INCORPORATED

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 -- Tim Leveque 415-888-3242
Little Sir– Paul Bell 415-456-5219
Secretary - Ned Lawrence - 415-595-1092
Ass't Sect'y - Mike Kelly - 415-380-1885
Treasurer - Paul Schofield - 415-892-7019
Ass't Treas.–Will Kaefer - 415-927-1043

TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

Luncheon Meeting:
McINNIS GOLF CENTER, SAN RAFAEL
Fourth Tuesday of the month
Happy Hour at 11:00 am, as always

Editor/Publisher - Ron Kosciusko –415-435-0650
Attendance Committee—415-881-7477
Cashier - Glen Ohm - 415-479-5693

Directors: Tom Brady Tom Culhane Jim Kleiser George Miller Jake Solomon Doug Twitchell

State President - Jerry Strain
Region 10 Director - Jim Filippo 415-892-2063 Area 6 Governor -

MARIN COUNTY **JANUARY 2017** **VOL. XLIV NO. 01**
OUR 44ND YEAR

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings to all. Hopefully you had a healthy and happy holiday with family and friends. 2016 was a good year for Branch 47.

The year started with a new Recruitment and Retention Committee. The Committee, made up of Bill Donnell, Kurt Heilman, and Norman Jensen, set up our goals to increase the membership of our Branch. We are seeing the success of their effort.

During the year a new website was developed by Paul Bell and Ron Kosciusko. It is by far the best site of all of the SIRs Branches.

We ended the year with a Christmas party that was attended by 75 of our members and their friends. There was great camaraderie, music and food.

During 2017 we will add new activities. You will be kept posted. We will continue to have interesting speakers at our monthly luncheon at Mc Innis Golf center on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Be sure to bring a friend who would make a good SIR member and would enjoy our Branch.

Tim Leveque, *BIG SIR*

NOVEMBER SPEAKER REVIEW

On November 22 we were privileged to hear Tod Brody, recently appointed Executive Director of the Marin Symphony Association, talk to us about his new job and, of course, about himself and his musical background. You can find out almost anything you want to know about the Marin Symphony and Tod by doing an internet search, but you had to be at our luncheon to hear this accomplished musician play a short work by Debussy on his flute before sharing with us his thoughts about this "cultural jewel" that he is now in charge of.

Much of Tod's job will involve, well, everything that makes a symphony viable and successful: "making connections with the Symphony's supporters, partnering with the Board, the musicians, the staff, and working alongside Alasdair Neale [the Symphony's Music Director]." Together, these accomplished professionals have as their goal shaping "the next exciting chapter in the history of the Marin Symphony."

We probably could have guessed all of that. What I found particularly interesting were some of the "foot-notey" comments Tod made about musical organizations in general and the Marin Symphony (MSO) in particular. Scarcity of operating funds is the elephant in the room. "Many orchestras go bankrupt and have problems," according to Tod, who cites Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose as examples. "The MSO gets about 40% of its money from ticket sales; it has a small staff, modest resources, some endowments, and one or two angel donors," says Tod, and this is "a very challenging situation." The question is, can this 64 year old organization survive? Tod's answer is "yes," in spite of the things that often contribute to the demise of organizations like the MSO: high ticket costs, shrinking endowments, disappearing donors and charitable foundations, fewer concerts, and less participation by the younger generation. The good news, says Tod, is that angels have stepped forward, young people are becoming more involved, outreach is providing value, and there are adequate resources now. With a big smile on his face, Tod ends his talk by saying, "This is a happy, optimistic time!"

I had a feeling that Tod knows he can't rest on his laurels. He knows and says that they "are marketing a product" and developing musical appreciation is a "struggle." Half in jest he quips that he "hopes they don't have to play rock and roll to appeal"!

With five pairs of classical concerts per year, a variety of youth programs, growing musical outreach programs at local schools, Holiday and Waterfront Pops concerts, the January Masterworks Series, just to name a few events the MSO presents, I have a feeling that a lot of good things are in store for us under Tod's leadership. Thanks, Tod, for your entertaining and inspiring presentation.

Michael Kelly

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

Salad

Pot Roast with mashed potatoes and vegetables

Alternative: Grilled Chicken breast with potatoes and vegetables

Rolls and butter

Dessert

Note: Price increase to $27

SIR BR 47 CHINESE NEW YEAR'SCELEBRATION @

NOON ON WED. FEB 15, 2017 @
THE KIRIN CHINESE RESTAURANT 6135 GEARY BLVD.
SAN FRANCISCO

This is our first party in 2017 to kick off the Year of the Rooster (our SIRS Mascot) with a Chinese banquet. The menu includes: *Rainbow Chicken Salad *Minced Squab with Lettuce Cup *Steam Whole Winter Melon Soup *Prawns with Honey Roasted Walnut *Peking Duck *Stuffed Chicken with Sweet Rice *Steak Cubes with Broccoli *Salt and Pepper Pork Chop *Lemon Chicken * Dessert or Fresh Fruit * Tea

Cost is $39 / person * Expect to bring extra food home. Invite spouses and other guests to help us celebrate.

Tickets are on sale at the Br 47 January 24, 2017 luncheon. Reservations required. Or contact See Tom @ 415-388-5819 or seestom@gmail.com.

The deadline for taking reservations is Friday Feb.10, 2017

GOLF

Chairman Tom Brady, 897-8573

9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting

BOWLING

Bowling League bowling is every Friday at Country Club Bowl, 88 Vivian Way, San Rafael. Start time: 10:45 AM. Come and share the fun!

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

BRANCH 47 BOCCE

The first Monday of each month; no cost to play. Spouses and guests are encouraged to attend. We start with Lunch @ 12 noon @ the Swiss Hotel on the Sonoma Square. Then we play Bocce @ about 1:30 pm at Depot Park behind the Swiss Hotel. Bring your own Bocce balls, if you have them.
Contact: Kurt Heilman @ 415-892-2460 or heilmanfour@comcast.net to let him know if you want to be on the mailing list or to join us for lunch and bocce.

SIR ROLLING ROAMERS RV CLUB

Join us for lunch 2nd Tuesday of each month & on our outings.
For information, contact
SIR Ray Canziani Branch 22, Wagon Master
(415) 453-4463

TENNIS, ANYONE?

Every Wednesday 9 AM McInnis Park

Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693

REMEMBER:

Our regular lunch dates are on the FOURTH TUESDAY, of every month

TRAVEL

Dec 30-Jan 9,2016: New Year Mexico Cruise. RT from SF aboard the Grand Princess celebrating New Years at sea. You will visit the ports of Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas. Cost of $2140 to $3255 include bottle of wine, transportation to and from SF pier from Villages & Capital Light Rail Station. Port taxes, group protection plan and porter tips. Bill Rodman, Br 38, San Jose, 408-274-4521, or Hank Clark, 408-223-6466.

Feb 3-18, 2017: Hawaii Grand Princess Cruise. RT from SF on a 16 day cruise to Hawaii stopping at Hilo, Honolulu, Lahaina, Nawiliwili and Ensenada. Cruise includes home pick up, gratuities for drivers, porters, and port taxes, all meals on board and return transfers to your home. Costs range from $1695 to $3095 depending on Stateroom. Brian Serpa, Br 141, San Jose, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons, 408-268-5245.

Mar 6-12, 2017: Spring Training and Southwest Adventure. Fly to Phoenix and enjoy 2 spring training games and visit the Desert Botanical Gardens and Frank Lloyd Wrights Tallesin West. Day 4 travel from Scottsdale to Sedona and tour Sedona and the Grand Canyon area. Tour includes home pick up and RT airport transfers, professional guide, 6 nights accommodations, admission fees, baggage handling for one suitcase and all taxes .Cost $2495 Brian Serpa, Br.141, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons, 408-268-5245.

Questions?? Your Travel Chairman: Kurt Heilman –415 892-2460

COMPUSIRS

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

PERSONAL COMPUTERS (PC only)
1st WEDNESDAYS

DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF
3rd Wednesdays
Russ Flaum 415-897-1017

WEBSITE DESIGN SIG
3rd Tuesdays
Paul Bell sfpaulsf@gmail.com

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

GGCS COMPUSIRS classroom
First Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, San Rafael

All are welcome. Open to all of Area 6.

INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH

Second Friday of the month at Sam's Place at 1545 South Novato Blvd. Order off the menu, and Meeting will start at 11:45, followed by presentations and discussions.

Contacts:
Pete Petrofsky 415-472-0985, Will Kaefer 415-927-1043,

SIR'S GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP

"Reading Maketh The Full Man"

We meet in Hangar 5, Hamilton Field, Suite 200, Marin Community Foundation;

"Origins of Government"

ByThomas Hobbes om "The Great Books Reading and discussion Program," Second Series, Volume 2, pp 1=32 Reader Aid pp 29=31

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:	**Actives -**	**104**	**Inactives -**	**7**
	Gains:	**0**		**0**
	Losses:	**0**		**0**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2015

Russell FLAUM ,Harry FORST, John FREEL, Bob GONZALEZ , Richie GUETTER, Mike KELLY, Peter C. KERNER, Ron KOSCIUSKO, Ned LAWRENCE, Carlos A. MARTIN, George MILLER, Earnest RAVANI, Paul L. SCHOFIELD, Al SPRINGSTEAD, Laurence SYKES, Alan THOMAS, Doug TWITCHELL

Richie Guetter won the free lunch. Alan Thomas and Peter Kerner won bottles of wine.

NOVEMBER LUNCH TICKET WINNER

Barry Cheney

JANUARY BIRTHDAY BOYS

Paul Markavage, Lee Lee, Ken Griffin, Mike Kelly, Chris Salak, Cecil Green, Chuck Herbert, Ron McGinnis, Norbeert Winter, Jim Breitmayer

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members	**104**	
Members Present	**75**	**72%**
Guests:	**2**	
Visitors:	**0**	

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
with your request, giving name and badge number

Please call by noon of the Friday before the lunch date

THURSDAY WALKING/HIKING GROUP

1st week each month: Jake Solomon 415-472-3069
2nd week: Jim Hancock (Br.151) 415-492-0883
3rd week each month:Al Springstead 415-250-3808
4th week each month: Alan Thomas 415-457-4576
5th week (if applicable): Dee Stuever 415-459-6751

Call leaders for details about future walks and hikes

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights
NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Big Sir Report: Since Jake Solomon is stepping down as Big Sir, he took a few minutes to thank the board members for their contributions. He also mentioned that being Big Sir gave him a different perspective and he was grateful that our branch had so many outstanding people as members.

Treasurers Report: The branch has a checking account balance of $9,950. With a luncheon deficit of $2414 due to reductions during the year.

Old Business: Our branch decided to implement a computer backup system for all of our important branch data. Will Kaefer described the free software program called Dropbox and explained how he had asked several board members to share a folder called Sirs Branch 47. Because of the cloud and the result that documents such as the treasurers report, forms 27 and 28, and the membership data can be seen by select board members, we are guaranteed that our data is secure and accessible. Furthermore, the assistant treasurer, membership and secretary board members will serve as the formal backup for these positions. A discussion was held regarding having the current Tamaltalk be available only on the web. A suggestion was made that the monthly email would only contain a link to the website with a message that this would be how Tamaltalk was accessed from now on. There are about 6 or 7 members who do not have email and Jack Brandon has been sending out a hard copy monthly (at his own expense). Will mentioned that a service called Click2Mail could be utilized to easily accommodate these members without current email addresses.

New Business: One of the Big Sirs in Northern California sent an open letter to Sirs officers describing his thoughts about the lack of recognition that Sirs has, particularly in Marin County. Jake led a discussion on ways to respond to the letter and he will mail his response with input from the board members.

Ned Lawrence, Branch 47 Secretary

Branch 47 Outings

NOTE: If anyone has a suggestion for a Br 47 Outing or event, please let Kurt Heilman know so he can include it in our future Outings.

1. The all-you-can-eat Crab Feed and music by the PEC (Pacific Empire Chorus) on Sat Jan. 28, 2017 @ 5:00 – 9:00 pm @ the Petaluma Veterans Building at the Petaluma fairgrounds. The Sweet Adelines (PEC) will sing as you stuff yourself with crab. The cost is $50 per person for advance tickets; $60 at the door; or get a Captains Table $560 for 8 (fancy place setting and seating up front). If you have not done this before, this is a great event. Advance tickets can be purchased online at pacificempire.org or call 1-877-772-0087.

2. Marin Jazz Group regularly performs at The Mayflower Inn, 1533 4th Street, San Rafael, (415) 456-1011. The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of every month from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. No cover, no minimum. The Mayflower features a full license, a wide selection of beers and great pub food! Our own Wayne Colyer plays as well.Please join in the fun & good music and check out their website: **www.JDJAZZGROUP.com**

3. Marin Onstage at the Belrose Theatre:
Feb. 4 – Mar 7 IDEATION was written by East Bay Playwright Aaron Loeb and premiered at the SF Playhouse in 2014 to outstanding reviews. It is a "devilishly funny and demonically dark comedy" (S.F. Chronicle) that involves a group of corporate consultants who are working together on a project to save humanity. But wait, is it a project to save humanity, or is it something more sinister? Senior tickets $19.Contact marinonstage.org/tickets for tickets or call 415-290-1433
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4. Novato Theater Company:
February 3 – February 19 2017 *"Lettice and Lovage"*written by Peter Shaffer and directed by Renee Mandel-Sher. For tickets contact contact novatotheatercompany.org

5. Ross Valley Players: Jan 13 – Feb. 5, 2017 Emilie by Lauren Gunderson For tickets contact rossvalleyplayers.com or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1

6. Marin Theatre Company: Jan 19 – Feb 12 Native Son (West Coast Premiere). "Gutsy, powerful and relentless" Chicago. TC is proud to bring Ms. Kelley's heart-stopping, urgent and expressionistic adaptation of Wright's groundbreaking novel to the West Coast, following its sold-out World Premiere at Chicago's Court Theatre in 2014. For tickets contact marintheatre.org.

Happy Holidays,
Kurt Heilman
1-415-892-2460

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Jan	1	HAPPY NEW YEAR
Monday	Jan	2	Bocce
Monday	Jan	2	9 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Jan	4	Personal Computers Class
Wednesday	Jan	4	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	5	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	6	Bowling
Monday	Jan	9	9 Hole Golf
Monday	**Jan**	**9**	**Executive Committee MTG**
Tuesday	Jan	10	Rolling Roamers
Tuesday	Jan	10	Fishing
Wednesday	Jan	11	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	12	Walking Group
Thursday	Jan	12	Great Books
Friday	Jan	13	Bowling
Friday	Jan	13	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Monday	Jan	16	Nine Hole Golf
Wednesday	Jan	18	Digital Camera Stuff
Wednesday	Jan	18	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	19	Bridge
Thursday	Jan	19	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	20	Bowling
Friday	**Jan**	**22**	**Tamal Talk Deadline for February**
Monday	**Jan**	**23**	**Executive Committee MTG**
Monday	Jan	23	Nine Hole Golf
Tuesday	**Jan**	**24**	**Branch 47 Luncheon**
Wednesday	Jan	25	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	26	Walking Group
Thursday	Jan	26	Great Books
Friday	Jan	27	Bowling
Monday	Jan	30	Nine Hole Golf

AREA 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS

Br. #			Branch Phone
7	The Club at McInnis Park	1st Thursday	415 456-3763
22	The Club at McInnis Park	1st Tuesday	415 924-4862
47	**Club at Mcinnis Park**	**4th Tuesday**	**415 881-7477**
	Happy Hour - 11:00 am; Luncheon - 11:45 am		
68	The Club at McInnis Park	2nd Tuesday	415 479-3286
134	Embassy Suites	1st Tuesday	415 892-0209

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 415 897-8966

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet
Monday, January 9, 2017. 10:30 AM at the
Marin Community Foundation, Suite 200
Hangar 5, Hamilton, Novato

BRANCH 47 LUNCHEON MEETINGS IN 2017

Fourth Tuesday Of The Month

January 24 (Tuesday)
February 28 (Tuesday)
March 28 (Tuesday)
April 25 (Tuesday)
May 23 (Tuesday)
June 27 (Tuesday)
July 25 (Tuesday)
August 22 (Tuesday)
September 26 (Tuesday)
October 24 (Tuesday)
November 28 (Tuesday)

TAMALTALK, SIR Branch 47
Ron Kosciusko, Publisher
402 Hilary Drive
Tiburon, CA. 94920