



## MEETING NOTES: July 29, 2020

**Call to Order:** Co-President **Steve Elefant** called the meeting to order. **Hogey** gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Visitors** included five of our Las Lomas High School Rotaractors. Each of them spoke about their interests. Franchesa was interested in art. Dina wishes to become a doctor. Hadil loves the arts and wants to study International Relations. Baran and Jennifith also added their interests. We are going to do a mentorship program with them. It will pair an interested Rotarian with an interested Rotaractor. **Patrice** and **Dale** will do the matching. Just fill let one of them know that you are interested in exploring becoming a mentor if you find this of interest.

**Rotary International Video:** The video, entitled "Rotary Fights Disease", was about polio eradication, surgeries, education, treatment, and stamping out disease. The message was that every gift was important.

**Sunshine:** **Jean** mentioned that on page 19A of the Rossmoor News there was a lovely article on **Bob Sutherland's** life story. Patrice said **Pat Z.'s** surgery went okay, but she is having problems walking and cannot leave the house.

**Thought for the Day:** **Irv Ford** presented some thoughts about Nancy Green, a former slave. Nancy was from Kentucky and was an activist, cook, philanthropist, storyteller, and the first African-American model hired to promote Aunt Jemima pancake mix. She lived to be 89 and was the first Black millionaire. Now there is a fight to preserve her legacy because Quaker Oats is removing the Aunt Jemima name and image from their products. Quaker Oats said the name, Aunt Jemima, was based on a racial stereotype.

### **Announcements:**

- **Sue Adams** announced that October 10<sup>th</sup> is Service Day. There will still be a Food Drive even though the Gala has been cancelled.
- **Chuck** mentioned the wonderful Rossmoor News article about **Bob Sutherland**.
- **Patrice** talked about mentorship with our Interactors and asked those interested to fill out a questionnaire.
- **Irv** added that four members have not paid their current dues yet.

**Happy Dollars:** **Tillie** gave a very generous \$100 because she was happy to be at the meeting. **Ruth R.** gave in honor of her daughter's and grand daughter's birthday, both of which were that very day. She also announced that she had adopted a poodle. **David Brown** added his generous donation of \$100 to celebrate his successful cataract surgery. **John K.** gave to honor his wife's and daughter's birthdays.

**Bill B.** gave for his daughter's and granddaughter's birthdays which fall on the same day. **Patrice** donated in honor of the Interactors who were able to join the meeting.

## PROGRAM

Our speaker, Dr. Seema Yasmin, addressed the topic "When Epidemics and Politics Collide". Dr. Yasmin is a British physician who was trained at Cambridge. Currently, she is affiliated with both Stanford and the Center for Disease Control where she served as an officer in the Epidemic Intelligence Services investigating disease outbreaks. She is also an Emmy award winning journalist. Dr. Yasmin has a new book coming out in January 2021 called "Viral B.S.: Medical Myths & Why We Fall for Them" available at Amazon for pre-purchase.

Dr. Yasmin began speaking about pandemics from an historical perspective, mentioning AIDS and HIV. She contended that major problems arise when we ignore science and listen to misinformation and disinformation. The current pandemic has gotten worse because of the politics surrounding the actual science. Because politicians have a political agenda, the CDC website has gone dark and Covid information has suddenly disappeared. There is the fear that people will lose faith in the CDC because it is constantly being discredited. One example of how politics encroached on science is when President Trump falsely claimed that hydroxychloroquine was a Covid cure. As a result, thirty-nine percent of Americans have used it. There are many other "snake oil" cures out there.

She said there was a sense of urgency for a cure as death rates in the U.S. have spiked. Last week 6,500 Texans died. Covid test results need to be available within three days; taking nineteen days is just not useful. The way the U.S. is handling the pandemic is wrong because many are not listening to the scientists. If everyone had sheltered in place for six to eight weeks, we could have been back to normal. Unfortunately, the CDC does not have enough power to keep the pandemic from happening again.

Until a vaccine is available, she stressed the importance of everyone following safety guidelines including mask wearing and social distancing. Herd immunity can best be achieved by a combination of those who have unfortunately been sick and those who are vaccinated. Even then we should continue being sensible. Those in power must be held responsible for bungled responses.

## CALENDAR

Today	Aaron Eckhouse – Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY)
Aug. 12	Joan Grimes – Wills and Trusts