

Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 9, Issue 24, February 2, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



Good Morning, Miz Pawling!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 2/2 House and Senate Candidates' Forum
- 2/9 Four Way Test Contest
- 2/16 Will Rosellini - CEO of Micro Transponder - Six Million Dollar Man
- 2/23 Earnest Burke- Black History Month Presentation

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 ... Maribelle Davis
- 2/10 Cary Israel
- 2/13 Karla Oliver
- 2/19 Doyle Dean
- 2/20 Jim McGee
- 2/22 Dennis Fuller
- 2/27 ... Carolyn Moebius
- 2/27 Kyle Walters

JERRY Aris doesn't earn a \$5 fine for cell phone use during the meeting because he was "*taking care of bidness*" before the meeting began. He had all kinds of extra time on his hands because he wasn't eating lunch. Indeed, he hadn't eaten breakfast. In fact, he's been abstaining from all sustenance for **five days!** Apparently, he'd put on a couple of pounds over the holidays and was fasting his way out of them. In fact, he felt so good; he was going to continue in the same vein on the morrow. When all is said and done, *Gandhi* Aris will have shed 5-10 pounds and be proud of his bathroom mirror. But it's all right; his doctor doesn't take our *Weekly Reader*, and none of us will spill his beans (he hasn't eaten). But I probably owe **SERGEANT SKIP** Jerry's \$5 for the *chutzpah* of making the fine call.

The Most Eligible Prince John commanded our attention at 12:18, calling upon **LB the Good** to Invoke the Deity and **Alan Feigenbaum** to Pledge the Allegiance. ("Thanks, Bob!") John failed to thank our Greeter(s), but he'll rectify the oversight next week, no doubt. He was preoccupied with his ironic insights into the **SUPER BUSINESS GROUP** whose first order of business was to advise the County about drought while the recent gully-washer raged outside.

SERGEANT JENKINS deadpanned his way to

welcomes as he prepared to upbraid Rotarian **Sam Sherstad**, visiting from Frisco, CO, about his Club's banner, but Sam cut him short with "*I've already given you my banner.*"

When **SKIP** mentioned that he'd soon be passing through Frisco, Sam offered his 7:15 breakfast club for **SKIP** to make up, and **SKIP** promised that he would AND bring one of our banners in exchange. But Sam corrected him yet again with "*I already have two.*"

Undeterred, **SKIP** offered a fine-free, 30-second political ad to **Pam Little**, a candidate for the State Board of Education, asking her why she would want such a contentious job. (That State Board controls the largest market for school textbooks in the Nation. As such, whatever they decide is suitable for Texas students controls national publishers who then disseminate Texas biases throughout the Nation! So the Board is a haven for evangelicals hoping to mold right-thinking



citizens about Creationism, abstinence, and a host of other orthodoxies.) Pam said that the Board needs "*some common sense*" as a balance against those with "*just agendas.*" She comes from an educational publishing background, and she's tired of having the Board push her colleagues around.

SKIP offered the same deal to former Plano **WILDCAT** **Jeff Leach** running for **Jerry Madden's** seat in the State Legislature. Jeff assured us that he's even more right wing than was that Flaming Liberal Jerry.



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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Besides, in addition to Plano football, he was a star of the gridiron at *Baylor*, so he's fully qualified for the office he seeks. The Club member who had the temerity to reprimand **SKIP** for failing to fine these advertisements earned himself a \$5 fine "for usurping my prerogative."

<http://www.JeffLeach.com>



Casey Stewart announced a **New Member Orientation Event** from 5-5:30 at *The Franchise* (SE corner of Parker & Custer) on February 16. It will be followed directly by a **Club Happy Hour** that won't count as a make-up even though we will be, perforce, chock-a-block in fellowship. But the Orientation that precedes it **WILL** count as a make-up, so arrive early. ☺

LB THE RADIANT (who must no longer be radioactive but has not so informed *Sainted Editor* because he prefers **RADIANT** to *Wicked*), rose to tell us that we'd vote upon his 5810 proposals in two weeks (**one**, as you read this), and that we should read and understand them before rubber-stamping him. We are to pester him with questions.



CAPTAIN KIRK pleaded with us to turn in our Member Surveys by next week (**this week**, as you read this), so the Executive Board can peruse them for its Five-Year Collective Plan.



Octavio Ortiz reminded us that next week's *Candidate Forum* would start ½ hour early at 11:30. All of us not named *Sainted Editor* can jot down questions to put to the candidates.



Carrolyn Moebius then had the distinct honor and privilege of introducing this year's **SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR, Isabel Pawling** from *Bowman Middle School* (next door to our adopted *Memorial Elementary*). We usually honor both the Secondary and Primary Teachers of the Year, but **Christine Nightingale** of *Beverly Elementary* was called away on an urgent errand, so Isabel was going to accept on behalf of them both. Carrolyn claimed that the both of them will enjoy *Summer in a Lexus* (courtesy of *Park Place*) as well as "the many other gifts and awards."



"Helloooo," began Isabel, telling us that she is fearless before 100 eighth graders (man, have student-teacher ratios deteriorated or what?) but not before a like collection of adults. (How can she be so inobservant when all during her introduction we had been demonstrating a sixth grade humor?) She says that, as a teacher of mathematics,



she's comfortable solving equations but she sweats blood writing essays. Then she proceeded to read her essay, a fact Randy took her to task for during Q&A, noting how relaxed and spontaneous she was with her answers and suggesting she ditch the script in favor of notes next time. (She should work her magic on Jeff Lee, who admitted to *Sainted Editor* that math was his albatross in school.)

Her theme was **Dream Big**. It is a message she drills into her students. (And at exactly the right moment too...in eighth grade they set their agenda for all of high school, establishing a road they may follow through their lives.) She tells them "*with hard work they can create for themselves lives they didn't dream possible.*"

She admitted that she always wanted to be a teacher. As a little girl, she would "*line up all my stuffed animals,*" which "*make the best students!*" As a young lady, her aunt asked her to teach her cousin **Fernando** to read. He turned out to be her most difficult teaching assignment! Miraculously, they're still friends.



Isabel shares her background with her students to drive home the message. Her Father dropped out of school at age 12 to work to support his family, but he later went back to finish school on his own. Her Mother was an office manager at a college, so Isabel, her Mother, and her sister all got free tuition to pursue their degrees there. Her Mom bested them all in grades, and then went on to teach. Her sister taught as well. Finally, Isabel's daughter dreams of becoming a teacher and has herself "*discovered the joys of teaching.*"

Isabel mentioned AVID "has a presence at Bowman." (AVID is a college-prep curriculum, tutorials, and "Socratic" lectures that prepare "the student in the middle" to rise to the top, increasing college aspirations and applications.) So if the answer to her question, "What is your #1 college choice?" is "I don't know that I want to go to college," we need to sit down and talk."



She says that she listens to the triumphs and joys students experience outside of class, and she loves to work at a school with such "dedicated teachers making a difference for all students."

Isabel said that at age 12, she wanted to be

1. A mom
2. A teacher

And the most difficult part of both jobs is letting your charges go.

Prince John told Isabel that we would be donating *Shoes for Orphan Souls* in her (and presumably Christine's) name, and offered her three choices: a Four-Way Test pin, a check from *Plano Rotary Club*, or both, recommending both. He thanked her "for teaching our young people."



Good Morning, Miz Pawling! continued...

He honored **Camille Ussery** on her retirement from the Chamber, Randy Wright for volunteering to judge RYLA applicants, and **Rick Horne** for attending the RYLA Roundup.

Commenting on Isabel's talk, he said, "*There's a guy on the Internet that has the answers to every possible physics and math question. Is this the future of education?*" Isabel said that **Salman Khan's** videos from the **KHANACADEMY** are useful "supplements" to the classroom but won't replace it any time soon. After all, "*you can't ask a video a question.*"

She identified Salman Khan as a Bangladeshi-American stockbroker, who, eight years ago, began tutoring his seventh grade niece who was failing mathematics. He found that their schedules were so mismatched that the best method was to use You videos. They became so popular that he "*quit his job and dedicated himself*" to the production of 3,000 more videos, teaming up with **Bill Gates** in the process. Bill donates laptops in the Third World because the two of them want the world to benefit. Khan started with math and has since expanded into science, world history, and beyond. His videos have been translated into many languages.

So Isabel concluded, "*the future of education is both*" with "*a teacher who understands a child's educational needs*" and "*directs the student to what works best.*"

<http://www.youtube.com/user/khanacademy>

SKIP confirmed the "*importance of a teacher to inspire and create confidence.*"

Know someone who would make a great Rotarian?

Invite them to be your guest at Rotary!

The 4 Way Test:

Of the things we think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Randy opined that since we've told girls that they can't do mathematics, "*they can't!*" just before he was hit by a napkin thrown by School Board member Carolyn Moebius. He defended himself saying that "*if you think you can't,*" it becomes truth for you. We mustn't suggest it in the first place.

Isabel said that when she went for her job interview, the Principal asked, "*Can you be nurturing?*" and she knew that she was in the right place.

Lenny Schwartz noted that we have only **NINE ADVERTISERS** on the back of the *Weekly Reader*. He'll spring for one more (at \$125 per quarter) and invite six more folks to do likewise. John said that as he was promoting LED lighting thereby, he owed the **SERGEANT** \$5. Then he led us in the Four-Way Test and released us into the custody of our spouses or significant others at 12:52.



Guests & Visiting Rotarians

GUEST: ISABEL PAWLING PAM LITTLE JEFF LEACH	GUEST OF: PLANO ROTARY – 2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SKIP JENKINS GERALD BRENCCE
VISITING ROTARIAN SAM SHERSTAD	HOME CLUB FRISCO COLORADO

Member NEWS

AWARDS:
Harold Sullivan Award
Randy Wright
Athena Award
Rebecca Caso
Fred Moses Award
Richard Butterfly

Business Executive of the Year
Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:
Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:
Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:
www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:
Jayson Killough
Classification: YMCA "Community"
Proposed by: Rick Maucieri

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