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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

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Photo by Steve Buser

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Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra



Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra are sisters and sixth-generation Beaumonters. Both were educated in public schools and both hold bachelor's and master's degrees from Lamar University, Rienstra's in English and Linsley's in Spanish and history.

Linsley is currently employed as assistant curator/archivist at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum in Beaumont and

serves as an adjunct instructor of history at Lamar University. Rienstra is a historical consultant and freelance musician, currently playing in the Symphony of Southeast

Linsley and Rienstra have written extensively together. Their joint publications include **Historic Beaumont: An Illustrated History**, published by the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and Historical Publishing Network of San Antonio; several articles in **The New Handbook of Texas**; and, with co-author Jo Ann Stiles, **Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas, in 1901**, a 2002 publication of the Texas State Historical Association.

Head Table



INVOCATION
JANICE TRAMMELL,
 DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
 LAMAR UNIVERSITY



PLEDGE
TOBY CASTRO,
 SALES MANAGER,
 TEXAS COFFEE COMPANY



4-WAY TEST
JO ANN BLOCK,
 SUPERINTENDENT,
 JEFFERSON COUNTY JUVENILE
 PROBATION DEPARTMENT



GUEST INTRODUCTION
CAMILLE MOUTON,
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT,
 LAMAR UNIVERSITY

From the chef: Confetti Chicken

The Board of Directors of
Some Other Place, Inc.
 congratulates the
Rotary Club of Beaumont
 on its philanthropic projects in our local
 community and throughout the world.

This space available.
 Please call the Rotary Office
 For information.
 842-1913



Elaine Shellenberger
 Director

Celebrating Older Americans Month

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 Beaumont Hilton • International Ballroom
 2355 IH-10 South • Beaumont, Texas

Future Programs

June

4th Magnolia Refinery Centennial
 11th Commissioner Ralph Marquez
 18th Representative Allan Ritter
 25th UT Chancellor Mark Yudof

Makeups

Monday:

No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
 Orange.....Sunset Grove
 Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review

Phil Esposito wasn't a typical hockey player so we should have known he wouldn't be a typical Rotary speaker either.

Showing a flair for comedy, Esposito told story after story, most involving beer, profanity, violence or all three. And there was a lot of laughter in the Hilton ballroom.

As a minority owner of the Beaumont hockey team, the Texas Wildcaters, Esposito also praised hockey as a beautiful sport to watch in live action, admitting that it is not a sport that takes well to television.

Noting the difference in the economics of sports today, as compared to when he played, Esposito - one of the greatest hockey players of all time - said he continued driving a truck in the off season until he was 30 years old, just to make ends meet.

He and his brother couldn't afford to be on an ice rink when they were learning the sport so they took a tennis ball, drove nails into it and wrapped it with tape so they would have something to use as a puck while playing street hockey.

As a businessman, Esposito's greatest success was bringing a National Hockey League franchise to Tampa, a city which then had no ice rink and no hockey tradition, not unlike Beaumont today.

One of his lowest points came in Russia many years ago. He and a teammate had been warned that their hotel room would be bugged so, after a few drinks and much cursing at what they thought were the Communist listeners, they pulled up a rug in their room to look for hidden microphones. That revealed a hidden metal box, which they unscrewed - only to find another metal box. When they unscrewed that as well, the hotel's chandelier crashed into the main ballroom.

Esposito hated Russia then but now his daughter is married to a Rus-



Phil Esposito with hockey fans **Robert Thompson** and **Interim President Jim Rich**.

sian hockey player and lives in Gorsk, 300 miles north of Moscow.

A tough guy, Esposito's quick wit showed when the cell phone of a Rotarian/guest at one of the front tables started a musical ringing during the speech, and didn't stop ringing fast enough. After moving his body as if dancing to the beat, our speaker said, "Either shut it off or answer it. I don't want to have to dance up here."

And after asking for questions, he said: "Don't be afraid. If someone at your table laughs at your question, just punch him in the face."

All in all, it was not the sort of tough talk we normally hear at Noon on Wednesdays. But Phil Esposito has been doing things his way for a long time and, as he said, "Now that I'm old, why change?"

Editor's Notes

A belated "Thanks" to **Rick Barnes** and his Service Above Self Committee **Allison Nathan Golias, David Locke, Paula O'Neal, Scot Quintel** and **Ryan Smith** for their efforts for Youth Day.

Congratulations to **Norman Lee** and his 1944 Caltech football teammates for being named to the International Scholar Athletes' Hall of Fame.

Best wishes to **Stephanie Williams** and her husband Chad on the birth of their daughter Brooke Somers Williams last week.

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