



Winter  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 57, Issue 119, February 27, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**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"

**March 20**

Mayor Henry LaRosilliere-  
"State of the City"

## 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, Carolyn	Feb 27
Parker, John	Feb 27
Walters, Kyle	Feb 27



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

## EARNEST'S FOLLIES

**W**E had more visitors for this **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** program than at whom you could shake a stick. ("Ending a sentence with a preposition is a violation up with which I will not put." —Winston Churchill) In fact, there



were so many that **Sainted Editor** has to curtail his naturally loquacious nature so as to make room on page 3 for the entire list! However, he didn't curtail his politically incorrect nature; instead he chastised the gathering of the City's Africa American elite

for failing to have representation on the **MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE**, a hybrid grassroots/City-sponsored organization dedicated to civic action in and of the ethnic communities. It struck a nerve in **Earl Simpkins** who volunteered to strengthen the liaison. (Thanks, Earl!)



**CAPTAIN KIRK** opened the program at 12:11, conjuring up **DG Ean Secret Santa Sullivan** for the Prayer, anointing **Scary Bob Epstein** for the Pledge, and thanking **Janis Allman** for Greeting. Then **HE** passed to gavel to **Earnest Burke**.



Earnest passed an onerous challenge to **SERGEANT BARBERA** to introduce the multitude of guests as well as Visiting Rotarians.

The latter included **Helen Macey** (Plano West), **Ed Williams** (Dallas), and PPD Chief **Greg Rushin** (Sunrise).



**KIRK** welcomed **Mike McCullough**, **Lori Phantom Crotchetienne Roberts** introduced **Dennis Luellen** (Frisco), and **Karla Oliver** bade us welcome two guests, **Leslie Range-Stanton** and **André Davidson**.

**NATHAN** excused **Myrtle Hightower** from the recitation of all her guests and took on the task himself. The list was alphabetical so, for example, Candidate **Glenn** and ex-City Councilman **Jean Callison** preceded ex-Mayor **Pat Evans** who came before ex-Mayor **and** ex-Senator **Florence Shapiro** who herself preceded *sitting* Representative **Van Taylor**!



But the really important guests were the representatives of the Black Community, and they were too numerous to list here. See the list on page 3. They included **PISD Board Trustee Marilyn Hinton**, **Collin County Republican Party Chairman Fred Moses** and wife **Mazzie**, **Bernard** and **Bessie Coffey** (left of Helen Macey above), **Ben Thomas**' daughter, **Dollie**, Director of

continued on page 2





Human Resources for PISD, **Reedy Spigner's** children, **April** and **James**, Earl's wife **Barbara** and mother **Alice**, **Don** and **Evelyn McKnight**, **Adolphus** and **Maria Sprott**, and Cowboy's #88 **Drew Pearson**, among many others.

**NATHAN** opted to forgo **INSIDE THE**



**ROTARIAN STUDIO** in favor of the awarding of the **LAST PLACE** Trophy for Plano Rotary Club **Fantasy Football** which was shared by **Coach Gerald Brence** and **Ben Criste**. They received a copy of *Fantasy Football for Dummies*!

February's PRC Social was announced for next (last as you read this) Tuesday at **LOCKHART Smoke House**.

Cautioning us to silence our cell phones, Earnest announced the availability of seats and tables at (last) Saturday's 5810 Gala, **REVEALED, A MASQUERADE BALL**. **Sainted Editor** donned his regalia, brought a wizard's staff and Venetian mask, and came as a sort of a Gay Gandalf! (**Ian McKellen**, who played Gandalf in the films, would have approved.)

Dennis Luellen promised to come to Club someday without an announcement of donation opportunities, but it wouldn't be today! We were told of a Car Raffle being offered to benefit the *Boys and Girls Club of Collin County*. See <http://www.bgccc.org/cart/poker.asp>



Earnest began the Program with an acknowledgement of the efforts made by the City of Plano to recognize Black History and MLK. He referred to Myrtle as his mentor and had chosen as this program's theme **CELEBRATING CIVIL RIGHTS AFTER FIVE DECADES**. He opened the program by inviting *Plano Senior High School* Past President and current meadowlark, **W.T. Greer**, to sing the *Lord's Prayer* to a standing ovation by an appreciative audience. At its conclusion, Earnest surmised, "*If that didn't get you movin', you must be dead!*"



Then he introduced **Derek Brooks**, the Choirmaster at *Plano Senior High* who had brought his *Chamber Singers* from the school to sing two Negro Spirituals: *This Little Light of Mine* and *Jeremiah* to another standing ovation.

Earnest praised PISD for its "engagement with youth." He marveled at its "passion for students to achieve," and prayed that it "would continue throughout history." He continued that "through education comes understanding," and "through understanding comes love." He quoted First Corinthians 13:13 as (So now Faith, Hope, and Love abide, these three,) "**but the greatest of these is Love**. For those of you who know what that means." He urged us "to go outside your comfort zone and become more understanding, then more loving" and "the world becomes a better place."



W.T. tag-teamed him to comment (of the choir) how he was "only slightly bitter" for being reminded just "how long ago I graduated." He told us that when a painter looks at a scene, he sees difficulty. A great artist sees instead opportunity. God, the Greatest Artist, looks at Man and, deciding that white is boring, creates People of Color. He apologized for "stumbling around;" he'd only been asked to present yesterday. Earnest looked at his shoes.

W.T. mentioned meeting "amazing Black people" like "**Oprah**, and I was summoned by **Nelson Mandela**, who said <British accent> 'Pleasure to meet you!'" And "we love **President Obama** regardless of our appreciation" of his policies. He included in that list **LaShon Ross**, Asst. City Mgr., **Ed Drain**, Asst. Police Chief, **Arthur Young**, Postmaster of Plano, and **Shirley Neal**.

He said that he loves to visit the beach, not, of course, because he "needs a tan," but because it's beautiful. He puts a "foot in the water then thinks, 'Let's go eat!'"

W.T. had the honor of telling us that Myrtle Hightower has been voted 2013's *Plano Citizen of the Year*. But he thinks the title "*Queen*" is more appropriate. Then he introduced "**Doc**" **Gibbs** to sing "*A Change Gonna Come*." At its conclusion, he said that "we appreciate one another in rooms like this whatever color the Great Artist decided to make you."



Earneſt introduced Brig. Genl. **Leon Johnson** (U.S. Air Force, ret.) to “*finish what he’d started*” at laſt year’s program. (But Genl. Johnson confided to ~~Sainted Editor~~ that, giving his talk in 10 minute ſegments, it will take ſix years to finish.) As National Preſident of the *Tuſkegee Airmen, Inc.*, he’d be expected to ſpeak about them, but his talk today was of other ſignificant Blacks.

He told us of **Eugene Bullard**, the firſt Black to be a fighter pilot, not for the U.S., but for France in WWI as part of the *Lafayette Flying Corps*. He later married a French Counteſs and opened a night club overſeas. He fled to the U.S. to eſcape the Nazis after a ſecond career with the French Underground. He was found by French Preſident **Charles DeGaulle** working as an elevator operator! France awarded him the Legion of Honor.

**Bessie Coleman** was the firſt liſcensed Black pilot, again in France in 1921. Although killed in a ſtunt flying accident, a flying ſchool was opened in her honor.

And the Tuſkegee Airmen weren’t all fighter pilots. Some were navigators, others bombardiers. Indeed, they occupied all of the jobs neceſſary to run an air corps. Of their 992 number, 355 fought in Europe. The reſt were part of a B-52 bomber wing that was ſcheduled for the Pacific when the War concluded. But they were inſtrumental in the development of Civil Rights when they were almoſt court-martialed for attempting to integrate an Officers’ Club. **Preſident Truman** iſſued an Executive Order to end ſegregation in the Armed Forces. And in 2008, they were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

**Kathleen Johnson** was a computer operator for NASA who was aſſigned to an otherwiſe all-



male pool of mathematicians where “*no woman had gone before*.” She calculated **Alan Shepard’s** orbital trajectory, and had verified **John Glenn’s** orbital path when the computer’s version was queſtioned. In 1969, ſhe computed the Apollo trajectories and created ſtar maps for the aſtronauts. A cartoon depicting a loſt aſtronaut has Houston telling him, “*Kathleen ſuggests you look down*.”

Genl. Johnson ſhowed us “*a picture of diverſity in America*” in a photo of the 17 ſlain members of the U.S.S. Cole, hit by “*homicide bombers*” in the Gulf of Aden on 12 October 2000. Thoſe killed had died to “*defend a dream*” of Freedom.

Thanking Genl. Johnson, Earneſt called on “Doc” Gibbs who aſked, “*You’re Preſident next year? Wow! I’m not worthy. And the Citizen of the Year will carry a bigger whip next year.*” Myrtle had aſked Doc to play a medley of tunes representing the 50 years of Civil Rights. So he told us “*we’ll get out of here about midnight.*”



Doc took it by decades. The 60s were characterized by “*My Girl*” with audience participation. The 70s heard “*I Will Survive*.” The 80s ſaw “*Celebration*.” **Whitney Houston** represented the 90s with “*I Will Always Love You*.” And, in the 90s, **Beyoncé** ſuggested, “*Put a Ring on It*.” Finally, kicking off a ſhoe, he played Myrtle’s favorite, “*Down Home Blues*.”

Earneſt awarded “*the coveted*” Rotary clock to Genl. Johnson, Doc Gibbs, Myrtle (taking it down to her), and to W.T. Greer, who thought aloud, “*Y’all are ſo eaſily excited.*”

And with a call-and-reſponse recitation of our beloved Four-Way Teſt, the congregation was diſmiſſed at 1:17 to go out and ſpread the ~~Gospel~~ of Rotary.

### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest Of	Guest	Guest Of
Mike McCullough	Kirk Bell	Autry Daniel	Myrtle Hightower
Dennis Luellen	Lori Roberts	Ted Dickey	Myrtle Hightower
Leslie Range-Stanten	Karla Oliver	Pat Evans	Myrtle Hightower
Andre Davidson	Karla Oliver	Marilyn Hinton	Myrtle Hightower
Liz Loveless	John Caldwell	Trudy Isreal	Myrtle Hightower
April Spigner	Reedy Spigner	James Jone	Myrtle Hightower
James Spigner	Reedy Spigner	Mary Beth King	Myrtle Hightower
Linda Bass	Myrtle Hightower	Dave King	Myrtle Hightower
Sharon Bradley	Myrtle Hightower	Kathy Kuddis	Myrtle Hightower
Mr. Burgess	Myrtle Hightower	Gail Lewis	Myrtle Hightower
Glen Callason	Myrtle Hightower	Don McKnight	Myrtle Hightower
Jean Callason	Myrtle Hightower	Evelyn McKnight	Myrtle Hightower
Bernard Coffey	Myrtle Hightower	Fred Moses	Myrtle Hightower
Bessie Coffey	Myrtle Hightower	Pat Neal	Myrtle Hightower
Isabel Cottrell	Myrtle Hightower	Wendy Phynes	Myrtle Hightower
Florence Shapiro	Myrtle Hightower	Aldolpus Sprott	Myrtle Hightower
Alice Simpkins	Myrtle Hightower	Van Taylor	Myrtle Hightower
Barbara Simpkins	Myrtle Hightower	Dollie Thomas	Myrtle Hightower
Maria Sprott	Myrtle Hightower		

### AWARDS:

#### 2013 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Myrtle Hightower

#### Huffines Auto Dealerships

Huffines Auto Dealerships

### 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

### President

Kirk Bell

### President Elect

Earneſt Burke

### Secretary

Karla Oliver

### Treasurer

Ben Criſte

### Past President

Lynn Schwartz

### Sergeant at Arms

Nathan Barbera

### Membership Chair

Pam Little

### Membership Vice Chair

Jayson Killough

### Service Chair

Larry Bisno

### Service Vice Chair

David Bowman

### Public Relationship Chair

Mary Jo Dean

### Public Relationship Vice Chair

Camille Ussery

### Club Admin Chair

David McWhorter

### Club Admin Vice Chair

John Parker

### Foundation Chair

Gary Baſham

### Foundation Vice Chair

Alan Feigenbaum

### New Generation Chair

Rick Horne

### At Large

Robert Epſtein

Lori Roberts

Susan Shuler

Bill Wray

Bob Pikna

Kyle Walters

Alex Johnson

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Robert Epſtein

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