



A non-profit club for men devoted to the promotion of independence and dignity.

Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa, CA,

Website: <https://www.sir17.org>



REDWOOD

The REDWOOD BARK Newsletter DEC. 2022

All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, Dec 15, 2022 at The Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa.

If you told the Phone Committee "YES" you plan to attend but find later that you will be unable to attend, you need to contact Al Petrie at 707-974-9193 or email alpetrie7@aol.com by 6:00 pm Saturday, Dec. 10 to help keep our count more accurate. Also of importance is, if you are bringing a guest or if you originally said "NO" but changed your mind and decided to go after all, in either case, then please contact Al Petrie per the above!

Dec 15 Lunch/Meeting Schedule

Social Hour: 11 am **Lunch/Meeting:** 12 noon

Program: No program is planned as it is our annual holiday luncheon and installation of new Officers and Directors for 2023.

Announcements: Activities are being restarted and starting new ones. Check out the activity section.

Dec 15 Luncheon Menu \$33.00 with a long stem rose!

Caesar salad, rolls and butter,

Herb roasted turkey breast with pan gravy,

Smashed red potatoes,

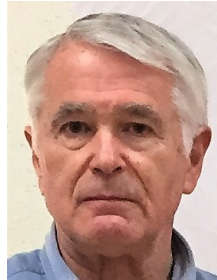
Green beans sauteed with bacon and mushrooms,

Bread pudding with warm caramel sauce.

Water, lemonade, coffee or iced tea is included.

Big Sir Gordon Boulton's Message

gboulton@aol.com 707-584-8063



As my term as Big Sir comes to a close, I would like to thank those who helped me personally and who helped our branch have a very successful year. It starts with past Big Sirs Dennis Mangan and George Traverso, who provided me guidance and encouragement as I stepped into the role. This was the year for growth and recovery from COVID and our RAMP chairs and assistants Neil Wheeler, Rich de Lambert, Fred Rose, and George Traverso did an absolutely outstanding job in attracting new members, assuring their integration and retention, restarting existing activities and starting new ones that give new and "old" members reasons for wanting to be a Sir.

Our 2022 BEC was a mix of seasoned veterans, such as treasurer Al Petrie and membership/attendance chair Elias Zegarra, who kept us and SIR State up to date on finances and membership; and fairly new directors such as Bill Grafeld, who I truly think is willing to volunteer for anything, anytime, (continued on page 2)

Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

gbondi@sonic.net 707-539-2445



Hard to believe, but we are approaching our last meeting for 2022 and this is my last Little Sir article before I switch over to the Big Sir side. It has been an interesting, and active year for our branch. We are completing our first full year of in-person meetings since the COVID shut down. It started off slowly as we had only 13 members attend our January meeting. Thankfully, things took off from there! The year began with 82 members and we are now at 99! A job well done by our membership committee, the BEC and our members. We welcomed 27 guests, inducted 26 new members, and unfortunately lost nine, for a net gain of 17 members. The attendance at our meetings has continued to increase, from the low of 13 in January, to 54 at our November meeting. It was great to see so many of our members return to our luncheons and we look forward to a continued increase in attendance as we begin 2023 at our prior venue, Bennett Valley. Many of our activities have restarted, new ones were created and we look forward (continued on page 2)

SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.
The following is a list of your **2022** Officers and Directors.

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
Big Sir: Gordon Boultonbee	gboultonbee@aol.com	707-584-8063	Barry Bialkoski
Little Sir: Gary Bondi	gbondi@sonic.net	707-539-2445	Bill Grafeld
Secretary: Terry Freeman	terryfreeman32@yahoo.com ..	707-235-7066	Ken Johnson
Asst. Secretary: Steven Saulsbury ...	stevensaulsbury@comcast.net .	707-328-4627	Tom Lubas
Treasurer: Al Petrie	alpetrie7@aol.com	707-974-9193	Neil Wheeler
Asst. Treasurer: John Gnam	musicmed@sonic.net	707-528-0592	Elias Zegarra
Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker .	sirsrbrn17@gmail.com	707-548-3346	WEBMASTERS:
			Dennis Mangan
			Neil Wheeler
			Jim Fenstermaker
STATE PRESIDENT Richard Kindel	AREA 10 GOVERNOR Robert Nadell	REGION 3 DIRECTOR Dennis Pangburn	

Big Sir Gordon Boultonbee's Message *(continued)*
to keep the branch moving forward. With little change in the BEC for 2023 the membership can be assured this wise and thoughtful group will continue to responsibly guide our branch.

It is always a pleasure to have volunteers to whom you can say "Make it so" and they deliver. Our food service coordinator Glenn Seime and picnic chairman Ted Scapeccia certainly fit that description.

Communication with the membership is always key to maintaining interest, never more so than when we could not meet in-person and again when getting things restarted. Jim Fenstermaker, our *BARK* editor for *the past 10 years*, has worked quietly in the background, unflappable, publishing the *BARK*, our members handbook, our various rosters and attendance sheets, and more. What a pleasure he has been to work with!

Interesting guest speakers are another key to attracting members and guests to our luncheons, it's not just me! Little Sir Gary Bondi consistently delivered on that score. A good friend I've known for decades, it was a pleasure working with Gary on all things SIR. With his engaging personality I look forward to his leadership in 2023!

Recap of past speaker programs:

For members who were not able to attend a particular meeting, the speaker program is available on our website sir17.org, scroll down near the bottom of the home page, click on the red arrow for YouTube to view all the programs that are available now. *(Article by Little Sir Gary Bondi)*

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Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message *(continued)*
to even more participation and added new activities. All in all, our branch has done very well and is poised to do even better in 2023. There will be some new challenges, both on the State and branch level; however, I know, given the leadership of past and current BEC members we are in a great position to deal with them. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to Big Sir Gordon Boultonbee for his guidance and leadership this year. He faced many challenges and guided us through them, as we emerged from the COVID shut down. I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of the BEC for their leadership and for stepping up to accept leadership positions. We are fortunate to have those members willing to do so as many other SIR branches are struggling, and in some cases, failing, because they are unable to find members who will accept the responsibility. I look forward to serving as your Big Sir in 2023 and hope to continue and build upon our past success. Wishing you all the blessings and joy of the Holiday season and a New Year of Peace, Good Will, and Happiness.
Gary



Little Sir Gary Bondi is presenting a bottle of wine the our speaker, Gary Meagher at the October meeting.

(Photo by Michael Rogalski)

December Program:

Installation of new Officers and Directors for 2023.

Luncheon and BEC Meeting Locale Moves To Bennett Valley Grille

In late October the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) voted unanimously to move from Epicenter Sports & Entertainment to the Bennett Valley Grille (formerly Legends) beginning in January 2023.

The primary reason was space. With the membership growth we have experienced, which we have good reasons to expect will continue, we are nearly at the capacity of the luncheon room at Epicenter. (There is a larger room at Epicenter, but it does not have AV facilities.) This was very apparent at the November luncheon. In contrast, at the BV Grille we will once again be able to invite our partners to events, such as the winter holiday luncheon. Some members have been complaining that they feel crowded at Epicenter for many months, and in the recently completed member survey "New Location" was by far the largest response to the questions "How can we improve our monthly meetings?" and "What would make your membership more valuable to you?"

Another reason was aesthetics. The BV Grille, with its veranda (included in our contract) overlooking the golf course, is clearly superior to the view of the Epicenter parking lot.

A third reason is that the BV Grille is closer to the neighborhoods in which most of our members live. Although we will be paying \$33 each for the luncheon at the BV Grille vs. the \$26 Epicenter quoted us for 2023, the higher price is partially offset by the lower travel cost and time to and from the BV Grille compared to Epicenter.

The decision to move was somewhat bitter-sweet in light of how well the Epicenter staff has treated us since we resumed in-person lunches. We owe a lot of thanks to our food coordinator Sir Glenn Seime and treasurer Sir Al Petrie for establishing such an excellent relationship with them.

Two very important changes as part of our move: (1) we need to have a luncheon attendance count the **Wednesday** of the week prior to our luncheon, rather than

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the **Monday** of the week of our luncheon, so our Phone Committee will be calling you much earlier than you are used to; and

(2) we expect the BV Grille will charge us for no-shows, in contrast with Epicenter which was very flexible in this regard. So the 2023 BEC may reimplement the prior policy of charging members who say they plan to attend but then do not!

(Article by Gordon Boulbee)

Annual Dues

The SIR 17 BEC acted to re-institute Member payment of dues for 2023. The amount is \$25.00 per year and the full membership ratified this amount at our November 17, 2022 lunch meeting. We have not had yearly dues for the past **two** years, but our checking account balance will be around \$2,700 at the end of December 2022. This amount will be **insufficient** to support SIR Branch 17 activities through 2023.

Each Member can either forward a check in the amount of \$25.00 to me (make payable to SIR 17) or pay the dues at the December 15, 2022 or January 19, 2023 lunch meeting. My mail information is: 2188 Francisco Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Thanks, Al Petrie SIR Branch 17 Treasurer, Cell: 707-974-9193 or Email: alpetrie7@aol.com

The November "Birthday Boy" winner of a FREE Lunch was: Steven Saulsbury

December Birthdays



Gary Bondi

James Gurke

Ken Johnson

Tom Sparrow

Lloyd Von Der Mehden

Bill Grafeld

David Harris

Bob Ost

MATT CARVALHO
Executive Chef



MEET OUR CHEF

Chef Carvalho was born in Scottsdale, Arizona. His 'culinary' career started in an Italian restaurant at 15 years old where he worked as a dishwasher. He attended culinary school at Arizona Culinary Institute in Scottsdale. Starting out, he accepted an internship at Grayhawk Golf Club. His first Sous Chef job was at Mastro's Ocean Club, and after about 5 years he was promoted to Executive Sous. Matt was part of the opening for a few restaurants and bars with Evening Entertainment Group and was also an Executive Chef for J & M Catering Company.

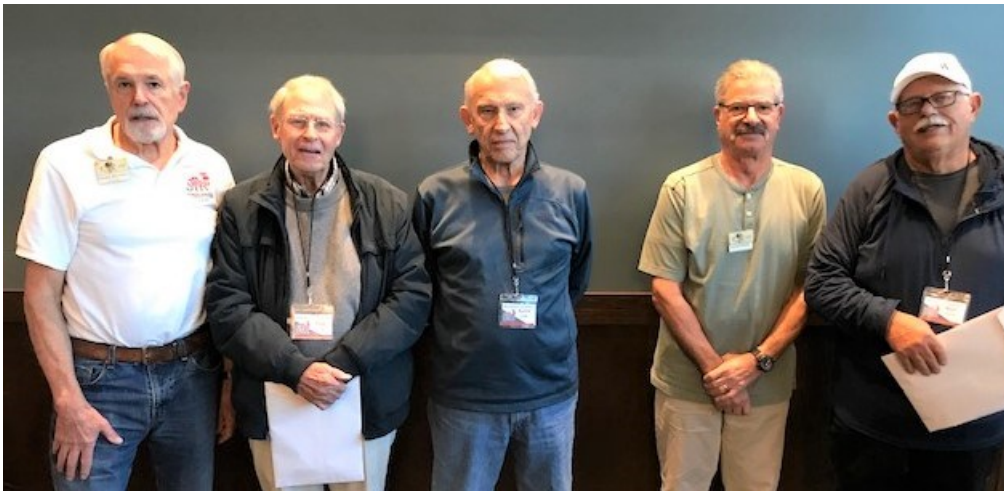
The Arizona Cardinals hired Matt at their training facility in Tempe, AZ and he was quickly promoted to Executive Chef. After 5 years, he moved to San Diego and then made his way to Sonoma County. When he is not in the kitchen, Matt loves scuba diving, hiking, spending time with his beautiful wife and their pups. Bennett Valley Golf Course is lucky to have a talented & creative master of his craft.



Boys Night Out on November 9th, at Los Molcajetes Bar and Grill. L/R: Tom Johnson, Chuck Stark, Fred McMane, Fred Rose, Glenn Seime, Tim Stewart, Stew Lauterbach, Don Malvestiti, Gordon Boultsbee. *(Photo by restaurant staff)*



New Members : Approved by the BEC on 10-20-22 and inducted on 11-17-22

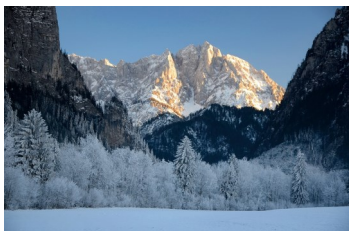


L/R: Gordon Boultsbee, Hap Culp, Keith Hall, Sponsor Harold Minkin, Ron Turner

(Photos by Michael Rogalski)

New Members : Approved by the BEC and inducted on 11-17-22

L/R: Gordon Boultsbee, Rich de Lambert, Les Brodie, Sponsor Neil Wheeler, Bruce Rocco, John Gnam, Nick Stameroff, Dan Sullivan.





New Member Badge # 4
Les Brodie

I have lived in the Bay Area all my life. I went to college at UC Davis majoring in Electrical Engineering. I met my wife there and we've been happily married for 52 years. Graduated from UC Berkeley with an MSEE. Worked at Hewlett Packard in Silicon Valley for 25 years in a variety of areas but all centering on semiconductor design, processing, and even some software development. We moved to Santa Rosa HP in 1997 and I took a position in digital design.



After retiring I found I had a lot of spare time. Hmm, what to do? I really like to avoid too much structure and not having a full calendar is liberating. I started doing some drawing and attended some art classes at the JC. I got into oil painting and that was fun. Did a lot of plein air painting. On vacations my wife and I do some watercolor sketching mostly on day hikes. We also meet with a local sketch group once a month.

I try to get out and do some exercise daily. Running has morphed into a mix of runs and walks as I age. My goal is to get in about 4 miles daily. Also I do a fair amount of gardening and have a lot of experience with beautiful plants that get eaten by critters or get burned up in the heat.

With COVID a recent addition to my activities has been online chess. There is one great website that I regularly use. It's a good way to exercise the mind and not fall asleep too early. I play with people from all over the world. Also I try to read a few novels each month and some science literature.

We have a son and his family is in San Diego with our delightful toddler grandson.

I've really enjoyed talking with the SIR guys I have met and am looking forward to meeting all of you. The book club looks promising, the walking group is friendly, as is the coffee club.

(Article by **Les Brodie**)



New Member Badge # 84
Hap Culp

Born: 8/19/1938, Wilmington, Delaware; Grew up in New Castle, Delaware until 8th grade and then moved to Atlanta GA. Graduated High School from Westminster Schools, Atlanta GA. in 1957.

Graduate: BA Political Science Vanderbilt University, Nashville Tennessee in 1961.

Graduate, JD Hastings College of Law San Francisco CA 1966.

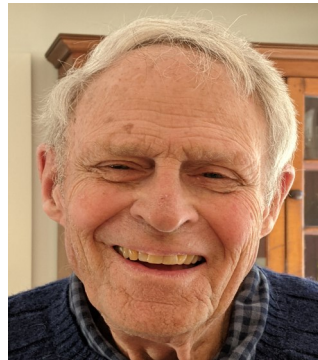
Travel: the World between 1966-1967.

Work: Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara County, 1968-1970. Private Practice, Attorney, Santa Rosa, CA 1970-2000.

Married: Still to Susan Ohlson Culp, 1/18/69

Three Children: Deidre, Presently living in Oakland with Husband Todd and two children, Lucy and Brooks; Alex, presently living in Sacramento with wife Nicole; Lindsay, presently living in Dar El Salaam, Tanzania with husband Sean and two children, Miles and Emily.

Early affiliations: Member of Santa Rosa Jaycees; Exchange Club; and Redwood Empire Breakfast Club. Current member and past President of Santa Rosa East Rotary club (*now East West Rotary club since 1974*). Former member and president of Luther Burbank Center for the Arts Board of Directors.



Interests: Travel, golf, fly fishing, (*current member of the Klamath River Fly Fishers*), theater, sailing, (*now retired*), scuba diving, grandchildren and member of the SIR 17 book club, to name a few.

(Article by **Hap Culp**)

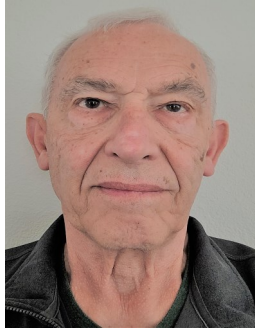
Sunshine Report:

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, at **630-461-2715** or send him an email to: kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com.



New Member Badge # 35 Keith Hall

It all began in Punxsutawney, PA (the home of the groundhog) where I was born. My grandparents ran the local Post Office in Anita, PA a little town outside of Punxsutawney and I spent many summers there when I was growing up. Most of my youth was spent in the Buffalo area and I graduated from North Tonawanda High School in 1958. Following high school, I proceeded to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY where I received Bachelors and Masters degrees in Aeronautical Engineering. I also met my wife Joyce while there and we were married in 1962. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in August of this year!



Following my completion of the degrees at RPI, I decided to begin a PhD program at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies. After one year, I decided to leave the program and actually work for a living. The first job was with NASA at the Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center) in Houston, TX. I worked for a brief time on the Apollo project. The weather in Houston was so terrible I moved the family to California with NASA stationed at Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA. In 1966, I went to work for Lockheed Missiles & Space in Sunnyvale, CA. During that time I came to the realization that engineering wasn't actually my forte and I proceeded to obtain an MBA from Santa Clara University graduating in 1968. That launched my career in business computing.

My OCLI career began in May, 1973 and that is when I met Gordon Boulton. I left OCLI in 1977 to begin the next phase of my career.

After leaving OCLI, I was a partner in a computer consulting business called Software North with three partners. In 1980, I incorporated KLH Consulting to be one of the partners. KLH Consulting continued in business following the demise of the

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New Member Keith Hall (Continued)

partnership and I eventually sold the business in 2006 and retired.

However, I had been taking wine related classes at the Junior College and began working in the wine industry in 2007. I completed the wine studies program at the JC and have been at Ridge Vineyards in hospitality and customer education for 12 years.

I have two children, Christine and Tim. Chris lives in Cambodia while Tim is in San Francisco with our two grandchildren.

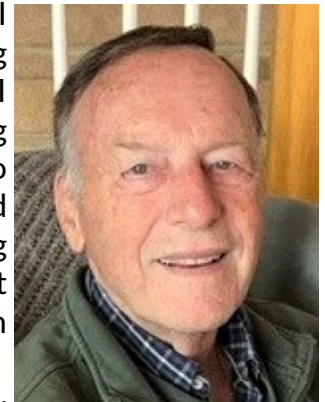
My interests really center around food, wine and travel. I do enjoy cards, (poker, bridge and others) also reading. Am a big sports fan, both professional and college games. *(Article by Keith Hall)*



New Member Badge # 6 Bruce Rocco

I was born in Santa Rosa and went to school at Santa Rosa High School Class of 1960, and Santa Rosa Junior College. I spent two years at Chico State University, graduated with a degree in Geography. I returned to Santa Rosa and married my wife Sandy, an Air Force Brat and Biology Major.

We settled into Santa Rosa and I went to work for my Dad, Joe Rocco. I became Rocco Painting Co, Inc. the Second and I stayed at Rocco Painting until my son Glen Rocco graduated from Chico and he became Rocco Painting the Third. We just can't get that paint out from under our nails!



My major hobbies are: travel and more travel, fishing any description such as fly fishing...the best.

I have a beautiful family; wife Sandy, daughter Dayna Meyers and her husband Glenn Meyers, grandsons Zachary and Cole, also my son Glen Rocco along with his wife Teri and granddaughters, Hayley and Riley. *(Article by Bruce Rocco)*



New Member Badge # 33
Dan Sullivan

I was born in San Francisco and grew up in Belmont. I attended Serra High School and the University of Santa Clara. After college, I moved back east to go to graduate school at Yale University, where I obtained a Ph.D. in economics.

My career as an economist was divided between work at colleges and universities and work in the private sector. For the last 18 years of my career, I was (now emeritus) the Cowles Professor of Media Management and Economics at the University of Minnesota. I retired in 2017.



In 2020, I returned to the Bay Area to become the live-in house manager and academic mentor at the Saint Vincent de Paul Home for Success in Santa Rosa (a house for young people who have aged out of foster care and become homeless, while they attend Santa Rosa Junior College).

I have five adult children and twelve grandchildren. I have a strong interest in the environment and a passion for my volunteer work to end the death penalty. I also love playing golf!

(Article by Dan Sullivan)

Calendar of SIR Events for Dec., 2022

- Dec 8 Coffee Club, Sam's For Play Café, 9 to 10 am
- Dec 8 Poker, **CANCELED**
- Dec 9 Global Forum **in-person** meeting, 10:00 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai
- Dec 14 Boys' Night Out, **CANCELED.**
- Dec 15 SIR BEC meeting, Epicenter, 9:45 am
- Dec 15 SIR Luncheon/Meeting, Epicenter, 11:00
- Dec 22 Coffee Club, **CANCELED** this time only
- Dec 23 Global Forum **Zoom** meeting, **CANCELED**
- Dec 30 Book Club at the home of Neil Wheeler at 2:00 pm
- Jan 12 Wine, Beer & Spirits, Savage & Cookie, on Mare Island, Vallejo, 10:30 am
- Jan 26 Couples' Night Out, Riviera Ristorante, at 6:30 pm

We are sad to inform you that our former member

Tom Lubas

*passed away on November 15, 2022.
We send our condolences to his family.*



Tom Lubas was born on January 30, 1943. He joined SIR Branch 17 in April of 2013, was a reverse mortgage broker, and enjoyed golf, fishing, gardening and hiking.



Poem for December
December Days

by Caleb Prentiss

**Ruthless winter's rude career
Comes to close the parting year;
Fleecy flakes of snow descend,
Boreal winds the welkin rend.
Reflect, oh man! and well remember
That dull old age is dark December;
For soon the year of life is gone,
When hoary hairs like snow come on.**

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

SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

Jim Fenstermaker, Badge #57

When asked to describe Jim Fenstermaker, Little Sir Gary Bondi, says "There are so many things about Jim and his involvement with SIR 17, that I don't know where to begin." Others say the same thing...Fenstermaker is amazing! He has done so much for the club and has rightfully earned the reputation of the guy who always accepts the challenge and does what needs to be done. Gordon Boulton, Big Sir, acknowledges "Jim is our corporate memory. As others come and go, Jim is the constant who knows how things are supposed to work, who is supposed to do what, when and how." "When I want to know something about SIR17, I Google *Fenstermaker!*" admits Fred Rose.

Jim learned to be resourceful and responsible as a young boy working on his parents' farm in Woodson IL, about 80 miles north of St. Louis and 30 miles west of Springfield. His dad always wanted to do farming and finally



bought 80 acres during the depression to raise cattle, hogs, chickens, and turkeys. Jim, his sister, and brother understood what hard work meant and that their work could be rendered useless by bad luck, bad insects, and bad weather. Farming is sometimes a big gamble. So, in high school, which he also didn't like very much, he took classes in drafting and carpentry that distanced him from farming and introduced him to a career in wood-working and lumber sales.

The winters in central IL can be brutal and Jim got tired of "scraping six inches of partly cloudy off the driveway, morning and night." With a sad farewell to his widowed mother, Jim headed west to CA to find a good job and warmer weather. His search took him to his brother's place in Santa Clara and then to the Livermore/Pleasanton area and

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Member Profiles:

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and finally to Santa Rosa.

With experience in millwork sales, Jim landed a series of jobs with building material and pre-hung door manufacturing companies before he retired in 2003. Jim has lots of interests including woodworking, electrical work, gardening, computers, and displaying dozens of adorable gnome lawn ornaments. He and his lovely wife Jean are excellent photographers, and their nature photos are breathtaking. These hobbies kept him very busy until he was coaxed by his neighbor, Bud Hill, to come to a SIR17 luncheon. At that time, we were meeting at the Scottish Rite Temple off Route 12 and just a few blocks from Jim's house. Although he prefers to avoid crowds, Jim liked the food, the comradery, and interesting speakers, and quickly volunteered to address the club's needs. Jim is well known across the entire State SIR organization as the editor of the acclaimed SIR17 *BARK* newsletter. Publishing was something he learned on the fly when he helped his and Jean's Scandinavian club with their newsletter. He had a steep learning experience, especially when the guy who was teaching him unexpectedly died. Knowing Jim had some knowledge of newsletters, John Sommerville asked Jim to publish the *BARK*. The early *BARK* newsletter was simply a single legal-size piece of mimeograph paper printed on one side. Jim taught himself how to use computer software to make the newsletter longer, interesting, and more readable. To date, Jim has only missed publishing one issue since August 2012, that being due to a 11-day hospital stay last year!

Despite his serious health issues that have sidelined his attendance at recent luncheons, Jim continues to perform many tasks for us in addition to publishing the *BARK*. Jim maintains and updates the club rosters, tracks our attendance, stores the huge badge boxes in the back of his truck, assembles new member packets, puts the names on new member badges, coordinates the phone tree list to determine luncheon attendees, and is an assistant webmaster. He even served as our club Secretary but had to relinquish that

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Member Profiles: (continued)

position due to a severe hearing issue.

Jim's devotion and dedication to our Branch is admired by all members who know him. Elias Zegarra who works with him on the Attendance Committee says, "Jim's willingness to teach, his selflessness, and his wisdom have benefited myself and many members." We are grateful for Jim's willingness to step up whenever and wherever the need arose.

However, it is time for him to step down from some of these many activities, and the BEC is looking for new leaders to follow in his footsteps. Gary Bondi says, "Jim never skipped a beat, never complained of the workload and the quality of his work never wavered." As members of SIR17, please consider it to be your honor and duty to accept the challenge and fill some of these roles the same way Jim has done for us over the past decade. (article by Dennis Mangan)



L/R: Mike Requarth, Fred McMane.

I'm Doing My Part Campaign A Big Success

As of Thanksgiving we have approved 26 new members in 2022, and 25 of them have been inducted!

Twenty-one members earned *I'm Doing My Part* pins for sponsoring those new members. Sir George Traverso sponsored two new members and Sir Rich de Lambert sponsored *four*! Twelve of those pins remain to be presented to their recipients (we've been doing it approximately quarterly), hopefully at the December luncheon.

We expect the *I'm Doing My Part* program will continue in 2023, as recognizing and rewarding members who contribute to our branch's continued vibrancy is vital to its ongoing success in attracting new members. (Article by Gordon Boulton)



L/R: Big Sir Gordon Boulton, Rich de Lambert, Tom Sparrowe, after they were presented their "I'm Doing My Part" pins at the October meeting.

Oktoberfest Style New Member Picnic

(Photos by Harold Minkin)



L/R: Richard Lundblad, Gary Bondi, Neil Wheeler, Hap Culp, Rich de Lambert, Chuck Baker.



L/R: Gordon Boulton, Ken Fox, Neil Wheeler, Rich de Lambert, Les Brodie, George Traverso, Wayne Brigden.

Activities:

Many of our regular activities are beginning to return to their normal status and we have several new ones that are just starting up, such as the newest one below. Check out the others following.

Community Involvement Program:

(Article by Robert Reuther)

At the last meeting on November 18, 2022, the BEC Board unanimously passed our mission and vision statement:

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Community Involvement Program is for SIR Branch 17 to have a more positive image in the community. The mission of SIR is "to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events which create friends for life." We believe that both can be achieved by caring for others.

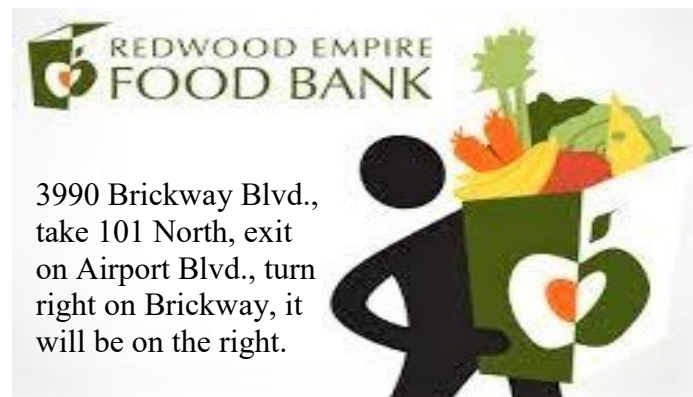
Vision Statement:

Our first step is to identify community activities that reflect this image. At the present time, we have identified that the **Redwood Empire Food Bank** is such an activity. We also believe that members should be given the opportunity to bring used eyeglasses or hearing aids to the meeting. They will be given to those who cannot afford them through charitable organizations.

As part of our Community Involvement Program, SIR Branch 17 volunteered at the Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) on December 1, 2022, from 10:00 am to noon. This is a **FIRST** (working in the community) to the best of our knowledge of any SIR Branch in our area! We hope you'll join us in the future dates and help make a difference. Please wear SIR apparel if you have it.

Barry Bialkoski will be collecting used eyeglasses and/or hearing aids at every SIR 17 luncheon, so please bring what you have when you can!

Barry Bialkoski, Bob Reuther Co-Chairs
Rich de Lambert, George Traverso Co-Vice Chairs



L/R: Rich de Lambert, Bob Reuther, George Traverso,
Barry Bialkoski *(Photo by Mike Rogalski)*

Bocce:



No members RSVP'd for neither the September nor October outings, but we have several new members that indicate they are interested in playing. Fred Rose has coordinated with Branch 76 and they welcome us to join them on Friday, December 2nd at Julliard Park at 11:00 am, or every Friday thereafter. They are playing recreationally now, but plan to join the Santa Rosa Bocce League in March. For questions or further information contact:

Mark Burchill at marknick@sonic.net or Chuck Stark at cstark@sonic.net



Book Club:*(article by Neil Wheeler)*

Our book for November was **2034: A Novel of the Next World War** by Elliot Ackerman and Admiral James Stavridis, which was discussed at our meeting on November 30th at my home.

Our next book club meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18th, at 2:00 pm at the home of Les Bodie. Les has identified three possible books and will poll the book group members before announcing the title.

Please let me know if you will be attending.

If you have any questions or would like to be on our email list, then please contact me at: nimwheeler@science-one.org

or call me at (707) 291-0271.

**Boys' Night Out:***(Article by Don Malvestiti)*

Our BNO at the Los Molcajetes Bar and Grill was a night filled with lots of margaritas, good food and lots of friendship.

Because of the busy holiday events we will **not** meet in December.

For January, I plan on dinner at the Union Hotel on Mission Blvd. in Santa Rosa.



Happy Holidays to all!

**Bowling:***(article by Fred Rose)*

If you have an interest in helping to get this activity going again so you also could enjoy it then contact our Activities Chair, Fred Rose at fredricrose@ciomcast.net or call 707-548-5797.

We will play at Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park any **Friday**. They open at 10:00 am and you can start bowling after checking in with Bob Brown of SIR Branch 76 after 10:15am.

**Bridge:**

If you have an interest in helping to get this activity going again so you also could enjoy it or if you have any questions, then contact either Co-Chair.

Dean Lundgren at mdlundgren@msn.com or call 707-544-8088.

James Park at jcpark38@sbcglobal.net or call 707-578-4255

**Coffee Club:***(article by Rich de Lambert)*

We had such a great time meeting at the Bennett Valley Grille on November 10th we wanted to return there for our December date, but they have changed their hours and will not be open at our desired hour. Instead, we'll be meeting at **Sam's For Play Café** (2630 Cleveland Ave) on Thursday, December 8th at 9:00 am! Come join us for coffee and great conversation. If you are hungry, you can even order breakfast if you like. We will **not** meet on December 22nd due to the holidays.



L/R: Less Brodie, Bill Grafeld, George Traverso, Fred McMane, Gary Bondi, Jim Taylor, Al Petrie, Frank Panza, (Guest) Rich Peterson, Richard Lundblad. at the November gathering inside Bennett Valley Grille.

(Picture by **Neil Wheeler**)

Couples' Night Out:*(Article by Fred Rose)*

707-548-5797

Due to the Holidays there will not be any **Couples' Night Out** until **January 26, 2023** at the Riviera Ristorante. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Reservations by Friday, January 20th are a **MUST!** Contact Fred at: fredricrose@comcast.net or call

Happy Holidays Everyone!

GLOBAL FORUM:*(Article by Marvin Mai)*

What seems like a never ending war in Ukraine, the rising unrest in China and Iran, possible food shortages world wide, some consideration to what's on the horizon for 2023. There's way too much going on in the

world for a person to keep up with.

The monthly Global Forum looks out at our contemporary world from multiple perspectives. We gather to discuss what's in the news and what's likely to be in the news soon.



We have a variety of perspectives and bring to bear our various backgrounds. It's always great fun and the monthly GLOBAL FORUM provides a place and a group interested in all that is going on around us.

We will meet Friday, December 9th at 10 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, 4743 Woodview Drive in Santa Rosa.

Reservations are going to be required, we've grown too large to host in one room. Attendance will be limited to the first seven members who respond to the email invite. (23 are now on the Global Forum roster!)

The monthly Zoom will **not** occur due to the Christmas holiday. Should you have any questions, please contact Marvin at: 707-545-2224 or mairmarvin57@gmail.com

GOLF:

Our official golf membership now stands at 46 players. In spite of cool morning temperatures we continue to see good turnouts. For those new to SIR Branch 17, the Bennett Valley team reserves a block of tee times for us beginning at 8:30 am each **Monday** morning. With the exception of a couple given foursomes, the guys usually pair up at random.

With the help of BV staff, we've also reinstated the club house bonus for the top three guys in each flight. Three dollars to first place, two to second and one dollar to third. The staff keeps account of your winnings

(continued top right)**GOLF:***(continued)*

to be used against most anything purchased in the club house.

Bennett Valley management is now being performed by Touchstone Golf, an experienced outfit managing 22 courses in California alone. A major task ahead is renovation of the irrigation system and the creation of a holding pond to provide a steady source of recycled water. Capital improvements, fuel costs, etc. exceed present income. As a member of the newly created BV Advisory Committee, Jim Gurke had the opportunity to review a draft schedule of revised green fees. For us seniors, the proposed increases appear minimal. As a city owned course, fee changes require approval of the SR City Council. At the December 6th 'study session' Touchstone management will present its case. The meeting is open to the public.

Since October, the SIR Branch 17 Golf Committee reinstated "travel golf," at courses besides the Monday BV rounds. Notices will be distributed via email to the entire golf membership prior to each event. On January 12, 2023 we have scheduled to play Rooster Run in Petaluma. Closer to that date we'll issue a separate notice inviting players to fill the three scheduled tee times. Travel golf often requires us to sign a contract with the course assuring them of the promised number of players. So one thing to remember: if you sign up to play we're counting on your commitment.

Golf Committee Rule of the Month: Conceded Putts (AKA gimmies). The Golf Committee allows for conceded putts in the interest of pace of play. The player themselves may not assume a putt is conceded. A gimme requires another player(s) in the group to verbally concede a putt when it appears to be "inside the leather" of a standard length putter, not to exceed two feet. Carelessly making a stroke and missing without a verbal concession is a stroke counted.

Come out and join the fun at the weekly 17/76 tourney each Monday morning!

Jim Gurke 707-303-0989

1gurke@gmail.com

Hiking Group: (Article by Stew Lauterbach)



I would encourage all to get a Regional Parks Pass. I plan to visit our fabulous regional parks. Significant others are welcome to join. Start at 8:00am. Carpooling is encouraged particularly if it is far away. Cancelled for any significant rain.

December 9: Hood Mountain at the very end of Los Alamos Road. This has many options that I have not explored. It can be challenging. There are several loop route, or one can go just in and return. We can explore together.

December 16: North Sonoma Mountain. 5297 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa. We will plan to hike the umbrella tree trail, only about 2 miles round trip but about 500 feet elevation.

December 23: Riverside Regional Park. 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg. This is a very flat park with about a 2 mile path with a small side trail to a redwood grove.

December 30: Armstrong Woods. There are many great trails here. It is a State Park so a parking fee applies. I would encourage carpooling for this trip. We can meet at the Park and Ride on River Road just west of the freeway at 8am.

Any questions or you want more information, contact Stew at: stewlauterbach@gmail.com or call him at 707-495-0985.

POKER: (Article by Mike O'Neill)



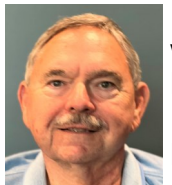
The December Poker game has been **cancelled**. With the holidays on the horizon, people just have too many things to do. Our next game will be on January 12, 2023. More on that in the next **BARK**.

We had a good game in November.

Fred was the "big" winner. We have had two new players join our group. One from our pre-pandemic games and one new member. If interested in joining us, contact Mike O'Neill at: Mikeo46@sbcglobal.net

Happy Holidays!

TRAVEL GOLF: (Article by Art Appling)



17/76 golfers are off to a good start with re-established travel golf. We are looking forward to playing Windsor on December 8th and Rooster Run in Petaluma on January 12th. Any questions, contact Art at: art4747@msn.com

Walking Group (Article by Richard Lundblad)



The walking group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am, that is weather permitting. We have been meeting lately at the Cypress Point Picnic Area at Howarth Park and often go out for coffee afterwards.

Come join us and bring a friend! If you have any questions or would like to be on our email list, email me at richardlundblad@gmail.com or call me at (707) 888-8386.

L/R: Richard Lundblad,
Wayne Brigden,
Les Brodie,
Rich de Lambert,
Gary Bondi.

In Trione-Annadel State Park.

(Photo by Neil Wheeler)



Wine, Beer and Spirits:

In the Spirit of the New Year, we have decided to have a Spirit tasting at a new facility at Mare Island in Vallejo. The spirit tasting will be held at Savage & Cooke located at 1097 Nimitz Avenue, Mare Island, Vallejo. The event will begin at 10:30 AM on Thursday, January 12, 2023. The event will be hosted by Bill's son, Tom Traverso, and will include a personal tour of the facility and tasting of the core spirits that Savage & Cooke produces. A nominal charge for the tastings and a complementary production tour will highlight the day's event. Following the Savage & Cooke visit, a no-host lunch will be enjoyed ending the day about 2:00 PM.

For further information please contact:

Bill Traverso at 707-477-4337 or email yinselr2@pacbell.net OR

George Traverso at 707-528-6987 or email geosan@sbcglobal.net



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