

Monday with Mikey: May 8, 2017

During our recent holiday to Spain, FMJ (First Mate Jocelyn) and I had occasion to pass through the city of La Mancha, local capital of the province of the same name. My thoughts turned then, as they do now, to the story of Don Quixote, a “hidalgo” (a nobleman without an official title) and his “noble squire” Sancho Panza, a farmer that Don Q. convinces to follow him on his quest to right wrongs – real or perceived – in the world as he knew it.

The book, written by Miguel de Cervantes Saadvera, is titled (English translation) The history of the valorous and witty Knight-Errant Don-Quixote of the Mancha, was first published in two volumes. The first was in 1605 and the second was in 1615 – and collectively they have been called the original modern novel, a nihilistic dark satire of the institutions of the day, and an inspired comment on the need for purity and virtue in the world.

It was required reading in Mrs. Scott’s eight-grade English class. It was pretty confusing to me then, but as the years have gone by and I have (hopefully) developed insight through experience – much as don Quixote did – I find it a poignant, timeless, universal comment on everything from true religion, to one’s own quest (jihad?), to the truth that lies behind humor.

In 1965, Man of La Mancha opened on Broadway. The overarching theme of the book was encapsulated in the song The Impossible Dream, and I offer them to you as this week’s “thought provoking poem.” As always, please forgive the “single-gender” nature of the lyrics.

*To dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe,
To bear with unbearable sorrow, to run where the brave dare not go,
To right the unrightable wrong, to love - pure and chaste - from afar,
To try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star:
This is my quest: to follow that star - no matter how hopeless, no matter how far;
To fight for the right without question or pause; to be willing to march into Hell for a Heavenly Cause!
And I know, if I'll only be true to this glorious quest, that my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest.
And the world will be better for this: that one man, scorned and covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable star!*

Until next week let’s all keep on “Doing Good, Having Fun!”

Mikey

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A few “District Quickies”-

- Let’s FINISH STRONG with our contributions to The Rotary Foundation’s Annual Fund!
- District Training Assembly is May 20: If you’re a club leader, you NEED to go to DTA.
- Please register NOW for District Conference on DacDB.
- Attached is the flyer for this year’s “Rotary Day at the Rays.”



Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
Florida's Nature Coast / Amusement



RAYS 2017



Rotary Day with the Rays XVII



SUN, AUGUST 20

VS. SEA

START TIME: 1:10 P.M.

GATES OPEN: 11:10 A.M.

Lower Box Tickets w/ Hat are \$45
Lower Corners Tickets are \$25
Upper Reserved Tickets are \$25

Deadline to purchase is Thursday, August 10th, 2017.



All prices include \$10 to the Rotary Foundation in the name of the purchaser. Tickets are purchased through Gene Beil; checks should be made payable to "Beil & Hay Trust Acc't".

If you purchased a Lower Box ticket, you can choose your hat at the Redemption Center, located in the first base food court, by the 3rd inning by showing your ticket stub.



ORDER FORM

For more information contact Gene Beil at: 727-868-2306 or kiwimate@msn.com

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

How many tickets would you like?

_____ Lower Box tickets x \$45 each = \$ _____

_____ Lower Corners tickets x \$25 each = \$ _____

_____ Upper Reserved tickets x \$25 each = \$ _____

Accessible seats (circle): Yes No

Payment Information:

_____ Check

Make checks payable to:

Beil & Hay Trust Acc't

Mail check and order form to:

Beil & Hay, PA

12300 US Hwy 19

Hudson, FL 34667

RAYSBASEBALL.COM 888-FAN-RAYS

Offer not available through Tropicana Field box offices, International Plaza ticket outlet or Ticketmaster. Tickets subject to availability. No refunds or exchanges. Prices subject to change