



# Listening In

April 17, 2017

## CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Bernardi called the meeting to order at 12:15.

## PLEDGE AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Pete Hurley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Thought for the Day was a story about Maestro Itzhak Perlman, unable to walk after contracting polio as a child, regarding his ability to play beautiful music even after one of his violin strings broke during a performance. Commenting on the event, Maestro Perlman said "Our job is to make music with what remains." Rabbi Dov Greenberg, expanding on the thought, stated that we are all on stage, and we are all broken, but we must play with what we have, and even if what we have is broken, it can still make beautiful music.

## VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Steve Harris brought his coworkers, Ron Davis, Warden, Dr. Sharon McCarver, Chief of Mental Health, Dr. Dan Smith, Chief Physician and Surgeon, and Dr. Elena Tutell, Chief Medical Officer.

Pete Hurely introduced Leonard Tucker, a Marin native visiting the club.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 22, 2017: Earth Day clean up at Schoen Park. Contact Dan Walker for more information. 9-12. May 18, 2017: Scholarship interviews by the scholarship committee. Contact Brian Powell for more information.

Mike Watt was made Rotarian of the Month. Mike runs our website and manages our AV needs. Mike keeps our club running.

Rotary Club of Sausalito is running a charity event on June 15 at Indian Valley golf club with \$25,000 prize.

Richard Kalish admitted he had seen Hamilton over the weekend, another play in SF, and had a great Easter. He gave a bellringer in honor of his son paying the bill for lunch over the weekend.

Joe Ayoob gave a bellringer in appreciation for her daughter making it home safely from Japan.

We need volunteers for set up and breakdown of each meeting and to take the bulletin. Contact Matthew Briggs.

## MARBLE GAME

The pot was up to \$428 and there were 33 marbles. Mike Watt held the winning ticket, but did not draw the winning marble. He received a bottle of wine.

## PROGRAM

Ron Davis, Warden, and Steve Harris, CEO of San Quentin Prison spoke. The prison has more volunteers than employees, with 3,000 volunteers coming in. They have about 4,000 inmates. They have many programs to try and develop the prisoners so they do not return to crime. They have coding classes to give the prisoners valuable skills for employment. It includes job placement upon release. Inmates taking part in the coding program have a 0% recidivism rate. They also have a cooking program that also provides a job placement program. They have 1,000 bed reception center. The reception area takes in convicted prisoners from the surrounding counties, before they are divided up among the California prisoners. San Quentin also has death row, which due to pending cases, is on hold. They also have a tennis program, where ranked tennis players will come in and play with the prisoners. The Golden State Warriors come in each year to visit the prisoners.

The department has a budget of \$11 billion. Per prisoner rate is \$80k. Hundreds of prisoners are released each year. The recidivism rate varies among regions. Los Angeles has a lower rate while the central valley has a higher rate. Counter intuitively, the worse your offense was, the lower the recidivism rate. Dr. McCarver, head of mental health, discussed her department. She has 150 people working under her. It is not the largest mental health department

among the 35 California prisons. There are 1,100 prisoners receiving mental health services in San Quentin. They have 12 psychiatrists on staff prescribing mental health drugs. Dr. Tutell discussed the medical department. She has been with San Quentin for 10 years. New inmates are screened for medical issues. They provide treatment for chronic diseases, such as diabetes and coronary disease. The prison population is aging. San Quentin has inmates in their late 80's. For some prisoners, they can be released near the end of their life to die at home. 10% of prisoners have diabetes. About 30% of the prisoners have hepatitis c. Some come to prison with it, and some catch it from prison tattoos.

Upon reception of a new inmate, the prison reviews the background of the prisoner and evaluates the level of incarceration needed. There are four. The highest includes pelican bay. The lowest includes the prisoners used to work with Cal Fire to manage fire risk in the Sierra Nevada. San Quentin is relatively low violence for a prison. Northern Hispanics (Northern Structure), Southern Hispanics (Mexican Mafia), Whites (Aryan Brotherhood and Nazi Lowriders), African America (Black Guerilla Family) are the main prison gangs.

80% of inmates in California will be released in 5-7 years. Warden Davis recounted a story where he discovered his neighbor was a murder convict that had turned his life around and was living a normal, productive life.

Submitted by Matt

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24, 2017 – Program TBA

May 1, 2017 – Mark Fishkin,  
Executive Director and Founder,  
California Film Institute and  
Founder and Director, Mill Valley  
Film Festival