



**SIR -- IT'S WHO WE ARE:  
SOCIAL ACTIVITES FOR MEN  
BAKERSFIELD BRANCH 163**

**DECEMBER 2025 NEWS**

## WE ARE MEN WHO LOVE TO EAT WITH FRIENDS



AND the best place to find friends is SIR's! This Holiday season let's be a friend to someone who has no family and will be alone for Christmas. It always fills the heart with Joy for both and usually it is as simple as calling with an invitation. Don't let them say no because they are down on their luck or embarrassed because they are single. Have a little gift for them as well; maybe a book or a gift card or both? The best treat could be an invitation to our SIR Christmas lunch. We are easy to get to know, fun to engage in conversation, serve great Hodel's food, and usually have an uplifting Christmas program. What could be better than that? Plan ahead and ask early.



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**SPEAKING OF FOOD: SIR** Gary Corbell reserved a table at Chalet Basque restaurant for our November 13<sup>th</sup> “lunch out”. It was a hit by all accounts. Thirteen of us attended and did we ever ‘throw it down’. Food was great and the fellowship was even greater.



The room was quiet so we didn't have to yell and everyone could have Good conversation. Ron Schilling won the drawing for \$14. His luck continues as he won two of the 50/50 numbers last month. There should be a law against that!

## Next Speaker

- At our 20 November Luncheon:
- Lauren Skidmore
- CEO – Open Door Network
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Open Door Network is a non-profit organization supporting children who are victims of abuses in their young lives. Lauren coordinates with 'Mandated Reporters' in schools who report possible victims for assistance from various agencies. Lauren was a most powerful speaker and quite popular by the number of questions from our group. Thanks Lauren.

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With regard to selecting Speakers, we encourage your input on possible candidates that we could search-out for future speaking engagements. So please don't hesitate to share your ideas, we would be grateful. Also, there could be a reward for suggesting a good speaker!

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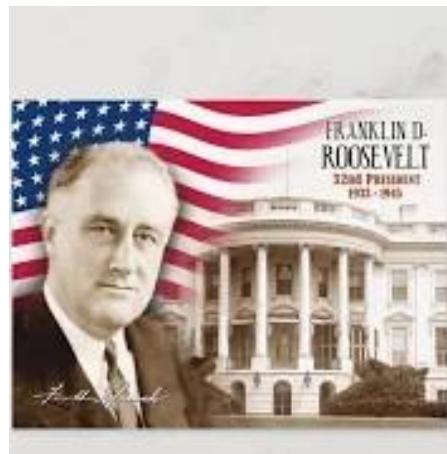
## Next Speaker

- At our 18 December Luncheon:
- Dr. Jennifer Garrett
- Associate Professor of Music at Bakersfield College



**Dr. Garrett is more than her title explains. As you know from two previous performances at our SIR Christmas Luncheons, Dr. Garrett and the Bakersfield Choir warmed our hearts with a number of Christmas songs in various styles which all of us enjoyed immensely. Mark your calendar now for the 18<sup>th</sup> of December!**

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• Franklin D. Roosevelt (1941): "Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies... Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practice them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere".



**IF YOU'RE NOT THE LEAD REINDEER --  
THE VIEW NEVER CHANGES!!**

# DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

4<sup>th</sup> Honor Flight breakfast, Elks Lodge, 8 AM

11<sup>th</sup> SIR Lunch-Out, MOM's Place, Calloway/Rosedale

13<sup>th</sup> National Wreath Across America, National Cemetery, 9 AM

18<sup>th</sup> SIR Christmas Luncheon, B.C. Choir, 11 A.M. BRING YOUR WIVES or SIGNIFICANT OTHERS!! ASK YOUR PARTNER NOW—We will be calling early!

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Celebration

29<sup>th</sup> Pool Buddies, Firehouse, Calloway/Rosedale, 11 AM

31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve celebration

As I was calling members on my list for the November luncheon I asked for commitment to our December event and most of you expressed a positive 'YES' in bringing your wives. As I requested "Mark your calendar now!" Mark it now and you won't forget. Help us make this a particular joy full event by filling the Kern room on December 18<sup>th</sup>! This we hope to be a 'best time' to invite a neighbor or a friend; some of you already have and I thank you greatly for your zealous participation.

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## THE POWER OF FRIENDS

*Everyone knows the power of friends,*

*the terrific result, when everything blends.*

*When people have friends, they don't stand alone'*

*Friends always help, when you face the unknown.*

*Friends give you courage to face problems untold,*

*So the love of a friend can help make you bold.*

*They can help you to live a much richer life,*

*So your every day living will be less filled with strife!*

*Thankyou SIR'S for being my friend.*

*Sir Larry Sitzman*

# BRING A FRIEND

- HAVE I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE?
- FRIENDS are the reason we exist
- Medical tests have shown that Men who have quality social lives also have quality health.
- SO BRING A FRIEND like;
- Pat Roberts who I hope will join us.



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# 50/50 \$\$DRAWINGS\$\$

- You could always be a winner at SIR's!
- Member, SIR Mark Horn won twice: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ducky Prizes valued at \$34!
- Mark redeemed them for cash so the Duckies lived to be drawn again.

## A HOLIDAY GREETING FROM OUR BIG SIR JIM SHAPAZIAN



Gentlemen, I am writing this article 2 days before **Thanksgiving** so I am a bit conflicted in communicating my thoughts to you. Should I emphasize giving thanks or giving gifts? I think I will do both.

I'm sure most of us have many reasons for giving thanks. Some of us may not have a thanksgiving spirit due to the loss of a loved one. I completely understand and offer my condolences. This time of year reminds us to reflect on our lives and of our family. Hopefully you will focus on the good things in your life and therefore give thanks for them.

God has blessed me abundantly. As a man of faith, I want to give thanks for my family and friends. As it said in the article I read at our luncheon, socialization is of prime importance to us humans. Please be aware of those that need more of that in their lives and talk to them about it. Invite the men to SIR. They won't regret it.

As a man of faith I also want to give thanks to God for the Christmas season which is all about Jesus and giving gifts. I don't particularly relish receiving gifts as I am not in need, but I know that giving gifts allows people to extend their love and gratitude to those around them. Here is wishing all of you a very merry Christmas and remember the reason we celebrate it. **Blessings to you all!!!**

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**“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL”**

