A non-profit club devoted to the promotion of independence and dignity.
Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa, CA
Website: https://www.sir17.org

The *REDWOOD BARK* Newsletter October 2026

All members are invited to attend our next regular SIR Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday October 15th at The Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa.

You can reserve a place at the luncheon, or cancel a reservation, through our website by clicking here. If you told the Phone Committee **"Yes"** you plan to attend but later find that you will be unable to attend, please contact **Charles Kennemore**, 707-228-6788 or by email at ckcorners1@gmail.com by **noon on October 8th**. Also: If you are bringing a guest, or if you originally said **"No"** but changed your mind and decided to attend, then please contact **Charles**. If you are a no-show you may be charged for your meal!

Big Sir Art Appling's Message:

art4747@msn.com (707) 538-1769

Thank you Little Sir Dr. Stew Lauterbach, for presiding over the September BEC and luncheon meetings. September is the month the current Little Sir gets his feet wet in preparation for next year's responsibility of presiding over BEC and luncheon meetings.

For our September luncheon we had a dynamic presentation by the City of Santa Rosa's Mayor and six or seven other key city officials, including the police and fire chiefs, assistant city manager, city CFO and others. Their topic was educational regarding the proposed increase in sales tax, on the November ballot. Their position was quite clear: without additional sales tax revenue the mandated budget cuts would be extremely detrimental to services such as public safety and road maintenance. Please educate yourself on this important tax issue. Also, it was suggested that ballots not be mailed, but rather deposited in voter drop boxes.

I can report that State SIR has almost completed the revision of State SIR Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. This will allow branches that are or wish to become co-ed to be granted a new charter allowing such. Fortunately it will not be incumbent for branches that wish to remain a men's organization to make any changes. At this time our Branch 17's BEC has chosen to remain a men's organization and not seek a co-ed charter.

Little Sir Stew Lauterbach's Message:

stewlauterbach@gmail.com 707-495-0985

Sonoma County Regional Parks has more than 60 regional parks from as small as one square block to thousands of acres, extending from Petaluma to Gualala and Sonoma to Bodega Bay. There is something out there for anyone.

Starting in 1988 a 1/8th percent sales tax passed to help support the open space district. When this was expiring in 2013 voters passed a 25-year extension.

The County has been able to purchase or preserve land and to open new parks. We in the hiking group are on the trails of these parks almost every week. There are opportunities for everyone from easy walks like Spring Lake and River Front parks to the most challenging like Mante Rio Redwoods where the trails extend on public land all the way to the coast—11 miles.

There are five new parks being developed in the county totalling nearly 4700 acres. There are also numerous other organizations (The Wildlife Conservancy, The Sonoma Land Trust, The State Parks, to name a few) that are also preserving public lands. There is something for everyone within the regional parks. I would encourage you to get out and enjoy these fabulous resources.

DON'T BE A LUNCHEON NO-SHOW!

We had **17 members** who RSVP'd that they were coming to the September luncheon **fail to show up** without notifying the food services co-ordinator or website RSVP system that they would be unable to attend. That makes them no-shows! We have to provide Epicenter with a headcount estimate several days prior to each luncheon and if our estimate is way off it means that food can go to waste and Epicenter can lose money, or they can charge us for the no-shows. Epicenter has been exceptionally accommodating and easy to work with to date and we don't want to jeopardize this relationship! If you need to change your luncheon attendance commitment from YES to NO, there are several ways to do this:

Use the branch website RSVP tool and reenter your input to NO.

Contact our new food services coordinator, Charles Kennemore, 707-228-6788. His contact information is also near the top of the first page of the ***BARK.***

Call or text Gary Bondi, 707-217-5858; Gordon Boultbee, 707-217-5709; or Neil Wheeler, 707-291-0271.

Sirs Dean Lundgren and Fred Rose Receive Senior Sir Presidential Awards

(Article by Gordon Boultbee)

At our September luncheon, Branch 17 Little Sir Stew Lauterbach recognized two remarkable milestones. Sirs Dean Lundgren and Fred Rose were honored for celebrating their 90th birthdays (August 15th and September 13th, respectively). To commemorate the occasion, both honorees were presented with Senior Sir Presidential Award Certificates signed by SIR State President Fred Serena. Dean and Fred also received a free lunch!

Senior Sirs Fred Rose and Dean Lundgren receive their awards from Little Sir Stew Lauterbach

Four New Members Inducted in September

(Article by Gordon Boultbee)

Four new members were inducted by Little Sir Stew Lauterbach at the September luncheon. They are **John Belforte** and **Nick Trapani**, sponsored by Fred Rose; **Chuck Geber**, sponsored by Steve Carey; and **John Sanders**, sponsored by Gordon Boultbee.

John Belforte was in packaging and paper products sales for several international companies; was a fishing guide in CA, OR and AK; and was CEO and president of Beltappo wine corks. **Nick** was an accountant for Compuware Corp. **Chuck** was an electrical engineer with Sky Ridge Consulting Group, Inc. And **John Sanders** is a retired nurse practitioner in cardiology who recently moved to Santa Rosa from Seattle (grandkids, of course).

Left to right: Little Sir Stew Lauterbach, Nick Trapani, John Belforte, Chuck Geber, John Sanders

October Lunch Menu

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

- ***Brisket Tacos***
- ***Coleslaw***
- ***Beans***
- ***Green Salad***
- ***Brownies***

New Member:
Chuck Geber
Badge #33

I was born and grew up in the small Western Maryland town of Hagerstown (pop. 30,000, if you count the cows.) I then studied electrical engineering at Cornell University in upstate New York.

Following college, I worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel NJ, and during that employment I attended U.C. Berkeley where I received an M.S.E.E. degree. After returning to work in New Jersey, I eventually moved back to California in 1976 to work for Hewlett Packard in Cupertino. Thus, I have lived for the last 50 years in Northern California—for the last 40 years I have worked as a self-employed Technical Consultant, designing electronic products for the consumer, industrial, military, and medical markets.

My primary hobby is as an amateur musician, currently playing bass for Zig Zag, a Sonoma-based jazz band.

Couples' Night Out:

(Article by Fred Rose)

The September CNO was at KC's American Kitchen on the Windsor Town Green. We had a delightful time with good food, great company, and nice weather on the deck.

We had the incoming Big Sir Stew Lauterbach and his wife Barbara, the outgoing Big Sir Art Appling and his wife Joyce, our Area Representative Chris Nelle and his wife Nancy, Jim and Susan MacMillan, Frank and Marie Panza, Kurt and Paige Wehrmeister, Fred Rose and Jamie Gallagher.

October is the last CNO event of the year and we are planning on making a great event on Thursday, **October 22nd at La Gare French Restaurant**, 208 Wilson Street, Santa Rosa. For reservations, please contact Kurt Wehrmeister at kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com or Fred Rose at fredricrose@comcast.net.

Our Speaker for October

Donna Roper has always been involved in social justice issues as early as high school and throughout her career in the non–profit field. She grew up outside of Boston but ended up in San Francisco in 1976 finishing her BA in Psychology at San Francisco State University. She started a 25 year career with the YMCA there and earned her master's degree in Education while setting up childcare centers and other educational programs for the Y.

She transferred to the YMCA of Honolulu for four years and ended up in Sonoma County in 2002. She got involved with the **League of Women Voters** by helping to distribute voter registration cards in western Sonoma County and then becoming a moderator for some of the candidate forums. Now she is the President of the Sonoma County chapter.

Sir Rich de Lambert passed away September 15th at 92 years of age. He was a member of Branch 17 for nearly 14 years. For many years he was also a member of Branch 176 (Windsor). He served two three-year terms as a BEC director, was our Membership Drive Chair in 2020-2021; our Recruiting Chair in 2022-2023; started and was the Coffee Club Chair 2020-2025; and was one of our Community Involvement Program's Co-Vice Chairs.

Rich was a recipient of the **I'm Doing My Part Award** (he sponsored 15 new members from 2022 to 2026), the **Senior Sir Presidential Award**, and SIR's highest award, **Honorary Life Member**.

His family will host a Celebration of Life honoring Rich on October 18th, 2—5 PM at The Kenwood Depot, 314 Warm Springs Road, Kenwood.

Activities:

Use this link below to view the latest online Calendar of Events:
https://www.sir17.org/calendar-of-events.html

Boys' Night Out

*(Article by **Don Malvestiti**)*

Let's try the new BBQ restaurant at the Poppy Bank Epicenter: **Red Eye Barbecue**, 3215 Coffey Lane, Wednesday October 14th, 5:30 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner.

RSVP to Don by October 9th to join the group: malvestitidon485@gmail.com.

DO NOT SHOW UP UNLESS YOU RSVP!

Bridge

We meet in the Valley of the Moon Club in Oakmont, Tuesdays, 11 AM to 1 PM for bridge and lunch. If you have an interest in Bridge, contact:

Dean Lundgren 707-544-8088 mdlundgren@msn.com
or
Steve Virtue 707-695-2597 stephenvirtue2015@gmail.com

Explore & Eat – Schedule Change

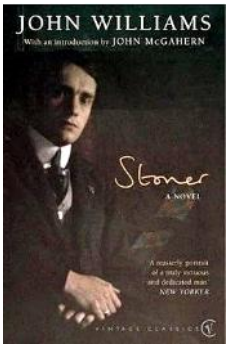
*(Article by **Tom Sparrowe**)*

Did you know that Windsor has a Museum & Historical Society? Well, they do! And Explore & Eat (E&E) will be visiting the Windsor Museum (aka Hembree House) on Thursday, OCTOBER 29th to learn more about the settlement and formative days of Windsor. Before our trip to the museum, we will lunch at **KC's American Kitchen** on the Windsor Town Green (9501 Du Vander Ln.) at 11:30 a.m., followed by a short drive to the Windsor Museum (Hembree House) at 9225 Foxwood Drive.

E&E is a casual daytime extension of Couples' Night Out for those who would enjoy a luncheon experience. So, bring your wife or significant other for a wonderful and casual time. Single Sirs are also welcome. For a seat, CONTACT: Tom Sparrowe at tsparrowe@yahoo.com or Fred Rose at fredricrose@comcast.net by MONDAY, OCTOBER 26th. NOTE: THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM SEPT 29 TO OCT 29.

Book Club

*(Article by **Neil Wheeler**)*



Our book selection for October is ***Stoner*** by John Edward William. William Stoner is born at the end of the nineteenth century into a dirt-poor Missouri farming family. Sent to the state university to study agronomy, he instead falls in love with English literature and embraces a scholar's life, so different from the hardscrabble existence he has known.

And yet as the years pass, Stoner encounters a succession of disappointments: marriage into a "proper" family estranges him from his parents; his career is stymied; his wife and daughter turn coldly away from him; a transforming experience of new love ends under threat of scandal. Driven ever deeper within himself, Stoner rediscovers the stoic silence of his forebears and confronts an essential solitude.

We will meet to discuss the book at 2:00 p.m. on **October 28** at Cypress Point in Howarth Park, weather permitting.

If you have any questions or would like to be on (or off) our email list, send an email to Neil Wheeler at neil@science-one.org.

The actor who played Dr. Spivey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975) was the real-life Superintendent of Oregon State Hospital, where much of the film was shot. He got several of his patients to serve as extras and crew members on the set. It wasn't until later that producer Michael Douglas learned that many of them were technically considered criminally insane.

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Community Involvement Program

*(Article by **Bob Reuther**)*

Making a Difference at the Redwood Empire Food Bank

On September 3rd, twenty-six of us weathered a rainstorm and packed 352 boxes of groceries weighing 10,841 pounds, nearly five and a half tons. This effort provided 9,034 meals for distribution the very next day. A huge thank you to the incredible hands who made this happen. The Redwood Empire Food Bank expressed deep gratitude, reminding us that their services support individuals in need from the Golden Gate Bridge all the way to the Oregon border.

We'd love to see even more volunteers in the months ahead. Whether you're a returning volunteer or considering joining us for the first time, there's always a place for you in our community service efforts. Mobility is never a barrier. We have jobs for everyone.

Our next outing is **Thursday, October 1**, from 10 a.m. to noon. We will be at 3900 Brickway Blvd. If you plan to join us on our next outing, contact Bob Reuther at rareuther@yahoo.com **by Sunday September 27**.

Once we confirm your attendance, we will share your name with the Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator to ensure a quick and easy check-in. We need to send your name by Monday, since on Monday they have a one day a week volunteer person who will post our list of volunteers on their computer program.

As a thank you, all participants are entered into our monthly prize drawing held during the coffee break. Last month's winners included Walter Clark (wine), Neal Wheeler (wine), Chris Nolen (wine), Al Petrie (candy), and Stew Lauterbach (cookies). We also want to thank Jim Taylor for providing coffee for our break.

After volunteering at the Food Bank, you are welcome to join the group for a Hot Dog Thursday Lunch close by at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A large hot dog or Polish dog, chips, and a drink costs $10. Well worth the price, and a good way to support another good cause.

Coffee Club

*(Article by **Jim Taylor**)*

We have returned to our outdoor location near the boat ramp at Howarth Park, the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Bring a lawn chair and $1 for coffee and pastries. Guests and Partners are welcome so bring a friend. **No RSVP required**. If you have questions, call me, Jim Taylor, at (707) 322-4959 or email at jameswt@sbcglobal.net. Everyone who attends is entered into our prize drawing and we hope to have you join us!

Global Forum

*(Article by **Marvin Mai**)*

During a recent week's getaway with my wife, we visited the Reno Art Museum. What was eye-opening was some photographs taken at several sites where we (U.S.) conducted atmospheric nuclear testing. The desolation of the sites just 50 miles from Las Vegas was complete even after 50+ years. The 67 tests in the Marshall Islands are surreal. We all have forgotten the fact that the U.S. conducted over 215 atmospheric and underwater tests; over 500 combined worldwide. The environmental damage to our earth is incalculable.

I also read an interesting take on our American culture: we drive and sit in the slow lanes of fast-food purveyors to then sit in our cars to eat. Remember grandma's attic? Today, 90 percent of the world's self-storage is in the U.S. A national pastime of locking up your belongings in metal boxes. Then never looking at them again.

As I write this we have many happenings that we need to follow: The world leaders meeting at the U.N. this week. President Xi visiting and will we see an agreement on AI, or Iran or Taiwan? Will the escalation of Ukrainian strikes on Russia lead to a settlement? Will the Houthis continue conducting strikes against Saudi Arabia? How high can prices go? And lots of other issues! For a reservation for the October 9th meeting email Marvin at maimarvin57@gmail.com.

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Hiking Group

*(Article by **Gordon Boultbee**)*

The SIR hiking group meets every Friday, weather permitting, typically at 8:30 a.m. The location changes weekly, and is announced via text message the day before by our hiking activities chair Stew Lauterbach. We are starting an additional hiking opportunity of 5 to 7 miles and 500+ feet of elevation, probably Wednesdays twice a month. Let Stew Lauterbach know if you are interested. If you would like to be added to Stew's list, contact him at:

stewlauterbach@gmail.com or 707-495-0985

Single Sirs

(Article by Chuck Stark)

Our October meeting will be at noon on the 7th at **Pascaline French Bistro & Patisserie at Montgomery Village, 1021 Harman Drive**. So far we have four members starting to attend regularly, but there are about 20 members on our Branch roster without partners. Get better acquainted with other single members. All single members are invited to attend for good food and fellowship, but must RSVP in advance to Chuck Stark, starklaw@sonic.net for this month and/or future meetings the Monday before the first Wednesday at noon.

Poker #1

*(Article by **Mike O'Neill**)*

We had two good games at Epicenter on **September 10th**. Originally, we had 13 players signed up, but one had to cancel out on the day of the games and one was MIA.

Les rushed back from his vacation in Switzerland, which was nice. So we played with 11, six at one table and five at the other. At Table 1 we had a two-way tie for big winner. The tie went to Glenn and Claude, followed closely by Chris. At Table 2 I was the big winner, with Ted close behind.

FOOD: As you probably know by now, Epicenter is shifting to BBQ. Howdy Partner. So, due to the changeover, we had a "limited" menu." Actually it was fine. They had enormous hamburgers, wings or a garden burger. Not sure anybody got the garden burger. It looked like a 50/50 split between the hamburger and wings. I saw a lot of burgers going into take-home boxes. The best news for me was they still offered tater tots. As usual, they were great. We all look forward to seeing the new menu.

SERVICE/SETUP: I was going to take pictures but forgot. When we arrived, Shawn had two tables set up for lunch and two tables for poker. He does a great job of taking care of us.

OCTOBER: Our next game is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th. We always play on the 2nd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in learning more about our group, contact Mike O'Neill at mikeo46@sbcglobal.net.

to all those born in October!

- *Art Appling*
- *Dale Chaffin*
- *Barry Chapman*
- *Bob Conover*
- *Michael Cuthrell*
- *Gary Erickson*
- *Tim Fawcett*
- *John Grant*
- *Jose Guillen*
- *Bill Ingels*
- *Don Malvestiti*
- *Tony Negri*
- *Andrew Parsons*
- *Al Petri*
- *Steve Saulsbury*
- *Bradley Smith*
- *Tim Stewart*
- *Bob Tutone*
- *Martin Wobig*
- *Bob Zeni*

SIR Poker Monday

*(Article by **Bernie Stephan**)*

We've Gone Weekly: Our final Wednesday game is now in the books, and everyone apparently decided to leave me with material for *The **BARK***.

Big Sir Art held his own, buying in and cashing out at exactly $25. That may be the closest thing poker has to a savings account.

Treasurer Barry, meanwhile, kept raising the stakes and successfully thwarted my repeated attempts to separate him from some of those beautiful green $2 chips. Apparently, our Treasurer takes his fiduciary responsibilities seriously—even when the funds are his own.

Bob returned from his hiatus and went home with more chips than he bought. Peter also returned for the fun. Jack was AWOL, keeping his portable card shuffler with him. We discovered that cards can still be shuffled by hand, although this technological regression was difficult for some of us. And Jeff graced us with an absence so some other player could actually win.

Victory House also rolled out its new barbecue menu. More poker. More meat. But the biggest news is that **Poker #2 has officially outgrown Wednesdays and odd or even weeks.**

Beginning **Monday, October 5**, we become **SIR Poker Monday**, and we'll play **every Monday** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Trophy Room at Victory House—Poppy Bank Epicenter. We are not a closed game. **Any SIR member is welcome.** No reservation, no advance notice and no secret handshake. Just show up at 11:00, buy your chips, grab a seat and play.

Questions or running late? Call Bernie at 415-488-4567.

Oktoberfest

*(Article by **Neil Wheeler**)*

Did you know that the 191st official Munich Oktoberfest runs from September 19 to October 4, 2026?

In celebration of this German tradition and Sonoma County's love of craft beer, Branch 17 will host an Oktoberfest event on **Wednesday, September 30th at 1:00 p.m.** Partners are welcome!

Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, Pretzels, Potato Salad, Beer, water and soft drinks, and traditional Oktoberfest music will be provided for this festive occasion! We might even sneak in a bottle or two of wine. A $5 donation is requested.

We'll meet at Upper Oak Picnic Area in Howarth Park. If you plan to attend, please let me know so you won't go hungry or thirsty. Call or text me at 707-291-0271 or send an email to neil@science-one.org. Please respond by September 24th.

Walking Group

*(Article by **Richard Lundblad**)*

The walking group meets every **Tuesday morning at 10 am**, weather permitting.

We have been leaving from Cypress Point and go for coffee afterwards. Come join us and bring a friend! If you would like to be on our email list, contact me at:

richardlundblad@gmail.com

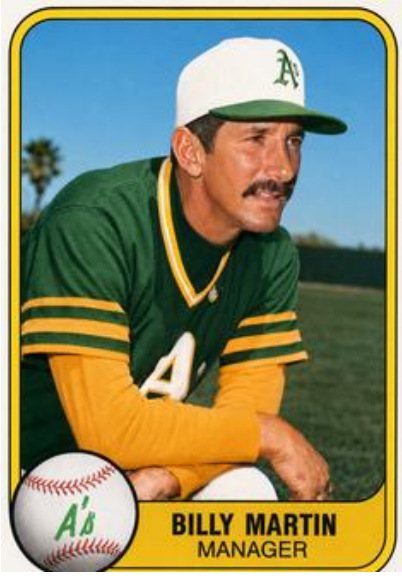
707-888-8386

Billy Martin *(a **John Weaver** Story)*

One of the most controversial baseball players and managers I have ever met was Billy Martin. I was employed as a photographer for KRON-TV in 1981 to cover three Oakland A's baseball games against the Kansas City Royals in the Oakland Colosseum. The A's won all three games to become the Western Division Champions of the American League. The manager for the A's was Billy Martin.

After the final game was over against Kansas City, we were all standing around and I knew Martin was the man in charge. He was the decision maker, a fighter, a drinker, and a manager of great success. I felt I should not get too close or I might become the subject of his interest. It was common knowledge he had taken on a salesman of marshmallows in a bar fight.

Regardless, I felt obliged to extend my "Congratulations." Though he was not talking with me he turned, looked at me, and completely surprised me when he said "Thank you very much." He enjoyed winning.



However, these wins were all the A's would get. The Yankees came in from the Eastern Division and won the next three games to become the winner of the American League Championship in 1981. What is very interesting is that Billy Martin had been manager of the New York Yankees in 1957 and 1958. And before that he had played second base and helped the Yankees win one of their World Series games.

Sir Stan Borges passed away September 2nd, just shy of his 92nd birthday. He was a member of Branch 17 for more than 25 years. Stan was the Branch treasurer for many years, after which he served as the assistant auditor and then audit chair for several more years. He received the branch I'm **Doing My Part** (IDMP) pin award, the **Honorary Life Member** award approved by State SIR, and the **Senior Sir–90 Year Presidential Award**.

Stan was a native Californian who grew up in the San Joaquin Valley area. He graduated from San Jose State and began his work career with Union Oil. He worked for Standard Structures in Santa Rosa for 40 years until his retirement. His finance background made him a popular choice to serve as treasurer for multiple non-profit organizations throughout Sonoma County.

Stan was predeceased by his wife Claire and is survived by his three sons, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

(Partially excerpted from his obituary published in the Press Democrat)

New Member:
Nick Trapani
Badge #131

I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Wayne State University. Most of my work career was spent with Compuware Corporation. In 2000 I moved to Phoenix to manage the office and retired in 2006 after 30 years with the company. Recently my wife and I celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary, a wonderful trip with few bumps in the road. We have three children and four grandchildren. I enjoy reading as well as golf. I'm looking forward to making new friends through SIR!

New Member:
John Sanders
Badge #50

I was born in Pasadena, California and lived for most of the first 18 years of my life on a five-acre goat farm, and went to a Quaker elementary school. In high school my dad took most of us to Kenya, East Africa, where we lived on a mission close to the Equator. There I worked briefly in a leper village and went to school in Nairobi, Kenya. Later I would graduate from Temple City High School and go to college at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. The mother of my girlfriend at the time would suggest I look into nursing as a career and after a couple of years as a nurse's aide in San Gabriel, California, I decided I liked the work and went to nursing school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. There while working over the Christmas break, I met a very bossy Head Nurse. We have now been married 48 years and have had two very impressive sons. I worked in intensive care, then moved out to Sacramento, CA where I worked two years in the Emergency Department and had our first son, Justin.

Looking for more training, we moved up to Seattle, WA where I got a master's degree in Cardiovascular Nursing. There I worked in management, then as a Nurse Practitioner in a large cardiovascular lab where we placed pacemakers and defibrillators and did procedures to correct slow and fast heart rhythms. We happily lived there for over 40 years, raised our kids, and explored the beautiful Salish Sea and Cascade mountains of the Pacific Northwest. When our son Noah married and had our grandson Beau, the temptation was too great and so we sold/gave away most of our stuff and in one POD unit moved down to Santa Rosa. We bought a home one mile (a 20-minute walk) from Noah and his family.

We are quite happy here this last year and have made a number of friends already. I look forward to meeting many of you as I explore opportunities with Beer Call, Hiking, and the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

New Member:
John Beilharz
Badge #7

I was born in Hollywood, California, and graduated from Hollywood High School at the Hollywood Bowl during the Summer of Love in 1967. At the time, my main interests were pretty simple: surfing, girls, music, and college. I also spent considerable time volunteering at the Veterans mental hospital in Brentwood, near Los Angeles, an experience that helped spark my interest in psychology.

In 1974, I moved north to attend Sonoma State University, where I earned my BA, Master's degree, and later a Ph.D. in Psychology. During those years, I managed a group home for emotionally disturbed adolescents and worked with juvenile halls throughout the Bay Area, taking at-risk teen boys on 30-day wilderness trips. Those experiences became an important part of both my education and my understanding of young people facing difficult circumstances.

After graduating, I worked briefly as a psychotherapist before teaching at Santa Rosa Junior College for several years. Eventually, I decided to take my career in a completely different direction and founded JB & Associates, a marketing and public relations firm. Over the years, I worked with a wide variety of clients, including Sutter, Friedman Bros., Ghilotti Construction, Health Plan of the Redwoods, Transamerica, and numerous healthcare organizations.

Today, I'm retired and spend much of my time cycling, traveling, and writing. I have two published books, with another on the way. Most importantly, I have been married to my beautiful wife for 50 years, and we have a daughter and a grandson.

New Member:
Burt Fohrman
Badge #74

I was born in Chicago and when I was 15 we moved to North Hollywood. I attended North Hollywood High, USC and UCLA law school. While in law school I had a variety of part-time jobs all of which were related to real property law. I also had part-time cowboy jobs and taught fundamentals of equitation at USC.

On completing law school I accepted an offer from a Beverly Hills law firm specializing in real property law. After 18 months I decided life in Beverly Hills was not for me and I quit. I got a job in Riverside with a small law firm. I remained in Riverside for 19 years. A few years into my practice in Riverside I was asked to handle a transaction in Germany. Although I knew nothing about German law this seemed like a great opportunity. I accepted the assignment and it led to other European transactions. Beginning in 1972 my practice was divided into US real property and international business transactions.

I was recruited by a major national law firm and moved to Los Angeles in 1983 to head up the west coast real estate practice of the firm. In 1984 I was elected the chair of the Real Property Section of the California Bar Association and in 1983 I was the founder and editor of the California Real Property Journal. After a few years with my new firm I was named chair of the firm's Real Property group and moved to London and worked out of offices all across Europe. This posting gave me opportunities to practice both real property law and international business transactions.

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In 1993 I changed law firms, joining a major international law firm. Prior to the move I primarily handled European and American legal issues. With my new firm I primarily handled Asian law transactions. I was resident in Hanoi and then in Tokyo where I was a member of the Tokyo Bar Association. I retired in 2003.

Starting practice in Riverside I never imagined a career that allowed me to handle international transactions. By the time I left Japan I had handled transactions in 26 countries.

When we left Japan in 2003 we moved to our ranch in Santa Rosa and devoted substantial time to the olive orchard that we planted while living in Japan. In 2011 we entered what was claimed to be the world's largest extra virgin olive oil competition. To our great surprise our oil won multiple gold medals and was selected best of show out of a competition group of 638.

In 2005 I decided to go back into practice and joined the Perry Johnson firm in Santa Rosa. I am still of counsel to the firm.

In addition to my legal activities, I also have long experience with horses, having worked as a cowboy during my school years, and lived on an avocado ranch where we maintained six horses and participated in three riding groups in Sonoma County (Trail Blazers, Wednesday Riders and Reno Sierra Riders).

I am married and we have six children, 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. My wife is a retired lawyer. We lost our house in the Tubbs fire but rebuilt and live on the ranch with our eldest son and his wife.

My eldest son Jeremy Olsan has also joined SIR and we are both looking forward to meeting members and participating in activities.

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by SIR INC., and its Branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SIR, 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.