

07.20.20

Lower Snake River Retired Educators amid the present-day chaos have sheltered-in-place, socially distanced from family and friends, and have stayed healthy. Speaking for myself, I did all the previous preventative measures well...my only failing was not self-distancing enough from the refrigerator!

Publius Syrus was bought as a Syrian slave in Roman Italy in the early Middle Ages. Syrus, by his wit and talent, won favor of his master who granted him his freedom and educated him. His words are apropos today... **"GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD SENSE ARE TWO OF LIFE'S GREATEST BLESSINGS."**

Prior to the pandemic, LSRRE was looking forward to another year of fellowship and stellar programs.

In October, David and Paula Lirgg, long-time organizers and volunteers of the Help Them to Hope organization presented a comprehensive overview. For 47 years, HTHH has screened applications, rallied volunteers, collaborated with other civic organizations to ensure food, toys and other essentials are donated, sorted and distributed during the holiday season. ***"The longer I live, the more I am convinced that the one thing worth living for is the privilege of making someone more happy and more useful."***
Book T. Washington

In November, we all enjoyed a cup of "jo" at a local coffee shop, Agape Coffee. As we ordered a cup of coffee to enjoy during the program, Jessica Paulsen, manager and barista, demonstrated her artistic talents by making lovely designs in our coffee foam. AMAZING! As we enjoyed our cup of "jo", Mr. A, a coffee roaster from Boise, introduced us to the art of selecting, roasting, grinding and steeping coffee beans to suit your taste. At the end of the presentation, members were invited to sample a variety of coffees.

Treasure Valley Classical Academy, a new charter school which is affiliated with Hillsdale College in Michigan, opened in Fruitland, Idaho. The Principal, Mr. Steve Lambert, shared with members a broad outline of the philosophy of the school. The academy aims to "train minds and improve the heart" of its students. The 2019-2020 school year served K-6 with an additional grade level to be added each year. Hillsdale College remains actively involved in training and providing continuing education for the academy's staff.

"Man's mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimension." *Oliver Wendell Holmes*
STEM is alive and well in the Payette Public Library...Tech classes, Lego Clubs, 3-D printing classes, Family Reading Week...All one needs to do is check the library's monthly calendar on Facebook or the local newspaper to see what and when things are happening. Mr. Clay Ritter, the program director, is "over-the-top" about STEM and shared examples of dialogic teaching with hands-on-programs. His philosophy for kids AND parents is **'FAIL FORWARD' because failure is the beginning of acquisition of new knowledge, understanding, problem-solving and skill development.**

Throughout this past year LSRRE has been sending cards to active educators, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, with hand-written messages acknowledging and expressing our gratitude for their commitment and efforts to improve our schools and success of the students.