

 <p>February Luncheon February 1, 2023 Basque Cultural Center</p>	<p>SIR Branch 4 Foghorn February 2023 Presidents Issue</p>	 <p>God Bless Our USA!</p>
<p>Big SIR-TBA Little SIR-TBA</p>	<p>Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

This issue is dedicated to the memory of SIR George Samoulides

We lost SIR Super Senior George Samoulides on December 19th. George lived 97 rich years: Native San Franciscan, a Marine and member of the Greatest Generation including service in China post WWII, and our Big SIR in 1995!

February's Lunch. We will meet and eat at the Basque Cultural Center (BCC). Bar opens at 11:30 and meal service starts at 12Noon. The BCC's address is: 599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco. Menu Entrée choices are: Penne pasta with sausage, White fish, Grilled pork chops, Eggplant parmigiana. Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you plan on attending no later than Wednesday, January 25th, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We need to know that you plan on attending **AND** your choice of entrée, above. You should respond to Paul Nocero directly at SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN
Announcements and Information

Branch 4 celebrates our February SIR **Birthday List**: George Bacigalupi, John McGlothlin, Flor Mendoza, David Nigel, Paul Nocero, and Samuel Roake.

Branch 4's February **Sunshine List** includes Jerry Blumenthal and Ron Appel. Greetings and our hopes for speedy recovery to all who face challenges. Looking forward to seeing you!

Membership. Branch's 4 membership total is 65 as of January 21st. It's not too late to pay 2023 dues of \$25 at the Badge Table or via the USPS to Bill Gipe. Not sure if you paid 2023 dues? Please check at the Badge Table or call 650-878-5746. Branch 4 continues our 2023 membership drive. We ended 2022 with ninety members plus one Super Senior. For members experiencing difficulties attending, please let us know how you are faring. We'll keep you in the loop receiving Foghorns. Thank you for supporting SIR.

Lunch attendance on January 4 (winter storm warning day!) was 30 members and 2 guests. Please invite any retired friends who would enjoy the SIR lunch and activities. Sons In Retirement (SIR) has a new info website: WeAreSIR.com.

We remember George Samoulides (1925-2022). George passed away in December, was Branch 4's Super Senior and served as our Big SIR in 1995. For many years George happily organized twice monthly Pinochle games with coffee fellowship at Christopher Community Center on Brotherhood Way.

"As Dave Sees It"

Our first luncheon meeting of the year was a rousing success in spite of ominous weather forecasts. Thirty active SIR Branch 4 members and two guests were in attendance at the Basque Cultural Center enjoying delicious meals and a tasty dessert of assorted cookies and donuts. Fifteen registrants were unable to join our luncheon meeting and cancelled due to weather forecasts. Ironically, weather was not a factor as we experienced mild conditions and at the conclusion of our luncheon, there was no rain or wind.

2022 Big Sir, Stu Ruth, called upon Dave Nigel to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing of "God Bless America," and in place of our fabulous George Rodriguez, give the invocation. Following enjoyment of our meals, Elmer Eckart was delighted to be selected our raffle winner.

Our Branch is grateful to our Badge Crew, as well as Rolf Rosander and Tony Quarto our dedicated and efficient Raffle facilitators, and George Suter our Birthday coordinator who recognized and

celebrated Bill Lippincott, Brian Weiss, and Tony Quarto.

Many positive comments were expressed regarding our December Holiday Party at Oyster Point with accolades extended to Little Sir John McGlothlin, his wife Joanne, and their organizing committee.

Stu Ruth called upon George Suter who gave a short description of his recent Caribbean trip and displayed photos on his IPAD. Next was a presentation by Dave Nigel who spoke about his "Scouting" involvement featuring his Cubbing, Scouting, Exploring, and Sea Scouting experiences. Dave also mentioned his long and wonderful friendship with his life-long friend and fellow Eagle Scout SIR Elmer Eckart; both continuing to perform service on our Branch 4 Badge and "Welcoming" Committee along with SIR Richard Soward.

There being no further business, Big Sir Stu Ruth adjourned our gathering at 1:55PM

Activities



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and vacant. February 2023. A summary of the **local SIR golf rules** has been published and is now available. Check the web site: <http://branch4.sirinc2.org/golf.html>.

The **2023 Sharp Park Tournaments** are scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month, starting at 0930. Check the Branch 4 website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the January 10th Sharp Park match – match cancelled – heavy rains have flooded the course.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, February 14^h - first tee-off is 0930. SIR members and their guests are invited. **Check in a half-hour before your tee time** inside the club house. Sharp Park fees are **\$30** - \$26 greens, and \$4 prize fund. Add a cart for \$20 for \$50. Breakfasts for \$13 are available per Kevin. At press time, playing in February is unlikely.

The **2023 Poplar Creek Tournaments** starting in February are requested for: Tuesdays 2/21, 4/18, 6/27, 8/22, 10/17, and 12/18 . These start at 1000 with a 40-player max. This year's contract is: Pay the green (\$36), Pro Shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), round-up reserve (\$2) and cart fees (\$25 single, \$13.50 split a cart), to the SIRs coordinator. Prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

Results of the December 20th Poplar Creek match – We had 21 SIR players, and 2 guests - Bill Dyer with Dennis Meixner, and Willie Growney with Ray Steward. Get those guests to sign up if SIRs eligible. The weather was just fine, with broken clouds and cool weather. Fairways were very sparse on several holes. Take relief and place the ball in the nearest grass patch. Greens were fine, deceptive as usual.

Highlights were: Birdies - Dennis Meixner with a 3 on Par-4 #2, number 1 on the handicap rating; Joe Shasky with a 3 on Par-4 #8, Bob Richter with a 2 on par-3 #12. Pat Stan, Bob Richter, and Don Appleton had coupons for both net scores and closest to holes. You can mention any long drives, chips, or putts propaganda next time on your cards for the highlights too.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday February 21st - First tee-off is 1000. Signups will be sent out online and on the Luncheon clipboard too.

Local tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746)

SIR Branch 4 Local Tours are ready to begin again. Do you have any suggestions? Please leave your ideas on the Badge Table tours sign-up sheet. Our first local tour sign-up will

be planned for a return to Oracle Park as the Giants are offering reserved clubhouse & field tours again. Tour details are available online at milb.com/giants/ballpark/tours .

Tour A La Carte. Saturday, January 21st, three Branch 4 SIR Members, George Suter, Bill Gipe, and Stu Etzler drove to Danville in the East Bay to visit the Blackhawk Auto Museum that features five galleries: The Auto gallery, the Art of Africa, Spirit of the Old West, World of Nature, and the Into China Exhibit.

Our three museum visitors were very fortunate to be guided by an incredibly knowledgeable docent named John who just happened to be a member of the SIR Branch in the East Bay. Bill Gipe observed that John was the absolute best, and most interesting, instructor that he personally ever experienced.

During our February 1st luncheon meeting at the Basque Cultural Center, an announcement will be made to determine interest in making up a larger group and making this a special activity for our members. Docent John told our three members he would prepare a special session for us and conduct a tour just for our members.

Walk for Health, George Suter

Walk for Health **Friday January 27, 2023**
1:44 PM – Pacifica Shorefront Walk – Scratch golfers will weep; red-legged frogs and garter snakes rejoice! Meet at the corner of Bradford Way and Fairway Drive, South of Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica. We will walk past Mori Point, along the coast walkway, through Pacifica and back-about 2 ½ hours. The path is level and scenic, though muddy, with an opportunity at the end of the walk for a social chat in the Sharp Park clubhouse. You will be amazed at what our month of rain and winds have wrought. Also, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy has been at work with new walkways over swampy ground (there is plenty of that now!). The town of Pacifica has been given something to think about.

My cell phone will be on before and during the walk 415-314-6768.

Walk for Health Friday February 24, 2023
1:44PM – The Mission District-San Francisco Walk- View the oldest and the newest. Meet in front of old Mission Dolores (320 Dolores Street, San Francisco) for a tour of the old Mission itself (good exhibits, well-explained - \$10 ea for seniors) followed by a walk through a Mission District that has been remade by our Millenials – a surprising resurgence for walkers who have not been there recently. Walk is over paved sidewalks for approximately 2 ½ hours, no significant climbs or descents. I found on-street parking on Church Street (probably just lucky). My cell phone will be on before and during the walk 415-314-6768.

Bocce Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668: We meet at Doelger Senior Center every Wednesday between 1 and 3PM. Doelger Senior is about a 1/2 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We do not meet the first Wednesday of the month (Sirs Luncheon). Just show up and you will get a game or two or maybe even 3, beginners welcome.

Special Correspondent, Dave Nigel



Bocce Ball competition-play returned between the rainstorms on a beautiful day in Daly City, Wednesday, January 18th with six enthusiastic players.

Co-Chairmen Charley Leach and Roger Kelly, and players Pat Long, Rich Soward, Jere Driscoll, and David Nigel showed up for wonderful matches at the Doelger Senior Center.

The Team of Roger, Richard, and David won the first game by a very close score, but the Team of Charley, Pat, and Jere took the second game by another competitive count. Game three, the rubber match, was nip-and-tuck with the score tied at 11-11; 12 points wins the game and the match ... A great shot won the final match! All players enjoyed a truly wonderful afternoon.




Wine Tasting, Bob Fox 415-753-2630. In Bob's absence, a Fable. They all start out with "Once Upon A Time", there was a place known as "Wine Country". "Wine Country" surrounded the Bay Area, including Napa, Sonoma, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and even far-off Mendocino. This fable concerns Napa since it is central to the industry. Our fable starts in the 60's with protagonist Jean Le Boutelle, visiting Napa upon the recommendation from an in-law; nice trip, taste some wine, be polite and buy bottles from wineries you visit (budget \$2.00-\$3.50 for special bottles).

Napa at the time was planted with grapes, prunes, and apples among many crops. Wineries were family-owned, providing tastes for free (good advertising) and sometimes the owners and/or winemakers were around to offer tastes and sell special bottlings. Jean tasted and tasted, fell asleep under a spreading oak and woke up 50 years later. Jean looked around, found his car had been tagged for not paying for parking (paying?), and set off for a badly needed glass of the wineries finest.

At the tasting room, the young woman in charge (with her "Wine Educator" badge) asked if he had a reservation and Jean retorted he'd been coming here for years. Choices were \$25, \$50 or \$100 for a **virtual** tasting, one wine, or three wines with a logo wrist band. Jean asked if they still sold his favorite wine and was told it was "on allocation", as a favor they let long-time customers buy a bottle for \$150. Shaking his head, Jean found someone to jump his car and was directed to Trader Joe's for good stuff, supposedly skimmed off the top of the barrel at Opus #__. Leaving Napa, Jean marveled at what had changed; prune orchards no more, many more vineyards and wineries, and any space left over was part of the restaurant reserve.

Geritol. Origin of the Geritol raffle is lost somewhere in SIR's past. Geritol signifies the (usually) Red Wine we draw badge numbers for. During my two tours as Little SIR, I've used the raffle to feature wine values, off-the-beaten-track regions (especially the Gold Country), less popular grapes, or blends of grapes. It is easy to spend \$100+ on Napa's flagship Cabernet Sauvignon and there are many outstanding wines in this range. It requires a more work to uncover good wines in the \$10-\$20 range; tasting is hard (on the elbow) work! There is junk sold at all price levels. Taste and trust your palate.

CyberSIRs.  Jerry Blumenthal. As Jerry recuperates, your editor shares a few thoughts on protecting your information and yourself:

- Read the fine print. Some of us are receiving the state "Middle-Class Tax Refund". Looks fishy but it isn't. On the other hand:
- Don't toss the envelope and card, this one **really is a refund.**
- Negotiate your "refund" quickly. Redeem the card and deposit the money in your account. The cards can be hacked.
- Call the number that is included with your Card quickly so you can get a paper check if you'd rather.
- Beware if it looks like the envelope has been run through a roller (to scan the number).

Perhaps this wasn't the brightest thing our State has done.

Kudos to SIR Paul Nocero (or persistence pays off)!! For those of you who remember the Monthly Lunches at the Elks Club, you may also remember that we had monthly book exchanges, sold license plate frames and hats and pulled equipment like our projector from storage. All that ended with the fire at Elks Club last spring. We were cut off from our storage locker. Paul took charge of solving this problem, made several attempts to find a way to access our locker and was finally rewarded for his efforts. Now, we just need a place to conduct exchanges and auctions and need to know if you are interested in reviving these activities, or not.

See you at the Basque Cultural Center on March 1st.

Don't Forget Valentines Day!

Candy, Hearts and Hugs!