



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 300, Issue 364, January 23rd, 2020

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Scary Bob Explains Iran

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 23rd
Sheila James,
Program Coordinator, Wellness Center for Older Adults

January 30th
NO NOON MEETING
Please plan to attend 1/29 (Wednesday) Plano Metro Forum Meeting
Candidates from the following positions have been invited to participate

CC Commissioner – Precinct 1
CC 401st District Court Judge
CC 380th District Court Judge
CC Tax Accessor
CC Constable – Precinct 1

February 6th
NO NOON MEETING
Please plan to attend 2/5(Wednesday) Plano Metro Forum Meeting
Candidates have been invited to participate from
State Representatives
US Congress

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

JUDGE JOHNNY had a cogent recommendation to **Sainted Editor's** wife, **Pat**: he said she should volunteer as many bucks to **Bubba's Bucket** as are members in the Group Hug photo (top of page 2) for every time it appears in the **Weekly Reader**. Pat admires his chutzpah! **Sainted Editor** tests her resolve.

JOEFFREY THE CONFUSED summoned our attention at 12:12 enlisting **Johnny Lewis** for a spontaneous Invocation and Speaker **Scary Bob Epstein** for a vociferous Pledge. He pressed **Roy Reeves** into **SARGENTIAL DUTIES** while **Emma Smith** reprised her role as Court Photographer.

Roy welcomed a Rotarian Visiting from **Downtown Dallas, Tom Meyers**, here not only to make up but as part of **Scary Bob's** cheering section, so voluminous as to require the setting of an additional table at lunch. In addition, **Scary Bob** bade us welcome **Raja Jain, Tom Cline**, and an inadvertent co-conspirator in the presentation, **Mark Liebman**. Not to let the moment pass, Roy chose **Bob Epstein** for the **3 Minutes of Torture** which turned out to be mutual as Roy struggled to recall the standard questions from his smartphone.



Bob joined Rotary in 1980 because "a friend asked." His 1st car was a 1969 Plymouth Duster which he totaled in a 110 mph crash because he was "dumber than dirt." (One hopes that cautionary tale was not lost on his children.) His favorite singer is **Jimi Hendrix**. The weirdest thing that

happened on his job was the triple murder at his Miami work site...when he had an airtight alibi. His TARDIS moment would be as a Confederate Cavalry Commander defeating **General Custer** in the 1st Battle of Bull Run. Something we'd not have known about **Bob** was that he worked 18 months for the Pinkerton Agency with an unloaded M1 rifle to thwart the theft of radios.

"Next time," **JOEFF** warned, "we'll expect more colorful answers." Left unsaid was the reason for the **Scary Bob** sobriquet: it stems from his intentional intimidation during his days as an MP.

John Caldwell en-joined us to participate in house painting on Saturday, February 1st, for **Habitat for Humanity**. He mimicked the straight, vertical strokes expected of us and said we'd receive email instructions within 24 hours.



The **next meeting** will be 1/23, but the 1/30 meeting will be punted to the previous Wednesday (1/29), when we'll attend **Plano Metro's** Candidate Forum here at **Gleneagles**. It'll be *déjà vu* all over again the next week (2/5), when **Metro** hosts its 2nd Candidate Forum.

Janis Allman invited us all to Officer **Arthur Parker's** retirement party at 11 am on 1/30 in **Shiloh Church**. We should RSVP on the City's **facebook** page.

JOEFFREY THE CONFUSED called upon **Mary Jane Dean**, unintentionally indicted her pungent cigarette habit, to tout the Plano Chamber's **State of the City** event to be held 2/5 as well but at the **Hilton Granite Park**. Mayor **LaRosiliere** will explicate his **Vision for the City**.

The **PISD Plano Education Foundation** needs bodies and wallets for a ticket or a table at the **SKI PLANO** event to be held 2/8 at the **Plano Marriott Legacy Town Center**.



Mary Jo also announced the next Social Hour to be 6 pm on 2/6 at the newly-renovated **Moebius** abode, which is to be found at 1412 Parkview Lane, Murphy 75094.

Larry FLASH Flannery suggested the Club offer Carrolyn a housewarming gift. Presumably, **JOEFF** took this up at the Board Meeting which followed our lunch meeting.

Joe Camarena introduced *Scary Bob*. Robert is a Major in the Civil Air Patrol, and his qualifications include:

- Airborne Photographer
- Ground Team Leader
- Communications Unit Leader, and
- Aerospace Education Instructor.

Robert is also in the Texas State Guard, 19th Military Police Brigade. He has been in local Law Enforcement Agencies for the past 10 years. Additionally, Robert is a certified instructor as a:

- NRA Certified Instructor
- Certified Pistol Instructor
- Certified Home Firearm Safety Instructor.

Robert is a candidate for the Masters Degree at the U.S. Air Force AIR COMMAND and STAFF COLLEGE.



Eschewing the microphone as irrelevant, Bob explained that he came here to speak on the Battle of Guadalcanal, a presentation he can deliver in his sleep. But Joe asked him for something more contemporary than even the 1st Arab-Israeli War, so he discarded his historian hat in favor of one appropriate to reportage. And playing Field Reporter to his Anchorman was Mark Liebman. Mark began to sweat. But Bob thoughtfully gave him time to gather his thoughts while Bob promoted his Military History Book Club meeting 7:15 am at

Prestonwood Country Club on 1/30. They're discussing **Benny Morris' 1948: The 1st Arab-Israeli War**. Interested parties may RSVP to Bob at

Macabee1948@gmail.com

Proceeds from a 4/7 *Air Force Association* Golf Tournament benefit wounded airmen. RSVP for that to joesommers@verizon.net

Bob reported his 2nd son is a 2nd Lieutenant in Ordinance Disposal and a Flight Commander for EOD.



What Bob settled on for a presentation was the aftermath of our assassination of the Iranian General **Qasem Soleimani**, Commander of Iran's QUDS Force, responsible for extraterritorial warfare. He was killed in a U.S. drone strike at *Baghdad International Airport* on 1/3/20 at the direction of President **Donald Trump**.

Bob pulled out the tome, *Iran, A Modern History*, to indicate the depth of his research, and told us that the Israelis have a heavy dossier of Soleimani and have been tracking him for years. The Mossad (Israeli intelligence) has been working hand-in-hand with the CIA on him.

Bob declared it a **VICTORY FOR TRUMP**, especially as Iran hasn't really avenged his death yet. Soleimani was a big deal as witnessed by the outcry of anger and remorse inside Iran at his death. When he gave a speech to the Senior Commanders of QUDS, senior government officials were in attendance. It was about the **Eradication of Israel** as a result of the slaying of a Hezbollah leader. (Arab leaders have been promising that since 1948.)

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who created Hezbollah, was slain with Soleimani in the drone strike. Iran has called upon the seven Iraqi militias it controls to avenge their deaths. It has vowed to "return Americans in coffins." So actions are in the works against American and Israeli interests in the Middle East.



Mark was called by Bob to flesh out what he knows of this. Mark explained that Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria "has no power to strike the USA." In this regard, the "media reports have been less than accurate." And the targets hit had been in our sights for a long time; Trump "signed the order six months ago." Mark explained how the strike was really Soleimani's fault: "he did something dumb. He landed in Baghdad," where his car was followed by Americans until it was clear for a trio of Hellfire missiles.

Hezbollah is funded by Iran. And Iran has **125,000** soldiers in Syria, including the elite Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). To compare the mischief potential, Mark pointed out the havoc wrought by a mere 20,000 Nazi Wehrmacht and SS in Europe and Africa during WWII. The IRGC is in Syria so the country is kept as an ally; it is strategic for land routes without which Iran "can't survive."

Bob concurred that Iran is "not interested in hitting the USA," but "every (American) soldier is fair game," so it'll hit American military in the region. Moreover, physical force is by no means then end of the Iranian arsenal; it has a sophisticated cyber-warfare operation in place to attack us.





Indeed, we are bombarded with live-stream attacks “*from China and Iran,*” but they don’t hit Israel. Israel and Russia are trading partners, so they don’t cyberattack one another. Moreover, Israel is capable of massive cyber-retaliation, so Iran doesn’t dare.

Mark continued that Unit 8200 is an Israeli incubation center for the Dark Arts of cybersecurity. It trains recruits straight out of high school. Already 35 cybersecurity firms have been established by their graduates in the US alone. Cybersecurity is an important export!

He told us that there are 40,000 Hezbollah soldiers in Lebanon alongside 20,000 infrastructure supporters and 10,000 political operatives essentially taking over the country.

Bob explained that QUDS founded Hezbollah and Hamas and the Syrian forces loyal to Iran. In 2006, there were missile attacks across the Israeli borders, but they were nuisance attacks, insufficient to warrant massive response. However the violence has been escalating ever since...all funded by Iran.

Mark decried the release of sequestered Iranian funds as a condition of Obama’s agreement to curtail Iranian nuclear ambitions. As a result, there are now more Iranian soldiers than American! But its economy is in shambles as a result of sanctions, and Iran “*is betting Trump doesn’t get elected for a second term.*”

Bob maintains that Hezbollah is less interested in Israel than it is in Syria and Yemen, where it supports the Houti rebels. But in talking with Middle Eastern snipers, he learns that they’re expecting confrontations in 2020.

John Caldwell asked about practice bombing of carriers. Mark said Israel’s been “*doing this for 20 years,*” practicing defenses against suicide attacks. Hezbollah has claimed to be able to disable a carrier in the Straits of Hor-

muz, but they’ve not yet done it. To be on the safe side, our carriers stay away from the southern end of the gulf.

Bob pointed out that there are 10 snipers on American ships passing through the Gulf to take out approaching enemy craft. He also said that the Sunnis and Shia are allied in an effort to overthrow the Saudi Regime. So the Middle East remains a tinderbox where the US is “*willing to absorb attacks*” and to retaliate. Hezbollah has “*no idea what Trump will do; he’s unpredictable.*” (Some would call it mercurial.)

Mark said that Russia “*is a bystander*” with “*no allies except Syria.*”

JOEFFRY offered *Scary Bob* our multiport charger, led us in the Five-Way Test, noted the Board Meeting to follow, and dismissed the congregation at 12:56.



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Tom Cline
Raja Jain

Guest of

Robert Epstein
Robert Epstein
Robert Epstein

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