

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: February 13, 2012

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER:

SHERRI SAGER started the meeting at 12:15 PM. ROSEANNE FAIRTY led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

GEOFF ZIMAN welcomed our guests:

Visiting Rotarians: Cruzie Wilborn from Los Altos and Dean Merritt from Shanghai (one of two clubs in China)

Rotarians with Guests: WALT HAYS introduced Zack Hou; GLORIA HOM introduced Greg Conglin; and CASH ALAEE introduced Pedro Garcia.

OPENING REMARKS:

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, JOYCE CUSICK quoted:



Margaret Anderson, "In real love you want the other person's good. In romantic love, you want the other person."

Joan Crawford, "Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm

your heart or burn down your house, you can never tell."

Robert Frost, "Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired."

Mark Twain, "Love like you have never been hurt, and live like its Heaven on Earth."

Rotary related: **BILL LOVE**, PA Rotary, "Men demonstrate their finest qualities in working together and supporting each other in time of great adversity."

Armistead Maupin, "Like I've always said, love wouldn't be blind if the Braille weren't so damned much fun!"

Dr. Seuss, "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

THANK YOU'S

SHERRI thanked our greeters: DICK BUSH and DICK FREEMAN, GEOFF ZIMAN for introductions, BRIAN STEEN as E-Pinion reporter, and the other volunteers who helped with today's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CASH ALAEE encouraged all members to support our April 14 Fundraiser. 1. Please donate auction items. Examples: Private dinner at Chef Chu's, possibly a Bay Area plane ride, dinner at your house, or maybe a case of wine? Last year we received 103 items that brought in over \$17,000. 2. Buy tickets, and 3. Bring your friends. Auction items are due March 30.

PRESIDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTION:

SALLY TOMLINSON announced 2012 as the 20th



anniversary for Environmental Volunteers. EV has just moved into the recently refurbished former Sea Scout building. Their Grand Opening will be this summer.

PROGRAM:

ANDY COE introduced Dr. Pizzo, Dean of Stanford



University School of Medicine, since 2001. Prior to coming to Stanford, he was Chair of the Department of Medicine at Children's Hospital in Boston and Chair of the Pediatrics Department at Harvard Medical School. He has authored over 500 articles, and has edited 13 books. He serves on many international boards and advisory councils.

Where are we today regarding health care? We're roughly contemporaneous. It hasn't always that way. Despite many medical breakthroughs, sometimes progress is hard to discern. For example, some families are deciding not to have their children vaccinated. This could lead to severe consequences.

The intersection between research and application can be transformational. He recalled work with HIV, particularly with children, most of whom, died. HIV interventions that worked were created. Now HIV in children is nearly eliminated, which is a tribute to basic research, coupled with clinical application.

Cardiovascular health progress: If you follow a fixed regime, you can largely avoid heart disease.

What's NOT working: in health care? Since the 1930's, the US has consistently avoided creating a workable health care system. The existing insurance system was an accident of World War II. Fees for service made sense, at first, but now have devolved into a series of perverse incentives. Health care costs are projected to reach 30% of GDP. The US is number one worldwide in medical admin and overhead costs.

Contributing factors are: new technologies, new drugs, and cultural and geographic variations. The more you get is not correlated with how much you spend. Recommended article: New Yorker, June 2009, "The Cost Conundrum."

We need a significant shift in health care to guide outcomes based upon evidence. Currently the system is highly biased toward payment systems.

Health Care Reform: On Mar 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. Celebrated as health care reform, actually ACA is a collection of unrelated events. Some modifications would be good. The bigger problem is the ACA has become so political.

Two upcoming events will be important. The US Supreme Court is set to review ACA, particularly its mandates. The resulting decision could cause ACA to unravel. The 2012 Presidential debates and election will focus on health care as the top issue.

What's to be done about major entitlements? How are we to address health care economics? What can we do? It's imperative to learn how to manage changes.

Area of concern:

1. We can't lose sight of our ability to discover and innovate.
We need to bring ideas to help people directly by reforming our health care model and system.
In the next 20 years, 25 million people will need health care services.
2. We need to secure the most outstanding health care providers.
3. We need to assure quality and efficient delivery of services. Value to the patient should be the highest priority. For example, integrated care could be contractual.
4. We need to provide the very best patient-centered care.

Q: Article: In a recent San Jose Mercury story, Lisa Kruger reported on an assisted living episode. In ten days \$362,000 was spent; and the patient died. What are your thoughts about end of life expense?

A: It's essential to have proactive discussions with family members. Advance directives are increasingly important. Excessive care should not be given at the last stages of life. The US treats our pets better than our own families. We need a real debate and dialogue about this. Lisa Kruger is promoting this discussion in the SJ Mercury. Dignity of dying is more important than the cost.

Q: How can directives be found?

A: Look up advance directives online. There are good examples there. You need to have this conversation with your primary physician.

Q: What is the financial health care "nut" that needs to be covered?

A: Health care expectations need to be realistic. Maybe a national cap is necessary. Costs need to be brought back under control. Medical loss needs to be reduced.

Overall, health care "business as usual" needs to come to an end.

SHERRI thanked Dr. Pizzo and promised a dictionary will be donated to Green Oaks Academy in his honor.

Adjournment with a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 20 - Anna Eshoo, Current Political Analysis

February 27 - Isa Stenzel-Byrnes, The Power of Two

March 5 - Victor Gauthier, The New Bay Bridge

March 12 - Axel Merk, European Contagion – Global Dynamics Unplugged

Rotary Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org