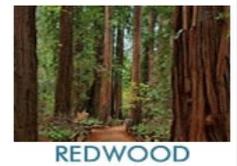




A non-profit club for retired men devoted to the promotion of independence and dignity of retirement

Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA



THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

For JAN. 19, 2018 Meeting

Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Scottish Rite Center, 600 Acacia Ln., Santa Rosa, CA

For **Excused Absences**, **Guests Lunches** or **Alternate Lunch Selection**, please, you must call or email before 10:00 am on the **Monday preceding** the meeting for an excused absence, otherwise you will be **charged** for a meal.

Contact: **John French**, sonomaink@yahoo.com 707-280-4120 or **Marv Schouweiler**, mschouweiler@att.net 707-484-3070

Meeting Schedule

Regular Board Meeting: **10:15 am**

Social Hour: 11:00 am

Garden Club Meeting: **11:15 am**

Lunch: **12:00 noon**

Speaker: **Pat Fuscaldo**, head coach at Sonoma State University men's basketball team.

Adjourn by: **1:30 pm**

Please place your badge into the collection buckets when leaving!

Lunch Menu

1st Course: Mixed greens with mandarin orange segments, avocado, scallions & rice wine vinaigrette.

Main Course: Individual **chicken pot pie** and braised brussels sprouts.

OR

Individual **vegetable pot pie** and braised brussels sprouts.

Either entrée served with: Local Sourdough bread, butter, regular and decaf coffee, iced tea and water.

Dessert: Apple crisp with whipped cream.



BIG SIR Robert Reuther's Message

rareuther@yahoo.com 707-343-1134

Even though we had disastrous fires in the North Bay, a total of 59 of us, members and our guests together, celebrated

through friendship the values and virtues of the Holiday Season on December 15. Eleven students and their Choir Director Dana Alexander from Montgomery High School came to perform for us between their final exams. It is a tribute to the community to see such outstanding youths.

We are starting the new year with a great speaker Pat Fuscaldo, head basketball coach at Sonoma State University. This should begin our year with an interesting meeting. We hope that all our members can attend and enjoy the friendship our Branch has to offer.

One of the ideas that I would like to try is to conduct the meeting without a head table. Personally, I would like to sit and talk to a group of guys than to sit apart in front of the group. My understanding is that this is not a novelty as other SIR Branches are doing this.

We are still looking for a member to take over the Little SIR position as Dennis Mangan can't be with us all of the meetings because of some of his other commitments at this time. It is obvious that we can't exist as an independent branch without a leader for next year. *(cont'd on page 3)*



LITTLE SIR Dennis Mangan's Message

dfmangan@gmail.com 301-717-6234

Life becomes easier when you learn to accept the apology you never got. R. Brault

Glad 2017 is over? Me too! What a crappy year for so many reasons. The start of a new year has me asking grumpy questions like, "Why should I renew my membership in SIR?" Maybe the answer is because 2017 was so crappy and gathering with friends is a form of psycho-social therapy.

There is comfort in having friends to talk to and share sorrows, frustrations, as well as joys. Collectively, our community is experiencing something similar to post traumatic stress disorder following the firestorm that ripped through the area last October. The sound of a siren or a gust of wind can bring back sharp memories of that night. We also have sorrows related to the loss of loved ones, a death of a pet, or medical conditions. (note: aging sucks!) Frustrations seem larger right now due to current politics, snarled traffic, contractors who don't show up, or calls to companies that put you on hold way too long! (note: never put a senior on hold for too long!) Joy comes with birth of a new grandchild, reaching a long-sought goal, discovery of a great book, a rare win by the 49ers, or a birdie on any hole at Bennett Valley golf course! It's nice to smile and laugh with buddies. *(continued on page 3)*

**Luther Burbank Branch 17 is NOW in Area 10 of Region 3.
The following is a list of your 2018 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| BIG SIR: Robert Reuther | Email: rareuther@yahoo.com . . | Phone: 707-343-1134 |
| LITTLE SIR: Dennis Mangan | dfmangan@gmail.com | 301-717-6234 |
| SECRETARY: Jim MacMillan | jmacmillan@ieee.org . . | 707-969-9830 |
| ASST. SECRETARY: (Vacant) | | |
| TREASURER: Glenn Seime | gseime@sbcglobal.net . | 707-571-7976 |
| ASST. TREASURER: (Vacant) | | |
| IMD. PAST BIG SIR: Ted Scapeccia . | tescape@sbcglobal.net . | 707-539-5049 |

DIRECTORS FOR ONE YEAR

Barry Bialkoski
Mark Burchill
Bill Traverso

DIRECTORS FOR TWO YEARS

Gary Bondi
Rich Scudero
George Traverso

WEB MASTER

James MacMillan

BARK EDITOR

Jim Fenstermaker

Branch 17 website: www.branch17.sirinc2.org
or email: sirsbrn17@gmail.com

AREA 10 GOVERNOR

.....

REGION 3 DIRECTOR

.....

PRESIDENT OF SIRinc.

Derek Southern



December Membership Relations John French, Chairman

sonomaink@yahoo.com 707-280-4120

There was not a "meeting" in December as that is our annual Christmas Luncheon & Party with the ladies. We had a total of 59 that enjoyed a delightful lunch and listening the Montgomery High School Choir sing Christmas songs. We now have 91 active members, six inactive members and looking for lots more new members next year!

Chaplains' Corner

(by Herb Percy)

As we have closed out yet another year, let us rejoice in the many blessings we have experienced.

For some, it has been a challenge to say the least! For others it has been where sorrow has been experienced because of the loss of a loved one or a good friend. If this be the case, it is my prayer that you find strength, even stronger strength to move on and grow yourself strong in body, mind and heart.

For those of you who lost a home or know of someone who has their home, I pray to our heavenly father that the family be blessed richly, also encourage you to walk alongside and be a source of encouragement especially if they run into road blocks or down times.

For 2018, may God bless you and your family with prosperity, good health, contentment and happiness.

Remember, that whatever we do during our life time we are setting an example, so we want to leave a lasting and positive legacy.

Contact Herb Percy, email dadpercy@yahoo.com or call 707-575-7787 OR assistant chaplain Mike Heinzelman, email mdheinz2@gmail.com or call 707-579-6615.



Calendar of SIR Events for JANUARY 2018

- Any Monday **Golf** at BVGC
- Any Monday **Bowling**, Double Decker Lanes, R/P, 10 am
- Jan 7 Last day to reserve for BNO
- Jan 9 **Bridge Club** at Legends, BVGC, 10:00 am
- Jan 10 **Boys Night Out**, at Walter Hansel's, 6:00 pm
- Jan 11 **Poker Fest** at Legends, BVGC, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- Jan 12 **Global Forum** meeting, **at Marvin Mai, 10:00 am**
- Jan 16 Last day to reserve for CNO
- Jan 17 **SIR Luncheon Meeting**, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Jan 23 **Bridge Club** at Legends, BVGC, 10:00 am
- Jan 25 **Couples Night Out**, at Basilico Cucina, 6:00 pm

List of the JANUARY Birthday Boys!

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Glenn Andrade | Dick Honzik |
| Barry Bialkoski | Tom Lubas |
| Bill Buhrman | Dennis Mangan |
| Steve Edelstein | Herb Percy |
| Jerry Peterson | |



A special **Thank You** to member Gordon Boultee for stepping up to help 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

Program for Jan. 19, 2018 (by Dennis Mangan)

It's basketball season...let's talk some hoops! Our January luncheon speaker is **Pat Fuscaldo**, head coach at Sonoma State University men's basketball team. Pat is the winningest basketball coach in the school's history, the dean of men's basketball coaches in the California Collegiate Athletic Association and the recipient of the CCAA Coach of the Year. Before arriving at Sonoma State, he was head coach at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, assistant coach at Skyline College and the University of San Francisco and a coach at San Jose State along with San Francisco State. Pat has a Master's Degree in Physical Education/Sports Psychology-Administration. Pat is married to former Stanford All-American and pro basketball player Molly Goodebour, now the head women's Basketball coach at the University of San Francisco.



BIG SIR Message (continued from page 1)

I think that Theodore Roosevelt's words best express why each member who hasn't been through the rotation should consider the position of Little SIR on a permanent basis.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Excerpt from the speech "Citizenship In A Republic", delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

LITTLE SIR Message (continued from page 1)

This year, let's re-commit to establishing friendships with SIR members who we already know as well as those who are new to us.

Happy new year...and thank you for being here!

Increase in the SIR lunch cost:

Effective beginning with our January 19, 2018 lunch and remaining in place throughout 2018, it will cost **\$22.00** to attend our monthly lunch meeting. This is an increase of \$2.00 or 10% and is expected to generate an additional \$1,000.00 of income for our Branch 17. This small increase should not place an undue burden on any of our members.

Why is the Board doing this? Over the past two years we have lost **26** active members. This has resulted in a **loss** of **\$1,040.00** in Annual Dues. If the membership trend continues, we can expect this loss to get bigger. The monthly increase is to ensure we have enough income to cover the cost of renting the Scottish Rite building.

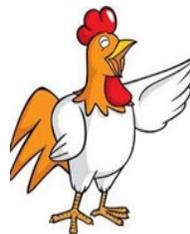
What are our costs? The rental of the Scottish Rite remains the same, \$3,600.00 for the year. Our caterer, A La Heart, is not increasing what they are charging, \$20.00 per lunch. These two items represent our biggest costs.

What were the alternatives? The Board discussed raising the Annual Dues, but the majority of Board members felt at \$40.00 our Annual Dues are already higher than we would like. Other options were discussed, but none raised enough revenue to offset our losses.

What Can Branch members do? The answer is simple, if you can bring in new members! If we can reverse our declining membership trend, we can raise the required revenue and possibly lower what we charge to attend our monthly lunch.

So for now, please bring **\$22.00** for your lunch beginning **Jan. 19th**, 2018. It would be greatly appreciated by our Treasurers if you bring the **exact** amount.

Joke of the day!



A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 100 + years.

Now you tell me to exercise??
I don't think so!

ACTIVITIES:

Bowling

(Article written by Mike Heinzelman)

If you have an interest in joining the SIR bowling league, or just want to see how Bob is progressing, come-on-down to Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park any **Monday at 10 AM**. Ask for the SIR bowling group. (Remember, it's not a weekly commitment--just come when you can.) Whether you are a good bowler or a beginner, you are welcome. For more information call Mike Heinzelman at **579-6615** or send an email to him at mdheinz2@gmail.com.



Boys Night Out

(Article by Mark Burchill)

Boys Night Out will be on Wednesday, January 10th, at **Walter Hansel Wine & Bistro**, located at 3535 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa. (Corner of Willowside Rd.)

For more information visit their web site <http://walterhanselbistro.com>. or call 707-546-6462.



The Walter Hansel Wine & Bistro is a favorite of the discriminating diners. Their famously delicious dinners are served in a casually elegant environment with an upscale feel. Step into the famed roadhouse just west of Santa Rosa, where you will find an amazing menu featuring French country-style cuisine graced with a few worldly surprises. The atmosphere is Wine Country casual and the service is "magnifique!"

The Bistro's wine list has been hand selected by owner Steve Hansel, winemaker and owner of Walter Hansel Winery. The wine list features the very best that Wine Country has to offer and a selection of French wines that will provide the perfect pairing for an exquisite meal. The Walter Hansel Wine and Bistro is focused on sustainable organic agriculture from local farmers and offers the best that the market place has to offer. Prices tend toward the high-end of the scale but the dining experience is well worth the cost. Individual tabs have been arranged. No host beverages will be served at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm.

Reservations are a must!

For reservations, contact Mark Burchill: MarkNick@sonic.net or call 707-542-2529 by Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Bridge

Bridge is an important activity with many of our members not only within our own branch but with participation of members from other branches in our area. Bridge activities are coordinated by chairman Al Black, email to rosaridge@comcast.net or call 707-578-3210.



We welcome new and interested members who are thinking of joining the pool of players.

Bridge days scheduled this month for play at Legends Restaurant Bennett Valley starting at 10:00 AM on **Tuesdays, January 9th and 23rd, 2018**.

Couples Night Out

(Article by Fred Rose)

December did not have a Couples Night Out dinner due to all the other holiday festivities, but we did have a very nice Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 15th.

For **THURSDAY, January 25th** we will return to **Basilico Cucina Italiana** restaurant, at 4776 Sonoma Highway 12, Santa Rosa. (the old Roberto's) For more information or to see their menu go to their web site at: www.basilico-cucina-italiana.com or call 707-539-0260.



If you like Italian cuisine then this is one of the places to try, I'm sure you will like it. In the past we have had the use of their banquet room in the lower level mostly to just our group, which really helps on the noise level.

Reservations are a must!

Contact Fred Rose: fredicrose@comcast.net or call 707-548-5797 to make your reservations by **Friday, January 19th** or sooner if possible. Hope to see all lot of SIR members and guests at the first Couples Night Out dining of 2018!

Did you notice the day of the week change? Look again, it is now on a THURSDAY!

Garden Club Announcements

We meet at one of the tables near the door to share our gardening interests at 11:15 am on our next SIR meeting day, which will be on **January 19th**.



Now is the time for getting up those dried leaves, cleaning out the dead plants in the garden so you can then plant a small winter garden and plant bulbs for spring flowers.

I am in hibernation for most of January but already looking forward to a Garden Club spring outing—what about you?

For other outing suggestions, please let me know of any. Also, pass on to me emails and contacts, as I will then contact those on the list for an impromptu outing (preferable during the week).

Any questions, contact **Lance Thompson** at: lance@pon.net (please put SIR in the subject heading) or call 707-527-3438. (Article by Lance Thompson)

GLOBAL FORUM

(Article written by Marvin Mai)

The **January** Global Forum will be held at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai. This month we will meet at **10:00 am**. This is a new time and we're hoping that will enable more members to join our lively (*non-political*) discussion of the multitude of world events and individual topics of interest.



All SIR members interested in exploring our global environment are invited to join the monthly confab. We always meet on the **second** Friday of the month.

This month's meeting is at **10:00 am January 12th**,
4743 Woodview Drive, Santa Rosa.

(South on Summerfield Rd to the end, turn left up the hill about 1/3 mile, the house is on the left.)

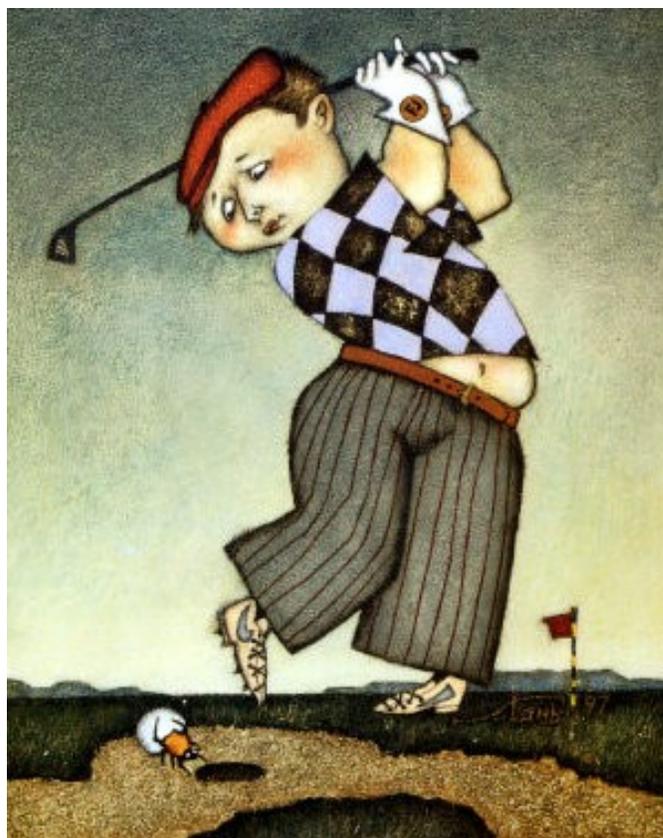
**PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY OR IN THE BAY
ACROSS THE STREET, AS THERE IS NO
PARKING ON THE STREET.**

Should you have any questions, please email Marvin at maimarvin57@gmail.com or call him at 707-545-2224.

GOLF:

Happy New Years !!

It's time to burn off those holiday calories
&
fulfill resolutions of lower handicaps.



Grab your knickers & clubs and let's go do it.

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

Until next time, Good Golfing,
Roy Thuestad
707-975-4406
roymond@comcast.net

Women will never be equal to men **until** they can walk down the street with a bald head, a beer gut and still think they are sexy.

POKER FEST (Article written by Steve Edelstein)

This new activity has gained quite a bit in popularity and we're looking to set up another day to play. We are also always looking for some new members wishing to play and maybe even more days to play.



The new date is **Thursday, Jan. 11th** from **1:00 to 4:00 pm.** at **Legends** at the Bennett Valley Golf Course area.

If you would like to join this exciting new group in a rousing game of Poker, then contact Steve Edelstein by email at: 1thatisland@gmail.com or call 707-206-8084. Please leave a message, I will return your call.

Fishing and Traveling Golf reports are on their annual winter vacations!



The Annual Christmas Luncheon

Big SIR Robert Reuther presented the Montgomery High School Choir Director, Dana Alexander, with a certificate of appreciation along with a beautiful poinsettia.



Below are the eleven members of the MHS Choir.



(continued at top right)

The Annual Christmas Luncheon

continued

Big Sir Robert Reuther presented Past Big SIR with his Past Big SIR pin.

Some of the many tables.



The Poem of the month! The Builders

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807—1882

**All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time;
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.**

**Nothing useless is, or low;
Each thing in its place is best;
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.**

**For the structure that we raise,
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.**

**Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.**

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.