



May 2026

A Memorable Memorial Day Brunch

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Eve and I got it into our heads that we should do something to enjoy the weekend, beyond our devoted viewing of S.F. Giants' games on TV. Because we hadn't recently brunched at the convenient and attractive restaurant in Foster Square, "Toast in Town," nor had we seen one of our family's longtime friends, "M", for quite some time, we tried to put "TinT" together with catching up with her. M was pleased to hear from us, and we arranged to meet her there on the holiday Monday, but early because M's availability is quite limited. We agreed on 8:45 A.M.

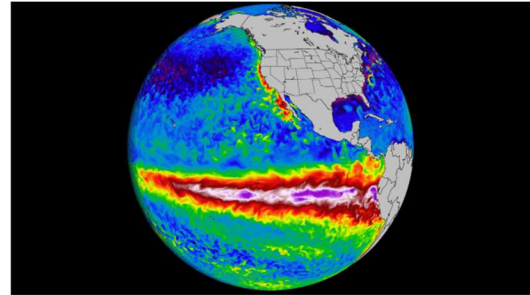
When we arrived on time the next morning, the sign on the door read "CLOSED," and the posted hours showed that it would be opening in 15 minutes. It was a bit chilly, but we would wait outside, expecting M would arrive soon to converse with us.

About two minutes later, a staff member opened the door, and we inquired about possibly coming in from the cold. He welcomed us in and, lo and behold, seated right there was M, who had arrived just a short bit before we. We appreciated the instant accommodation, and we got our orders in promptly before the crush of other diners arrived.



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Aaron's Question Column



A significant El Niño event, in which a large band of very warm sea surface temperatures (bright red and white) stretches across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

Question: There is recent news that this year's El Niño might be quite a special one. Can you inform us of what the forecasters have been saying? Is there anything worrisome about it?

-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): When meteorologists start using words like "historic" or "unprecedented", it's usually time to pay attention. For months, climate scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the World Meteorological Organization have been tracking a rapid, massive warming trend in the tropical Pacific Ocean. We aren't just looking at a typical weather shift; forecasters are warning that this year's El Niño has a remarkably high probability of over 80% of developing into a "strong" or even "super" El Niño event, the strongest since around 2015, over a decade ago. It's possible that it may develop into the strongest recorded El Niño.

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

FEAST OR FAMINE

- A. The Feast of the Pheasant 1454
- B. Nero's Rotating Banquet 64 C.E.
- C. Queen Victoria's Wedding Feast 1840
- D. George Neville's Coronation Feast 1465
- E. Regent's Banquet 1817

FAMINES

- 1. Great Chinese Famine 1959
- 2. Irish Potato Famine 1845
- 3. Great European Famine 1315
- 4. Soviet Famine (Holodomor) 1932
- 5. Great Bengal Famine 1769

This Month's Quiz

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

To whom was this famous question addressed? To find out, fill in the circled letters in the numbered "WHAT" names (*i.e., people and places that contain the letters W, H, A, and T in some order*) and then transfer them to the appropriate blanks to obtain the three word answer below.

Also, the lettered descriptions are listed in random order – but each matches to exactly one of the numbered names. Can you match them up?

ANSWER

5 2 9 8 1 7 12 4 10 3 8 11 6
 5 6 2 11 12 9 11 6 2
 8 1 10 3 4

Descriptions

A	State in Western U.S.
B	"Grumpy Old Men" co-star (first&last)
C	City in So. California
D	Algonquian tribes leader
E	"Look Homeward Angel" Author (first&last)
F	"My Ántonia" author (first&last)
G	"The Scarlet Letter" Author (last)
H	5 th wife of Henry VIII (first&last)
I	College in Pennsylvania
J	"Ethan Frome" author (first&last)
K	Suburb of Boston, Massachusetts
L	"The Hurt Locker" director (first&last)

WHAT Names

- 1 TH mAs Wolf
- 2 c THe ine oWArd
- 3 sWA THmor
- 4 HAWTh r n
- 5 HAT Worth
- 6 diT WHArto
- 7 WA HingTon
- 8 ATH yn Big loW
- 9 Will ATHer
- 10 W ITHA
- 11 WA e M tTHau
- 12 oWHAT n

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

To understand why this matters, it helps to look at what an El Niño actually is. In a normal year, strong trade winds blow from east to west across the equator, pushing warm surface water toward Asia and allowing cooler water to rise up along South America. During an El Niño, however, those easterly winds weaken or even reverse. This allows that massive reservoir of warm water to move backwards across the Pacific toward the Americas. It might sound like a minor ocean current shift, but it fundamentally alters where heat and moisture rise into the sky. Because the Pacific Ocean is the planet's largest heat engine, shifting its temperature by just a few degrees completely disrupts the global atmospheric circulation. When a "super" El Niño triggers, it violently bends the global jet stream out of its usual path and shifts entire weather patterns thousands of miles away.

What makes this particular cycle so special (and alarming) is the baseline it is starting from. Because global ocean temperatures are already at record highs due to broader climate trends, this El Niño is essentially acting as a supercharger on an already overheating engine. The immediate concern is that it will push global temperatures into uncharted territory, with scientists predicting a near-certainty that we will witness the hottest year ever recorded in human history during this cycle. This planetary domino effect is what has experts worried. In practical terms, a strong El Niño completely rewires the global jet stream. Forecasters are already bracing for severe consequences worldwide: devastating droughts and crop failures are expected across Australia, Southeast Asia and parts of Africa, while the Amazon rainforest faces a critical risk of extreme dryness and wildfires. Conversely, other parts of the world will get drenched. The southern United States and

parts of South America are staring down predictions of severe winter flooding.

That being said, there may not be reason to panic. While the event may be stronger than those in the past, right now many estimates place it below the strength of the 2016 El Niño (which had an Oceanic Niño Index of +2.4°C).

PJCC's CAMP KEFF

There are still openings for summer fun at this up-to-8-week long summer camp just a few blocks from Bowfin. For more information on programs and costs, see

<https://pjcc.org/camp-keff/summer-2026/>

Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

June 15, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by

adding a NOTE on our website:

BOWFININQUIRER.COM

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After eating some of her omelette, M noticed that her request to hold the cheese hadn't been carried out. She brought it to the waiter's attention, and he very quickly brought her a second omelette prepared correctly. She'd nearly finished the first, so this was more than she could consume. She got a box to take the second one home for a later meal. There was no additional charge.

We learned that M had been through some very difficult times – with her husband suffering from dementia and requiring in-home nursing. That extra meal would really come in handy. Not only that, but it turned out that day was the couple's 48th anniversary.

With our call from out of the blue, and then TinT's kindnesses, M thanked us. She very much felt she and her husband had received a wonderful anniversary present!