

 <p>February Luncheon</p> <p>May 3, 2023</p> <p>Basque Cultural Center</p>	<p><b>SIR Branch 4</b></p> <p><b>Foghorn</b></p> <p><b>May 2023</b></p> <p><b>May Flowers Issue</b></p>	 <p>God Bless Our USA!</p>
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth, Acting Little SIR-Bill Gipe, Acting</p>	<p>Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

John McGlothlin-Editor

**May Lunch.** SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting on May 3rd at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the bar will be available at 11:30AM. Cost will again be \$30.00. The menu choices are:

1. **Salmon**
2. **Steak Hache`**
3. **Chicken Cordon Bleu**
4. **Eggplant Parmesan**

Please respond if you plan on attending no later than Wednesday, April 25th, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée, above. You can respond to this email, respond directly to Paul at [SIRpaul@nocero.com](mailto:SIRpaul@nocero.com), or by phone to 415-254-8175. We hope to see you there

**Note:** There is a new-and-improved SIR website at [wearesir.com](http://wearesir.com). Take a look!

## Announcements and Information



**Speakers Bureau, Al Herpe.** May's Speaker is Tax Advisor Eugene Ostermiller. You may remember Eugene from prior lunches. A lot has changed since the last time; new forms, new rates, new (for most Californians in 2023) due dates, and new funding for IRS. Eugene always comes equipped with lots of information and you are certain to enjoy his presentation.

**SIR Birthdays.** Branch 4 remembers May birthdays of Bob Arzave, Jack Cardon, Jeff Chinn, Elmer Eckart, Jim Fogelstrom, Dan Machado, Richard Nishiki-Finley, and Rich Palmer.

**Branch 4 Membership Report.** 86 members (1 pending). 33 members attended our April lunch.

**Sunshine Report.** Branch 4 sends greetings to Jerry Blumenthal, Jeff Chinn, John McGlothlin, George Rodriguez and all members and friends with challenges these days.

**SIR Remembered.** Former SIR Robert “Bob” Fansler was listed in the April 16<sup>th</sup> SF Chronicle Obituary Section.

### “As Dave Sees It”

33 SIRs gathered at the Basque Cultural Center, April 5th to enjoy another afternoon of camaraderie, delicious food, and another outstanding speaker. Accolades to SIR Al Herpe for his efforts to secure interesting and compelling speakers.

Big Sir Stu Ruth called the meeting to order, followed by David Nigel giving a non-sectarian prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We sang a rousing rendition of “God Bless America.”

All enjoyed their entrees of delicious chicken, moist and tasty fish, two large pork chops, or the eggplant vegetarian selection. French bread rolls, and delightful soup and coffee completed the meal. Thanks to SIR Al Herpe who arranged for our dessert cookies which were quickly consumed from their spot on the tables.

April’s outstanding speaker was Charlie Drexler covering a plethora of topics including ambulance team service, health issues, taking good care of oneself, and working in government agencies. Many in-

depth and provocative questions were asked by members who also mentioned personal experiences related to Charlie’s subjects.

Big SIR Stu Ruth introduced our “Birthday Boys”, and all stated their year of birth. This was followed by our sonorous rendition of “Happy Birthday” and the repartee by our honorees. We did not have time during our March gathering, therefore March and April birthdays were both honored with SIRs Rolf Rosander and Bob Richter winning the drawings for “Free Lunches.”

Committees reported as Jack Major who announced Golf activities, Charlie Leach invited interested players to join weekly Bocce Ball competition at Doelger Senior Center, Bill Gipe promoted a tour to the Giants Oracle Park Stadium, and Dave Nigel announced our current membership of 86!

Many positive comments were made regarding the entire afternoon. We will be returning to the Basque Cultural Center for our May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## Activities



**Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and assistant (vacant). May 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 website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

**Results of the April 11th Sharp Park match** – match cancelled – Course still unplayable past hole 10. May may be dried out enough to play.

**Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - 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.


The **2023 Poplar Creek Tournaments** started in February and are Tuesdays 2/21, 4/18, 6/27, 8/22, 10/17, and 12/19. These start at 1000 with a 40-player max. This year's contract is pay the green (\$36), Pro Shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), and cart fees (\$17.50 each and split a cart, \$25 singles), 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 April 18<sup>th</sup> Poplar Creek match** - Results were not available at press time.


**Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> - First tee-off is 1000.**


## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN

**Local tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-**

**5746)**  **May Branch 4 Local Tour.** The Oracle Park tour is set for May 11 at 10:30 am. For details and senior tickets see website [mlb.com/giants/ballpark/tours](http://mlb.com/giants/ballpark/tours).

Your ideas for local tours? Please leave a message at the Badge Table or call 650-878-5746. A future return trip to the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda will have a Badge Table Signup Sheet.

 **Walk for Health, George Suter.** George is doing “field research” and, I’m sure, will soon announce his next “walk”. Meanwhile, are you looking for ideas? The April 16 SF Chronicle included a great insert describing interesting, entertaining and (often) challenging walks in our bay area. Worth reading!

 **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!

### **Bocce Report from Bill and Dave.**

April 12<sup>th</sup>. Following many weeks of inclement weather, our players finally enjoyed a Wednesday of Bocce Ball at the Doelger Senior Center. Five players gathered at 1:00 pm for friendly competition on a beautiful, enjoyable sunny day that occurred with just gentle winds. Co-Chairs Charley Leach and Roger Kelly were joined by SIRs Richard Soward, Bill Gipe, and Pat Long. Three close competitive games were enjoyed concluding a pleasant afternoon on the Bocce court.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. On a beautiful day in Daly City with a slight breeze, four Bocce Ball competitors enjoyed another afternoon of exciting Bocce games at the Doelger Center. SIRs Bill Gipe and David Nigel played for the Peninsula while SIRs Pat Long and Jere Driscoll played for San Francisco. The players exhibited strong bowling skills. To win a game, a team must earn twelve points; and the games were well played, close, and exciting.

It is hoped that more SIR members will join the Bocce Team that meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. except the first Wednesday of each month. Feel free to join the activity as it is a lot of fun. If interested contact SIR Charley Leach for more details. (Co-Chairman, Roger Kelly is vacationing in France ... *so do not bother to make a long-distance telephone call as it could be very expensive! Or, make it collect...*

Bocce is a game and style of Italian Bowling brought by Italian immigrants to New York and the game has become popular throughout the United States. Similar games include Petanque, Boules, and Lawn Bowling,

Our Chairs are always searching for more participants to join the gatherings that occur 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. Those interested in this great enjoyable activity are invited to show up at the Doelger Senior Center on the prementioned days and times.



**Wine Tasting.** (by Your Editor), If interested in tasting call **Bob Fox 415-753-2630**. Tasting may, or may not, be going on (?). April was a busy time in your Editor's Vineyard. Our singular Chardonnay vine started bud break at the end of March, by now quite a few leaf and some baby grape clusters. Our "Old Vine" Zinfandel (20+ vines) is moving slower, bud break 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April and lots of shoots by this

week, Mid-May will be when (if) grape clusters start to appear. The next few weeks are a time of severe frost danger as shoots flourish and will be at risk to frost. When we get past this period and all looks good, we just need to worry about ripening with enough summer sun to make this happen (in San Bruno, summer is not necessarily sunny...). If all else fails, there is always Gerito!

**CyberSIRs.** 

Jerry Blumenthal is, indeed, missed. Keeping the seat warm, your editor suggests an interesting "Tech" read, "Chip War" by Chris Miller. Follows the companies and personalities who had a hand in the tech evolution and journey

from chips to microprocessors to "specialty" chips. This book explains why some companies failed and others succeeded amid competition between people, companies and countries and how they intertwined. Readable with short chapters so you can easily pick up and put down.

**Branch 4's Community Service Volunteer Program:** Tad Bogdan ([tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com), m 650 863 8866).

Kudos to Paul Walsh, Bill Gipe, and Paul Nocero for volunteering for food packing at the SF-Marin Food Bank in April. We were also joined by a neighbor of mine. Unfortunately, she doesn't qualify for recruitment into the SIRs because she's an unretired, younger female. According to Paul Nocero, "This volunteer effort was a lot of work and a lot of fun. I really liked seeing all the food we were preparing for those in need, and I loved representing the SIR organization in doing so." Paul worked harder than the rest of us ending up being a packer and a pusher. He was at the end of the line where he helped push the boxes forward to the rest of us.

In May, we'll experiment with a different time slot and venue. This time, we will be at a pop-up directly distributing food to needy families. This is in a quiet neighborhood behind the Whole Foods on 4th & Harrison St. Please invite friends and family and email [tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com) with the names and email addresses of volunteers. **Site information for the event May 11, 10:30 AM - 1:15 PM (New Date!):**

**Bessie Carmichael @ Lapu Lapu**  
7750 Lapu Lapu St  
San Francisco, CA 94107

## **Featured Article“ Exceptional SIR Members”**

SIR William C. “Bill” Gipe is one of our several exceptional, committed, hardworking, and dedicated Branch members. Bill actively participates on our Board of Directors, serves as our Membership and “Sunshine” Chairman; contacting members who are ill or recovering from surgery by phone or handwritten note. He is the custodian/caretaker of our equipment... each month Bill coordinates and updates our “Badge Box “marking our “Birthday Boys” badges so those SIRs will be appropriately honored during our monthly luncheon gatherings. Another responsibility Bill performs is chairing and organizing interesting trips and excursions including Giants games, A’s games, visiting museums, and other interesting activities attended and enjoyed by many of us.

Bill is an active competitor during our weekly Bocce Ball games at the Doelger Senior Center in Daly City and attended many Cyber Sir meetings. Born in Pennsylvania, Bill spent his younger years in the Keystone State prior to his family moving west. During his working years he worked for Safeway Supermarkets at several San Francisco stores. During his retirement, Bill continues to shop at Safeway, often visiting one of his favorite venues located at the Millbrae Superstore

We are so fortunate Bill continues as an (very) active member of our Branch and we profoundly appreciate the many tasks he performs for all of us.

Oh, by the way, Bill served us as our Big SIR in 2008, bookended by two other fine SIRs, Flor Mendoza (2007) and Jack Major (2009). Good company!

See you at the Basque Cultural Center on May 3rd!