



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### January 17:

Earnest Burke  
MLK Presentation

### January 24:

Dewy Elliot, COO  
Trident Response Group

### January 31:

Karla Oliver  
Plano ISD "Teacher of the Year"

### February 7:

Lorraine Brock  
President, Get Organized

### February 14:

Octavio Ortiz  
Four Way Test Contest

### February 21:

Earnest Burke  
Black History Month  
Meeting Adjourns @1:30

### February 28:

Mayor Phil Dyer  
State of the City

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hammel, David	Jan 01
Little, Pamela	Jan 04
Via, Jo	Jan 05
Anderson, James	Jan 08
Curtis, Jerry	Jan 12
McWhorter, David	Jan 15
Aris, Jerry	Jan 17
Showalter, L. B.	Jan 17
Millender, Sherman	Jan 19
Brodhead, John	Jan 20
Burton, James	Jan 21
Feigenbaum, Alan	Jan 21



# Dallas Arboretum "Behind The Scenes"

Enjoying a brief glimpse of the sun and a balmy 58° temperature to break up the gray wintry weather, the club members gathered on January 10 to talk of springtime and flowers. **Lenny** rang the bell at 12:21 to attempt to bring our group into some sort of order.

Treating us again to appropriate adages, he quoted Doug Larson: "A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."

That quote was received with such success or confusion, that he plowed ahead to his second quote by Luther Burbank: "Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."



After absorbing **Lenny's** second quote, it seemed appropriate to turn to prayer, and **Jan Sullivan** provided our invocation. **Jim Burton**, new member proposed by

John Pittman, then led us in the pledge. Treading far out onto thin ice, **Lenny** thanked **Larry Flannery** for his services as greeter. **Flash** naturally took that as an invitation to take the floor and treat us to one of his tales. He told us of God's having promised man that he would find obedient wives in all corners of the world, and then he made the earth round and laughed and laughed and...

**Reedy Spigner** took the podium again, explaining that he was sergeant at arms for the month, to introduce our visiting Rotarians and to coax our

members into introducing our guests.

**Louise Davis** was recognized for 5-years perfect attendance with a pin and



opportunity to lampoon the club's membership accounting, reporting that he received a 6-year pin last year and a 2-year pin two years ago.

**Lenny** let all of that pass without reclaiming John's pin. However, in an effort to demonstrate the power of the club's membership record keeping, **Lenny** then summoned **Gary Basham**, who received his 19-year pin last week, to be awarded his 20-year pin and a



lovely 20-year plaque for his wall. **Gary** quickly took **Lynnette's** part, stating that she was not at fault. The membership swallowed all of this without further comment.

Finally, after stalling as long as possible to allow for his late arrival, **Mark Geller** was recognized for 37-years of perfect if not prompt attendance. Birthdays were noted for **Jerry Curtis** on January 12 and for **David McWhorter** on January 15.



a beautiful plaque suitable for framing.

**John Pittman** got a pin for four years, but no plaque. **Pittman** took the





**Jamee Jolly** was called upon for an announcement about something that is happening March 25, but the very senior, substitute Reader editor could not hear the substance of the announcement over the intervening chatter.

**Gary Basham** rose to report that he had a meeting last week with Lenny, plotting to find some scheme to cajole the final 22 members into Paul Harris Fellowships so that the club can reach a 100% Paul Harris club status.



**Bob Pikna** then took the opportunity to remind us once more of the Quaker Steak & Lube VIP party on January 22. Unlike our normal activities for which last minute decisions are normal, this one requires a

reservation.

**Rutledge Haggard** invited us to support our schools on Saturday at a bar-

becue and auction at the Collin County Youth Park, but by the time you read this, it is too late unless you have already done it.



**David McWhorter** then took the podium to introduce **Al Olson** who is bringing us the program "Behind the Scenes at the Dallas Arboretum." Al Olson is a dedicated 11-year volunteer at the Dal-

las Arboretum. He was chairman of the 2009 and 2010 Plant Sales. He is the recent past Chairman of the Volunteer Advisory Board, which coordinates the activities of over 400 volunteers. In 2012, Al and his wife, Carolyn, were the Volunteer Chairmen of the Dale Chihuly Glass Art Exhibit, which many of us had the good fortune of being able to attend. Beginning this year, Al became a member of the Dallas Arboretum Board of Directors.

Al has always had a love of roses, and he has propagated and cultivated hundreds of new rose cuttings for the Arboretum.

Because one of the things Al enjoys most about his work in the Arboretum Greenhouse is answering questions about gardening and the current projects in the Trial Gardens, he then dedicated 20 minutes to a rapid fire report of action behind the scenes at the Dallas Arboretum. He pointed out that he does seminars at the arboretum, so if 20 minutes doesn't do it for you, call him to register for a



seminar. Al came armed with numerous handouts and brochures, and he offered a 10% discount for memberships for any Rotarian who got fired-up to join during the meeting.

**Dallas Blooms** is coming up, starting March 2 through April 7. It is a rite of spring for many of us to roam the 66-acres of spectacular display gardens during the spring festival.

**The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Gardens**, a big new garden, opens in May of 2013. It is planned to be a fun way to educate children about gardening. The Garden is designed for preschool to middle school children to address the state and national standards for life and earth science. It is really an 8-acre laboratory with 17 outdoor and indoor galleries, each designed around a key science theme. In each of these galleries there are many hands-on exhibits and real plants and animals that are examples of these science concepts. The children will be immersed in nature; walking on boardwalks through grass tunnels, exploring a full-acre wetlands, walking along the Texas Skywalk through the tree canopy and under a waterfall. They will explore a "Honey I Shrunk the Kids" world where everything is giant-sized, learn that their food comes from plants and the critical people-plant-animal connections- outdoors where nature is real. The indoor Discovery Center will enable children to discover even more using technology and the tools of science. They will visit a plant lab, a soil lab, a 3-D mini theater; solve a CSI mystery and much more. The site of this amazing and innovative new garden is at the north end of the Arboretum on the hillside overlooking White Rock Lake. This precious lake-view will also encourage children to see the beauty of nature while unlocking its mysteries.



Al briefly touched on the Therapeutic **Horticulture** Program for older guests. The Dallas Arboretum's Therapeutic Horticulture program offers life enriching, horticultural therapy activities that actively engage participants with plants and nature for restorative benefits. Horticultural Therapy (HT) is the purposeful use of nature and gardening activities that are professionally conducted to advance the health and well-being of participants. HT activities are organized by a horticultural therapist and delivered based on participants' abilities and therapeutic goals for a variety of groups. The Dallas Arboretum's Therapeutic Horticulture program offers formalized horticultural therapy and informal therapeutic horticulture activities to a wide variety of audiences at senior care facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and human service organizations. Participants complete hands-on plant- and natural craft-oriented activities modified for their therapeutic goals and abilities.

Al told us of the **Dallas Arboretum Trial Gardens**, one of the premier test centers in the world for heat and drought tolerance. In north Texas, we have many environmental challenges that



make selecting the “right” plants crucial to successful gardening. Although most catalogs and books give good descriptions about a plant’s requirement, many of these descriptions are based on growing experience in northern states. Here in Dallas, we have weather conditions that force us to choose plants that have extra fortitude. Our winters can be mild, but we may experience sudden sharp drops in temperature. Plants must tolerate periods of either too much rain or no rain at all. No one can forget about our extreme temperatures in the summer. The Trial Gardens were created for the purpose of expanding research efforts and providing information to the public. The main focus of the plant testing program is to grow and



evaluate many different plants in the drastic climate of the Metroplex and develop new plant selections. Information generated from these trials is provided to commercial plant producers, retailers and home gardeners. The Trial Garden is always open to the public. The Arboretum works in conjunction with Texas A&M University and the Texas CEMAP program to test plants for

all of North Texas.

At this point in the program, Big Al’s speed of presentation and enthusiasm overwhelmed the editor’s writing speed and lack of familiarity with gardening, so be assured that there was discussion of annuals and perennials, the Container Garden, and the All American Selection Garden that competes with 70 or 80 other gardens across the USA. One of these gardens involved plants that got no special attention, hence the motto: “If we can’t kill it, no one can.” Somehow we got into discussion of development of disease resistant periwinkles, using the survivors of a dread disease in the 90’s to grow a new generation of plants. Then we plunged into zinnias with spider mites, snap dragons, pansies and bulbs. From there, we took a sharp turn into tulips and the Laura Bush Tulip Bed. Al disclosed that the tulip bulbs were all dug up and composted at the end of the growing season because they could not survive until the next year in our climate. As a result, Al crowed that the Arboretum produces the best compost in Dallas due to the fine bulb input. This led into a display of compost, black

pebbles for clay soils, and mulch. Al disclosed the use of pecan shells in their mulch. He then gave us instructions regarding the construction of the raised beds for our gardens, starting with 3” of compost, or maybe twice-ground mulch, followed by 3” of something else, and topped by 3” of local pecan shell mulch. Al assured us with satisfaction that this would eliminate the necessity for watering and fertilizing as much, as well as suffering less pests and diseases and promoting better micro-organisms. Having left the editor completely in the dust, Al dived into roses, disclosing success from heritage roses gathered from local cemeteries. He made a number of rose recommendations, such as Georgetown Tea, Ducher, Nocogdoches Grandma’s Yellow Rose, Old Blush, which fortunately are more-or-less contained on his handout listing Earth-Kind Roses.

Al had given an OK to questions throughout his presentation, but he gave another chance at the end. He was promptly asked about the financial results of the very successful Chihuly exhibit, and he was forced to advise us that he was forbidden to report on it, raising the speculation that it had been so profitable that the people at the Arboretum did not wish to admit to how they had split up the money.

**Lenny** rescued Al from further questions, thanking him for his presentation and providing him with actual dog tags from Operation Once In a Lifetime. An ill and probably contagious John Ernst, cowering in the back of the room, was recognized for 12 years in the club. The membership recited the four way test and adjourned, probably headed for their gardens.

Next week, at long last, the **Sainted Editor** is due to return from his long vacation.



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**Know someone who would  
make a great Rotarian?  
Invite them to be your guest  
at Rotary!**

### The 4 Way Test:

*Of the things we think, say, and do:*

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

#### Guest

Carol Fraenheim  
Bruce Malmel  
John Caldwell  
Meredith Walker

#### Guest Of

Jeff Fraenheim  
Kirk Bell  
Lori Roberts  
Bob Pikna

#### Visiting Rotarian

Sam Sherstad

#### Home Club

Summit County, CO

### Member NEWS

#### New Member Proposal:

John Caldwell  
Classification: Finance  
Proposed by: Lori Roberts

David Craig  
Classification: Heating & Air  
Proposed by: Lori Roberts

#### AWARDS:

Athena Award  
Camille Ussery  
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