

Rotary Club of Altadena

Sparks

OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER



July 23, 2015

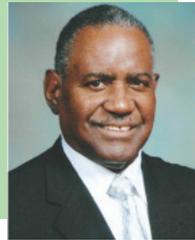
This Week

**David N. Birman, MD
Physician-Directed
Health Care (PDHC):
A principle, A Tested
Program, A Legacy,
and The Only Viable
Solution to the Health
Care Crisis**

**Program Host:
Kimmit Haggins**

In 1986, Dr. Birman was recruited by a 50-bed rural hospital the month after the hospital entered into a *Focused Review* initiated by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) following an investigation by the United States Attorney's Office for allegations of "billing fraud and substandard inpatient care" of that community's Medicare and Medicaid enrollees. Having settled out of court with the Department of Justice, the hospital agreed to the presence of investigators and auditors for twelve calendar months and to pay fines and penalties by forfeiting reimbursement for the claims it would submit, historically \$60 million in annual revenue from Medicare and Medicaid

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Quietly Quick

by Steve Cunningham, *President*

Spiritual Activity

You have found that your thought is a spiritual activity and is therefore endowed with creative power. This does not mean that some thought is creative, but that all thought is creative. This same principle can be brought into operation in a negative way, through the process of denial.

The conscious and subconscious are but two phases of action in connection with one mind. The relation of the subconscious to the conscious is quite analogous to that existing between a weather vane and the atmosphere. Just as the least pressure of the atmosphere causes an action on the part of the weather vane, so does the least thought entertained by the conscious mind produce within your subconscious mind action in exact proportion to the depth of feeling characterizing the thought and the intensity with which the thought is indulged. It follows that, if you deny unsatisfactory conditions, you are withdrawing the creative power of your thought from these conditions. You are cutting them away at the root. You are sapping their vitality. As the old parable goes, we must take preemptive strikes to prevent the weeds of dissent and destruc-

tion from growing in our minds of great possibilities.

Remember that the law of growth necessarily governs every manifestation in the objective, so that a denial of unsatisfactory conditions will not bring about instant change. A plant will remain visible for some time after its roots have been cut, but it will gradually fade away and eventually disappear, so the withdrawal of your thought from the conditions will gradually terminate these conditions.

You will see that this is an exactly opposite course from the one which we would naturally be inclined to adopt. It will therefore have an exactly opposite effect than the one usually secured. Most persons concentrate intently upon unsatisfactory conditions, thereby giving the unsatisfactory condition that measure of

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Greeters

July 23

Sterling Louviere

July 30

Tom McCurry

August 06

Dennis Mehringer

Program Review

In Love with Pasadena



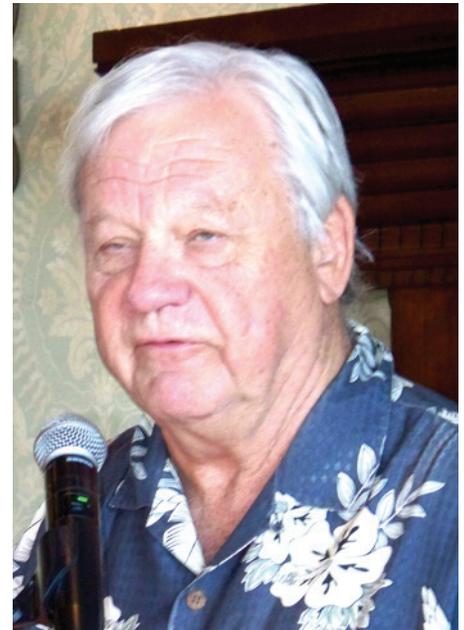
That was the case with our speaker from last week (July 16), Robert Liljenwall. Virtually a lifelong resident of Pasadena, Liljenwall grew up thinking he was in the land of milk and honey. He attended Burbank Elementary School and Marshall Fundamental School.

When his father died, his mother moved to Altadena, and, when he attended Burbank Elementary, he had suddenly moved up to a higher socioeconomic strata. He also attended Glendale Community College, but wasn't a dedicated student. He dropped out and enlisted in the Army. After that, however, he returned to college, got his degree and became a teacher.

The event that affected his life, however, occurred in 1976, when he was living in Manhattan Beach. In an historic case, the Supreme Court ruled that Pasadena schools must be integrated, and that busing would have to be used to implement this decision.

Liljenwall didn't understand this. He had always played football with black players. How could the schools have been segregated? Further research into the court decision, however, revealed that many of the schools with large black populations were below standard conditions. The black schools were given used football equipment, while the white schools got the new equipment.

The amazing thing was that integration



actually served to raise the education level for both blacks and whites. In the middle of all of this turmoil was a member of the PUSD Board of Education, Laverne Lamotte. She stood firm against conservative whites who were trying to resist the court order. They tried to recall her from her position on the Board, but the blacks defended her and she kept her seat.

Liljenwall is now working on a movie about Lamotte, and is close to completing the script. We all can't wait to see it.

Ed Jasnow ○

Congratulations



Birthdays

07/08 - Regina Wilson
07/27 - Tony Hill



Anniversaries

07/01 - Bill & Ruth Reeder
07/15 - Craig & Susan Cox

Sparks is published 48 weeks a year and is the official publication of the Rotary Club of Altadena. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday at 6p to current editor email, fax, or delivery.

Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949
P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003
www.altadenarotary.com
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p
Altadena Town & Country Club
2990 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA
626-794-7163

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Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
Ray Carlson Vocational
Tom McCurry Asst. Vocational
Craig Cox Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

**July
No Designation**

Program Chair, Kimmit Haggins
July 23 - David M. Birman, MD - Physi-
cian-Directed Health Care - Solution
to the Health Care Crisis
July 30 - To be Announced

**August
Membership & Extension**

Rotary, Abortion and Gay Marriage



Traditionally the church in America believed that the government should not be used for charity, rather that charity begins at home,

and it is the responsibility of each and every individual in society. Others have believed that government should be the main source of charity.

Some have said that advocating the redistribution of wealth is “vital to following what Jesus Christ talked about...” missing of course the principal message of the gospel that “...whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” Or, “that it is more difficult for a rich man to enter heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”

Interestingly, according to Stan Guthrie, an editor at large at Christianity Today, “People of faith already do far more for the poor than the secular community at large.”

Several world leaders, however, believe that Christians should stop talking about abortion and gay marriage and focus their efforts on ending poverty as the key issue plaguing the world today.

That is a tall order for anyone believing in the sanctity of life or the institution of marriage as the fundamental unit of society as it has existed in predominant world cultures for thousands of years.

I’m not sure why we can’t talk and act in accordance with our conscience in matters of poverty, abortion and gay

marriage ... all at once. Many churches do. Many Rotary Clubs do. Can’t I voice my disagreement with gay marriage, advocate for an end to the holocaust that is abortion, and feed and clothe the poor too?

I did not leave my *moral compass* at home when I joined Rotary. When we see injustice here or abroad, we are conscience and duty bound to act ... for our failure to act — in itself — becomes a sin of omission. “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” - *Edmund Burke*

RI struggles against ignorance and superstition in its fight against Polio in trying to inoculate children at risk around the world. Can we do less in the fight against poverty? Can we say less on the sanctity of life or a traditional family institution which long predates our history and culture. Must we have government be the determinant of *who* is deserving, *who* is in need, *who* benefits from the public coffers. Cronyism anyone? The government picking winners and losers is a problem by itself.

The pseudo- science of eugenics was warmly embraced by as many as 26 of our United States for decades leading to the

sterilization of thousands who we deemed to be *unsuitable* or lacking in sufficient intelligence, capacity or worth — social Darwinism at its worst, which became the justification for holocaust in Europe. Hitler applauded the efforts of American eugenis from whom he took so many of his ideas on an *ideal* race to benefit all mankind. Does abortion fit this category?

We have disagreements around matters of reproduction, or same-sex marriage. The Boys Scouts of America are currently being asked to revise their policies on forbidding *gay* scout masters and troop leaders. Will failure to acquiesce inevitably lead to the end of the boy scouts?

Bottom line: Should ending poverty be of greater concern to Christians, Jews or Rotarians than ending the holocaust of innocent lives that frames the modern embrace of abortion to appease those with whom we disagree? Surely this a moral failure of monstrous proportion from which we cannot recover.

Lord Acton once said: “Liberty becomes a question of morals more than of politics.” If we desire to retain our liberty — purchased at such great cost in blood, treasure and sacrifice — we need to think about it.

> > **NEXT BOARD MEETING** < <

TUESDAY, AUGUST 04, at 6:30p
260 S. Los Robles, Pasadena
3rd Floor Conference Room

This Week

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inpatient services.

Instead, Birman's approach to patient care was cited by the Department of Justice as the reason that the on-site review would cease at the end of the first quarter. Additionally, the hospital was restored as a *Preferred Provider* to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The hospital's reimbursement under the Inpatient Prospective Payment system (IPPS) came into compliance with an astonishing 60 percent improvement in revenue per discharge. Moreover, accounting recorded

a 38 percent reduction in variable costs was accomplished and maintained on an annual basis during the three years of Birman's tenure at the hospital.

Successful engagements in over 150 hospital-centered healthcare communities in 22 states created a strong legacy. The key to the program's success has always been Birman's ability to reach physicians in all specialties, reach consensus and assist with positive changes in practice behaviors. Birman points out that all strategic decisions in healthcare are based

on flawed assumptions, many of which were built into the original legislation of the *Great Society Programs* created in the early 1960s.

Birman defines these unfortunate drivers of patients: the government, the payers, the hospitals, the manufacturers, and the medical profession are responsible for the economic failure that threatens the future of our Nation. Birman's program has proven that it is possible to reverse the spiraling inflation of healthcare in any venue. ○

Quietly

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energy and vitality which is necessary to supply a vigorous growth.

In conclusion, realists predict that misery is guaranteed. Would you not prefer to be the advocate of the spirit of all possibilities instead of a *Doubting Thomas* who seems methodically justified in playing the Devil's advocate. It is your choice.

And, the open-minded soul can achieve greatness through rejecting abject negativity and going to a higher level of consciousness ... Experiments with parasites found on plants indicate that even the lowest order of life is enabled to take advantage of natural law. This experiment was made by Jacques Loch, MD, PhD, a distinguished member of the Rockefeller Institute.

"In order to obtain the material, rose bushes are brought into a room and placed in front of a closed window. If the plants are allowed to dry out, the aphids (Parasites), previously wingless, change to winged insects. After the metamorphosis, the animals leave the plants, fly to the window and then creep upward on the glass."

It is evident that these tiny insects found that the plants on which they had been thriving were dead, and that they

could therefore secure nothing more to eat and drink from this source. The only method by which they could save themselves from starvation was to grow temporary wings and fly, which they did.

Experiments such as these indicate that Omniscience as well as Omnipotence is omnipresent, and that the tiniest living thing can take advantage of it in an emergency. ○

Form & Line

by Jacque Foreman

Words that Change their Meanings

Once again I've taken a favorite book from the shelf, *The Unexpected Evolution of Language* by Justin Cord Hayes

Today let's start by looking at two words: *Dab* and *Decimate*. We'll add an additional one of we run out of text before we run out of space — an unlikely situation when I am doing the writing.

We'll take the word *Dab* first because I am assuming that most of you know the real meaning of *Decimate* and get cranky when it's used wrong. I know I do.

From the 1300s to the 1500s, **Dab** meant to strike a hard blow with a weapon, e.g. the spike-cover clubs that the knights of old used to carry into battle. Then **Dab** became less brutal when firearms came into use; and we just shot each other.

But, the real reason may be the monogrelization [*isn't that a wonderful word?*]

of the language, and people began to confuse the English word **Dab** with the Old French word **Dauber**. This led to the English word **Daub** (meaning to smear or coat something). By the 1600s **Dab** had its current meaning to coat or smear lightly.

Next is the word *Decimate*. Originally this word meant to take one tenth of something — one out of each ten. But somewhere around the seventeenth century (1600s) confusion arose, and people started thinking it meant to reduce to one tenth of its original size. Think, according to the original meaning, if you decimate 100 soldiers, you have 90 left. However, if you use the confused meaning, you have only 10 left. Big difference! ○



All FREE Concerts start at 7:00 PM in the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park.
 568 East Mt. Curve Ave., Altadena, CA 91001 for information: 626-798-6335
 Visit: <http://www.altadenasheriffs.blogspot.com>

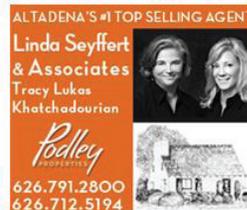
19th Annual Summer Concert Series Schedule - 2015

Downbeat Express (Big Band with Jennifer Gates)	Saturday, July 11th
The Brian Hughes Band (Ultimate Jazz)	Saturday, July 18th
The Manning Brothers & Friends (Irish Music & Dance)	Saturday, July 25th
The Mighty Burnt Bacon (Stax Style Soul Band)	Saturday, August 1st
Upstream (Reggae, Calypso, Soca & Steel Drum Music)	Saturday, August 8th
Kings of 88 (The Ultimate Tribute to Piano Rock)	Saturday, August 15th
Whiskey Hayride (Country Music and Much More)	Saturday, August 22nd
Floyd & The Flyboys (R & B Soul & Funk)	Saturday August 29th

And... For Our Grand Finale... Saturday, Sept. 12th
Back by Popular Demand...Sgt. Pepper in their tribute to
the Beatles!

Presented by United Support Group & SSGA

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Rotary Club
Of Altadena



Georgia Rutherford
In Memory of
Don Rutherford

