

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 8, 2021

2021 Installation - Special Edition: Friends, this year's installation banquet was a once in a lifetime event. Yes, I noticed the pun after I wrote it. More on that in a moment.

Through her years her ability to accept love from others had not really been Tina's thing. She also has a very low tolerance for, well, bullshit.

Here are some excerpts from Aaron's introduction.

When asked, "What's it like for you having terminal cancer?"

"Death is easy. Dying, on the other hand, is very complicated." The process brings to the surface darkness and light, beautiful and ugly, but clarity in the end.

"A great epiphany about this journey has been an amazing clarity about love." It can't be earned ... in order for it to be love. Love isn't earned. It isn't bought or paid for. That's transactional, counterfeit, prostitution. Love comes from grace. It's free! Therefore we can receive and accept it freely and proudly. It is humbling and it is right so don't push love away. Take it in.

Tina, on Us: "I really love Newberg Early Bird Rotary because it is a diverse and beautiful group of people - sometimes looking pretty polished, but really it's just a train car full of misfit toys who take themselves lightly enough but take the important work of service seriously. It is a group of generous lovers."

Aaron had asked her, "How do you feel about the party we are having with you as the guest of honor?"

"I just want good food and I want people to feel free to ask or say anything. If there's a question about death and dying that seems like it may be offensive or inappropriate, please ask it. If there's a feeling you're experiencing ... embrace it (and share it if you like.)"

Incoming President, Mark Moisan, thanked Bill Rogers for his year's service and resilient leadership through the pandemic year of changing distancing, gathering restrictions, menu changes and adapting to virtual then hybrid meetings.

Mark also expressed recognition and gratitude to our club's committee members.

Also a note of recognition to Becky Potter for opening the doors of [Meraviglioso Winery](#) for this year's Installation event.

So, what makes this a "Special" Edition? Tina does.

Tina has been an Early Bird since 2006. She has served on committees, volunteered for service projects and donated to others, made Tina's Bard available for club events, and been all around involved and approachable.

A while back she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Fighting spirit she is, she did go a round with chemo. But it didn't yield what she'd hoped for. When facing the prospect of another round, and knowing the three possible months it could add to her life, but 3 of every 4 weeks being miserable, she cut her losses and chose instead to live until the very last minute and leave this world on her own terms.

Since these newsletters get searched and read years later, here is some context.



This was kind of like an inside out funeral. You know, where people got up to say all the things they remember about the dearly departed. But this gathering and celebration of life was given to (and accepted by) the clearly-not-departed who got to hear about how others had been touched by her.

Kinda like being a fly on the wall of your own funeral (but everyone likes you).



Tina continued that thought, "Please don't waste your time and mine painting a picture of me as someone I'm not. I am not a sweet, innocent Church Lady fronting with a facade. I am authentic, honest, and open and I don't care for bullshit. In addition, I see myself as fascia ... that woven connective tissue that bridges one necessary thing to another."

Aaron dismissed us to Tina's Potluck with the following inspiration quoted by Sir Anthony Hopkins:

"None of us are getting out of here alive, so please stop treating yourself like an after thought. Eat the delicious food. Walk in the sunshine. Jump in the ocean. Say the truth you're carrying in your heart like hidden treasure. Be silly. Be kind. Be weird. There's no time for anything else."

[—Nanea Hoffman](#)

In keeping with not being sweet and innocent comes an Activity introduced by Casey Hostetler. Tina's Tombstones.

One of my favorite images of the night is from Casey's introduction of this exercise...

I was going to put thought bubbles or captions on it, but ... nah. Drink this image in, friends. Go ahead, I'll wait.



Okay, that's long enough.

What follows is a little off-the-cuff. This is my first ever newsletter written entirely from memory since I chose to be more present than attendant.

The Business Of Dying has been a speaker topic a couple times in our club's history. Tina says the same, but from behind the family curtain.

Adult children still see Mom as having all the answers. The questions would come about declining health, dispersement of estate, execution of will, feelings of love, anxiety, joy, and grief.

The part about feelings has its own challenges but the part about finance and property and other "stuff" is still

a challenge to have answers for. "I've never died before."

That may sound glib, but it's a pretty straight, no bullshit answer.

So she finds herself being the patient and the therapist. Not a complaint, just a very aware observation.

One point she really tried to drive home was the business



of dying. Do the work of funding and arranging what happens when you're gone. Give your family the gift of freedom to grieve and minimize the energy needed to manage your final affairs.

Oh, speaking of afterthoughts, congratulations, Bob Travers, our 2020-21 Rotarian Of The Year for his work on Oktoberfest, now known as SummerFest.

Friends, you can view, download, share images from to our [Google Photos album](#). Or full res images can be found at [EnigmaPhoto.net](#).

