



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

New Website: www.sir17.org

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For **Aug. 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 Aug. 20, using Zoom...instructions can be found on page 7.

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

August 20th 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 what ever you desire.

August 20th Lunch Menu

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Beverages: Your choice...

BIG Sir George Traverso's Message

geosan@sbcglobal.net 528-6987



Well, we are approaching the eighth month of the year...and what a year it has been so far!

During the next few weeks as society slowly (and cautiously?) opens to a somewhat "normal" schedule, I personally will be exercising discretion and prudence. However, I admit that reading several books during this "shelter in place" period has been an enjoyable experience. These mostly historical publications center themes around characters and situations with factual information. So, I guess, like my friend, Sir Tom Lubas, I am a student and aficionado of history. So, this is my "book report" to you...

One of my favorite readings is entitled *A Higher Call* by Adam Makos with Larry Alexander. Since its publication in 2012, it has become an international best seller. In a concise sentence the account is "an incredible true story of combat and chivalry in the war-torn skies of World War II." It is a story of two individuals: an American and a German. The book recounts these two future enemy aviators as children and later maturing into young men. Although they were strangers, the two individuals shared common

(continued on page 2)

Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

gbondi@sonic.net 539-2445



Over the last few weeks and months we have seen and heard nothing but bad news! The virus, riots, demonstrations, political unrest etc. So, I thought in this article I would change things up, try to inject a little humor and perhaps bring a chuckle to all you SIRS. If nothing else, these last few weeks and months have taught us that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet. Here are a few things to ponder and perhaps inject a little levity in our lives.

If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal once we reopen everything...raise your right hand. Now slap yourself with it.

Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary? And on the Virgin Isles? Same thing--not one canary there either!

Anyone else getting a tan from the light in the Fridge?

I think I am finally being grounded for everything I did not get caught for when I was a teenager!

If your eyes hurt after you drink coffee, you must take the spoon out of the cup!

I am glad I learned about (continued on page 2)

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:
Big Sir: George Traverso	geosan@sbcglobal.net	707-528-6987	Gordon Boulton
Little Sir: Gary Bondi	gbondi@sonic.net	707-539-2445	Rich de Lambert
Secretary: Kurt Wehrmeister	kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com	630-461-2715	Ken Johnson
Asset. Secretary: Jim Gurke	1jgurke@gmail.com	707-303-0989	Chris Nolen
Treasurer: Glenn Seime	gseime@sbcglobal.net	707-537-5360	Paul Willihnganz
Asset. Treasurer: Al Petrie	alpetrie7@aol.com	707-545-7208	Elias Zagarra
Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker .	sirsbrn17@gmail.com	707-548-3346	WEBMASTERS:
			Dennis Mangan
			Jim Fenstermaker

BIG Sir George Traverso's Message (continued)

traits: love for flying, family, country and ultimately respect and love for humanity.

Charlie Brown was the pilot of the B-17 that had completed a mission over Germany and was returning to his base in England. The American bomber had the letters "Ye Olde Pub" stenciled on its nose. Franz Stigler was the German pilot in a Messerschmitt fighter that encountered the American plane over the North Sea. The large B-17 was nicknamed "Four Motors" by the German aviators. As the American bomber was returning to its English supply base, Franz Stigler noticed massive damage on the "Pub." Large shrapnel holes throughout the fuselage and missing parts on the tail elevators and rudder proved that the aircraft was a "miracle in flight." Franz was amazed that the airplane was still flying as pilot Brown was having difficulty in maintaining power with the weakened engines. In addition, some of the Americans on board were either dead or gravely wounded by the recent combat ordeal. As pilot Stigler flew next to the huge airplane, he waved to the American and realizing the condition of the severely damaged craft consciously decided not to attack.

A question remained in the mind of Charlie Brown for many years: "who was he and why did he let us go?" Certainly, the B-17 was returning from a bombing run from Stigler's homeland. Obviously, the giant "Four Motors" inflicted untold destruction to military sites and mortal ruin to German civilians. A partial answer to Brown's thought might reside in pilot Stigler's compassionate personality. Franz Stigler never became a member of the Nazi party and throughout his life maintained a spiritual and moral character. I believe that Makos' book has two climaxes. The first is the encounter of the two pilots in 1943 and the second is what occurred in the 1990's.

After years of correspondence Charlie and Franz
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BIG Sir George Traverso's Message (continued)

finally met at an amazing reunion. Franz moved to Vancouver, B.C. Canada after the war and Charlie resided in Miami, Florida. In their golden years, the two friends told their story to many civic clubs, air museums and military groups across North America. Both old pilots died months apart in 2008. "Their message was simple: enemies are better off as friends." In retrospect we can take a lesson from Franz's wartime action and shape it into messages that are so necessary in today's world, forgiveness, understanding and ultimate compassion for humanity.

Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message (continued)

parallelograms in high school math instead of how to do my taxes. It comes in so handy during parallelogram season!

And, last but not least.

It has been a great blessing to be at home with the wife these last few months. We have caught up on everything I have done wrong for the last 20 years!

Well, there you have it fellow SIR members, my feeble attempt to bring a smile and lighten things up a bit! Until we can gather again for all our SIR activities, stay safe, wash your hands, social distance and enjoy a beverage of your choice!

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.

SIR Branch 17, Member Profile:

Badge #129 Chuck Stark

Chuck Stark has a passion for discovering the world and people who inhabit it. He has traveled to all seven continents including Antarctica, attended multiple universities, studied anthropology, sociology, history and received a law degree from William and Mary University. His passion to help people and learn more about the needs of individuals and society is evident in his current work on legal issues regarding divorce, estate planning, trusts, and business matters.

Chuck is a native of Pennsylvania where his dad worked in the grocery business and attended high school in Westfield, New Jersey, just outside NYC. His decision to become a lawyer followed many years of discussions with his parents and university advisors. However, once Chuck makes up his mind, he solidly locked into a final decision. He designed an undergraduate curriculum that would



give him the courses he needed to prepare for law school even though it meant an extra year of college. Chuck firmly believes in a liberal arts education that prepares a student to be ready to take on jobs that have not been invented yet. I was amused when he told me he signed up for a class in abnormal psychology fully expecting that he would need that as a lawyer! So true! His classes in economics, government, human cultures and writing all turned out to be valuable bridges to a career in law and have served him well.

Chuck is fascinated by life. "I could stand on the corner and watch people go by all day long. I love to watch the world go by." His daughter scolded him for being annoyingly inquisitive of everything he sees while driving. Rules and regulations can be very confusing and Chuck likes to simplify complexity and make it understandable to others. He uses his curiosity and problem-solving approach to lead his clients through the jungle of our legal systems.

Chuck experienced the trauma of losing his house in the 2017 firestorms. He considered rebuilding, but after a heart-to-heart talk with his son, realized that he would be happier buying an existing home. Typical of Chuck being resolute, he told his real

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[Return to Page 1](#)

Member Profiles: *(continued)*

estate agent exactly what he wanted and 22 days later closed on a property.

Chuck's new house has a koi pond in which he stocked some very impressive fish. To protect the fish, he put netting over the pond to protect them from hungry herons. However, one day he found the fish gone and evidence that river otters (or racoons?) had discovered Chuck's "sushi box." Not one to give up easily, Chuck began a crusade against fish-eaters of any species. He installed steel cables above the pond, an electric fence around the pond, water jets, a 5000-lumen motion-activated floodlight, and six solar powered blinking red lights to simulate predator eyes. Chuck claimed his new nickname should be "Elmer Fudd," the legendary nemesis of Bugs Bunny!

Chuck became interested in SIR Branch 17 after meeting other members of our club in local organizations and hearing about the fun activities we have to offer. He finally joined the club after phasing away from full time employment. By the end of this year, he hopes to move his law office to his house and work only 10 hours or so per week. Maybe then he'll have more time to pursue even more ways to stop those naughty koi bandits. Shhh! Be vewy vewy quiet, he is hunting otters and waccoons.

(Article by Dennis Mangan)

Our **Future** Regular Meetings, less the lunch!

Since we do not know when we will be able to get back to having "in person" meetings and lunches, these meetings and the BEC meetings will for the time being be held using the Zoom program.

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.

Aug 20, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17,

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

Aug 6, Sep 3, Oct 1, 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 or call 707-528-6987 for more details. Also you can check out page 7 with more instructions on setting up Zoom on your computer.

2021 BEC Officer Candidates

The Nomination Committee has produced a list of SIR Branch 17 members who are interested in serving on the Branch Executive Committee beginning in January 2021. The BEC works as a team to provide the resources to keep the club functioning and meet the desires of our members. If you would like more information or want to nominate yourself or someone else, contact Dennis Mangan, Ted Scapecchia or Bob Reuther.

Following is list of 2021 Officers and Directors:

Big Sir	Gary Bondi
Little Sir	Gordon Boulton
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Kurt Wehrmeister
Asst. Secretary	Jim Gurke

Directors:

Rich de Lambert,	Tom Lubas
Ken Johnson	Chris Nolen
Paul Willihnganz	Elias Zegarra

At the next Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 20th at 11:00 am, we will be voting to elect the above Officers and Directors for 2021. During the meeting any member can announce if they would like to “run for an Office” or even nominate someone else, before the vote is taken. Do not miss out on this opportunity to place your vote!

Our Area 10 Governor, Robert Reuther, will be able to give us all the details as to how all this Zoom election process will work as he will be fresh from a State SIRinc Board Meeting being held on Wednesday, August 19th.

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!

[Return to Page 1](#)

GLOBAL FORUM:

(Article by Marvin Mai)



Even though our “in person” meetings have been canceled we have held four “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 **Friday, Aug. 7th at 10:00 am** for the Global Forum meeting, then contact Marvin at 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.

Aug 7, 2020
 Aug 21, 2020
 Sep 4, 2020
 Sep 18, 2020
 Oct 2, 2020
 Oct 16, 2020
 Oct 30, 2020
 Nov 13, 2020
 Dec 11, 2020

GOLF:*(Article by Roy Thuestad)*

As you are probably aware, things have not gotten much better on the Golf/COVID-19 front. The restrictions prohibiting "tournament style golf" are still in place and I don't think they'll be lifted anytime soon. The good news is that 16-24 SIR golfers have been showing up at BV each week and we all seem to be sniffle-free. So, as it stands right now, we still play Monday Morning Golf starting at 8:30, still book our own tee time, and still bring our own facial mask and water.

The 8th Annual Sebastopol Golf & BBQ has been canceled. It has fallen victim to COVID-19 and to recent SIR restrictions prohibiting us from preparing and sharing food with our fellow SIR members. It's been a fun ride and I've enjoyed the years that we've had together to share in golf and fellowship.

Go ahead,



Express Yourself.

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

[Return to Page 1](#)

The Poem of the month for August

In August - by Paul Laurence Dunbar

When August days are hot an' dry,
When burning copper is the sky,
I 'd rather fish than feast or fly
In airy realms serene and high.

I 'd take a suit not made for looks,
Some easily digested books,
Some flies, some lines, some bait, some hooks,
Then would I seek the bays and brooks

I would eschew mine every task,
In Nature's smiles my soul should bask,
And I methinks no more could ask,
Except--perhaps--one little flask.

In case of accident, you know,
Or should the wind come on to blow,
Or I be chilled or capsized, so,
A flask would be the only go.

Then could I spend a happy time,--
A bit of sport, a bit of rhyme
(A bit of lemon, or of lime,
To make my bottle's contents prime).

When August days are hot an' dry,
I won't sit by an' sigh or die,
I 'll get my bottle (on the sly)
And go ahead, and fish, and lie!

List of the August Birthdays

Rich de Lambert Gary Lazzarini

Dean Lundgren Bill Traverso

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joke of the Month



These days, I spent a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...Then I go to get something and then wonder, what I am "here after."

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

For most of us in our age group, you will probably remember most of the following words of “bye-gone” days. For those of you that do not remember some of these words, then ask your elders!

Those were the days!!!

I came across this phrase yesterday--'**FENDER SKIRTS**' a term I haven't heard in a long time and thinking about 'fender skirts' started me thinking about other words that quietly disappear from our language with hardly a notice, like '**curb feelers.**'

Remember '**Continental kits**'? They were rear bumper extenders and spare tire covers that were supposed to make any car as cool as a Lincoln Continental.

When did we quit calling them '**emergency brakes**? At some point 'parking brake' became the proper term. But I miss the hint of drama that went with 'emergency brake.'

I'm sad, too, that almost all the old folks are gone who would call the accelerator the 'foot feed.' Many today do not even know what a **clutch is** or that the **dimmer switch** used to be on the floor. For that matter, **the starter** was down there too.

Didn't you ever wait at the street for your daddy to come home, so you could ride the '**running board**' up to the house?

Here's a phrase I heard all the time in my youth but never anymore--'**store-bought.**' Of course, just about everything is store-bought these days. Once it was bragging material to have a store-bought dress or a store-bought bag of candy.

When was the last time you heard the quaint phrase '**in a family way**? It's hard to imagine that the word 'pregnant' was once considered a little too graphic, a little too clinical for use in polite company, so we had all that talk about stork visits and 'being in a family way' or simply 'expecting.'

I always loved going to the '**picture show,**' but I considered 'movie' an affectation.

I miss those made-up marketing words that were meant to sound so modern and now sound so retro. Words like '**Dyna Flow**' and '**Electrolux**' and '**Frigidaire**', introducing the 1963 Admiral TV now with '**Spectra Vision!**'

Some words aren't gone, but are definitely on the endangered list.

The one that grieves me most is '**supper.**' Now everybody says 'dinner.'

Save a great word.

Invite someone to supper and discuss fender skirts!

(Reprinted from many of the internet articles of history)

How to Install Zoom software and Join a Zoom meeting:

INSTALL

To use Zoom, you'll first need to install the Zoom "Client" software on your computer.

Go to your web browser (e.g., Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.) and enter: <https://zoom.us/signup>.

Enter the information requested (birthdate, email address, & click on Sign Up.)

Zoom will send you an email to that address. Open the email & click the Activate button.

Enter your name and make up a personal password.

That's it! You're done ... explore the website if desired and when done, SIGN OUT by clicking on image in the upper right corner. 



HINT: If you want to make it even easier to use Zoom, download and use the Zoom App on your computer, laptop, or tablet.

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id546505307>

PC: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings>

JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

If you have been sent an invitation, simply click on the link in the email (or copy and paste it into your browser). Allow the page to open "zoom.us" Enter the Meeting Password (not your personal password) if needed.

Alternatively, if you just know the Meeting ID number, enter <https://zoom.us/join> in your browser.

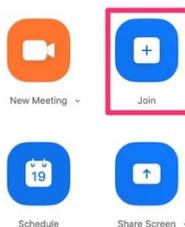
Enter your email address, your password and click Sign In to go to the Zoom website.

In the upper Right Corner, click on JOIN A MEETING.

On the next page, enter the Meeting ID number.

Enter a Password (if needed)

If you have the Zoom App, click on the app icon , go to the top of the page and click on the Home icon, and then click the blue Join icon.



That should do it! Have fun... see you soon!

State SIRinc has started a contest for the SIR branches that are making use of the Zoom program to promote keeping the SIR membership as active as possible. It is called the “Zoomer Award.” There are three categories depending on how many members each branch has, like small, medium and large.

Big SIR George Traverso, along with some help from Dennis Manga, submitted the proper form for June 2020. Word from Jim Johnson, Zoom Judging Group Chairman, has been received that Branch 17 has been awarded the first prize for our category, as per the following email received.

*Thank you for submitting Branch 17's Zoomer Award Application for June. The evaluation committee has completed its review of the applications and **it is my pleasure to notify you that Branch 17 has taken first place for Category A.***

Your Branch has utilized Zoom for your BEC, luncheon and activity meetings. We also took notice of its use in conducting your personal member profile interviews for your monthly newsletter. I am also sure your Branch will continue to come up with new ways to use Zoom and keeping your members engaged in Sir while we are continuing to work our way through this Pandemic.

*Branch 17 can now purchase Sir merchandise from the **Sir Pro Shop.***

Thanks, George and Dennis--this is quite an honor for all your hard work!

SIR HAPPENINGS

The August 2020 edition of is now available to view online.

This a very interesting and informing newsletter produced by SIRinc with articles re-published from many of the SIR Branches throughout the state. There is a lot of new information about branches the are using Zoom for meetings. Also a several new cartoons to keep you chuckling. Look especially at pages 10 & 11 of articles from Branch 17. Page 12 has a very funny story of “My Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary.” Page 19 has a great poem for all of our golfing members. On pages 32 to 38 pages there are lots of hints on various subjects that I am sure you will learn something.

To view this free newsletter go to www.sirinc.org then click on the “About SIR” tab followed by clicking on the “**SIR Happenings Newsletters**” then choose the most current newsletter listed, which is “**Happenings2020August.pdf.**” . Now you will be asked to open or save the PDF file in you favorite PDF program. It is best to select “Open.” You can always save if you want, for later reading. Also you can print what pages you what or the entire document. If you have never looked at one of these publications you owe it yourself to try this one, then try to tell me you didn’t enjoy something out of it Read and enjoy!

DO YOU HAVE AN APPLICATION FORM FOR A NEW MEMBER TO COMPLETE AND TURN IN FOR APPROVAL?

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.