

	<p><b>SIR Branch 4</b></p> <p><b>Foghorn</b></p> <p><b>April 2024</b></p>	
<p><b>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth</b></p>	<p><b>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</b></p>	<p><b>God Bless Our USA</b></p>
<p><b>Secretary-Bob Calhoun</b> <b>Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</b></p>	<p><b>Foghorn Editor</b> John McGlothlin</p>	<p><b>Treasurer-Bob Golton</b> <b>Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</b></p>

Dedicated to SIR Joe Shasky. RIP.

**April 2024 Lunch.** SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco. We hope to see you there.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the bar will be available at 11:30AM. The menu choices are:

1. White Fish
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Steak Haché
4. Eggplant Parmigiana

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending no later than Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée, above.

Respond directly to Paul at [SIRpaul@nocero.com](mailto:SIRpaul@nocero.com), or by phone to 415-254-8175.

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

*Paul Nocero*

**April's Speaker** (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) — SIR Mike Abeyta, Kaiser Health Volunteer will be speaking to us this month.

### **Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe**

**Birthday Boys:** Branch 4 celebrates the April birthdays of Stan Falk, Bob Fox, Roger Kelly, Joe Penko, Mike Robinson, and Rolf Rosander.

**Injury List.** Branch 4 friends send greetings to Jerry Blumenthal who continues his recovery. Branch 4 misses all members who are facing health challenges.

**Membership.** Total is 82. March lunch attendance was 34 (badge table total). Thanks to all members who have renewed for 2024.

#### *As Dave Sees It...*, by Dave Nigel

Branch 4 enjoyed a wonderful gathering March 6<sup>th</sup> attended by 34 members for our monthly luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. As usual, Big Sir Stu Ruth called the meeting to order. Dave Nigel gave the invocation and led the "Pledge of Allegiance", followed by singing "God Bless America." Sadly, we lost two wonderful members during February, Joe Shasky and Bob Arata. A silent tribute was observed in their memory.

Announcements by Activity Chair's began with Jack Major reporting on golf events. George Suter, our "Walk for Health" leader, will be writing about the next event in future Foghorns. Bocce was updated by Charlie Leach describing competitions at Doelger Center, extending an invitation to join the fun and camaraderie. Membership Chairman Bill Gipe gave an update on our membership drive with paid membership of 82. Bill also discussed future trips.

Rolf and Tony, Raffle Co-Chairs, called numbers for David Barnett holding the winning ticket for the second consecutive month and Bob Calhoun holding the other winner. "Birthday Boy" Chair George Suter introduced the celebrants, each stating his birth date. George led singing of "Happy Birthday" with the honorees responding. Pat Long was awarded the birthday "Free" lunch ticket. Bill Lippincott won the drawing for the "Geritol". Two "Free" lunch tickets were drawn resulting in happy recipients; Tim Hazen and Bob Pardini.

Entrees were enjoyed featuring fish, chicken, veal, or eggplant. SIR Alfred Herpe again brought our dessert treats of Entenmann's donuts. Then SIR Alfred introduced tax advisor Eugene Ostermiller who drove from the foothills town of Sonora to join us. This was Eugene's third time speaking and as always, his presentation was very informative, and well-presented keeping our interest and focus. As usual, comments were very positive.

Big Sir Stu Ruth concluded our wishing everyone a wonderful month. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, which happens to be "National Walking Day!"

## ACTIVITIES



**Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. April 2024.** 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 **2024 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 March 12<sup>th</sup> Sharp Park match.** – The match was not played due to muddy, unplayable holes, and cart path only conditions due to the rains. It probably won't be playable until May, like last year,

**Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - first tee-off is 0930. This is not probable due to course conditions.** 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 **2024 Poplar Creek Tournaments** are Tuesdays 4/16, 6/18, 8/27 (will be changed due to aeration), 10/22, and

12/17. These start at 1000 with a 24-player max. This year's contract is pay the green fee \$38, pro shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), and optional cart fees (\$17.50 each and split a cart, \$25 singles), to the SIRs coordinator. The prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

**Results of the March 5<sup>th</sup> Poplar Creek match** – This was a makeup date from 2/20. We had 14 players, and 1 guest of Mike Abeyta, Chan Chu. Guests are a primary source of new SIRs, so invite acquaintances and relatives - to the lunches too. The course was still soggy, with cart-path-only. It was a slow round from hiking to the ball if you had a cart. The greens were fast and in good shape. The highlights were: Birdies – Don Appleton with a 2 on par-3 #5, and he took the “closest to pin award”.

**Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> - First tee-off is 1000.**



**.Bocce Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668:** We meet at Doelger Senior Center Wednesdays between 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/2 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We don't meet first Wednesday of each month (SIRs Luncheon). Show up and get a game or two or maybe even 3. Beginners (very) welcome!

**Bocce Report**, by David Nigel.

After not being able to play during February due to inclement weather, six SIRs enthusiasts met on a gorgeous March afternoon and played at Doelger Center's Bocce court.

Co-Chair's Charley Leach and Roger Kelly divided the players into two teams. Pat Long, Tim Hazen, and Charley Leach represented SF while Roger Kelly, Bill Gipe, and David Nigel, played for the Peninsula. Each game concludes when a team wins twelve points. Games were well played, close, and exciting. The players displayed excellent bowling skills.

It is hoped that more SIR members will join the Bocce Ball Team that meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. except the first Wednesday of each month when we gather at the Basque Cultural Center for our luncheon meetings. We look forward to many future rematches cementing great friendships.

Feel free to join this fun activity. If interested contact SIR Bocce Ball Co-Chairmen Charley Leach or Roger Kelly and they will include you in our fun-filled activity.



**Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan** ([tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com), 650 863 8866) and Bill McGee ([wcmcgee@pacbell.net](mailto:wcmcgee@pacbell.net), 415-806-4608).

**We're going to have a special Food Bank event March 27th.** Bill McGee and Tad Bogdan will be donating SIR hats to volunteers that show up — and SIR Tim Hazen will capture some video and sound bites that we can possibly use for a SIR "sizzle reel" to build some awareness of the organization (and/or to get other SIRs involved). If you're able to make the date it would be great to see you on camera!

**March Date and Time:** Wednesday Mar 27, 2024 @ **8:30am to 11:00am shift.** Rosa Parks @ Glad Tidings. Free SIR hats & video clip of SIR volunteers

The following Food Bank event will be in the first week of May. **Date and Time:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ **10:30 am to 1:15pm shift.**  
Bessie Carmichael @ Lapu Lapu - 7750 Lapu Lapu St, San Francisco, CA 94107

Please contact Tad Bogdan [tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com) 650 863 8866 if you can join us for either. Plus, fill your Karma Pool!



**Walk for Health, George Suter** 415-314-6768. Stay tuned for information and George's usual thorough instructions.



**Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746).** April Branch 4 local trip is planned to the San Mateo Historical Museum in Redwood City which has a new special exhibit "The Cow Palace Remembered". Tentative dates are either Thursday April 11 or Friday April 12 or later in the month, optional lunch. Please sign up at the April lunch or call 650-878-5746.

### **“Exceptional SIR Members”**, by Dave Nigel.

George Rodriguez is a proud “Native Son” Of SF” and graduated from Mission High. As a High School Senior, George joined the Army National Guard, served three years in the 126<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Company and earned his “Honorable Discharge.”

First job was as a member of the Bookbinders Union jogging labels. George transferred to the Printing Department using Miehle and Heidelberg Presses becoming a Journeyman Printer, then losing his job during an 11-month strike. George then joined Colonial Bakeries, well-known by all San Franciscans with mothers and kids eagerly awaiting truck’s driving through their neighborhoods selling goodies. Next came Safeway where George passed the test and began working as a retail clerk for 32 years. While working George coached Little League Baseball for 5 years earning one championship and was also involved with the Daly City Chess Club, serving as President.

George says, “My best move was marrying my beloved wife Lynne, my right arm through thick and thin”. We traveled extensively, but our real joy was raising three children we are very proud. of”. George and Lynne worked many jobs before and after retirement including Fuller Brush sales, running a press, at H & R Block and as a licensed Tax Preparer, and selling home improvements for Sears. George loves music and played Bass and Rhythm guitar in a trio. As an example of George’s versatility, he wrote and published four books and is a member of the California Writers Club.

Another activity was serving as “Starter” for Golden Gate Golf and Harding Courses. In the good old days, SIR golfers could play for \$22.00 plus golf cart and were allowed to drive on fairways. George and Lynne found time to run 5-K races and the Bay-to-Breakers 5 times.

George has been a dedicated member since 2001, serving as Big Sir in 2006, a long-time member of our Board, and is best remembered for his invocations to kick off our meetings. We are pleased to honor George as an “Exceptional SIR Member.”

*Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave.*

### **State SIR Leadership Conference, by Bill Gipe**

On March 15 the SIR state-wide Branch Leadership Workshop took place at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. Many senior SIR figures such as the acting State President from Redding, our Peninsula leader Andy Danver, and East Bay's Derek Southern (former State President) guided the conversation on the future of SIR. Both Bill McGee and Bill Gipe attended from Branch 4.

The SIR group is recovering from the Covid years and seeks new members, new leaders, and new ideas for the future. There are 8500 members and 85 branches throughout northern & central California. Representatives from 46 branches attended this workshop. It was agreed the main purpose of SIR is to have fun and make friends in retirement. The ideas and skills of all SIR members are needed for branches to improve and thrive.

### **Branch 4 Remembers**

SIR Joe Shasky passed away in February. Joe was a coach and friend to many San Franciscans and a mentor to young athletes. He was a golfer and also interested in antique cars. Joe was a plumber and retired from the City of San Francisco. Joe coached lots of youth sports and was Friend of Bill W. Joe's son (also Joe) is co-host of "The Game 95.7's" Morning Sports Talk radio show. Joe joined Branch 4 in September 2022 and was sponsored by friends Jon Bologna and Bob Arzave.

This issue is Dedicated to Joe.

*See you at the April 3rd Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center!*