



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

Website: [www.sir17.org](http://www.sir17.org)

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For **JUNE 2021**

## All members are invited to attend our next SIR “Luncheon” Meeting on Thursday, **June 17, 2021** using Zoom.

A link and password will be made available from BIG Sir George Traverso to you before the meeting.

Directions on how to use Zoom can be found on our SIR17 website, or click on the following:

[http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how\\_to\\_join\\_a\\_sir17\\_Zoom\\_meeting.docx](http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how_to_join_a_sir17_Zoom_meeting.docx)

### June 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Schedule via Zoom!

**Social Hour:** 11:00 am Please check in about five minutes early to be ready to avoid the last minute rush.

**Program:** Sir Rich Osborne, discussing hearing loss.

**Announcements:** A new in-person meeting place and the winner of the Birthday Boy lunch.

### June 17<sup>th</sup> Lunch Menu

Same as the last 11 months have been,  
Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Hopefully, at the July 15th meeting we should be able to meet at the Epicenter and have a real lunch again!

### BIG Sir George Traverso's Message

[geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net) 528-6987

The ability to scan a document and interpret its message is a fundamental ingredient to our nature. Of course, this aptitude is our skill to READ.

For me, reading a book is interesting and enjoyable. Whether reading a book on a cold winter day with a cup of hot cocoa by a fireplace or on a warm summer afternoon with a cold lemonade relaxing on a comfortable hammock, this aptitude is a gift. Yes! A gift that we humans are fortunate to possess.

Now, on to my report...

My favorite readings center on topics about our United States presidents. I was born in 1946. This period of our history was shortly after a terrible world war and the advent of a Cold War that was to be in our lives for the next forty years. I have enjoyed reading about three Presidents who have made a mark in our history as a nation.

Of the three books that I have read, *Saving Freedom* by Joe Scarborough, is my favorite. It chronicles the challenges of President Harry S. Truman. After the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Vice President Truman assumed the High Office. He was thrust upon this sudden imposing responsibility unaware of any plans or processes

(continued on page 2)



### Little Sir Gordon Boulton's Message

[gboulton@aol.com](mailto:gboulton@aol.com) 584-8063



July 15th marks the return of Branch 17 in-person luncheons for those who have been vaccinated or have a recent negative test for COVID-19, and who have signed the SIR Event Waiver. We are meeting at Epicenter Sports and Entertainment, 3225 Coffey Lane. You might wonder how we chose this location. Sir Glenn Seime has been researching potential venues ever since it became known that Legends would not be reopening. Among the criteria the BEC had were a preference for a location in Santa Rosa to minimize drive time; ample parking and disabled person parking; a price comparable to what we paid at Legends; food quality and variety like what we enjoyed at Legends; and storage space for Branch equipment. In late March or early April Sir Rich de Lambert alerted Glenn to the possibility of Epicenter. Glenn checked it out and it is the only location he has found that met all our criteria. The BEC authorized a six-month contract with Epicenter beginning with the July luncheon.

Our luncheon room is located on your immediate right as you enter the

(continued on page 2)

**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.  
The following is a list of your 2021 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
<b>Big Sir:</b> George Traverso . . . . .	<a href="mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net">geosan@sbcglobal.net</a> . . . . .	707-528-6987	Ken Johnson
<b>Little Sir:</b> Gordon Boulton . . . . .	<a href="mailto:gboulton@aol.com">gboulton@aol.com</a> . . . . .	707-584-8063	Rich de Lambert
<b>Secretary:</b> Kurt Wehrmeister . . . . .	<a href="mailto:kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com">kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com</a>	630-461-2715	Tom Lubas
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b> Jim Gurke . . . . .	<a href="mailto:1jgurke@gmail.com">1jgurke@gmail.com</a> . . . . .	707-303-0989	Chris Nolen
<b>Treasurer:</b> Al Petrie . . . . .	<a href="mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com">alpetrie7@aol.com</a> . . . . .	707-974-9193	Paul Willihnganz
<b>Asst. Treasurer:</b> John Gnam . . . . .	<a href="mailto:musicmed@sonic.net">musicmed@sonic.net</a> . . . . .	707-528-0592	Elias Zegarra
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Jim Fenstermaker .	<a href="mailto:sirsbrn17@gmail.com">sirsbrn17@gmail.com</a> . . . . .	707-548-3346	
			<b>WEBMASTERS:</b>
<b>STATE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>AREA 10 GOVERNOR</b>	<b>REGION 3 DIRECTOR</b>	Dennis Mangan
Stu Williams	Robert Reuther	Dennis Pangburn	Jim Fenstermaker

**BIG Sir George Traverso's Message** *(continued)*

that would conclude the end of war hostilities or maintain peace in the following years. The "Man from Missouri" would wage a political battle on the domestic front and attempt to aid countries destroyed by war with an international focus. The primary theme of the Truman book is the establishment of the Truman Doctrine. This policy was centered in aiding the war-torn countries of Greece and Turkey with the intention of containing Soviet aggression shortly after the end of World War II. The sub titles of Scarborough's book reflect the main topics of his work: "Truman, The Cold War and The Fight for Western Civilization."

The second book is *How Ike Led* written by President Dwight Eisenhower's granddaughter, Susan Eisenhower. It follows the life of Eisenhower from the D-Day invasion to Little Rock to the U-2 controversy that cancelled the meeting with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev near the conclusion of his presidency. Ike had the reputation of studying a situation or crisis and proceeding and taking responsibility for such action. This remarkable trait is evident in his role of Supreme Commander at D-Day and as President so many years later.

The third book is an account of President Barack Obama. *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama is a compelling story of the first African-American to attain the highest office. Obama describes his thoughts in a variety of progressions such as: battles with the global financial dilemma, while he becomes a community organizer, an Illinois senator and then President of the United States.

Whether any particular subject is of interest to the individual, reading opens up an interesting and entertaining avenue to relax and enjoy a topic. Reading a story, especially a narrative or a descriptive one, leads the reader to imagine and interpret in one's mind the progression of the story.

Well, it looks like another warm day...looking forward to reading another Presidential story in my shady garden.

[Return to Page 1](#)

**Little Sir Gordon Boulton's Message** *(continued)*

the northeast door of Epicenter: the "VIP Lanes and 300 Room." It is separated from the bowling alley by a wall and four bowling lanes that are not open to the public. Across the entryway is the public restaurant and bar. Epicenter does not open to the public until 1 PM but the bar will be open for our social hour beginning at 11 AM. Our food will be a buffet line served by Epicenter staff.

\*\*\*\*\*

As of May 1, to attend any outdoor SIR event, you must provide a signed SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to COVID-19 ("Waiver"). In order to attend any indoor event, you must provide BOTH a signed Waiver AND proof of vaccination for COVID-19 or a negative test result for COVID-19 within three days of the event. This is a mandate from State SIR and is necessary for our Branch, officers and BEC directors to be covered by insurance.

I am the one collecting the documents and keeping track of everything for the time being. If you have a printer/scanner you can email a copy (e.g., pdf or jpg) to me. If you have a smartphone, you can take a photo of them and email them to me. Or you can mail paper copies to me (4740 Pressley Road, SR 95404)—whatever is most convenient for you. Just to clarify, however, I do not have to have paper copies; electronic copies are fine. I only need a copy of the front side of your vaccination card, not the back. If you would like to send me copies of your significant other's documents in anticipation of the return of Couples' Night Out and other co-ed activities, feel free to do that now.

Please provide me your documents as soon as possible. We will have a few blank Waiver forms at the July luncheon but if you wait until then, it might create a significant bottleneck. Remember, we already must collect your lunch money, take attendance and give you your badge, sign in guests, and sell raffle tickets. We are unlikely to have the time or space to collect much COVID paperwork.

*(continued, page 3)*

### Little Sir Gordon Boulton's Message *(continued)*

Finally, providing me your COVID documents does not imply you are coming to the July luncheon. So that we can get an accurate headcount for the food service, you must notify a person designated by the BEC if you are not coming to the luncheon, otherwise you will be charged the \$25 luncheon price if you do not attend. Details will be in the July BARK.

Thanks for your cooperation during this transition time and the entire BEC is looking forward to seeing you all in July! If you have any questions, give me a call! My landline is on pages 1 and 2, my cell is 707-217-5709.

### 2022 BEC Officer Candidates

The Nomination Committee has produced a list of SIR Branch 17 members who are interested in serving on the Branch Executive Committee beginning in January 2022. The BEC works as a team to provide the resources to keep the club functioning and meet the desires of our members. If you would like more information about specific positions, or want to nominate yourself or someone else, then please contact Dennis Mangan.

The voting will take place at the August 19<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.

Following is list of 2022 Officers and Directors:

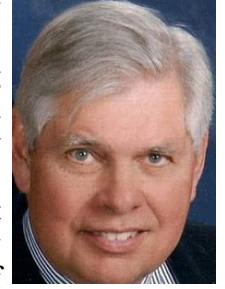
Big Sir	Gordon Boulton
Little Sir	Gary Bondi
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Kurt Wehrmeister
Asst. Secretary	Jim Gurke
Directors:	Rich de Lambert
	Terry Freeman
	Tom Johnson
	Tom Lubas
	Steven Saulsbury
	Elias Zegarra

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boulton and others for helping me by spotting all my errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and any other boo-boos I have made before the final edition goes to press and you see it.

Jim, the Editor

### June 17, 2021 Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker is our own Sir Rich Osborne. He is the VP of the North Bay of CA Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. His hearing loss was detected in high school, but nothing was done. As an adult, Rich tried hearing aids, with unsatisfactory results. A few years ago, Rich suddenly lost all hearing in his right ear. His left ear hearing is severely limited, and he is in the process of being evaluated for a Cochlear Implant. In retirement, he sees that hearing loss was a severe handicap to his career as a project manager in IT. He is retired and happily devoting himself to the opportunity to help others cope with the difficulties he encountered.



### Upcoming Speakers

**July 15: Allan Bernstein, MD** is a semiretired neurologist, UCSF professor, SCMA member and clinical researcher. The focus of his research is memory, how it works and what can go wrong. He's also conducting clinical trials in Santa Rosa on potential new treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

**T.B.D.: Jeffrey Ebersole, PhD** is the Interim Chair of Biomedical Sciences & Associate Dean for Research, Department of Dental Medicine, at UNLV. He will tell us about an experiment he is sending to the International Space Station in June. The project will look at how bacteria grow on a solid surface under weightlessness conditions.

(Article by Gordon Boulton)

### *Congratulations to our **May 2021** free lunch winner: Lance Thompson*

### List of the **June Birthdays**

**We will celebrate all birthdays whenever we are back to our regular meetings again, but when that will be is???**

**Maybe July 15th**

**Oscar Barragan  
Glenn Seime  
Charles Stark**



All members are invited to attend all of the meetings. Call Big SIR George Traverso at 707-528-6987 or email to [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net) Directions on how to use Zoom can be found on our SIR17 website at: [http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how\\_to\\_join\\_a\\_sir17\\_Zoom\\_meeting.docx](http://www.sir17.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123881033/how_to_join_a_sir17_Zoom_meeting.docx) or click [here](#).

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

### Marvin Schouweiler, Badge #44

When talking with Marvin Schouweiler, the world seems to slow down and relax. He has a very gentle voice, a kind personality, and a smile that lights up a room. Marv has been a delightful addition to SIR Branch 17 for over 12 years.

Marv was born into a farming family in Morris MN, a small town about 50 miles southeast of the North Dakota-South Dakota border. When Marv was three, his dad sold the land and moved the family to Sweet Home, Oregon, a town on the eastern side of Interstate 5 between Eugene and Portland. Sweet Home was built on a vast, pre-historic petrified forest, and is still well known for its treasures of agate, jasper, crystals, and minerals. He enjoyed the nearby lakes, rivers and Cascade Mountains for 12 years and then moved with his family to Sonoma County where he has lived ever since.



You can't tell Marvin's story without talking about wood. He developed a love of working with wood perhaps in part due to his dad getting involved in the lumber business in Cloverdale. Marvin's favorite class at Healdsburg High was... you guessed it...wood shop! Later he worked in a lumber mill and on construction sites making the frames to pour massive amounts of concrete for commercial and residential buildings. He discovered that his experience and knowledge about wood and framing was sought after, paid well and provided good benefits.

Over the years Marv has built some amazing structures. Turns out, Sonoma County's wine industry needs lots of concrete for production sites and all those beautiful tasting rooms. A lot of Marv's work can't be seen because it is the concrete foundation hidden under a building or patio. One of his more unusual projects was building cages for an African sun bear and a chimp for a place suitably nicknamed "Old MacDonald's Farm." Not to be undone by that, Hugh Coddling (of Coddington and Montgomery Mall fame) tapped Marv and his team to lay the foundation and build (in less than a week!) a completely finished house for a baby elephant, a political symbol of the Republican party when he considered running for state senate.

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Member Profiles:

*(continued)*

In 2005, Marv retired in the Santa Rosa house that he and his wife built 45 years ago and raised their kids. He recalls how different it was to live here when Santa Rosa population was only about 25,000. His introduction to SIR Branch 17 came as a result of meeting Fred Rose who assured him that he would enjoy our many social activities, which of course includes golf. Marv started playing golf when he was 52 and has been playing the game ever since. Marv is famous for his short game skills, enabling him to win putting contests by landing just outside the edge of the green, chipping close to the pin and then one-putting into the hole. Marv also enjoys Boys' Night Out, Couples' Night Out, bocce ball, wine and spirit club along with our monthly luncheons.

Many of us remember Marv heading up our attendance committee and handing out members' badges at luncheons. He was previously an assistant to Lou Funk, who was our attendance chair for over 30 years. Marv looks forward to getting together in person again and sitting at random tables in order to meet more of our members. You will recognize him...Marv will be wearing his badge proudly and telling intriguing stories of wood, concrete, and one-putts!

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

## The Poem of the month for June

**June** by Lottie Brown Allen

Oh what is more sweet than the month of June  
 When our senses thrill and our hearts keep tune  
 To the song of the birds and the rose in bloom?  
 Oh what is more joy than the early gray  
 Of the dewy morn and the sun's first ray  
 That herald the dawn of a perfect day?  
 Oh what is more fair as the sun climbs high  
 Than the azure hue of the summer sky  
 And the snow-white clouds drifting idly by?  
 Oh what is more pure than the summer air  
 That wafts from the woodlands and gardens fair  
 A fragrance and perfume so rich and rare?  
 Oh what is more dear than the twilight hour  
 When the daylight fades and each nodding flower  
 Is kissed by the moonbeams' mystic power?  
 O, Summer Queen! you are gone too soon  
 With your sunny days and your shining moon,  
 With your golden grain and your wealth of bloom.  
 And if we could hold in some magic way  
 To your trailing robes for a single day,  
 Dear month of June, we would bid you stay.

## ACTIVITIES:

Since the health department has placed restrictions on gatherings we have been unable to get together for our meetings and most of the following of our activities have been on **HOLD**, until we receive new instructions.

**Bocce, Bowling, Boys' Night Out, Bridge, Camera Club, Couples' Night Out, Free Comedy, Picnic, Poker Fest, Travel Golf, Wine, Beer and Spirits**

All just waiting to restart again soon--hopefully!

## GLOBAL FORUM: (Article by Marvin Mai)



Today we are instantly connected to the World through the constant 24-hour news feeds. We also have instant communication via the Internet. We're all aware of how much the new communication abilities have changed the world.



Have you been keeping up with the global news? Can you identify the major issues facing the talks between the U.S., the EU and Iran? Do you have an understanding of the China and Hong Kong integration? How about Taiwan or the South China Sea and the island disputes with the Philippines? What are the issues in Central and South America? What about the new dam on the Nile and its impact on Egypt? What's the major issue with Northern Ireland and the UK after Brexit?

Join the discussions on these and many other issues facing the world during the bi-weekly Global Forum on Zoom. If you'd like to be included in the next Zoom meeting on **Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** for the Global Forum meeting, then contact Marvin at [maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com) or give him a call at 545-2224. He needs to know who is going to attend so he can send you an email with the "link and password," plus any others instructions.

Below is the schedule of dates for SIR Branch 17 Zoom Global Forum discussions slated for every **2 weeks** in 2021. Time: **10:00 am** Pacific Time.

**Fridays: June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> & July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## GOLF: (Article by Jim Gurke)



Well golf enthusiasts, we may be getting a little closer to resumption of our regular Monday outings, as well as State SIR competitions. The Branch 17 BEC approved resumption of SIR sponsored golf following the statewide Golf Protocol governing most things we already abide by - social distancing, mask requirements, etc. Also required of each of our members is signature to a mandatory waiver of liability that was emailed to all the members of both Branch 17 and 76.

Two concerns still need to be addressed, however. The first is that the Bennett Valley Golf Course staff are presently not interested in handling cash for the weekly competition buy-in. Your golf committee is working to develop an alternative that may require a committee member to act as the weekly 'bank.'

A second concern regards the golf committee itself. Due to a couple of resignations, we are left with just three score keepers. In fairness to other responsibilities each of us has, that number is insufficient for scoring, posting and distribution of winnings. Simply put, we need to find additional volunteers to make our Monday competitions what they once were. **Please consider your time and interest in joining the golf committee to help manage our weekly tournaments and any travel golf that may occur in our post-Covid environment.**

As described in the previous edition of the **BARK**, our Area 10 golf chairman, John Harrison, has announced the date and place for the Team Scramble: Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bennett Valley Golf Course. The winner of that event will then compete for the State Championship on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Rancho Solano Golf Course. Applications were distributed via email by John Weaver from Branch 76.

Player indexes are based upon a May 1 date.

**A** player, 0 to 17.0; **B** player, 17.1 to 22.0;

**C** player, 22.1 to 27; **D** player, 27.1 to 45.

Play well in the meantime, and we will notify everyone asap regarding rules and protocols governing a safe golf experience.

Jim Gurke 707-303-0989 [ljgurke@gmail.com](mailto:ljgurke@gmail.com)

### May 20, 2021 Speaker Recap

Jim Sweeney, Editorial Director of the Press Democrat, began his presentation with an overview of the newspaper business and the PD in particular. Although total readership is down somewhat from its peak circulation, the number of digital subscribers is growing as the number of print subscribers has declined. The number of subscribers as a proportion of the target coverage area is the same as it is for the SF Chronicle. Advertising revenue has been down due to the pandemic, but he is optimistic it will rebound. The paper is now locally owned and is profitable.

Jim talked about how important letters to the editor are. To encourage them, the 90-day rule has been eliminated. He cautioned that if you are quoting someone, find the original source—don't believe everything you read on Facebook!

Jim's goals for the editorial board are to increase its diversity, both geographically, ethnically, by age and by gender; and to increase its coverage of elections and candidates for all the nine major cities of Sonoma County every even year.

### Sunshine Report:

We need your help to tell us before the monthly meeting if any of our members are sick or if some member has died.



All you need to do is call Kurt Wehrmeister, our Secretary at **630-461-2715** or send him an email to: [kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com](mailto:kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com).

### Joke of the Month



### Why Teacher DRINK!

- Q:** How is dew formed?  
**A:** The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.
- Q:** What happens to your body as you age?  
**A:** When you get old, so do your bowls and you get intercontinental.
- Q:** How can you delay milk turning sour?  
**A:** Keep it in the cow.

### NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guest who desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.



### New Member Randy Coleman-Riese

Randy married Dorothy forty-five years ago and they have lived in the Santa Rosa area since 1985.

He retired many years ago from an auto mechanic and the manager of an auto dealership while living in Santa Monica.

In the early 1970's, Randy served in the Army Security Agency. After the Army, he decided to go back to school and finish college, majoring in Classics studying ancient Greek and Latin.

After their first child was born and Dorothy to decide to finish her final year of med school, Randy is now a full-time househusband, which became his main career occupation for the next 17 years.

When their three children were all out of the home, Randy then went back to work, this time at the five physician pediatric medical offices where Dorothy was a doctor and he was now the office manager. After five years, he left the medical office job to take on the position of executive director of a small local Christian educational non-profit organization, the Cornerstone Forum.

Randy is trying to "maybe" to retire from these many jobs so he can spend time with their children and grandchildren along with their families, helping out where he can as long as he is able to.

Randy also wants to have more time to enjoy his gardening projects, along with learning more about genealogy.

When you meet Randy at the next Sir meeting, talk to him and find out more items that we do not already know about him!

Randy was sponsored by Rich de Lambert.

### Father's Day Word Search

Father's Day is Sunday.  
 Can you find these words that have to do with dad?

- ATHLETIC
- BRAVE
- DAD
- DADDY
- ESPN
- FATHER
- FISHING
- FOOTBALL
- FUNNY
- GOLF
- KIND
- SPORTS
- TENNIS
- TIE
- TOOLS

X R D F U I E L C F C R E  
 W B L A S T R O P S N D K  
 E O D S A Z F X C E B A M  
 G N M P O I U T C R E D T  
 R B R A V E H I O O M D E  
 S I D K Y J T B S S H Y L  
 H T I Q N E F A P L L Y L  
 S A R S L G R E R O O G A  
 G V S H C K E L S N P O B  
 F R T S F I S H I N G W T  
 U A C O S N S T E D E O O  
 N S T K O D A L A D U R O  
 N N R H W B E D U I M G F  
 Y O T I E T I N C T W N U  
 A F U S R R H W E S P N W  
 O T E N N I S T I U S E R

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