



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

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

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For **APR. 2021**

## All members are invited to attend our next SIR “Luncheon” Meeting on Thursday, **April 15, 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)

### April 15<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:** Ben Stone, President of the World Affairs Council of Sonoma County.

**Announcements:** An introduction of new members and the winner of the Birthday Boy lunch.

### April 15<sup>th</sup> Lunch Menu

Same as the last 11 months have been,

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Beverages: Your choice...

### BIG Sir George Traverso's Message

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



My monthly **BARK** messages are always devoid of my thoughts on two very socially divisive and opinionated topics: religion and politics. This, I believe, is fundamental to our healthy relationship in SIR. Especially at this moment, I must confirm that my inner strength lies in a discussion of philosophy, science and my eternal optimism for the future.

I hate to repeat the infamous cliché “I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.” However, I do see some glimmer in the distance. Just as I was a long-distance runner at Montgomery High School so many years ago...the path may be long, grueling and sometimes lonely, but the goal at the finish is sweet and comforting.

During this past month we welcomed the spring equinox. April is the glorious month in which spring exhibits its beauty and prepares for a welcomed summer. Combined with nature's seasonal transition we also changed our daily routine... spring forward! Just as nature propels forward with new growth and colorful flowers, I attempt to philosophize our covid situation.

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### Little Sir Gordon Boulton's Message

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



By the time you receive this issue of the **BARK**, April 1<sup>st</sup> may have come and gone. If so, it might be because those of us who have to write articles for it have, once again, procrastinated. Our editor undoubtedly thinks we are fools, but he should know there is no fool like an April Fool.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. (Ask Rich de Lambert, rumor is he was there. ☺) In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called “April fools.” These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as “poisson d'avril” (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

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**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> Stu Williams	<b>AREA 10 GOVERNOR</b> Robert Reuther	<b>REGION 3 DIRECTOR</b> Dennis Pangburn	Dennis Mangan Jim Fenstermaker

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

With science leading the way, we cannot be complacent and "let our guard down" now especially when most of us have endured so many days with restrictions due to covid. Nature's growth and re-birth links us to a similar situation in our battle to contain and eradicate this deadly pandemic. If we follow the science then a renaissance of a return to normalcy...economically and socially...will be a welcomed gift.

**WE ARE GROWING!**

**GOOD NEWS...**I am thrilled to have received three applications for new SIR members. It is truly remarkable because of the restrictions that COVID-19 has imposed upon our group during this past challenging year. This growth is a signal that we are healthy and vibrant. I shall present the names and sponsors of these individuals for review at the BEC meeting on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 am. The candidates will be formally inducted at our Zoom "Luncheon" meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 11:00 am. David Harris is our first candidate who is sponsored by Sir Gary Bondi and Sir Fred Rose; our second candidate is Marc Perl, sponsored by Sir Fred Rose and thirdly, Randy Coleman-Riese is supported by Sir Rich de Lambert and Sir John Gnam. I look forward to meeting our new inductees and I wish to personally thank each of the sponsors in their pursuit to strengthen and build our organization with talent and vigor.

**Upcoming Speakers**

**May 20:** **Jim Sweeney** is the Editorial Director for the *Press Democrat*. He'll be telling us how the editorial page of the PD is put together.

**June 17:** Our own **Sir Rich Osbourne**, VP of the North Bay Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, will give a presentation on hearing loss.

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

Another important date in April is April 15<sup>th</sup>, which until recently was Tax Day but is now, just as importantly, only our Zoom monthly lunch meeting. As you undoubtedly know, Tax Day has been slipped to May 17<sup>th</sup>, much to the disgruntlement of professional tax preparers, like my son. So don't procrastinate, do your best to get your taxes finished by the original due date. And in case you *didn't* know, if you have to make quarterly estimated tax payments the first installment is still due April 15. If you delay until May 17, you will be hit by the IRS with a late penalty. So don't delay, don't be an April Fool!

**Our guest speaker for our April 15  
Zoom meeting will be Ben Stone.**

Ben is a board member and president of the World Affairs Council of Sonoma County (WACSC). In fact, Ben was a founding board member of the WACSC, but only recently rejoined it after he retired as Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB).



Ben's interest in world affairs began at age 10 when his mother got him a pen pal in England, and in high school he was selected by the Spokane Rotary Club to be an exchange student in England.

After graduate school he was asked to develop an international trade program for a small manufacturer which led to his being part of U.S. government trade missions to the Philippines and El Salvador.

His accomplishments as Director of the Sonoma County EDB might be the subject of a future second invitation to be a guest speaker!

## Coffee Chat Zoom Meetings

### One Two Three, it's Breakfast at SIR Branch 17!

Come join us at 10:00 am every **Wednesday**.

A special thanks to a small group who have stayed the course i.e., Paul Willihnganz, Elias Zegarra, Tom Lubas, Ken Johnson, Rich Osborn (some-times even from Colorado), Chris Nolen, Lance Thompson, Mark Burchill, Marvin Mai and of course, our Big SIR, George Traverso. Some members come in their bathrobes and some with their significant others—always your choice.



Our meetings cover many topics and have allowed us some social get-togethers in an exceedingly difficult time. We tell a few jokes, talk about current events, new and good restaurants, park trails, also some family stories, weather and what to plant.

Come and have FUN with us with your own coffee cup. We are together for about 45 minutes during which time we raffle a great bottle of wine to the lucky winner. Call Rich de Lambert at 707-545-3490 or George Traverso at 707-528-6987 for Zoom instructions if you miss our email.

## Our Future Meetings, via Zoom

The 2021 regular “luncheon” meetings for now will be held on our usual dates of the third Thursday, starting at 11:00 am.

**Apr 15<sup>th</sup> May 20<sup>th</sup> June 17<sup>th</sup> July 15<sup>th</sup>**

The BEC meetings will be held on the first Thursday, starting at 10:00 am.

**Apr 1<sup>st</sup> May 6<sup>th</sup> June 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup>**

## How Lucky We Are! (Article by Big Sir George Traverso)

How fortunate we are to be in SIR. We have a talented group of individuals in our Branch 17 that are gifted in so many ways. I encourage you to be involved...take time to phone one another, check up and see how our friends are doing in this time of pandemic endurance. Granted, I am encouraged with the availability of more vaccines for all and the quest of herd immunity to eradicate this virus. However, we can take advantage of the many avenues that keep us together. Sir Marvin Mai keeps us interested in his bi-monthly Friday Global Forum Zoom meetings. Discussion of current world events are at 10:00 am on those special days. My co-host, Sir Richard de Lambert, presents an interesting Coffee Chat Zoom meeting every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am. Rich has a prize and a lucky number for the lucky participant...all you have to do is bring a joke to share and a friend to experience the good cheer. The first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am is saved for our Branch Executive Committee Zoom meeting. This BEC meeting is open to all our Branch 17 members, not just only to our Officers and Directors...tune in and understand the workings of your organization. Finally, every third Thursday of the month at 11:00 am is reserved for our monthly Zoom “luncheon” meeting. Little Sir, Gordon Boultee, selects an interesting speaker for the meeting and we all enjoy the camaraderie. At these “luncheon” gatherings, we also celebrate the SIR Birthday Boys monthly and one lucky individual wins a free lunch when we can meet again at a restaurant in the near future. You do not have to wear a mask to Zoom and I hereby invite you to participate. See you there!

*Congratulations to our **March 2021**  
winner: **Marvin Mai***

## List of the **April Birthdays**

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

**Robert Reuther      George Traverso**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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 Profile:

**Rich de Lambert, Badge #165**

I knew this interview was going to be different... and Rich didn't disappoint. What came out was a full tsunami of assorted details of a life well-lived and stories well-told. The two topics that seem to highlight Rich's life were: fundraising and sports. NOTE: there's lots more to Rich than those two things, such as his six years spent in the Army and longtime affiliation with Rotary, but let's keep it simple.



Rich practiced astute financial management while President of the Chamber of Commerce and working for various banks and local governments. He became an expert in investment loans that helped many Santa Rosa businesses get started or renovate. Rich still salivates when talking about "jumbo" and "hard money" loans. He also became an avid fundraiser for several non-profit organizations, and thoroughly enjoyed getting corporations to give money to good causes. (Why do I get an image of Robin Hood hearing this?) Yet, the bank business can be dangerous. Rich tells of having a gun pointed at his face and sitting with a teller with a bomb strapped to her wrist by a robber who threatened to blow up the place if he didn't get what he asked for. Although nerve racking, fortunately no one was hurt in either case.

Rich relishes sports. He enjoys downhill skiing, swimming, baseball, football and golf. However, tennis is his favorite and in the Army he played at a highly competitive level throughout the USA. Like many athletes who played sports for decades, Rich accumulated lots of joint injuries that eventually took a toll on his mobility. A knee replacement was complicated when he was given the wrong size crutches that resulted in shoulder injuries as well.

Rich was an excellent tap dancer who started this clickety activity with the encouragement of his mother at the age of five. He danced on local TV shows as a boy and later performed at Army and Navy hospitals throughout the Bay area during WWII. The great thing about tap dancing is how it improves strength, balance and flexibility in his legs, and this likely served him well when playing sports like tennis.

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## Member Profiles:

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Rich is an insatiable learner. After high school in Oakland, he went to college at San Jose State before getting informal, on-the-job business training at Sears and banks. He continued his education by getting college training in commercial property appraisal, English, and business administration. Rich went to work at several local wineries where he learned to give tours, run tasting rooms and grow some of the best grapes in the county. He even went back to Santa Rosa Junior College to learn more about the wine business. During the pandemic, Rich used the "down time" to learn French. Throughout his career, Rich shared his knowledge by teaching tennis, Little League baseball, and youth soccer. He returned to SRJC to teach economics and business law.

Assuring me he is not a "ding-a-ling," Rich and his family are world-renown for their bell collection! The de Lamberts own around 750 bells, some of them 200-300 years old that they've collected from Persia, Belgium and Hawaii. You may even have heard a de Lambert bell ring at the start of winery and military events around the region.

Anyone who has been greeted by Rich at the front desk knows how good he is at schmoozing and extracting money from your wallet! He is extremely proud of his success in building the membership at SIR17 and other clubs and teaches clubs how to increase their membership. Rich is currently a Director on the Branch Executive Committee and heads up our drive to get new members. Long ago, Rich learned that offering a bottle of wine to someone open doors (and wallets)! That's still the case (pun intended) with SIR17! Rich co-chairs the popular Wednesday morning Coffee Chat and welcomes everyone to join him there for some light conversation and a joke or two. His advice to us: "stay casual, keep smiling and if you've got money in the bank, don't save it...spend it!"

Rich, we appreciate your advice and dedication to SIR17. Merci beaucoup!

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

## 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).

## 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. Many examples such as: the Myanmar coup and protests, Hong Kong, Turkey etc. These upheavals make us realize that our local issues such as; Save the Golf Course, where's my vaccine, homelessness, are pale when considered against the issues across the globe.



We are fortunate to have for our April speaker, Ben Stone, representing the World Affairs Council of Sonoma, County. This is an organization whose mission is to promote knowledge concerning foreign affairs. Another way to broaden your understanding of global issues is to join our Branch 17 bi-weekly Global Forum Zoom meetings to hear and share views on a wide range of topics and issues.

If you'd like to be included in the next Zoom meeting on **Friday, April 2<sup>nd</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: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup>**

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## GOLF: (Article by Roy Thuestad)

# Why do I



# play this game?

Until next time, Good Golfing,

Roy Thuestad

707-975-4406

[roymond@comcast.net](mailto:roymond@comcast.net)

## The Poem of the month for April

By William Henry Davies

When April scatters charms of primrose gold  
Among the copper leaves in thickets old,  
And singing skylarks from the meadows rise,  
To twinkle like black stars in sunny skies;

When I can hear the small woodpecker ring  
Time on a tree for all the birds that sing;  
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud and long --  
The simple bird that thinks two notes a song;

When I can hear the woodland brook, that could  
Not drown a babe, with all his threatening mood;  
Upon these banks the violets make their home,  
And let a few small strawberry blossoms come:

When I go forth on such a pleasant day,  
One breath outdoors takes all my cares away;  
It goes like heavy smoke, when flames take hold  
Of wood that's green and fill a grate with gold.

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

### Recap of March 18<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Speaker

Bill Hodges, who has been a docent on FDR's Presidential Yacht the USS Potomac for about 20 years, gave us an interesting presentation on the vessel's past, present and (hopefully) future. He started with a video that provided some background on FDR and his New Deal. Because FDR had had polio he could not relax and recreate in traditional ways, so a Coast Guard cutter was converted for his official use as a presidential yacht. The refitting included the addition of a false smokestack to disguise an elevator so he could get from the main deck to the boat deck. President Truman decommissioned it in favor of a larger yacht. It was briefly owned by Elvis Presley, who donated it to St Jude's Children's Hospital to sell as a fundraiser. A later owner used it to run illegal drugs from Mexico. It was seized by law enforcement and suffered the ignominy of sinking at its dock at Treasure Island due to hull rot. It was eventually raised and

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### Recap of March 18<sup>th</sup> *(continued)*

completely restored and is now preserved by the non-profit Potomac Association at Jack London Square in Oakland. Before the pandemic it was open for periodic dockside tours and Bay cruises. Bill hopes when it reopens (check the website) Branch 17 will pay him a visit! I will be bringing the traditional guest speaker's bottle of wine!

*(Article by Gordon Boultsbee)*

### Joke of the Month



Two hours into a flight, the pilot announces "we just lost an engine. but it's all right—we have three more, but the flight will take us an hour longer."

A half hour later: "We just lost another engine. Don't worry, we have two more and it will take us only another two hours longer."

In the back, a passenger rolls her eyes. "Great," she says to her seatmate. "If we lose those last two engines, we'll be stuck up here all day."

### 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.

**NATIONAL  
VIETNAM WAR  
VETERANS DAY  
29 MARCH**

*Join the Nation...  
Thank a Vietnam Veteran  
for Service to our Nation*

