

Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 56, Issue 118, February 20, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 20

Earnest Burke -
"Annual Black History Cele-
bration Program. (Meeting
adjourns @ 1:30)."

February 27

Carol Mitchel -
"Truth About Hypnosis."

March 6

Tuff Yen -
"The Truth about Shark Tank
TV Show: Should we Believe
What we see on TV?"

March 13

Darren Collins-
"The Coterie Connection"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Davis, Maribelle	Feb 01
McLean, Lynne	Feb 01
Kramer, Jason	Feb 07
Israel, Cary	Feb 10
Oliver, Karla	Feb 13
Dean, Doyle	Feb 19
McGee, Jim	Feb 20
Fuller, Dennis	Feb 22
Henry, Chris	Feb 23
Moebius, Carrolyn	Feb 27
Parker, John	Feb 27
Walters, Kyle	Feb 27



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

ALEX'S FOLLIES

THINKING outside the box, **Alex Johnson** has restructured the Four-Way Test Speech Contest to involve more students in more schools! He's added the high schools (to the senior highs) and held **prelims** (!) judged by PISD speech coaches and *Toastmasters* throughout the area. Indeed, some of those judges were present today to anoint the winners. Also present were runners-up and possible future participants.



Kudos, Alex, for a job well-done! You deserved the applause that greeted your achievement.

ROTARIAN BELL struck his namesake at 12:10, calling upon **DG Ean Santa Sullivan** to Pray and **Randy Always Wright** to Pledge after which a chorus of "Thanks, *Bob!*" were heard



throughout the room. **Larry Bisno** was credited with Greeting, and **Rick Horne** was summoned to **SERGEANTIAL DUTIES**.

Rick recognized Visiting Rotarians **Ed Shaffer** (Indiana), **Matt Shaheen** (Frisco), and **Andrea Stroh** (Metro).

KIRK welcomed member candidate **Mike McCullough** and videotaping contestant parents **Belinda** and **Greg Fantin**. **Reedy Spigner** fed daughter **April**, and



Ray Huffines stumped for brother and political candidate, **Don**.

The meeting preserved the traditional Speech Contest agenda: student talks would alternate with Club business, giving the judges time to tally their sheets. So Alex arose to explain the contest rules and introduce the first contestant, **Greg Fantin**, whose sartorial elegance put us all to shame.

Greg's theme was an ambitious **GOLD-EN AGE OF GLOBALIZATION**. In contrast to *Pax Romana* and *Pax Britannia* (peace under the Roman or the British Empires), Greg elaborated on a sort of *Pax Interneta*, a global force "breaking down barriers," and sought to validate its efficacy with the Four-Way Test.

TRUTH: 1776 saw not only a democratic revolution but also an economic one occasioned by the publication of *The Wealth of Nations* by **Adam Smith**, which sought to describe world trade as an economic force binding the political ones. The communication speed of ideas in Smith's day was measured in months. Today ideas spread globally

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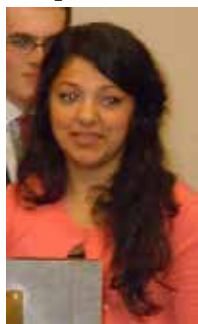
as fast as teenagers can text. Thus **Edward Snowden** crippled the NSA in a matter of hours, giving “people a chance to fight back” against governmental overreach.

FAIR: Globalization tends to “level the economic playing field,” playing to everyone’s “comparative advantage,” manufacturing in one country vs. raw materials in another. He cited **Greg Mankiw**, Harvard Professor and **W’s** Chairman of the *Council of Economic Advisors*, to the effect that taxes and tariffs are governmental impediments to competition in the global marketplace. Such matters “stand in the way of progress.”

GOODWILL: Global economic interdependence means, perhaps, that we will not endure WWII. China, for example, has little motive to attack partners in whose success it is invested. Greg envisions a *Pax Democratica*, suggesting that the historical enmity between France and Germany would no longer lead to World Wars (at least as long as Germany bails out the EU).

BENEFICIAL: Once-upon-a-time luxury goods are now internationally commonplace. Third world farmers have access to wireless communications and transport that would have shamed the wealthy of a century ago. Such better access to high-level goods and services further levels the economic playing field. “When nations rely upon one another, all benefit.”

Rick Horne, wondering “how do you follow that?” inserted his duties at this point. Ray Huffines cheerfully paid the \$10 political speech fee for his brother’s bid as a candidate for the 16th Senate District out of “brotherly love.” And Randy welcomed the only man we’ll likely meet who was a former manufacturer of commodes, **Bucky Ray**. Reedy referred to April as his “long-time daughter.”



Up second was **Yosha Singh** who explained that she was “very popular in 7th grade” because she had a friend named **Shawn**. This BFF expressed his undying love for her as “Hey, Yosha, I like you,” regardless of who knew it.

This unusual outburst got Yosha to thinking that “we know more about the Moons of Saturn than we do about our own emotions.” So ...

TRUTH: We hide our emotions out of fear of vulnerability and inferiority. Although accepting and expressing our emotions is “the most truthful we can be,” instead our interpersonal interactions are strategic. We are, in essence, “untrue to ourselves.”

FAIR: We deny ourselves the benefit of shared emotions, some of which are medical. The emotionally dishonest have higher blood pressure and lowered immunity to disease. Our emotions have stood us in good stead since we ran from the primordial predators.

GOODWILL: Bonding occurs with the expression of emotion. As a counterexample, she offered her mother who believed emotions to be “a waste of time.” Shutting off her emotions didn’t create a kind of neutrality; instead it de-



veloped bitterness and resentment. Connections between individual is a result of the divulging of emotions, in the *Gospel According to Yosha*.

BENEFICIAL: “Unalleviated stress damages the brain, so cry!” urges Yosha. Accessing emotions “is valuable. It doesn’t make you inferior; it makes you human.”

The interlude that followed was filled with announcements. Larry Bisno told us of the 5th Annual **Mardi Gras** Progressive Dinner to be held on March 2nd at *The Shops at Legacy*. Since the meals are entirely donated, the totality of the ticket price goes toward medical charities.



Gene Champagne exposed us to a Rotary Golf Tournament benefiting **HOPE’S DOOR**. The tournament is in need of sponsorships.

DG Ean explained that there are many seats available to next (last) Saturday’s 5810 Gala **REVEALED a Masked Ball**. We could, of course, buy tickets to the event but the Club and its members had already bought tables that needed population.



The third speaker was **Phoebe Lin** who conceded that she was “honored to be able to speak” to us today. She did so on behalf of teenagers across America who lived under enormous pressure both within and without School Life. The requirement to balance those roles has led to “a higher rate of juvenile crime.”

TRUTH: She cited newspaper articles indicating 2.3 million teens had interactions with police annually (out of 41 million). She sees hope in Teen Courts like that in Collin County on which she serves. It doles out community service hours to offenders, and the punishments (8 to 38 hours) have nearly doubled indicating the growing severity of offences, e.g., DUIs have replaced jaywalking.

FAIR: There are 2400 Teen Courts across the nation. They adjudicate and administer fair justice upon teens by teens.

GOODWILL: The Court “brings students together.” Yosha claims to have “gained a lot of friends” and respect for the responsibility.

BENEFICIAL: For the defendant, completion of the conditions set result in cleansing their criminal record. The “attorneys” (like Yosha) gain an understanding of the law. And the jurors are rewarded with service hours.

She hopes it will reverse the trend of the teen crime rate in future.



Alex introduced the student guests attending the competition and urged them to become involved with the effort. He also welcomed the judges, including our own **John Caldwell**, and the timekeeper, Gene Champagne, whose **Jersey Mike's** catered the prelims.



The last speaker was **Billy Tate**, Class Clown, who later admitted that his style was Entertainment rather than standard Debate or Extemporaneous. He spoke glowingly of "Men in Tights" as the right kind of rebel, those who parleyed "archery and Spandex®ory" into a helpful redistribution of wealth. But rather than treat the current maldistribution as a societal problem and impediment to the economic well-being of the nation, he chose to concentrate on the curious absence of rebels of any stripe.

He told us he was browsing uncharacteristically in the library (preferring to purchase on "Amazon or Nile") in search of a contemporary tome by **Chris Christie** on *Bridge Building* when he came across *Robin Hood*. It led him to wonder where rebels have gone.

He considered examples of rebels such as the Occupy Movement or Congress itself (the government rebelling against the government, as if to prove to disaffected voters that it knows that it's the problem) or **Miley Cyrus!** (Billy pleaded with **Ted Cruz** to shut her down.)

Are rebels merely immoral? Or are they acting for "the sake of the greater good?"

He said that we "have a natural tendency to reject rebels" as when we "write down all the mistakes" made by those we force to "speak for seven minutes."

He referred to **Hugh Thompson, Jr.**, the American helicopter pilot at the My Lai

Massacre who attempted to evacuate the Vietnamese civilians from the scene. When he returned from his first sortie, he found many had been killed by **Lt. Callie's** troops. He called in other chopper pilots to aid him in the evacuation and was rewarded with death threats from his own side.

The death threats were made good for rebels **Martin Luther King** and **Bobby Kennedy**. So Billy thinks that rebellion itself deserves a redefinition. We can all be rebels and must "for positive change to happen." So he encourages us "to embrace the rejection," and to follow **Thoreau's** dictum: "Be not simply good; be good for something."

CAPTAIN KIRK concluded that the nation is in good hands and praised the speech coaches present with "keep up the good work." **HE** awarded **Karen Thunert** and **Janis Allman** their **BLUE BADGES**, and announced that each of the students would receive a Plano Rotary Check.

Don Huffines made a stump speech calling his Republican rival a liberal (ptui ptui) and vowing that he believed in limited government. He ridiculed his opponent's voting record and reminded us Early Voting begins next (this) week.

The speech coaches were introduced and the contestants were asked to give a brief résumé. They answered questions from the floor while awaiting the judges' rulings.

Matt Shaheen demurred claiming that we'd heard enough from him last week.

After explaining that the students' schools would also receive rewards, **KIRK** presented the joint 3rd place winnings to Greg and Phoebe. 2nd place went to Yosha, and Billy took 1st.

Sarah Watkins accepted the award on behalf of the absent coach **Wilbanks**. **KIRK** thanked Alex and belled us out at 1:05.

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest Of	Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
Mike McCullough	Kirk Bell	Ed Shaffer	Indiana
Don Huffines	Ray Huffines	Matt Shaheen	Frisco
Bucky Ray	Randy Wright	Andrea Thompson	Plano Metro
Belinda Fantin	Kirk Bell		
Greg Fantin	Kirk Bell		
April Spigner	Reedy Spigner		

New Member Proposal

Proposed member: Edward J. Williams
Classification: Retired
Proposed By: Bradley Keith

Proposed member: Mike McCullough
Classification: Men's Salon
Proposed By: Kirk Bell

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