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Listening In

July 31, 2017

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Pledge and Quote by **Marilyn Riede**, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain." Guests included: **Noah Griffith**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Noah Griffin announced the DeLovely event at the Lark. **Rotary will receive \$10 for each Rotary ticket sold.** **Fran** announced she has tickets for \$20.

Bill Goodwin talked about the Sister Japanese Club. San Rafael Rotary has sponsored a trip for two people, heading out August 6. The Japanese Club recently cancelled the exchange, after the trip was organized. While there was some discussion to continue the exchange without Rotary sponsorship, it was decided talks to reinstate should continue. After much discussion with a former 2x participant and her father, the program was reinstated and the Japanese sister club agreed to accept the start date based on the tickets already purchased. **Fran** and members thanked **Bill** for his hard work in getting the exchange program reinstated.

Fran announced a Food Program run from the College of Marin's Community Ed Program, was being offered by **Michae** and **Charlie Kalish**. Classes would be available at the Indian Valley campus. **Richard Kalish** gave a Bell Ringer to Mini Grants.

Terry Mason has been away on a 3 week Slovenian/Baltic cruise for his 44th wedding anniversary next month, which also coincides with his daughter's 33rd birthday. He announced that his daughter is expecting a child and gave a double Bell Ringer, \$100 Mini Grants and \$100 to Scholarship.

Fran thanked **Marin IJ Rob Devincenzi** for helping to put together and publish an information insert on the Rotary Clubs of Marin.

Mac Crawford led the installation of new member, **Phedra Stricken**. **Phedra**, relatively new to Marin, is a Graphic Designer who spent 4 years in Dallas and is now a PrePress Tech for Alpha Graphics. She is looking forward to joining the community. **Mac** gave a brief history of San Rafael Rotary and described the projects we support, as well as the Rotary Manor.

Bill Goodwin received a consolation bottle of wine in the Marble Game.



PROGRAM

Steve introduced **Dante Callegari**, Director of San Quentin State Prison Inmate Construction Training Program and **Warden Ron Davis** as the day's program speakers. San Quentin is well known for programs, despite being a high security prison. The goal of the programs is to train inmates with skills that will enable them to succeed in the outside world and to reduce overall recidivism. California has historically had one of the highest recidivism rates, at one point 2/3 of all released inmates returned to prison. The number has dropped from 67% in 2005 to 45% in 2011, and efforts continue to reduce this even further. The focus is on three areas: Mental Health; Education; and Employment.

Many inmates have mental health issues and prison becomes a safety net for those entering untreated. About 25% of inmates participate in mental health aid opportunities, voluntarily.

Education programs offered include a GED program for those inmates without a high school diploma, Community College programs for

7,500 inmates across California, and the Prison University Project, where over 700 inmates at San Quentin have participated. This advanced educational training is available at no cost to the inmate.

Employment programs at San Quentin focus on job training and hands-on experience in Building Maintenance, Plumbing, Electricity, Machine Shop, and Computer Literacy. There is also a Career Tech Education offered to young offenders.

Dante has headed up the construction training program at San Quentin for 4 years. He described the original state of the rundown warehouse onsite, which is home to the program. The program itself started by cleaning and refurbishing the warehouse itself. Today, it contains state of the art machinery and technology, providing training and skills enabling released inmates to seek jobs in construction. The program curriculum includes practical hours in laying foundation, setting up smart home controls and green energy, concrete work, roofing and all other aspects of building. The cost is \$130,000 and the payoff for taxpayers is huge, compared to the cost of housing inmates. While the program is offered mainly to low offenders who are soon to be released, the prison has trained and hired 8 longterm inmates to act as TA's and help run the program for \$.37/hour.

Fran ended the day by presenting **Dante** with the "Beacon of Light" flashlight as a thank you for his presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 7, 2017

Noah Griffin, founder, *The Cole Porter Society* - "It's not easy being seen" -- *Confessions of a former Press Secretary. What it's like and why you might not want to be one...*

August 14, 2017

Ruth Ellen Kahn, Executive Director / *Musica Marin*