

Rotary



Club of Livermore

Spur Report February 17, 2021

By Kathy S. Coyle on Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Your Spur Reporter this week is Cheri Sheets.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chris Ising led us in the pledge.

Songsters: Michael and Stu did a harmonious rendition of Keep on the Sunny Side of Life

Keep on the [sunny](#) side, [always](#) on the [sunny](#) side,
Keep on the [sunny](#) side of life.
It will help us [every](#) day, it will [brighten](#) all the way,
If we keep on the [sunny](#) side of life.



Thought for the Day: Ken Perine focused on a famous musing from author Michael Lewis regarding the Story We Tell Ourselves. Michael Lewis wrote many novels including The Big Short, Blind Side, Moneyball, and Liars Poker. Lewis had commented that as he got older he noticed patterns to how people spoke. There are the [victims](#) who are always being subject to injustices and there are [heroes/heroines](#) who always are rescuing the world and there are people who are [smart](#) and forever are issuing clever put you downs. Essentially each of us can craft our own story by the pattern of speech we choose. Ken has actively decided to choose to speak as the [Happiest Person I Know](#). What [s](#) your Story?



President's Walking Livermore Photo of the Week: Art is Public Places is a great program in Livermore. This week President Carolyn showed us the soaring sculpture at the corner of Isabel Avenue and Las Positas Avenue.

Recognitions - Meeting Front Line was acknowledged: Zoom Host -Jeff Youngsma, Zoom Chat Monitor [David Rounds](#), Audio/Visual [Alan Frank](#), Spur Reporter [Cheri Sheets](#) and Spur Publisher [Kathy Coyle](#).

Visiting Rotarians [TJ](#) introduced his wife Barbara. Ken Perine welcomed his sister in law Kathleen Pappani. Jasson Cervantes Mom and younger sister were there to help celebrate Jasson's outstanding achievement award.

Announcements [◆](#)

Interact Purchases [◆](#) Jacquie noted that folks can either pick up at the Alden Nursery or contact her and she can deliver. The total donations to Interact exceed \$5,000.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries [◆](#)

Birthdays: Sheila Fagliano Carole Lince, Ted Michels, Steve Neef, Debbie Peck, Paul Szmyd, and Linda Tinney
Anniversaries: Vern and Caro Green, Evonne and Dave Hopkins, Bill and Jane Nebo, Steve and Ludy Neef, Jeff and Lori Youngsma

Outstanding Student: Eric Taylor, Principal of Del Valle High Sch was pleased to introduce Jasson Cervantes who had been selected for the Outstanding Student award. Jasson is a senior at Del Valle who plans a future in the outdoors. He has made great advances at Del Valle and has come to fully embody the caring and supportive attitude of the school. He wants to pursue an outdoor career such as botany and or fish and game warden and plans to further these goals by attending a school such as Washington State Schooling for the Outdoors. Jasson enjoys voice acting for animae and cartoons, he enjoys Dragon Ball and surreal arts. He wants to travel to Japan. Jasson spoke of how the school and its faculty were very supportive and had helped him better himself as a person. Eric Taylor also appreciated our Rotary support for his application for the Model School award.



Rotary Foundation of Livermore (RFL) Update Donations received between 7/1/2020 and January 8, 2021 have been very generous. We received \$14,212 in unrestricted funds and an additional \$62,458 in restricted funds. Over \$31,000 came from our lunch money pledges and went to RCOL. Restricted funds also went to Children's Christmas, Bill Geyer, Every 15 minutes, Music Scholarship, Remote Learning, Rotary Club of Livermore Valley, and STEM. We had over 18 donations of greater than \$1,000 in 2020. RLF also took on a Challenge with LVEF to raise \$300,000 for chrome books for the schools. To date \$229,000 has been raised. LVEF granted \$87,000; Carolyn Wente donated \$50,000; Fremont Bank gave \$30,000; Top Con pledged \$10,000; RCOL and RCoLV both contributed \$6,000, Special RFL Grant of \$25,000; redirected Dictionary funds \$5,000; Miscellaneous \$9,637.59. The Club presented a check to Kelly Bowers of LVUSD in the amount of \$61,637.59 for their first purchase of Chromebooks.

Club Grant Applications Spring grant applications are due March 3rd. There is approximately \$4,000 available.

Prog

ram Multiple Myeloma & College Athletics - TJ Gilmartin introduced Rod Gilmore who is his neighbor of the past 5 years. Rod and his wife Marie are both attorneys and graduated from Stanford. They have two children. Marie was the former Mayor of Alameda. Rod was a college athlete and is in the baseball hall of fame. He is a partner in a Palo Alto Law firm specializing in transactional law. He also does college sports announcements for ESPN and CBS. He is currently a Board member of the Stanford Alumni Association. He was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma just over 5 years ago. He was a member of Palo Alto Rotary for many years.



Rod and his wife had decided to retire to the wine country. They originally were looking to Napa and then discovered the TRUE wine country here in Livermore. They moved here in 2016. Rod had been his Dr's healthiest patient for many years. In 2009 he contracted pneumonia. In 2011 he contracted pneumococcal pneumonia. In 2015 he came down with a virus that caused his neck to swell and ended up in the Houston Hospital. In 2016 his Dr became Sherlock Holmes and began investigating because he felt sure that these recurrent infections were not normal for Rod. A blood test diagnosed that Rod had multiple myeloma (MM). MM is the second most common blood born cancer; however, it only represents 2% of all cancer cases. Over 32,000 new cases were diagnosed in 2020. 15-20% of MM patients show no symptoms. Typical symptoms are body aches, bone fractures, etc. The median age for diagnosis is 69 but Rod was only 56 at the time. There is no cure for MM but there are good treatments. Rod credited Kathy Giusti at the National Institute of Health for fund raising leading to new research into MM treatments. There have been 12 treatments primarily all types of chemotherapy. Both UCSF and Stanford have experts in MM. Newer research into immunotherapy is very promising.

Rod believes that cancer changes you. That it focusses you on the NOW. It also helps to share your information to help in understanding the disease and in aiding research for treatment. His goal is to live Life with cancer. He reminds us to do what you Love!

Rod then discussed the state of College Athletics. He indicated that college athletics is currently in a state of flux. He believes that it is an exploitive environment right now. Graduation rates are very low and injury rates are high. Given that a core mission of schools is education there is an inherent conflict between sports that promulgate brain injuries and educating students. An anti-trust court case in 1984 between the NCAA and TV stations resulted in de-regulating (NCAA could no longer limit what games got televised) TV and its influence on college athletic programs. College athletics are now a \$15 Billion program. In 40 of the 50 states the highest paid employee is a college coach of either football or basketball. Top grossing athletic department is University of Texas at \$223 million. Of that only 3-5% goes to college scholarships. Top coach receives \$9.3 million per year and average salary of major college leagues is \$4.4 million. Recently a college spent \$21 million to fire a coach! Juxtaposed to that is the athlete who can lose eligibility simply for being taken out to lunch or receiving a pair of shoes. There is lots of pending litigation for Players to control their own Name, Image, and Likeness and receive any amount to further their educational experience. Almost every state also has bills pending to allow Players to share in the revenues. These bills also include medical coverage after college to help deal with injuries sustained in sports. Colleges historically have not allowed Players to have contracts with sponsor companies who also have contracts with the college itself. There is a case pending in front of the Supreme Court

that should be heard in March that may sort out some of these issues.

Q&A

Q: What has the effect of semi-professional college sports had on intramural sports?

A. Most colleges can still support intramurals at is relatively low cost. Olympic Sports are more impacted as they are supported primarily by college football and basketball.

Q. Insight into new treatments for MM?

A. Current treatments are chemo cocktail. MM is caused by plasma mutations. New immunology therapy is focused on manipulating T-cells.

Q. Is MM hereditary?

A. No. Not sure what causes it.

Q. How is the issue of concussions and CTE being addressed by colleges?

A. Hundreds of lawsuits at college level. Ethical dilemma for college boards. Some research indicates 50 to 60% of concussions result in CTE. **The most comprehensive study involved studying 202 brains of deceased football players (published in the Journal of American Medical Assoc. in 2017). It is the best study to date, but it has been criticized by the NFL, the NCAA and other professional leagues that the participants were not random and were self-selected by family members who believed that their loved one had been displaying symptoms of a brain injury. However, a true random study cannot be done since no one can be forced to donate their brain. Based on that study:*

**91% of the brains of NFL players studied had CTE.*

**91% of the brains of college football players studied had CTE.*

**21% of the brains of high school football players studied had CTE.*

Thus, the narrative that followed was that all football players will end up with CTE. These percentages are often extrapolated to project the percentages of living players who are likely to have/get CTE, but that would be incorrect. As noted, the study is not random and science is not yet in a position to provide a more sound analysis as to the likelihood of CTE until there is a way to test the living. Separately, the science is clear that repeated head contact (such as blocking or tackling in football or heading a ball in soccer) is more dangerous than a single concussion and is more likely to lead to CTE or continuous brain injury.

Q. Is there a parallel for Olympic Sports?

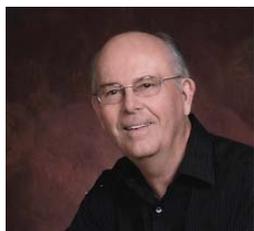
A. Not really. Its easier to earn money as an Olympian. You can receive bonuses for doing well.

Q. Is living with MM like getting old? Learn to Live with It. Don't fight it?

A. Yes. Not trying to beat it but get a win for living with it!

Q. What's your favorite winery in Livermore?

A. Hasn't tried them all yet. Due to proximity, he can walk there, Dante Robere is is home winery.



Next Week - Richard Finn the Livermore City Historian will be presenting - Midway The Town, the School and the People

Links and Advertisers

Check out our Flickr site for all of today's photos and more!

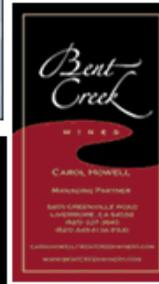
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/62794352@N07/albums/with/72157709710922731>

Today's video will be available on our web site: <https://livermore-rotary.org/2020-21>



Mary Anne Rozsa
Broker Associate
CAREER: 00783003
COLDFIELD
BANKING & INVESTMENT

925.963.0887 (mobile)
925.963.0887 (office)
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
540 Main Street, Suite 202
Pleasanton, CA 94566



Help Us With The Spur

Are you an aspiring reporter? If so, then please consider writing up our weekly newsletter from time to time. We are always looking for new writers, even though the regulars have a great time reporting them. Please contact Bob Jacobs @ bob@attorney-mediator.law

Club Leaders



[Carolyn Siegfried](#)
President



[Ken Perine](#)
President-Elect



[Glenn D. Kubiak](#)
Treasurer



[David Michael Rounds](#)
Secretary



[Kathy S. Coyle](#)
Training Officer
Past President



[Barbara Hickman](#)
Attendance Secretary



[Dennis William O'Brien](#)
Club Director



[Sblend A. Sblendorio](#)
Parliamentarian



[James P. Schmidt](#)
Club Director



[Sonya Sheffield](#)
Membership Coordinator
Club Director



[Joel C. Swanson](#)
Club Director



[Lance Cavalieri](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Patrick McMenamin](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Carol Gerich](#)
Club Service Chair



[Keith Beck](#)
International Service Chair



[Mary Anne Rozsa](#)
Youth Services Chair



[Jay Davis](#)
iPast President

Club Meeting

Livermore
Meets at We are meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.
Zoom
Livermore, CA 94551
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM