

Rotary Club of Englewood
July 28, 2020

Presiding: Lisa Wisotsky

Recorder: Jim Cole

Guests: Speaker: Reverend Preston Thompson of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Englewood; Cheryl Rosenberg, 1st ward councilperson; Ken Rosenszweig, former councilperson; Sandy Lerman; guest of Lisa; Alicia Zendeja, a guest of Walter Young's

Inspirational moment: Assembly person Gordon Johnson quoted from recently deceased member of Congress John Lewis, words to the effect to listen carefully and not to be afraid to speak your mind.

Program: Reverend Thompson began by giving his educational Background which included an undergraduate degree from Penn, and further degrees from St. Joseph's in Religion and Education. He then observed that our country specifically was going through multiple crises including the contagion and instances of police brutality. He feels they can be approached with charity and justice. He observed that when disasters strike people open their hearts as shown in the response of many in Englewood by supplying meals from many sources and the response to Hurricane Sandy. Charity is relatively easy to do; give or provide and then the activity is over. Justice is more difficult and for that reason people often do not wish to engage. Justice is a marathon, not a sprint, and takes a great deal of time and effort.

He then mentioned 2 areas where he felt the club could engage; police reform and economic justice. He gave a number of statistics indicating the (vast) difference in wealth between

Caucasians and African Americans. He encouraged us to be part of the solution rather than the problem. Not to be is to be complicit in the problem which is unacceptable. He spoke of the cry to defund the police and noted that funds previously earmarked for the police should be divided to other support services such as social service professionals. He noted that some statistics show the one in five policemen are affiliated with a white supremacy group!

Lisa then introduced the chairpersons of the committees not introduced at the last meeting

Davis Maron Environmental Committee

Joyce Grossbard Dictionary Project. Rotary gives dictionaries to third graders; and there are a bunch of third grades in Englewood. She is also Chairperson of the Admissions committee.

Steve Wiessner: Grants committee. Evaluates requests for grants and meets twice a year: end of August and in February.

Charlotte Bennett Schoen: Peace and conflict resolution.

Carol Rauscher via Lisa reported that Pilates instruction will be held in Veterans' Park 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm and yoga at the same time on Tuesday.