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Listening In

June 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Bernardi called the meeting to order at 12:15 for the final time.

PLEDGE AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Meredith Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Thought for the Day was: "Life always offers you a second chance, it is called tomorrow." and "Don't tell your problems to others, 20% do not care and the other 80% caused them."

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

No visiting Rotarians, but many guests. Steve Harris brought his wife Kai. Otis Bruce brought the guest speaker, his wife, and his intern, Grace. Fran White brought Mary Ann Ellison, the owner of Minute Man, who will be inducted later this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fran White's installation is this Friday. Cocktails at 11:30 at McInnis Park.

Brian Powell thanked the Scholarship board for their work. This year, the scholarship board gave seven scholarships. This is above the five we usually do.

Diane Henderson had a wonderful birthday trip to Portugal and Spain. She donated \$100 to Rob Devincenzi's Paul Harris.

Tom Whelan reminded us that we need volunteers for the ice-cream booth. The ice cream booth is one of the main fundraisers for the club. Please sign up.

Dan Walker still needs a few volunteers for the parking lot. Please contact him.

MARBLE GAME

The pot was up to \$708 and there were 26 marbles. Joe Shekou held the winning ticket, but did not draw the winning marble. He received a bottle of wine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 16, 2017

RCSR Installation of Officers for
2017-18 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Installation of President Elect
Fran White and RCSR 2017-18
Officers & Directors
Where: McInnis Park Golf Center
and Restaurant @ 11:30 AM



PROGRAM

Jean Marie Nshimiyimana, spoke on the Rwandan genocide. Jean Marie moved to the U.S. from Rwanda three years ago. Rwanda has 11 million people. It takes five hours to drive across the country. There are three main ethnic groups in the country. While they speak the same language and have basically the same culture, but they see themselves as distinct. The Tutsi, Hutu, and Patwa. Hutu 85%, Tutsi 14%, and the Patwa (pygmies) 1%. The leadership has generally been held by the Tutsi. During the colonial regime, the foreign governments established these identities and accentuated these distinctions. In 1959, the Hutu revolution took place. The Hutu majority rose up. They wanted to no longer be subjugated the Tutsi and foreign governments. They wanted revenge. The Tutsi fled. The Tutsi established themselves in other countries and began organizing. In 1994, the Hutu president of Rwanda was killed on a plane. The Hutu blamed the Tutsi. They began killing the Tutsi in the country. The government had issued ID's identifying which cultural group you belonged to, so it was easy for the mobs to find and kill Tutsi. In one month, 1 million people died. Jean Marie was seven years old. His mother was Hutu and his father was Tutsi. His father was taken by the mob. A few minutes later he heard a commotion and screaming. His mother took him and hid. Jean Marie thought his father was dead. Jean Marie, his siblings, and his mother stayed with his Hutu grandmother. He was told not to admit that his father was Tutsi. Some of his grandmother's neighbors knew the secret though. Worried about being killed, his mother hid Jean Marie in a village four hours away. Jean Marie was able to survive. Jean Marie's father was able to survive, by joining the Tutsi military force. Jean Marie's father lost his mother, his six brother's. On the other hand, his mother lost none of her family, but she no longer wanted to be called a Hutu. His mother did have to deal with rejection from her family for marrying a Tutsi. Jean Marie struggled with his

identity as he did not see himself as Hutu or Tutsi. Even after the genocide, both sides remained angry. His father was pressured to divorce his Hutu wife, but refused. Jean Marie addressed his identity question by deciding that all people were his people, and dedicated himself to community service. He found peace by healing others. After the genocide, it was impossible to prosecute everyone involved in the genocide. The court system could not prosecute everyone. Jean Marie decided he could help by becoming a lawyer. He entered the National University of Rwanda. His got a job at a legal aid agency. They heled the poor, uneducated people know their rights. He married his wife and moved to California. He now volunteers at the Marin DA's office. He wants to go to law school her in the U.S. Rwanda today is pretty stable. Things have been pretty calm for 10-15 years. However an election is coming up, and there is some anxiety. However, the last election went well. Peter Easley mentioned that he has seen photos of the holocaust and of the Rwandan Genocide, and he is impressed at how Jean Marie has handled what he has gone through. Jean Marie spoke on the current relationship between the Tutsis and the Hutus. The government made the perpetrators admit their crimes and apologize through reconciliation. There was some healing, and some progress has been made towards long term peace. ID's no longer have ethnic identifiers. There are also programs that help survivors go to school. There are also programs to help the widows. However, it was not uncommon for a man to kill a husband and then rape the wife, sometimes resulting in a child. It is clearly traumatic for a woman to lose her husband, be raped by the murderer, and then raise the child sired by the murderer and rapist. It is interesting to note that it is not even clear that the Tutsis were the one who killed the Hutu president. The Hutu president was negotiating with the Tutsis to allow them to reenter the country in peace. Some Hutu extremists did not like that. Also, the plane was shot by someone in the country, and the Tutsis were along the border. The current government does not divide the people based on ethnicity and discrimination is greatly reduced.

Submitted by Matt