

Rotary News August 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Kreider and Invocation was given by Jeff Ross. Arts News followed, given by Kristen Chesak. Plenty to pursue in the arts this week.

Guests were introduced: Mary Zoeller brought Ben Davis; Jack Hopkins, Rachel Brown; Sally Reames introduced Pam Wright and Lindsay Radowski; (?) and Jim Cupper introduced his wife, Chris Cupper. Steve Kreider also introduced one of the STRIVE students, a senior this year, carrying a 3.8 GPA!

Songs: Tim researched a song related to today's program and found one that was relatively unknown but very emotional, called *Strange Fruit*. It was recorded by Billy Holiday in 1939.

Announcements: Satellite club will meet at 5:01, **August 25**, at Olde Peninsula. They still need volunteers to sell beer & wine at the Thursday Night Farmers Market on **August 15**—2 hr shifts between 5:00 and 9:00 pm.

Rob Peterson announced that we have until August 15 for early bird registration of teams for the *Odd Olympics*. Steve announced that rather than the regular District Governor visit, DG Margie will join us for this fund raiser for Rotary Charities.

Joe Licavoli announced a golf outing for the SPCA on Monday, August 19.

Steve reminded us of opportunity to sponsor Rotary meetings for \$75. Also, that Keith's book is still available at the back of the room today. All proceeds go to the district water project.

Program: Sid Ellis introduced Beth Washington, V.P. of Community Health, Equity & Inclusion for Bronson Healthcare Group. Her program title was *Together We Create Equity Part I*. (Part II next week.)

She emphasized how our history affects us today, and shared graphics showing:

Exclusion from 1600 to 1865 (246 years); **Segregation** from 1865 to 1964 (99 years);

Integration from 1964 to present (55 years).

Her graphics illustrated that Equal means everyone getting the same. Equity is creating an environment where *all* can flourish. That is justice. Equity and justice are synonyms.

In sharing some Kalamazoo social needs by zip code, Ms. Washington gave the following definitions:

Disparity: Measuring differences between 2 groups

Equity: Willingness to address racial and social inequities created by systematic oppression.

She pointed out that 55 years is not long enough to address the previous 246 years of oppression, as 62% of our history has been exclusion.

25% of our history has been segregation.

Only 13% of our history has been integration.

She stressed that we need to “acknowledge our past so we can heal our present.”

She also challenged us to do some research prior to the Part II program next Monday, suggesting some resources such as: *Project Implicit* website which has a test that helps find your unintended and unconscious biases. Also podcasts such as *Hidden Brain* and *Code Switch*.