



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 228, Issue 293, January 11th, 2018

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

But Returned!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jan 11
Donna Arp Weitzman
"Cinderella Has Cellulite"

Jan 18
Lt. Mica Lunt
Plano Police Dept.
"Active Shooter Program"

Jan 25
NO NOON MEETING
"Please plan on attending Social
on Jan 26" (see back page of
bulletin for details)

Feb 1
NO NOON MEETING
"please plan on attending service
project Feb 3"
Details to follow



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pamela Little	Jan 04
Jo Via	Jan 05
David McWhorter	Jan 15
Jerry Aris	Jan 17
John Brodhead	Jan 20
Paul Hernandez	Jan 25



Sainted Editor thanks **John Caldwell** for filling in while **SE** was spelunking and for taking today's photographs. **Scary Bob** has left the Club, but **Sainted Editor** still wants to thank him for his years of yeoman service behind the camera! When **Mike Booher**, Pro Photographer, returns from rehab, he'll take his place in the exalted position of **BULLETIN PHOTOGRAPHER**.

Prince Hairless decreed our attention at 12:11, calling upon Chief **Sam Greif** for the Invocation and **CAPTAIN KIRK** for the Pledge. Second string **SERGEANT ROY REEVES** took over for an AWOL **JASON**.



Olin Jaye was feeding wife, **Mimi**, this meeting. She was there to modify his wicked wit when introducing a delicate subject. It worked.



Roy introduced a Rotarian visiting from Chennai, India, **Naveen Thummala**. Naveen is an Orthopedic Surgeon whose club numbers 51 and mounts mentorships for local students. This is problematic due to the 60% dropout rate for their public schools. The kids cannot afford to continue with their educations. The Chennai Rotary offers RYLA and other programs, including a healthcare camp, to assist students. The camp deals also with mental health, whose victims are subject to discrimination in India where abnormalities are taboo.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Naveen received our Club banner and vowed



to mail his to us when he returns to India. (It reminded **Sainted Editor** that he still owes a Lima, Peru, Rotary one from **2004**!)

Rick passed out attendance dangles for our Rotary pins. They went to Chris Parr (16), **Mary Jo Dean** (21), Olin Jaye (24), **Ray Huffines** (33), and **Howard Matson** (34)!

Rick then read the **Birthday List** and insisted we sing it HB2U. (**Sainted Editor** confirmed to Naveen that we aren't a singing club.)



Maria Mott cheerfully re-sponsored Rotarian, **Joe Camarena**, returning after "a short hiatus."

Rick announced the upcoming Club schedule:

1/26 Allen-American game, \$5 of the \$40 entrance fee benefits our Club Foundation.

2/3 We gather to assemble and install cabinets for *The Samaritan Inn* (instead of having a luncheon meeting). This is to



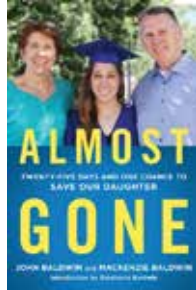
become the norm: the 1st Thursday's meeting will be a social or service project instead.

3/31 The 2018 Four-Way Speech Contest to be held; volunteers are solicited. Contestants sponsored by our Club have won District twice.

With that out of the way, Program Chair, Olin Jaye, strode forth to introduce the day's speakers, **Mackenzie Baldwin** and her Dad, **John Baldwin**.



Olin also introduced **Tyler Reed** and bookseller **Ronelle Ianace**.



The Baldwins have been long-time residents of Plano and members of the *Parkway Hills Baptist Church*. John is a senior technology consultant and works in the banking and credit card industry. John and his wife, **Stephanie**, have been married for over 30 years and have three children. Mackenzie is their oldest child and is 22 years old. She was a student in the *Plano Public School System*, graduated from *Plano West*, and is now a junior at *UTD*, pursuing a double major in Psychology and Child Development.

They began speaking to reach youth and parents to raise awareness of the tactics used by online predators and the warning signs that our youth today often don't see or overlook until it is too late.



John first mentioned his friendship with **Alex Johnson**. Being good, no one bothered to commiserate. He was here to tell us about the results of his daughter meeting a stranger on the Internet. When he discovered what the predator had done to her, he consulted with his Pastor and concluded, "*Father, nothing is going to stop me*" from saving her. And, spoiler alert, she was sitting beside him.

He introduced Mackenzie as "*very adventurous*," a skydiver and motorcyclist. She was headstrong, so when she made a bad decision, she forged ahead into it.

It was at the end of her junior year at *Plano West* that "*everything changed*." She "*lost interest in friends, lost*

interest in animals and water sports. She pulled away from her faith." Her parents were struggling to understand, seeing it as something greater than teenage rebellion, but not suspecting the source.

"*Months passed*," and on May 13, they received a phone call from a friend who had been told by their own child that Mackenzie was cultivating an online relationship with a man who had convinced her to run away to Kosovo to marry. The tale was corroborated by two other girlfriends.

Mackenzie described it beginning innocently enough, talking a few times in a chat room. It eventually mushroomed into hours per day. "*The guy was attractive*," and, without realizing it, she was becoming manipulated and controlled until "*he was all-consuming to me*."



Her father told us, "*It could happen to any kid*," and we need to know "*how to pull a child back*." Prior to this incident, if someone had asked him how to protect his child from a stalker, he'd have said that he'd "*protect them from being kidnapped*." But, with the Internet, a "*predator can be anywhere in the world*." The problem is that an innocent overestimates their ability to manage risk, and a child "*might believe there's no risk at all*."

Mackenzie agreed, saying, "*It was always in my hands. I can always walk away*." But her stalker was nothing if not patient. He was "*respectful and polite*," and he "*didn't do anything inappropriate*." Besides, "*he looked European*." Over time, she looked forward to his texting, and when he failed to one morning, "*I knew I wanted him to. After a while, he was all I listened to*." Hindsight being 20:20, "*In retrospect, it's obvious what was happening*."

Her parents experienced "*a very different girl*," who had gained an "*interest in a new faith*."

The predator became her "*dream guy*." Everything about his world was different and exciting. As a psych major, she now recognizes her addiction for what it was: a major "*dopamine*" rush as with videogames. She was so taken that she'd rationalize apparent inconsistencies. When he claimed to have visited New York then said he lived in Kosovo and "*couldn't get a visa*" to come to Dallas, that should have raised a red flag, but she was too far gone to question it.

John told us that

1. 25% of kids are victims of cyber-bullying.
2. Teenagers are vulnerable to money scams.
3. Human trafficking is a possible motivation.

John and Stephanie went to the FBI who confirmed that Kosovo is "*among the top five*" in human trafficking.

“Adam’s” message was well-timed. *“Your family doesn’t understand you.”* So *“he became my entire world,”* even as the inconsistencies mounted. *“Adam’ could write but couldn’t speak English,”* and would *“benefit from my tutelage,”* but *“he learned too quickly.”*

Just as this afternoon’s talk was given from both a parent’s and a child’s perspective, so too is the book *“Almost Gone”* written that way. John, an IT specialist, thought he’d taken all the right precautions...computers out in the open, passwords known, but *“none of it was helpful.”*

Even after the FBI took her passport, Mackenzie “didn’t believe them.” Adam had been in her head now for four years! In desperation, the FBI suggested that she try a simple experiment: she was to tell Adam that she’d exhausted all efforts to get him to the U.S., and, they predicted, he’d then demand that she come to marry him in Kosovo. She didn’t believe them but tried the experiment anyway, perhaps to vindicate him in their eyes.

And it went down exactly as predicted.

So, she concluded, *“This can’t be love,”* if he tears her from her family.

John said that *“tech is here to stay. Facebook is a part of life,”* so *“children need to be skeptical.”* Failing that, parents need to monitor a child’s online activities.

“Three friends worried enough about her” to tell their parents, who informed the Baldwins. *“But 16 others didn’t!”*

Mackenzie told us that anything you know about a predator *“is what he allows you to know.”* Victims need someone who can empathize with their situation not sympathize; that’s where the book (plug, plug) is useful.

John Caldwell asked Mackenzie how she cut off the relationship. She just *“locked him out.”*

Mark Waterbury wanted to know why she began the relationship in the first place. *“Because it was something to do when I’m bored.”*

Janice Allman asked John how Mackenzie became aware he knew. It was having the FBI show up to *“scare her straight.”*

Charles Milby asked if they knew anyone who lost to a predator. Mackenzie said she knew of someone who *“was planning on leaving in three weeks.”* So she emailed her, *“We must talk,”* but she wasn’t in the victim’s “friends list,” so she never got the message and was last heard from in *“an abusive domestic relationship.”*



Rick Horne chimed in about elder abuse, robbed of everything by Nigerian princes *“from Oklahoma,”* someone added. He praised the Baldwins for *“a moving story”* and then apologized to offering enabling technology, our multiport charger, as an honorarium.

He then challenged us to compare our dues invoices with previous ones. There have been reductions commensurate with the reduction in meetings. He said he’d miss the Board Meeting scheduled for January 18th because he’ll be in South Korea, playing *“nursemaid”* to his (grown) son, having his tonsils out.

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, he let us go at 1:07.



✂

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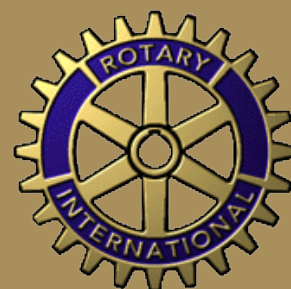
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Thank you Kenny Wilson

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DISTRICT 5810 ROTARY CLUB NIGHT

JOIN THE ALLEN AMERICANS FOR THE INAUGURAL ROTARY CLUB NIGHT AT THE AMERICANS HOME GAME ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 26. HELP SUPPORT & ENJOY SOME EXCITING HOCKEY AS \$5 PER TICKET PURCHASED VIA THIS LINK WILL BE DONATED BACK TO THE DISTRICT 5810 POLIO PLUS CAMPAIGN!



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