

Summer
Weekly

Reader

Volume 8, Issue 3, July 15, 2010

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 7/15 Bill Perryman
"The Rotary Foundation"
- 7/22 B.G. "Jug" Burkett
"Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation Was Robbed of its Heroes and its History"
- 7/29 Ean Sullivan
"History of the Plano Rotary Club"

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/4SKIP JENKINS
- 7/6PHIL DYER
- 7/7JOHN ERNST
- 7/7AL GODWIN
- 7/12HOWARD SHAPIRO
- 7/13EARNEST BURKE
- 7/15DAVID BOWMAN
- 7/20 DWIGHT MCFOLIN
- 7/22MATT JACKSON
- 7/22JIM MONROE
- 7/24DOUG OTTO
- 7/26BRYAN STAMPER
- 7/30L.B. BROACH



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

Pluralism Multi

Sainted Editor can't thank **Randy** enough for his yeoman's efforts with the Bulletins in **SE**'s absence. And **Alan Feigenbaum** is to be thanked for photographer duties. Sorry you got stuck with it unexpectedly on July 1st, Randy. Our guide misread the flight schedule and put us at the airport six hours after our flight left! So we were obliged to extend our holidays four more days. I suppose there are worse fates than to be "stuck" in Hong Kong and environs.

Prince John opened the proceedings with an invocation by Reverend Mueller and the Pledge of Allegiance by **Jeff Butcher**. "Hi, Bob!" John butchered **Lee Dunlap's** name for the greeting and called **SERGEANT JENKINS** to account. Skip noted NO visiting Rotarians; we could develop a complex if this keeps up. But there were plenty of



guests: **Bob Pitna**, **Bob Hudson**, **Carolyn Moebius**, **Nancy Humphrey**, and **David Lopez**, not to mention "surprise guests" to



be named later.

John touted the 5810 Awards Ceremony the previous night at which Plano Rotary garnered three! We received banners for the **ATTENDANCE AND CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY AWARDS** and a Certificate (along with 35 of the other District clubs) for the **PRESIDENTIAL CITATION**, meaning, so said the President Formerly Known as Prince, that we'd been doing what we were supposed to do all along. Perfect Attendance pins went to **George Wong** and **Hubert Aaron** for 11 and 18 years, respectively.



Scary Bob Epstein warned us that "no one leaves unless they sign up" for the **HENDRICK SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT** sponsored by Plano Rotary. Our efforts turned into 65 scholarships for at risk students last year, and **Bob** is determined to better that significantly this year. He's looking for Committee Chairs, sponsorships, and players, and he expects that we can contribute in at least one of those ways if not more. The event is September 17 at



continued on page 2

Heritage Ranch, and he wants us to invite family, friends, and coworkers to the dinner following the Tournament at which we'll auction off "stuff." New member **Thad Stammen** suggested that we sign up on the website which is being updated. www.planorotarygolf.com



Chris Parr offered proof of his visit to Shanghai in the form of a banner by the (single) Shanghai Rotary Club. He said that Beijing also has (exactly) one but that citizens of the People's

Republic are forbidden to join either. This is the Chinese government's standard reaction to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The 52 Rotaries (!) in Hong Kong (and the five in Macau) have no such restriction.

Ean Sullivan promised speaker **Mike Ghouse** that he'd earn a warmer reception than the single applaud that greeted Ean. Ean met Mike at a seminar Mike mounted that focused on many religions, espoused by their adherents. There Ean learned more about *Jainism* and *Zoroastrianism* than he expected ever to learn. Mike is a world traveler who spends his time "*finding ways for all of us to get along.*" He was returned from the *Parliament of World Religions* (attended by such luminaries as the **Dali Lama**) in Australia. And he is a frequent contributor to **CNN** and **Fox News**. (Perhaps he represents their sole "*fair and balanced*" reporting.)



Mike's first question for us was whether we "*can think outside the box.*" When enough of us agreed, he concluded that he must be in the right place.

He said that when we are invited to someone's

home, we immediately ask "*what to wear*" and "*what to bring.*" And if they do not belong to our favorite sect or ethnicity, we need to know what are their habits and modes of greeting, for we want to extend the hand of friendship and to acknowledge the "*otherness*" of our friends.

He had us practice the greetings of various religions from the "*Namaste*" (a Hindu greeting he translated as "*let the goodness in you meet the goodness in me*") to the Jewish "*Shalom Aleichem*" ("*Peace be unto you*"). When we had done as he asked, he suggested we applaud ourselves for our efforts.

Pluralism, he said, is like the parallel lines of geometry, extending in the same direction but never meeting. The lines can respect one another's direction, which they share, while acknowledging their differences. It's like the lovers of apple pie not finding it necessary to reform the lovers of peach cobbler. Instead, they can take comfort in the joy of the cobbler eaters without giving up their pie.

He said that it's the mission of his Foundation for Pluralism to open minds and hearts to such generosity of spirit. He told us that it is necessary in a world of three billion Christians and two billion Muslims to recognize that God has created all seven billion of us as individuals. Our DNA makes us as different as the stars in the sky. When we accept the "*otherness*" of others we are confirming God's greatness and the diversity of his world.



Then he stepped a bit on the wild side, acknowledging his belief in Intelligent Design. "*We exist, so there was a Causer*" of our existence. And each version of this Causer makes sense to its adherents. (This presumably includes those of us for whom God is Thermodynamics.)

He said that the physical world has its balances wherein Jupiter, for example is on autopilot. But the world of Life has no autopilot, he claims, for all seven billion individuals have Free Will. Even so, God "*loves us all, just as a Chef loves all of his dishes or an artist loves all his works.*"

We all instinctively recognize the innocence



of a child, rushing to save it from a speeding car. *"Every act of Life is a transaction,"* and we must offer gratitude for the gifts we have received in order to restore the balance of those transactions. The Koran and Hinduism speak of imbalance as calling for *"someone to restore that balance,"* problem-solvers summoned by times of stress, peacemakers like **Gandhi** and **MLK**.

"Religions are designed to bring balance to the individual. The essence of religion is a peace which comes from living Life without fear."



Where is God when bad things happen? Hinduism and Buddhism have answers for this. There is accountability in the Life Hereafter. That Life may be this Life in the case of reincarnation; if you lead a bad life, your next one will be as something less than

human. Such accountability is a motivating factor for behavior modification.

Religions are not sources of conflict unless we want to pick a fight. Real conflicts are about spiritual or physical space, what you eat, or defense of loved ones. But even there, vegans should be happy for the carnivore's relish.

Since Mike had taken the microphone toward (but not to, it wasn't long enough) the presentation that Ean had to advance, when The President Formerly Known as Prince began speaking, it was to an empty microphone stand. He offered Mike *"Yo! Yes!"* to sign for *Memorial Elementary*. He misidentified this day as **Boyd Craig's** birthday (it isn't even in July).

Mike put in a plug for the next *Parliament of World Religions*; he's trying to raise \$8 million to bring it to Dallas.

John led us in the Four-Way Test and unleashed us at 12:59.



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?

Member NEWS

AWARDS:

Harold Sullivan Award
Chris Parr

Athena Award
Alice Hobbs 2008-09

Fred Moses Award
Richard Butterfly

Business Executive of the Year
Gary Base

Kersey Cane Holder:
Earl Simpkins

Citizen of the Year:
Beth Duncan Webb

Rotary Make Up Website:
www.rotaryclubone.org

New Member Proposals:

Bob Pikna

Classification: Business Consultant

Proposed By: Kirk Bell

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