



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>



The REDWOOD BARK Newsletter JAN. 2023

All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023 at Bennett Valley Grille, 3330 Yulupa Avenue.

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 early morning on Wednesday, Jan. 11th 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!

Notice: The change in our lunch venue to **Bennett Valley Grille**, (formerly Legends), at the Bennett Valley Golf Course.
Entry: Please use the same entrance to the meeting rooms, to the left of the main entrance, as before.
Notice: The BARK will not get the menu before our meeting, but it will be posted on our website: sir17.org as soon as it becomes available to us.

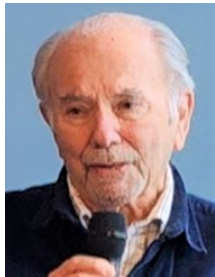
January 19th - Lunch/Meeting Schedule:

Social Hour: 11 am

Lunch/Meeting: 12 noon

Program: Fred McMane, long-time sports writer and editor for UPI.

Announcements:



Big Sir Gary Bondi's Message
gbond@sonic.net 707-539-2445

Well, here it is! My first article as Big Sir for 2023! I would like to begin by wishing the members of SIR Branch 17 and their families, good health and happiness for the New Year and beyond.

We are emerging from our first full year of SIR activities after the COVID-19 shut down. Looking back, we had great success in 2022! It started slow, but gained momentum as the year progressed. Many of our members returned to in-person meetings, rejoined and restarted activities. We continued to see more familiar faces returning to the meetings. We also added new activities and inducted several new members. Given what we endured for the two years prior to 2022 we ended the year on a high note and are poised for continued success in 2023. As Big Sir, I am committed to continue the momentum and great work done by the past BECs and those members that stepped up to help with our restart. The year will begin with some major changes. We move back to our old home at the Bennett Valley Grille.

(continued on page 2)



Little Sir Chris Nelle's Message
nelleval@hotmail.com 707-527-0576

Hello and **Happy New Year** fellow SIR members! I am sort of a new member, so I thought I would share a little about myself. First, a valuable lesson: when branch management asks if you would like to become more involved, listen very carefully to everything they say and be sure you understand what you are agreeing to!

My golfing buddy and member Mike Rogalski, solicited me for membership and after my introductory lunch in 2020 we then closed up group lunches for almost two years. I am sure happy to be back together and for me a chance to make a bunch of new friends. I am a retired banker, avid golfer, high school golf coach and over-active volunteer at the Humane Society of Sonoma County.

I am going through some tutorials on the State HQ's website to better familiarize myself with Little Sir duties, but my primary focus will be finding interesting speakers to entertain and to illuminate so that we remain true to our mission of "remaining active mentally"! So far, I have fellow member Fred McMane

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Big Sir Gary Bondi's Message: (continued)

I am excited to return as I know, so are many of you! As was noted in our recent survey, many members indicated they would like a change of venue and a return to our former location. I'm sure everyone will feel much more comfortable there. Most, if not all, of you are also aware, we have reinstated annual dues. Our treasurer, Al Petrie, addressed the need in his article in the **BARK**. So, lets get back to doing the things for which SIR was created. Get involved in our activities, help create new ones, attend our meetings, bring a friend, sponsor a new member and spread the word, SIR is a bunch of great guys doing fun things! I am looking forward to seeing you all at our first meeting of the new year, back in our old/new home and to your help in continued success for our SIR Branch 17!

BEC Nominates Rich de Lambert to be 2023 Director:

At the December 2022 BEC meeting, Rich de Lambert was appointed to serve the remainder of the late Tom Lubas' 2022 term. The BEC also nominated Rich to be a director in 2023, again replacing Tom Lubas. Rich's nomination will be voted on by all the members present at the January 2023 luncheon.

Recruiting: (article by Rich de Lambert)

Congratulations fellow members for all your support this past year. In 2022, we grew our membership to a level we haven't seen since 2016. Your efforts have been noticed by both state and local SIR leaders.

However, this is not a time to rest on our laurels but to look at our challenges for the new year. Working together as a team in 2023, we will be building SIR Branch 17 to new heights. **Happy New Year!**

Joke of the Month



One summer evening, during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy!"

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Little Sir Chris Nelle's Message: (continued)

to regale us with stories from his 40 years of being a sportswriter. I am fresh off watching the World Cup finals (greatest ever!) and reading some sports writing from various websites. Sports writing really tells a deeper story about the competition, so much so you can feel it!

Then in February we have Frank McCormack with the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (stem cell research). We will hear how our tax dollars are being used to enhance our physical wellbeing. If he engages you in a bunch of personal questions, be careful and DO NOT give him your contact info!! Remember, we are a target-rich environment for "regenerative medicine!"

Then in March we have Dr. David Card, Professor of Economics, UC Berkeley (*GO BEARS!*) and the 2021 Nobel Laureate in Economics. He will attempt to explain the research and paper he did on the impact immigration has had on minimum wage (that won the Nobel). I have heard him speak before and he enjoys lots of questions. I am thinking I will solicit questions from the membership leading up to his talk. He also offers a fun photo op where he presents the Nobel medal (yes, he brings it) to you while shaking your hand...as if you were the winner!

In April we have Margie Pettibone from Catholic Charities, and she will update us on our communities' efforts to provide shelter for the homeless.

And, as for a future booking, we will have Santa Rosa City Manager Maraskeshia Smith as our August speaker. If you have thoughts/ideas on targets for future speakers send me a note.



January Birthdays:

Glenn Andrade	Barry Bialkoski
Steve Carey	Steve Edelstein
Dennis Mangan	Jerry Peterson
Robert Scheibel	

SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

John Sommerville, Badge #79

You can hear his booming voice across a crowded luncheon room as he tells a joke with his typical deadpan expression. You might even detect a Texas accent too. That's because John was born and raised in Sweetwater TX, a little town about 40 miles west of Abilene. (Sweetwater is the center of the leading wind power generation region of the Western Hemisphere and is sometimes called the "Wind Turbine Capital of Texas.") In 9th grade, when John was growing into a big boy, his barber encouraged him to go out and play football. The next year he started playing football and by his senior year, was voted to the Second Team All State high school football team, which, considering how many great football players there are in Texas, is an impressive honor!

After graduation in 1954, John joined the Air Force and moved to San Antonio for basic training. When basic training was over, "they asked me, would I kill myself or go AWOL if I were still stationed in San Antonio? And I said no. So, they made me a basic training instructor for the rest of my four-year tour." John became an academic instructor for 600 trainees each week, teaching first aid and "field survival." This included pitched tents out in the "boonies," a two-hour run through an obstacle course, a house filled with tear gas, a climb up the side of a cliff with ropes, and then a walk across a pond on ropes.

While at San Antonio, John met and married Henrietta, an instructor in the Women's Air Force, and children soon followed. After discharge, they moved to Lubbock TX where he started selling cars and everything that went with them, like tires, seat covers, and accessories. This was his first taste of the excitement of sales and managing a store, and it was clear that running a business was where his career was headed. *(continued top right)*



Member Profiles:

(continued)

Henrietta was from Hawaii and wanted to be near her family again, so in 1962 they packed up their belongings, including their three little girls, and moved to Hawaii where John found a job with Uniroyal Tires supervising three stores in Honolulu. They stayed for about five years until the company moved him to San Francisco to oversee multiple stores around the Bay Area and Phoenix.

In 1970 John was transferred to Miami to help put together a new company, Pan American Tire. However, at that time, racial tensions were growing, and shots were fired one afternoon while his daughter attended a junior high basketball game. "This is no place to raise a family" and he requested a transfer to a calmer, safer place... like Santa Rosa! Uniroyal put John in charge of stores from Crescent City down to Marin County. "I opened a couple of new stores and one of them...I ended up buying it!" That's when John got into being self-employed and managed the store for 17 years. He liked owning businesses but admits it was very hard work, 7 days a week.

As much as he enjoyed the tire store, he found "the highlight of my life" when he became President of a gold mining company 82 miles north, northeast of Nome AK (where the Iditarod Sled Race ends). "Oh my God, I enjoyed that more than anything, but didn't make any money off of it." For 12 years they leased nearly 2000 acres, but any money was re-invested in the mine. "It was a very exciting time in my life...but I didn't end up being much of a gold miner!" In looking back on where he has lived, John likes to brag about having lived in four distant corners of the USA: San Antonio TX, Miami FL, Honolulu HI, and Nome AK.

John sold the tire shop and got into a lucrative video wholesale business, where he bought, sold, and rented tapes for six years before Blockbuster put them out of business. Former SIR17 member Claude Schwarz recalled John's business acumen and hard work: "John purchased a video store from me in Rohnert Park, cleaned it up, and opened it one day after the sale."

Claude recognized John would make a terrific member of SIR17 *(continued on page 4, top left)*

Member Profiles:

(continued)

and sponsored his admission in 2000. John has served as our secretary for five years and a Big Sir in 2010. He has been with SIR17 for 22 years, has been married to Henrietta for 67 years, lived in the same house for 53 years, and has owned his beloved Bronco for 36 years. Bob Reuther says, "John has always been a very cordial and a personable guy." Jim Fenstermaker confirmed that John was a great guy, who "helped me see how to work on different projects and by doing so helped me get more out of belonging (to SIR17), along with how to meet more guys, find out their interests, and many other "plus points.""

John is one more reason we enjoy being part of SIR17!

(Article by Dennis Mangan)



New Member Badge #030

Nick Stameroff

I was born in 1947 in Los Angeles, CA. My parents met in Paris shortly after the war. My mother was born in the Ukraine. She was a German war prisoner and after Germany surrendered she made her way to Paris. Shortly after I was born they moved to Santa Rosa where they purchased a chicken ranch. They spoke Russian at home so that is my first language. I did not know English when I started school.

I graduated from Cloverdale High School in 1965 and joined the U. S. Army in August of that year. I was sent to Fort Ord for my basic training and to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for advanced artillery survey training. I then spent two years at Ft. Sill and then received orders to Korea. I was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. While in Korea I enrolled in college courses given by the University of Maryland. I earned 12 college units during my Korean tour.



After being discharged from the Army I moved back to Santa Rosa

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New Member Nick Stameroff:

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and enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College. I majored in life science. I transferred to Humboldt State University. I changed my major to economics and graduated in 1972. In 1975 I started my accounting career as a tax auditor for the State Board of Equalization. While working for the State Board of Equalization I completed my MBA (tax) at Golden Gate University. I also passed the CPA exam and obtained my license. Once I obtained my CPA license, I left the state and opened my private practice.

I operated my practice for thirty years. Five years ago I sold my practice and ended up merging it with a local CPA firm. I currently work part time with that firm assisting with client retention.

I have two sons, both of whom reside in Sonoma County.

My current interests are keeping fit and healthy, through swimming, hiking, and walking. With my current wife Juli, I enjoy travelling, both foreign and domestic. We try to take at least one trip a year. Last year we completed a major landscape project which expanded our gardening footprint. I look forward in participating in the various club activities, meeting new friends and trying new pursuits.

Sincerely, Nick Stameroff

Annual Dues

January 2023 is the last month to complete your payment of the \$25 dues for 2023. Please either forward a check in the amount of \$25.00 to me (**make payable to SIR 17**) or pay the dues at the January 19, 2023 lunch meeting at the Bennett Valley Grille. 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



Doing My Part

(photo by Rich Osborne)

L/R: John Gnam, Harold Minkin, Gordon Boulton, Wayne Brigden, and Neil Wheeler received their *I'm Doing My Part* pins from Gordon at the December 15th luncheon for sponsoring new members during the September-December time frame. Twenty-one members have earned pins this year but six have yet to receive their pins since they have not been to luncheon(s) since earning them. They are Jack Rosetti, Dean Lundgren, Tony Negri, David Harris, Ken Fox, and Marv Schouweiler. Pins have been awarded approximately every four months, but we will award pins to the above members at any 2023 luncheon where they are present. (article by Gordon Boulton)



Distinguished Service Award winner Jim Fenstermaker

(photo by Neil Wheeler)

L/R: Tom Sparrowe, Gordon Boulton, Jim Fenstermaker, Ted Scapeccia, Elias Zegarra, Glenn Seime, Bill Grafeld. On December 7th the above group of Sir Branch 17 surprised Jim Fenstermaker at his home to present him with the Distinguished Service Award pin. Several of us have been working with Jim on the several rosters he maintains so that he can retire from that responsibility. Neil, Tom and Gordon used that as a pretext to set up a meeting with Jim at his house. At the BEC meeting "regular attendees" were invited to join in on the surprise. Jim was truly surprised and grateful for the honor! Attendees at the December luncheon were able to congratulate Jim also via Zoom.

Dennis Mangan's *Member Profile* article about Jim in the December BARK documented the many roles Jim has filled in service to Branch 17 over the past decade that earned him this prestigious honor. (article by Gordon Boulton)



Installation of new 2023 Officers and Directors: L/R: Neil Wheeler, Barry Bialkoski, John Gnam, Chris Nelle, Gary Bondi, Gordon Boulton, Al Petrie, Terry Freeman, Steven Saulsbury, Bill Grafeld



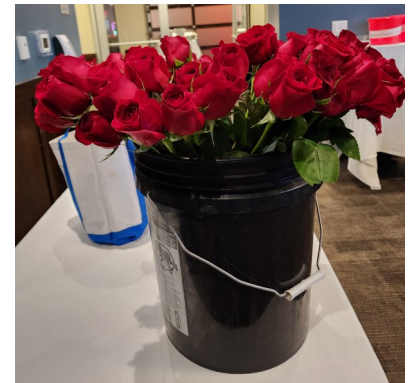
Dick Carlile
Guest of Bill Grafeld



Holiday music entertainment by Kurt Wehrmeister



Chow Down!



Long stemmed roses for each attendee!

(all photos by Rich Osborne)

Activities:

Participation in SIR Activities:

(Article by Neil Wheeler)



With COVID-19, Flu, and RSV in the news, many of us are cautious about attending in-person meetings, particularly indoors. While we try to reduce the risk to our members by following federal, state, and local guidance, and our COVID-19 vaccination/testing policy, we realize you may decide to not take part in SIR activities at this time. We want you to know that there are other ways for you to enjoy SIR, other than in person.

This past year we have tried to make safe participation in SIR activities possible for all members:

- All of our luncheon meetings are now both live and broadcast on Zoom so you can take part from home or even when travelling.
- We video record our luncheon speakers and post the videos on YouTube.
- Many of our activities have tried to move outdoors, weather permitting.
- You can follow what your fellow SIR members are doing on Facebook, and you do not need a Facebook account.
- You can find our **BARK** newsletter, BEC meeting agenda and minutes, the branch roster, plus event and activity pictures on our website at: www.SIR17.org

In late December we emailed all members a guide to accessing SIR Branch 17's online resources. If you did not get a copy, please contact me at: njmwheeler@science-one.org or 707-291-0271 and I will send you one.

Bocce:

As we move into 2023, we have new opportunities. We scheduled a few gatherings in 2022 but did not have a turn out. Fred Rose has coordinated with Branch 76 which is playing Bocce every Friday at 11:00am at Juilliard Park in Santa Rosa. We are invited to join them. They are playing recreationally now, but plan to join the Santa Rosa Bocce League in March. This is a great opportunity for Branch 17 bocce players to get organized and develop our own schedule or routinely join with Branch 76 players. Let's set January 13th to meet at Julliard Park at



10:45 am to get organized and started for the new year. For questions or further information contact:

Mark Burchill at marknick@sonic.net or call 707-542-2529.



Chuck Stark at cstark@sonic.net or call 707-799-3373

Fred Rose at fredricrose@comcast.net or call 707-548-5797

Book Club:

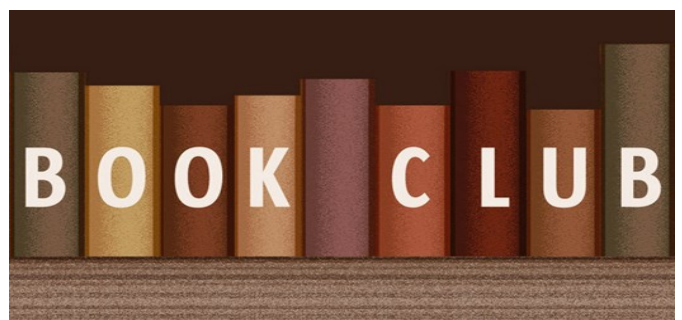
(Article by Neil Wheeler)



Our book for December was **Prussian Blue** by Philip Kerr. We will discuss the book at our next book club meeting on Wednesday, **January 18th**, at 2:00 pm at the home of Les Brodie.

Please let Les know if you will be attending by emailing him at: lsbc12@gmail.com or calling him at 707 805-8686.

If you have any questions or would like to be on our email list, email me at njmwheeler@science-one.org or call me at (707) 291-0271.



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@comcast.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.

Boys' Night Out: (Article by Don Malvestiti)



BNO will start off the New Year by heading to the **Union Hotel Restaurant**, at 280 Mission Blvd., on Wednesday, **January 11th**, 5:30 pm Social, Dinner 6.00 pm.

Let Don know by Friday, January 5th if you want to join.

Contact Don at: malvestitidon485@gmail.com or call 707-539-0677. Leave a message if no answer.



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 met at Sam's For Play Café on December 8th. Coffee Club will continue in January on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays at 9:00 am**. On January 12th we will meet at **Mac's Deli and Café** (630 4th St, Santa Rosa.) The location for the 26th has not been decided yet.

Come join us for coffee, great conversation, and breakfast if you're hungry. If you have questions, contact Rich de Lambert at: **707 545-3490** or richdelambert@gmail.com

Community Involvement Program:

For the first time our SIR Branch 17 participated in a volunteer effort at the Redwood Empire Food Bank located at 3990 Brickway Blvd., just off Airport Blvd., Santa Rosa on December 1st. Fifteen SIR volunteers were present and that included Ken Johnson's wife Dayle. This is a family and friends' activity, so in the future if you want to participate you are welcome to bring along your spouse, neighbors, and friends.

We packaged apples and canned food for distribution for people in need. For our comfort, the Food Bank had chairs to sit down on and a lunchroom with free coffee and water. No need to be concerned about comfort or physical ability to help feed the hungry. You can take a break any time you need to.

The Food Bank has been feeding our neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger since 1987. They distribute food through their own programs and partner organizations in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. As the largest hunger-relief organization in our area, they work on the front lines of emergency food assistance in the region, playing a crucial role in helping individuals, families, seniors, and children. Their mission is simple—to end hunger in the community.

The feedback we received from our SIR members who participated was very positive: "It make me feel good," "Glad to help," "That was a good outing," and "Thanks for setting up the opportunity to help. It was good to lend a hand to a great program."

We hope that you can join us in our next volunteer activity at the Redwood Empire Food Bank and experience the good feeling of helping others. Wear your SIR apparel so our SIR Branch 17 is identified. The date is set for January 5, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon. Just tell us (George, Rich, Barry, or Bob) that you are coming so we can inform the Food Bank of our number.

In the future we plan to be at the Food Bank every first Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. until noon. If you can't make the 5th, plan for next month. We are also planning other volunteer activities in the future. Watch for future announcements.

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Community Involvement Program (continued)

Don't forget to bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids to the next monthly meeting. We will give them to charitable organizations to be used by the needy.



Barry Bialkoski &
Bob Reuther
Co-Chairs

Rich de Lambert &
George Traverso
Co-Vice Chairs

(Article by Robert Reuther)



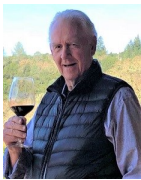
GLOBAL FORUM: (continued)

We will meet Friday, January 13th at 10 AM at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, 4743 Woodview Drive.

Reservations are going to be required; we've grown too large to host in one room. Attendance will now be limited to the first 7 members who respond to the email invite. (24 are on the Global Forum roster)

The monthly **Zoom** meeting will resume on January 27th at 10 AM. Should you have any questions or if you'd like to join the Zoom please send Marv an email to: maimarvin57@gmail.com or call: 707-545-2224.

Couples' Night Out: (Article by Fred Rose)



When: **Thursday, January 26, 2023.**
Where: **The Riviera Ristorante.**
75 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa.
Time: Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Reservations

are a MUST by Friday, Jan. 20th. Contact Fred at:
fredricrose@comcast.net
or call **707-548-5797.**
(leave a message if I don't answer)



Golf (article by Jim Gurke)

Not much to report for the month. Expect a muddy venue at Bennett Valley with the recent rains. We will report on playing conditions as we near each Monday morning and whether a competition is to be held.

Thanks to Art Appling, Marc Perl, and Branch 76 volunteers, 'travel golf' has been a success with guys playing at other Sonoma County courses. If interested in signing up please contact either myself (1jgurke@gmail.com); or Art (art4747@msn.com).

Upcoming dates and venues are as follows:

January 12, 2023, Tee time 10 AM at Rooster Run.
Currently 9 players signed up.

February 8, 2023, Tee time 10 AM at Foxtail North.
Currently 6 players signed up.

March 2, 2023 Tee time 9:30 AM at Valley of the Moon in Oakmont. So far 6 players signed up.

Pace of play can sometimes become an issue, especially when courses require 'cart path only' for power carts. We're some of the first groups out on our BV Monday morning outings setting the pace for groups following us. The Golf Committee is about to distribute a memo to our club outlining tried and true ways to speed up pace and better enjoy the game. We'll also remind new and existing members about local SIR rules adopted when we resumed play following the pandemic.

In the meantime, hit 'em straight, enjoy the round with fellow SIRs, and **Happy New Year** to all.

Your Golf Committee



GLOBAL FORUM: (Article by Marvin Mai)



During our first meeting in 2023 we will be trying to determine the key outlooks and implications for dynamic and impactful Geopolitical trends around the world for the upcoming year, such as:

***The Western-led global order's efforts to manage the difficult diplomatic tensions between countries.

***The continuing Russia invasion of Ukraine and its impact on the economies, food and gas supplies.

***China's growth and influence in the developing world, especially in South and Central America.

***U.S.-Iran nuclear talks and their weapon sales and expanding influence in the Middle East.

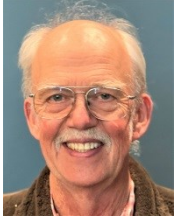
We have a wide range of perspectives that always exposes us to a variety of opinions and knowledge and it is always enlightening and great fun at these monthly meetings.

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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

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 9:00am on each Friday. Carpooling is encouraged particularly if it is far away. Cancelled for any significant rain event.

I will be out of town for the first two Fridays in January, but here is the schedule.

January 6. Spring Lake Lagoon parking lot for a hike into Annadel.

January 13. Foothill Regional Park, Windsor. I hiked the loop trail around the perimeter, 3.2 miles, mostly fire roads, elevation gain 295 feet. This park has suffered from fires and a small area at the top has a lot of burned trees, but the park seems to be coming back beautifully.

January 20. Mount Taylor Regional Park, meet at the 2080 Kawana Terrace entrance. Let us shoot for a hike to the lookout and return.

January 27. Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, Windsor. A beautiful park with many routes and fire roads.

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

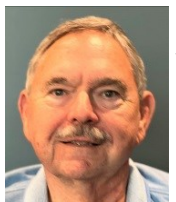
POKER: (Article by Mike O'Neill)



There will be **NO** poker game in January. Again, we ended up with scheduling conflicts with other Sir events. Moving forward, I believe this has been corrected. Our game in February will be on the 9th. We will be moving the game to the

Bennett Valley Grille. We currently have nine players. If we get a couple more we could have two games. What fun. If anybody has questions or would like to join the group. Please contact Mike O'Neill at mikeo46@sbcglobal.net.

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 Rooster Run in Petaluma on Jan. 12th. (See page 9 in the Golf article for more dates.) 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.

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 12th.

The event will be hosted by Bill's son, Tom Traverso, and will include a complimentary personal tour of the facility and a tasting of the core spirits that Savage & Cooke produces. 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



December Coffee Club L/R: Neil Wheeler, Richard Lundblad, Wayne Brigden, and Rich de Lambert lingering at Sam's For Play Café after coffee and breakfast.

(photo by waitress)

SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17

The following is a list of your **2023** Officers and Directors.

Officers:	* Voting Members	Email	Phone
*Big Sir:	Gary Bondi	gbondi@sonic.net	707-539-2445
*Little Sir:	Chris Nelle	nelleva@hotmail.com	707-527-0576
*Secretary:	Terry Freeman	terryfreeman22@yahoo.com	707-235-7066
*Asst. Secretary:	Steven Saulsbury	stevensaulsbury@comcast.net	707-328-4627
*Treasurer:	Al Petrie	alpetrie7@aol.com	707-974-9193
*Asst. Treasurer:	John Gnam	musicmed@sonic.net	707-528-0592
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State Officers:			
President:	Dave Gonzales	yogonzo@yahoo.com	916-587-3538
Area Representative:	Robert Nadell	nadellb@sbcglobal.net	707-978-2636

The **December** Birthday Boy winner of a Free Lunch went to **Jim Gurke**.



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.

Calendar of SIR Events for Jan., 2023

Bowling every **Friday**, 10:15 AM at Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park.

Golf every **Monday** morning at BVGC.

Walking Group every **Tuesday**, 10 AM Meet in Howarth Park at Cypress Point Picnic Area.

Jan 5 Community Involvement, 10 AM Redwood Empire Food Bank, Santa Rosa

Jan 6 Hiking, 9 AM Annadel State Park leave from Spring Lake Lagoon parking lot.

Jan 11 Boys' Night Out, 5:30 PM Union Hotel, S/R

Jan 12 Coffee Club, 9 AM Mac's Deli Café, S/R

Jan 12 Travel Golf, 10 AM Rooster Run, Petaluma

Jan 12 Savage & Cooke, 10:30 AM Mare Island, Vallejo, Wine, Beer & Spirits.

Jan 12 Poker, **CANCELED**.

Jan 13 Hiking, 9 AM Foothill Regional Park, in Windsor.

Calendar of SIR Events *(continued)*

Jan 13 Global Forum **in-person** meeting, 10 AM at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, S/R

Jan 13 Bocce, 10:45 AM Julliard Park, Santa Rosa.

Jan 18 Book Club 2 PM at the home of Les Brodie.

Jan 19 SIR BEC meeting, 9:30 AM BV Grille.

Jan 19 SIR Luncheon/Meeting, 11 AM BV Grille.

Jan 20 Hiking, 9 AM Mount Taylor Regional Park, meet at 2080 Kawana Terrace entrance.

Jan 26 Coffee Club, 9 AM ?? Somewhere...

Jan 26 Couples' Night Out, 6:30 PM Riviera Ristorante, 75 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa.

Jan 27 Hiking, 9 AM Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, Windsor.

Jan 27 Global Forum **Zoom** meeting at 10 AM.

Feb 8 Travel Golf, 10 AM Foxtail North, R/P

Mar 2 Travel Golf, 9:30 AM Valley of the Moon.

Poem for January

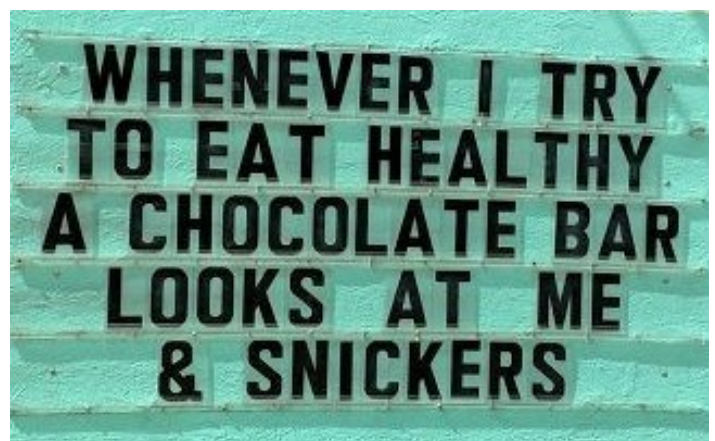
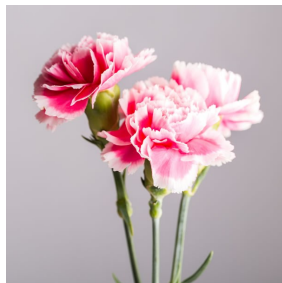
I'm January

by Annette Wynne

I'm January bringing you
A year of days—all brand, brand new;
I step upon the frosty ground.
When chimes and sleighbells ring around;
You welcome me and children sing,
And joy comes into everything.
I bring you love and lots of cheer,
And work and friends for all the year.

The birthday flower for January is the fragrant carnation,

also known as dianthus, sweet william, pink, and gilly-flower. Available in a rainbow of colors and blossom sizes, carnations are known for their dainty ruffled petals and a sweet fragrance reminiscent of cloves or cinnamon.



First neighbor: "I wonder if his bride is a good housekeeper?"

Second neighbor: "I am afraid not. The day I dropped in she was trying to open an egg with a can opener."



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