



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

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

THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

For Oct. 2020

Meetings are at LEGENDS in the Bennett Valley Golf Course, 3328 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

## All members are invited to attend our next SIR Meeting on Oct. 15, using Zoom...

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

### October 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Schedule via Zoom!

**Social Hour:** 11:00 am Please check in about 5 minutes early to be ready to avoid the last minute rush.

**Speaker:** None at this time.

**Lunch:** 12:00 noon plus/minus as you are on your own, fix whatever you desire.

### October 15<sup>th</sup> 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



### SOME THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS

At a recent Global Forum Zoom meeting hosted by Sir Marvin Mai with my fellow Sirs, a discussion of current events always has a meaningful topic. We commence the meeting with our normal everyday reports on how we and our families are coping with the pandemic. We try to find some interesting current world and local topics that make the group share insights and provide honest interpretation. I encourage all of our Sir members to Zoom into Marvin Mai's interesting hour on the first and third Fridays of the month at 10:00am.

I also mention to our members to join our "Coffee Club" Zoom chats every Wednesday starting at 10:00 am. My co-host is Sir Rich de Lambert and he always has a great joke to share. He inspires us to join in with our humorous contributions. This is a chance to enjoy a cup of coffee (or other stimulating beverage) in the privacy of your home. This is a time to "let your hair down" and enjoy the camaraderie of friends while touching on events that affect all of us. All too often, world events and the strain of finding solutions present challenges

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### Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

[gbondi@sonic.net](mailto:gbondi@sonic.net) 539-2445



As most of you know by now that Gary has been under going chemo treatments. He is just not up to providing us an article this month, which we fully understand.

In addition to his above problem, he and Dee, like a lot of us other Sir members, had to evacuate our homes from the Glass fire for a few days.

Something of this nature is hard enough to handle when you are feeling well, but when you are sick--that was not helping his situation.

**Stay strong, because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can't rain forever.**

**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.  
The following is a list of your 2020 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                                | Gordon Boultsbee |
| <b>Little Sir:</b> Gary Bondi . . . . .      | <a href="mailto:gbondi@sonic.net">gbondi@sonic.net</a> . . . . .         | 707-539-2445                                | Rich de Lambert  |
| <b>Secretary:</b> Kurt Wehrmeister . . . . . | <a href="mailto:kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com">kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com</a> | 630-461-2715                                | Ken Johnson      |
| <b>Asset. Secretary:</b> Jim Gurke . . . . . | <a href="mailto:1jgurke@gmail.com">1jgurke@gmail.com</a> . . . . .       | 707-303-0989                                | Chris Nolen      |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Glenn Seime . . . . .      | <a href="mailto:gseime@sbcglobal.net">gseime@sbcglobal.net</a> . . . . . | 707-537-5360                                | Paul Willihnganz |
| <b>Asset. Treasurer:</b> Al Petrie . . . . . | <a href="mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com">alpetrie7@aol.com</a> . . . . .       | 707-545-7208                                | Elias Zegarra    |
| <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Jim Fenstermaker . | <a href="mailto:sirsrbrn17@gmail.com">sirsrbrn17@gmail.com</a> . . . . . | 707-548-3346                                |                  |
| <b>WEBMASTERS:</b>                           |  |   |                  |
|  |  |   | Dennis Mangan    |
|  |  |   | Jim Fenstermaker |
| <b>STATE PRESIDENT</b><br>Ed Benson          | <b>AREA 10 GOVERNOR</b><br>Robert Reuther                                | <b>REGION 3 DIRECTOR</b><br>Dennis Pangburn |                  |

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

not only for us, Baby Boomers, who have witnessed so much, but to our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Another chance to “zoom” into another avenue to keep us all connected is our monthly “lunches.” Our Zoom meetings, where you can enjoy your home-cooked lunch while you do not have to dress up is a lot of fun. One of the meeting’s highlights is an interesting speaker via Zoom. We gather every third Thursday at 11:00 am for an hour of enjoyment. Hope you can join one or all of these sharing experiences.

During these many months of self-isolation when I am not having a Zoom meeting with my Sir buddies, I have had many moments to do a lot of self-evaluations and contemplate the positive aspects of these trying times. I must confess that I am getting used to going to public places with a mask and staying six feet apart. I believe that most of us have acquired a “routine.” This daily habit, of course, was not part of our social wanderings just a year ago. Visits to public places are short and my time in certain spots is brief. I think that we all have experiences and exciting stories to share as we navigate through this momentous period. Let’s share some at our meetings...be a Zoomer!

The beauty of the changing leaves. Every year, nature puts on the ultimate show as the leaves change color. There's no better month of the year than **October** to enjoy the vibrant colors of the leaves, whether you take a scenic drive or head off for a proper weekend vacation to get the full effect of the Fall foliage.



**Coffee Time--again!**

Rich de Lambert believes now is the time to bring it back to life again, but since we cannot meet in person we sure can meet on Zoom, which we have been doing for our BEC and General “Luncheon” meetings.



Rich is proposing to hold an informal Zoom gathering each Wednesday morning at 10:00 am. As a test trial for the **October 7<sup>th</sup>** gathering he is proposing to also invite the “**ladies of your life**” to join in. A possible topic that the “ladies” might like to discuss would be what favorite kitchen appliances or products they have added in the last few months.

This is a FREE program, as you bring your own coffee to the table along with whatever treats you desire. Dress is as casual as you desire but pants are required, especially if ladies are present!

This is designed to still be able to get to know each other while we can not meet in person. There are no set agendas, no speakers, just friendly talk and swapping stories of what has been happening along with sharing some “family type” jokes.

For more information contact Rich de Lambert at [richdelambert@gmail.com](mailto:richdelambert@gmail.com) or call him at 545-3490.

To obtain the meeting number and password to join the Zoom fun session contact Big Sir George Traverso at [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net)

Rich is looking forward to seeing a large turnout, so please join him and the others!

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profile:

**Badge #192 Stan Borges**

*"Individual commitment to a group effort--that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi.*

Stan Borges grew up in the 1930s during the aftermath of the Great Depression. His parents taught him about frugality, family, friends and finances. Life was tough and his dad, working in the dairy industry in Merced County, had to move his family four times when Stan was in grammar school. The ability to adjust to frequent changes and make friends made him a popular kid and a leader in high school student body politics. He showed his sense of leadership and community spirit by helping a local Kiwanis club raise money to buy a basketball scoreboard for the high school gymnasium.



At San Jose State University, Stan immersed himself in business administration, fraternity life and wooing Claire, his wife to be. After college, he enlisted in the army for two years and was trained in the infantry at Fort Ord, CA. Although scheduled to be deployed to Korea to replace troops there, his ability to use a typewriter landed him a temporary position at the hospital at Fort Lewis, WA. When that detail ended, he learned that his unit had already left for Korea without him, and he was assigned to a personnel office to tabulate information for military occupational specialties. The importance of that job was later revealed when his successor accepted bribes to get personnel assigned to preferred jobs. When interviewed by military police about this guy and before he knew of the crime, Stan proudly said "I taught him everything he knows." Oops, maybe not the right thing to say Stan!

After the military and needing employment, Stan accepted the not-so-pleasant work of fueling trucks at 5:00am. His father-in-law recognized Stan's business skills and offered him a much better job in accounting at Standard Structures in Windsor. Stan enjoyed his work, took more business courses and became company treasurer as well as handled insurance, financial statements and responsibilities as corporate secretary.

Standard Structures manufactured a line of straight and curved laminated wood beams for roofs, floor joists and truss systems.

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## Member Profiles: *(continued)*

They developed a unique system for glue laminating wood into strong, lightweight beams and arches. These wood products were used to build schools, apartments, churches, shopping centers, bridges and other large projects across the United States, including the giant Coke bottle at AT&T Park in San Francisco.

Stan stayed with Standard Structures until he retired from full time work in 2000. In his career he has held positions in many organizations including the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Accountants, Sonoma County Museum Board, Kiwanis and the Santa Rosa Wine Club. Since joining SIR Branch 17 in 2001, Stan has been a BEC Director (2003), Branch Treasurer (2005-2017), Audit Committee Member (2018 to present) and member of the Picnic and Holiday Luncheon committees where he handled ticket sales and collections (2005-2017). For his commitment and dedication to SIR17, the BEC recently nominated Stan to receive the esteemed Honorary Life Member award.

When asked how the future looks for the world, Stan replied he is optimistic that things will improve. He says that extensive travel to nearly 60 countries has given him a unique, positive perspective and "broadened his horizons." "We need to take climate change seriously and build a healthy, safe place to live." Life has been good for Stan and he sees good things happening for his country, three sons, seven grandchildren, great grandchild (coming this Nov) and SIR17. Like laminated wood, we are much stronger when we stick together! We're so very grateful for Stan's many contributions to our club!

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

## List of the October Birthdays

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Carlo Bottini</b>    | <b>Tim Fawcett</b>   |
| <b>John Grant II</b>    | <b>John Howarth</b>  |
| <b>Don Malvestiti</b>   | <b>Jim Park</b>      |
| <b>Al Petrie</b>        | <b>Kent Richmond</b> |
| <b>Steven Saulsbury</b> | <b>Bradley Smith</b> |
| <b>Tim Stewart</b>      | <b>Bob Zeni</b>      |

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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

## THREE TIMES THE CHARM !

As most of you know, our SIR Branch 17 has been honored by the State SIR Organization with three Zoom monetary awards. With our Branch's ability to use Zoom over the three months of June, July and August we have been honored with \$100 each month. With our total winning of \$300 we shall celebrate this recognition with the purchase of promotional materials in the State SIR Store. I congratulate the various SIRs in our Branch for their participation, commitment and perseverance for "keeping us together" via Zoom during these challenging times. I hope to see even more of you during our next meeting on Thursday, October 15th at 11:00 am.

### Our Future Meetings, via Zoom less the lunch!

The 2020 **regular meetings** for now will be held on our usual dates of the third Thursday of each month, starting at 11:00 am.

**Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17,**

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

**EXCEPT for the rescheduled October meeting.**

**Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 3,**

All members are invited to attend all of the meetings. If you are not sure how to join a Zoom meeting, please contact Big SIR George Traverso at [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net) or call 707-528-6987

## 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!

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## GLOBAL FORUM:

(Article by Marvin Mai)



Even though our "in person" meetings have been canceled we have held six "virtual" meetings via Zoom.

Although we have not developed a cure for COVID-19, we've alleviated a little of the quarantine boredom. We briefly explored what the "new normal" will look like and these Zoom meetings seem to be working quite well. Please give us a try!



The list of crises in 2020 has in some ways reached biblical proportions: a global pandemic, massive social justice protests and spiking cyber attacks, not to mention the arrival of murder hornets and locust swarms.

Complicated crises like these are testing the oversight skills of government officials from the small village to the national capitals with a set of difficult issues and serious risks. How well prepared a governing agency is to handle a crisis is critical to managing the overall risk to the health and security of its people and borders.

The reality about crisis prevention is that everyone knows they need to prepare, but too often they do not. Even those with a crisis plan fail to update them to meet new threats—putting their organizations and population at increased risk of significant damage. We will try to continue to keep up to date on the events on the world stage and how they are impacting our overall national health and security.

Stay well and safe and hopefully we will be able to do couples night out before 2021.

If you'd like to be included in the next Zoom meeting on **Fridays, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** for the Global Forum meeting, then contact Marvin at [maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com) or give him a call at 545-2224. He needs to know who is going to attend so he can send you an email with the "link" and any others instructions.

Below is the schedule of dates for SIR Branch 17 Zoom Global Forum discussions slated for every **2 weeks** until the end of 2020.

Time: **10:00 AM** Pacific Time.

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Oct 2,  | Oct 16, | Oct 30, |
| Nov 13, | Nov 27, | Dec 11, |

**October**, the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the year in the Gregorian calendar. Its name is derived from **octo**, Latin for "eight," an indication of its position in the early Roman calendar.

**GOLF:***(Article by Roy Thuestad)*

# And it's a swing and a miss.



## Ooops, that's baseball.

Come join us  
for a fun day of golf.

The place to be is the Bennett Valley  
Golf Course - The time to be there is  
Monday mornings starting at 8:30.  
*Hope to see you all out there.*

Until next time, Good Golfing,

Roy Thuestad

707-975-4406

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

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## The Poem of the month for October

### Old October

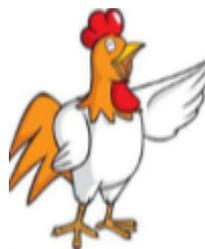
By James Whitcomb Riley

Old October's purt' nigh gone,  
And the frosts is comin' on  
Little heavier every day--  
Like our hearts is thataway!  
Leaves is changin' overhead  
Back from green to gray and red,  
Brown and yellor, with their stems  
Loosenin' on the oaks and elms;  
And the balance of the trees  
Gittin' balder every breeze--  
Like the heads we're scratchin' on!  
Old October's purt' nigh gone.

I love Old October so,  
I can't bear to see her go--  
Seems to me like losin' some  
Old-home relative er chum--  
'Pears like sorto' settin' by  
Some old friend 'at sigh by sigh  
Was a-passin' out o' sight  
Into everlastin' night!  
Hickernuts a feller hears  
Rattlin' down is more like tears  
Drappin' on the leaves below--  
I love Old October so!

Can't tell what it is about  
Old October knock me out--!  
I sleep well enough at night--  
And the blamedest appetite  
Ever mortal man possessed--,  
Last thing et, it tastes the best--!  
Walnuts, butternuts, pawpaws,  
'Iles and limbers up my jaws  
Fer real service, such as new  
Pork, spareribs, and sausage, too--.  
Yit fer all, they's somepin' 'bout  
Old October knocks me out!

### Joke of the Month



A man was telling his neighbor.  
"I just bought a new hearing aid. It  
cost me four thousand dollars, but  
it is state of the art. It is perfect."  
"Really," answered the neighbor.  
"What kind is it?"  
"Twelve thirty," answered the  
man!

*This article was planned for the September edition, but for some reason I could not find it in my filing system in time. Here it is a little late but still very interesting how many things revolved around the # "11."*

## **9-11-2001 Interesting Facts Surrounding the number "11"**

**Date of the attack was on 9-11:  $9 + 1 + 1 = 11$**

**September 11th is the 254th day of the year:  $2 + 5 + 4 = 11$**

**After September 11th there are 111 days left to the end of the year**

**119 is the phone area code to Iraq/Iran:  $1 + 1 + 9 = 11$**

**The Twin Towers in New York standing side by side look like the number "11"**

**The first plane to hit the North Tower was Flight #11**

**The State of New York was the 11<sup>th</sup> state to be admitted to the union**

**New York City: is 11 letters long**

**Afghanistan: is 11 letters long**

**The Pentagon: is 11 letters long**

**Mohamed Atta, pilot of Flight 11 : is 11 letters long**

**Ramzi Yousef, was involved in the 1993 bombings and this attack: is 11 letters long**

**Flight 11 had 92 passengers on board:  $9 + 2 = 11$**

**Flight 77 had 65 passengers on board:  $6 + 5 = 11$**

**When the 9/11 ringleader, Mohamed Atta, checked in at Logan airport, in Boston, his name triggered an alert on the airport's security system and his bags were never put in the plane's hold.**

**The Department of Homeland Security was created 11 days after the attacks.**

**The employee who gave the order to ground all planes after the 9/11**

**attacks was Ben Sliney and it was his first day on the job.** *(Article reprinted from various websites)*

## **Communication?**

Alan Alda was a regular guest in our homes for years as Hawkeye in the TV series M\*A\*S\*H, and then as the host for Scientific American Frontiers on PBS. Whenever asked about what most concerns him today, the topic of how scientists/doctors fail to communicate is top of his list.

Alda urges all of us to talk in simpler, more understandable ways by using improvisational acting (improv) techniques. The goal of improv is to listen intently to whomever is talking to you and then to resist disagreeing with the message. That keeps the conversation going and shows empathy for the other person.

Alda was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Like most of us, he interacts with a lot of doctors. Unfortunately, many of them cannot explain important information to their patients. Poor communication can be deadly. Engineers who can't explain a failing dam, parents who can't talk to their kids about drugs, and patients who can't follow doctors' orders all suffer the lethal effects of poor communication. People who fail to follow public health advice regarding COVID-19 perpetuate its spread by not wearing face masks, staying 6 ft apart and washing their hands.

SIR gives us an opportunity to practice good communication skills. Let's listen, be empathetic, and learn how to talk with others clearly, concisely and confidently.

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

## **NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION**

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