

Fall
Weekly

Reader

Volume 93, Issue 155, December 4, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 4

Dr. Gerald Edelman-
"Staying Fit & Young by
Overcoming Your Secret
Addiction to Sugar"

December 11

Annual Holiday Party &
"Christmas Cops' Coat Drive
@ Haggard Party Barn, 7pm
Plano Sunrise & NT Pioneers
Attending. NO NOON
MEETING

December 18

Tim Hoch -
"50 Rules for Parents and
Grandparents"

December 25

No Meeting
Christmas Holiday

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Vance Bryson	Dec 03
James Lowe	Dec 03
Earl Simpkins	Dec 03
Nathan Barbera	Dec 09
Johnny Lewis	Dec 10
Kenny Wilson	Dec 11
Jamee Jolly	Dec 13
Nancy Humphrey	Dec 19
Lori Roberts	Dec 20
Jim Cooper	Dec 23
Herbert Hoie, Sr.	Dec 23



Fantasy Baseball

HUBERT AARON led the Pledge today. He was resplendent, as always, in his colorful sweater. **Sainted Editor** complimented him on it, asking if it was Maori,



which prompted the story of its acquisition...at a garage sale. He expressed interest to **Joan's** horror, but bought it anyway for \$3. Decker out in it one day, he ran across a lady who asked, "Is that a Coogi?" It turns out the brand was made famous by **Bill Cosby** during his TV sitcom. **Sainted Editor** asked if it was therefore homage, but Hubert denied ennobling Cosby's current fortunes.



President Wonderful herded his brood at 12:14, calling upon PDG **SECRET SANTA** for the Invocation and Hubert for the Pledge. (There were whis-

pers of "Where's Bob?" But **Scary Bob** was AWOL [delivering a talk at another Rotary], leaving his photo duties to Randy Wright.) **Karen Sheldon** was thanked for Greeting, and **SERGEANT BARBERA** was up for the Welcoming of Guests.



There were none, or rather the only guest was brought by a Visiting Rotarian, so Nathan chided us for our lethargy. However, he welcomed **Austin Rogers** (N. TX Pioneers), **Howard Matson** (Portsmouth, VA), **Lisa Leach** (Plano West), and PDG **Rod Kreie** (5690). **Bob Vedder** was Rod's guest.



Nathan interviewed new member **Dennis Högg**, and expressed an interest in "somethin' to stand on."

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Dennis had brought a framed poster of the 2014 Texas Titans to brag on his son whose championship was instrumental in his signing on with *Texas A&M*. <ignored groans> Had he not been the subject of an **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, he'd have earned a fine for that brag.

Dennis was born and raised in Columbus, OH, moving to CA with his Mom in time for high school. He denies having had a nickname but does admit he was always "*taller than everyone else*." It's no surprise he played basketball. He was on the team at Washington State University, where he majored in RTF, Radio-Television-Film.

Dennis' first job out of college was not memorable, so he couldn't remember it. A knee injury kept him from professional basketball in the States but not in Europe. He's been in Real Estate for 16 years. In response to "*what do you wish you did?*" Dennis said, "*Good question*." But even though basketball was a denied option, he'd rather be working in the NBA.

Favorite movie: *Little Man*. Singers: *Temptations*. Athlete: **Kobe Bryant**. 1st car: Volkswagen bug (with the seat pulled WAY back). Restaurant: *III Forks*. Soda: *Coke*. Rotary sponsor: Earnest! Dennis joined because he wanted to volunteer and is "*still enjoying it*."



Lisa Leach, our 5810 Rep, apologized for having already sold all THREE bags of pecans her Club uses as a fundraiser. She'll take orders, and return in a fortnight (**BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROTARY NEXT WEEK ON THANKSGIVING**) with the goods.

Earnest cautioned us that whenever we see Lisa, "*we should be on our best behavior*," but that'll just encourage mischief. Then he handed the mic to Austin Rogers whose Club is hosting a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** at *Bavarian Grill* on December 6. It runs a "*family plan*" (kids eat free) for \$10. **Larry FLASH Flannery** wanted to know if it's a stag event, and **Ken Roberts** asked if *Pioneers* were the group "*that ran ALLEN WICKERS into the ground*." See? Mischief.



Earnest encouraged those of us interested in administration to apply for position of Treasurer (in line for the Presidency). Applications go to **CAPTAIN KIRK**. Those interested in other services, see **Kelly Palmer**.

John Caldwell stumped for the RI Foundation, issuing a Paul Harris+2 pin

to **Kenny Wilson**, a man, by his own admission, of few words. Kenny called Rotary "*a great organization*."



Earnest bade us consider the ramifications of "*Jive Turkeys*" in the audience before suggesting we provide 10-15 lb. birds to *John Paul High School* 10 am to noon on Saturday, November 22. Lucky ones among us will win "*a photo-op*" with Mayor **LaRosiliere**.



Program Chair **David McWhorter** delivered the introduction for speaker **Bob May**.

Bob May is an author and speaker. He has always been passionate about baseball and baseball board game simulation. When he was 7 years old (summer of 1949), his Dad took him to his first baseball game at *Fenway Park* in Boston to see the *New York Yankees* play the *Boston Red Sox*. He has been a baseball fan ever since.

He has lived in Rockwall since 2000 with his English wife, **Michele**. They just celebrated their 48th anniversary last week. <applause> They have three children and eight grandkids. Bob is a substitute teacher in Rockwall ISD.

His topic today is *Honoring Twenty-One Forgotten Baseball Players from the Black Ball Era* (Negro Leagues or segregated baseball). In July 2012, he published his first book, ***The Best Season—The First 90 Games***, honoring Black Ball through baseball game simulation. This is the first book in a two-book series. The second book, ***The Best Season—The Challenging Finish***, is planned for a 2016 release.

When the projector was fired up, it displayed Bob's computer's desktop but not the running PowerPoint®. **Sainted Editor**, who had set it up, rushed to the laptop to cycle through the many external screen setups, finding the right one on the second try. This didn't prevent him from crowing on the first try.

While tech support was fumbling, **FLASH** rose to relate a story about a man his age who showed up with arm candy half his age. **FLASH** queried him about his new wife to discover that he had lied about his age. He had claimed to be in his 90s.

By this time, Bob had found his presentation and begun, telling us that he "*bawled my eyes out*" at the movie *Field of Dreams*. What gets him every time is the scene where the **Kevin Costner** character asks his resurrected Father for a game of catch. It was such a game that cemented Bob's relationship with his own Father.

Bob admitted that writing his book had been "*my Field of Dreams*." In it, he wondered what would have happened if **Satchel Paige** faced off against **Stan Musial**.



He asked us what was special about 1941. More specifically what was significant about 1941 for **Joe DiMaggio**, and before we could warp time, Bob said it's not his marriage to **Marilyn Monroe** (1954). Someone suggested he'd had a 50 game hitting streak, and Bob corrected that to 56. **Ted Williams** batted .406 in 1941. The same year **Hilton Smith** had a 10-0 league record with the *Kansas City Monarchs*.



to wonder how he and others in Black Ball would fare against modern players.



Bob lived and breathed baseball since 1949. He was in Little League but posted 0-34 and decided he wouldn't "be replacing Ted Williams" any time soon. His brother, Warren, was the better player. "Donna, across the street, was better than both of us."

So he played fantasy baseball with the APBA Baseball Card Game. He "loved the statistical side of baseball." And he would "broadcast" games from his room; "It's a high fly ball to deep left field..." causing his family to wonder, "What's wrong with Bobby."

He played *Strat-O-Matic* baseball in good company with **George W. Bush**. In 1987, it was state of the art: the most realistic fantasy baseball because the stats depended not only upon the players but also the fields.

Bob said he asked the memory of Satchel Paige how he would like to be memorialized, and got the answer that he wants 165 games with the best of all time. Ted Williams once remarked, "I've been a very lucky guy to have worn a baseball uniform, and I hope some day the names of Satchel Paige and **Josh Gibson** in some way can be added as a symbol of the great Negro players who are not here only because they weren't given a chance."

Another player of that era was "Cool Papa" **Bell** of whom it was said that he was so fast that he could "hit the switch and be in bed before the light went out." He would regularly make it from 1st to 3rd on a bunt, and one time he made it all the way home.

He told us of **Oscar Charleston** who he considers in the company of **Babe Ruth** and **Willie Mays**. Locally, **William Blair, Jr.**, died in Dallas just last Easter. Bob's convinced that God is using his passion for baseball to correct an injustice.

He has self-published his books, so he'd appreciate any reference we have to speakers' bureaus that might take him on. 214-734-0272 and bob@honoringblackball.com

Earnest offered him "*what all speakers covet, the Plano Rotary*" and the Club finished in unison, "*perpetual calendar.*"

Then **President Wonderful** reminded us of our **Angel Tree Project** kicking off Saturday, December 13th from 11 am to 2:30 pm. There were donation envelopes on our tables that would earn us **Carroll Burgoon's** autobiographical journal, "a \$60 value."

Janis Allman asked if we were "doing coats" again this year at the Holiday Party and was told that they would be collected.

Alex Johnson said he'd like to see many of us at his *Citizen of the Month* program the following day when Earnest would be present.

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, Earnest added five minutes to our day by belling us out at 12:55.



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