

Winter  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 99, Issue 161, February 5, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### February 5

Amy Fortenberry -  
"Plano Parks & Recreation  
Dept: Carter Park  
Renovation Project"

### February 12

Kris O'Connor -  
"The Hidden Dangers  
of Older Garage Doors"

### February 19

"Annual Black History  
Month Program"

### February 26

Paula Land -  
"Silence isn't Golden: How  
to Make the Most of your  
Hearing"

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lynne McLean	Feb 01
Jason Kramer	Feb 07
Karla Oliver	Feb 13
Doyle Dean	Feb 19
Jim McGee	Feb 20
Dennis Fuller	Feb 22
Chris Henry	Feb 23
Carrolyn Moebius	Feb 27
Kyle Walters	Feb 27



# No Bad Samaritan

## PHOTO-BOMBING

is alive and well at the *Geriatric Club of Plano*. Yoram Solomon, a cheerful member of the **HALF CENTURY CLUB**,



mugged into *Scary Bob's* photo of **Alex Johnson**, and, if all goes to plan, he'll requisition the photo to post on his **Facebook** page.

**President Wonderful** opened the meeting, "in an abundance of caution," three minutes early at 12:12, thus, as it happens, giving us a five minute early release at the end. **KUDOS**, Earnest! He summoned **SECRET SANTA** for the Invocation and **John Caldwell** for the Pledge. ("Thanks, *Bel!*") **David McWhorter** was credited with Greeting, and **SERGEANT BARBERA** was called to duty.



Nathan welcomed back the perennial **Bert Kraft** from *Metro*; he's been here often enough to take out joint membership! John Caldwell introduced the new Director of the *Assistance Center*, **Yvonne Booker**. And **CAPTAIN KIRK** bade us welcome

**Grant Whittle** with an assist from **Randy Wright** in crowd management.

Nathan chastised **Johnny Lewis** for being "way too overdressed for retirement," but stopped short of interviewing him again. Instead, he punished **Casey Stewart** for his complaint that Nathan had failed to save him a seat at his table. "He gets a mic instead!"

Casey was born in Dallas, and his Father was an Engineer for the **UNION PACIFIC**. We'll never know what his Mom did. "Everybody believed I was a good kid." He had no nickname, but at the end of the interview, **FLASH** asked him if it might have been "Casey Jones."

He played basketball and football for the *Mineola Yellow Jackets*, but not, Nathan surmised, as Center. It was an AAA school.



When he graduated in Finance from *ETSU*, he moved immediately into his only job, as a banking exec for *American National Bank of Texas* (for 20 years...time for the gold watch). He manages the Plano/Allen markets. Were he not doing that, he'd rather be a Golf Pro.

Favorite movie: **TOP GUN**. Athlete: **Ian Stewart**. First car: '72 Chevy pickup.

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Meal: spaghetti. Restaurant: **III FORKS**. Beverage: **BLUE MOON** "with an orange slice," Nathan suggested.

Casey was invited to join Rotary by that prolific sponsor, PDG Ean Sullivan, and he accepted because he wanted to volunteer in the community. It makes a banker seem human, after all.



**Wally Reed** rose with "an announcement" which turned out to be a satirical 1967 article decrying taxation entitled "How Come I've Got a Dollar Left?" Red meat to the Tea Party, it catalogued all the real and imagined avenues of taxation and concluded, "I must've made a mistake somewhere" in the tax arithmetic, or, perhaps, "someone put it there to get me in trouble?"

**Scary Bob Epstein** invited us to *Gleneagles* at 7:30 am on 26 February for a fundraising talk on ISIS by **Captain Allen Clark**. Sponsored by *The Association of the U.S. Army*, the funds raised (at the free breakfast...on *Scary Bob*) will go toward training



ROTC students.

**Rick Horne** had an announcement about a **PEACE SYMPOSIUM** teaching conflict resolution to high school students. The event is jointly sponsored by 5810 and SMU, and Rick has eight tickets left which we are encouraged to request for HS students of our acquaintance who

might benefit from a free lunch. rhorne@itsi.com

Earnest chastised January for the need to catch up to the other months in **birthday donations**. Then he turned the mic over to Yoram for "an unlisted announcement" which turned out to be the Kickoff Party on 16 February for his second run at the PISD Board. "Oh," he asked at the end, "Can I make political announcements?" seeking forgiveness in lieu of permission. "Too late," intoned Earnest.



**Pam Little**, a member of **THE SAMARITAN INN** Board of Directors, introduced the day's speaker, **Lynne Sipiora**, the 10-year Executive Director of *The Samaritan Inn*. She concluded her introduction with the Inn's motto: *Homeless is not Hopeless*.

Lynne is no stranger to *Plano Rotary* or its denizens. But just by way of introduction, she gave us the history of the *Inn*, established 30 years ago by the *Collin County Ministerial Alliance*. It began offering referrals and hotel vouchers but has now morphed into a



160 bed facility that is filled to capacity every night. Indeed, she said, 3,752 needy were turned away in 2013. And we, of course, could put a dent in that number.



The *Inn* has a Thrift Store as well as offering subsidized rent for as many as 18 months (with the cost to the client increasing every four months until it equals commercially-available rental). Countering the notion that the wealthiest county in Texas doesn't need such a facility or that its clients are lowlife losers, she told us, "There have been nights when all of the heads of household in residence have held college degrees." She mentioned the difficulty of finding work if you are elderly; the average tenure of unemployment in that category being 23 months!

She tried to show us a video, but her computer balked, so John Caldwell turned to **YouTube** where it was found and played. It featured a homeless divorcee, who prayed for guidance in her car, and "God led me to this purple building, and I knew where I was supposed to be." To her surprise, the *Inn* offered her family their own room "with our own bathroom," thus nullifying her notion of a cot in a gymnasium. She was given a gas card and counseling for her résumé and interviews. She was a bit taken aback by the strict 9 pm curfew, but it felt "almost like I was a child" in a good way. That client, **Cristina**, now proudly "pays her own way," and opines that *The Samaritan Inn* "gave me my life back with my kids." **YouTube**: YOHn4HDck08



Indeed, Cristina now returns to the *Inn* to speak to its current clients to say, "If I can do it, so can you." With the tools the *Inn* offers, 62% of clients now have full-time jobs that permit them to rent or own their own homes.

Clients and even their children are assigned caseworkers. Lynne told us an anecdote about a kid who wanted to go to his school prom but lacked the financial capacity. His caseworker told him, "If the girl says Yes, you'll go to the prom." She did, so they did. But before the prom, the boy was devastated to see his date appearing at the *Inn* ostensibly to volunteer. He'd not told her that his family was resident. Finally, he "screwed up courage," and confessed only to discover her family was moving in too! Theirs became a *cause célèbre*, and the staff moved heaven and earth to see them outfitted and transported in style. They even suggested **Del Frisco's** or **III FORKS**, but the kids had their hearts set on **SNUFF-SNUFFER'S**.



The date is now a coed at *UNT* while the boy is at *Austin* on scholarship. But, unfortunately for the homily, they're no longer an item.



The *Inn* desperately needs new facilities. They've purchased 15 acres of land and are in the process of raising \$5.5M of which \$3.6 are in-hand. When completed, 100 new families will move in. They "*need a bang-up gala*" on February 7<sup>th</sup> which they had to move from the *Marriott* to the *Intercontinental* to accommodate the 1000 attendees drawn to the keynote speaker, **President George W. Bush**.

Lynne offered ways in which we might help:

1. Cash donations (solicited by Pam, who offered to match, on exiting the meeting)
2. Volunteer for serving meals, and
3. Volunteer to teach classes (leading, in the case of the non-degreed, to a GED)

Ean asked about a possible shelter in Plano, and Lynne told him that 17% of residents come from Plano. Collin County residents take priority.

Earnest asked for statistics on homelessness and was told "*it is an inexact science.*" Soon a survey of the homeless will be completed, but many of them "*don't want to be found.*" Indeed many refuse help once they hear about the abstinence requirement. But those from the suburbs suffer less from mental illness. Even so, 50% of residents take anti-depressants.

The admission interview process includes a background check with a drug test. Case-workers generally "*pick up on mental health issues,*" and those in need are directed to *LifePath* for free meds. But if they don't admit the need, they are turned away as a protection for them and the residents.

**Ken Roberts** asked about transport, and Lynne said that those who cannot travel to the *Inn* are picked up. She also mentioned that the average stay in the facility is 6 months; such is the condition of unemployment in CC.

Earnest mentioned that Lynne received an award at the MLK proceedings and presented her with the coveted perpetual calendar.

After leading us in our Four-Way Test, Earnest dismissed the gathering at 12:55.



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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Yvonne Booker  
Grant Whittle

### Guest of

John Caldwell  
Kirk Bell

### Visiting Rotarian

Bert Kraft

### Home Club

Metro

## Next Social:

Tuesday, February 27th @ 5PM

Socials are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5PM and will count as a Rotary make-up.

Please Contact Bob Pikna if you have suggestions for events.

Email: [bpikna@bizsvcs.com](mailto:bpikna@bizsvcs.com) or Phone: 214-417-1487

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