

**District 5340****06/15/2018****Established 1993**

Opening Remarks and Announcements



Elena started the morning with the pledge (Dave) and the 4-way test (Isabel). Elena led our meeting today as Betty is attending granddaughter's promotion.

Betty is new speaker chair, please pass on suggestions to her.

Jeff has been nominated by Elena as President elect for 2019/2020. If anyone else would like to nominate someone please contact Elena.

Dave made a request that club members send him article materials, photos and a short description of the event so he can forward to the local community papers to get more club exposure.



Elly explained the form for requesting money for projects. If you have an idea, please fill one out and give it to Elly. Then the Projects committee will meet and review and select the ones we are going to fund. There will be copies of the forms available at the Fri. Meetings or on our website.



La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2017-2018

President Betty Howland
Imd Past Pres Lynn DeHaven
Pres Elect Elena Alba
Secretary Elly Dotseth
Treasurer Laurel Nishida
CommService Len Gamble
Club Service Fern Hall
Int'l Service Hugo Marillo
Club Programs Betty & Aaron
RI Foundation David Ballesteros
Membership Bobbie Warren
Pub Relations Aaron Landau
Youth Interact JoAnn Bergquist
Greeter Muff Warren
Peace Chair Clara Harris

Credits and Acknowledgements

- Pledge: David Lemox
- 4-way test: Isabel Alba
- Photos: Floyd Morrow
- Drawing: Joan Bergquist

Minutes: Fern Hall



Isabel announced that this month the Rotary theme is “change”. So we are going to start collecting change.



Produce for Polio- Christine brought avocados, lemons & herbs.



Fern spoke about collecting items for Ferns bags, bring them any Friday. She also announced there were changes in the upcoming tea- venue and who we are acknowledging. We will be at Noah Homes again this year and if you have anyone you would like to suggest please send to Fern.



Guest Speakers: Ivan Alba and Steven Pinker

https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_is_the_world_getting_better_or_worse_a_look_at_the_numbers

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Ivan Alba is our speaker today and is presenting a Ted talk “Is the world getting better or worse?” by Steven Pinker -April 2018. Steven Pinker grew up in the English-speaking community of Montreal but has spent his adult life bouncing back and forth between Harvard and MIT. He is interested in all aspects of human nature: how we see, hear, think, speak, remember, feel and interact.

Pinker began by saying 2016 was called the “worst year ever”. But as Franklin Pierce Adams pointed out “Nothing is more responsible for the good old days, than a bad memory”.



Pinker looked at data that measured well-being over time using a constant yardstick. He compared today with 30 yrs. ago and saw that things actually have improved when measuring the #of wars, % of poverty, amount of pollution. One example was last year was a terrible year for terrorism with 238 deaths but 30yrs. ago was worse with 440 deaths. When we look at the numbers it shows that the world for all its troubles has gotten better over time.

Pinker has found that Intellectuals hate progress- it's the idea that you can improve your life. The question of whether progress has taken place is not a matter of seeing if the glass is half full- it's a testable hypothesis. A true optimist believes there can be a much better world than we have today and people largely agree on what goes into human well-being. Life, health, sustenance, prosperity, peace, freedom, safety, knowledge, leisure, happiness can be measure to determine how good life is.

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So if we look at history we see that life expectancy, famine, poverty, war and homicide , have all either decreased or improved drastically- because of the improvements in our infrastructure. We have become safer in just about every way.

Literacy and democracy have increased. – we work less hours- housework hours have fallen. Let's ask- does all this make us any happier? The answer is yes, in 86% of the countries happiness has increased in recent decades. Progress is a fact of human history, but the news portrays life as glum and morose. The nature of Journalism is expressed in a quote in the Onion "CNN holds morning meeting to decide what viewers should panic about for the rest of the day". Bad things happen quickly but good things take time. The news capitalizes on - if it bleeds it leads.

We should ask ourselves "Isn't it good to be pessimistic? No it's important to be aware of the dangers of indiscriminate negativity. Positivism- if we apply reason and science to human nature we can succeed. Human nature is the problem and the solution. Progress is not a miracle, Progress is problem Solving. We must see the possible problems and the future as challenges to be solved.

We Can change views from fatalistic to heroic, enlighten people. We live longer, suffer less, grow smarter, etc. Much suffering remains but ideas on how to combat it are always being acted upon.

Next Ivan- asked us to "think, pair and share" what does what we just listened to mean for Rotary.



Some comments were:
Christine- Rotary's focus on sustainability is having a long term affect- it's progress that is measurable.



Bobbi shared that seeing and listening to this Ted talk is like a reset to combat all the negativism.
We can focus on what has been accomplished.

Manuela shared that being in Rotary helps us balance the negativism- being able to influences changes. There are problems to be solved but we have seen that we can do it!

Bill Pogue spoke about the happiness quotient. If we don't focus on materialism we might find out we are happier.



Elena took this opportunity to gather some Happy \$. Christine is happy to be picking fruit, Elly's daughter n law visiting, Manuela- shared time spent with her granddaughter- brings you close to yourself. Daisy started college this summer.

Member Highlights



Guest

Susan (Rotarian)



Our member (Alix) with visiting rotarian

