



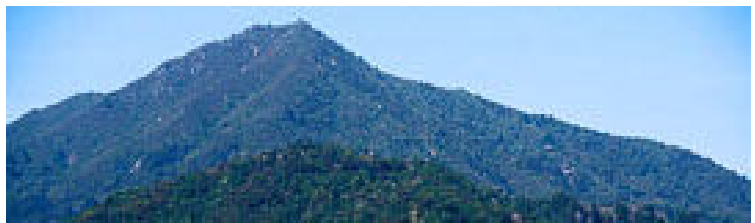
INCORPORATED

[www.SIR47.ORG](http://www.SIR47.ORG) Our own website

**TAMALPAIS BRANCH NO. 47**

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation of Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.

- Big Sir -John Freel - 415-897-7356
- Little Sir- Jake Solomon - 415-472-3069
- Secretary - Jim Breitmayer - 415-454-1655
- Ass't Sect'y - Mike Kelly - 415-380-1885
- Treasurer - Paul Schofield - 415-892-7019
- Ass't Treas.- Chris Lewis - 415-455-0212



# TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

Luncheon Meeting:  
**MARIN COUNTRY CLUB, NOVATO**  
**Fourth Tuesday of the month**  
**Happy Hour at 11:00 am, as always**

Editor/Publisher - Lou Painter - 415-479-7053  
 Attendance Committee—415-881-7477  
 Cashier - Glen Ohm - 415-479-5693

Directors: Tom Brady Tom Culhane Tim Leveque Lou Painter Alan Thomas Doug Twitchell

State President - Bobbie Hairston  
 Region 10 Director - Jim Filippo 415-892-2063 Area 6 Governor - Bob Dimond 415-234-6062

**MARIN COUNTY** **MARCH 2015** **Vol. XLII** **No. 3**  
**OUR 42ND YEAR**

## BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

Thanks to everyone who attended for a very enjoyable February luncheon.

It was clear that we all thoroughly enjoyed the presentation on Guide Dogs for the Blind. Can't remember when we have had so many questions. And it was wonderful to see how many of our members have some type of association with this charity. Thank you, Jake, for arranging the talk.

I was worried that not having a designated joke teller would be a problem at our luncheons. But so far it is working out just fine. We have no shortage of volunteers willing and able to make us laugh. And somehow the atmosphere seems more relaxed, since no single person is saddled with the chore.

Have you ever heard Will Klein in better voice? Thank you, Will, for continuing to lead us in the patriotic song. It is a highlight of every luncheon.

And wow, we had two guests. That makes three guests at our first two 2015 luncheons. Hopefully, some will decide to join our branch, and our membership goal of "plus one" will be attained by year end. But the most important factor in meeting our goal is that we all stay healthy. So please let's all try to do that. Look after yourselves.

*John Freel, Big Sir*

***PS: Please read the important notice on page 5 concerning the new procedure for calling in non-attendance at lunch. And remember to send your \$35.00 dues to Paul Schofield.***

## **FEBRUARY SPEAKER**

This month we had two speakers from Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael--Christine Benninger and Theresa Stern --and Theresa's (Yellow Lab) guide dog Wills. Christine is the President and CEO of GDB, and Theresa is GDB's Director of Outreach & Alumni Services and also a graduate of GDB. Chris provided us with all kinds of information and history about GDB which was probably news to most of us even though the organization's headquarters are right here in our Marin backyard. GDB was founded in 1942 to help veterans who had been blinded and wounded in World War II, and it has been in San Rafael since 1947. A second campus was started in Boring, Oregon in 1995. It is the largest guide dog school in the US, and it offers its services to blind and visually impaired people from the US and Canada at no cost. This includes the well-trained dogs and the veterinary care that they require. Obviously GDB relies on donations from generous people and organizations and gets no money from the government. Presently, GDB has a 17 million dollar budget and 300 people on staff. Sounds like a lot of money but according to Chris, "it's never enough." Chris and Theresa dropped more facts on us than I can remember, but here are a few that stood out: GDB breeds about 850 pups a year, consisting of Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Lab/Golden Crosses. At about 8 to 10 weeks they go out for training, and during the process they "are exposed to everything!" GDB focuses on the qualities needed in a guide dog: excellent health, a serious work ethic, a high desire to please, intelligence, and a good all-around temperament. According to Chris, about 42% of the dogs pass the tests and meet the standards. Those that don't pass are designated as "career changed" and if they meet certain standards they are assigned to visually impaired children in the K-9 Buddy Program to help these kids prepare for having a guide dog someday. Other "career changed" dogs are assigned to various service organizations and programs, or adoption as household pets. Great thought is given to the process of placing these special dogs. For all the dogs they breed, whether they qualify for GDB or not, it takes 50 people and about \$100,000 to "produce and maintain" one dog, according to Chris. The average guide dog has a useful guide dog life of about 7-8 years helping people to connect with the world. I was led to believe from both Chris and Theresa that guide dog retirees have a pretty darned nice retirement! Chris informed us that while these dogs love to please and to work, they, perhaps like some of us, know when enough is enough; about 50% stay with their "families," and the other half go on to other ventures: adoption, search and rescue, or K-9 Buddy programs. This

is an immensely worthy, interesting, and important non-profit service organization which specializes in independence and mobility for the visually impaired. But it's also more than that. Theresa described Wills, her fourth dog, as "a cane with a brain," her best friend, part of her soul. Friendship, communication, community--these are thoughts that come to mind. Information on GDB is easy to find on the internet. Try [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com) or 1-800-295-4050 to volunteer, donate, or just get more information. Thanks so much, Chris and Theresa, for helping us to "see" and for bringing perfectly behaved Wills with whom I shared a table and even received a soulful kiss.

*Michael Kelly*



## **IN MEMORIAM**

**WILLIAM M. COHEN  
1929-2015**

## **THIS MONTH'S MENU**

House Soup, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Buttered Red Potatoes, Rolls & Butter  
Dessert: Frosted Guinness Cake w/ Whipped Cream  
Alternate Plate: Caesar Salad w/ or w/o Chicken Breast  
**Call or Text 415-881-7477  
or E-mail [sirbranch47@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com)**

## **THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER**

Matt Leffert of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will talk about the work of the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative in coordinating management practices among the National and State and County Parks in and around Mt. Tamalpais. *Jake Solomon, Little Sir*



# Tax Party Celebration

Tuesday April 14, 2015  
Marin Country Club

**SIR Branch 47 and Branch 122  
Joint Special Event .**

**Social hour 11:00; Lunch @ 12:00. Please  
invite your spouses and friends to join us.**

**The cost is \$25.00 / person.**

Lunch includes mushroom soup, choice of  
main course (Mushroom & Goat Cheese  
Stuffed Chicken, Sea Bass, or Gnocchi Gor-  
gonzola), rolls, brownies & ice cream, and cof-  
fee/tea. There will be a no host bar.

Please make check payable to SIR Branch 47  
and send to Kurt Heilman, 457 Fieldstone Dr.,  
Novato, CA 94945.

**Reservations and checks must be received  
by Friday April 10, 2015**

## SIR Br 47 Outings:

**Mill Valley Philharmonic free concerts.** The program *Fate Knock* links the "Fate Knocking on the door" theme of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, whose "Fate" theme was based on Beethoven's Fifth; and Berlioz's fated lovers in the Scene d'Amour from Romeo and Juliette. Dates available are:

a. **Wed March 11 @ 7:00 pm Free Dress Rehearsal/Concert @ Mount Tamalpais United Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore Avenue, Mill Valley**

b. **Sat March 14th @ 2:00 pm Free Concert @ Angelico Hall, Dominican University of California, 50 Acacia Avenue, San Rafael.**

c. **MVP's 15th Anniversary Gala Fund raiser! Sunday March 15th, 2:00-5:00 pm @ the Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto. See millvalleyphilharmonic.org for Gala tickets.**

**Homeward Bound** celebrity chef dinners @ 6:30 pm to support the Homeward Bound shelter & job-training programs. The 2015 Thursday dinners are on Mar 26, April 23 & May 14. => **Contact Homeward Bound @ hbofm.org for details & tickets.**

Looking ahead at **Marin Onstage** Winter and Spring, 2015 at the Belrose. The Belrose is a non-profit California Corporation, and has been in its current location, a historical landmark, since 1962. <http://www.thebelrose.com/shows.html>

**March 13 - March 28, 2015 > "Title of Show"** by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell. This is a 2004 Musical directed by Carl Jordan, who directed "Return to the Forbidden Planet" (Marin Onstage & Curtain Theatre), "Avenue Q" (NTC) and "Boeing, Boeing" (6th Street Playhouse). The cast includes Phillip Percy Williams, Amanda Morando, Fernando Siu and Abbey Lee, with Peter Penhallow on the keyboard.

**Concerto Koln** (plays classical music (Telemann, Handel, Corelli, Vivaldi and Durante) Sat. April 11 @ 7:30 pm at Weill Hall, Sonoma State Hall. Order tickets [www.sonoma.edu/studentscenter/](http://www.sonoma.edu/studentscenter/). Tickets start @ \$35.

### **Novato Theater Company (NTC)**

**March 27 - April 26, 2015 Fiddler on the Roof** Music by Jerry Bock, Book by Joseph Stein Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

**May 22 - June 14, 2015 Unnecessary Farce** by Paul Slade Smith  
Contact NTC for Senior Tickets @ [novatotheatercompany.org](http://novatotheatercompany.org).

### **SIR'S GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP**

#### **"Reading Maketh The Full Man"**

We meet in Hangar 5, Hamilton Field, Suite 200, Marin Community Foundation; Thursday, , March 26, 10:00 AM

#### SELECTIONS

"*The Lottery*" by Shirley Jackson, pages 341-352 and "*First Snow Mt. Fuji*" by Yasunari Kawabata, pages 321-340 in Great Conversations 4

Alan Dunham will lead the discussion on both reads.

- **Dick Locke**, Chair, - **Howard Bassett**, Emeritus Chair; **Al Crozier** & **Dan McGreevy**, Ass't Chairs, **Jim Rohde**, email master, **Don Pierce**, Google man.

### **THURSDAY WALKING/HIKING GROUP**

1st week each month: Jake Solomon 415-472-3069

2nd week each month: Jim Hancock (Br.151) 415-492-0883

3rd week each month: Dee Stuever 415-459-6751

4th week each month: Alan Thomas 415-457-4576

5th week (if applicable): Al Springstead 415-250-3808

### **BRIDGE GROUP**

The bridge group meets on the third Thursday of each month at a member's home. Play is from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. To reserve space and get directions for the next event, call or email

**Charles Caviness: 415 435-9618**

**c.caviness@sbglobal.net**



## GOLF

Mar. 2, 8:00am San Geronimo; Mar. 9, 8:00am Adobe Creek; Mar. 16 8:30am Bennett Valley; Mar. 23 8:00am Kennedy (Napa); Mar. 30 8:00am Foxtail North; Apr. 6 8:00am Adobe Creek; Apr. 13 8:00am Blue Rock West; Apr. 14 **Tuesday** 8:30am Bennett Valley.

**Tom Brady, 897-8573**

**9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park**  
**Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting**

## BOWLING

Bowling League is underway, Fridays  
at 10:45 AM  
at The Country Club Bowl.



**Come and share the fun!**

**Contact Paul Schofield, Chair 892-7019**

## BRANCH 47 BOCCE

First Monday of each month; no cost to play. Lunch @ 12:30 pm (the Sonoma square lunch location varies), then Bocce @ 2 pm at Depot Park, just north of Sonoma Square. Bring your own Bocce balls. **Contact: Kurt Heilman 892-2460 or heilmanfour@comcast.net** to let him know if you want (1) to be on the mailing list & (2) to join us for lunch, play bocce or both. to let him know if you plan to join us for lunch, play bocce or both.

## SIR ROLLING ROAMERS RV CLUB

Join us for lunch 2nd Tuesday of each month  
& on our outings.

For information, contact  
Bill Donnelly at 897-8966 or cb.donnelly@comcast.net

## TENNIS, ANYONE?

**Every Wednesday 9 AM McInnis Park**  
**Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693**

**Deadline for Submitting Material  
for the April Tamal Talk will be noon**

**TUESDAY, March 31**

**Please submit your material to  
Lou Painter at 479-7053 or  
PAINTER.SIR@COMCAST.NET**



## TRAVEL

**Apr 6-12, 2015: National Cherry Blossom Festival & Historic Virginia.** Celebrate the beauty of spring in Washington DC and historic Virginia. Tour includes reserved seating at the National Cherry Blossom Parade, Tour of Montcello, Colonial Williamsburg, Mt Vernon, and many more. Contact Ron Berube, Br 21, San Jose, 408-829-5588 or Dick Kohl 408-268-0428 for more information.

**Apr 7-18, 2015: Eastern Caribbean Cruise.** (12 day cruise aboard the Royal Princess, ports of call include St Kitts, St Lucia, Barbados, Antigua, St Thomas, and Princess Cays.) Cost \$ 2395 to \$3450 pp. Brian Serpa Br 141, San Jose, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons 408-268-5245.

**Apr 19-29, 2015: Mexican Riviera Cruise.** Princess 10 day cruise out of S.F. includes R/T to pier. Gratuities, and much more. Prices per person recently reduced \$250 to \$390 depending on cabin. Cost \$1249 to \$2159. You must sign up by 12/31/2014 for these prices. Veterans show your DD214 for an additional \$100 ship board credit. Contact Tom Molinari Br.147, 707-762-1880

**May 6-18, 2015: Cruising the Best of Scandinavia.** (13 day escorted tour with stops in Stockholm & Copenhagen plus a seven day Royal Caribbean Cruise of the Norway Fjords, Stavanger, Bergen, Alesund, and Geirangerfjord) Bill Rodman, Br.38, San Jose, 408-274-4521 or Hank Clark 408-223-6464.

**May 12-22, 2015 Alaska inside Passage w/ Glacier Bay.** (11 day cruise from SF aboard the Golden Princess with stops in Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Victoria. The cruise includes all meals on board, RT transfers to and from SF, Bottle of wine in cabin, baggage and gratuities, and port taxes. Cost \$1975 to \$2995 depending on Cabin, Bill Stires, Br 143, Modesto, 209-544-2684.

**May 30, 2015: Columbia and Snake River Cruise.** The American Empress (sister to the American Queen) sails her way from Portland, OR. up the Columbia and Snake Rivers, arriving at Clarkston, WA. On the 9 day. Many extras include prepaid excursions, beer and wine with dinner, and daily lectures and entertainment. Veranda Staterooms start at \$4089 (approx.) Price includes airfare from SFO/OAK return from Spokane and coach to/from Petaluma. Derlin German, Br 58, 707-763-6162

Questions?  
call

**Your Travel Chairman: Kurt Heilman – 892-2460**



## COMPUSIRS

### **QUICKEN SIG**

2nd Tuesdays, 10:am  
B. Bloch, GGCS, 415-388-3864

### **PERSONAL COMPUTERS (PC only)**

1st WEDNESDAYS

Dave Schieser 415-332-4751

### **DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF**

3rd Wednesdays

Dave Schieser 415-332-4751

Russ Flaum 415-897-1017

### WEBSITE DESIGN SIG

3rd Tuesdays

Paul Bell [sfpaulsf@gmail.com](mailto:sfpaulsf@gmail.com)

All Wednesday sessions are from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

GGCS COMPUSIRS classroom

First Presbyterian Church

Fifth Avenue, San Rafael

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

|                 |           |    |             |   |
|-----------------|-----------|----|-------------|---|
| <b>Summary:</b> | Actives - | 80 | Inactives - | 7 |
|                 | Gains:    | 0  |             | 0 |
|                 | Losses:   | 2  |             | 0 |

William Cohen, deceased  
George Kinney, resigned

### PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2014

John Freel

### LUNCH TICKET WINNER

Dave Schieser

### BIRTHDAY WINNERS

Marshall Gross Jack Ciardelli

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Don Kuchta      | 7 John Massocca     |
| 9 Bob Fields      | 13 John Freel       |
| 16 Tim Leveque    | 17 Peter Kerner     |
| 18 Pierre Terrier | 22 Norbert Hudobnik |

## INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH

Friday, March 13 at the Chevy's Restaurant,  
123 Vintage Way, Vintage Oaks, Novato. The  
Lunch is \$18.00, and will start at 11:30, fol-  
lowed by presentations and discussions.

Contacts:

Pete Petrofsky 415-472-0985, Will Kaefer 415-927-1043,  
Brian Stompe 415-897-1610

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

A new procedure is in place to  
**notify the ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE**  
that you will not attend a lunch or want an alternate plate  
or are bringing a guest or visitor. No longer will you call  
or email Lou Painter.

### **INSTEAD**

*To call-in non-attendance, order an alternative  
plate or to notify you're bringing a guest/visitor*

**Call or Text 415-881-7477**  
**or E-mail [sirbranch47@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com)**  
*with your request,*  
*giving your name and badge number*

*Please call by noon of the Friday  
before the lunch date*

## FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Members</b>   | <b>80</b>     |
| <b>Members Present</b> | <b>64 80%</b> |

**Guests:** Harold Licterman (Tim Leveque)  
Hans Schmid (Harry Forst)

**Visitors:**

**Speakers:** Chris Benninger, Theresa Stern  
(Guide Dogs for the Blind)

*To call-in non-attendance, order an alternative plate or to  
notify you're bringing a guest/visitor*

**Call or Text 415-881-7477**  
**or E-mail [sirbranch47@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com)**  
*with your request*

*Please call by noon of the Friday  
before the lunch date*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 2/23/2015

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Checking Account Balance: | \$ 8,356.47 |
| General Fund Balance:     | \$ 8,606.47 |
| Custodial Fund Balance:   | \$ (250.00) |
| Total:                    | \$ 8,356.47 |

Total Contributions to date (49 members) \$1716.00

Paul Schofield, Treasurer

# THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

|           |     |    |                             |
|-----------|-----|----|-----------------------------|
| Wednesday | Mar | 4  | Personal Computers Class    |
| Friday    | Mar | 6  | Bowling                     |
| Friday    | Mar | 13 | Bowling                     |
| Friday    | Mar | 13 | Investors' Lunch Bunch      |
| Tuesday   | Mar | 17 | Website Design SIG          |
| Wednesday | Mar | 18 | Digital Camera Stuff        |
| Friday    | Mar | 20 | Bowling                     |
| Monday    | Mar | 23 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday   | MAR | 24 | Luncheon Meeting @ MCC      |
| Friday    | Mar | 27 | Bowling                     |
| Tuesday   | Mar | 31 | Tamal Talk Deadline         |

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: FEBRUARY 23, 2015

1. Acknowledged with sadness the death of Senior SIR William Cohen.
2. Accepted the resignation of George Kinney.
3. Little Sir Jake Solomon reported that the March speaker will be Matt Leffert of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.
4. April 14 Tax Party will be a joint event with Branch 122 at Marin Country Club.

**Jim Breitmayer, Secretary**

## AREA 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS

| Br. # |   | Branch Phone                |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| 7     | ???   | 456-3763                    |
| 22    | The Club at McInnis Park                          | 1st Thursday 924-4862       |
| 47    | <b>Marin Country Club</b>                         | <b>4th Tuesday 887-7477</b> |
|       | <b>Happy Hour - 11:00 am; Luncheon - 11:45 am</b> |                             |
| 68    | The Club at McInnis Park                          | 2nd Tuesday 479-3286        |
| 122   | ???   | 3rd Thursday 454-5478       |
| 134   | Marin Country Club                                | 1st Tuesday 892-0209        |

**ATTENDANCE:** Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without giving prior notice to the Attendance Chairman, and/or failure to attend at least 6 meetings within the previous 12 months, may result in termination.

*Condensed from Rule 100 of State Policy Manual*

Attendance at another branch meeting, duly recorded with the Attendance Chairman of that branch, will be credited to a member's attendance record (*Rule 101*).

**Call the branch phone listed above to secure a guest spot.**

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Please report SIR illnesses or deaths to  
**Bill Donnelly at 897-8966**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet  
**Monday, March 23, 2014. 10:30 AM** at the  
 Marin Community Foundation, Suite 200  
 Hangar 5, Hamilton, Novato  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**TAMAL TALK, SIR Branch 47**  
 Louis J. Painter, Publisher  
 637 Kernberry Drive  
 San Rafael, CA. 94903-1243

## FIRST CLASS

Place First  
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**If undeliverable Return to Sender**

