



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

Website: www.sir17.org

THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

For OCT. 2021

All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/ Meeting on Thursday, **October 21, 2021**, at **NEW LOCATION of The Epicenter, 3225 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa.** See map on page six.

If you told the Phone Committee “Yes” you planed 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 6:00 pm Sunday, October 17, to avoid being charged for your meal. Also of importance is, if you are bringing a guest, please notify the above Al Petrie. If you originally said “No” but changed your mind and decided to go after all, then please contact Al Petrie per the above!

October 21 Lunch/Meeting Schedule

Social Hour: 11 am **Lunch/Meeting:** 12 noon

Program: Susan Farren is the Founder and Executive Director of First Responders Resiliency, Inc. She is a retired paramedic, supervisor, operations manager, counselor and EMS educator and author.

Announcements: All indoor activities are in the process of reactivating. The chairmen will be contacting you.

October 21 Lunch Menu.

House salad

Beef and Mushrooms,
Steamed rice, Seasoned vegetables,
Bread and butter, Fresh baked cookie,
Water, coffee or tea is included.

Other drinks available to purchase at the bar.

BIG Sir George Traverso’s Message

geosan@sbcglobal.net 528-6987



Every so often I receive interesting e-mails from my friends. One particular message was very fascinating and brought back a lot of fond memories. I would like to share it with you. I feel that we are all of a certain age that we can recall the “good times” when we were kids so long ago. Granted, we were innocent during those early years of the Red Scare and the Iron Curtain, and in our innocence, we lived in a blissful era free from understanding those conflicts and enjoying just being kids!

Now, let’s go back in time slowly down Memory Lane...Close your eyes and think back...

I lived next to the Julliard Park in downtown Santa Rosa. On summer days my brother and sister and I used to lie on the grass and look up in the sky and pretend to see horses and bears in the fluffy clouds high above. We played with our neighborhood friends all day in the park on those warm summer days and we listened to a whistle from one of the moms at 6 PM to signal us home for dinner. Little did we realize that when we played “army” in the park some of us would be in the jungles of South Vietnam in a few years. (continued on page 2)

Little Sir Gordon Boulton’s Message

gboulton@aol.com 584-8063



In last month’s *BARK* I described the Branch and State SIR plans to rejuvenate our Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations and Publicity (RAMP) efforts. I am happy to report that efforts are now underway. Publicity Chair Sir Neil Wheeler has drafted a comprehensive plan with specific objectives and tasks that helps us visualize how all the RAMP elements tie together and will guide us into the future. New publicity brochures have been developed by the RAMP team based on snazzy modern and colorful templates provided by the State SIR. Our Branch website is being updated and the State SIR now has two websites, one for members and one for prospective members. These are just a couple of examples, but they will help us to “hit the ground running” once we again have an attractive product (i.e., membership!) to offer as we resume all our indoor and outdoor activities.

I usually defer trips down Memory Lane to Big Sir George Traverso, an exemplary example of which is in the column to the left, but an article in the September 27th edition of the *Press Democrat* caught my eye and brought back memories from more than 50 years ago. (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: |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Big Sir: George Traverso | geosan@sbcglobal.net | 707-528-6987 | Ken Johnson |
| Little Sir: Gordon Boulton | gboulton@aol.com | 707-584-8063 | Rich de Lambert |
| Secretary: Kurt Wehrmeister | kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com . | 630-461-2715 | Tom Lubas |
| Asst. Secretary: Terry Freeman | terryfreeman32@yahoo.com | 707-235-7066 | Chris Nolen |
| Treasurer: Al Petrie | alpetrie7@aol.com | 707-974-9193 | Steven Saulsbury |
| Asst. Treasurer: John Gnam. | musicmed@sonic.net | 707-528-0592 | Elias Zegarra |
| Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker . | sirsbrn17@gmail.com | 707-548-3346 | |
| | | | WEBMASTERS: |
| STATE PRESIDENT | AREA 10 GOVERNOR | REGION 3 DIRECTOR | Dennis Mangan |
| Stu Williams | Robert Reuther | Dennis Pangburn | Jim Fenstermaker |

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

This was the time before PCs and the Internet and the only "techy appliance" that I had was a transister radio and WOW, I thought that was great! Swimming at the local pool and occasionally taking a break in a sunny spot without "sun block" (only Coppertone) was a great summer memory. Do you remember when you went to the shoe store and checked your foot size in an X-Ray machine? That's unheard of today! I remember...playing in our attic that was filled with asbestos...so far, no health problems. Hot summer nights lying in bed with no air conditioning just with the windows open and enjoying the sound of crickets stands out in my mind. I looked forward to Saturday mornings watching cartoons and shows on my parents' little black and white television set. Captain Midnight, the Lone Ranger, the Cisco Kid and Pancho were my favorites. I remember a live Saturday morning show from Channel 5, KPIX, in San Francisco with Captain Fortune. The Captain weekly interviewed children from around the Bay Area and one of my school friends was lucky to be on television... what a honor!

Kool Aid was the drink of a hot summer day as was the cool sip of water from a garden hose. When we were sent to the principal's office our fear was the fate we would receive from our parents when we got home and "race issues" were meant, who could run the fastest. Mistakes were corrected simply by saying "do over." The worst thing you could get from the opposite sex was "cooties" and the most embarrassing moment was being picked last for a team.

The era has passed and slowly those of us who lived it are passing also.

If you can remember most or all of your innocent "good times," then you have lived during a more pleasant, enjoyable and simple time.

I can still hear the whistle for dinner...I gotta go. I'm hungry!

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

It said that the US Forest Service and CalFire were using an Air Force satellite system to aid in spotting undetected wildfires. It's called the Defense Support Program (DSP). I helped develop it more than 50 years ago while on active duty in the Air Force Systems Command Space Systems Division in El Segundo. Very classified then, you can Google all about it today. It can detect, track, and predict the impact point of an ICBM or submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) shortly after launch from 22,300 miles away! Think about that. We used to joke that in the event of a missile attack by the Soviet Union or China we were giving the world an extra 15 minutes to kiss its ass goodbye.

We are familiar with satellite photos of brightly lit cities at night. But at certain infrared wavelengths the Earth looks completely black from space because water vapor and CO₂ in the atmosphere absorbs those infrared wavelengths. But once a missile is above most of the atmosphere its hot exhaust plume stands out against this dark background. We knew that in 1966 but we weren't sure if lightning bolts or sun reflections off thunderheads (or presumably large wildfires, but I don't remember them being discussed) might look like a missile exhaust and trigger an attack alert. My job the last two years of my active duty was to start the ball rolling to find answers to these questions and to begin technology development programs needed for future generations of DSP satellites. I was given a \$12 million *annual* budget, about \$94 million in 2021 dollars. Whoa!

Lots of stuff happened but one of my best memories was meeting Kelly Johnson of Lockheed Skunk Works fame to discuss the possibility of using a "new and improved" U-2 aircraft for experiments to be flown out of Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg AFB.

(continued on page 3 at top to left)

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

It was so secret even the pilot who flew it wasn't allowed to admit it existed. I didn't have a high enough security clearance to know about it either but nobody else at the meeting seemed to mind. Maybe because I had the money bag?

I left active duty about six months before the first DSP launch, but I knew approximately when it would be. Then one day I happened to see a photograph of a motel marquee near Cape Canaveral on the front page of the *New York Times*. It read "Spy Satellite Launches Tonight," and I knew. "Pretty cool" I thought.

September 27, 2021, another headline, this time in the *Press Democrat*. "Pretty cool."

October 21, 2021 Guest Speaker

Susan Farren is the Founder and Executive Director of First Responders Resiliency, Inc. She is a retired paramedic, supervisor, operations manager, counselor and EMS educator and author. After her treatment and recovery from a life-threatening disease she dove into the research and data involving the physical and mental toll the industry had taken on her. Armed with that knowledge she pulled together a team of experts to change the lives of first responders and those serving in the military. Their motto says it all: "Putting PTSD Out of Business™."



Apart from general interest, her message will be particularly relevant to our Branch members who lost homes in the firestorms of the last four years; who served in combat; who are retired first responders; or who have suffered life-threatening illness or injury. *(Article by Gordon Boulton)*

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.

Upcoming Speakers

October 21: Susan Farren. Susan is the Founder and Executive Director of First Responders Resiliency, Inc. See the article about her elsewhere in this issue of the BARK.

November 18: Salute to Veterans. Several of our new members who are veterans will relate experiences they had while serving on active duty.

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 September 16, 2021

Jeffrey Ebersole, PhD, longtime friend and golf buddy of Sir Dennis Mangan, the Associate Dean for Research and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at UNLV School of Dental Medicine gave us a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on a project his team recently sent to the International Space Station and back to study how bacteria grow on a solid surface under weightlessness conditions. They developed an Oral Biofilm Microfluidic Chamber (OBMC) with a peristaltic pump about the size of a quarter to distribute bacterial solutions at a rate of less than the volume of a teardrop per minute inside a double bagged setup to protect the astronauts and the ISS from inadvertent exposure. They wrote and practiced detailed procedures for the astronauts to follow. The samples were returned to Earth after 34 days and are now being analyzed and compared to samples that remained on Earth as controls. The innovative OBMC is a tool and technology that can be used for other medical and biological space research.

(Article by Gordon Boulton)

Looking for NEW SIR Branch 17 Members!

It is still important to remember our club is driven by bringing in new members. Membership is also open to members who are not retired. We all have neighbors, wives, other clubs, golf buddies, old friends, bridge groups and traveling friends. During these COVID times many potential members are stuck at home and doing little outside their immediate family. It is also difficult when many of our meetings are still on Zoom (hopefully changing soon). We need them and they need us! Application forms can be found on our website www.sir17.org.

CALL A POTENTIAL MEMBER TODAY!

(Article by Rich de Lambert)

SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

Jack Rosetti, Badge #71

Insurance: a form of risk management to protect against loss. Jack Rosetti is an expert in risk management, yet sometimes even experts get surprised. Jack has many stories to tell about how he has carefully managed risk in his professional career and personal life. Yet, his most recent story of protection against loss is a whopper.

Jack grew up in Hopland in the 1940s where his family ran a farm that produced pears, grapes and other fruits and veggies. His high school was very small, and he had a graduating class of only twelve! (Yes, he graduated in the top twelve of his class!) Not inclined to be academic, Jack loved the outdoors and had ambitions to become something akin to a forest ranger. Life took him on other paths, including working in the lumber industry and Masonite Corp, both of which he disliked. Jack recognized that he was very good at sales and joined an insurance company in San Jose where he met Patricia, his wife of 58 years. With growing experience in the insurance industry, Jack and Patricia moved to Santa Rosa and set up an office here. For over 40 years, Rosetti and insurance have been synonymous in Santa Rosa.



Jack loves golf and poker, and he joined SIR Branch 17 over 15 years ago to play regularly with our guys. Jack and Patricia (who have two sons and three grandchildren) also enjoy SIR17 partner activities such as going to shows in San Francisco.

When the pandemic hit, Jack hunkered down, stayed away from friends and family, and got his dual Moderna COVID vaccination shots. Like all of us, he thought the vaccine would guarantee protection from disease. As the pandemic waned this summer and in-person meetings with others became possible, Jack again piled his chips on the table and played poker with five other fully vaccinated guys. Four days later, Jack slid down a path to hell. Cough...fever...loss of taste and smell...flu like fatigue. Within days, the condition worsened, and he was taken by ambulance to Memorial Hospital emergency and put on oxygen and intravenous fluids. He had become a “breakthrough” victim of a highly transmissible variant of the COVID virus that was capable of infecting even fully vaccinated individuals.

(continued above right)

Member Profiles:

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The situation was life-threatening, and Jack said, “I thought I was going to die.” Through his determination to live, together with the help of dedicated health care providers, support of family members, a drug called remdesivir that stops the virus from replicating in his lung cells and some nifty breathing equipment, Jack survived and began the long road to recovery. Fortunately, Patricia only had mild symptoms and now tests negative for the virus. Although short of breath and tires easily, Jack has returned to the golf course and is playing 9-holes with his SIR17 friends (who, I understand, in SIR golf tradition, still taunt him mercilessly!)

Jack looks forward to indoor activities with our SIR17 guys someday, but for now he is playing it safe and avoiding any possible exposure to other variants of COVID viruses. True to his career in the insurance industry, he is hoping booster shots will provide added safeguard against any other breakthrough infections. Good biomedical research, risk management, and common sense will get us through this pandemic mess. *(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

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

List of the **October Birthdays**



| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Carlo Bottini | Timothy Fawcett |
| John Grant II | John Horwath |
| Don Malvestiti | Jim Park |
| Al Petrie | Kent Richmond |
| Steven Saulsbury | Bradley Smith |
| Tim Stewart | Bob Zeni |

ACTIVITIES:

To resume indoors activities again, at the discretion of the activities’ chairs, and subject to all safety and health codes. You must have had your vacations, a copy of your card along with a signed waiver filed with Little SIR Gordon Boulbee. The chair of each activity will be contacting you!

**Bowling, Boys’ Night Out,
Bridge, Camera Club
Couples’ Night Out, 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 October 8.

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, Oct. 8**, 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

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: Nov. 12 Dec. 10 Jan. 14

The poem of the month for **October**

October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall

GOLF:



Since resuming our Monday competitions, we've realized a steady turnout of 20 to 25 guys. Prize money for first, second and third place in each flight was recently updated to \$12, \$10 and \$8, respectively. Winners have come from all levels of handicaps, so we urge guys to show up every Monday and enter the competition. Tee times start at 8:30 AM.

October is historically the time for collection of Northern California Golf Association dues. The NCGA just published its guidance for club renewal and your committee will begin collecting individual dues in the coming weeks. The renewal fee for SIRs club members remains at \$39. There is an additional \$10 fee for individuals new to SIRs or those transferring from another club.

Finally, as in past communications, your golf committee is asking for help in any way you can contribute. With only four golf committee members, we're unable to fulfill all the NCGA requirements for recognition as a club. An additional score keeper is also needed as we're down to only three at the moment. If we're to remain a viable club we need your help. Please contact either Jim Gurke, or Bob Nadell and John Weaver from 76 to offer your assistance.

Hit 'em long and straight, Your Golf Committee
Jim Gurke 707-303-0989 ljgurke@gmail.com

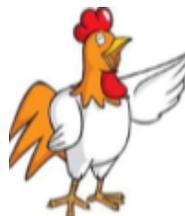
The August 2021 edition of

**SIR
HAPPENINGS**

is available to view online at our
website: www.sir17.org

The next edition will be coming out
in early November—watch for it!

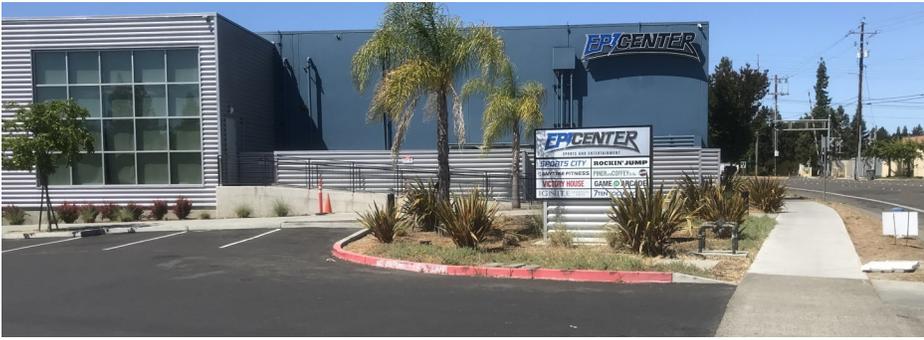
Joke of the Month



Why Teachers Drink!

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized? (e.g. the abdomen)

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts, the brainium, the borax, and abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain. The borax contains the heart and lungs. The abdominal cavity contains the 5 bowels: A, E, I, O, U. (WT???)



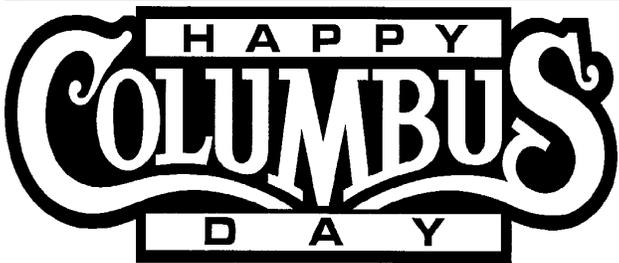
Membership Application Process:

If you have a friend or acquaintance who might be interested in joining Branch 17, please familiarize yourself with the Instructions posted on the Branch website,

www.sir17.org.

They were recently updated, as were the names and phone numbers of the appropriate points of contact. This will enable us to process membership applications and welcome new members in a timely manner. Simply click the Member Application button on the Home page and it will take you to the application form and instructions.

SIRinc has established a new website for attracting new members to join SIR! Check it out at: www.WeAreSIR.com



On Saturday night, November 6, 2021



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.