



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

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

THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

For SEPT. 2021

All members are invited to attend our next

SIR Meeting on Thursday, **September 16, 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, 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)

The August 2021 edition of **SIR HAPPENINGS** is now available to view online.

**September 16 Meeting Schedule via Zoom!**

**Social Hour:** 11 am

**Program:** Jeffrey Ebersole, PhD, Interim Chair of Biomedical Sciences and Associate Dean for Research, Department of Dental Medicine, at UNLV.

**Announcements:** All indoor activities are suspended until further notice!

**September 16 Lunch Menu.**

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Beverages: Your choice...

**BIG Sir George Traverso's Message**

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



Life presents us with many choices...to go or not to go, to do or not to do, and so on and so on. Today, many of our citizens are confronted with the choice of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Many of these people are members of our family, close friends, or acquaintances. Some cite religious, autoimmune, or other reasons for not getting vaccinated. Others witness the development of the scourge that this Delta variant presents and elect to be vaccinated. What we are presented with during these unrepresented times is the conflict between "rights" and "responsibilities." Removing myself from a religious and a political stance on this issue, as is the position of our State SIR organization, I try to maintain and understand a healthy balance between these two points of concern.

Our Founding Fathers set the foundation of our government with three basic "rights": the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." When we look at these "rights" and objectively "connect the dots" as to

*(continued on page 2)*

**Little Sir Gordon Boulton's Message**

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



**RAMP** is an acronym you will be hearing a lot in Branch 17 in the coming months. It stands for *Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations and Publicity*. Several members have volunteered to be chairs of our efforts to recruit new members and retain existing members. *Rich de Lambert* has volunteered to be our Recruiting Chair; *Fred Rose* continues as our Activities Chair; *Tom Johnson* has volunteered to be our Member Relations Chair; and *Neil Wheeler* has volunteered to be our Publicity and Image Chair. *Elias Zegarra* and *Jim Fenstermaker* are our Membership Chairs and continue to support RAMP by maintaining our roster, membership applications and attendance records and publishing *The BARK*. Big Sir *George Traverso* will be coordinating the Chairs' work, as there is obvious synergy between the various roles. Nominating Committee Chair *Dennis Mangan* and Sir *Mark Burchill* are serving as advisors and consultants. Complete position descriptions can be found on the SIR Inc. website: <https://sirinc.org/branch-job-descriptions/> If you would like to help with any of these activities, please contact the chairs. *(continued on page 2)*

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

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
<b>Big Sir:</b> George Traverso . . . . .	<a href="mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net">geosan@sbcglobal.net</a> . . . . .	707-528-6987	Ken Johnson
<b>Little Sir:</b> Gordon Boulton . . . . .	<a href="mailto:gboulton@aol.com">gboulton@aol.com</a> . . . . .	707-584-8063	Rich de Lambert
<b>Secretary:</b> Kurt Wehrmeister . . . . .	<a href="mailto:kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com">kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com</a> .	630-461-2715	Tom Lubas
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b> Terry Freeman . . . . .	<a href="mailto:terryfreeman32@yahoo.com">terryfreeman32@yahoo.com</a>	707-235-7066	Chris Nolen
<b>Treasurer:</b> Al Petrie . . . . .	<a href="mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com">alpetrie7@aol.com</a> . . . . .	707-974-9193	Steven Saulsbury
<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)*

understanding them, I believe that responsibility is hidden within them. Certainly, the right of maintaining life carries a double meaning. We, as individuals, hold our lives as special and unique but we also have a sacred duty to respect the existence of our fellow humans. This fact raises the question of "choice." Wearing a mask or not, getting a vaccination or not, getting a booster shot or not, etc. etc. are the critical choices that are presented to society daily. On the surface, the attainment of "happiness" as society strives for this "right" presents, for me, a more complex understanding and interpretation that this concept reveals. In my mind, happiness means liberty. Liberty means freedom. Freedom means choice. Choice means "the heck with you, I'm doing it my way!" I find this interpretation to be very challenging. Therein lies a conflict. The eternal chase for "the pursuit of happiness" is fundamental to humans. I believe that this feeling is shared by those who believe in vaccinations, mask wearing, and those who resist these practices.

Because I always attempt to add a little bit of comedy to my monthly messages, I would like to share a little story that my brother-in-law recently told me. Louie has an automotive repair shop in the East Bay. One day an unmasked customer comes in and begins to talk to him about his car problem. Almost immediately Louie speaks to the gentleman of the requirement for a face cover in his shop. The customer responds saying he does not believe in masks or getting vaccinated. He continues to speak his reasoning concerning vaccines saying that "Big Brother" can track you with those injections. My brother-in-law quickly responds stating that he got his shots for that same reason...if he gets lost, his wife will know where he is. My wife, Sandra, just located me...she'll be coming pretty soon!

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

Phone numbers can be found elsewhere in *The Bark* or on the Branch website. Many hands make light work!

State SIR Inc. also is developing new SIR Branding and Public Image materials to assist branches in RAMP activities. These materials and training in how to use them should be available soon.

SIR members will soon be offered an opportunity to participate in an activity called "Sirs Helping Medical Science." It is in partnership with UCSF Medical Center and will consist of a 20-minute survey with possible confidential telephone follow-up. More information will be forthcoming from State SIR Inc. This is an ideal opportunity for us to give back to society, as we seniors are an under-studied demographic from a medical standpoint.

If you haven't yet been vaccinated and need help getting that done, let me know. If you *have* been vaccinated but haven't sent me proof of vaccination and a signed copy of the SIR Event Waiver so you can participate in in-person Branch activities, please do so. And State SIR Inc. says self-administered tests are OK with respect to the alternate "negative test result within three days of the event" option.

**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).

## September 16, 2021 Guest Speaker

Dr. Jeffrey Ebersole is on the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine, UNLV, as a professor of Biomedical Sciences and associate dean for research, and teaches microbiology and immunology to predoctoral students.



He will tell us about an experiment he sent to the International Space Station in June. The project will look at how bacteria grow on a solid surface under weightlessness conditions. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Temple University and his PhD in microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a friend of Sir Dennis Mangan.

Dr. Ebersole's presentation will be via Zoom.

*(Article by Gordon Boulton)*

## Plans for the October 21 Luncheon

The BEC voted to hold the October 21st luncheon in-person at Epicenter, subject to reconsideration at the October 7th BEC meeting based on the latest information available from county health officials and other sources.

All attendees will be required to have provided proof of vaccination and a signed SIR Event Waiver, as was the case at the July luncheon; and to wear a mask unless actually eating. Expect to be contacted by the Branch phone committee on whether you plan to attend under these conditions.

*(Article by Gordon Boulton)*

## Upcoming Speakers

**October 21: To Be Determined.** (We hope to reschedule **Jean-Marie (Jerry) Heskett** and her son, **Mike McCoy** in 2022. As a young girl, Jerry was a prisoner of war at the Japanese Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila, Philippines, throughout World War II. Her son Mike wrote a book about her experiences, *Through My Mother's Eyes*.)

**November 18:** Salute to Veterans, organized by **Sir Mike O'Neill**.

**December 16:** At the present time, we are not planning to have a guest speaker or other entertainment at the December luncheon. Instead we are planning for a members-only luncheon with a more upscale menu than our usual fare, at a slight increase in price.

*(Article by Gordon Boulton)*

## Recap of Speaker for August 19, 2021

SRFD Assistant Fire Marshal Paul Lowenthal gave an informative presentation on preparing for emergencies, whether fire, flood, earthquake or other.

If you Google "Ready Santa Rosa" you will find the City's website (<https://srcity.org/3254/Ready-Santa-Rosa>) for Emergency & Preparedness Information. Paul stressed the importance of understanding the different alert systems, which ones you need to register for to receive their alerts, and why you might not receive an alert when your friends do. The alerts are: Emergency Alert System (EAS); Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA); SoCoAlert; Nixle; TV and radio stations; Hi/Lo Sirens; and NOAA radios. A complete description of each is on the website. You must register to receive alerts from SoCoAlert and Nixle.

Next Paul stressed the importance of knowing your evacuation zone. The City's are named and have not changed. The County's are alphanumeric and have been updated.

The next part of Paul's presentation was about what the City is doing and what you can do to reduce wildfire risks. Google "Wildfire Ready Santa Rosa" or go directly to the website <https://srcity.org/3558/Wildfire-Ready> for the details.

*(Article by Gordon Boulton)*

## Officers and Directors for 2022:

Big Sir	Gordon Boulton
Little Sir	Gary Bondi
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Kurt Wehrmeister
Asst. Secretary	Terry Freeman
Directors:	Rich de Lambert
	Ken Johnson
	Tom Johnson
	Tom Lubas
	Steven Saulsbury
	Elias Zegarra
	Bill Grafeld (ad hoc, non-voting)

**SIRinc has established a new website for attracting new members to join SIR!**

**Check it out at: [www.WeAreSIR.com](http://www.WeAreSIR.com)**

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

**Mark Burchill**, Badge # 88

Mark is one of the most fascinating guys in our club. When I talked to him, our conversation bounced like a pinball from cars to records to radio to office furniture. That was just the first few minutes! Mark has an amazing repertoire of stories to tell and they're all fascinating. He talks fast, which of course is a good thing for a radio announcer/disc jockey. He drives fast and enjoys moving his Miata around corners at speeds that have serious effects on a person's intestines. He collects lots of records (the music kind) and at one time had over 15,000 units. Even today he still has over 6000 units that include 45s, LPs, 78s, CDs, cassettes, and music videos. He proudly displays a fully functional juke box in his living room.

Mark's history began in Chicago where he collected customizable model cars and coins, including Indian head pennies, buffalo nickels, mercury dimes, and silver dollars. After surviving 16 winters, his dad mercifully moved Mark and the family to the warmth of Los Angeles. But two things Mark does not like are hot weather and overcrowded cities full of traffic that slow him down. Did I mention he likes to drive fast? Sonoma County offered him (and grapes) the right kind of weather, as well as a good college, a beautiful woman and plenty of open roads. He says, "I plan to stay here until I'm gone!"



At Sonoma State College (as it was called then) in 1973 he joined a group of friendly, music-loving, record-collecting students who started the college's radio station, KSUN. As a young disc jockey, he was given the misnomer "Mark Oldies," which now as a Sir seems to be much more appropriate. Mark's smooth voice can still be heard on KRCB radio, 104.9, under the moniker "Mark Nicholas." He also has a mobile DJ biz where he's "been spinnin' stax o' wax for nigh onto half a century now" and specializes in tunes from the 50s to the 70s. Mark's interest in amplified sound has served us well for many years as our man in charge of audio at SIR17 luncheons and picnics.

Mark has many other interests including running an office furniture business he built from the dregs of coffee machines and failures. *(continued above right)*

## Member Profiles: *(continued)*

He is also a pilot with terrifying stories of flying through clouds. Ask him to tell you these stories as well as those associated with his many travels by cars, trains, and planes. Mark came to SIR17 following an invitation from our beloved 2008 Big Sir, Al Odabashian. Mark's favorite SIR activities include bocce, Boys' Night Out, and Couples' Night Out. He promises to give us a luncheon talk about some backstories of the music industry. We'll turn up the sound and look forward to that!

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

### Joke of the Month



### One liners...

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

They told me that I have type-A blood, but it was a typo.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's synching now.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

*At our August 2021 meeting Rich de Lambert was the free lunch winner!*

## List of the **September Birthdays**



Stan Borges	Thomas Johnson
Ron Clark	Marc Perl
Mike Rogalski	Fred Rose
Ted Scapeccia	Marv Schouweiler
John Sommerville	Bob Vidalin
Neil Wheeler	

## 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 temporary **HOLD**, until we receive new instructions.

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

## GLOBAL FORUM: *(Article by Marvin Mai)*



Due to the cancellation of all in-person SIR activities, the Global Forum meetings will revert back to a Zoom meeting for September 10.

From COVID-19, the future of this virus, and with all the changes in the world from Afghanistan and the Arctic to Zimbabwe, plus we always have the many issues surrounding China.



Our next meeting will be on **Friday, Sept. 10**, at 10:00am. All SIR members are invited to join this confab via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining these conversations, then please contact Marvin at [maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com)

or give him a call at **545-2224**. He will then email to you the necessary codes and password to join.

Below are the tentative dates for our upcoming discussions, by Zoom or in-person, whichever is allowed, for the second Friday of each month.

**Fridays: Oct. 8 · Nov. 12 Dec. 10**

## The poem of the month for **September** **Autumn Leaves**

by Edel T. Copreland

Golden, crisp leaves falling softly from almost bare trees,  
Lifting and falling in a hushed gentle breeze.  
Slowly dropping to the soft cushioned ground,  
Whispering and rustling a soothing sound.

Coppers, golds, and rusted tones,  
Mother Nature's way of letting go.  
They fall and gather one by one,  
Autumn is here, summer has gone.

Crunching as I walk through their warm, fiery glow,  
Nature's carpet rich and pure that again shall grow.  
To protect and shield its majestic tree,  
Standing tall and strong for the world to see.

They rise and fall in the cool, crisp air.  
It's a time of change in this world we share,  
Nature's importance reflecting our own lives,  
Letting go of our fears and again, too, we shall thrive.

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boultee 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

## GOLF:

Jim Gurke is in Michigan on a golf trip, due back next week. He sent the following message to all you golfers.



We are now into several weeks of competitive rounds at Bennett Valley with multiple winners of various handicaps, so come out and join the fun.

We will help you set up an NCGA handicap if you don't already have one. We usually play every Monday with tee times starting at 8:30 am. Due to Labor Day holiday, our SIR-17-76 round will be played this Tuesday instead.

Don't miss out on all the fun, see you when I get back!



Do you remember the trip down to Boundary Oaks to play golf with former member of Branch 17 Sir Fred Reich?

Jim Gurke 707-303-0989

[1jgurke@gmail.com](mailto:1jgurke@gmail.com)





Remember  
9/11

Autumn  
begins  
Sept. 22



**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.

**DIET DAY 1 :**

**I HAVE REMOVED ALL THE BAD FOOD FROM THE HOUSE. IT WAS DELICIOUS.**

**Did some financial planning and it looks like I can retire at 62 and live comfortably for eleven minutes.**

**I'm going to Walmart,**



**need anything?**

**Got up at 5am, 8km run completed, came back prepared a vegetable smoothie for breakfast.... Don't remember the rest of the dream....**