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| **EyeOpener February 8, 2022 – Amarok Society**  Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month    **This Meeting was via zoom**  We opened with **O Canada played by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band.**    Odell read the **Acknowledgement of Treaty 6 Land:**  *We acknowledge that the Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak is located on Treaty 6 land. This is the traditional territory and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.*  *We recognize that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to become aware of our shared history, understand the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties and by doing so we can honour the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future built upon Peace, Friendship, and Understanding.*    **Guest Presentation – Amarok Society, Laurel Schell**  **Alan introduced Laurel Schell. She lives in Regina, is a doula, is involved with the arts and is the representative for the *Amarok Society*.**  She showed us pictures of Rahaim who lives with his family in a Bangladesh slum. School is free for him, but he would need uniforms, supplies, and books—which his family cannot afford. He also has a job working in a car repair facility supporting his family. If he did attend, the schools have small classrooms with one teacher to 75 students. Learning is by rote repetition. The teachers are not well paid and often shorten classes to conduct private tutoring. Rahaim’s parents are uneducated and destitute. They do not see the value in education. Rahaim is lucky, in a way as he is not a girl. In his culture when girls marry their parents pay a dowry to the groom’s family. The older the girl the higher the dowry, so many girls at age 10 or 11 are married to older men. They are then expected to cook, clean and bear children.  One third of the world’s children grow up uneducated and illiterate. More and better schools are a solution but require government commitment and funding. The *Amarok Society* solution is to teach mothers to be teachers. The mothers commit to teach 5 others. The mothers teach what they have learned that day when they get home. The children often tell their friends what they have been taught and so teach others. Rahaim’s sister is teaching her grandfather. Boys and men see that it is possible for girls and women to learn. Women have been told it is not appropriate for them to be educated. This system aims to teach 25 mothers at each school. The women support each other. They have encouraged families to refuse to pay dowries, eliminating child marriage.  The competition for boys like Rahaim is the Madrassas, Islamist religious schools which may be run by extremists. Boys who grow up poor, desperate, and disempowered are vulnerable. Extremists fear the educated. Laurel says that peace and prosperity will follow education.  We can help by financially supporting this Canadian Society which has been in operation for 16 years. We can also tell other clubs about them.    **Food for Thought Odell read a short article from the February *Rotary* magazine on resilience. Resilience is a function including genetics, trauma, and personal development. We are hardwired to recover after a failure, it is more likely to develop in someone who is nurtured and supported. It is a matter of attitude and actions. We can work to increase our resilience. We need to be tenacious and optimistic that we will succeed.** John S. will offer **Food for Thought** next week.    **Happy Bucks** for: Laurel’s talk—people like this will help us to survive; having no flags out; the trip last weekend to Calgary to visit their daughter—they started on Friday, got turned around freezing rain at Bashaw, got the last jug of windshield washer fluid in New Norway, but made it to Calgary the next day; a planned trip to Calgary next weekend for his only grandson’s first birthday; getting together with grandchildren last weekend; for the skiing and his new saw; a visit to a talkative dentist in Edmonton—they looked up information about Dr. Darren Brooks (now called Kirk) now living in Chiliwack.    **Announcements**   * Chase the Ace- The *Camrose Academy of* Dance will be drawn for on Wednesday Feb 9. * We are still looking for a charity for our next turn at the Chase the Ace Raffle. Camrose Fish and Game has applied, and Days for Girls has been suggested. We will decide at our next meeting. * We have received $2,600 in Memorial Donations for Robyn, this will be used to fund The *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*.   **Reminders of Upcoming Events**   * February 14 at 7 pm Joint Zoom meeting with the Rotary Club of Camrose, Linda Rowswell president of the Rose City Handi-Van Society is the speaker. Linda will update us on the new vans the Handi-Van Society has received, as well as some idea of who uses the service and what their future plans are. * February 22 Agnes Hoveland, Town Council Member and Volunteer * March 1 Harry has arranged for Ann Marie Robinson Rotary International Scholarship recipient to speak. * The International Rotary Convention will be held in Houston, Texas June 4 to 8, 2022.  It is presently being planned for in-person and virtual. Consider attending. Information at [RIConvention.org](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/442/RIConvention.org).   **Alan led us in the 4-Way Test**.    **ROTARY JOINS LEADERS | ROTARIANS SHARE IDEAS | ROTARIANS TAKE ACTION** |
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