



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter May 2025

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

Message from Paul

I have been getting my gas at Costco since the prices have gone sky high the last few years. And since they have shut down the gas pumps at the Concord Costco, I've been having to go over the hill to the Pittsburg Costco.



The good thing about this is that the hills are beautiful this time of year and we have our windows open to smell the Pink Jasmine in our backyard. I was doing a barbecue last night and was overwhelmed with the smell of our Meyer Lemon tree and bees buzzing all around. The smell and sounds of Spring are something to behold.

SPEAKERS: We've got a great speaker line up this year with Capt. Bill Nelson as our leadoff hitter in April. Thanks to Al Farbman, Paul Freitas and Brad Stribling in doing all the legwork on this. They have got almost the entire year planned out from what I hear.

Mother's Day is May 11th this year, for those fortunate enough to have your mothers with you, and for your wives who are the mothers of your children. It's important to let them know how much you appreciate them. Two other days, worth mentioning, are Armed Forces Day (May 17th) and Memorial Day (May 26th) give us the opportunity to say thank you to all those men and women who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces and to remember those that gave their lives serving in the military.

A reminder that there will no Branch116 luncheon in May. Our next luncheon at Boundary Oak will be on June 16th.

This year, we will be having our Spring Fling at The Kensington (1580 Geary Road, in Walnut Creek, 94549) and it will be a buffet style serving vegetarian dishes, Salads, Fish and I think there will be two types of meat being offered. It will be from 1:00 – 3:00pm on May 21st. A quick reminder to those of you on the fence about this, it's a mere \$20.00 pp or \$21.00 pp if you pay via square and the deadline is May 12th.

Attendance at Luncheons continues to climb thanks to the recruiting committee.

Enjoy the nice weather we're fortunate enough to be having and, if not sooner, we will see you in June.

Paul Russell, Big SIR

**Deadline for Spring Fling Signup is May 12th
Attendance limited to the first 60 signups**

Next Meeting

June 16, 2025 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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Call 925-322-1318
or email to
luncheon116@gmail.com
by the Monday
prior to the
meeting to cancel
your standing
reservation.

Trampas Topics

2025 SIR Branch



Big SIR
Paul
Russell



Little SIR
Brad
Stribling



Treasurer
Charlie
Guthrie



Asst. Treas.
Al
Satake



Secretary.
Dan
Lawrence



Asst.Sec.
Bill
Foulds



Membership
Phil
Goff



Asst. Mem.
Dave
Havlik

2025 SIR Branch Directors



Sam
Beret



Gary
Bonfiglio



Jeff
Johnson



Alan
Pope



Harry
Sherinian



Jim
Tamulski

2025 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads

- Recruitment Don Schroeder
- Activities Mike Ward
- Member Relations Sam Beret
- Publicity Alan Farbman

Branch Support Chairmen

- Audit Committee Ron Armijo
- Nominating Committee Alan Pope
- Sunshine Committee Open
- 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

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 Dennis Snarr
- Audio Visual Neil Schmidt
- Chaplain Committee Terry Sherman
- Greeters Committee Ramaciotti, Datzman
- 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 Brad Stribling

2025 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Bob Huck	
Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
Book Exchange	Dick Kauffman	Gary Bonfiglio
Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
Community Service	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Computer & Tech	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Ed Lichtig
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. McLaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Harry Oberle	
Golf—Carmel	TBA	
Mexican Train	Alan Polanger	Gary Bonfiglio
Parties	Paul Russell	TBA
Pickleball	Gary Bonfiglio	Don Marini
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Tom Henry (Br.146)	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Walking Tours	Jim Tamulski	Greg Hughes
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Astronomy	David Bushnell (Br. 8)	925-838-3914
Chess	Steve Schramm (Br.8)	925-222-0801
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.146)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Meng Horng (Br. 8)	309-287-5654
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (Br.146)	925-518-8472
Travel	Glenn Breslin (Br. 146)	925-788-6520

Monthly Activities Calendar

May 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1 Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Bocce)	2 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Railroad Museum, Danville)	3
4	5 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	6 Computer & Tech (10:00 via Zoom)	7 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	8	9 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (10:00@ San Leandro Marina)	10
11 Mothers Day	12 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	13 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	14 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Aegis Living)	15 Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Bocce) Book Group 2 (11:00@ Boundary Oak)	16 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Walking Tour (10:30@ Rosie Riveter) Community Svc (9:00@ Food Bank) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ TBD)	17
18	19 Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books)	20 18-Hole Golf (9:36@ Diablo Creek)	21 Spring Fling (1:00@ Kensington) 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	22 Wine-O-SIR (10:00@ Jon Dickson House)	23 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ WC Civic Park)	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	28 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	29 Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Bocce) Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	30 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Moraga Safeway)	31



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 174

2025 New Members: 12

New Member Frank Colligan
Sponsor is Jeff Johnson
New Member Adam Rios
Sponsor is Jeff Johnson
New Member Jim Arnold
Sponsor is Jim Tamulski
New Member Jerry Ricker
Sponsor Brad Stribling
New Member Bob Colvin (Rejoined)

Resigned: Garrett Romain (Tsfr to Br. 128)
Resigned: Steve Beck (Tsfr to Br. 128)
Resigned: Al Zavatterro (Moved to Rossmoor)
Resigned: Jim Barstow (Passed away 4/21/25)
Resigned: Gerald Coil (Health issues)
Resigned: Phil Perrelli (no longer interested in activities)

Resigned: Bob Anderson *
Resigned: Charles Collins *
Resigned: Kirk Harding *
Resigned: Norm Schoenfeld *
Resigned: Jim Videle *
Resigned: Harvey Widroe *

* Members automatically resigned because they did not respond to dues letter (see note below).

Membership Note:

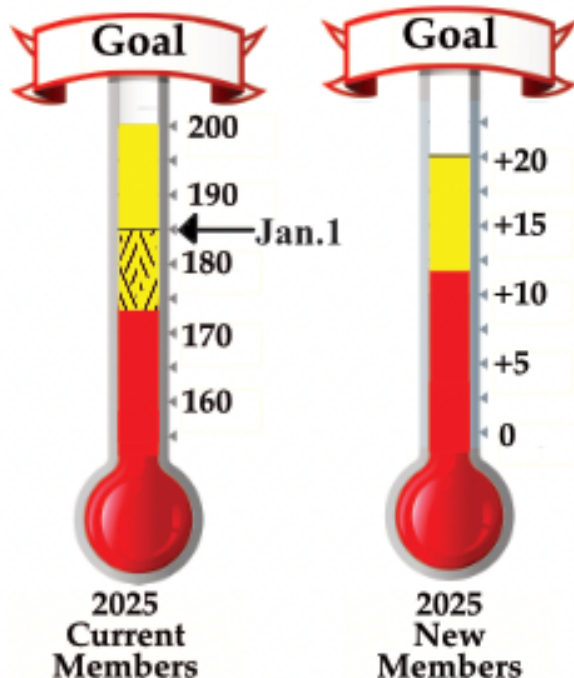
Even though we added 5 members this month our total membership is down slightly. Some of our members did not pay their annual dues and we were unable to contact them. We consider them to be resigned.



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	24-Apr	2025 YTD
Beg Bal 2025		\$ 10,842.15
Contributions	\$ 5,138.34	\$ 28,104.69
Disbursements	\$ (5,139.62)	\$ (27,699.37)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (1.28)	\$ 405.32
April Cash Balance		\$ \$11,247.47



2025 Membership Challenge

Recruiting Monthly Report – May 2025

You guys are doing a great job of recruiting new members:

- As of May 1st we have 12 new member for the year
- And 4 guests for the April lunch
- Our goal for 2025 is 20 new members
- A very favorable trend

Remember, we are all responsible for recruiting new members. Recruiting cards are on the tables at every lunch – grab a few and hand them out.

Guests are treated to lunch, and if your guest joins us, you get a free lunch.

In Memoriam
James M. Barstow

August 16, 1939 - April 21, 2025

Luncheon Speaker



Little SIR
Brad Stribling

The speaker for our April SIR Luncheon was Bill Nelson, a retired USNR Captain with a medaled career as a carrier-based fighter aviator and commander. He gave an engaging and informative talk on the USS Hornet CV-12. This ship has a storied and valiant history in Pacific wars and recovery of the Apollo 11 crew. She was later decommissioned and sold for scrap, then repurchased, authentically restored, donated, and designated a National Historic Landmark and Museum. Captain Nelson encourages all to come visit – he can offer an exceptional tour.

We do not have a speaker, or luncheon, in May... this is because we have our annual Spring Fling! Great event for members, spouses and other guests. Sign up now while there's space left!

As a preview for June, however, we'll be visited by our speaker, David Bushnell, a degreed expert in oceanography and geology with a career in global oil and gas exploration. He will enlighten us on non-petroleum sources and methods of energy generation, including, tidal, etc. He's also a published author.

May Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ron Banducci | 11. George Kohut |
| 2. Ed Barney | 12. Peter Loew |
| 3. Ben Bryce | 13. Darrell McClaughry |
| 4. Al Farbman | 14. Essie Naddaf |
| 5. Jim Flessner | 15. Dave Newman |
| 6. Dave Havlik | 16. John Riordan |
| 7. Jerry Hicks | 17. Tony Rohrs |
| 8. Bob Huck | 18. Paul Russell |
| 9. Greg Hughes | 19. Chick Walsh |
| 10. Bruce Kessler | 20. Mike Yale |



Book Exchange
Dick Kauffman

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Take advantage of the free service available to all members of Branch 116.

This free service is the Book Exchange! At each luncheon we have about 150 to 200 books available on an exchange basis, meaning if you take a book, replace it with another book.

Enjoy this free service.

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>

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf

branch116golf.org

Branch 116 Shopping Cart

sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

sirinc.org/newsletters/

New Members



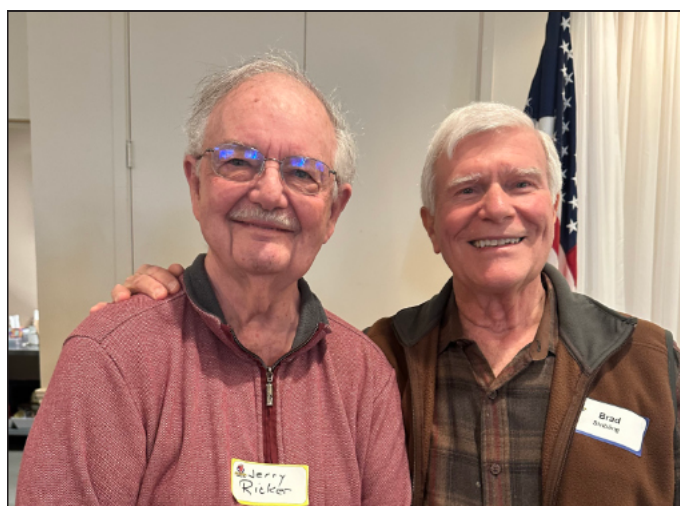
New Member Adam Rios
with Sponsor Jeff Johnson



New Member Frank Colligan
with Sponsor Jeff Johnson



New Member Jim Arnold
with Sponsor Jim Tamulski



New Member Jerry Ricker
with Sponsor Brad Stribling



April Speaker Bill Nelson (Rt) being
introduced by Brad Stribling



Our Musicians Paul King and Dave Williams
leading luncheon songs

Branch Activities



Branch Executive Committee

Secretary Dan Lawrence

BEC Minutes- Summary Meeting of April 21, 2025

- Financial: Branch cash balance as 04/3/01/2025 is \$14,808.75, and reserve balance is \$10,602.60.
- Luncheon: 115 attendees were submitted for the April 2025 Luncheon.
- Membership: Current active membership is 173. Four new members were introduced, one former member has rejoined, and four guests attended as well.
- Little Sir Brad Stribling on behalf of Big Sir Paul Russell (who is on vacation) announced that our annual Spring Fling is scheduled for May 21, 2025, at the Kensington Walnut Creek Retirement Community. A buffet lunch will be served while upbeat music entertains members. In addition, a photo booth will be available. Plenty of parking will be available as well.
- The Branch Publicity Committee Chair, Al Farbman reported that we are relying more on our three social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Allan has heard positive comments from the use of social media that in his opinion has increased awareness of Branch #116. Our Branch has twelve new members to date with a goal of twenty for the year.
- April 2025 Guest Speaker: Captain Bill Nelson USNR. Captain "Bill" Nelson shared his experiences as a carrier-based navigator during the Korean War. Bill was the Director of Nuclear Weapons Engineering Division at the Lawrence Livermore Lab. He is currently a volunteer docent at the Carrier USS Hornet.



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met April 17 to discuss Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari. The 11 members in attendance voted the book 3.4/5.

Sapiens

From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution—a #1 international bestseller—that explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human." One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one—homo sapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us? Most books about the history of humanity pursue either a historical or a biological approach, but Dr. Yuval Noah Harari breaks the mold with this highly original book that begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition. From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires,

Sapiens integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas. Dr. Harari also compels us to look ahead, because over the last few decades humans have begun to bend laws of natural selection that have governed life for the past four billion years. We are acquiring the ability to design not only the world around us, but also ourselves. Where is this leading us, and what do we want to become?

Book Club 2 May & June Schedule

Our meetings start at 11:00 typically last about 1 and 1/2 hours. We are now on our summer schedule when meetings are held at Arbolado Park Walnut Creek, at the picnic tables in front of the basketball courts.

On **May 15** we will be discussing The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer.

Branch Activities

SIR BRANCH 116

SPRING FLING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, 1:00PM-3:00PM

The Kensington at Walnut Creek

1580 Geary Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597



Cost: \$20/person

(\$21 / person via Shopping Cart)

Start of event:

1:00-1:45 pm

Welcome check-in and hand out personalized cards with raffle tickets. Live music and cocktails accompanied with a social game for mingling. Photo booth opportunity.

Linner Service:

1:45-2:30 pm

Buffet style Linner with a vegetarian, fish, and meat option. Seating in the dining room.

Welcome Message

2:15-2:30 pm

Welcome message from Athena and Big SIR, raffle's given out.

Conclusion:

2:30-3:00 pm

Dessert/coffee/tea table with more live music, mingling, and photo booth opp.

Limited to 60 persons. Anyone over the limit will be a waiting list.

Application deadline of May 12.

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Spring Fling 2025

At The Kensington

May 21, 2025

Name _____ Name _____

Make checks payable to: SIRS Branch 116 \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Mail checks to: Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA 94803-0580

You can also pay via Shopping Cart (\$21 / person)

Branch Activities



Community Service Jeff Johnson

"It's the human desire in all of us to want to make life better for somebody else. It makes you feel larger. It makes you feel part of the whole human race."

On Thursday April 24th we worked at the White Pony Express assembling gift packets for homeless women. But the most creative aspect of the activity was that we had to hand draw greeting cards to go into the gift bags. Dick Chaffee was the most diligent and creative in his cards, putting the rest of us to shame. Regardless, we all agreed it was great therapy!

In May we will be working at the Food Bank on Friday May 16th from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Community Service Volunteer activity. Jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840, of if you have any organizations that can use our collective help.



REMINDER!

Bring your food donations for the Food Bank barrel which will be located at the entrance to our lunch next Monday at Boundary Oaks.

Food Drive Most Needed Items

Peanut Butter, Whole Grain Cereals, Hearty Soups, Dried or Canned Beans, Canned Poultry, Meat & Tuna, Canned Fruit in Juice, Nonperishable Ready to Eat Meals, Canned Vegetables, Brown Rice, Whole Wheat Pasta, Canned Tomato Products

PLEASE NO EXPIRED ITEMS AND NO GLASS CONTAINERS



Bocce Bob Huck

Our Bocce season started on Thursday, April 17 and will continue every other Thursday at 9:00 AM through October 16. We had a good turnout for our first games and finished by noon. We have 35

players and 4 teams this year. If you're interested in joining next year please let me know.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net

Branch Activities



Walking Tours Jim Tamulski

The Walking Tours activity is visiting the Rosie the Riveter/World War II National Historical Park in Richmond, California, on Friday, May 16, 2025.

The outing promises a unique opportunity to learn about the remarkable women who contributed to the war effort on the home front.

The day's activities will commence at 10:30 AM at the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center and museum, located within the park. Participants will be greeted with a brief introduction by Ranger Crystal, followed by a 45-minute self-guided tour of the museum's exhibits.

A highlight of the visit will be a special presentation at 11:30 AM by Rosie Jeanne, a woman who personally experienced life and work during World War II. This is anticipated to be a moving and insightful account, offering a firsthand perspective on a pivotal period in American history.

All activities within the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park are free of charge. Following the morning's program, the group will enjoy lunch at Lara's Fine Dining, a restaurant known for its scenic views overlooking the Richmond harbor. Free parking is available at the park and restaurant.

Interested individuals are encouraged to advise Jim or Greg of their participation by **Friday, May 2nd**. They can be reached via email at tamulski.james@gmail.com or greghughes505@gmail.com.

Learn more about the locations:

- **Rosie the Riveter/World War II National Historical Park:** <https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm>
- **Lara's Fine Dining:** <https://www.larasfinedining.com/>



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS met in late March to explore the wonders of Southern Rhone Valley wines at Dave and Judy Havlik's home in Danville. None of the wines were made from Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot or Zinfandel grapes. Instead, we enjoyed Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Viognier, Cinsault, Grenache, Syrah, and

Mourvèdre wines. The wines were accompanied by French cheeses, quiches, and homemade cream puffs. There was a good turnout, including Brion Beetz, the Branch 2 Big Sir, as a special guest. The next WINE-O-SIRS event will be a tasting at the home of Jon Dickson, on Thursday, **May 22nd**, at 4:00PM



Branch Activities



Travel
Glenn Breslin (Br. 146)

Many SIRs have already traveled extensively and now only desire to travel to specific areas. Many SIRs are not able to travel anymore. To increase SIR Travel opportunities, SIR146 will collaborate with multiple other SIR Groups. This will increase in-common travel destinations. Therefore, more SIR Travel Trips will occur. So far, SIR146 has recently collaborated with SIR Travel groups in Branches 8 and 116.

If you are interested to travel with other SIRs, then

please reach out to me: glennbreslin@gmail.com. I will then send you a travel a travel questionnaire to identify where you like to travel and how you would like to travel. If multiple SIRs share both the travel location and how they like to travel, then a SIR trip can be planned. Multiple SIR trips can also be scheduled. Whether you desire to travel within California, in the United States, or Internationally, the matching process starts after you submit your travel questionnaire to me.

SIR Multi-Branch Trip Information

Vietnam/Cambodia

10/19/25 to 11/7/25

(\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695-With Economy Airfare)

- Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/asia/inside-vietnam/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G5-30339**

Australia/New Zealand

1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare)

- Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.gct.com/trips/land-tours/south-pacific/australia-and-new-zealand/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G6-30339**

Japan/Korea

4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/\$9095-With Economy Airfare)

- Hiroshima Post-Trip available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/asia/south-korea-and-japan-temples-shrines-and-seaside-treasures/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G6-30339**



Book Group 1
Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates.

Monday, May 19, "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell

June 23, "The Black Count" by Tom Reiss

July 28, "Wide, Wide Sea" by Hampton Sides

Oh my. Oh my. Book Group #1 could barely rate "The Barn," by Wright Thompson a 3.13. Yet, this discussion of the torture and murder of a 14-year-old African American boy from Chicago in the Mississippi Delta farm country did engage and inform. The author, Wright Thompson, is a native of

the area and presents an expansive background of the land and its peoples, Black, White, and, formerly, Native American. He details how the murder and subsequent trial (not guilty) of the murderers briefly headlined the news, and then was pushed from the national consciousness until recent times. The book is a difficult read about a hard topic, but that said, the reader can finish it with a deeper understanding of some aspects of American character. Richard Black led the discussion with Steve Bort, Jim Flessner, John Kopchik, Mac McLoughlin, Eric McNamara, John Riordan, Brad Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Bill Trilsch.

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

April walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Frank & Carol Colligan (new members), Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Peter & Sandy Loew, Eric McNamara, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Brad Stribling, Bill & Maureen Trilsch, and Joel White.

On April 4 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from Walnut Creek Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. Dick Frankel led the April 11 walk northwest on the Ygnacio Canal Trail from Arboladao Park, with a post-walk gathering at Starbucks. On April 25 we walked the Mitchell Canyon and Globe Lily Loop in Mt Diablo park, with a post-walk gathering at Huckleberry's.

All May walks (except May 9) are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM. On **May 2** we will meet at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley (aka Railroad Museum) and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-

walk gathering will be at the Black Bear Diner, 807 Camino Ramon in Danville. On **May 9** we will meet at **10:00** (note later time) at the San Leandro Marina Park and walk south along the Bay Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at El Torito nearby. The **May 16** walk is TBD. On **May 23** we will meet at the Walnut Creek Civic Park and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffe La Scala. On **May 30** we will meet at the Moraga Safeway and walk south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; post-walk gathering will be at the Ranch House Café.

These walks are for individuals or couples; spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate, even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this congenial group or to be added to the email list should contact me at jriordan730@gmail.com or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Mexican Train Alan Polanger

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 of 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 10AM on the second Wednesday of each month at Aegis Living located

at 1660 Oak Park Blvd. in Pleasant Hill.

We met in April and had seven members in attendance. Present were John Riordan, Alan Polanger, Harry Sherinian, Alex Lutkus, Paul Freitas, Kirk McVean, and Gary Bonfiglio. Winning low score was achieved by Harry,

Please email me if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out for the May meeting. Which is scheduled for Wed, 5/14 at 10 AM. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

You can contact Alan Polanger, Apolanger@sbcglobal.net or 925.922.2151.



Branch Activities



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 Phil Scimonelli, 661-917-8060 and Carl Moyer, 925-685-5243. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, May 29th at 8:30am. Come early.

Fishing has been slow for us so far this year. Regulations are the problem. We are optimistic about an opening of areas we can fish in May. Meanwhile, the delta has been slow, but Tom Kostik,

Stan Wong, and Harry Sherinian caught stripers and black bass. Tom had to release a 5 foot sturgeon he caught as we cannot keep any sturgeon this year. Ken Bellinder went to Mexico to catch 2 nice sized sierra. Carl Moyer fished for deep water rockfish twice and caught limits of big fish. David Paulson caught a nice trout at Lafayette Reservoir. The only trout for a month at a time when we catch many. So many regulations. AND we now have a salmon season but not much. A few days in June and July. A few more days in August, September and October. Alas, most of us fishermen are too old for Picleball!!



Bridge Jon Dickson

Play Chicago Style bridge with your fellow SIR's members every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, with lunch, at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. Bridge starts at 10:30 AM and with lunch ends about 2:30. We would love to see you join us.

On April 8th past, Eric McNamara came in first with 4,820 points, Jon Dickson was very close second with 4,800 points (that is only one trick separation), and Eric Linak was also very close with 4,750 points.

There were three other players with over 4,000 points and only 310 points separating them from first. As close as we have had in the race to first.

On April 22nd, Jon Dickson came in first with 5,980 points, Dave Williams was second with 4,210 points and Ron Banducci came in third with 3,650 points.

A low scoring day and certainly not as close as on April 8th.

If you do play bridge, please plan to join us.



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

"Summertime and the livin' is easy"! Summer days are here! We're celebrating the summer solstice of the longest day again joining Dine-O-Sir's on Hazy's patio with their feature buffet of delicious Barbeque plates. Gathering at popular Danville restaurant on Wednesday, June 25, begins with social adjustment at 5:30 PM, enjoying Hazy's Happy Hour's with economical prices for wines, beers, and special frozen cocktails. Appetizers will be included. Buffet

begins at 6:30 PM for great entrees and salads, finishing with their Delicious Decadent Desserts.

For our special evening at Hazy Barbeque see the attached flyer and send us your reservation and with your check.

Your Dine-O-SIR Committee:

Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale

Branch Activities

Dine-O-SIR



SIR Branch 116 June 25, 2025, Buffet Outdoor Patio

200 Hartz Avenue, Danville

Cost \$45.00 per person inclusive

Wednesday, June 25, 2025. Social Hour at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30 PM

Featured Performance TBA

Special price Red and White Wines, Beers, frozen cocktails, and Beverages; Corkage \$15

Buffet Dinner Menu

Appetizers for Social Hour:

Bruschetta and Brisket Meatballs

Dinner Buffet:

Chicken, Brisket, and Salmon with sauces

Sides: Creamy Slaw, Potato Salad, Brisket Beans

Delicious Decadent Dessert:

Fudge Brownie Bar, Brown Butter Mallow Bar

Parking: Few spaces in lot, City parking across the street, few street spaces

Detach*****

Hazy Barbeque on the Patio, Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Must be received no later than June 17, 2025

Name: _____ Name: _____

Number of Attendees _____ @ \$45.00 = \$_____

Send check to SIR Branch 116 Dining, c/o 74 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Call: Jerry Hicks at 925-360-0447 or jerryhicks@astound.net

Branch Activities

SIR Computer & Technology



The next SIR Br.116 Computer & Tech meeting via Zoom will be on Tuesday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m.

The presentation topic for this meeting will be "Google's Easy Office Tools: Docs, Sheets, and Slides" by Sam Beret.

Sam will explore:

- Google's free and easy-to-use alternatives to Microsoft Office
- How to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations right in your web browser
- How to access them, what they do, and how they differ from what you might already know
- Google vs. Microsoft: Key Differences; pros &

cons for each

- Google's AI tools (Gemini) that are incorporated into Docs, Sheets & Slides

Put the May 6th 10:00 a.m. date on your calendar.

The Zoom link for this meeting will be:

<https://zoom.us/j/94658976461?pwd=Ihd4iR9HYbR5496JtJyq2yFqEa8Z2u.1>

Meeting ID: 946 5897 6461

Passcode: 123456

Note: In order to get on the Computer & Tech mailing list, send an email request to:

TechnologyForSIR@gmail.com

\$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair: Tom Henry, Branch 174,
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dave Sutton, Branch 8,
davesutn@comcast.net



Pickleball Gary Bonfiglio

Pickleball, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we start **7:30 to 9 am every Friday**, at The Tennis Center in Heather Farm, Walnut Creek. Here's a brief Introduction to Pickleball...

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

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

sneakers. (We have extra paddles and balls) Beginners all welcome....it's the best way to see what all the excitement is about. Come on down!!!

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair 925-330-9612

Don Marini Co-Chair 925-935-5036

COME ON BY TO PLAY, OR JUST WATCH!!!!
We're not bad for a bunch of **SIR Dudes!!**

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)

Branch Activities



SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

We have an active golf organization consisting of 18-hole and 9-hole groups. A small annual donation is required to play in either group. The 18-hole group plays once a week in a Tournament format with play alternating between local courses and courses that may be 10 to 50 miles away.

In addition to the Tournament format, Special Events such as Match Play, Best Ball, Scramble, and others are also periodically scheduled.

Those playing in the 18-hole group must be members of the Northern California Golf

Association (NCGA) and establish a handicap index. You may join the NCGA through our SIR club or through another club.

Foursomes in both the 18-hole and 9-hole groups are arranged so that players can meet and enjoy playing with most, if not all, the other players in the branch.

All our events are listed in the Trampas Topics and on our web site at branch116.org/116-golf. Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.



9-Hole Golf

Dick Chaffee

The 9 Hole Golf Club is open to SIR golfers of all levels. We play every Wednesday morning except holidays at 4 courses in the area. This year, each month, we are playing Pleasanton Golf Club, Diablo Hills, Buchanan Fields and Dublin Ranch. Our first tee time is 10:00am. Some months have a fifth Wednesday. On the fifth Wednesdays, we schedule

special 9 hole events at courses in the area.

If you would like to play 9 hole golf, please contact Dick Chaffee, the 9 hole golf chairman, (925)-932-5087.

If you would like more information on 9 hole golf, please visit our Branch 116 golf web site.

Golf Website

The Golf Website is: 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.

May 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 07	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Marty Katz
Wed. 14	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 21	10:00 AM	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 28	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

May 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 05	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Fred Shafer
Mon. 12	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Fred Shafer
Tues. 20	9:36 AM	Diablo Creek	Fred Shafer
Mon. 26	-	No golf	-