar budget which ended up costing the studio \$15 million when it was done. The epic film's run time was a whopping 212 minutes with an "Overture", "Intermission", and "Entr'acte" audience breaks. The initial release grossed 147 million and was nominated

for 12 academy awards and garnered 11.

The scale of the production was enormous. The production utilized 300 sets, scattered over 150 acres, with nine sound stages. One million pounds of plaster and 40,000 cubic feet of lumber was used. One hundred thousand costumes and 1,000 suits of armor were made for 10,000 extras, with hundreds of camels, donkeys, horses, and sheep. Ten countries were involved in the making of the film, whether it was set location, material procurement, or skilled labor for costume construction.

The chariot race required 15,000 extras on 18 acres set on the backlot of Cinecitta Studios outside of Rome. Eighteen chariots were built for use, and the total shoot took five weeks to film. Didn't you experience the drama and savageness of the moment? Without computer graphics and THX sound, just expert cinematography and raw acting immersed you into that moment. Awesome.

For you film aficionados, the chariot race has a 263-to-1 cutting ratio (263 feet of film for every one foot used), probably the highest for any 65mm sequence ever filmed. The nine-minute chariot race was cinema's most famous action sequences at that time.

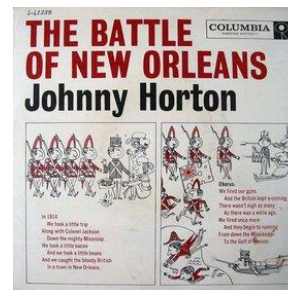
Kirk Douglas was offered the role of Messala but turned it down because he didn't want to play a "second-rate baddie". He wanted to play Judah Ben-Hur but was too old and Charlton Heston was already cast in the lead role. Kirk being Kirk developed his own epic project and released it in 1960 to compete against Ben-Hur. His film was "Spartacus".

Here is the original trailer release for Ben-Hur. Epic!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCJfUi3V3r4>

Here is a remastered version in Blu ray. Very clear with some similar scenes from the original and some other scenes to give you the scale of this film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR1ZHKw09n8>



Music: Battle of New Orleans Johnny Horton

This song is based on a real battle that occurred in the New Orleans area in the War of 1812 with England. The battle was fought on January 8, 1815, between Major General Sir Edward Pakenham and the American forces lead by Major General Andrew

Jackson. Despite a large British advantage in numbers, training, and combat experience, the American forces soundly defeated the British when they mounted a poorly executed assault which resulted in over 2,000 British deaths including the commanding general. And his second in command.

Why did the British invade New Orleans while they were in negotiations to end the war? Here is the rest of the story. Both Britain and the United States had begun negotiations to end the war on August of 1814. The Treaty of Ghent was to become the output of those negotiations. However, British Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, Henry Barthurst issued secret orders to MG Pakenham to continue the war. British Vice Admiral Cochrane also convinced the Admiralty that they could easily take New Orleans which would weaken American resolve and curtail continued expansion west and

north to Canada. They could easily reclaim the Louisiana territories ceded by Napoleon whose act they did not recognize.

Well, the song says it all. Written by Jimmy Driftwood, an Arkansas high school history teacher and later principal. He is credited with writing songs to help students learn about historical events. The song became a hit, selling over one million copies and in 1959 won a Grammy for Song of the Year.

Here is Johnny Horton and his song "The Battle of New Orleans."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjXM6x_0KZk

Here is a parody of the original song titled "The Battle of Kookamonga" made famous by the duo Homer & Jethro in 1959. It earned them a Grammy for "The Best Comedy Album" the following year.

Homer and Jethro "Camp Kookamonga" remastered version in 1965

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKVSy7vtJ9A>

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

Ron

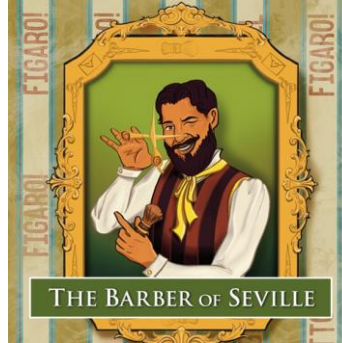
SIR HAPPENINGS

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/>

Interested in Experiencing a Live Opera Performance?

By Ron Nakamoto



This quintessential comedy features some of the most iconic music in the world and has introduced millions of people of all ages to the joy of opera, yet it remains a perennial favorite for the most hardened opera goer. The story of the barber Figaro and his machinations in smoothing the

course of true love returns to the California, led by Mo. Marcheso with a splendid ensemble cast and whimsical new production.

Linda Riebel, Past President and Current Board Member, Friends of Opera San Jose and our speaker for November has encouraged us to "go visit the Opera". She has given us the contact who will offer a 10% discount for groups of 10 or more. As I have never been to the opera I am willing to be the point of contact to attend the "The Barber of Seville", at a 2pm matinee, November 26. You will no doubt be super interested in attending an opera after Linda's enthusiastic and rousing talk on operas. If interested let me know. Seat prices range from \$55 to \$190 in Orchestra area.

Let's Celebrate 2023 with our Holiday Celebration Luncheon



Happy Holidays



It's time to wrap up the year with a 2023 Holiday Celebration with your fellow SIR members. Our celebration party will be at the Mountain View Community Center, Redwood Hall on December 13th (2nd Wednesday). Doors will open at 11:00am, with check in, table assignment, and some social time to mingle with your fellow members and friends. We will have a buffet service from 12:15pm, and at 1:00pm we will be entertained by the MVHS Madrigal Singers. I'm sure they will put you in the holiday mood with their awesome singing and youth.

Our festive menu will include oven roasted turkey and honey baked ham with all the trimmings and a selection of pies for dessert. Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate is available to top off your meal. The tables will be fitted with fine dining plates, utensils, glasses, and coffee cups along with holiday decorations and some sweets for the ladies. We will also have a bottle of red and white wine on your table, all included. The price will be \$60.

Online registration and payment will start on November 16th via an email invitation from Branch 35 and will continue until November 30th. Each member may also register one paying guest (spouse/partner or a friend).

Put on your holiday best and as in the past, if you would like to sit with a group, please appoint one person to be your table captain. That person must email Andy Danver at adanver@ix.netcom.com with the names of the members and guests at his table. Tables will be set up for eight which will allow a maximum of 160 participants.

Here's looking forward to you and your special someone to be part of our Branch family Holiday Celebration for 2023.

Ron
Big Sir

PARKING FOR THE SIR BRANCH 35 MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Mountain View Community Center Parking

If you are a healthy guy, please consider parking in one of the alternate locations so we can leave the spaces around the Community Center open for our less healthy members and the public. Our next luncheon meeting is at the Mountain View Community Center, in the Redwood Hall at **201 S. Rengstorff Ave**. The red dot on the map shows where we will meet, and the red oval shows the main parking lot. Three alternative parking areas are: Crisanto Avenue on-street parking (yellow highlighting), the Group Picnic Lot and the Senior Center Lot. There is currently no parking in the area marked with an X. It is the site of the future Aquatics Center.

