



Incorporated

SIR exists to enrich the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life.

THE ROOSTER'S CROW

The HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84 meets the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at
MANZANITA PLACE,
(inside the Elks Lodge building)
1705 Manzanita Avenue,
CHICO, CA, 11:30 AM

**SONS IN RETIREMENT,
HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84**

Volume 46, Number 12

December 2024

The Branch Executive Committee meets at 10:15 AM on the same day at the same place.



SIR Happenings



Cycling Club

This month's Cycling Club ride will be an easy spin through Bidwell Park beginning at Sycamore Pool. We will ride to Five Mile and then complete the loop by returning to Sycamore Pool. This time of the year our rides are starting at 10AM to stay clear of the morning chill.



Atop Oroville Dam

For More Information Contact:
Tim Kressin - 951-743-1297
Ken Doglio - 530-933-3921

GOLFERS

Branch 84 and Branch 110 tee off together for several tournaments at courses throughout the area. Now that the weather is cooperative, you can dust off your clubs, hit the range for a few practice swings, and join the fun.

For information on upcoming golf outings, please contact Paul Brossoit.

530 514 3486

FORE!



SIR Branch 84-Current List of Special Interest Clubs

Bowling Club - Ray Quinto 530 343 6752

Fishing Club - Ron Ward 530- 354-5147

Golf Club - Paul Brossoit 530 514-3186

Hiking Club - Rich Utter (Branch 110) 925-922-7020

Movie Club - Greg Sanger 530-518-7924

Writing & Book Club - Chip Meriam 530-228-1544

Special Activities Club - Alex Van Patten 530-566-2151

Cycling Club - Tim Kressin 951-743-1297

BOWLING CLUB

The

Bowling Club meets every Tuesday night for drop-in open bowling, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM, at the Bolero Bowling Center in Chico.



Ray Quinto
530 343 6752





December 5, 2024



Christmas Luncheon

11:15 - 11:45 Social Hour, 11:45 - Lunch

Spouses and Significant Others Are
Expressly Encouraged To Attend.

\$25 Per Plate

If You Have Not Yet Signed Up, And Plan to Come, Please
Contact Chip Meriam By Sunday, December 1:

530 228 1544

or

chipmeriam@comcast.net



OFFICERS

BIG SIR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1544
LITTLE SIR,	Tim Kressin-----	951-743-1297
SECRETARY,	Mike Hamlin-----	526-4408
ASST. SECRETARY,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
TREASURER,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
TREASURER ASST.,	Ray Quinto-----	343-6752

DIRECTORS

Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
Don Foster-----	566-1218
Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
Richard Kannenberg-----	208-869-5786
Myles Pustejovsky-----	342-4751
Allen Wood-----	343-2771
Mark Ward (Alternate)-----	680-8518



AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Lee Lamp-----	921-1375
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COMMITTEES

ATTENDANCE,	Mike Crump-----	530-588-4781
ATTENDANCE ASST.,	VACANT	
AUDITOR,	Benny Sommer-----	895-0840
BOWLING,	Bob Gaines-----	514-5066
CHAPLAIN,	Richard Kannenberg-----	208-869-5786
CHAPLAIN ASST.,	Bob Roberts-----	530-219-2566
DINNER CLUB,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
FISHING,	Ron Ward-----	354-5147
FISHING ASST.,	Harold Frazier-----	809-1623
GOLF,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
HIKING,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
HOUSE MANAGER,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
MEMBERSHIP,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
MEMBERSHIP ASST.,	Ken Doglio-----	933-3921
MOVIE CLUB,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
NOMINATING COMM.,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
R. CROW EDITOR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1545
R. CROW ASST.,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
SONG DIRECTOR,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
SUNSHINE,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
TRAVEL,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
TRAVEL,	Don Foster-----	566-1218
WRITING & BOOK CLUB,	Chip Meriam-----	225-1544





FROM THE BIG SIR

Chip Meriam



Greetings, fellows.

Our two regular columnists have alluded to the time of year and the season that is now upon us. I have my own memories and thoughts about the Christmas Season—some from family, some from my years at Oser’s Department Store, many from the Glenn County Assessor’s office, and a few from retirement.

Rather than bore you with my holiday inspired ruminations, I’ll ask you all to pull from your own memories. Perhaps you have a fond recollection of a Christmas Eve candlelight service; or watching a loved one’s joyful reaction to your perfect Christmas gift; or, maybe, the aroma of Christmas dinner permeating the home. Whatever they may be, your memories are an integral part of developing and appreciating the spirit of Christmas.

Fellow Sons In Retirement, my wish for each of you is to enjoy a spirit-filled Christmas season. May your December days be joyful and bright. And may you have occasion to celebrate with close friends and family.



Chip

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jerry Brandt, Chas Demmer, Ken Doglio, Mike Hamlin,
Mike Lazzaretto, Ron Peterson, Manuel Salcido,
Alex Van Patten



December 5, 2024 - 11:15 AM

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks)

Gil Wesley



Gil Wesley was born and raised in Alabama, where he developed his passion for football and dedication to faith. He went on to attend Florida State University in Tallahassee on a football scholarship, where he became a three-year starter under the legendary Coach Bobby Bowden. During his time at Florida State, Gil played in two bowl games, including the Orange Bowl in his senior year, where he faced off against Billy Sims and the Oklahoma Sooners.

Gil has spent over 30 years serving as a life coach and spiritual director, impacting countless lives with his wisdom and guidance. One of his mentees, Aaron Rodgers, benefitted from Gil's encouragement and support as he pursued a successful career in football. Gil has been a speaker at numerous retreats and conferences, sharing insights on faith, leadership, and personal growth.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Gil is a devoted family man who resides in Chico, California. He has four children and seven grandchildren, all of whom are a central part of his life. From 1987 to 1990, Gil served as a pastor at Neighborhood Church, where he inspired and led his congregation with humility and faith. His commitment to helping others reach their potential continues to be the cornerstone of his life and work.

Rideshare Service

Myles Pustejovsky has kindly volunteered to set up and coordinate drivers to chauffer members who do not drive any longer or do not have rides to our luncheons. His plan is to divide the area up into districts and ask for volunteers in each district to pick up and drop off members before and after each luncheon. If you are interested in volunteering to pick up fellow members on the way to and from our luncheons, or would like to take advantage of this new club service, please contact Myles.

Myles Pustejovsky

530-342-4751

mandaturham@att.net



Luncheon Fare

Stuffed Pork Roast with
Sun-Dried Tomato Cream Sauce

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Bread & Butter

Strawberry Cheesecake



IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE NOVEMBER 7 MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY MIKE CRUMP BY DECEMBER 1 530 588 4781

WISDOM

Magellans, LL Bean, Lynch Creek Farm, Mind Ware, Hammacher-Schemmer, North Style, Chucker Cherries, Sunnyland Farms, Harry and David, Pittman and Davis, Cutco, and Lands End.

When you open your mailbox and see the shinny covers bearing one of these names you instantly realize that the holiday season, that is to say “Christmas,” will soon be arriving

As I pen this in mid-November, I acknowledge that when driving at night there are already homes brightly aglow in Christmas lighting. I also notice sales lots being prepared for the near arrival of a truck to dispense its cargo of trees bound in plastic mesh for transport efficiency. In the Christmas tree trivia column Oregon is the #1 producer at 4,714,000 annually, while California is #11 at 138,800 annually.

Christmas merchandise has been on display for some time already. I have used one of the on line Christmas merchants to order two fresh wreaths to be delivered the first week of December for family out of state. New ways of shopping.

So the take away might be this:

- 1: Enjoy and be blessed by this special time.
- 2: If traveling. make plans early. Allow plenty of time, keeping stress under control.
- 3: Don't spend too much money...January is coming.
- 4: If you didn't get your greetings and pictures of all the grand kids sent out as planned, don't sweat it. We now know there is always next year.

Call or text a friend or loved one. Might be better than a card. While the circumstances in each of our lives may not always be optimum, for the most part they are quite good.

Do be blessed by the sights, sounds, tastes, and the aura of **CHRISTMAS**.

November 19, 2024 *Richard Kannenberg*





USELESS AND IRRELEVANT WORDS

December 2024



Well, Here we are Again; Christmas

Below are the names and links to ten Classic Christmas Stories that you might want to look up and share with your family over the Holidays. They would probably have much more meaning than the holiday films on the Hallmark Channel etc. and help all of us enjoy some of the rich history of this great celebration. In my sometimes muddled thinking, we might better serve the birth date of the Christ by having a completely religious Holiday one year, followed by the current commercial Holiday routine the next and alternate between the two going forward. This seems to be a better service to the true meaning of this Holiday and Season other than the generosity, spirituality, and fellowship it is supposed to promote. I know that every retailer and retail manufacture would bust a gut over this idea as fully one third of all retail revenues are generated in the fourth quarter of each calendar year for, guess what, service to the Holiday and to their bottom lines. It would definitely provide some relief to most of us except, of course, all the children that have come to expect gifts from Santa every year. Companies literally plan for this and base their profitability on the last quarter. For instance, Harry and David's fruit and food gift company starts their operation each October by hiring ~3,000 new temporary employees in October and then mostly shuts it all down after the first of the year. For many, in Medford, Oregon it is the only work they will have in a given year. Also, how many part time employees is Amazon going to hire for the season, 250,000? So, it's likely my idea will not catch on. I don't know about you but, for me, giving gifts is primarily for children and though we often give to one-another as adults, a generous and truly wonderful gesture, it is generally unnecessary and costly. For me, I don't really wait until Christmas to get things I want or need from Santa. I just go get them when I want or need them. Regardless of gifts under a tree though, I enjoy the fellowship that this Holiday brings the most. Anyway, here are these very famous classic Christmas stories:

The Gift of the Magi – by O. Henry

This touching story is about a poor couple who each sacrifices something for the other. The story has an interesting twist at the end and is definitely one you'll want to read each Christmas! https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/1-the_gift_of_the_magi_0.pdf

A Christmas Carol – by Charles Dickens

This all-time Christmas classic tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge who was too stingy to spend much money on gifts – until he receives visits from members of the other world that convince him to be thankful for what he has and to be willing to share. https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Dickens/Carol/Dickens_Carol.pdf

The Three Kings – by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This story takes the Biblical account of Jesus's birth and puts it into poetic form. It tells the story of three kings who, guided by a star, came upon a mother and baby (who lay in a manger) and the gifts they brought to the baby.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/57830/the-three-kings>

The Little Match Girl – by Hans Christian Andersen

This sweet, short story tells the tale of a young girl who was left out in the cold and the delirious visions she has every time she burns a match.

<https://americanliterature.com/author/hans-christian-andersen/short-story/the-little-match-girl/>



The Legend of the Christmas Tree – by Lucy Wheelock

In this heartwarming story, a boy is taken in at his worst point. The family who takes him in doesn't hesitate to do so and it pays off completely, for he turns out to be the Christ Child. Your family will certainly enjoy this retelling of a Biblical account (based on Matthew 23:35).

<https://www.imom.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/The-Legend-of-the-Christmas-Tree.pdf>

A Christmas Dream, and How It Came to be True – by Louisa May Alcott

This story is a spin-off of Dickens' A Christmas Carol and tells the story from a young child's point of view.

<https://americanliterature.com/author/louisa-may-alcott/short-story/a-christmas-dream-and-how-it-came-to-be-true/>

Christmas at Red Butte – by Lucy Maud Montgomery

This is a sweet story with an even sweeter ending. Get to know the characters and learn the true meaning of Christmas in this short story.

<https://americanliterature.com/author/lucy-maud-montgomery/short-story/christmas-at-red-butte/>

A Christmas Tree – by Charles Dickens

In this classic story, an elderly man reflects on what Christmas was like for him as he was growing up. He also gives us insight into what Christmas gifts were like in the 19th century and what stories children of that time would've heard.

<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/67/dickens-christmas-stories/3952/a-christmas-tree/>

The Elves and the Shoemaker – by The Brothers Grimm

This is one I've shared with you in the past as it is indeed very much in tune with the season. In this tale, a shoemaker and his wife are down to their last piece of leather. As luck would have it, a few elves change fate for them and give them the best holiday season (and life) ever.

<https://americanliterature.com/author/the-brothers-grimm/short-story/the-elves-and-the-shoemaker/>

And, of course,

A Visit from St. Nicholas "Twas the Night Before Christmas" – by Clement Clarke Moore

No list of classic Christmas stories would be complete without this one! It makes for a great read on Christmas Eve especially.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43171/a-visit-from-st-nicholas>

May you receive joy from these words and, from me to you, Happy Holidays.

Greg Sanger

