



TRAIL TIPS

Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web www.sirinc2.org/branch35/



- NEXT MEETING -

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

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

Business 12:15pm, Speaker 12:45pm

Venue: Mountain View Community Center

Program: Dr. William (Bill) Durham

New from Galapagos: How the Booby Got Blue Feet



Blue-footed boobies attract their Valentines via colorful feet and zany foot-based antics, as this illustrated slide talk will show. But why all the attention to bright blue, a color rare in the animal kingdom? Unraveling this enduring mystery sheds new light on the origin of these crazy characters and helps us understand their conservation plight today.

Bill Durham is Bing Professor in Human Biology, Emeritus, and Yang and Yamazaki University Fellow, Emeritus, at Stanford University. Bill's career has focused on two main themes (1) putting principles of evolution to work in understanding biological and cultural diversity in the world today; and (2) analyzing the

social dimensions of contemporary environmental problems and working with local people to help solve them. One of the first recipients of the MacArthur Prize Fellowship, Bill has also received five awards for research and teaching at Stanford, including one by vote of the students. Bill's most recent publication, *Exuberant Life: An Evolutionary Approach to Conservation in Galápagos* (2021), was awarded a silver medallion as Finalist for the 2022 PROSE Award from the Association of American Publishers. Bill continues his role as a founding member of Stanford's sustainability initiative in the Osa and Golfito Region of Costa Rica, and he is currently a Governing Member of the Charles Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos Islands. Bill's favorite hobbies are photography, fossil collecting (which dates to childhood), and cooking.

Jerry Ososkie

The Big Sir says...

February is a month filled with holidays and diverse cultural celebrations, and one of the most vibrant and widely celebrated is Chinese New Year. Ever since I can remember my family has celebrated this event. It is a time for families to come together, exchange gifts, and share traditional dishes. It's also a time for colorful parades, lion and dragon dances, and the famous red envelopes (hongbao) containing money, symbolizing good luck and prosperity.

President's Day celebrated on the third Monday honors the birthdays of George Washington, the first President, and Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President. This holiday pays tribute to their contributions and their leadership in shaping our nation.

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14th is where people express their love and affection for one another. Coincidentally, our monthly meeting will be on 14th, so this is a wonderful opportunity to invite your loved one for a luncheon date and hear about how the Blue-footed boobies attract their Valentines.

Whether you're remembering and honoring our country's forefathers, exchanging sweet gestures on Valentine's Day, or donning red attire for Chinese New Year, February brings a sense of warmth and togetherness to the winter season.

Peter Wong.



SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- All members are asked to go into the membership directory and check that their contact details there are up to date!
[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](http://SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory (wildapricot.org))
- Read a letter from our new State SIR President, Dale Decker, in this edition of Trail Tips
- John Kolb *IS* Santa! See a nice article and photo featuring our own John Kolb working with the Community Services Agency!

FEBRUARY 2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 315 Net Monthly Change: +4

Four new members this past month! While this is great, there's room for more, we always welcome new members so bring a friend or neighbor as a guest to the lunch to 'check us out'!!

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

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

How long have you been a member? These members are celebrating more than 10 years with SIR Branch 35 this month!

Doug Anderson (14)	Frank Crossman (11)	Jim Davis (12)
Del Fillmore (23)	Alan Gaudie (14)	Ben Gikis (14)
Don Gladstone (19)	David Gobuty (11)	Mike Jacobson (11)
Jeff Jenks (10)	Norm Kitching (15)	Cal Morris (18)
Ron Nakamoto (14)	Bill Nugteren (20)	Dave Ogle (15)
Dan Schettler (11)	Dell Smith (17)	Tom Taboada (14)
Dick Wilson (20)	Dan Zemanek (14)	

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Allmon	Ed Austin	Peter Barba
Jerry Belden	Leland Chan	Frank Crossman
Robert David	Jim DeLong	Allen Dinh
Doug Ericsson	Mike Forster	Joe Glynn
Terry Hayes	Mike Kerr	Bob Martin
John McGowan	George Mednick	Jean Mordo
George O'Brien	John Ray	Arnie Satterlee
Charley Schaff	Ron Schoengold	Greg Wadden
Larry Yelowitz		

In Memoriam



Norm Pass, a member of Branch 35 since 2009, passed on January 29th. Norm was a leader of the Bocce Ball activity, organizing the signups and bringing fun and a casual atmosphere to the weekly game.

We've lost a friend; he will be greatly missed. R.I.P.

A celebration of Life will be held for Norm in March, details TBC.

NEW MEMBERS

We had eight new members join the branch in January!

Name	City	Former Employer(s)
Jeff Allmon	San Jose	American Airlines, US Navy
Shri Bhat	Woodside	Brookfield Properties
Scott Hiller	San Jose	Adobe, Juniper Networks, Siemens
Russ Johnson	Sunnyvale	Lockheed
RD Patel	San Jose	GE Nuclear Energy
Marc Shaw	Marc	Alum Rock Union Sch. Dist., SCCOE
David Tucker	Mountain View	Hewlett-Packard, Confluent, AWS
Chuck Krause	Palo Alto	High School Principal, PAHSD

BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

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



The book swap will be in business at our next monthly luncheon. Bring a book you enjoyed for sharing, grab something that piques your interest!

Tim

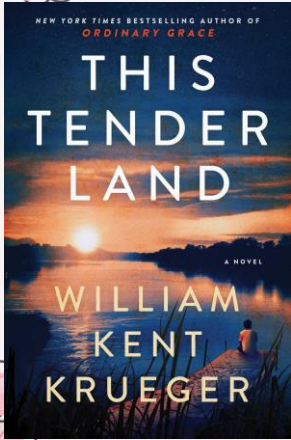
BOOK CLUB

See our [web page](#)

JERRY BELDEN
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The Book Club is an activity where most months of the year, all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it.



This Tender Land is an historical fiction coming-of-age book, which begins during the Great Depression in the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, at the Lincoln Indian Training School. It's a pitiless place where Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be "educated", that is to be reformed into white people. It is also home to Odie O'Banion, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him

the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school.

After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. Out of pity, they also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search of a place to call home.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphan vagabonds journey into the unknown, crossing paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, bighearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

The book, published in 2019, was on the New York Times best seller list for 3 weeks. With but 3 exceptions, Club members gave it the highest marks during our review. Many said it was one of the best books they have read!

Our February book is "How the World Really Works" by Vaclav Smil.

Jerry

PERSONAL FINANCE

BOB BOOTH
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booth19@gmail.com

ANDY DANVER
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adanver@ix.netcom.com



The newly named SIR Branch 35 Personal Finance Group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 at the First Republic Bank of Los Altos at 400 South San Antonio Rd Los Altos. Our current email distribution list has 23 members and the attendance at our sessions ranges from 8 to 17.

In November we agreed to change our activity name from Investment Group to Personal Finance Group to reflect more accurately what we end up discussing. For example, at our

December 6th meeting our guest speaker was Deborah Radin, principle at the Kramer Radin law firm of Los Altos which specializes in Estate Planning. In advance of this session members were asked to submit questions they had concerning their estate plans. At the session Deborah briefly summarized the terms of Estate Planning in a presentation titled "Beyond Estate Planning Basics" and then answered the submitted questions and took questions from the attendees. The session was extremely informative even for those with existing plans.

If you are interested in discussing personal finance issues, please email your topics to Andy Danver at adanver@ix.netcom.com and request to be added to our email invitation list.

Andy

BIKING

See our [web page](#)

GORDON TONG
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HANK BOTTINO
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bottinoh@comcast.net



Next ride: 2nd Thursday, February 8th, 2024, 11:00am

Wives and guests welcomed; Helmets required and face masks optional.

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 some on-going construction that will detour us on to some city streets that have well designated bike lanes. We can decide on whether to ride the 4-mile extension on the day of the ride. There are lunch options along the trail. It might be windy, so bring a jacket or windbreaker.

Directions: Take I-101 North towards SF and exit 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 Gordon Tong or Hank Bottino.

Gordy

HIKING

See our [web page](#)

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



A good group of 24 this time

We started off the new year with 24 hikers on a planned 4.3-mile hike on the Meadowlark and Ohlone Trails at the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve near Palo Alto. Storm damage from the recent rains reduced the hike to 3.7 miles. When life gives you adversity you improvise so we went to Rossetti's Alpine Inn and had a beer and lunch. Everyone had a good time and no one complained about a shortened hike or not getting to eat out on the trail. We were joined by one more extra member, so we had 25 for lunch. All in all, a great day. I can't promise we will always go out to lunch (as opposed to eating on the trail) but it's part of the back up plan. The goal was to have fun and we did!



Tom Moulton's photo of three coyotes watching us

Next month we will continue the fun at a new location in the Bay Area. Come join us for the beauty of nature, the exercise and the camaraderie.

John

FEBRUARY'S SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR
patoconnor61@outlook.com



- 1st Women & Girls in Sports Day
- 1st – 3rd NFL Pro Bowl (Football)
- 1st – 4th Pebble Beach Pro-Am
- 2nd Groundhog Day
- 4th – Mar.18th Six Nations (Rugby)
- 4th Saraste Conducts Beethoven's 7th (SF Symphony)
- 5th Grammy Awards
- 11th Superbowl LVIII
- 14th Valentines Day
- 17th Random Acts of Kindness
- 18th Daytona 500 (NASCAR)
- 20th Presidents Day
- 21st Mardi Gras

WINE FINDERS

See our [web page](#)

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

RUSS AYRES
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ravyres3@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.

Alan

BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI
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mlevi@comcast.net



The bridge group is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Los Altos Senior Center from 12:00 to 2:00 for a friendly game. Send me your email address and I'll add you to our mailing list.

Mark

CHESS

See our [web page](#)

BEN KUCKENS 650-400-0353
benqk@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 me.

Ben

BOCCE BALL

ED AUSTIN
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austinv@aol.com



See our [web page](#)

JOHN RICHARDSON
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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.

Norm Pass: For over 10 years Norm helped start and has actively guided our Bocce Ball Activity. Since late December he has been dealing with health issues and so the several weekly communications that he manages have not been sent out— notices of cancelation due to weather, sign-up charts, etc. We are all saddened now with news of his passing.

Weather Impacts: Not only rain on Friday mornings, but even rain on Wendsdays or Thursdays will be a problem for court play on Friday since drainage and dry-out of the court surface will not be assured if the day before (Thursday) is not sunny enough to dry out the surface. Court drainage is limited.

John

BOWLING

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



See our [web page](#)

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.

We have reached the halfway point of the Winter 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.

Doug

STANDINGS - WEEK 8 - 2024	
1st Place	-- Chris Weberg, Rick McColloch, Bob Garten
2nd Place	-- Fred Emmenegger, Jim Holman, Gerry Cooley, Joe Enos
3rd Place	-- Ruth Ososkie, Jerry Ososkie, Perry Brown
4th Place	-- Jim Narva, Darryl Walker, Arnie Satterlee, Don Haythronwhite
5th Place	-- Larry Mailbaum, Alan Gaudie, Larry Low
6th Place	-- Ranney Thayer, Peter Wong, Marc Haberman
7th Place	-- Les Fisher, Bob Taggart, Ron Nakamoto
8th Place	-- Doug Anderson, Ken Allen, Jay Jonekait

SEASON HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	568 - Jerry Ososkie	1st	210 - Larry Low
2nd	560 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	205 - Marc Haberman
3rd	525 - Bob Garten	3rd	194 - Joe Enos
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	715 - Chris Weberg	1st	247 - D Haythronwhite
2nd	652 - Peter Wong	2nd	242 - Arnie Satterlee
3rd	634 - Darryl Walker	3rd	236 - Ruth Ososkie

LAST WEEK'S HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	467 - Marc Haberman	1st	184 - Bob Taggart
2nd	466 - D Haythronwhite	2nd	177 - Ken Allen
3rd	432 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	170 - Bob Garten
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	618 - Les Fisher	1st	229 - Darryl Walker
2nd	617 - Rick McColloch	2nd	228 - Alan Gaudie
3rd	613 - Jim Narva	3rd	227 - Ranney Thayer

GOLF

LES MILES 408-528-5473

See our [web page](#)

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



Fixtures for the Coming Month

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Fri Feb 9 for the following			
Wente Vineyards (WNT)	Mon Mar 4	10:00	\$95
Schutz 408-313-6852 pschutz3@comcast.com / ** NEED ATC **			
Monterey Pines (MPN)	Thu Mar 7	10:04	\$61
O'Meara 408-506-4714 Omearatimo@gmail.com / ** NEED ATC **			
Spring Valley (SPR)	Mon Mar 11	10:00	\$48
** NEED TC ** / ** NEED ATC **			
Salinas Fairways (SAF)	Thu Mar 14	10:00	\$37
O'Meara 408-506-4714 Omearatimo@gmail.com / ** NEED ATC **			
Cinnabar Hills (CBH)	Mon Mar 18	10:50	\$95
Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com / ** NEED ATC **			
Bayonet (BYN)	Thu Mar 21	10:00	\$95
O'Meara 408-506-4714 Omearatimo@gmail.com / ** NEED ATC **			
Poplar (PCR)	Mon Mar 25	10:00	\$46
Cioni 650-393-5711 jacioni@yahoo.com / ** NEED ATC **			
San Jose Muni (SJM)	Thu Mar 28	9:30	\$49
** NEED TC ** / ** NEED ATC **			

Metheany Shoots the Round of the Month

Brad Metheany was 7.2 strokes under on Jan. 11 from the back tees at the difficult Coyote Creek Valley course. That's how you start the year right!

Haberman, Gerich & Stephens Win Deep Cliff Eclectic

Marc Haberman and John Gerich posted wire to wire victories in the Palmer flights of the 3-round eclectic at Deep Cliff, while Wendell Stephens came from behind with a stunning net 53 in the third round to emerge victorious in the Nicklaus flight.

Low and Begun Are Leading the Los Lagos Eclectic

With two of three rounds completed, Larry Low and Alvin Begun hold small leads in the Palmer and Nicklaus flights respectively. Larry's 65 is one ahead of Chris Weberg and Alvin's

69 gives him a two-stroke advantage over **Joe Glynn**. The 3rd round is scheduled on Jan. 29, too late for this issue of *Trail Tips*.

The annual golf banquet is Feb. 2

January's Results:

Deep Cliff (Eclectic Round 3)			Par 60		Jan. 4, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Joe Cioni	60	\$25	Wendell Stephens	53	\$17	
Stan Barkey	62	\$19	Joe Enos	60	\$10	
Stan Scardino	62	\$14	Peter Wong	61	\$5	
Marc Haberman	62	\$9				
Low Gross: Joe Cioni 70						

Deep Cliff Eclectic Final Standings			Par 60		Nov '23-Jan '24	
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt. Net \$
M. Haberman	52	\$18	John Gerich	55	\$18	W. Stephens 48 \$21
Joe Cioni	54	\$16	R. Pattison	55	\$16	Don Mattson 52 \$18
Chris Weberg	54	\$10	Stan Scardino	55	\$10	Joe Enos 53 \$12
Ken Jones	56	\$5	D. Squellati	63	\$5	Jim Narva 53 \$8

Los Lagos (Eclectic Round 1)			Par 68		Jan. 8, 2024	
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt. Net \$
Larry Low	64	\$18	Stan Scardino	72	\$18	Jim Narva 74 \$18
Mack Asrat	69	\$14	B. Metheany	72	\$14	Alvin Begun 75 \$14
Rich McGrath	71	\$10	R. Nakamoto	73	\$10	Peter Wong 75 \$10
Chris Weberg	72	\$5	Herb Petersen	74	\$5	
Inside Putter Length: Richard McGrath on #3 (\$15)						
Low Gross: Larry Low 76						

Coyote Creek Valley			Par 72		Jan. 11, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Brad Metheany	65	\$25	Jim Narva	78	\$17	
Chris Weberg	70	\$21	Peter Wong	79	\$10	
Mack Asrat	71	\$16	Joe Enos	80	\$5	
Dick Wilson	72	\$11				
Ron Nakamoto	74	\$9				
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg 79						
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 82						

Sunnyvale			Par 70		Jan. 15, 2024	
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt. Net \$
Larry Low	65	\$18	Herb Petersen	\$69	\$18	Sam Im 74 \$18
Jeff Allmon	72	\$14	M. Haberman	71	\$14	Peter Wong 74 \$14
Bob Garten	73	\$10	Stan Scardino	73	\$10	W. Stephens 76 \$10
J. Rittweger	73	\$5	Dick Wilson	73	\$5	
Low Gross: Larry Low 78						

Los Lagos (Eclectic Round 2)			Par 68		Jan. 18, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Dick Wilson	69	\$25	Joe Glynn	64	\$18	
Stan Scardino	74	\$19	Joe Enos	70	\$14	
Chris Weberg	74	\$14	Jim Narva	73	\$10	
Jay Jonkait	74	\$9	Balbir Kalsi	78	\$5	
Herb Petersen	75	\$5				
Low Gross: Chris Weberg 86						



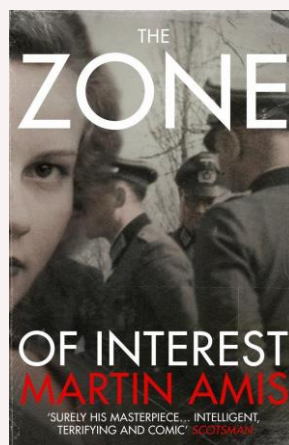
The Bank of Dave. A fun British version of David vs Goliath. Dave is a successful businessman in Burnley, UK. He wants to open a community bank and runs into the British Banking system that has not issued a permit for a new bank in 150 years. Dave enlists the help of locals and a savvy lawyer (best kind) to take on the hidebound system. Based on the true-life experiences of

Dave Fishwick; the film tells his story with verve and panache. Definitely one to see and enjoy. Streaming on Netflix. Rated PG-13 for some strong language.



Origin. Writer/Director Ava DuVernay takes on a tough task; dramatize an academic book on racism and caste. "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" is a nonfiction book by American journalist Isabel Wilkerson. The book focuses on racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system. She explores Nazi race laws, slavery, Jim Crow and India's caste system. The author concludes that caste is the proper descriptive

for these systems. The film takes this heavy commentary and turns it into a very watchable and challenging film. Following stories of people living and dying in these systems brings the systems' absurdities into sharp focus. This is an inspirational experience not to be missed. Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving racism, violence, some disturbing images, language and smoking. In Theaters. It is a Peggy's Pick.



The Zone of Interest. It is the Spring of 1943. The Hoss family is enjoying an idyllic time in their beautiful home. A lovely, verdant garden, a small swimming pool, a beautiful fishing stream all make for a wonderful and mundane existence. All of this is immediately adjacent to the walls of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Rudolph Hoss is the Commandant recently rewarded for his efficiencies in killing millions. The film is very spare, with the feel of a documentary. The sounds in the distance are the fires of the crematories punctuated with gun shots. The Holocaust is hidden from view, but we know it's there and they do, too, which makes this a truly horrific film. This is an extraordinary and remarkable film to be seen by all. Rated PG-13 for thematic material, some suggestive material, and smoking. In Theatres. In German with subtitles. It is a Peggy's Pick.

MOVIES

MOVIES

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

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on February 13th at 3 PM.
 If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



American Fiction. Jeffrey Wright gives a bravura performance as Thelonious 'Monk' Ellison. Monk is a black author who is most comfortable in the academic world of serious authors. His books are not best sellers. His publisher suggests he write a "black" novel from the ghetto perspective. As a lark he does so and his book with an insulting title becomes a best seller. Monk uses a pseudonym, Stagg R. Leigh, and he achieves celebrity

status. No one seems to get the joke. The movie is a witty satire of stereotypes. It ridicules the literary establishment with sharp barbs. The resolution of Monk's dilemma to acknowledge his book has a very Hollywood culmination that will leave you laughing. The film is quite an experience, so check it out. Rated R for language throughout, some drug use, sexual references, and brief violence. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick.

Jim

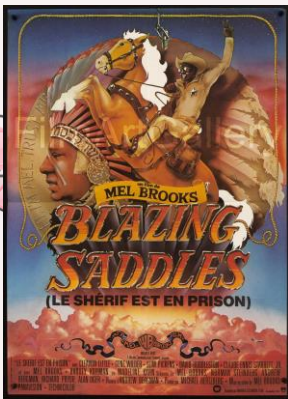
MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO

RONANDELAIN@COMCAST.NET



Pat O'Connor is standing in for Ron this month and has penned this column following the style established by Ron. Enjoy!



Movie: Blazing Saddles.

Released on February 7th, 1974, Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles* is one of the most successful Hollywood comedies, grossing over \$119.5M. An original screenplay co-written by Brooks, Richard Pryor and 3 others, is set in 'The West' during the expansion of the railroads. Corrupt State D.A. Hedley Lamarr plans to profit from railroad diversion through the small town of Rock Ridge so he

hires a gang of henchmen to scare the existing landowners off their holdings. The townspeople demand the protection of a new sheriff so Lamarr appoints a black man, Bart, in an attempt to undermine the effort. Bart enlists the help of an alcoholic gunslinger (Gene Wilder) and a motley crew of Black, Irish and Chinese railroad workers, while Lamarr's gang consists of motorcycle gangsters, Ku Klux Klansmen, Nazis and Methodists (!), with ensuing chaos and hilarity.

Brooks, Pryor and the other writers worked out of a 6th floor apartment on 666 5th Ave., NY, an ominous address. When studio executives saw the first cut they didn't find it funny and were ready

to dump it, so Brooks ran a test screening for the studio employees and when the execs heard the level of laughter from this more blue collar crowd, they agreed to go ahead with a limited February launch. By the end of Summer, it was on general release and shaping up to be the Studio's biggest blockbuster!

The first casting for the alcoholic gunslinger was Gig Young, but as a real world alcoholic he was sick on the first day of shooting and had to be replaced. Wilder agreed to play the role if Brooks would consider directing Wilder's next project, Young Frankenstein, which they started immediately after. The hilarious thug, Mungo, was played by a 6'2, 248lb ex-NFL football star and Hall-of-Fame-er, Alex Karras, who had had a very successful career playing with the Detroit Lyons for 12 years. Mungo's famous right hook on a horse actually didn't make any physical contact, the horse had been trained to drop to the ground on command.

Actress, Hedy Lamarr, was unhappy that the villain's name was Hedley Lamarr and sued Brooks, but they settled out of court. In the movie, the governor (Brooks) repeatedly mispronounces Hedley Lamarr's name as Hedy Lamarr, presumably with the actress's consent.

When a bunch of thugs sit around the campfire eating baked beans and start breaking wind, the fart sounds were made with the sound guy's armpit in the 'traditional manner', helped along by a little soapy water. The sounds were amplified in the movie soundtrack so they wouldn't be drowned out by the audience's laughter but they were muted considerably again for the movie's TV release!

Prolific use of the N word was controversial even in 1974 and definitely dates the movie and leads to some cringing moments but Brooks believed it was ok given the comedy is directed at 'all' bigotries. In a 2022 airing of 'The View', actress Whoopi Goldberg defended Brooks and *Blazing Saddles*, commenting "It deals with racism by coming at it right, straight, out front, making you think and laugh about it, because, listen, it's not just racism, it's all the isms, he hits all the isms.... *Blazing Saddles* is one of the greatest because it hits everybody."

Original movie trailer:

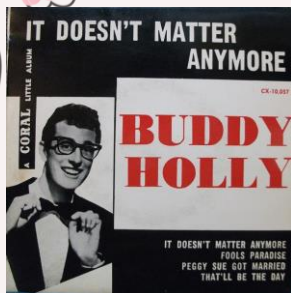
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKayG1TrfuE>

Racist tropes turned to comedy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=493pL_Vbtnc&pp=ygUPYmxhemluZyBzYWRkbGVz

Some elementary school humor in the campfire scene:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPIP9KXdmO0&pp=ygUPYmxhemluZyBzYWRkbGVz>



Music: "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" sung by Buddy Holly

Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas. He became 'Holly' as a result of a misspelling in his first recording contract. Holly formed a band after High School that played country and western songs but after getting the opportunity to open for Elvis Presley in Lubbock in 1955, he converted to rock'n'roll and styled himself after his new hero. He moved to Nashville, renamed his band 'The Crickets' and recorded his breakthrough hit, "That'll Be the Day," in 1957, going on to release 9 more top 40 hits within a year!

While touring as a solo artist in early February, 1959, Holly chartered a private plane to take him from a gig in Clear Lake, Iowa, to his next in Minnesota. The plane crashed within minutes of takeoff killing the 22 year-old Holly along with Ritchie Valens (of 'La Bamba' fame) and The Big Bopper J.P. Richardson (who wrote 'Chantilly Lace'). Holly was buried a few days later on February 7th in Lubbock. For such a young artist whose career barely lasted 2 years, he had an outsized influence on musicians coming after him. Don McLean's 'American Pie' speaks to the impact of his death, it is rumoured that The Beatles named themselves in homage to The Crickets and The Rolling Stones' first major hit was a Holly composition, 'Not Fade Away'. He pioneered the rock'n'roll band format of two guitars, bass and drums and also pioneered some early recording studio production techniques.

The song, "It Doesn't Matter Anymore", written by Paul Anka and recorded by Holly, was released just a few weeks before his death in January 1959. It was his final original single although many studio recordings were released in the years after his death. The song departs from the bare rock-band sound of his earlier singles, employing orchestral strings as the 'lead' instrumentation, but conforming to the 'sound-byte' format of its day, is just 2 minutes long.

Here's the original recording: <https://youtu.be/iukDOULHcgk?si=p7aX0qBCT4M6mgB>

This video compilation includes some promotional material from his final tour as part of 'The Winter Dance Party':

https://youtu.be/7KQRpdkYz2q?si=qQm_hygBn0vZUP4z

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

Pat

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/>

A LETTER FROM OUR STATE SIR PRESIDENT, DALE DECKER

Fellow Sirs,

I am deeply honored to serve as your new President as we step into 2024. It's with great enthusiasm that I assume this role and with it the opportunity to evolve and strengthen our organization.

Our mission at SIR is clear: to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, special events, and lunches while forging friendships that last a lifetime. Our vision is compelling: to be the best active senior's organization in Northern and Central California by promoting physical, mental, and social engagement which research shows will improve our quality of life and longevity.

Our number one challenge is to embrace the purpose and increase the vitality of our organization. It is clear we need to attract younger members as our older members are becoming less active. New members will play a pivotal role in leading us into an exciting new time. They bring fresh ideas and perspectives, ensuring a dynamic blend of the past with the future. In 2024, our primary goal is to reach out to our local communities and add new members and new life to every one of our branches.

I see the role of State SIR as a Service Organization to the branches. We offer you support for functions that 1) are needed by all branches (incorporation documents, management training, marketing material), 2) offer cost savings based on volume (liability insurance), 3) are one-time efforts unaffordable by a branch (Golden Gate Field party, travel programs), and 4) are Statewide athletic competitions to challenge to all members (Golf, Bowling). We promote these services through eMail and sirinc.org.

We need to improve the bi-directional flow of useful information between State SIR and all branches. Soon State SIR will introduce a new regular communication effort to provide informative, impactful organizational updates to Branch officers and a second effort to provide meaningful content such as innovative ideas and articles of interest to all our members. In return, we ask you to work with your Area Representatives to seek their consulting assistance on branch issues and inform State SIR on what is not working well for your branches.

I'm excited to announce that the fillable online management forms announced at the annual meeting to minimize your workload and reduce transcription errors are now being pilot-tested. State SIR will begin promoting their availability this month to the appropriate BEC members with instructions and helpful hints.

In closing, I want you to remember the sole goal of SIR is to Have FUN with FRIENDS. I want you to honestly evaluate how you can contribute to this legacy of SIR. As you do, remember SIR has simple expectations of its members: 1) be friendly to all, 2) actively participate in mental and/or physical activities, 3) eagerly volunteer and lead when asked, and 4) keep us vital by introducing SIR to your community and invite guests to our activities. Let's set a goal that we each bring one younger member into our branch to Have FUN with Friends.

Here's to a promising New Year filled with growth, camaraderie, and memorable experiences within SIR!

Warm regards,

Dale Decker

President, Sons in Retirement Inc. (SIR)

JOHN KOLB IS SANTA!



John Kolb

The CSA Senior Nutrition Program hosted 230 seniors for a delicious holiday lunch on December 15th. On the menu, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, veggies, and pumpkin pie.

"Holiday lunches are a favorite for our seniors," says Program Director Earlene Minnis. "They love to get dressed up and enjoy a special meal and decorations set up by our caring volunteers. And our Santa this year was 102-year-old John Kolb!"

Your SIR State and Branch 35 Officers and Leaders

SIR State Officers

State President	Dale Decker	(209) 573-0833
State Vice President	Lee Lamp	(530) 921-1375
State Secretary	Rich Carlston	(925) 324-0838

Branch 35 Executive Committee (BEC)

Big Sir (President)	Peter Wong	(408) 921-4884
Little Sir (Vice President)	Jerry Ososkie	(408) 219-6924
Secretary	Leland Chan	lchanlaw@aol.com
Asst. Secretary	Dave Squellati	(408) 334-7988
Treasurer	Larry Low	(408) 533-2651
Asst. Treasurer	Jim Narva	(408) 930-3353
Chairman, Senior Advisor	Andy Danver	(650) 906-3747
Chairman (Special Events)	Ben Gikis	(408) 802-0794
Chairman (Nominations)	Ron Nakamoto	(408) 440-2330
Director (Communications)	John Rittweger	(650) 740-3156
Director (Membership)	Paul Schutz	(408) 313-6852
Director (Technology)	Richard Blackborow	(408) 314-2378

Staff

Attendance	Bill Young	(650) 493-1710
Audio/Visual Support	Ron Schoengold	(408) 309-9830
Auditing	Gerry Feeney	(408) 515-8604
Beverage Service	Ben Gikis	(408) 802-0794
Historian/Photos	Frank Crossman	(650) 493-9182

Staff (continued)

HLM	Bob Garten	(408) 253-5860
Luncheon Host	Dave Squellati	(408) 334-7988
Medical Emergency Resp.	Dave Ogle	(650) 704-2130
Membership Roster	Jerry Belden	(650) 207-6280
New Member Orientation	Paul Schutz	(408) 313-6852
Trail Tips Editor	Pat O'Connor	(408) 480-0409
Website Maintenance	John Ray	(408) 386-3573
Wellness & Comfort	Pat O'Connor	(408) 480-0409

Activity Directors

Bicycling	Gordy Tong	(408) 242-0557
Bocce Ball	Ed Austin	(650) 468-5341
Book Club	Jerry Belden	(650) 207-6280
Book Swap	Tim Topole	(650) 793-0838
Bowling	Doug Andersen	(415) 407-4000
Bridge	Mark Levi	(650) 305-9132
Chess	Ben Kuckens	(650) 400-0353
Golf	Les Miles	(408) 528-5473
Hiking	John Tucker	(408) 655-5435
Movies	Jim Quillinan	(408) 838-4379
Trail Birds	David Skurnick	(650) 796-5314
Wine Finders	Alan Gaudie	(650) 575-4332
Dining In (interim)	Andy Danver	(650) 906-3747
Personal Finance	Bob Booth	(408) 307-3274

Wellness and Comfort

Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Pat O'Connor**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements among the BEC and members via email.

SIR Branch 35 Activities - February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Golf 10:04am Callippe Preserve - \$64	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Golf 9:30am Sunnyvale - \$39		Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center	Golf 9:30am Metropolitan - \$39 Biking 11:00am Stevens Creek Trail Meet at Sleeper Ave. & Franklin Ave.	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Golf 10:00am DeLaveaga - \$61	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Branch 35 Luncheon/Meeting 11:00am - 1:30pm Mtn. View Community Center	Golf 10:00am Las Positas - \$60	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Golf 10:00am Baylands - \$70 Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center	Golf 9:30am Shoreline - \$44	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am TBC	
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
	Golf 10:00am Castlewood CC Hill - \$115	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 10:00am Poppy Ridge - \$67		