

Observations

Study ♦ Activity ♦ Growth ♦ Enrichment ♦ Winter 2026

THE LATEST ON ACTIVITIES



In 2026, Activities celebrated two and half years of increased membership and expansion of groups. For example, ***The Play Reading Group*** was so successful a second group was created. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jana B.

In response to input from The Dinner Group members, we are planning a slightly different version, ***The Brunch Group***. Dinner Group members indicated strong interest in meeting earlier so members could return home before nightfall. They also requested individual food orders to allow for personal taste preferences. Whoever coordinates will no longer have to negotiate menu items and pricing. Anyone interested in joining/leading should contact either Wilma H. by the end of January.

The Opera Group has also expanded its offerings. While still primarily watching and discussing operas, they have added ***light opera*** and Broadway musical performances based on operas. ***The Three Penny Opera***, the first such offering, is a “ballad opera” based on a play by Kurt Weil and Bertolt Brecht, and full of well-known popular songs such as “Mack, The Knife.” The Group will also add movie theater performances off-site (Metropolitan Opera performances). If you would like to attend some or all, get in touch with Cal T.

The Current Events Group continues to meet to try to understand what is happening here and now. ***Fact-based discussions*** cover a wide range of topics including local, national and international issues. All perspectives are welcome. The group explores social, technical, political, cultural and other topics introduced by group members. Anyone interested in joining should contact Wilma H.

The Activities team welcomes ideas for new interest groups and can help potential group leaders get the ball rolling. All these groups and initiatives represent social platforms for SAGE members to build relationships and explore our world together.



"On May 8, 1965, more than a year after Kennedy's death, Dwight D. Eisenhower did something that revealed just how deeply the loss still affected him—he traveled to the Kennedy Library groundbreaking ceremony in Boston, despite his own failing health and doctors' warnings against the trip. Eisenhower, now 74 and recovering from his third heart attack, stood beside Jacqueline Kennedy and told the assembled crowd something that made even hardened reporters weep: 'President Kennedy possessed the greatest campaign weapon any man could have—he had Jacqueline Kennedy by his side, but more than that, he possessed a quality I grew to admire deeply in our many conversations—the courage to admit when he didn't know something and the wisdom to seek counsel.'

What made this moment so powerful was that Eisenhower then revealed he'd been keeping every letter Kennedy had ever written to him, bound in a private collection he called 'Letters from a Young Lion.' He donated them that day to the future Kennedy Library, saying he wanted history to know that their friendship had been real, that politics hadn't divided them where it mattered most. Jackie Kennedy squeezed Eisenhower's hand and whispered something that those nearby heard: 'He called you his North Star, General. He never stopped seeking your guidance.' Eisenhower's voice broke as he replied, 'And I never stopped believing in him.' Here were two people from different worlds—the widowed First Lady and the retired Republican general—united in grief and mutual respect, showing us that the bonds forged in service to country transcend everything else. That's the America worth fighting for—the one where we see each other's humanity first.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

stochastic terrorism

refers to the public demonization of a person or group, often through inflammatory rhetoric, that can incite violence from an individual or individuals, even if the rhetoric doesn't explicitly call for it. It's a phenomenon where influential figures use language to create a climate of fear and animosity, making violence statistically probable, though the specific act and perpetrator remain unpredictable.

vexillology noun | **vex·il·lol·o·gy** *vak-sə-lə-lo-jē*

The study of flags is called vexillology. “

Enthusiastic vexillologists might be able to tell you why Nepal's flag has such a weird shape, or what you legally can't do with flags in different countries. “

erstwhile adverb/adjective *ərstwīl*

The adverb *erstwhile* has been part of English since at least the 16th century, but it is formed from two words that are much older. It comes from the Old English words *aer*, meaning "early," and *hwil*, which has the same meaning as the modern word while. (The English word ere, meaning "before," is also a descendant of *aer*.) These days *erstwhile* is more likely to be encountered as an adjective, as in "erstwhile enemies." That adjective use is a much more recent development, having joined the language about three centuries after the adverb.

abstruse adjective | *əb-STROUSS*

Abstruse is a formal word used to describe something that is hard to understand.

“I avoided taking this class in past semesters because the subject matter is so abstruse, but the professor does a good job explaining concepts as clearly as possible.”

syn·chro·ny noun | *[sīNGkrōnē]*

Simultaneous action, development, or occurrence

The state of operating or developing according to the same time scale as something else: "some individuals do not remain in synchrony with the twenty-four-hour day" synchronic treatment or study:

"the structuralist distinction between synchrony and diachrony"

myrmidon noun | *my-mir-mi-don*

A follower or subordinate of a powerful person, typically one who is unscrupulous or carries out orders unquestioningly

orthogonal adjective or *-thog-o-nal* or *THagen-l*

Of or involving right angles, at right angles.

In statistics (of variates) statistically independent.

kakistocracy noun | *kak-i-sto-cra-cy*

1. Government by the least suitable or competent citizens of a state:

“The danger is that this will reduce us to kakistocracy.”

2. A state or society governed by its least suitable or competent citizens.

diachronic adjective die-kranik

concerned with the way in which something, especially language, has developed and evolved through time. Often contrasted with *synchronic*.

The census is also a diachronic dataset.

Linguistic change is the diachronic aspect of linguistic variation.

ineffable adjective [in▫ef▫b(▫)l]

too great or extreme to be expressed or inscribed in words

metonymy noun | muh-TAH-nuh-me e

Metonymy refers to a figure of speech in which a word that is associated with something is used to refer to the thing itself, as when *crown* is used to mean “king” or “queen.”

Metonymy is closely related to [synecdoche](#), which is a figure of speech in which the word for a part of something is used to refer to the thing itself (as in “need some extra hands for the project”), or less commonly, the word for a thing itself is used to refer to part of that thing (as when *society* denotes “high society”).

synecdoche noun s▫-▫onek-d▫-(▫)kē

a figure of speech by which a part is put for the whole (such as *fifty sail* for *fifty ships*), the whole for a part (such as *society* for *high society*), the species for the genus (such as *cutthroat* for *assassin*), the genus for the species (such as *a creature* for *a man*), or the name of the material for the thing made (such as *boards* for *stage*)

dirigisme noun or *dirigism* (from [French](#) *diriger* 'to direct'),

refers to an economic system in which the [state](#) takes an active and directive role in shaping and guiding the economy, rather than limiting itself to a purely [regulatory](#) or hands-off approach within a [market economy](#). As an economic doctrine, *dirigisme* stands in contrast to [laissez-faire](#)

Rage-bait (also spelled as *ragebait* and *rage bait*)

is content (usually, but not always, found online) that tries to provoke anger or outrage, as a means of gaining attention or making money. The word is also used as a verb (“to make intentionally provocative or inflammatory statements”). *Rage-bait* often refers to inflammatory content posted online for the purpose of gaining ad revenue through clicks, but it can also refer to trolling behavior, in which someone says or posts something offensive simply for the enjoyment of eliciting a strong reaction.

Examples of *rage-bait* At its core, rage bait is backed by algorithms which seek to keep users scrolling, responding and consuming the content, which in turn results in the social media platform profiting. In this way outrage is monetised by the social media platforms. Where does *rage-bait* come from? *Rage-bait* appears to have sprung up in the 2010s, formed in similar fashion to the earlier [clickbait](#). It combines *rage* (“violent and uncontrolled anger”) with *bait* (“to try to make angry with criticism or insults”). They are also returning to prominence in the media with

Josephine convincing her father to give her a newspaper column, though she needs some advice from her callous parent on the nuances of writing rage-bait.

— Daniel Herborn, *The Age* (Melbourne, Australia), 27 Feb. 2016 How is *rage-bait* used? *Rage-bait* is slang, but not vulgar, and is found in a variety of types of writing.

fascism the U.S. government document explained, “is government by the few and for the few. The objective is seizure and control of the economic, political, social, and cultural life of the state.” “The people run democratic governments, but fascist governments run the people.”

THE WORLD VIEW FROM OUR SAGE FELLOW TRAVELERS:

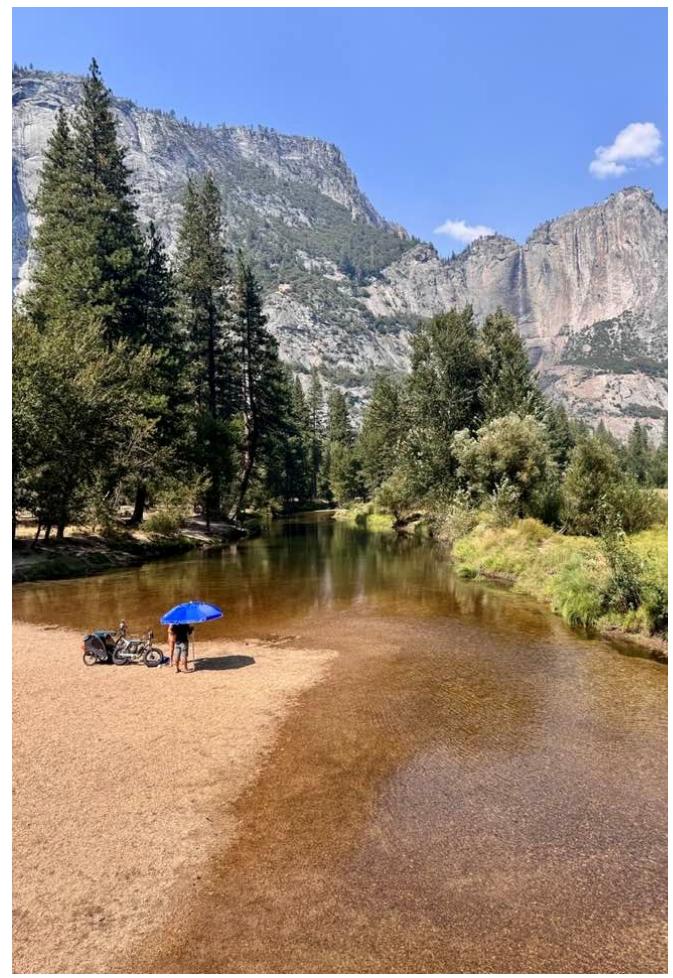


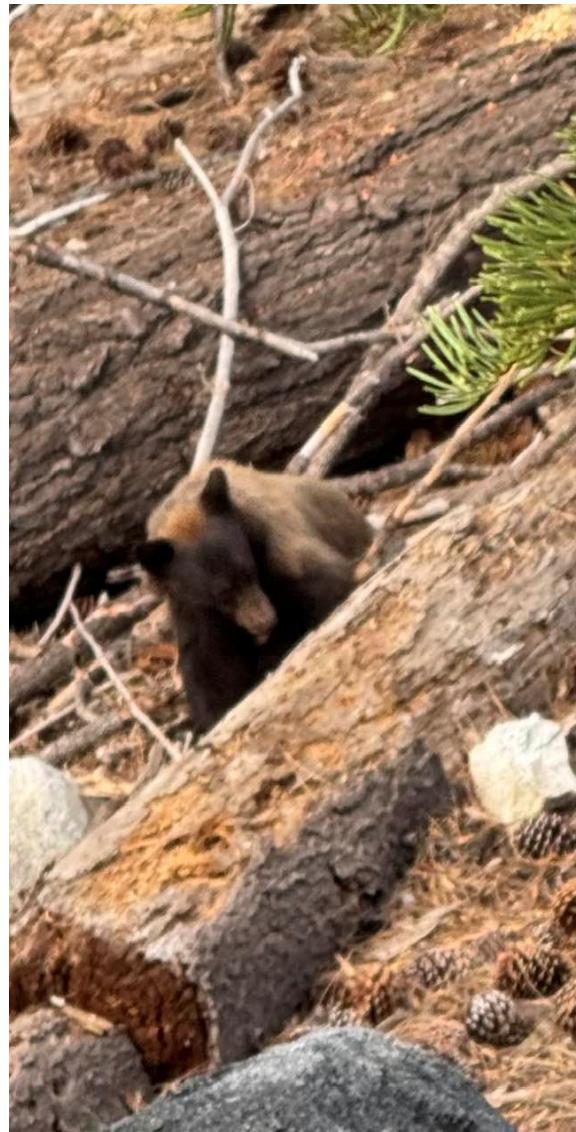
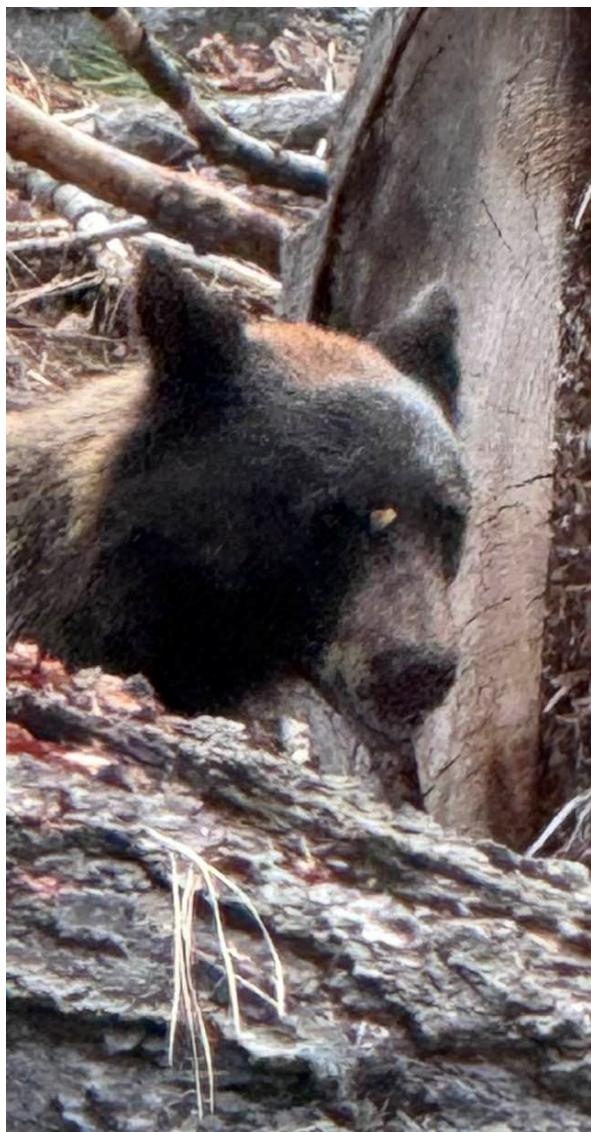
THE EFFORTLESS TRAVELERS

TIRZA HAVIV & YOSSI KHEN

A Tour of National Parks





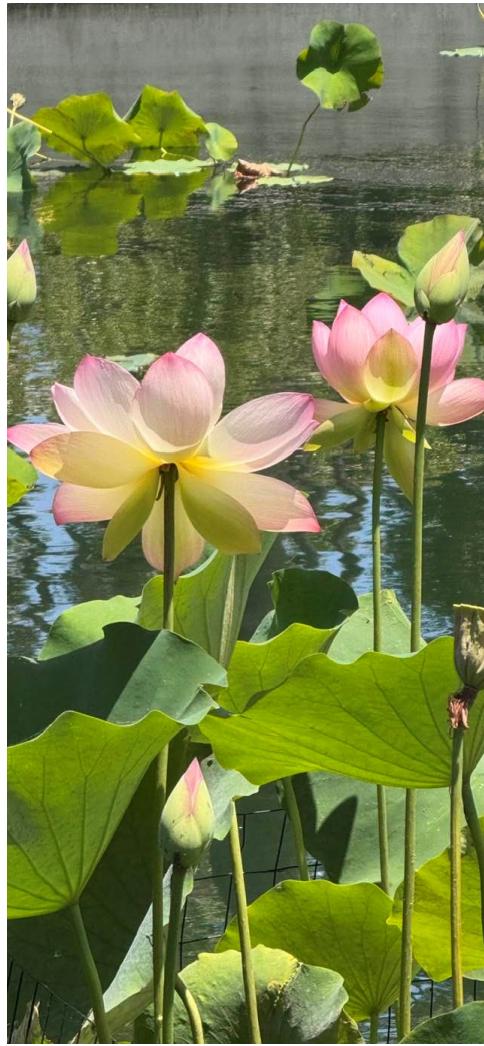




September 9 at 3:23 AM

Canceling our Mammoth Lakes part of the trip, you can see why. Driving through the smoke that came all the way from Fresno fires. Very eerie driving with masks on until we finally saw blue sky again. Nature has many facets we need to navigate its might.





August 5 Amazing Alaska, a flight over Denali National park





**THREE WISE WOMEN
WOULD HAVE ASKED DIRECTIONS,
ARRIVED ON TIME,
HELPED DELIVER THE BABY,
CLEANED THE STABLE,
MADE A CASSEROLE,
BROUGHT PRACTICAL GIFTS...
AND THERE WOULD BE
PEACE ON EARTH!**

“Truth doesn’t age, and neither does courage.”

“We all do better when we all do better.”

