



Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 63, Issue 125, April 10, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 10

Kirk Bell -
President
"Club Assembly"

April 17

Marvin Jolly
President, Collin County
"Collin County Real Estate
Update."

April 24

Melinda Eitzen
"How to Balance Career
and Family"

May 1

Yoram Solomon
"Children &
Entrepreneurship"

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Rutledge Haggard	Apr 05
Lawrence Flannery	Apr 09
Andy Sayers	Apr 11
Kirk Bell	Apr 12
Alice Hobbs	Apr 13
Bob Pikna	Apr 16
Alex Johnson	Apr 22
Kenneth Roberts	Apr 22
Ricardo Kasmiskie	Apr 27
Jerry Kezhaya	Apr 28



The Coach has Morphed Again

Our beloved editor had neighborly duties to perform, making him unable to attend the meeting. No worries. Had I not gotten the message left on my phone.



Hubie was all prepared to put his pen to the paper in Chris's place, when I walked into the meeting. Here is someone enjoying last week's newsletter.



The meeting was started with Ean Sullivan leading us in a relatively short, but all-inclusive prayer. Alex Johnson challenged everyone to say the pledge as "Bob" does, and that pledge was heard to Downtown Dallas. Everyone felt so great about it, that there the clapping, talking and laughter which had to be stopped from the podium, so the meeting could continue.

Nathan Barbera was called on as Sergeant of Arms, to introduce the Visiting Rotarians and Guests. He welcomed all the Visiting Rotarians, of which there were none, so that was easy. Sarah Watkins brought two

special guests, which she was not allowed to introduce. Mark Johnson brought a guest, but he was not sitting with him. After locating Oscar Flores, Nathan admitted that he would not have sat him with either, and completely understood. Gerald Brence was wearing a coat and tie, and after the razzing,



He was allowed to introduce his guest, Jim Macaluso.

Inside Rotarian Studio picked on a native from the very back of the room, Jamie Schell.



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First question: What type of work did your father do? No, that was not a joke. It was a real question. Jamie answered: I think it was insurance, and it sounded like maybe he was not entirely sure. His father was member of our club for 61 years. His father was not a founding member, but his grandfather was. His nickname was "Gus" given to him by his grandfather. Which Plano High School did you go to? The Best! (The only one). Jamie attended SMU, and after college, he got three days off and started working for his father in the insurance agency. He has been there ever since. If he was not in the insurance business, he would love to be an Indie race car driver. He has been in the insurance business for 35 years. He has been a Rotarian for 21 or 22 years. His favorite movie is "The Great Escape"; favorite band is "Chicago". The first car he ever drove was his grandmother's 1960 Oldsmobile 98 which was about 35 feet long. It did not last very long. He has three children, all the same age and they will all be entering college at the same time. So everyone needs to help Jamie pay the college bills, by moving their insurance to him, until the triplets have graduated.

It was Rutledge Haggard's birthday this week, and he brought cash as his birthday donation.

Sarah Watkins was invited to introduce her two guests.



They are two students from Plano Senior High School's Science Research Science Fair Program. Monisha Veerapaneni is a senior this year and she is looking to go to University of Texas at Dallas. She started doing research in ninth grade, and although she knew nothing about biology or research. She had great mentors who told her that students should have the courage to question things in the world, and setup a plan to prove or disprove their ideas. It was in eleventh grade that everything kicked in for her. The mentor she was working with from UTD was doing research on zebra fish. What can you learn from zebra fish? All she knew was how to cut up fish and eat them for dinner, so she had no idea where this subject would take her. She found out that by examining the genes of these fish for genes that could cure, they found a gene that could cure 75 to 80 percent of all blood disorders and their research is proving trying to prove this to be a fact, so that the medical community can start using this therapy in a few years. They are also trying a new way to examine the

blood, which had cost over \$10,000 and by using this new method, the cost would drop to \$10 to \$15 each.

The other student was Ahneesh Mohanty, and he is a junior at Plano Senior High School.



He has been entering science fairs since he was in first grade, where his experiment was whether plants liked Gatorade. Today he is doing research on new therapies for cancer, to find new cures which are more effective. He is using a chemical that he could rattle off, but in my wildest dreams I could not dream of trying to spell it, to desensitize cancer cells so chemotherapy and radiation can effectively destroy them.

It was his original idea. When his uncle was being treated for cancer, he was reading some articles and he found an article describing how this chemical could produce hydrogen peroxide inside the cancer cells. He has just received NIH funding to test this idea on rats this summer, and he is very excited to see the results.



Ean announced that Rotary District 5810 was going to the RoughRiders Baseball game the next evening. Ken and I went, along with Chris Parr and Pat, Ean and Jan Sullivan, Lori and Rick Maucieri,



and Skip and Toni Jenkins from our club and many others from the District. All you could eat soda and ballpark hotdogs, a red RoughRiders Hat and a cold night. See the Club's Facebook Page for a video of the 5th inning show starring our own Ean Sullivan singing God Bless America from the field. It was a great time.

Was there a speaker somewhere in all of this? What was missing? There was a speaker. We have not gotten there yet. Yes, I understand the meeting is almost over. But our speaker is used to pitch hitting for our club. He is an English Teacher, he is a Coach, he is a Rotarian and he is the PISD Athletic Director. Now he is an author. Try googling him. The first 20 responses are all about him and his books or coaching. Even his salary as of April 2013 is there. No privacy there.

Gerald Brence was introduced by David McWhorter.



He started saying that he had a new book, but forever being the Coach and Athletic Director, he had to give us a rundown on the next year

football season. Plano will be in a district to the west.

Coach brought a free book for anyone who wanted one. It was called Ox in the Culvert.



Coach says it is a historical fiction book, and he was very worried about the historical facts being correct. Because it is also a western, he felt it had to be entertaining. Most people do not read today, and if this book was to be read, it had to hold the attention of the reader and be true to the historical facts. His main characters were found at the Texas Rangers Museum in Waco, Texas. I am not going to give the plot away here, but if you would like to read this book, ask the Coach for a copy. I am sure he could get you one. They are available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble.

It took three years for Coach to write this book. It is a story about A Texas Ranger who pursues an outlaw across the country in the middle 1800's. He has sold the rights to this book for \$1.00. Here is the story. His son was on a training mission in the army, up in the mountains. He was with this fellow who was a captain. His son and the Captain were talking and the captain said he could not wait to get out of the army. When asked what he planned to do, he said he wanted to produce TV shows and movies. Gerald's son said that his father had just finished writing a book. The captain read the book and is now making it into a TV show for Australia.

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2014 Student Citizens of the Year Banquet Hosted by The Plano Rotary Club

Wednesday, May 28th
5:30 to 7:30pm
The Southfork Hotel
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Business Casual

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cary Israel
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