

Winter
Weekly

Reader

Volume 8, Issue 23, January 13, 2011

The Plano Rotary Club

www.PlanoRotary.com



Birmingham Blues

UPCOMING MEETINGS

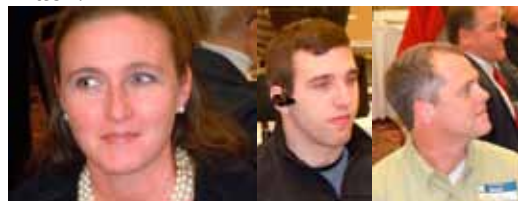
- 1/13 Blue Star Inc. - Lone Star Chapter #6
- 1/20 State of the City - Mayor Dyer
- 1/27 Club Assembly led by President John
- 2/03 Mike Howard "Retired Secret Service Agent "

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 DAVID HAMMEL
- 1/5 JO VIA
- 1/8 JAMES ANDERSON
- 1/12 BRAD SHANKLIN
- 1/12 JERRY CURTIS
- 1/17L.B. SHOWALTER
- 1/17 JERRY ARIS
- 1/19 ..SHERMAN MILLENDER
- 1/20 JOHN BRODHEAD
- 1/21 ALAN FEIGENBAUM
- 1/30 DAVID ELLIS

Prince John tolled the **GREAT ROTARY BELL** thrice to alert us all to the meeting's commencement. He summoned **LB the Good** to Pray and **Amelia Ahmed** (aha! She's here.) to Pledge (*thanks, Bob*), thanking **Queen Shuler** and **LB THE RADIANT** for greeting, lest we forget who they were. Indeed, he first introduced *himself*, in case, with our extended holiday absences, we were wondering who *he* was! That was either a case of raging paranoia or he has his finger on the pulse of our demographic, and can't find it.

SERGEANT SKIPPY was chided about a recent *Michigan State* humiliation but, as he pointed out, "*At least, unlike the Longhorns, they'll get to play in a bowl (game).*" However, it didn't put *him* off his game. He introduced the Visiting Rotarian, **Joyce Baumbach**, and drew invitations from sponsors of guests, like **Kendra Lee** who **Thad** is wooing (for membership; no worries, **Ms. Stevens**), **Jeff's** son, **Ammon**, and orthodontist, **Mike Black**.



Prince John acknowledged a punctual birthday check from **Jim Anderson** as well as one from **Kenny Wilson**, whose birthday was in December. So John asked whether the check was for this year's birthday or last, forcing Kenny to concede that it was tardy.



Perfect Attendance pins went to **Charles Milby** (14) and **Gary Basham** (18) but not to a still-AWOL **Mark Waterbury**. You actually have to attend to receive a Perfect Attendance pin, Mark.



Alan Feigenbaum,

Sometime PRC Photographer and Full-Time Nice Guy, rose to cajole us into serving as Science Fair Judges for *McCall Elementary* (6601 Cloverhaven Way) on the same day and at the same time as Susan Shuler wants us to be judges for *Memorial Elementary's* Science Fair, Thursday, January 27 (preferably before noon so as not to miss Rotary). Let's see: we can play one off against the other!



Joyce Baumbach spoke up for "*Plano Rotary Night with the Stars*," by which she meant "*Rotaries in Plano Night with the Stars*." It is an invitation to join fellow Rotarians at the Stars vs. Thrashers game at \$10 off the price of any seat from the Terrace to Platinum (and \$49 off the **STARSCLUB LUXURY** suites). Hockey fans among us were to browse to <http://stars.nhl.com/planorotary> and utilize promotion code: *stars*.

Ben Criste handed over a Club's flag from The Villages, Florida, where he (and presumably his family) had spent the holidays. It must have shaken them up over the unusually cold weather; I know that **Pat** and I couldn't get over a chilly Key West the week before New Years. (But it didn't stop us from making a killing in Audubon prints: the ones that depict colonial cities as backgrounds. There's one—Long-Billed Curlew—that tosses off Fort Sumter five years before it became the powder keg that ignited the Civil War!)



Carolynn Moebius exhorted us to contribute generously to a fund to bury a *Plano East* student whose family hadn't enough for the task. Well, actually, **Ted Dickey** had donated the burial, funeral, and transfer costs (for which we were encouraged to thank him), but the family hasn't the funds to attend the Detroit funeral. So our fine bucket monies, all \$300 of them, were



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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handed over to Carolynn to pass on to the family.

Jennifer Erp, *Memorial's* Mentor Coordinator, mentioned that this was the brother of the student she brought to Rotary last year to encourage mentoring.

Lenny Schwartz urged the commercially-minded among us to utilize the advertising space going wanting on the back of the *Weekly Reader*. He said that four spaces were available at \$125 per year (rapidly corrected to **quarter**), but one is already called for; **Alice Hobbs** is hereby nudged in the ribs to get her advertising to the prepaid spot!

John introduced **Earnest Burke** as a "memorable, well-spoken" fundraiser for the Club who was speaking this day in commemoration of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** and its celebration. Earnest turned the podium over to **SKIP** and Jennifer Erp, who had brought two 2nd graders from Memorial to read their MLK essays. They were **Jose-Luis Radilla** and **Giovanni Potter**, and their essays are given below:



Dear Dr. King Jr.,
12/2/10
Whites controlled blacks until you made a big difference across America. You wanted blacks and whites to be equal. You wanted changes to be done with non-violence and peaceful talks. You wanted harmony to America and you didn't want to use guns. You are one of my favorite heroes. Your dreams about blacks and whites being treated the same did come true. Thank you for leaving this illuminating legacy that will always live on for many generations.
Sincerely,
Jose-Luis Radilla



Dear Dr. King,
Thank you for giving us an illuminating legacy, and thank you for letting white and black people play and work together and other things. I think your speech was fantastic and you look like a very nice guy. I feel bad for you because of what happened to your house. I think it is so nice of you that you made a speech that came from your heart. I think you are smart and handsome. I hope I can visit your house. And again, thank you for giving us your illuminating legacy from your life before.
Your friend,
Giovanni Potter



Jennifer mentioned a book about MLK written entirely by young people's letters such as the above.

Earnest agreed that MLK's legacy "transcended many generations." At this point, he put in a plug for gentle treatment by the editor.



He defined **legacy** as "anything handed down from the past as from an ancestor or predecessor." It was in the '60's that the legacy began. Earnest admitted to being "a mere child" then but still he "understood how things were at the time."

He stood before a framed picture of civil rights marchers in Birmingham, Alabama, being hosed by a water cannon, the young man shielding his female companions from the blast. Below them was a definition of **courage**: "Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, and difficulty."

Earnest described how the world came to recognize the contributions of MLK via the Nobel Peace Prize (1964, the youngest recipient).

He credited the City of Plano with partnering with the MLK Committee in "a model for other cities to follow." Although he had, this year, stepped down from his central two-year role on

the committee (because of his Rotary commitments, hint hint), he remains active and supporting of its efforts. Consequently, he had provided us with flyers outlining the MLK activities for the weekend of January 15th.



Beginning at 8:30 on Saturday, there will be a **Power Breakfast** here at the *Southfork Hotel*, featuring a discussion with civic and community leaders. **Cary Israel** will facilitate "the passing of the baton to a new generation of leaders" among his Collin College students. That gathering adjourns to the Parker Road **DART** Station (2600 Archerwood) at 10:30 for the start of the **Community Unity Walk**. That walk terminates at **City Hall** at 11:45 where **Reverend Gary Mueller** will deliver a keynote address. At 1 pm, there will be a free lunch and health fair held at the **Douglass Community Center**. Earnest's reputation is on the line; he wants to see as many Rotarians as possible at these activities.



In the midst of all this, a cellphone went off with insistence, prompting Earnest to fine its owner \$15 to go toward sending the family to their Detroit funeral.

Earnest was 8 years old at the time of MLK's Birmingham speech. And although America has come a long way since then, Earnest feels there's a lot remaining to be done. He quoted lyrics by *The Temptations* to the effect:

People movin' out
People movin' in
Why, because of the color of their skin
Run, run, run, but you sho' can't hide
An eye for an eye
A tooth for a tooth
Vote for me, and I'll set you free
Rap on brother, rap on
Well, the only person talkin'
'Bout love thy brother is the preacher
And it seems,
Nobody is interested in learnin'
But the teacher
Segregation, determination, demonstration,
Integration, aggravation,
Humiliation, obligation to our nation
Ball of Confusion
That's what the world is today

And he concluded with Martin Luther King Jr.'s own words:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.

He, who is devoid of the power to forgive, is devoid of the power to love.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Earnest is "a strong believer in Justice and Equal Rights," and the "love in all of us." He asked us how we perceive our neighbors. "When you look at me, do you see me? Do you see Earl? How would you describe me to a friend?" Would we use the color of his skin?

He becomes emotional when he speaks of this because "each day I'm confronted with many challenges," and people who "see what's on the outside and not what's within."

He's proud to be a member of the Flagship of 6810, but in 1963, his tender age aside, he could not have hoped to join the *Plano Rotary Club*. But, he concluded, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

He urged us to come and hear Gary, who he described as who can "bring things down from the complex to the simple," not, we assumed, that we were "the simple." **Jamie Schell** patted Gary on the back and asked, "Bringing on the pressure?" Gary leaned forward and whispered to **Sainted Editor** to be sure to write that "Earnest *didn't* call me a simpleton!"

Earnest also encouraged us to attend PISD's MLK Tribute beginning at 7 pm on Thursday, January 20th in the Plano Centre. **Karla** thanked him for the plug. She said that artwork relevant to the event will be judged at that meeting.

Sherman Millender prompted Earnest to tell the tale of his actions on the day of the Birmingham Speech.

Earnest said that day keeps him "focused on the love in all of us." His mother drew Earnest and his brother home from a baseball game (which he was winning!) to go hear MLK in a Birmingham park. But the Speech was interrupted by the police, and people scattered as clashes broke out. His mother ran with Earnest in tow while he had hold of his brother, but, in the confusion, he lost his grip, and his brother vanished into the panicked mob. When his mother had reached safety she turned and was aghast to find his brother missing, so she headed back into the fray

**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?

to recover him. A tearful Earnest followed her, apologizing effusively, when up strode a man with his brother on his shoulders asking, "Whose child is this?" He returned him to the anxious family and was off before they learned who he was, but the salient feature was that he was white. Earnest learned that day that for some, color is no impediment to doing the right thing.

Prince John assured Earnest that "you have carried us on your shoulders with the Foundation," and presented him with \$1,000 for the MLK events.

Jan Sullivan told us that invoices have gone out; we should contact her if they were not received.

CAPTAIN KIRK teased **FLASH** about a write-up on him, asking what his New Year's Resolution might be. Larry answered, "Not to get into trouble." Kirk asked, "How is that workin' out?" to which Larry replied, "It's a work in progress."

Prince John led us in the Four-Way Test and thrice belled us gone at 1:03.

P.S. **FLASH** was overheard mentioning that his resolution did not preclude "getting into mischief," as long as he isn't caught.

PLANO ROTARY FANTASY FOOTBALL FINAL STANDINGS

Winners:

- 1st Place Mark Waterbury
- 2nd Place Nathan Barbera
- 3rd Place Mark Johnson

NFC Division

Mark Waterbury.....	11-6
Nathan Barbera	11-6
Brad Shanklin	10-7
Octavio Ortiz.....	8-9
Gerald Brence	8-9
David Allison	6-11

AFC Division

Mark Johnson.....	11-6
Ean Sullivan.....	10-7
John Ernst	7-10
Kyle Walters.....	7-10
Martin Jackson	7-10
Ben Criste.....	6-11

Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award

Randy Wright

Athena Award

Rebecca Caso

Fred Moses Award

Richard Butterfly

**Business Executive
of the Year**

Gary Base

Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:

www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

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The Plano Rotary Club

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The District Governor Elect, **Bud McBrayer** invites you all to the upcoming **Feb. 5 (Sat.), DISTRICT ASSEMBLY** from 7:30A to 12:00P, at the Collin College Higher Education (located at US75/Hwy 121) Facility in McKinney. This event will be a Barn-Burner for the incoming 2011-12 district club officers, new Rotarians and all Rotarians.

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