

Rotary Comment and community comment for feb 12 2016

The subject is love

On Valentine's Day we celebrate love. This celebration leans towards the love between two people. We decorate for parties with red hearts and have cards with two people kissing in silhouette. It is fun and has become a great commercial success.

But the subject of love is serious. There is a saying that love makes the world go around. I think this is true and here is my case.

Love comes in many forms that are essential to happiness and, I think, life itself.

Love of friends; There is great comfort and inspiration in the feeling of close human relationships and its bearing on our mutual fortunes- a powerful force, to overcome the tough breaks which are certain to come to most of us from time to time. Walt Disney

Love of caring and giving; Let your heart feel for the afflictions and distresses of everyone, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse. George Washington

Love of country; More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Love of environment; I am plus my surroundings; and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself. Jose Ortega 1914

Love of family; The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family. Thomas Jefferson

Obviously, love allows many opportunities for us. I would assert that love, like happiness, is more choice than accident. We are constantly making choices about everything. We allow ourselves to stumble into events. Make a choice to be happy and in love with life.

Speaking of choices, here's one I had no say in. Today is my birthday. This one marks my last year in my 60's. Because we now have President's Week off in our schools, many people don't remember that February 12 th is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. When I was a kid, I got the day off for my birthday. Even though the day off wasn't for me, I always have thought I had some kind of connection with Abe. Read some of his speeches some time to see what an amazing human and President he was. His words still resonate even into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I'm at a point in my life where gifts are not important to me. Don't get me wrong, I do like to celebrate the occasion. But this year, I hope to take flowers to my closest friends. My gift is saying thanks for their friendship. And to those

listening, you have been kind over the years putting up with my thoughts on various subjects. On my birthday, I want to wish you all a great day.

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.