

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIR Branch 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Foghorn</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holidays 2024</b></p>	
<p><b>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth</b></p>	<p><b>God Bless our USA</b></p>	<p><b>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</b></p>
<p><b>Secretary-Bob Calhoun</b> <b>Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</b></p>	<p><b>Foghorn Editor</b> <b>John McGlothlin</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer-Bob Golton</b> <b>Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</b></p>

## *SIR Branch 4 Holiday Party*

**December 4<sup>th</sup> is our 2024 Holiday Lunch!** Dominic's at Oyster Point offers Tri-Tip, Stuffed Sole, Chicken Ala Marino or Stuffed Portobello entrees. Cost is \$50. Doors open at 11:00 am and lunch will be served at Noon. Holiday music will feature Marilyn Cooney, and we will have a chance to sing a few familiar carols. There will be gifts & holiday prizes, plus our holiday spirit! Details? Call Bill Gipe at 650-878-5746. Join 61 SIRs and guests.

*(If you haven't yet). Time to pay your \$30 dues for 2025. Pick up a dues envelope at our January 8<sup>th</sup> sign-in table if you need one. 51 of your fellow members have submitted their dues.*

### **Help Wanted!**

We need one of our members to step up and fill the shoes of George Suter, who contributed a fabulous job in his Role conducting our "Birthday Boys" recognition.

Each host of our celebration contributed their own unique character to our celebration and made it memorable for all of us. We've had great Tenors, great characters, and great fun. Step up and bring your own ideas and style to this important part of our lunches. Plus, it is a great way to give back for all SIR gives to you!

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

**SIR Birthdays.** December Birthdays will be recognized and celebrated along with our January “boys”.

**Sunshine List.** Good wishes for Jerry Blumenthal, Dan Machado, Bob Pardini and Ken Reed.

**Branch 4 Membership.** As of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 51 of our members renewed their membership for 2025. We have not yet heard from 30 of our current members. Start 2025 out by paying your \$30.00 dues. A downright bargain compared with some other branches. Among other things, your dues go towards a very small subsidy of our monthly lunches, free lunches for SIRs bringing potential members, and enhancing our Holiday Luncheon.

***As Dave Sees It...***, Our SIR monthly luncheon meeting was at the Basque Cultural Center on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> with 32 members attending. Big Sir Stu Ruth called our meeting to order and called upon David Nigel to greet everyone and honor the passing of Dave Donnelly and Bob Eshoo. Bob taught at his alma mater Washington High in San Francisco, while David was a revered history teacher at Parkside Intermediate in San Bruno. Dave gave the invocation, and led the “Pledge of Allegiance,” followed by our singing of “God Bless America.” Dave also mentioned our Holiday Luncheon at Oyster Point Yacht Club. Many reservations were submitted at the Badge Table and payment-receipts are sent via email message along with 2025 dues receipts.

Stu called upon activities chairs for announcements led by Golf Chair, Jack Major. Dave Nigel representing Bocce Co-Chairs Charley Leach and Roger Kelly invited interested members to join in on the weekly fun. Bill Gipe described the trip on the new electric Cal Train to Mission Bay Park.

Tony Quarto and Rolf Rosander, Raffle Co-Chairmen, called out winning numbers for Rich Fraher and Tony Quarto. The next drawing was for the “Geritol” which was won to the delight Bruce Barichievich. Our final drawing for a “Free Lunch” resulted in SIR Pat Long winning.

Four entrees were enjoyed followed by our dessert of tasty Pumpkin Spice Batons. Our speaker, SIR Robert “Bob” Calhoun, gave an interesting and excellent talk regarding his experiences as a Law Professor at San Francisco’s Golden Gate University. He explained the “Right to Remain Silent” as considered in British and U.S. law and concluded with our questions and comments.

Next event is our annual Holiday Luncheon Party on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Our next regular meeting is **January 8th, 2025** at the Basque Cultural Center.

## ACTIVITIES



**Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746).** Future excursions are being planned including the Pinball Museum in Alameda and a possible Southbound journey on the electric CALTrain. Previous trips to the Pinball Museum venue were very enjoyable.



**Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. December 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 2025 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 November 19<sup>th</sup> Sharp Park match: The course was very well maintained, with several fairways carpet-like. "Poa" has splotched some greens, and they were variable and tricky. Weather was overcast, and we were lucky to get in before the rain started. We had 22 players with 2 guests of George Bacigalupi, Wil Growney and Tony Maffai. Sign these guys up for the SIRs. Highlights. Birdies: None highlighted. Plenty of pars this month. The results were emailed and are available on the website.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, December 10<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 \$35 - \$26 greens, and \$9 prize fund. Add a cart for \$25 for \$60. Breakfasts are available per Kevin.

The next 2024 Poplar Creek Tournaments is 12/17. 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 Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>. See January's Foghorn.

First 2025 Poplar Creek Tournament: February 2025 – schedule coming up next Foghorn.



**Bocce. Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668:** We meet at Doelger Center Wednesdays 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/4 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We don't meet first Wednesday of each month (SIRs Luncheon). Show up and get a game or 2, or maybe even 3. Beginners are (always) welcome!

**Bocce Report**, by David Nigel. With a weather forecast of 40% chance of rain, our regular Bocce enthusiasts met for their weekly competition and camaraderie at the Doelger Center.

Despite the overcast sky, players were able to enjoy two closely contested games prior to drizzle and light rain commencing. SIRs

Richard Soward, Bill Gipe, Pat Long, Tim Hazen, and David Nigel decided to call it quits.

We hope more SIRs will join our Bocce Ball Teams that meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. except the first Wednesday of each month as we gather at the Basque Cultural Center for our luncheon meetings

### **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).**

The photo at left is SIRs Tad Bogdan, Jack Major, Bob Richter and Stuart Ruth at the conclusion of a successful food distribution on November 26<sup>th</sup>. (Paul Walsh, Photo)

The November event was Tuesday, November 26<sup>h</sup> at the Cesar Chavez location, at Potrero del Sol Park at 8:30 AM, with a break in the rainstorms. This helped support a Thanksgiving meal for the recipients. Jack Major, Bill Gipe, Bob Richter, Stu Ruth and Paul Walsh signed up for this event.



By popular request, the December event is scheduled for: Stonestown @ 8:30 AM on December 20<sup>th</sup>, just in time to help fill some needy people's pantries for the holidays.

Please contact Tad Bogdan [tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com) 650 863 8866 or Bill McGee [wcmcgee@gmail.com](mailto:wcmcgee@gmail.com) 415-806-4608 if you can join us.

If you would like to honor our SIR volunteers and a good cause, please consider a donation to the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank. Go to their website: <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org> .

## **“An Exceptional SIR”, by Dave Nigel**

Peter Klein is December’s featured “Exceptional SIR Member.” He joined SIR Branch 4 in November 2002 upon his retirement. “Native Son” Peter was born in San Francisco, at Mount Zion Hospital. His grandfather was born in Hungary and emigrated to Philadelphia in 1870. While separated from his family for three years, his grandfather saved money and brought them to America from Europe.

The family moved from Philadelphia to San Francisco where Peter’s parents attended Lowell High (as did Peter). The family opened a successful jewelry store in downtown San Francisco. Upon graduation from high school, Peter’s Father attended Cal then Physicians and Surgeons School, (now part of UOP), and became a dentist with offices at the 450 Sutter Medical building. Peter grew up in Pacific Heights and, after Lowell, attended San Jose State. Peter tells the tale of selling hot dogs at 49er games at Kezar, slathering the unsold ones with mustard and selling them at USF games.

He met his wife Denise, who immigrated from England (Denise’s father was also a doctor), on a blind date in San Francisco, resulting in a happy marriage of 52+ years. They have two children both employed in law enforcement. Peter worked in the family’s jewelry business, then for a savings and loan in San Francisco, PG&E, and eventually, for 30 years, for the Golden Gate Bridge District.

Peter joined Branch 4 November 2002 and regularly attends and enjoys our luncheon meetings, especially the company of so many Bay Area members and sitting with his life-long friend SIR Peter Aiello. Peter states that we are lucky that we live in the San Francisco Bay area where we have such a rich history and diverse varied cultural and athletic activity options. Peter is a loyal Branch 4 active member.

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

**Geritol for Holiday Luncheon.** No SIR luncheon is complete without a measure of “Geritol”. Our bottle is Peterson “Zero Manipulation” Mendocino Carignane from Tollini Vineyard. A gutsy, spicy wine from an old Mendocino Vineyard, made with a bare minimum of the additives often used in winemaking. Carignane is the only wine grape to expand plantings during Prohibition. The tough skins helped the grapes survive shipping throughout the country to home winemakers without being crushed through handling.