



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter September 2022

*Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life*

## Message from Fred

The covid story continues to improve as reported cases continue to drop and we are planning to do more to leverage this good news.



Stay tuned for our October Monthly Luncheon Meeting as a team is now working on the possibility of holding an annual luncheon to include spouses and significant others. The concept would be to provide covid booster shots prior to the luncheon service for those who wish to pick up a booster.

Boundary has a new chef in place and he is the one who prepared our meal for the August Luncheon. Most of our members enjoyed the tenderloin and Salmon on the menu and we expect another fine meal at our September Luncheon on the 19th.

The Dine-O-SIRS held another great dinner on Augusts 25<sup>th</sup> at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. A special thanks to Bob Donahue and Larry Heaton for putting this one together. The Dine-O-SIR team is now hard at work on an October dinner which will be their last one for 2022.

Alan Pope has stepped forward to manage our annual Christmas Party and he will be assisted by Paul Russell, Roger Craig, and Fred Wachowicz. Planning is now underway and two past chairman of the event (Jerry Christopherson and Alan Fitzgerald) have offered to teach us the ropes for producing this annual jovial event.

On an administrative matter please don't forget that we are obligated to cover the cost of lunch for late cancellations after Thursday (at 10:00 am) prior to the Monday Luncheon because after that time we are obligated to cover the cost of lunch for the number of attendees that we have submitted in the final count to Boundary.

The Telephone Number is **925-322-1318** and the e-mail address is [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)

We are aware that many of our members could not hear our speaker at the August meeting and we will have this corrected for September.

Our membership remains somewhat steady at 192 which means that we have lost 13 members since the onset of covid. Don't forget to invite your friends and colleagues who may be interested in SIR membership to a future luncheon. Sponsors normally buy lunch for their guest and we reimburse the members lunch when a guest becomes a member.

See you on Sept 19th if not before at one of our activities.

*Fred Wachowicz*, Big SIR

## Next Meeting

**Sept 19 @ Boundary  
Oak, 11:30 AM**

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**Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
[luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)  
by the Monday  
prior to the meeting  
to cancel your  
standing  
reservation.**

Trampas Topics

## 2022 SIR Branch 116 Officers



**Big SIR**  
Fred  
Wachowicz



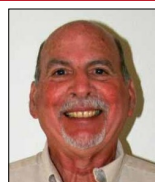
**Little SIR**  
Roger  
Craig



**Treasurer**  
Alan  
Fitzgerald



**Asst. Treas.**  
Al  
Satake



**Secretary**  
Paul  
Ramacciotti



**Asst. Sec.**  
Alan  
Pope

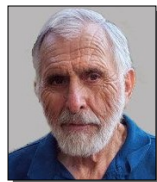


**Member. Sec.**  
Phil  
Goff

## 2022 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Don  
Benioff



Sam  
Beret



Kevin  
Donahue



Al  
Farbman



Darrell  
McClaughry



Dave  
Williams

## 2022 Support Chairmen

### RAMP Department Heads:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| • Recruitment      | Don Schroeder   |
| • Activities       | Mike Ward       |
| • Member Relations | David C. Harris |
| • Publicity        | Allan Farbman   |

### Branch Support Chairmen:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee            | Ron Armijo             |
| • Nominating Committee       | Michael Barrington     |
| • Sunshine Committee         | Matt Arena             |
| • Computer Support           | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Webmaster                  | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Newsletter Editor          | Neil Schmidt           |
| • New Member Orientation     | Dave Williams          |
| • Membership Roster Prep     | Phil Goff              |
| • Compliance Officer (COVID) | Kevin Donahue          |

### Diversity Support Team

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Team Leader  | Fred Wachowicz     |
| • Team Member  | Sam Beret          |
| • Team Member  | Terry Sherman      |
| • Team Member  | Al Satake          |
| • Team Member  | Jerry Hicks        |
| • Team Member  | Michael Barrington |
| • Team Advisor | Lee Moy            |

### Luncheon Support Team:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Attendance             | Mike Scheneider           |
| • Audio Visual           | Neil Schmidt              |
| • Chaplain Committee     | Terry Sherman             |
| • Greeters Committee     | Ramacciotti, Grummitt     |
| • Raffle Committee       | Ben Bryce                 |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

### Speakers Committee

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Team Member | James Dawe    |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas  |
| • Team Member | Roger Craig   |

## 2022 Activity Chairmen

Activity	Chairman	Asst. Chairman
• Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
• Bocce	Paul Russell	Bob Huck
• Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
• Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
• Book Exchange	John Fraser	Dick Kauffma
• Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
• Community Service	Jeff Johnson	
• Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
• Dine-O-SIR	Alex Lutkus	Marty Katz
• Duplicate Bridge	Conrad Robertson	Tom Henry
• Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
• Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Jim Johnson
• Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. McLaughry
• Golf—Treasurer	Alan Pope	
• Golf—Carmel	Jim Barstow	JJ, Harris, Eller
• Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	Jeff Johnson
• Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
• Parties	Marty Katz	
• Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
• Poker	Lou Sandor	
• Sums in Retirement	Ben Smith	
• Travel	Jeff Johnson	
• Wine-O-SIR	Lou Meylan	
• Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Mike Schneider

## Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Apple User Group	Dick Macy (Br.171)	376-1180
Astronomy	Bill Hunter (Br.8)	947-6947
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	935-5510
Digital Photo.	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	254-8338
Pocket Pool	Jerry White (Br.8)	944-9068
Tennis	Ralph Thornicraft (174)	376-8140

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## September 2022

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1  <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	2  <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	3
4	5   <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>	6	7  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton GC)	8	<b>Amiable Ambers</b> (9:00@ Moraga Commons) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	10
11	12  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak GC )	13  <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:00@ Diablo Creek GC)	14  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>Mexican Train</b> (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	15  <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ via Zoom)	16  <b>Amiable Ambers</b> (9:00@ Stone Valley West) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	17
18	19  <b>SIR Br. 116 Meeting</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	20  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Las Positas GC)	21  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	22  <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ via Zoom) <b>Wine-O-SIR</b> (4:00@ TBD)	23  <b>Amiable Ambers</b> (9:00@ Inspiration Point) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	24
25	26  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ San Ramon GC )	27  <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:00@ Diablo Creek GC)	28  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Dublin Ranch GC)	29  <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	30  <b>Amiable Ambers</b> (9:00@ San Ramon Vly Museum) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	



# Branch Administration



## Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Current Membership: 192

- Steve Cherepy      Resigned
- Tim Martin        Resigned
- Cliff Egan         Passed away



## Treasury Report

Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer

August 26, 2022			
			2022 YTD
Contributions	\$	4,617.30	\$ 58,123.56
Disbursements	\$	(8,019.07)	\$ (58,307.79)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$	(3,401.77)	\$ (184.23)
July Cash Balance			\$ 9,624.74
Outstanding Checks			\$ 0.00
Bank Acct Balance	\$		9,624.74

## September Birthdays

*When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!*

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jim Avila       | 8. Warren Garrison |
| 2. Rich Black      | 9. Jim Hemmenway   |
| 3. Mike Corker     | 10. Allen Leschot  |
| 4. Tony de Grassi  | 11. Hank McDermott |
| 5. Chris Doan      | 12. Terry Miller   |
| 6. Jim Dugan       | 13. Jim Nachtweih  |
| 7. Alan Fitzgerald | 14. Carlos Xavier  |

## Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor  
[trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com)

## Newly Elected Branch 2023 Officers & Directors

### Officers

Big SIR	Roger Craig
Little SIR:	Alan Pope
Treasurer:	Jeff Johnson
Assistant Treasurer	Al Satake
Secretary	Paul Ramacciotti
Assistant Secretary	Greg Hughes
Membership	Phil Goff

### Directors

Kevin Donoghue  
 Darrell McClaughry  
 Don Benioff  
 Dave Williams  
 Gary Bonfiglio  
 Fred Wachowicz



## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site  
[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf  
[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Branch 116 Shopping Cart  
[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

Area 16 Computer and Technology  
[sirinc2.org/a16cat/](http://sirinc2.org/a16cat/)

SIR Happenings State Newsletter  
[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)



# September Luncheon Meeting

## Speaker for September Meeting

To be announced (check for info on Branch web page)



## REMINDER

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com) by the Monday prior to the meeting to cancel your standing reservation.

## Luncheon Menu

Monday, September 19, 2022

### Salad

#### WEDGE OF BABY ICEBURG LETTUCE

Bacon, cherry tomatoes, red onion & Blue cheese dressing

### Entrees

#### PAN ROASTED BONE-IN-CHICKEN BREAST

Creamy polenta, seasonal vegetables & wild mushroom sauce

Or

#### PARMESAN CRUSTED TALAPIA

Or

#### VEGETARIAN OPTION

### Dessert

#### RED VELVET CAKE

Chocolate & berry sauces



August Luncheon Speaker Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's Ben Lavendar



## SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters>

# Branch Administration



## Little SIR Report

Roger Craig

A big tip of the hat for an excellent dinner outing goes to Bob Donohue, Larry Heaton and Alex Lutus. I'm still full from the Kings cut prime rib at Zio Fraedo.

It is hard to believe September is upon us. Plans are already underway for our annual Christmas dinner. We will soon be seeing holiday decorations in the stores. Time does fly when you are having fun.

Attendance at our monthly meetings is holding steady but we are still looking for more SIRS to join us as we climb back to normalcy.

In that regard various activities are starting to see an increase in attendance and we certainly hope that continues.

Be safe ,be well and hope to see you soon.



**Zio Fraedo's Dine-O-SIR Dinner on August 25th (Attended by 77 SIR and their significant others)**

## The Police vs the Senior Citizen Joke

A senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little gray hair he had left. "Amazing," he thought as he flew down I-5, pushing the pedal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a state trooper behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mp...h, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this," and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival. Pulling in behind him, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch, and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old gentleman paused. Then he said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a State trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, sir," replied the trooper



# Branch Administration



## Member Relations

David Harris

### SIR September Anniversaries

We recognize the members of SIR Branch 116 each month who have an anniversary with SIR.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years with SIR</u>	<u>Date Joined SIR</u>
Matt Arena	30	09/15/1992
Bill McCallum	26	09/18/1996
Dick Chaffee	22	09/11/2000
Conrad Robertson	22	09/18/2000
Lonny Randall	20	09/16/2002

Joel White	15	09/17/2007
Bob Shader	14	09/21/2008
Jeff Smith	9	09/16/2013
Sam Beret	8	09/15/2014
Jim Flessner	8	09/15/2014
Richard Rossland	8	09/15/2014
Alan Pope	4	09/17/2018
Paul Russell	3	09/16/2019
Rich Yamanaka	2	09/21/2020



## Sunshine

Matt Arena

SIR **Cliff Egan** passed in August . Cliff and his wife were the founders of the DIABLO LIGHT OPERA COMPANY IN WALNUT CREEK. Cliff had been a long time member of the Branch. He will be missed by his many friends.

Past Big SIR **Marty Katz** has completed his therapy and looks forward to being his self again. We wish him good health and happiness in his recovery.

SIR **Scott Clark** has returned to our luncheon following his leg injury. It was great to see him at the August lunch.

*MY MAMA SAID THAT LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES ,YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO GET.*

*FORRECT GUMP*

In Memoriam

**Clifford A. Egan**

February 23, 1930—August 2022



## Bridge

Jon Dickson

We are winding down our long stay at Diablo Country Club for our lunch & bridge. In October Diablo CC will start on a major renovation, which means we are needing a new location for our bridge. It will be announced to all when we find a resting place. We will continue to play bridge on the

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month, starting at 10:00 AM, even when SIR's leaders choose to double book events on our Tuesdays, as we have a contract with where we play to show up or pay for not showing up.

# New Theater Activity

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## SIR Branches join for a Theatre Party for O'Neill's "*A Moon For The Misbegotten*" on September 25

Three area branches of SIR are promoting a Theatre Party for an award-winning play by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill at Danville's Tao House.

*A Moon for the Misbegotten* will be staged in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the hills above Danville on Sunday, September 25 for a matinee at 2:00 p.m.

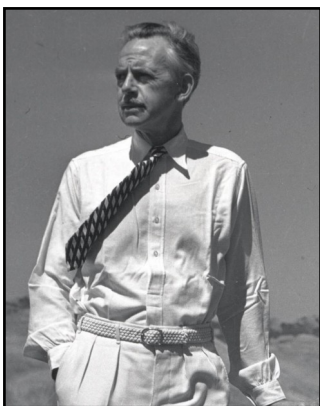
Members of SIR Branch 116, Branch 128, and Branch 146 have joined together for this event. A special discount is available for members and guests of these SIR Branches.

Tickets are \$60 available on the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's website. We are being offered a limited number of \$5 discount for members of the three SIR Branches at <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/a-moon-for-the-misbegotten-sirs-preferred-access/>. Information for access to the National Historic Site is available on the website [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org).

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. He lived in the hills above Danville from 1936-1944. "*A Moon for the Misbegotten*" was written during this period, and is perhaps O'Neill's most popular play. The play has been presented frequently across the country, and on five occasions on Broadway since its debut in 1947.

If you have questions, contact Terry Sherman at [dtsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtsh@sbcglobal.net); phone (925) 786-0598.

In addition, a concert of traditional and contemporary Irish music at the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville will be the kickoff event of the 23rd Annual Eugene O'Neill Festival. The concert celebrates the Friendship City relationship between Danville and New Ross, Ireland, from which O'Neill's father James emigrated. Acclaimed Bay Area musicians Cormac Gannon, Erin Thompson, and Steve Gardner will vocalize and play a variety of instruments, including the fiddle and uilleann pipes. Tickets are only \$20 and will soon go on sale on the O'Neill Foundation's website — [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org). For further information contact Sir Dan McGovern. [danielwmcgovern@gmail.com](mailto:danielwmcgovern@gmail.com).





# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers

John Riordan

August walkers included David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, Essie Naddaf, and John & Gail Riordan. The August 5 group walked along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with a post-walk gathering at the Lafayette Starbucks. The August 19 group walked along the Contra Costa Canal Trail with a post-walk gathering at Panera Bread.

The September walks are scheduled to commence later at 9:00AM rather than 8:15AM. RSVP to [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com). No walk is scheduled for September 2. The September 9 walk will gather at the Moraga Commons and walk northeast along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Town Bakery and Café. The September 16 walk will gather at the Stone Valley West trailhead in Alamo and walk north along the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Pete's. The September

23 walk will gather at Inspiration Point in Tilden Park and walk north along the Nimitz Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Geppetto's Cafe in Orinda. The September 30 walk will gather at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley (aka Railway Museum) in Danville with walk north along the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Crumbs.

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



**Amiable Amblers resting at Panera Bread after their walk**

# Branch Activities



## Community Service

Jeff Johnson

Our membership has enjoyed successful careers and now is the time to pay it back to the community. Please join this new community service activity.

On August 25th we again worked at White Pony Express in Pleasant Hill. Eight of us sorted incoming fruit, vegetables, bakery goods and other donations from local grocery stores and repackaged them to send to food kitchens, food banks and other agencies for distribution to the needy. White Pony Express has delivered over 18 million pounds of fresh food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

We are looking into an opportunity to prepare

Ukrainian relief boxes at White Pony Express. Please let me know if you are interested in this effort.

We need suggestions of any opportunity for us to participate as a group of volunteers. We have several other Community Service opportunities in the works:

- Contra Costa Food Bank.
- Salvation Army pending

We need your help for future, one-time events. Please contact Jeff Johnson ([jeffjohnson9000@att.net](mailto:jeffjohnson9000@att.net) or 415-652-4840).



## Mexican Train Dominos

Rechard Madden

"Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

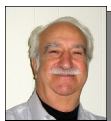
We normally meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek.

Please email me and if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out when the May plan is determined. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

You can contact Richard Madden, [madden-ram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:madden-ram@sbcglobal.net) or 925.788.4223

# Branch Activities

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## Fishing

Harry Sherinian

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Big Fish, Bob Lively 925-383-5193 and Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, Harry Sherinian, 925-846-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, September 22nd** at 8:30am.

Summer is boiling and blowing into fall. That changes everything. Salmon on the ocean is over, but many of us have red fish food in our freezers. Halibut in the bay is all but a memory. Soon our local lakes will start planting trout as the waters cool. Bass and striped fishing in the delta will improve, and if we get some rain, our sturgeon fishing will kick in. Rock fish and ling cod in the ocean are

our fall blessing, and we have chartered several boats for that. We are uncertain when crab fishing will commence. So even though our summer fishing has come to a cease, we are overloaded with other opportunities in this fabulous bay area. Lee Clark, Pete Gates, Steve Loftin, and Paul Dubow did well in Alaska for halibut and salmon. So many fish, so little time.

August was also the time for our annual Fishing Group Bar-B Que. Many of our members and their wives and friends gathered at the house of Brian Beetz for an afternoon of eating, drinking and socializing. It was a beautiful day and the food was outstanding. A special thanks to Brian for hosting this annual event and to Dick Thomson who handled the reservations, collected the money and made up name tags.



## Pickleball

Ed Solomon

Join us every Friday at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center in Heather Farm from 8:00 to 9:30am. We reserve two courts every week. All you need are tennis sneakers, shorts preferred, sun screen, & we have extra paddles.

Pickleball is a fun sport for all ages that combine many elements of tennis, badminton, & ping-pong,

played on badminton sized court. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn.

Dennis Snarr, has volunteered to work with beginners interested in learning this fun game. Just call Ed at (415) 215-2684 to reserve a spot and have fun!



## Wine-O-SIR

Lou Meylan

The Wine O Sirs will be meeting the fourth Thursday, **September 22, 2022**. Because of Thanksgiving,

our November wine tasting will be one week earlier, the third Thursday, November 17, 2022.



# Branch Activities



## Book Group 1

Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books on the following dates:

- **Monday, October 3..** "Ragged Company" by Richard Wagamese
- **Monday, October 31..** "Circe" by Madeline Miller
- **Monday, December 5..** "Freezing Order" by Bill Browder

Book Group #1 continues our +/- one hour discussion at Orinda Books, normally on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:15 am. The above schedule reflects our adjustments for the Rosh Hashana and Thanksgiving holidays. Prospective new members, or guys just wanting to sit in for a session, should contact Richard Black at [Blackrw41@comcast.net](mailto:Blackrw41@comcast.net).

Book Group #1 just met on Monday August 22 to discuss "The Last Green Valley" by Mark Sullivan. The book illuminates the remarkable struggle of a family thrust into the chaos and destruction encompassing the German military's retreat from Russian

armies advancing through Ukraine in 1944 as part of a surprising, little known, World War II event of horse drawn wagon trains heading west referred to as the Long Trek.

From March 1944 to March 1947 the family endures military attacks, separations and prisoner camps until after braving dangers and seizing opportunities they are ultimately reunified in West Germany. The story is all the more remarkable as the author follows this very real family's continued journey to the United States and finally to the Green Valley of the Gallatin Mountains surrounding Bozeman, Montana.

Mac McLoughlin recommended the book while Steve Bort led the discussion with Art Donaldson, Mike Schneider, Paul Freitas, Dick Kauffman and Garrett Girvan. The group was greatly impressed with the resiliency of the Martel family in surpassing unthinkable roadblocks and conditions and generally liked the author's weaving of the story. The book received a strong positive rating of 4.1 stars.



## Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 members met August 18 to discuss The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich.

In August 1953, the U.S. Congress announced a bill to abrogate nation-to-nation treaties, which were made with American Indian Nations for "as long as the grass grows and the rivers flows."

The bill would terminate the recognition of five tribes, including the author's grandfather (Thomas) who was the head of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Thomas worked as a night watchman for a factory where women of the Turtle mountain tribe worked using gemstones as drill bits for Defense Department Ordnance uses and for watches.

Among these working women is Thomas's niece Patrice. Thomas watches over the dark, possibly haunted factory, to protect these gems from thieves. The novel follows the fates, struggles and adventures of Thomas and Patrice, and their ever-expanding circles of family and friends.

On a 5 point scale, members voted a 4. score.

Our next meeting will be at on September 15 at 11 AM at Arbolado Park Walnut Creek. We will discuss Red Sparrow by Jason Matthews. All are welcome to attend whether you have read the book or not. Questions, contact Scott Clark at 925-998-4553.

# Branch Activities



## Golf Clinic

Chris Doan



After a summer break, the Golf Clinic starts again in September with a more dynamic offering for golfers of all skill levels. The Clinic will continue to be open to SIR Members and spouses or significant others.

In order to participate, you will

need to be on the Clinic Register and Mailing List. If you would like to be added for the 2022/2023 season or have any questions about the Clinic, please email Chris Doan at [cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com).

September 17 will be the kickoff for 2022/2023, offering the very popular and foundational "Course

Management" classroom session to start honing the mental side of the game. You can leave your clubs at home for this session which will be conducted at Diablo Creek Golf Course in a conference room in Legends Grill. Golf Pro Pete Asselin will lead the session with ample time for questions and discussion that is important to your game. The mental game is certainly a very big part of golf so it proved to be quite beneficial to all who participated last season.

Also on September 17, the first Beginner Lesson is scheduled. It is never too late to learn to play! If there are three or more participants, an additional Beginner Track will be added to the schedule. For this session, you will need to bring your clubs for the lesson..

For the remaining season, two lesson topics will be scheduled each month. Please get on the mailing list if you think you would be interested.

We look forward to a good year of improving our golf games ... **FORE!**

## \$ums Investment

Dave Sutton (Br. 8)

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed September 28 at 1:30 PM.

Topic to be announced

Email Dave Sutton at [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net) to be included.



## Bocce

Paul Russell

We play bocce ball next on September 1st at the Clayton Bocce Courts (corner of Main Street and Oak Street in the town of Clayton - next to Skipopolinis pizza).

We can throw a few practice balls about 9:30 - 10:00am and the games begin at approximately

10:00. We play 3 games for the next 2 hours, however if there is an ongoing game (the third game) at noon, the winner of that game is whoever is ahead.

All games are played to a total of nine points and the winner must win by two. (Except as noted in the paragraph above).

# Branch Golf



SIR Golf  
Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

## Branch 116 Golf Website

The Golf Website is: [branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- Annual Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.
- 18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.
- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.
- Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Shows who has signed-up for the next two Boundary Oak sessions.



### September: 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 07	10:00	Pleasanton GC	Marty Katz
Wed. 14	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 21	10:00	Buchanan Fields	D.McClaughry
Wed. 28	10:00	Dublin Ranch	Marty Katz

### September: 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 05		No Golf	
Mon. 12	9:40	Boundary Oak	Neil Schmidt
Tue. 20	10:00	Las Positas	Jim Johnson
Mon. 26	10:00	San Ramon	Jim Johnson

### 18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	Location	Deadline	Amount
Sep. 20	Las Positas	Sep. 10	\$51
Sep. 26	San Ramon	Sep. 14	Walk \$27/Ride \$39
Oct. 18	Poppy Ridge	Oct. 6	\$58
Oct 24	Diablo Creek	Oct. 14	\$46
Oct. 31	Chardonnay	Oct. 19	\$45

Sign-up for Golf via Branch 116 Shopping Cart System at: [sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)





RETURN TO: Neil Schmidt  
2231 San Miguel Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5805

***FIRST CLASS MAIL***

**Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement**