



# SIR

(formerly Sons  
In Retirement)

“There are no strangers here, only friends that haven’t met.” W. B. Yeats



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**



happy  
**Columbus Day**

**Seizing the Opportunity**

After our September Speaker cancelled her engagement with us, Nick Feimer, Little Sir, and I decided we would hold a Town Hall meeting to discuss pending changes by the State. We chose five of the initiatives we thought that would have the most impact on our Branch. Some are minor, others major. Nick created a great PowerPoint presentation listing the items. We each took a side of the issue in an attempt to show no prejudice or bias. We were very happy with the engagement of those present and the care taken in recording the votes of the straw poll.

Here are the initiatives and results of the poll:

- 1) Change the titles of Big Sir/Little Sir to President/Vice President\*  
Yes 23 No 11 Indifferent 11
- 2) Change from Branch to Chapter  
Yes 11 No 18 Indifferent 16
- 3) Remove retirement as a Membership Requirement and from Promo Material  
Yes 37 No 5 Indifferent 3
- 4) Develop a New Name and Logo  
Yes 19 No 15 Indifferent 11
- 5) Should Branch #1 become Gender Neutral and allow Women members#  
Yes 26 No 11 Indifferent 8

These items, along with others, remain in limbo waiting for the State to finalize their stance. Nick and I will have attended the State Annual Meeting on September 24th and will let them know what our Branch’s feelings are. We will update you as information comes in.

\* The State has softened their position and will allow the Branch to determine the titles, for now.

# Currently, to change to Gender Neutrality would require passage, first by the Branch Executive Committee and then passage by the General Membership.

**Wed, Oct. 9th (791st Meeting)**

**Bar Opens 11:00, Lunch 12:00**

**Menu**

**Lettuce Salad, Bread & Butter**

**Chicken Cordon Bleu**

**Chef’s Choice Sides & Dessert**

***Alternate Entrée:***

**Salmon Cake**

***Vegetarian Entrée:***

**Veggie Burger**

**IMPORTANT DEADLINE**

**Members who plan to attend the Oct. 9th luncheon: Please notify branch no later than Thursday, Oct. 3rd & indicate choice of entrée**

by email: [m.kevin.moran@gmail.com](mailto:m.kevin.moran@gmail.com)  
(or by phone: 650-341-8298)

**Luncheon Speaker:**

**Anne Ferguson\***

**Founder, Executive Director,  
& Chairperson of the Board**



**Bay Area  
Older Adults**

**\*Learn more about Anne & her organization on p.19.**

*Improving lives through fun activities and events while making friends for life.*

Monthly Meetings - 2nd Wednesday - Social 11:00 am - Luncheon 12:00 pm - Elks Lodge, 229 W. 20th Ave, San Mateo

# Guest Essay

## What the Oil Industry Doesn't Want You to Know

Stephanie Smith

July 2024 **TED-Ed** Talk Transcript

**"BIG OIL IS COMPLICIT IN A DECADES-LONG, MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR, PR CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT CLIMATE SCIENCE."**

In summer 1997, a full-page ad appeared in The New York Times. The message, from the Global Climate Coalition, issued a dire economic warning about the US embracing the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty to curb greenhouse gas emissions. But beneath the veneer of smiling children was something much more insidious: a multi-million-dollar campaign propped up by questionable data and backed by some of the world's most powerful companies. The Global Climate Coalition was itself a front for the oil industry—established to sow doubt and confusion about climate action. But the real story starts decades earlier. In the 1970s, oil companies employed some of the world's top atmospheric scientists, as they needed to understand weather-related risks to their equipment and to assess the environmental impact of new projects. By the late

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along with their counterparts in academia, had concluded that burning fossil fuels created a build-up of atmospheric carbon, which would impact the climate by trapping heat and increasing surface temperatures. They warned that an increase of even a few degrees could be catastrophic and accurately predicted events such as rapid Arctic warming and the melting of Antarctic ice sheets.

Throughout the 1980s, oil

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industry reps met repeatedly to discuss these dangers, acknowledging the risk that their product posed to the future of humanity. However, instead of warning the public, or using this knowledge to pivot towards renewable energy sources, they doubled down on oil.

But in the late 1980s, scientists sounded the alarm about climate change, raising public awareness, and leading to calls for government action. In response, the oil industry

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## October's Speaker

# Anne Ferguson & Bay Area Older Adults



EXPAND YOUR WORLD

Anne Ferguson began her career by earning a Ph.D. in genetic engineering from UC San Diego and then worked in oncology research at Johns Hopkins Cancer Center.

She then moved into the commercial sector where she worked as CEO of the startup biotechnology company Arkagen, and as Marketing Director at Applied Biosystems, Fisher Scientific, and Affymetrix.

In 2012, Anne transitioned into the non-profit arena where she served on the Santa Clara County Senior Care Commission, the Leadership Council of the Silicon Valley Healthy Aging Partnership, and the Aging Services Collaborative. During this time, she also earned an MBA in entrepreneurship and finance from San Jose State University. Anne founded Bay Area Older Adults (BAO) in 2012.

BAO describes itself as “offering outdoors, educational, cultural, and social programs to adults of all shapes, sizes, abilities, genders, religions, races, and sexual orientations — everyone! Trek on nature trails, learn about different cultures, explore historic sites, experience new culinary flavors, stay healthy, and connect to bright, friendly people in the BAO community with shared interests.”



# BIRTHDAYS

## October October October

| Birthday | Branch Number One SIR | Member Since |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 10/8     | Michael Garb          | 2015         |
| 10/8     | Bob Pope              | 2006         |
| 10/11    | John Jordan           | 2015         |
| 10/14    | John Murphy           | 2019         |
| 10/25    | Rick Dusine           | 2007         |
| 10/26    | Ray Abold             | 2016         |
| 10/26    | Bob Rogers            | 2023         |
| 10/29    | Frank Hildreth        | 1999         |
| 10/30    | Bernie Mulvaney       | 2004         |
| 10/31    | Bill Brown            | 2010         |
| 10/31    | Jeff McFadden         | 2024         |





SIR, Inc. ~ Damian Reynolds Branch One, Inc.  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*“The scientific man does not aim at an immediate result. His duty is to lay the foundation for those who are to come, and point the way.”* —Nikola Tesla



*“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree long ago”*

—Warren Buffett

## Branch One Activities **John Jordan, ddblljj@aol.com (650-544-8893)**



**BOCCE BALL:** Team play for exercise and fun. Just show up ready to play. Every Friday, 10 am-12 pm, Beresford Park, San Mateo. Chris Witzel, 650-362-3471

cawitze38@gmail.com



**BOOK DISCUSSION:** Bi-weekly, 1 pm Friday, alternating between in-person book discussion at a member’s home and open discussion of topics of interest via

ZOOM. Jon Miller, 650-349-4106, jm330@att.net  
 October 4: *Bittersweet* by Susan Cain



**BOWLING:** League bowling, all skill levels. New bowlers acquire an “average” after 3 weeks, then join a team with a vacancy. Fridays, 10 am, BelMateo Bowl, Mike Garoutte, 650-867-5717, garouttes@aol.com



**COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY:** Monthly on 4th Tuesday, 10:00-11:30+ Redwood Shores Library. Ralph Riviello, 650-773-9086, r.riviello@comcast.net



**CARDS GROUP:** San Mateo Senior Center; Cribbage: Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 pm; Hearts: Fridays, 12:30-2:30pm; Jim Schwandt, 650-400-0211,

jimschwandt@gmail.com



**GENEALOGY:** Monthly on 1st Tuesday, 10:30 am –12:00 pm via ZOOM, open discussion on topics of interest to the group, Kevin Moran, 650-477-0493, m.kevin.moran@gmail.com



**GOLF:** Please confirm before attending; Michael Garb, michaelgarb@comcast.net 650-218-5629, or Rich Castro, rcastro8@aol.com 650-347-8133

|       |            |               |          |
|-------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Wed   | October 2  | Callippe      | 9:30 am  |
| Thurs | October 10 | Metropolitan  | 10:00 am |
| Wed   | October 16 | Moffett Field | 10:00 am |
| Wed   | October 23 | Sunnyvale     | 10:00 am |
| Wed   | October 30 | Monarch Bay   | 10:00 am |



**PICKLEBALL:** Show up in gym shoes (NO RUNNING SHOES) for doubles play. Washington Park, Burlingame, Monday & Thursdays, 10 am-12noon, contact

John Jordan at 650-544-8893 or ddblljj@aol.com



**STOCK STUDY GROUP:** Meets monthly on 2nd Monday, San Mateo Sr Ctr, 10:00-12:00 am, Alan Melnicoe melnicoe@sbcglobal.net 650-343-2074; or

Jim Felker, 650-342-8103, jamesfelker@comcast.net



**TENNIS:** Doubles play for exercise and fun. Just show up ready to play. Every Tuesday, 9am. San Mateo Central Park Courts, San Mateo, Bill Schmid, 650-343-0959,

Bill72240@aol.com



**WINE APPRECIATION:** 3rd Thursday, 2:00 pm, *Total Wine & More*, Bridgepointe Center, venue changeable, usually \$25 in advance; minimum 10, confirm with and

send check to Nick Feimer, 317 Delmar Way, San Mateo CA 94403, 650-341-3015, nrfeimer@gmail.com