

Monday with Mikey: October 3, 2016

I have been thinking a lot lately about apples. Following are a few of my musings.



”An apple for the Teacher” - MANY thanks to the faculty, staff, and students – led by PDG/Provost Jamie Mick - of the first-ever District 6950 University, held last Saturday. I believe it was a GREAT day of Rotary Training, Fellowship, and FUN!

 I spent a good portion of my childhood years in the State of Washington, which is famous for its “Delicious” strain of apples. My constant thirst to learn something new every day comes from my very positive educational experience in Washington’s schools. Literacy matters!

 While I was growing up, I was a Beatles fan. Let me be clear: I do NOT divide people into two camps (“Beatles or Stones”). However, I did really enjoy the music and movies (and yes, the cartoon show) by and about the “Lads from Liverpool.” I recently re-watched the 2007 film “Across the Universe,” and it occurred to me that we - Humanity – are still struggling with so many of the issues that film – and the Beatles – addressed. “All I am saying is: ‘Give Peace a Chance.’”

 When it comes to computers, I don’t divide people into camps either. PC and Apple people can, and do, coexist – and even cooperate. The Apple logo carries many legends. Among them are Sir Isaac Newton, Alan Turing (the leader of the team that broke the Nazi “Enigma” system), and the Bible story of Adam and Eve, which as we know includes the apple. Rob Janoff, the person who actually developed the logo, has said that there was a very ornate symbol for the company, which he was tasked to streamline. He went from a scene of Isaac Newton’s recognition of gravity to an apple’s silhouette with a bite out of it. Rob explains that the bite space is for scale – so folks wouldn’t think the apple was a cherry or some other kind of fruit. He even says he didn’t know what a “byte” is until after he had submitted the logo to Steve Jobs. It is today perhaps the most widely-recognized commercial icon of all.

 Finally, this is a photo of “Johnathan” apples – named after a very distant relative of mine, John Chapman of the Massachusetts branch of the Family. “Johnny Appleseed”, as he was known in folklore, has a much more entrepreneurial and (shall I say?) alcoholic story than that of just a Methodist Circuit Rider in the Ohio River Valley in the early 1800s. You can look it up at www.smithsonianmag.com/johnny-appleseed.

“Okay, Mikey, get to the core of the matter!” Well here you go: All of these institutions and people, whether or not they received any measure of immediate benefit from their endeavors, have been PLANTERS OF SEEDS. Their labors ultimately resulted in benefits that would “come to fruition” and last long after their initial efforts had been completed.

As Rotarians, we plant trees whose shade or fruit we may never enjoy. We provide for the literacy and productive livelihoods of people we'll never meet. We build water wells from which future generations will drink clean water and avoid the scourge of Polio.

Eat an apple today and just think of the possibilities!

Until next Monday, keep **"Doing Good, Having Fun!"**
Your Friend in Rotary Service,

Mikey

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Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
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