

SIR Branch 4 Foghorn-March 2023

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

March 1st Lunch. We will meet and eat at the Basque Cultural Center (BCC). Bar opens at 11:30 and meal service starts at 12 Noon. The BCC's address is: 599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco. Menu Entrée choices: Pork Chops, Chicken Corden Bleu, Salmon, or Mushroom Risotto. Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you plan on attending **no later than Wednesday, March 22nd**, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We need to know that you plan on attending **AND** your choice of entrée (see above). You should respond to Paul Nocero directly at SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175.

Our speaker will be Ed Archer on Vintage Automobiles

Announcements and Information



Speakers Bureau, Al Herpe. In addition to Ed Archer speaking on vintage automobiles in March, April's speaker, Charlie Drexler, will continue the theme. Charlie is president of Al's car club and a San Francisco paramedic, just recently retired and Al's guest at January's Luncheon.

Branch 4 celebrates our March SIR **BirthDay List:** Bob Calhoun, Pat Long, Bill McGee, Bob Richter, and Woody Woodall.

Branch 4's March **Sunshine List** includes Jerry Blumenthal, John McGlothlin, and David Nigel. Greetings and our hopes for speedy recovery to all who face challenges. Looking forward to seeing you!

Membership. Branch's 4 membership total is 80 as of February 12th. Thank you for 2023 dues support. Still 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 has concluded its 2023 membership drive. We ended 2022 with ninety members plus one Super Senior. For SIRs 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 February 1st was a whopping 47 members (including 5 walk-ins) plus 4 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, look it over!

As Dave Sees It...

February 1st, Branch 4 gathered at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco to enjoy a wonderful luncheon and activities. 56 attended. In the absence of George Rodriguez, Dave Nigel gave an inspirational non-sectarian benediction followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" and a rousing rendition of "God Bless America."

Following delicious entrees, our group was treated to a well-received talk by Norman Gordon about his experiences in the Peace Corps in Thailand. Many SIRs added their own experiences, with many questions asked. Special thanks to SIR Al Herpe who has arranged for several excellent speakers and lined-up presenters for coming months. We look forward to March and April speakers Ed Archer and Charlie Drexler.

We're also grateful to Al for providing Hostess Cup Cakes with chocolate icing and vanilla crème filling and 8 distinctive white squiggles across the top. One SIR stated he had not consumed one of these cupcakes since he was a child, and enjoyed eating it as much as when he was young!

Our monthly raffle was conducted by our dedicated and efficient chairmen Tony Quarto and Rolf Rosander who called winning ticket numbers, making two SIRs very happy!

Big Sir, Stu Ruth greeted everyone and asked for Committee /Activity reports including "Golf" reported by Jack Major, Bocce Ball by Charley Leach, Walk for Health by George Suter, "Special" activities by Bill Gipe, and a Membership update by Dave Nigel.

George Suter honored February's "Birthday Boys" each stating their date of birth followed by the singing of "Happy Birthday" and our traditional reply by the honorees. John McGlothlin was the winner of the "Free lunch" Birthday Boys drawing.

Very positive comments continue to be made regarding our afternoons at the Basque Cultural Center. We look forward to another wonderful gathering Wednesday, March 1st.

Activities



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and vacant. March 2023. A summary of the **local SIR golf rules** has been published and is 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 website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the February 14th Sharp Park match – match cancelled – anticipated a flooded course, but was somewhat dried out, with 14 and 17 reduced to par 3's and cart path only overall. March **should** be fine without a lot of rain.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, March 14th - first tee-off is 0930. SIR members and 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 (\$17 each and split a cart) to the SIRs coordinator. The Prize Fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

February Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday February 21st Results were not available at press time. Signups for the next tournament on April 18th will be sent out online and collected on the clipboard too.




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



Thanks to all who signed up for a preseason tour of Giants Oracle Park. Signup sheet will be again at the Badge Table for a visit in March.

Future tours include a return to the Blackhawk Museum in Danville and the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda. Our visit to Alameda was one of the last before the pandemic. The Alameda museum has reopened.

Walk for Health, George Suter  . No walk in March, George is away. Stay tuned for April's walk. Time for independent study or revisiting his great choices



•**Bocce Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668:** We meet at Doelger Senior Center every Wednesday between 1 and 3PM. Doelger Center 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 Report, Dave Nigel

Bocce ball, also called bocci or boccie, is a relaxed but strategic game with an ancient lineage. Probably originating in ancient Egypt, bocce started to hit its stride with the Romans and Emperor Augustus. It gained massive popularity with the influx of Italian immigrants to the United States at the turn of the 20th century. Victory for each competition requires a team reaching twelve points.


Six Bocce Ball players met at the Doelger Senior Center in Daly City for friendly competition on a beautiful day. Co-Chairmen Roger Kelly and Charley Leach divided players into two teams with SIRs Charlie Leach, Jere Driscoll, and Pat Long

representing "San Francisco". Roger Kelly teamed up with Bill Gipe, and David Nigel playing for the "Peninsula." Both games were well-played and the final contest was decided by a winning ball thrown as the final Bocce Ball.

Co-Chairs Charley Leach and Roger Kelly are always searching for more participants to join the weekly gatherings on the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays of each month with game time commencing promptly at 1:00 p.m. and concluding by 3:00 p.m. Interested in joining this great, enjoyable activity? Show up on the pre-mentioned days and times.



•**Wine Tasting, Bob Fox 415-753-2630.** Lucky enough to come of age in San Francisco? You experienced Italian Restaurants. Tasty food with California's bounty enhancing. Seems every restaurant had their special wine; inexpensive, hearty and made even better by the food and surroundings. Red wines weren't labeled Zinfandel, Barbera, Cabernet, just burgundy, claret, chianti or red and came from vineyards planted with many varieties; "field blends". It was possible to go to wine shops and delicatessens and find these wines; Rege, Mazzoni, Pagani, Martini and Prati, Foppiano, Nervo, Cambiaso, etc. They disappeared, bought out by others, occasionally moving upscale. Surprise - pick up a \$40-\$50 bottle and see a vineyard name such as Nervo or Pagani proudly displayed; the vineyards survived with grapes now coveted by top-tier wineries. Think back to the day when a case of 4 gallons could be had for under \$20.00 (your editor).

CyberSIRs.  Jerry Blumenthal. Jerry is still recuperating. Your editor wants to share ideas for taming the “monster” hiding under your bed at night; email. Perhaps you’ve heard others declare, “I get so many @*#\$\$ emails, I don’t bother to read them”. This means you may miss the one that is really important. Better to control the monster and here is some advice:

- Left alone emails multiply as fast as graffiti. Set aside some time once a week to go through, purge and occasionally read and respond.
- Most email programs let you sort by “from”. Use this and delete senders of advertising, advice, and offers quickly.
- Many emails that try to sell something have an “unsubscribe” button to ask the sender to cease and desist. Often this works.
- Learn how to mark undesirable emails as “junk” or “spam”. In the future they won’t go to your in-basket.
- Check your spam folder occasionally, there **may** be something useful there that got mis-routed.
- When you respond to emails THINK before using “reply all”. Do you really want everyone to receive your response?

Behind the Scenes. SIRs Bob Golton and George Fenech, Branch 4’s Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer diligently serve us taking care of financial matters for more than ten (10) years. Both take care of our finances accurately and responsibly. We’re very fortunate to have Bob as our Treasurer bringing his fabulous wealth of knowledge regarding financial matters, budgets, reports, and status of our Branch funds.

Bob resides in S.F. near Mount Davidson and worked in school district administration, including as CFO for the Palo Alto Unified School District. In a report to the District, Bob explained, although the district

doesn’t need a new middle or high school at the former Cubberly site today, it must assure it has room to grow in the future. The school board voted to affirm a plan to redevelop Cubberly Community Center, a high school until declining enrollment forced closure in 1979. The site developed into a wonderful facility for performing arts, sports, and sites for arts and crafts.

George Fenech is a retired San Francisco Police Officer assigned to SFO and resides in San Bruno. George works closely with the Badge Crew to collect and deposit money, a task which he performs diligently and in a very timely manner.

Branch 4 is so fortunate to have these two icons working for us.

Kudos to SIRs Bob Golton, Paul Nocero and Tony Ramirez. One of the key steps to prepare to properly observe the Lunar New Year is cleaning out the old, to make room for the new. The above-mentioned SIRs certainly contributed to Branch 4's preparation and displayed great spirit. As a result: the reputed "Fibber McGee's Closet" at the Elks was finally accessed and unneeded items disposed of, the "History of SIR Branch 4" will live on at the Internet Archives, and we will have a clear, logical policy for retaining only the financial records we need for conducting and accounting for our business. Great work!

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



Don't Forget St. Patrick's Day, March 17th!

Thoughts for St. Patrick's Day, and for every day.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures.

Wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you.

May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside.

A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have.

Every man is sociable until a cow invades his garden.