



Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 143, Issue 203, February 4, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Music to Our Ears

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb 4th
"Club Assembly"

Feb 11th
Bryant Cappelletti
"Dallas Cowboys in Frisco"

February BIRTHDAYS

Mclean, Lynne	Feb 01
Kramer, Jason	Feb 07
Oliver, Karla	Feb 13
Greif, Sam	Feb 14
Dean, Doyle	Feb 19
Fuller, Dennis	Feb 22
Henry, Chris	Feb 23
Moebius, Carrolyn	Feb 27
Walters, Kyle	Feb 27

TRUTH in POISON PENNING:

I am on the *Plano Symphony Orchestra* Board, so I'm duty-bound to treat **Debbie's** talk today with the utmost, uncharacteristic respect. So much for **JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY**; it falls by the wayside of nonprofit loyalty.

President Paperweight convened the recital today at 12:19, appointing **Blair Ritchey** to the Invocation and **Marc Lewis** to the Pledge. **Pam Little** was credited with being Greeter. **Nathan Barbera** was back as **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**.



Debbie Watson introduced her successor at the helm of the *PSO*, **Robert Reed**, who takes over the Executive Directorship on March 1st. **Maria Mott** welcomed **Lynn Malkoff**. **Blair Ritchey** fawned over the Executive Director of the organization he guides, **Ben Carroll**. **Justin Roche** has left The Shops at Willowbend for a couple of stops north, The Shops at Legacy! He introduced **Kelsey Ishmael**.

Our Visiting Rotarian must have felt left out as she was not introduced with the rest of the guests. When she found out why, she probably would rather have been left out. Nathan used her as a guinea pig for **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO!**

Andrea Stroh Thompson, Collin County Clerk, is running for Collin County District Judge. She is a Rotarian in the *Plano Metro Club*, as she puts it, "The Original

Gleneagles Rotary." She was born in Muncie, IN, and was not well-behaved as a child. (Does this disqualify her from the judgeship?) Her nickname was her maiden name: Stroh. She went to *Plano Senior High*, majoring in "nerd." She completed her four year degree at A&M "in 7 years." Since she's both a public bureaucrat and a lawyer, she's "the butt of every joke." She's been practicing law for 16 years, and her response to Nathan's standard question, "If you couldn't do that, what would you want to do?" was "be Collin County District Judge!" of course.



Favorite movie: *The King and I*. Athletes: Aggies! 1st car: Triumph TR7 convertible. 1st car wrecked: the TR7 convertible! Soda: *Diet Coke*. Beer: import.

She's been a Rotarian 14 years, joining because her Dad was a member. She's been *Metro's* Past President and a District Secretary, urging us to accept District appointments since it "really helps you bring back good (outside) ideas to your Club."

Nathan was fined \$5 for a thinly-veiled political advertisement masquerading as a Classification Talk.

Jamie Schell took his *Rotary Foundation Minute* literally, using 60 seconds to remind us that Polio+ has all but eliminated that once-dreaded virus. Only Pakistan and Afghanistan offer it safe havens now. Not so with immunization clinics which have come under "armed attack" on a fortnight passed by "the Army of God," killing in his name to save Muslim children from Western Poison.





PSO delivers an 8-concert season where the vast majority of concerts are sold out. While subscriptions are renewed at an industry-leading rate of 80%, they and single-ticket sales account for only 30% of the operating budget. The remaining 70% comes from contributions from a variety of sources.

The Symphony is in the middle of its 2015-16 season and has featured the likes of “Doc” Severinson and will feature the famous trio, *Time for Three*. Brochures to that effect were on our tables.



Nancy Humphrey took center stage to award the Hendrick Golf Tournament Trophy to the winning foursome, only a twosome of which, **Mark Johnson** and **Nathan Barbera**, were present to fondle it. Now for the bad news: while the Tournament came in under budget for expenses, it came in more severely under budget for revenue, so we “*didn’t quite meet our goal.*” **Kirk Bell’s** team was relieved that there wasn’t a Last Place Trophy.



Kelly fairly warned us of the Club Assembly at the following meeting where the Club Dues Structure would be discussed. A committee has met to cogitate upon the problem posed by *Gleneagles* charges, and it will report then.

Then it was Debbie’s turn to shine. She used the occasion of announcing her successor to pitch subscriptions and donations to the *Plano Symphony Orchestra*.

Debbie first acknowledged how tough it’d be to deliver her sermon to her peers. She expected a rough time to be delivered by those peers, however, all but **Larry FLASH Flannery** showed her talk the respect it deserved. (Why are we not surprised?) Let’s hope our reserved reaction didn’t disappoint!

She recognized her Board members in the crowd, **Chris Parr** and our Visiting Rotarian, Andrea Stroh Thompson. (**Ken Roberts** is also a *PSO* Board member, but he has since jumped ship to *Pioneers Rotary*.)

She revealed the Mission of the *PSO* to be: *TO INSPIRE, EDUCATION, ENTERTAIN, AND INVOLVE THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN THE ENJOYMENT OF GREAT MUSIC.*

The *PSO* is the largest musical organization in North Texas north of LBJ. So Debbie described it as “*the biggest of the small guys.*” And it’s “*a professional suburban orchestra,*” by which she meant it has paid musicians (and a paid staff but also a large volunteer group).



Consistent with the *PSO’s* emphasis, it has bundled its young people’s programs into a package called **Encore Youth**. A website for children, adults, teachers, and donors is found at EncoreYouthMusic.com sponsored by *Ebby Halliday*.

PSO serves 12,000 students annually at all its programs. These include the Young Artists Competition, the Family Concert Series with venues in Plano and Frisco, the Instrument Petting Zoo, as well as the School Concerts given to 4th graders throughout *PISD* and beyond. The School Concerts are in cooperation with *PISD* both from the point

of view of lessons prepared for and learned and with partial funding for the transport and tickets for the students.

Plano Rotary Club supports the latter efforts, sponsoring the classes that come from *Memorial Elementary*.

A very important program sends PSO musicians into PISD classrooms to bring the music to eager learners. This too hits the fourth graders where one musician, cellist **Oliver Schlaffer**, says he and others are treated “as rock stars.” Oliver came to our class today to deliver a presentation as he would to any collection of rowdy 4th graders.



He tutored us in the quality of our applause as he walked “on stage.” When we finally got that right (it takes fewer iterations with real 4th graders, right, Oliver?), he told us that we do not use our voices with the exception of at the end of the recital when we are permitted to shout, “*Bravo!*” (He failed to mention that is for male musicians. Females are rewarded with the feminine “*Brava!*”)

Then, to have something to applaud, he played a selection from the *Suite #1 in G for Solo Cello* and challenged us to name the composer. When we had all but exhausted the list of “B’s” (**Beethoven** and **Brahms**), someone in exasperation blurted “**Bach,**” and I’m sure Oliver was tempted to ask, “*Which one?*” But he was too kind and supplied “**J.S.**”

When asked whether Bach’s own instrument was the cello, we eventually got it right, “*No, the organ.*” And while the organ is a multi-voiced instrument, the cello is but a single-voiced one (not counting the playing of two strings at once). So when Bach transcribed works for the cello from the organ, he “*crammed all the voices onto a single line.*”

He challenged us to guess the age of his fine cello. **John Caldwell** guessed “1786 made in London.” That actually was amazingly close; his cello was built in 1771, so at 245, it is “*older than the United States.*”

He went over the construction elements of the cello from the fingerboard to the bridge which transmits string vibrations to the front sounding board through the sounding post to the back sounding board and out the f holes.

We were told that the pin holding the cello up off the floor is called by a very technical term: Holding Pin.

His final selection was the *Suite #3 in C BWV 1009 Prelude* by Bach. (Sainted Editor knows this because his iPhone™ has the *Sound Hound* app, and Oliver played it so well, the app could figure it out.)

Larry **FLASH** Flannery had a “*typical 4th grade question. What,*” he asked, “*was Beethoven’s favorite fruit?*” When we were all truly stumped, he answered, “BAA NAA NAA NAA” and then ran for it before we could kill him.

Charles Milby asked the cello’s price. “*Lots,*” said Oliver but it’s not for sale.

Debbie noted the upcoming Valentine’s Gala, so close that prices have already risen, but we could get tickets at the original price from the *PSO* by saying “*Debbie said so.*”

Randy Wright auctioned off two tickets to *Time for Three* (February 20), making \$200 for our Foundation off **Sarah Watkins**.

Kelly offered Oliver a lethal paperweight, led us in the Four-Way Test, and let the show out at 1:05.



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