



Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web www.sirinc2.org/branch35/



- NEXT MEETING -

Wednesday, March 20th, 2024

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

Business 12:15pm, Speaker 12:45pm

Venue: Mountain View Community Center

**Program: Martha Wallace
Rengstorff House at Shoreline
"the oldest house in Mountain View"**



Did you know that Mountain View was a bustling port in the late 1800s? In 1850 Henry Rengstorff came from Germany looking for fortune in the California Gold Rush. Martha Wallace will share stories of Henry's family, his success in Santa Clara County, the development of shipping on the Bay, and the port of Mountain View, and take you through the Rengstorff House, now a museum.

Martha Wallace is a retired middle school teacher. She always wanted to be a docent in a castle in England, but the commute was too long, so she now volunteers at Rengstorff House, the oldest house in Mountain View. She also volunteers at the National Archives in San Bruno. She enjoys studying medieval and American history, connecting her ancestors to actual events, and exploring local history. In 2021, she led the Los Altos DAR to compile and edit The Early Settlers of Old Los Altos/Mountain View, a clickable PDF (free download at <http://tinyurl.com/48nfm8td>).

Jerry Ososkie

The Big Sir says...

As winter transitions to spring in March, days grow longer, temperatures rise, and flowers bloom, it is time for us to get active, cast off the dreariness of winter and get out of the house to enjoy the sun.

March also hosts many celebrations, including; Easter, Cherry Blossom Festival, St. Patrick's Day, Women's history and for basketball fans, "March Madness". All these events bring friends and family together to celebrate what I call the "Spirit of Spring".

For me, after several weeks of isolation due to covid, it's a time of renewal and new beginnings, so I ask all members to come and join me on March 20th for our monthly meeting and lunch. I will present what is happening in our branch and you will enjoy a wonderful catered lunch and a speaker on our local history. You can actively renew acquaintances, make new ones and share experiences.

Please join me to celebrate the **Spring Equinox**.

Peter Wong.



SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Read about the 2024 Napa Golf Tournament sponsored by Branches 35 (i.e. us), 149 and SIR State Golf, in this edition of Trail Tips.
- See a photo montage from the Golf Banquet by Andy and Jean Danver
- Special Activities (Ben Gikis) has reserved 50 tickets for the Giants game vs The Colorado Rockies, scheduled for May 19th at 1:00pm. Tickets are for the Lower Box section 128 on the third base side, just past the dugout and are \$55 each. Root for the Giants and we hope it's a high scoring game! If

you are interested to attend, let Ben Gikis know, gikisben@yahoo.com and send a check made out to "Ben Gikis" to 12415 Hilltop Drive, Los Altos Hills 94024. Ben will also take orders at the March meeting.

MARCH 2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 301 Net Monthly Change: -14

One new member this month but, unfortunately, quite a few decided not to renew their membership this year. 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://wildapricot.org)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

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

Howard Bull (15)	Leland Chan (13)	David Falconer (14)
Les Fisher (17)	Jim Harvey (17)	Carl Hellman (12)
Jim Holman (19)	Bob Jones (14)	Don Lintz (24)
George O'Brien (12)	Gene Opine (11)	Carl Plescia (17)
Greg Ross (12)	Skip Ross (27)	Tom Smith (14)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Russ Ayres	Terry Barnhart	Leonard Chan
John Daines	Don Gladstone	Ron Grace
French Harris	Bob Hedges	Dirk Hoekstra
Jim Holman	Paul Lesti	Larry Maibaum
Rick McColloch	Gene Opine	Lon Sanford
Paul Schutz	Bob Steinberg	Ian Thomson
David Tucker	Milt Wehrman	

NEW MEMBERS

We had just one new member join the branch in February!

Name	City	Former Employer(s)
Greg Unangst	Mountain View	Lockheed Martin, US Army

BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

TIM TOPOLE
650-793-0838
ttopole@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

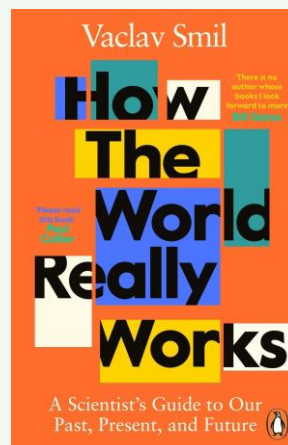
BOOK CLUB

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.



How the World Really Works - A Scientist's Guide to Our Past, Present and Future by Vaclav Smil provides numerical evidence proving we are slaves to fossil fuels, which are needed not only to power most of the world's land, sea and air vehicles and generate electricity but also to provide the energy required to produce the ammonia fertilizer for farming, steel, concrete and plastics that are essential to the quality of life and prosperity of the modern world.

Smil explains that the processes used to create these materials require burning enormous amounts of fossil carbon. Smil, an emeritus professor of environmental science who has written nearly 40 books on the subject, explains the mechanisms by which burning fossil carbon causes the problems we categorize as "climate change." He confirms that it is essential for the world to use its fuels more efficiently and find ways to introduce less carbon in the atmosphere. But Smil notes that the usual solutions (more renewable energy, electrification of homes and vehicles, reducing animal protein in diets) won't be enough. It will also be necessary to solve the complex problems of producing food and industrial materials with less fossil carbon. Solutions will take many decades because as Smil notes there are no realistic alternatives and "the gap between wishful thinking and reality is vast."

The Book Group found the book highly informative but challenging because Smil backs up his arguments with a staggering amount of data, some of which is quite fascinating. But within the numbers are clear explanations of complex processes and unexpected interrelationships that give the reader a reality check!

Our March book will be "The Lost City of the Monkey God" by Douglas Preston.

Jerry

PERSONAL FINANCE

CHAIR: BOB BOOTH
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booth19@gmail.com

DISTR'N: ANDY DANVER
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The 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 25 members and the attendance at our sessions ranges from 8 to 17.

At our February 7th gathering Bob Booth did a nice job leading a discussion on Drug Stocks which took most of our hour and one half time slot, so we put off discussing what we would like to discuss for future topics and speakers until our March 6th session.

In preparation for March 6th, Howard Kalt has distributed his research into 1) Which companies are using AI, for defining and delivering products and services, 2) How best to invest \$10,000 in companies involved in Artificial Intelligence, 3) Raising your exposure to bonds with decent yields while reducing your exposure to taxes and 4) The best parts of 59 of Warren Buffet's annual letters.

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

GORDON TONG
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HANK BOTTINO
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bottinoh@comcast.net



See our [web page](#)

Next ride: 2nd Thursday, March 14th, 2024, 11:00am

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

With the recent heavy rains in the Bay Area, some of our regular biking trails have been partially closed due to flooding. As a result, we have had to change up our monthly riding trails to ensure a pleasant and safe ride.

Los Gatos Creak Trail: We will ride the ever popular and scenic trail starting from the Blackford Elementary School parking lot to downtown Los Gatos for a total of 15 miles. The trail is paved and generally level with some short inclines underneath streets. We'll have lunch at the American Italian Delicatessen on 42 Elm St., LG. Then, we'll ride back on the same trail.

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 (1970 Willow Street, SJ). Parking is available in the school parking lot and on neighborhood streets.

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

Gordy

HIKING

JOHN TUCKER
408-655-5435
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See our [web page](#)



A good turnout for Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Our second outing of the year was Friday, February 23 and our happy band of 19 hiked the Arrowhead Loop Trail in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Though it was overcast at the beginning we had some sun along the way. We covered approximately 4 miles with an elevation change of 625 feet. After the hike about half of us retired to the Kelly Brewing Company in Morgan Hill. All in all, a very nice day.

March Hike: Our upcoming March 22nd hike will be at Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve in Redwood City, hiking the Edgewood, Serpentine, Franciscan and Baywood Glen Trails. With luck we will have wild flowers blooming. This hike will start at 10:00 AM, approx. 4.2 miles with an elevation gain of 646 feet. We'll stop for lunch about half way along the trail. The hike. Please arrive early so that we can start on time. The location of our debriefing will be announced shortly. Come join us and bring a spouse or friend.

John

WINE FINDERS

ALAN GAUDIE
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RUSS AYRES
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rres3@hotmail.com



See our [web page](#)

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

MARCH SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR
patoconnor61@outlook.com



- Feb 2nd - Mar 16th Six Nations Championship (Rugby)
- 1st Women's History Month
- 3rd World Wildlife Day
- 8th International Women's Day
- 10th Start Daylight Savings
- 10th The Academy Awards
- 14th pi Day
- 16th NAACP Awards
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19th - Apr 8th NCAA Finals (Basketball)
- 20th Spring Equinox, start of Spring
- 29th National Day for Veterans of the Vietnam War
- 31st Cesar Chavez Day

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

JOHN RICHARDSON
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See our [web page](#)

ED AUSTIN
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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.

Due to the loss of our long time Bocce Activity Leader, Norm Pass, we are now in need of others who will take on his role of, among other things, notifying players of cancellations of play due to weather and holidays, along with other communications to the full player list (48+). Also, at this time it will be necessary to add someone who can handle communications support for the monthly Trail Tips. Ed Austin is continuing in his role of player support, assisting in teams setup, court assignments and providing bocce balls (in addition to those available from the Community Center).

Some news from the Los Altos Community Center Recreation Supervisor, Mary Jo Price (650-947-2896). If you would like to know whether it rained at the Community Center, the Front Desk Receptionist can answer that question (650-947-2790). If you wish to get the key to the Bocce Court Equipment cabinet next to the courts you can get it at the reception desk (you must set up an account for yourself [no cost], to do that). Finally, the Cafe concept is still alive: RFPs were recently due to be received by bidders. No date for launch/opening has been announced.

John

BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI
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mlevi@comcast.net



The Bridge Club is regularly meeting at the Los Altos Senior Center on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. We play from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Join us for a fun afternoon of bridge and good conversation. All level of players invited.

Mark

CHESS

See our [web page](#)

BEN KUCKENS
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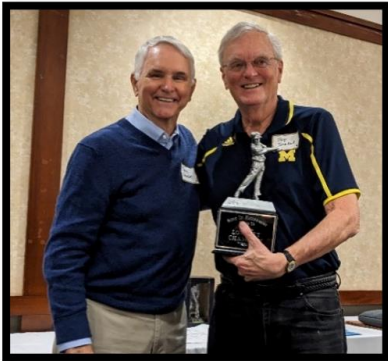


The Chess group meets on Wednesdays 9am to 1pm at the Los Altos Civic Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, in the senior

20th Annual Golf Banquet

February 2, 2024

By Andy and Jean Danver



Jay Jonekait
Low Net Champ



Richard McGrath – Club Champion



John Rittweger
Match Play Champion



Larry Low – Golfer of the Year



Bob Garten – Iron Man



Gerich & Taboada – 4 Ball Match Champs



GOLF

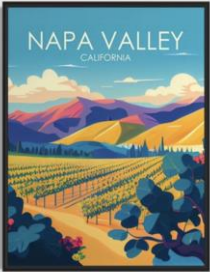
See our [web page](#)

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2024 Napa Golf Tournament

sponsored by Branch's 35, 149 and SIR State Golf.

Ladies welcome. Cash prizes will be awarded for top teams and closest-to-pin.

Wednesday, April 24 at Chardonnay Golf Club, a four man, 2-best ball

tournament with consecutive tee times.

Thursday, April 25 at Eagle Vines Vineyard & Golf Club, a four man scramble with a shotgun start.

Entries can be for one or both days.

See the full flier later in this newsletter or online here: [Napa Golf Tournament](#)

See the registration form online here: [Registration Form](#)

Fixtures for the Coming Month

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Fri March 8 for the following				
Boulder Ridge		Mon Apr 1	10:00	\$85
(with Monterey bay Seniors)	Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandela@comcast.net / ** Need ATC**			
Eagle Ridge (ERG)		Thu Apr 4	10:00	\$83
Scramble	Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandela@comcast.net / ** Need ATC**			
Seascape (SCP)		Mon Apr 8	10:00	\$75
			** Need TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Canyon Lakes (CLK)		Thu Apr 11	9:30	\$52
	McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com / ** Need ATC**			
Santa Teresa (SNT)		Mon Apr 15	10:00	\$76
			** Need TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
The Villages (VLG)		Thu Apr 18	11:30	\$83
Double Points			** Need TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Spring Valley (SPV)		Mon Apr 22	10:00	\$48
	Schutz 408-313-6852 pschutz3@comcast.com / Squelatti			
Chardonnay - Napa		Wed Apr 24	0:00	\$0
	Gikis 408-802-0794 gikisben@yahoo.com / Rittweger			
Eagle Vines - Napa		Thu Apr 25	0:00	\$0
	Gikis 408-802-0794 gikisben@yahoo.com / Rittweger			
Callippe Preserve (CPR)		Mon Apr 29	9:02	\$69
	Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com / ** Need ATC **			

Nakamoto Shoots the Round of the Month

The best round for this month belongs to **Ron Nakamoto**, who shot 3.6 strokes "under" on January 29 at Los Lagos. This outstanding outing came in the third round of the Eclectic tournament and propelled him to first place in Palmer Flight 2. Congratulations, Ron!

Award Winners Announced at Golf Banquet

At the annual banquet, hosted by Golf Chairman Les Miles, we

learned that:

- **Larry Low** won the Golfer of the Year award, which recognizes the most consistent player of the year.
- **JT Tompane** won Most Improved for lowering his index by the largest percentage. He had a 27% reduction from 19.2 to 14.0.
- **Bob Garten** was named the 2023 Iron Man for playing in 73 of our 82 tournaments (89%).

Other winners, whose achievements had been announced previously, were:

- Club Champion (Low Gross) **Richard McGrath**
- Low Net Champion **Jay Jonekait**
- Match Play Champion **John Rittweger**
- Fourball Match Play Champions **John Gerich** and **Tom Taboada**

Is Your Handicap Index High, Medium, or Low?

Which handicap indexes divide Branch 35 golfers into three equal-sized groups? The answer may surprise you. Based on Feb. 9 indexes, the middle of the Branch 35 pack is comprised of golfers with an index of 21.4 to 28.3 strokes. Our low-index golfers play to less than 21.4, and our high-index guys play to more than 28.3. Thanks to golf's handicapping system, we can all win, or at least come close, every once in a while.

Low, Nakamoto, and Begun Win Los Lagos Eclectic

Larry Low won Palmer Flight 1, edging out **Chris Weberg** via a tiebreaker. **Ron Nakamoto's** outstanding third round (net 64!) led him to victory in Palmer Flight 2. **Alvin Begun** won the Nicklaus flight by shaving 6 strokes off his eclectic score despite having a very rocky third round.

And a hat tip to **Milt Wehrman**, who shaved 11 strokes off his eclectic score in the final round to finish third in the Nicklaus flight. Also worth mentioning, **Rich McGrath** and **Brad Metheany** finished in the money despite not playing in the second round of the three-round tournament.

Bridge to Shoreline's First Tee to be Replaced in the Fall

Two days after the tournament at Shoreline **Bruce Karney** spoke with Mountain View Mayor **Pat Showalter** about the bridge from the Pro Shop to the first tee having been unusable for two years. Mayor Showalter contacted **John Marchant**, the city's Community Services Director, and he informed her that the bridge will be replaced with a brand new one this Fall.

The Mercury Covers the Los Lagos Foxes



The Feb. 26 online edition of the Mercury has an article with many photos about the Los Lagos foxes. The URL is <https://www.mercurynews.com/2024/02/26/hanging-out-with-the-fantastic-golf-course-foxes-of-san-jose/>

February's Golf Results:

Los Lagos (Eclectic Round 3)			Par 68		Jan. 29, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Ron Nakamoto	64	\$22	Joe Enos	68	\$24	
Larry Low	69	\$16	Brad Metheany	71	\$18	
Chris Weberg	70	\$12	Milt Wehrman	71	\$12	
Jay Jonekait	73	\$7	Jim Narva	74	\$8	
Low Gross: Larry Low 79						

Los Lagos Eclectic Final Results						Par 68		Jan. 8-29, 2024			
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$			
Larry Low	60	\$22	R. Nakamoto	60	\$22	Alvin Begun	63	\$22			
Chris Weberg	60	\$16	Dick Wilson	65	\$16	Joe Enos	65	\$16			
J. Jonekait	64	\$12	Stan Scardino	66	\$12	Milt Wehrman	68	\$12			
R. McGrath	67	\$7	B. Metheany	68	\$7	Jim Narva	69	\$7			

DeLaveaga ABCD Scramble			Par 70		Feb. 12, 2024	
Team	Score	Prize				
Jeff Allmon, Les Miles, Herb Petersen, Tim O'Meara	57	\$17 @				
Jim Thorne, Tom Taboada, Balbir Kalsi, Dave Dardis	57	\$10 @				

Shoreline			Par 72		Feb. 22, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Paul Lesti	74	\$21	Milt Wehrman	75	\$18	
Scott Hiller	75	\$16	Balbir Kalsi	79	\$14	
Chris Weberg	76	\$10	Tim O'Meara	80	\$10	
Joe Cioni	77	\$5				
Inside Putter Length: Richard McGrath on #11 (\$15)						
Low Gross: Paul Lesti 82						

Castlewood Hill			Par 70		Feb. 26, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Les Miles	71	\$25	Tim O'Meara	73	\$17	
Peter Daley	71	\$20	Balbir Kalsi	74	\$10	
Jay Jonekait	71	\$15	Peter Wong	81	\$5	
Jim Thorne	73	\$10				
Chris Weberg	75	\$7				
Inside Putter Length: Les Miles on #12 (\$15) and Walt Joyce on #6 (\$15)						
Low Gross (forward tees): Les Miles 88						
Low Gross (back tees): Larry Low 89						

BOWLING

BOB TAGGART
650-321-2654

See our [web page](#)

chtaggart@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.

The Spring Session starts April 9th. If you have been considering bowling - or are new to SIR - this is an excellent time to start. 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 12 - MARCH 2024	
1st Place - Tie --	Chris Weberg, Rick McColloch, Bob Garten
1st Place - Tie --	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, Scott Hiller
8th Place --	Doug Anderson, Ken Allen, Jay Jonekait

SEASON HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	509 - Jerry Ososkie	1st	219 - Perry Brown
2nd	561 - Larry Low	2nd	205 - Marc Haberman
3rd	525 - Bob Garten	3rd	204 - Arnie Satterlee
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	715 - Chris Weberg	1st	247 - Joe Enos (Tie)
2nd	683 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	247 - D Haythronwhite (Tie)
3rd	652 - Peter Wong	3rd	241 - Jim Holman (Tie)
		3rd	241 - Fred Emmenegger (Tie)

LAST WEEK HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	509 - Perry Brown	1st	175 - Peter Wong
2nd	471 - Larry Low	2nd	170 - Scott Hiller
3rd	469 - Joe Enos	2nd	158 - Marc Haberman
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	642 - Larry Maibaum	1st	221 - Darryl Walker (Tie)
2nd	604 - Jim Narva	2nd	221 - Ken Allen (Tie)
3rd	593 - Jim Holman	3rd	208 - Ron Nakamoto

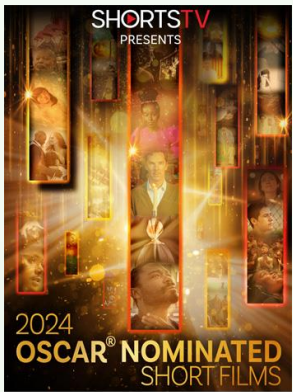
MOVIES

MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN
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jvquill@pacbell.net

See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on March 19th at 3 PM. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



2024 Oscar Nominated Short Films: Documentary. Most of these marvelous short documentaries can be seen on YouTube. “The Last Repair Shop” is a heartwarming look at the Los Angeles School District musical instrument repair shop and the marvelous people who make it work. The kids who get to use these bravura instruments forever benefit. (Our favorite). “The Barber of Little Rock” tells the story of a young man

who takes his barbering skills and entrepreneurship and turns it all into a huge benefit for his community. “Nai Nai and Wai Po” tells the story of two Chinese grand mothers who share grandchildren and their sunset years together. It is a touching story on Hulu. “The ABCs of Book Banning” takes aim at the book banners of the world are how short sighted they are. Bright young girls read the banned books and then discuss the books with insight and intellect. “Island In Between” takes a modern look at the status of independent Taiwan and China’s desire to end Taiwan’s independence.



Ordinary Angels. This is a good, old fashioned Hollywood tearjerker. It’s even better in that it is a true story. It is the early 1990s and Ed (Alan Ritchson) just lost his wife to cancer. He now has two daughters to raise on his own. Michelle, the younger, needs a liver transplant. Ed, of course, has no insurance and the costs of everything are overwhelming. Into their lives enters Sharon (Hilary Swank) who is a local hairdresser battling her own demons

but finds solace in helping others. She rallies the town and gets an amazing taskforce together to get Michelle to the hospital in time for a transplant. Rated PG for thematic content, brief bloody images, and smoking. In Theatres. It is a Peggy’s pick.



Taste of Things. This delectable film is France’s Oscar Nominee for the Best International Feature Film. It does not disappoint. It is a great love story told while masters of French Cuisine ply their trade in a kitchen supplied with fresh foods of amazing quality, wines, and spirits. Too bad smell-a-vision is not available. The cooking sequences are amazing. Set in 1885, Eugenie (Juliette Binoche), is an honored cook. She has worked for Dodin (Benoît Magimel), a renowned gourmet and restaurateur, for 20 years. They slowly grow fond

of each other. A romance develops that is demonstrated by the food creations they make. The film is a celebration of French Haute Cuisine and all things French. In French with English subtitles. Rated PG-13 for some sensuality, partial nudity, and smoking. In Theatres.



2024 Oscar Nominated Short Films: Live Action. “Invincible” looks at mental health. “Knight of Fortune” is a strange look at death through Danish eyes. “Red, White and Blue” looks at contemporary abortion issues – Peggy’s favorite. “The After” is a gut-wrenching look at grief. “The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar” is a Wes Anderson short that looks at the fine art of storytelling. All of these films are amazing and worth seeing. Collectively our best

cinema experience of the year. In Theatres and available online. It is a Peggy’s Pick.

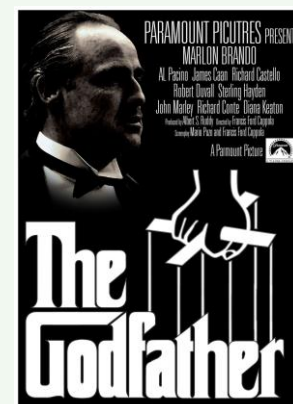
Jim

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!

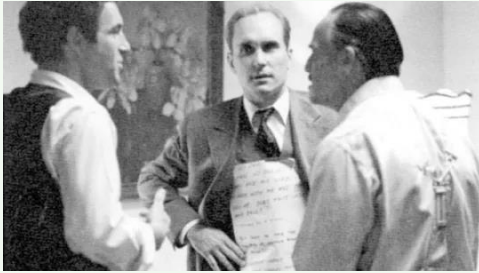


Movie: The Godfather.

Released on March 15th, 1972, Francis Ford Copolla’s masterpiece and first movie of an all-time great trilogy cost about \$7M to make but grossed 20 times that at the US box office and 40 times that internationally.

Copolla was not initially enthusiastic to take on the project as he found Mario Puzo’s novel ‘pretty cheap’ but smarting from the poor reception of his previous project ‘The Rain People’, he decided to do it. His first choice for the role of Don Vito Corleone was Marlon Brando but the Paramount Studios management were leary of Brando for being notoriously difficult to manage on the set, they offered British actor Lawrence Olivier instead. Copollo insisted on Brando so the studio made three conditions before they’d consider it. Firstly, he had to do a screen test. Secondly, if cast, he’d have to work for free. Thirdly, he would have to put up a personal bond to make up for potential losses caused by his infamous behavior on-set. Copollo convinced Brando to do the screen test by telling

him it was just a makeup test. When Paramount saw the resulting footage, they were so impressed they dropped the two other conditions and signed Brando for the role.



Brando famously would not learn his lines so cue cards were hidden around the set for him to read. Here is a 'gotcha' photo of a cue card actually taped to Robert Duvall's chest during shooting.

It is said that there was significant involvement by real mafia in the movie making. A group dedicated to remove stereotyping of Italian Americans, The Italian American Civil Rights League, led by Joe Colombo Sr., protested the film as soon as production was started and applied pressure to moderate it. Albert Ruddy, the film's producer, had his car vandalised and Paramount chief executive Robert Evans reportedly received threatening phone calls. Ruddy met with the league and worked out a compromise involving script previews and removing the word 'mafia' entirely.



The Corleone Men; Sonny, Vito, Michael and Fredo

Copollo actually used a real horse's head procured from a local dogfood company to bring reality to the gross scene where a Hollywood director wakes up in the morning to find the head of his prized racehorse in his bed, at his feet. It was part of 'an offer he can't refuse' to get Don Corleone's godson a big role in a movie.

Copollo habitually used his own family members in his movies. His sister, Talia Shire, played Don Corleone's daughter Connie and his own daughter Sofia was the baby used in the baptismal scene with Al Pacino towards the end. In interview he said that he cast Diane Keaton in the role of Kay, the 'straight laced' girlfriend to Michael, because he felt she was 'so eccentric and kind-of weird' that she'd breathe life into the character.

Original movie trailer:

https://youtu.be/fB_8VCwXydM?si=VMP9zuJW3sxUA1Ux

Al Pacino, as Michael, asserts himself as the new boss:

https://youtu.be/Rtbw8s1MJGo?si=7nBAO1_ixaRPuzoC

Some father to son advice:

<https://youtu.be/7IXVycNgGN0?si=FsuX8swQz27PPqoQ>



Music: "The Great Gig In The Sky" by Pink Floyd and Clare Torry

Pink Floyd's album 'Dark Side of the Moon' was released on March 1st 1973. The album's release culminated nearly two years of material development, public performance and rehearsals. It is listed as No. 3 best selling album of all time, with approximately 50 million certified copies sold, beaten only by Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and AC/DC's 'Back in Black'. It was Pink Floyd's greatest hit and launched them to Super Group status internationally.

In 1971 bassist and lead songwriter Roger Waters proposed the band write a new album of material for an upcoming tour that would be based on a single theme, the pressures the band endure as touring artists, dealing with the (recent) mental health problems of founder member Syd Barrett. Along with new music compositions, they would 'gear-up' with a highly technical stage show using advanced sounding mixing, lighting and special effects equipment. Work started in a garden shed kitted out as a recording room, progressed to a rehearsal warehouse owned by the Rolling Stones and on to what is now Abbey Road Studios for recording. But before committing to final recordings, they toured for almost a year playing and continuously tuning the songs which they played in the same order as they would eventually appear on the album.

'The Great Gig In The Sky' started as a chord sequence composed by piano player Richard Wright which was played live with a voice-over of bible readings and quotes from conservative religious leaders of the time. It wasn't until January 1973, 2 months before the album's final release, the band asked a London session singer to improvise a vocal track over the piano and slide guitar. The singer was Clare Torry and she was paid £30 standard flat fee for the session. She got the impression that they didn't like what she came up with and left thinking it would be dropped. It wasn't until the album's release that she heard her vocal track.

Listening to the song now, the vocal is the backbone of the song, creating a haunting impression beautifully countered by the simple piano chord progression and guitar emphasis. It wasn't until a lawsuit much later, in 2005, that Torry's artistic contribution was recognized and she was compensated for her vocal composition rights. Since then, she is always credited as a co-writer.

Here's the original recording as released on the album:

<https://youtu.be/cVBCE3gaNxc?si=SSfdY6PWxl4BwcvL>

Here's an early mix of the song without Torry's vocals:

<https://youtu.be/xdKRWSWhA28?si=gqySi66wIao2lvY6>

Here's a live performance by Pink Floyd from 1990 which, unusually, features Clare Torry on vocals:

<https://youtu.be/VGX7RxsTNmo?si=0auIKZH5VfB3LHlo>

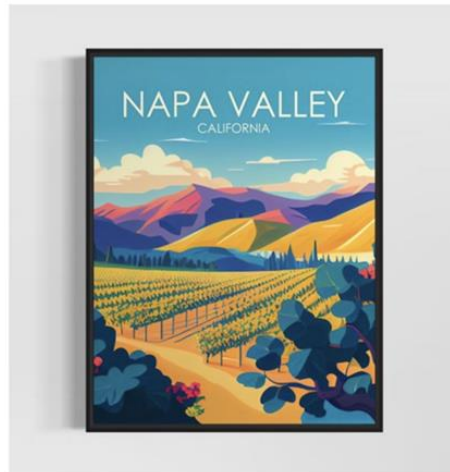
As Paul Harvey says, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."

SIR HAPPENINGS

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

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

State SIR Golf Presents In Concert with Branches 35 & 149 A 2 Day Golf Event



2024 Spring Fling in Napa

Wednesday, April 24 at *Chardonney Golf Club*, a Four Man, 2-Best Ball Tournament with consecutive tee times.

Thursday, April 25 at *Eagle Vines Vineyard & Golf Club*, a Four Man Scramble with a Shotgun Start.

Ladies Welcome. Cash Prizes will be awarded for top teams and Closest-to-Pin. Entries can be for one or both days. Further details and Entry Forms will be posted later on SIR State Golf Website at <https://www.sirgolf.org>. For more information contact **Ben Gikis** (408) 802-0794, gikisben@yahoo.com.

Reserve the Dates Today!

Your SIR State and Branch 35 Officers and Leaders

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 State Vice President Lee Lamp (530) 921-1375
 State Secretary Rich Carlston (925) 324-0838

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 Little Sir (Vice President) Jerry Ososkie (408) 219-6924
 Secretary Leland Chan lchanlaw@aol.com
 Asst. Secretary Dave Squellati (408) 334-7988
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 Auditing Gerry Feeney (408) 515-8604
 Beverage Service Ben Gikis (408) 802-0794
 Historian/Photos Frank Crossman (650) 493-9182

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 - March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
					Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Golf 10:00am Wente Vineyards - \$95		Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 10:04am Monterey Pines - \$61	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
		Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Personal Finance 1:30pm First Republic Bank			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Golf 10:00am Spring Valley - \$48	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 10:00am Salinas Fairways - \$37 Biking 11:00am Los Gatos Creek Trail Meet Blackford Elementary School	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
			Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Golf 10:50am Cinnabar Hills - \$95	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 10:00am Bayonet - \$95	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
		Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	Branch 35 Luncheon/Meeting 11:00am - 1:30pm Mtn. View Community Center		Hiking 10:00am Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Golf 10:00am Poplar - \$46	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 9:30am San Jose Muni - \$49	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
			Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center			