



Winter  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 143, Issue 203, January 28, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## IT'S ALMOST FEBRUARY!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jan 28th

"Plano Symphony  
Orchestra"

Feb 4th

"Club Assembly"

Feb 11th

Bryant Cappelletti  
"Dallas Cowboys in  
Frisco"

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pamela Little	Jan 04
Jo Vai	Jan 05
Lynette Pieper	Jan 06
Yoram Solomon	Jan 08
David McWhorter	Jan 15
Jerry Aris	Jan 17
L.B. Showalter	Jan 17
John Brodhead	Jan 20
Alan Feigenbaum	Jan 21



**D**OC GIBBS gets previews of these *Weekly Reader* articles; I use him as an Editor's Editor (but he's been uncharacteristically silent in those duties for a year or more...should I take you off the list, Doc?). Anyway, I mentioned to today's speaker, **Zachary Thompson**, that **Ear-nest** had admitted that Doc wouldn't be performing this year but that we couldn't



use that as an excuse not to attend! Zachary promised to make up for that with his performance, so **Sainted Editor** started looking around for his instrument. Silly Editor!

**President Paperweight** opened the meeting at 12:20, calling upon **Larry FLASH Flannery** for the Invocation followed by **Bob Pikna** with the Pledge. **Joe Camerena** was credited with Greeting. Since the Pentagon has green-lighted the full military service of the distaff set, **Camille Ussery** took on the role of **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**.



Camille welcomed back **Jim Adams** and **Jim II (Waldorf)** both from *Richardson Central*. **Nancy Humphrey** genuflected to the Glorious Leader, State Representative from District "69" (actually 66), the Honorable and Worthy **MATT SHAHEEN**. **Brad Keith** welcomed a Rotary President from Seminole, TX, **Jameil Aryian**. **Jerry Aris** introduced a former Rotarian from India, **Pradeep Samudra**.



**John Caldwell** pulled yet another induction speech out of the hat for **Clay Curtiss**, sponsored by **Kelly Palmer**.



John also recommended that those of us who have brought guests should put our names in the **BLUE BOWL** on the check-in table to be eligible for "valuable prizes."

Kelly made the mistake of advising us of the **CLUB ASSEMBLY** scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>. So we've plenty of time to make alternate plans. But then he added that the primary topic will be a Club vote on the new **DUES STRUCTURE**, and the elaborately-constructed alternate plans evaporated.

**Earnest Burke** introduced **Zachary Thompson**.

Director of the *Dallas County Health and Human Services*, Zachary directs operations for more than 15 County programs, supervises over 300 employees and 12 Assistant Directors, and manages an \$80M annual budget. He is responsible for planning and managing Dallas' response to any emergency health situation [such as the Ebola crisis]. Under his direction, *DCHHS* has been recognized nationally for its response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of *Katrina* and *Rita* by the *U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development* for providing home ownership opportunities for low-income families. He served since 1991 as an adjunct faculty member for *Eastfield's College's* Social Work and Substance Abuse Counseling Program, 8 years as the Deputy Director of *DCHHS* and worked as a Project Director

continued on page 2



of the West Dallas Community Center. He holds an Associate's Degree from El Centro Community College, a Bachelor's degree from U.T. Arlington, and a Master's degree from Amber University. He is on the Board of the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority and received the 2009 Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Health Care Award.

Zachary buttered us up being "pleased to be in Collin County and Plano, the greatest city in the U.S." He also heaped praise on **Candy Blair**, Collin County's Public Health Officer, for the "great collaboration with Dallas."



He says he's using Collin County as a model for growth and prosperity in Texas. "Everything's growing north." Apparently, we're doin' everything right: economy, education, the works. New residents have moved "to Plano for education."

And he extolled the virtues of Rotary as exemplars of **Martin Luther King's** admonition: "he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness." This came from *The Drum Major's Instinct* speech made to his congregation on 4 February 1968 and adapted from a **J. Wallace Hamilton's** homily.

"People, who are without, need our help." There are parts of Dallas County not served by the Internet, for example. While Collin County is "doing great," the rest of Texas is struggling. "Where to move people? To [places of] good education?" But if they are stuck in their locales, would it not be better to "improve their education [as the] best way to equal opportunity?"

MLK focused upon education, economics, and an end to poverty. Businesses small and large "look for an intelligent workforce, a competent workforce." The Bible asks, "Where do you want to sit? On the left or the right of God?" But those seats are reserved for "those among you who are Servant Leaders."

There are children in black ghettos who "never leave, never see a college campus." MLK said that we had to "transform lives, living conditions." Failure to do so is "beyond sexism, beyond racism. Perception is the challenge that we face." We need to "incorporate everyone," since those in ghettos "are left out."

Even the "single family households still need help." Zachary spoke of working his way through school at a Sears & Roebuck warehouse. "Nobody handed me anything." Then he corrected that: "My Mother gave me a Bible and a pound cake" to take off to school. Back then, we had "old-fashioned communities" which "cheered kids on." There were campii and lunch counters to integrate.

But this is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. "What's holding us back [now]?" he asked. And it's "not about tax dollars. It's not about handouts." We should be living in a world where you are "accepted for who you are. Where there is Fair Housing Opportunity," but where one is not obliged "to move where they feel uncomfortable." [As a founding member of MCOR, ~~Sainted~~ Editor was himself uncomfortable with the suggestion that Blacks would feel unwelcome in Plano, but he took Zachary's point: they shouldn't have to move out of West and South Dallas to get educational and economic opportunities.]

"I want the Dream to be Real." He commended Collin County for "setting up opportunities" and for the "leadership here in" the county. Minority community members need to see their individual members who succeed; "People need to see that dreams do come true."



**David Bowman** commented on the "two to three hundred homeless families in Collin County." He wanted to know how to eradicate these "pockets of poverty. What can we do to strengthen the family?"

Zachary told him that mental health issues are at play. We require a "regional model" of "job training and affordable housing." The homeless problem is exacerbated by "poor, less-educated migrants." He decried misallocation of federal dollars. When migrants come to Texas, then the federal help should flow here. But, he admitted, that would involve "a big fight from Detroit."

Matt Shaheen asked about coordination with church efforts. Zachary said that the "big churches help with the homeless population," building cottages, for example. "The Central Dallas Ministry is working on that."



Zachary apologized for not having introduced his guest, **Tommy Wilson**, earlier. Earnest commented that "the measure of success" for Zachary's talk was the fact that **Howard Shapiro** stayed until the end. Howard complained, "You told me to!"

Our lethal paperweight was presented to the speaker with suitable admonitions. Nancy suggested we attend MLK ceremonies at Williams HS. **Jamee Jolly** noted the Chamber's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 26 January. Kelly led us in the Four Way Test and closed the meeting at 12:54.



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