



TRAIL TIPS

Mission Trail Branch 35, Silicon Valley, California

Branch 35 web page <https://sir35.org>

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 18th, 2026

11:00am-1:30pm

Lunch	11:45am	Los Altos United
Program	12:15pm	Methodist Church Creekside Center



Happy Valentine's!

Women in SIR Vote – A Discussion



Peter Wong

Ken Cornwell

Bob Garten

At our next meeting, instead of an invited speaker.....

Ken Cornwell will facilitate a discussion of an upcoming vote in Branch 35 to allow the possibility of women to join as members. Peter Wong, Stan Barkey and Bob Garten will represent alternative views on the topic.

As you know, women can participate in all of our activities today, but cannot become members nor vote in our branch. The proposal is to open our branch to women as full, voting members. After brief presentations by the panelists on the alternate sides of the argument, members can ask questions of the panelists. See the special section with articles from Ron, Bob and Peter in this newsletter.

Pat



President's Message

Looking Ahead: Speakers, Conversation, and Our Shared Mission

As we move into the coming months, Branch 35 has an exciting lineup of speakers and activities planned. We are honored to welcome Tara VanDerveer, the iconic Stanford women's basketball coach who led the program for 39 years and amassed an extraordinary 1,216 career wins—making her one of the most successful coaches in college basketball history—along with U.S. Congressman Sam Liccardo. We will also feature a program led by our Vice President, Art Bernstein, whose insight and experience consistently add depth and perspective to our branch discussions.

While these upcoming programs are something to look forward to, **February's lunch stands out as one of the most important gatherings our branch will hold this year.** Following our normal lunch and activities, **at 12:45 p.m., Ken Cornwell** will host a forum to discuss the possibility of allowing Branch 35 to become a gender-neutral branch. This forum is designed to give members the opportunity to ask questions and better understand why this topic is being considered. No decisions will be made that day—our focus is on thoughtful, respectful dialogue, so members feel informed and comfortable as we move forward together. We strongly encourage all members to attend and participate.

At the heart of this conversation—and everything we do as a branch—is the mission of SIR: to enrich the lives of our members through fun activities and events while making friends for life. Our speakers, social gatherings, activities, and even our more challenging conversations are all guided by this mission. By staying engaged, listening to one another, and focusing on what unites us, we can continue to strengthen Branch 35 and ensure it remains a vibrant organization for years to come.

As we head into February, we wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day and a joyful Chinese New Year. We also hope many of you enjoyed the excitement surrounding the Super Bowl right here in Santa Clara—a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a community that hosts events of national and global interest.

Please make a special effort to attend the February lunch, stay for the forum, and add your voice to the conversation. Your participation matters, and your engagement helps shape the

future of Branch 35. We look forward to seeing you there and continuing to build friendships that truly last a lifetime.

Darrell was a founding member and past president of the Los Gatos Morning Rotary Club.

Scott Hiller



SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Note that our February Branch Luncheon will be at the **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, and **NOT** at the Mountain View Community Center. See the parking map towards the end of this newsletter.
- This month's edition of Trail Tips features a special section to prepare you for the upcoming discussion and vote about **opening Branch membership to women**.
- A calendar of the coming month's **Branch Activities** is at the back of this newsletter. Print it out and stick it up on your refrigerator!

You can see his obituary on the Mercury News website here:
<https://www.mercurynews.com/obituaries/darrell-monda-los-gatos-ca/>

He will be missed by his friends at SIR. The family are planning a Celebration of Life to be held at a future date.

FEBRUARY 2026 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 316 Net Monthly Change: -1

We had two new members join us and three leave us in January, so the net Branch membership decreased by one. We always welcome new members, so bring a friend or neighbor to the lunch as a guest, it's on us!

Remember, you can search our member database at this link:
[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org/SIRBranch35-MembershipDirectory)

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

We have 23 member anniversaries in February, some who have been with us for over twenty years!

Doug Anderson (16)	Frank Crossman (13)	Del Fillmore (25)
Bob Fisher (10)	Mike Forster (10)	Alan Gaudie (16)
Ben Gikis (16)	Don Gladstone (21)	David Gobuty (13)
Mike Jacobson (13)	Jeff Jenks (12)	Norm Kitching (17)
Les Miles (11)	Cal Morris (20)	Ron Nakamoto (16)
Bill Nugteren (22)	Dave Ogle (17)	Dan Schettler (13)
Paul Schutz (11)	Wes Smith (19)	Tom Taboada (16)
Dick Wilson (22)	Dan Zemanek (16)	

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members who joined us in the past month! Our congratulations and thanks to their sponsors who attracted this new talent to our branch.

Name	City	Former Companies	Sponsor
Karl Kneip	Los Altos Hills	Syntex, Hyperion, Self-Employed	Scott Rotondo
Jeff Knopf	San Jose	Wyndham, Hilton, Sheraton	Les Miles

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this month to the following members:

Jeff Allmon	Peter Barba	Jerry Belden
Art Bernstein	Leland Chan	Won Chang
Frank Crossman	Robert David	Allen Dinh
Mike Forster	Joe Glynn	Bill Kellogg
Mike Kerr	John McGowan	George Mednick
Jean Mordo	George O'Brien	John Ray
Hernan Santos	Arnie Satterlee	Ron Schoengold
Greg Wadden	Larry Yelowitz	

IN MEMORIAM DARRELL MONDA

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Darrell Monda of Los Gatos on New Year's Eve last. Darrell has been a member of SIR Branch 35 since January of 2020. Among many other accomplishments and civic leadership and volunteering positions,

SPECIAL SECTION

WOMEN IN SIR?

INTRODUCTION BY
THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Last month, the Big Sir alerted you to an upcoming membership vote to decide if the branch should or should not open membership to women. This article will provide you with the highlights of the Membership Vote Plan that we are following leading up to a vote and decision.

- **January** – Notify members of the vote plan and schedule. Members are encouraged to educate themselves on the topic. They may benefit from the two articles for and against the change that follow, generated by Advocacy Groups 'For' and 'Against' the change, and written by Peter Wong and Bob Garten.
- **February** – Our February luncheon will host a panel discussion and Q&A session to discuss/debate the reasons for and against a change. At the conclusion of the meeting, the voting period will commence.
- **March** – The open voting period will continue and conclude on March 31st.
- **April** – Vote count will occur on April 2nd with results announced no later than 5 days later.

Member Vote Plan

What are the steps the Branch plans to follow to conduct the vote?

1. **Your Branch is encouraging all members to inform themselves on this topic.**
 - a. To facilitate the process, two Advocacy Groups (AG) and an Election Committee (EC) have been created. There is an AG to advocate for change to allow women to join as members and there is an AG to advocate to keep things as is with a men-only membership.
 - b. An Election Committee will administer the vote process. The EC will coordinate, secure, and tally the vote.
 - c. You will see Trail Tips articles in the January – March editions from both Advocacy Groups and informational articles from the Election Committee.
 - d. Our February luncheon will feature a panel discussion in lieu of a speaker.
 - i. After our normal Branch business agenda items, the time from 12:45–1:30 will host a panel discussion followed by an open Question & Answer period for members to ask questions.
 - ii. The moderator for the panel discussion and open Q&A is Ken Cornwell. Peter Wong and Andy Danver will represent the group for change. Bob Garten and Stan Barkey will represent the group for no change.

- iii. Each group will open with a summary of their position followed by an open microphone to host questions from members.

2. **Voting will be conducted at the conclusion of our February luncheon and continue through March 31.**

- a. Voting methods: Specific instructions are published in a separate article in the February and March editions of our Trail Tips newsletter.
- b. The vote count will occur on April 3rd at a TBD conference room. The vote count will be conducted by the Election Committee members and members are welcome to observe it. Results will be announced by the President, Branch 35 no later than April 8th

3. **What is the approval criteria for the Branch to proceed with a proposal to State SIR to change our Charter and Bylaws?**

The criteria for Branch approval to proceed with a proposal to State SIR to change our charter and bylaws is a simple majority of all 2026 branch members as of April 1 (i.e. not just of those who voted). Or stated another way, of all our 2026 active members, 50% +1 must vote to approve the proposal to change.

4. If you have additional questions, you may submit your question(s) in writing to sirbranch35vote@gmail.com

Member Voting Methods and Instructions

All members will be issued a ballot as part of the President's broadcast email in mid-February. Members may cast their votes using one of the following methods:

- a) In-Person Voting – Members may vote at our February and March Luncheon Meeting by bringing in their ballot and dropping it off at a supervised ballot box. Election Officials will have blank ballots available for use.
- b) Email vote – Members may submit their vote by email to sirbranch35vote@gmail.com. Email votes must include the member's signed ballot as an attachment.
- c) Mail-In Voting – Members may print their ballot, fill it out, sign it and mail it to Ken Cornwell, Attn: Member Vote, 924 Sunset Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070. Ballots must be post marked no later than March 31st. Late or unsigned ballots will not be counted.
- d) Phone call vote – For the benefit of senior members, who do not use a computer: Members may call in their vote by calling Dave Squelatti at 408-334-7988. Dave will verify the member's identity using member's personal data before transcribing your member's name, time of the phone call, his phone number, reciting verbatim, the two choices, recording his vote, re-confirming his vote by asking if he is providing verbal approval for his vote. Dave will transcribe his vote on a ballot, check the box that indicates an absentee ballot, and sign the ballot, certifying the vote. He will attach his confirmation information to the absentee ballot.

- e) Multiple votes: If a member submits multiple votes, his first valid submission will be counted. (All ballots will be date and time stamped.)

You may vote once you receive your ballot. All votes must be submitted by March 31st.

The Election Committee



PROPOSED SIR BY-LAW CHANGE
Q&A: SIR BYLAW CHANGE
TO ADMIT WOMEN MEMBERS
BY BOB GARTEN & STAN BARKEY

1. **Could the State SIR plan to admit women members (“gender neutral”) as a component of a more comprehensive overhaul of the SIR structure at the state level move down to the local branches?** Yes. Multiple State Board Meeting minutes (available at sirinc.org>Members Area>Browse topic list>Meeting Minutes>Archive) show a clear intent to push State initiatives (mixed branches, 501(c)(3) conversion) down to local branches. Example: sirinc.org, State Board Minutes, April 24, 2025 Meeting states:

“The consensus seems to be that moving forward with a lawyer is necessary, particularly for advice on converting branches to mixed branches and 501c3 status down the line.”

Branch 35 members have not been informed of these discussions, raising transparency and process concerns.

2. **Is a simple majority vote valid, or is 2/3 required?** A 2/3 majority is required for bylaw changes according to the State SIR Manual (Bylaw 59, page 10). Major nonprofit bylaw changes typically require a supermajority to ensure broad consensus and prevent division. Branch 35 is violating SIR bylaws by requiring only a simple majority vote.
3. **Am I voting only on adding women, or also on the State agenda?** Formally, the vote is only about adding women to Branch 35. However, it is the first step in advancing the broader State agenda, including radical structural (hiring an Exec. Director, marketing firm and technology firm, converting to a 501(c)3 nonprofit) and financial changes (rising funds to do the hires). Potential donors have stated that the donations must be tax deductible (requires change to a 501(c)3 nonprofit) and women must be admitted. Currently, SIR is a

501(c)4 nonprofit and donations are not tax deductible. If the hires take place and economic conditions decrease donations, will SIR members be assessed for the shortfall?

4. **Does a Yes vote put Branch 35 on record supporting the State agenda?** Yes. A vote to admit women is the first step in a State-level bylaw change that aligns with and advances the rest of the State agenda.
5. **Should State SIR clarify this is only a local initiative?** Yes. While branches are independent nonprofits, Branch 35 uses State bylaws. Therefore, this vote effectively changes State-embedded bylaws, not purely local ones, making State clarification important. A request for clarification has been submitted to the State SIR with no response to date.
6. **Should Branch 35 wait until State changes are finalized?** State proposals—such as converting to a 501(c)(3), fundraising, and hiring paid staff—carry financial and mission risks that Branch members have not yet been able to analyze and evaluate.
7. **Should growth come from mergers rather than admitting women?** Yes. Growth should come from strengthening the best branches, merging small branches and expanding geographically. State SIR has already opened SIR to the rest of California and parts of Nevada. Expanding geographically is a more effective strategy for growth than changing membership rules.
8. **How are members recruited now, and how would women be recruited?** Current Branch 35 recruiting programs for men are working and should continue to be the top priority. There are over 30,000 men, ages 60-79, in our local communities that are potential SIR members. That large pool should be the focus of Branch 35 recruiting. No clear plan exists for recruiting women, and it is unclear whether women would find SIR attractive or shift its focus and culture over time. Opening Branch 35 to women of any age would invite those seeking new clients for their businesses.

Please read January Trail Tips for more information.

Bob Garten (HLM) and Stan Barkey (SHLM)

Committee to Preserve Branch 35

(For inquiries email diempostdiem@aol.com)

PROPOSED SIR BY-LAW CHANGE

THE FUTURE OF BRANCH 35

BY PETER WONG

Following up on my January article on why “Change is Needed and Necessary”; here are 10 thoughts to consider on why SIR Branch 35 should welcome women as members?

1. Promotes Inclusivity and Modernized Dynamics:

When SIR formed in 1958, the US workforce was 68% male (Labor Force Statistics) and women either stayed at home or held administrative roles. The work and social landscape focused on men; hence SIR was established as a social outlet for men. Today, the world is co-ed. A gender-neutral branch simply reflects the true diversity of our local community. Admitting women would align the Branch with modern values of inclusivity and gender equality.

2. Removes Major Barrier for Joining Branch 35:

Currently men and women work, play and socialize as equals. Many Younger men are not interested in joining a “male” only organization because it is different from their life experience.

3. Improves Long-Term Branch Viability:

If we stay a men’s only club, we risk fading into irrelevance. By opening our doors, we strengthen our branch, honor our founding values, and build a legacy that welcomes new voices and new possibilities for the future.

4. Reflects Reality:

The third phase of life (post full-time employment) is now shared by both men and women. Our branch is dedicated to the dignity and enjoyment of this phase and should logically be open to all who are in it. A core mission of SIR is to enhance the lives of its members through engagement and mental stimulation. Including women directly supports this goal.

5. Encourages Deeper Social Connections:

Women also seek meaningful social engagement and opportunities to build new friendships. Their inclusion would create a more diverse and dynamic social branch. A co-ed club could better serve the retired community as a whole, fostering connections not just between men, but also between couples and friends of all genders, combating loneliness and social isolation, which is a major goal of SIR.

6. Enlarges Activities:

Women could bring new interests and skills, leading to the creation of additional activity groups. This could include expanding popular activities like book club, personal finance, and hiking, or introducing new ones like wellness classes, crafting/arts groups, or community service projects, making the club more appealing to a broader audience. Opening membership would allow more people to pursue their hobbies and interests in a shared, supportive environment.

7. Diversifies Perspectives:

A co-ed environment exposes members to a wider range of viewpoints, life experiences, and professional backgrounds. This diversity stimulates conversations and keeps our minds sharp and alert.

8. Fosters a More Welcoming Environment:

While our SIR branch welcomes women at all events, offering full membership would create a genuinely inclusive and less ‘fraternal’ atmosphere — one that feels more welcoming, more comfortable, and more reflective of the community we hope to serve. Expanding membership isn’t just a policy change; it’s a meaningful step toward a stronger, more vibrant branch.

9. Adds Potential New Leadership and Ideas:

Women bring complementary leadership styles, skill sets, and organizational ideas that can enhance what our members already do well and help our branch thrive together. Their formal inclusion would enrich the branch's volunteer leadership by helping the branch run more smoothly and ensuring that the activities planned appeal to the broadest possible membership base.

10. Helps to Secure the Future and Longevity of the Branch:

In an era where many traditional social organizations struggle with membership numbers, opening the doors to women is a strategic move for the long-term health of our Branch.

It is time for our Branch to evolve. Your BEC has proactively brought this to your attention. Adopting a co-ed membership aligns the branch with modern societal needs, increases the available pool of members, and addresses the member age and leadership challenges. Integrating women as full members will naturally diversify interests and opens the door to a richer array of activity groups, engagement opportunities and provide value to existing ones. For SIR Branch 35 to continue providing an engaging and fulfilling experience, moving to a co-ed membership model is not just a progressive step—it is a pragmatic strategy that promises a richer social fabric, enhanced mental engagement, and a more secure future.

Your positive vote in the upcoming March election can make this happen.

Peter Wong

BEC Senior Advisor
Advocate for Change

PROPOSED SIR BY-LAW CHANGE

WHY VOTE? MY PERSPECTIVE

BY RON NAKAMOTO

History: Branch 35 and the entire SIR organization was created to fulfil the mission to “make friends for life”. SIR inc. initially grew to a robust 32,000+ members with 179 branches by 1990 but has since declined to 8,000 with 77 branches today. This decline is attributed to members aging, recruitment declining, and lack of

leaders stepping up to lead their branches. Our Branch 35 hit a peak of 412 members in 2012 and currently stands at 316 members. The Branch Executive Committee discussed this topic over several sessions and decided, by a majority vote to ask our members if they wanted their branch to be more inclusive and open membership to women.

Reason for this vote: While our Branch is 300+ strong it disguises the following facts:

1. We are also aging out. Our median age is close to 80, that means that more than 50% of our members are 80 or older. Older members tend to want to take it easy and step back from volunteering.
2. We, like other branches, are experiencing the effects of this demographic trend and are having difficulty finding members to assume Branch leadership positions. Every year, the search for the next "Little SIR/Vice President" along with Branch Executive Committee open positions, becomes increasingly difficult. All our operational roles i.e. Technology, Attendance, Membership, Activities, Communications, Events, Trail Tips Editor, Webmaster, lack volunteers to back up their function. Can we continue to 'go with the flow' and hope to find someone just in time, to step up when the lead steps away? Or should we try to address this challenge proactively?
3. This Branch has explored additional ways to attract potential new (and younger) members this past year. Branch website improvements with regular postings, new activity videos, social media trials, newspaper ads, and a local festival booth have all been explored with mixed success. This year we hope to initiate what is termed our "Ground Game Plan" which will encourage members to present our Branch literature to organizations that they are affiliated with, i.e. church, city, other social organizations, and former businesses, to encourage that organization to channel their retiring members to us.
 - a. Do you think our message will be better received by the organizations we visit, if we are open to all retirees or just men?
 - b. Do you think younger retirees might be more motivated with a "we are open to all" vs a "we are a men's only" message?
 - c. Would opening membership to women help us address our leadership challenge?

These are the questions you should be asking yourself before you decide which path you think we should take. Vote, it is the only way your opinion will count.

Ron Nakamoto

Honorary Life Member, Big SIR 2023
Chairman, Young Guns Committee

REPORTS FROM OUR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

BOOK SWAP

BOB STEINBERG
(408) 316-1161



We have a new chairman leading this activity, our thanks to Bob Steinberg for stepping up!

My name is Bob Steinberg; I have agreed to lead the Book Swap for Branch 35.

At the January lunch we started with 5 books and due to your interest, many books were brought to the table and exchanged. We ended the day with more than 30 books. You may not know it, but after the lunch, we donate most of the leftovers to the "Friends Of The Library" at the Los Altos Library.

I have selected a few to allow us to start the next meeting. Among those that will be in February's starting stock are:

Elon Musk by Walter Isaacson

The Testament by James John Grisham

+ 3 other titles

Remember, if you see a title on the table that you are interested in, you'd better grab it at the meeting, because it is likely not to be there at the following meeting.

Thanks for bringing your books and bring some more at the February lunch meeting.

Bob Steinberg

BOOK CLUB

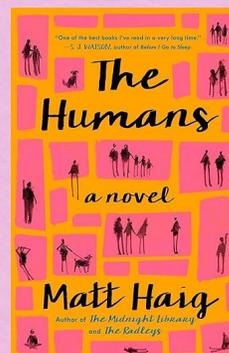
See our [web page](https://sir35.org/?page_id=3262) at
https://sir35.org/?page_id=3262

JERRY BELDEN
650-322-1391



The next Book Club meeting will be on February 11th.

The Book Club is an activity where in most months of the year, all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it.



The book club last met on Wednesday, January 14th. Attending members each presented a brief review of one or more books they recently read. There was a nice variety. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 11th. The book to be discussed will be the first on our new 2026 list, "The Humans" by Matt Haig, and it's an exploration of what it is to love and to be human.

Jerry Belden

BOCCE BALL

See our [web page](#)

RICHARD OEHLBERG
650-823-7720

MICHAEL MAURIER



(Normally) every Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon when weather permits. Guests are welcome.

We play at the Los Altos Community Center Bocce Ball Courts located at 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022.

With no rain between now and Friday, **SIR Bocce Ball is ON this coming Friday!**

Reminder: Our Quarterly Lunch will be held at Ester's on Jan. 30th after we finish with Bocce Ball. Even if you can't play, feel free to join us at Ester's in Los Altos (San Antonio Road near El Camino.)



Great rolls for Red and Green on the fine new surfaces at LACC!

All are invited to join the friendly SIR Branch 35 Bocce Ball players and interact with a great group of people. Bring a guest, as guests are welcome and encouraged! Come and meet old friends and make new ones. We welcome all skill levels from beginners who have never played before to those who have been playing for quite a while. We love to coach new players. Come and join us and have fun.

We begin at 9:45 AM on most Fridays for court maintenance by SIR volunteers. (OK, being retired a number of us view starting times as advisory and not strictly adhered to.) Play begins right after the maintenance is completed. We normally quit around Noon.

Richard Oehlberg & Michael Maurier

PERSONAL FINANCE

BILL MACK
408-836-6440



The next meeting is Wed. Feb. 4th at 1PM at the Moffett Museum.

The Personal Finance Group met Jan. 7th at the Moffett Field Museum. Our own John Tucker presented his "Insights and Observations of 50 years in the Stock Market". The session was well attended.



John Tucker waxes forth at the Moffett Museum Library

John discussed balanced portfolios including index funds, bonds, and individual stocks. He showed detailed example charts for an index fund and a couple of stocks, and described how he uses stock price, moving average, earnings, dividends, and relative strength metrics to assess when to buy, hold, and sell. His presentation prompted a lively Q&A and discussion.



You too could understand this chart, if you attended our monthly meetings at Moffett Museum!

The next PFG meeting will feature Peter Meigs presenting introductory information on AI, including how to access and

his observations on use.

Time allowing we will cover some short topics like Investor Levels, Gmail privacy, and a re-visit of Capital Gain rates.

If you wish to be added to our email distribution list, please contact Bill Mack.

Bill Mack

BOWLING

See our [web page](#)

PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

BOB TAGGART
650-321-2654

DOUG ANDERSON
415-407-4000



Every Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m. (for a couple hours), at Homestead Bowl, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

The Winter Season started on December 14th and we just completed Week 6. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.



A good group, but room for more!

Standings: The Winter Season Started on December 14th	
1st Place	Ruth Osookie, Brian Lin, Ron Nakamoto, Jerry Osookie
2nd Place	Brad Ashmore, Peter Wong, Jay Jonekait, Gary Coluccio
3rd Place	Jim Narva, Harold Kaye, Bob Taggart, Joe Enos
4th Place	Les Fishcer, Arnie Satterlee, Tim Petro
5th Place	Gerdon Frierson, Scott Hiller, Stan Barkey
6th Place	Karen Soules, Aram Darmanian, B Soules, Marc Haberman
7th Place	Doug Anderson, Fred Emmenegger, Larry Low, Larry Malbaum
8th Place	Joe Hauser, Ari Stassart, Bob Froelich, Perry Brown
9th Place	Bob Feigelson, Alan Gaudie, Paul Cook, Bob Garten
10th Place	Rick McCulloch, Chris Weberg, Ken Allen

Week 6 Top Scores			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1	527 Tim Petro	1	181 Joe Enos
2	480 Perry Brown	2	177 Marc Haberman
3	456 Scott Hiller	3	165 Ron Nakamoto
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1	625 Bob Froelich	1	217 Alan Gaudie
2	594 B Soules	2	213 Harold Kaye
3	590 Peter Wong	3	211 Fred Emmenegger

Bob Garten stepped in to provide the report this month

BIKING

GORDON TONG
408-242-0557

HANK BOTTINO
650-207-4320



See our [web page](#)

The next bike ride will be on Thursday, Feb 12th, 2026 (2nd Thursday of the month), meeting at 11am.

Wives and guests welcomed; Helmets required.

Coyote Creek Trail (South San Jose)

Ride: We will ride the scenic **Coyote Creek Trail** starting from the Wyndham Garden Hotel (recently renamed Hacienda Hotel) at 399 Silicon Valley Rd, San Jose. The ride will be about 6 miles to the Coyote Creek Golf Course. We will ride past the golf course for another 4 miles to the Anderson Visitor Center at the end of the trail, then double back to the golf course club house for lunch. After lunch we will ride back to the hotel parking lot for a total of 16 miles. For those who want a shorter ride, they can stop at the golf course.

Directions: [The Wyndham Garden Hotel \(hotel name may have recently changed to the Hacienda Hotel\)](#) is located south of San Jose, one block east of highway 101 and just north of the highway 101/85 interchange. The directions are the same whether coming on highway 101 or 85: Take the Bernal Rd. exit. Turn left on Bernal Rd., which becomes Silicon Valley Blvd after crossing under 101. Turn left on Rue Ferrari Rd., the service road next to the hotel, and park on the street. The hotel no longer permits riders to park in the hotel parking lot so look for street parking on Rue Ferrari Rd.



Coyote Creek Trail

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong by email or at 408-242-0557.

Gordy Tong

BRIDGE

MARK LEVI
650-305-9132



See our [web page](#)

The Bridge group meets regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Los Altos Senior Center for fun bridge games and conversation. Contact Mark Levi at mlevi@comcast.net if interested to get on our mailing list.



Mark Levi

SPORTS CAR GROUP

JOHN TUCKER
(408) 655-5435



Our next SIR Sports Car FunRun will take place on the second Wednesday of February, **February 11, 2026**. 🚗 🏁

Our January SIR Sports Car FunRun was held on the second Wednesday of the month, January 14, 2026. Moving our FunRuns to the second Wednesday allows more members to join us and also makes it possible for those interested to attend the SIR Personal Finance meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month.



Break lights? Must be the porsche holding everyone up....

We had ten participants driving eight cars on a sunny winter day. The group rendezvoused at Quarry Park in Saratoga, then enjoyed a scenic drive along Highway 9 and over the hill to Highway 236, winding through Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The run concluded at Scopazzi's Restaurant in Boulder Creek, where we wrapped up the day with good food and good friends.



Sirs and friends enjoying the historic Scopazzi's Restaurant

WINE FINDERS

ALAN GAUDIE
650-964-6510
alanguddie@yahoo.com



See our [web page](#)

RUSS AYRES
650-776-6391
rres3@hotmail.com

This activity is for couples who want to have fun and meet new people. We gather at the home of a host couple to blind taste, grade wines and share appetizers.



We start up again after the Holiday in Jan/Feb. Contact me if you'd like to join. It's a fun evening!

Alan Gaudie

Don't own a sports car but would like to ride along? Let me know, we often have drivers who have an empty second seat. Come join the fun!

John Tucker

HIKING

See our [web page](#)

JOHN TUCKER
408-655-5435



SIR Hike — Monte Bello Black Mountain Loop, Friday, January 5, 2025

We kicked off our first SIR hike of the new year with 22 hikers, including four friends from San Mateo Branch 1. We hiked the Monte Bello Black Mountain Loop off Page Mill Road. While the valley sat under a blanket of fog, we enjoyed bright blue skies and lush green hillsides above—classic winter magic. Along the way, we took in beautiful vistas of fog-shrouded valleys, topped out at 2,812 feet, and logged 6 miles with about 1,050 feet of elevation gain.

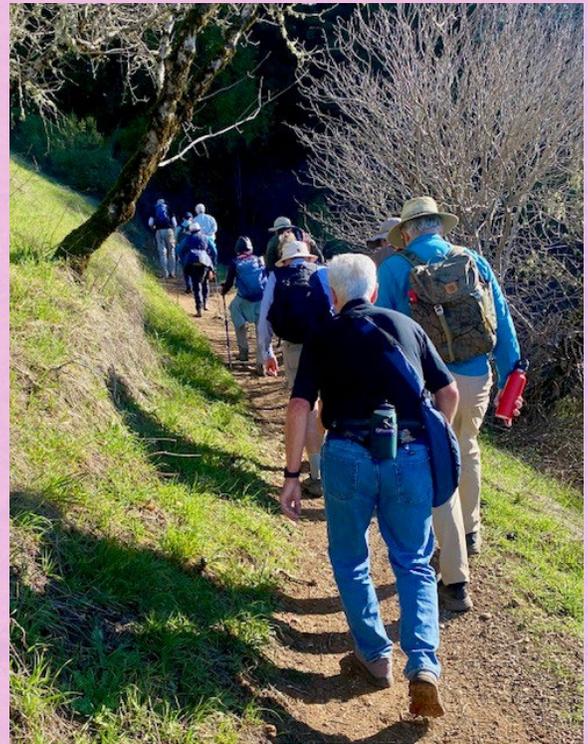


22 Hikers are ready to hit the trail

The highlight on the descent? A stunning sight: six bucks and (we think) one doe racing across the grassy slopes. A perfect moment to cap a perfect day.



Someone was quick with their camera!



Good conversations and a bit of exercise, on a beautiful day



Lush green hillsides and blue skies above the fog-bound valley

We wrapped things up at Rossotti's Alpine Inn for refreshments. Sound like fun? Come join us on our next hike—Friday, 2/27/26!

John Tucker

**FEBRUARY'S
SPECIAL DAYS**

PAT O'CONNOR
408-480-0409



- 1st 'Shakespeare' play in Berkeley Rep.
- 1st 'Edge of Silence' exhibition at Triton Museum, S. C.
- 1st 'Running After Shadows' play in City Lights Theater, S. J.
- 2nd Groundhog Day
- 4th Rosa Parks Day
- 8th Super Bowl
- 8th Cunning Folk: Witchcraft, Magic and Occult, Stanford
- 8th Bay Area Quiz Club, P. A.
- 8th Hershey Felder: The Piano and Me, MV CPA
- 9th Talk by Al Alcorn, history of Pong and Atari, MV CHM
- 14th Valentines Day
- 16th Presidents' Day
- 17th Lunar New Year
- 17th Mardi Gras
- 21st Stage Musical, My Fair Lady, Pear Theater, MV
- 28th Birding Walk at Pond SF2, Menlo Park

Golf	<p>PGA Tour 5th-8th WM Phoenix Open, Scottsdale 12th-15th AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am 19th-22th Genesis Invitational, Pacific Palisades 26th-28th Cognizant Classic, Palm Beach</p>
Football	<p>S.F. 49ers ...are resting</p>

Basketball	<p>Golden State Warriors 3rd Philadelphia 76ers @ Warriors, 7pm 5th Warriors@ Phoenix Suns, 7pm 7th Warriors @ L.A. Lakers, 5:30pm 9th Memphis Grizzlies @ Warriors, 7pm 11th San Antonio Spurs @ Warriors, 7pm 19th Boston Celtics @ Warriors, 7pm 22nd Denver Nuggets @ Warriors, 12:30pm 24th Warriors @ New Orleans Pelicans, 5pm 25th Warriors @ Memphis Grizzlies, 4:30pm 28th L.A. Lakers @ Warriors, 5:30pm</p> <p>Valkyries ...are resting</p>
Baseball	<p>S.F. Giants 21st Giants @ Seattle Mariners, 12:10pm 22nd Chicage Cubs @ Giants, 12:05pm 23rd (Nowhere) Athletics @ Giants, 12:05pm 24th Giants @ L.A. Angels 25th Giants @ Milwaukee Brewers, 12:10pm 26th Colorado Rockies @ Giants, 12:05pm 27th L.A. Angels @ Giants , 12:05pm 28th Giants @ (Nowhere) Athletics 12:05pm</p>
Hockey	<p>S.J. Sharks 2nd Sharks @ Blackhawks, 5:30pm 4th Sharks @ Colorado Avalanche, 6pm < Olympic Break > 26th Flames @ Sharks, 7pm 28th Oilers @ Sharks, 1pm</p>
Soccer	<p>Quakes 7th Quakes @ Charlotte FC, 12pm 11th Quakes @ Portland Timbers, 3pm 14th New York City FC @ Quakes, 1pm 21st Quakes @ Sporting Kansas City, 7:30pm 28th Quakes @ Atlanta United, 4:30pm</p> <p>Bay FC ...are resting</p>

Pat O'Connor



LES MILES 408-528-5473



BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651

See our [web page](#)

Fixtures for February – sign up now!

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Friday Feb 13				
Wente Vineyards (WNT) 7 day lock-in	Mon Mar 2	10:00		\$110
Double Points McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com /** NEED ATC **				
Cinnabar Hills (CBH)	Thu Mar 5	10:20		\$95
Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com / Kalsi				
Spring Valley (SPV)	Mon Mar 9	10:00		\$51
Scardino 650-743-6819 stanscardino@yahoo.com / Wilson				
San Jose Muni (SJM)	Thu Mar 12	9:30		\$50
** NEED TC ** /** NEED ATC **				
Los Lagos (LLS)	Mon Mar 16	9:27		\$37
Garten 408-253-5860 xonon1@comcast.net / Kalsi				
Bayonet (BYN)	Thu Mar 19	10:00		\$95
O'Meara 408-506-4714 Omearatimo@gmail.com / Hall				
Poplar (PCR)	Mon Mar 23	10:00		\$49
Cioni 650-393-5711 jacioni@yahoo.com /** NEED ATC **				
Dublin Ranch (DRN)	Thu Mar 26	9:30		\$48
Garten 408-253-5860 xonon1@comcast.net /** NEED ATC **				
Boulder Ridge (BRG)	Mon Mar 30	10:00		\$95
(with Monterey bay Seniors) Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandelaine@comcast.net / Kalsi				

Dave Skarlanic is the 2025 Match Play Champion

Good things come to those who wait, and **Dave Skarlanic** and **Jay Jonekait** waited until Jan. 8 to play the final match of the 2025 Championship. Dave prevailed by a 5 & 4 score at Coyote Creek Valley Course.

Dave's road to the championship started with early wins over **Stan Scardino** (4 & 3) and **Bob Garten** (6 & 5), followed by nailbiters against **Ben Gikis** (1 up) and then **Bill Hall** in the semi-final (also 1 up). Well done, Dave!

Cioni & Low are 2025 Team Match Play Champions

Speaking of waiting, **Joe Cioni** and **Larry Low** claimed the Team Match Play prize on Jan. 29 by defeating **Bob Garten** and **Les Miles** 2 & 1 at Callippe Preserve.

Enos Has the Round of the Month

Joe Enos recorded the best round relative to his index this month. On January 16 he was 4.9 strokes "under" at Spring Valley. Keep up the great golf, Joe!

"Reply to All" Etiquette – Don't Do It!

When **John Gerich** emails the monthly tournament sign-up sheets, please don't "REPLY TO ALL." Just reply to John.

Even when he asks for volunteers for TC/ATC, it's better to reply just to John, not to ALL ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN members of our Branch's golf distribution list.

Tiger Woods Should Join Branch 35

Our recruiting goals focus on younger "Boomer II" men, so somebody should invite Tiger Woods to one of our luncheons. He turned 50 on December 30, 2025.

Tiger still needs two years of credits to complete his BS in Economics at Stanford. I'm sure many of our members would volunteer to be his study buddy in exchange for a few golf lessons!

Owen Wilson Stars in "Stick"

Jim Quillinan offers this review of "Stick," a TV series with a golfing theme that debuted a few months ago:

This is a golfing anthology that will make you laugh and make you wonder why you are wasting your time watching such malarky... but you will probably wind up enjoying it. Owen Wilson plays Pryce, a washed-up pro golfer, fired from his job, who stumbles upon a troubled teen prodigy who can work magic with a golf club. Pryce sees his way out of golf purgatory by coaching the teen to success on the golf course.

The series falls into every golf trap and cliché but then rights itself and keeps you intrigued to watch the next episode. Ten episodes are streaming on Apple TV+.

Jim Quillinan

Deep Cliff Eclectic Shortened to 2 Rounds By Rain

Scott Hiller, **Dave Squellati** and **Wendell Stephens** won their flights in the Deep Cliff Eclectic. Full results are shown below. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that **Herb Petersen** won \$11 by placing third in Palmer Flight 2 despite playing in only one of the two rounds.

2025 Individual Match Play Tournament Results				
Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Final	Coyote Cr. Valley	Dave Skarlanic def. Jay Jonekait	5 & 4	\$10

2025 Team Match Play Tournament Results				
Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Final	Callippe Preserve	J. Cioni & L. Low def. B. Garten & L.	2 & 1	10GC@

January's Golf Results:

Deep Cliff Eclectic (Final Results)				Par 60		Dec. 2025		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Scott Hiller	52	\$22	D. Squellati	57	\$22	W. Stephens	56	\$24
Bob Garten	57	\$16	Tom Taboada	59	\$16	G. Cooley	56	\$18
Joe Cioni	57	\$11	H. Petersen	61	\$11	Man Tran	59	\$12
Paul Lesti	59	\$6	Ken Jones	62	\$6	Joe Enos	59	\$8

Coyote Creek Valley				Par 72		Jan. 8, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Bob Garten	73	\$23	Mark Taylor	72	\$23	W. Stephens	78	\$18
Chris Weberg	75	\$17	Paul Schutz	73	\$17	Dave Dardis	78	\$12
Walt Joyce	76	\$12	Tom Taboada	75	\$12	Joe Enos	79	\$7
Rick Wheat	77	\$7	Jeff Kelley	80	\$7			
Shot his age: Bob Garten (age 83) shot 81 (no cash prize, Red tees rating < 66)								
Low Gross (forward tees): Bob Garten 81								
Low Gross (back tees): Rick Wheat 85								

Los Lagos Eclectic Round 1				Par 68		Jan. 12, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Les Miles	69	\$20	D. Squellati	67	\$20	Joe Glynn	66	\$18
Larry Low	71	\$15	John Gerich	74	\$15	W. Stephens	70	\$12
Scott Hiller	73	\$10	Tom Taboada	78	\$10	Ramesh Patel	74	\$7
Chris Weberg	76	\$5	Stan Scardino	81	\$5			
Inside Putter Length: Nazeem Noordeen (\$15)								
Low Gross: Scott Hiller 82								

Spring Valley			Par 70			Jan. 15, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Roger Smith	68	\$18	Mark Taylor	72	\$18	Joe Enos	70	\$18
Chris Weberg	69	\$14	Jay Jonekait	74	\$14	Dave Dardis	73	\$14
Dale Leonard	72	\$10	Jeff Kelley	76	\$10	G. O'Brien	75	\$10
Larry Low	74	\$5	Herb Petersen	77	\$5	Balbir Kalsi	77	\$5
Low Gross (forward tees): Roger Smith 73								
Low Gross (back tees): Dale Leonard 82								

Los Lagos Eclectic Round 2			Par 68			Jan. 22, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Les Miles	68	\$22	Paul Schutz	67	\$22	Joe Glynn	65	\$22
Larry Low	72	\$16	D. Squellati	70	\$16	Ramesh Patel	65	\$16
J. Rittweger	72	\$11	Bill Hall	72	\$11	Peter Wong	70	\$12
Scott Chew	74	\$6	Larry Baugher	74	\$6	Gerald Cooley	73	\$7
Inside Putter Length: Venicio Navarro on #2 (\$15)								
Low Gross: Les Miles 82								

Los Lagos Eclectic Round 3			Par 66			Jan. 26, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Bob Garten	71	\$21	Tom Taboada	67	\$21	G. O'Brien	66	\$21
R. Nakamoto	73	\$16	D. Squellati	73	\$16	W. Stephens	73	\$16
B. Soules	76	\$10	John Gerich	73	\$10	John Ray	73	\$10
Larry Low	76	\$5	Ken Jones	74	\$5	Ramesh Patel	73	\$5
Shot his age: Bob Garten (age 83) shot 83. (No cash prize, course rating < 66)								
Low Gross: Bob Garten 83								

Callippe Preserve			Par 72			Jan. 29, 2026		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Michael Kern	77	24GC	Ken Jones	70	24GC	V. Navarro	70	17GC
Dan Crow	77	19GC	R. Nakamoto	75	19GC	Ben Gikis	73	10GC
J. Rittweger	78	15GC	R. Estrella	76	15GC	R. Patel	79	8GC
Walt Joyce	80	\$8	L. Baugher	76	\$8	Tim O'Meara	79	\$4
Low Gross (forward tees): Ben Gikis 99								
Low Gross (back tees): Dan Crow 85								

Los Lagos Eclectic Has 4 Flights, 4 Winners

Scott Hiller and Dave Squellati, winners of the Deep Cliff Eclectic, repeated their triumphs at Los Lagos by winning the Palmer #1 and Nicklaus #1 flights. Paul Schutz was the victor in Palmer #2 and new member Joe Glynn was the winner of Nicklaus #2. Scott Chew placed second in Palmer #2 despite playing only two of the three rounds

Los Lagos Eclectic Final Results			Par 66		January 2026	
Palmer Flight 1	Net	Prize	Palmer Flight 2	Net	Prize	
Scott Hiller	63	\$20	Paul Schutz	66	\$20	
Les Miles	64	\$15	Scott Chew	68	\$15	
Larry Low	65	\$10	Stan Scardino	70	\$10	
Richard McGrath	67	\$5	Marc Haberman	72	\$5	
Nicklaus Flight 1	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight 2	Net	Prize	
Dave Squellati	60	\$20	Joe Glynn	60	\$20	
Tom Taboada	61	\$15	Wendell Stephens	63	\$15	
Larry Baugher	67	\$10	Ramesh Patel	65	\$10	
John Gerich	68	\$5	George O'Brien	67	\$5	

Bruce Karney

STATE SIR UPDATES





The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop



January 2026

2026 Board of Directors

Fred Serena BR59
President

Nick Feimer BR1
Vice President

Derek Southern BR8
Secretary

Carl Mason BR88
Treasurer

Ramesh Thadani BR98

The latest news and announcements
President Fred Serena

As the incoming 2026 President for SIR, I want to welcome everyone to the New Year. I would like to thank those new Branch Leaders who have stepped up for this year.

In 2026, we will continue having monthly BAC meetings. Those BAC branch representatives have provided input to the Board of Directors. They will continue to assist me and the Board.

Our State SIR Organization publishes a quarterly bulletin highlighting SIR events, branch activities and state-wide activities. It's called SIR Happenings, and you can read the latest issue here: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>

SIR State run many golf activities, on top of what we do at our own Branch level. Check out State Golf opportunities here: <https://sirgolf.org/>.

There is also some marketing material you can use to help when encouraging a friend to come check us out. You can see it at <https://sirinc.org/sir-branded-marketing-materials/>



MOVIES

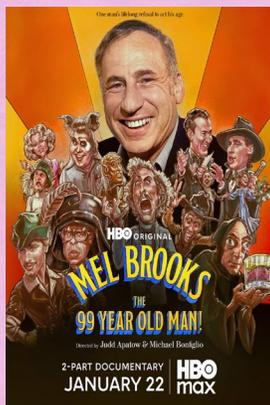
MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN
408-838-4379See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group's next Zoom meeting will be on 12/16 at 3 pm. If you are interested in joining, contact Jim Quillinan.



H Is for Hawk. The film tells the engaging story of Helen (Claire Foy), who is lost after the sudden death of her father (Brendan Gleeson), who was a joyful, full of life photographer. She spends her time reminiscing about their time together birding and exploring nature. She discovers the ancient art of falconry and buys a goshawk and begins to train it. She names the bird Mabel and loses herself in the training and care of the majestic bird. Time with Mabel relieves her grief. She teaches Mabel to hunt and to fly free. They develop quite a bond. Helen begins to heal as Mabel has much to teach her about life and strength. Rated PG-13 for some strong language, and smoking. The birds are magnificent. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick.



Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man! Fans of Mel will love this four-hour anthology of his remarkable career. It is in two parts, streaming on HBO MAX. Nonfans will become fans when they hurt from all of the belly laughs. Starting in the late 1940s until now, Mel's career is catalogued with clips from his many shows, interviews with contemporaries and family. Mel himself can't shut-up about himself, so there are many interviews with the man himself. Behind the scenes commentary is some of the most interesting. This a must see that cannot be missed. Not rated but would be R for language and sexual content. It is a Peggy's Pick..



The Housemaid. This is a better-than-expected psycho drama. The movie seems to be a miss, then all of sudden it takes a turn, engages and makes for an unforeseen good story. Amanda Seyfried costars as Nina, the trophy wife of Andy, (Brandon Sklenar) a wealthy business owner. She hires Millie (Costar Sydney Sweeney) as a live in housemaid to tend to the family's mansion and care for their young daughter. All seems well until Nina goes manic and becomes a problem. It seems

inevitable that Andy can't keep his hands off of Millie. There are many secrets that are revealed slowly and keep adding to the tension. Rated R for strong/bloody violent content, sexual assault, sexual content, nudity and language. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick..



The Testament of Ann Lee. The film is a visual masterpiece as the locations, dress, mannerisms and ethos of the late 18th century come alive as the life of Ann Lee is depicted. Ann Lee was the Christian leader who established the Shaker Movement first in England and then came to America to escape persecution and for a time, thrive. She proclaims herself the female Christ. Her followers confirmed her position. She works hard to create a utopian society. Fellow Christians thought her a heretic. Shakers worshiped through song and dance and were strictly celibate. The film uses actual Shaker farms and buildings as the believers shake and writhe to achieve connection with God. Amanda Seyfried as Ann gives an Oscar worthy performance. The film has musical components that add to the mystical world of the Shakers. The film is interesting but doesn't catch fire. Rated R for sexual content, graphic nudity, violence and bloody images. Peggy says it's way too long.



The Merchants of Joy. This documentary takes a fascinating look at the Christmas Tree Vendors of New York City. Several families have their designated spots in NYC to sell trees. They guard their locations and their tree sources jealously. Their selling season is a short 60 days and must be well utilized to maximize profits. The families compete yet are friendly with one another. The business of Christmas trees is analyzed from hand potted seedlings to full grown trees, harvesting and transporting to NYC for sale. These folks have a passion for their trees and their business. Interesting documentary about interesting folks pursuing their interesting passion. Not rated but has coarse language. Available on Amazon Prime Video. It is a Peggy's Pick..

Jim Quillinan

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO



There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe periods that we lived through. This monthly article hopes to spur those memorable moments in your life when you first saw the movie or heard the song from your youth. What were you doing back then? Ron

Movie: Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" 1968, Part I – The Making of the Movie.

(Editor's Note: After, three years of authoring these monthly articles I think I'm finally ready to review this movie.)



This is the original advertisement for the World Premiere of the movie at the Uptown Theater in Washington D.C. not far from the National Air & Space Museum.

It was Stanley Kubrick who brought this science fiction story to the big screen. He had by this time, established a reputation of directing successful box office movies with epic stories like, "Spartacus" (1960), risky (risqué) stories like "Lolita" (1962), and political satirical stories like "Dr. Strangelove or "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (1964).



Stanley Kubrick

As a result of his repeated successes with different genres, Hollywood Studios gave him carte blanche to select his next project and he took full advantage of that by selecting something he wanted to do for some time, a science fiction story, told well, on the big screen. He focused on an intriguing short story published by Arthur C. Clarke in 1951, "The Sentinel" where man travels to the moon only to discover a pyramid shaped artifact placed by a higher intelligence. Through an associate, he contacted Clarke in Ceylon (a.k.a. Sri Lanka) via telegram. Clarke enthusiastically responded with interest in working with that "Enfant Terrible". *(Editor's note 1: Kubrick, was known to be a*

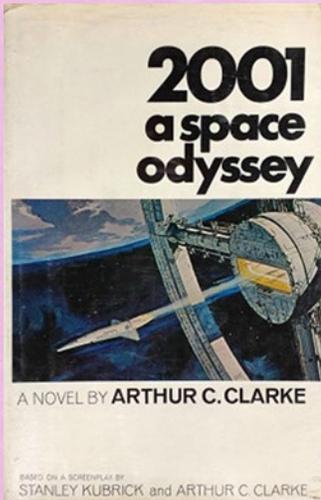
perfectionist and a driven personality. In "The Shining" he drove Shelly Duval to a 'nervous breakdown' with repeated (148) takes to capture her authentic fear and hysteria he sought. *Editor's note 2: Kubrick thought Clarke was "a recluse, a nut who lives in a tree.")* The following month, Clarke travelled to New York, took up temporary residence at the Chelsea Hotel where the two collaborated on the story for Kubrick's script and Clarke's new novel.



Arthur C. Clarke with Stanley Kubrick

Arthur C. Clarke was always fascinated by space and space travel. He was one of the first to predict the concept of geostationary satellites to service worldwide communications, the advent of the personal computer, and the ascendance of Artificial Intelligence. His 1951 book, "The Exploration of Space" was used by Wernher von Braun to convince John F. Kennedy that it was possible to travel to the moon. Clarke's stories were scientifically accurate, and his technology predictions were considered visionary.

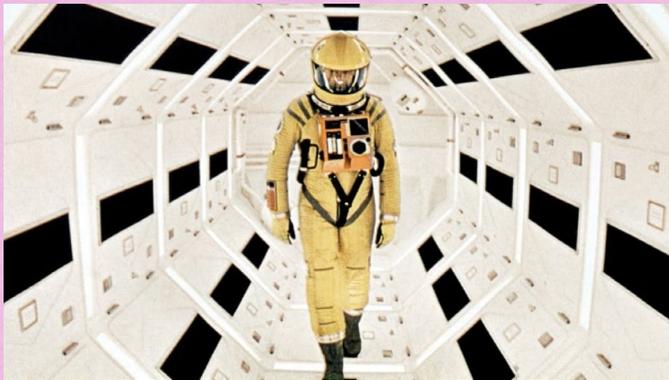
The two got together regularly from April 1964 to May 1968, first brainstorming ideas and later collaborating on both the screenplay and novel simultaneously. Clarke's ideas included the overall theme of humanity's evolution and our place in the cosmos, while Kubrick focused on scientific realism and how he could translate the ideas into a visual and auditory story. He intentionally made the movie more cryptic and ambiguous removing much of the dialogue and explanatory narration that Clarke wrote. Kubrick wanted the images and music to speak for itself. He did the final edits in post-production without telling Clarke. The story goes that Clarke attended a dinner in his honor just before the film's debut and "... spoke warmly of their collaboration, only to be caught off guard by the final cut. Some accounts said he was close to tears and left at intermission."



Clarke's novel was published a few months after the movie premiere

Clarke was a scientific educator who favored clarity and explanation which led to a script, heavy with "voice-over" educational explanations. Kubrick was a visual storyteller who believed in using the power of images and the viewers imagination to elicit a "visceral reaction" rather than try to promote "intellectual comprehension". In the end, the

ambiguity of the movie caused the audiences to want more, creating an upsurge in sales of the novel as viewers sought comprehension and closure. The novel became his #1 best seller.



In a September 1968, Playboy magazine interview, Kubrick explained himself, "How much would we appreciate 'La Gioconda' (Mona Lisa) today if Leonardo had written at the bottom of the canvas: "This lady is smiling slightly because she has rotten teeth" – or "because she's hiding a secret from her lover?" It would shut off the viewer's appreciation and shackle him to a reality other than his own. I don't want that to happen to 2001."



The movie premiered on April 2, 1968, at the Uptown Theater in Washington D.C. because it was one of the leading movie theaters in the country with a huge Cinerama screen, a 70mm projection system, and a high end "Todd-AO" style audio system. Gary Lockwood, the astronaut in the film attended the premiere and said, "It was a disaster. No one liked it." Rock Hudson saw it and was quoted to have said, "Will someone tell me what the hell

this (movie) is about?" Audiences across the country walked out of theaters in silence until someone would ask, "What do you think it meant?" The viewing public was puzzled and confused. The film made a paltry \$200,000 in its first week. The movie critics were confused. Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times said that those with patience to sit through the entire movie witnessed something profound and significant. Renata Adler, NY Times, wrote that "This is something between hypnotic and immensely boring." Ouch. There was universal admiration for the groundbreaking visuals but a great deal of befuddlement to explain the film's themes or even the basic elements of its story.



Who loved it? The appreciative audiences were the young hippies who grooved out on the psychedelic visuals of space and time travel. It is reported that hippies zonked on weed and/or LSD would lay on the floor immersed in sound, color, and the all-knowing voice of HAL.

The movie became a hit as both the movie and the novel dominated gossip around the "water cooler". The movie grossed \$57 million (\$466 million inflation adjusted). As the movie made money the Studios turned to love Kubrick again. The film received four Academy Award nominations and won one for Best Visual Effects. Today, the film is viewed as the best science fiction movie ever made.

Here are some interesting facts about the movie.

- When Kubrick first told the studios of his intention to do a science fiction movie, Lew Wasserman, head of Universal Studios told him "Kid, you don't spend over a million dollars on science fiction movies. You just don't do that." Knowing how Studio's like to interfere with every aspect of movie making, Kubrick home based his project in England. In the end Kubrick spent \$10.5 million to make his movie.
- HAL was not in "The Sentinel" novel but was created during one of the collaboration sessions between Clarke and Kubrick. Kubrick wanted an antagonist for the movie but disliked bug-eyed aliens.



HAL is watching you, David...

HAL represented the next step in human evolution from apes to humans, to a society guided by A.I. They brought in I.J. Good an AI pioneer to help develop the character. HAL's sinister eye was Kubrick's Nikon Nikkor 8mm f/8 fisheye camera lens. At one point, Kubrick had to take it out of its stand so he could use it to take some photos. Martin Balsam, an American actor you may remember was the original voice of HAL, but Kubrick later felt his voice was too "human and colloquially American" and cut him out, deciding to go with Douglas Rain, a Canadian actor who he had previously heard in a documentary. HAL is an acronym for Heuristically programmed Algorithmic computer. Some say Clarke created the acronym by using the preceding letters from the premiere

computer company, IBM. Clarke denied it and said it was coincidental.

Kubrick did not want a sequel. As he was a driven personality, he feared future initiatives would exploit and recycle his film and sets in other Studio productions, so he ordered the sets, props, miniatures, blueprints, and prints destroyed.

Unlike Kubrick, Clarke exploited his success, following up with three sequel novels: 2010: Odyssey Two (1982), 2061: Odyssey Three (1987), and 3001: The Final Odyssey (1997). '2010' was the only novel that made it to a movie, unfortunately, it was only modestly successful ranked at #17, below "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Revenge of the Nerds". This is why few attempt to follow in the footsteps of a classic. Clarke was the proponent for the sequel because he wanted to explain the first movie as he had originally intended with "clearer answers and explanations", not the ambiguity of the original.

In Part II of next month's article, I will focus on explaining what the movie scenes and music were meant to convey.

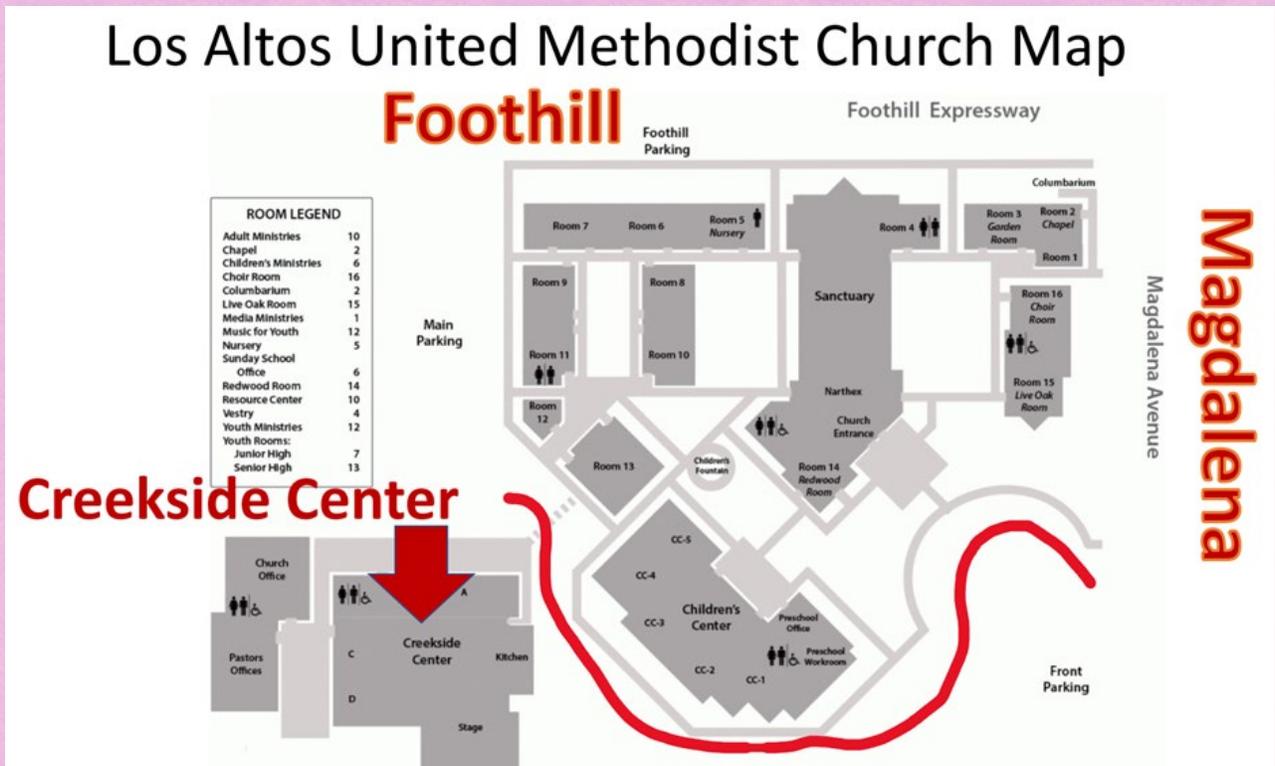
As Paul Harvey is quoted as saying, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."

Ron Nakamoto

Parking Map for the

Los Altos United Methodist Church

Creekside Center



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Auditing	Gerry Feeney (408) 515-8604	Beverage Service	Ben Gikis (408) 802-0794
Historian/Photos	Frank Crossman (650) 493-9182	HLM	Bob Garten (408) 253-5860
Luncheon Host	Dave Squellati (408) 334-7988	Medical Emergency Resp.	Dave Ogle (650) 704-2130
Membership Database	Richard Blackborow (408) 314-2378	New Member Orientation	Paul Schutz (408) 313-6852
Trail Tips Editor	Pat O'Connor (408) 480-0409	Wellness & Comfort	Pat O'Connor (408) 480-0409
Website Maintenance	John Ray (408) 386-3573		

Activity Chairmen

Bicycling	Gordy Tong (408) 242-0557	Personal Finance	Bill Mack (408) 836-6440
Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	Richard Oehlberg (650) 823-7720	Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	Michael Maurier (650) 384-5754
Book Club	Jerry Belden (650) 207-6280	Book Swap	Bob Steinberg (408) 316-1161
Bowling	Doug Andersen (415) 407-4000	Bridge	Mark Levi (650) 305-9132
Chess	Ben Kuckens (650) 400-0353	Golf	Les Miles (408) 528-5473
Hiking	John Tucker (408) 655-5435	Movies	Jim Quillinan (408) 838-4379
Trail Birds	David Skurnick (650) 796-5314	Wine Finders	Alan Gaudie (650) 575-4332
Dining In (interim)	Andy Danver (650) 906-3747	Sports Cars Group	John Tucker (408) 655-5435

Wellness and Comfort Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Pat O'Connor**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements among the BEC and members via email.

SIR Branch 35 Activities - February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Golf 9:30am Sunnyvale \$43	3 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	4 Pers. Finance 1:00pm Moffett Field Museum Library	5 Golf 9:30am Metropolitan \$54	6 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	7
8	9 Golf 10:00am Spring Valley \$51	10 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	11 Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center Sports Car Group Destination TBD 10:30am Book Club 1:30pm Los Altos United Methodist Church	12 Golf 9:30am Las Positas \$65 Biking 11:00am Foster City Bay Trail	13 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	14
15	16	17 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:30pm Zoom Meeting	18 Branch 35 Lunch Mtg 11:00am - 1:30pm Los Altos United Methodist Church	19 Golf 9:30am Shoreline \$46	20 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	21
22	23 Golf 9:30am Crazy Horse Ranch \$75	24 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	25 Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center	26 Golf 9:30am Moffett Field \$60	27 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am Location TBD	28