

Summer
Weekly

Reader

Volume 30, Issue 94 July 25, 2013

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 18th

Jim Gatewood-
"Benny Binion, the Dallas
Vigilantes and Texas
Hold'em Poker."

July 25th

Dr. Stephen Steinlight-
"Comprehensive Immigration
Reform: Good for Americans?
Good for Republicans??"
(Noon-1:05pm meeting time)

August 1st

Jim Lites, President - Dallas
Stars
"Growing a Paying Fan Base"

August 8

Jason Killough
"Plano Family YMCA in the
Community"

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jenkins, Lloyd	July 04
Killough, Jayson	July 04
Dyer, Phil	July 06
Ernst, John	July 07
Akers, Sara	July 10
Shapiro, Howard	July 12
Burke, Earnest	July 14
Bowman, N.	July 15
Bisno, Larry	July 16
McCord, Timothy	July 17
Jackson, Matt	July 22
Monroe, Jim	July 22
Broach, L.B.	July 30



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

RACONTEUR



Sainted Editor is humiliated to report a double error in the last Bulletin. **CAPTAIN KIRK** had suggested a correction of *Crystal Lakes* for the site of golfing, and **Sainted Editor**, ever oblivious to matters of sports, made the correction to the wrong event, thereby compounding the error. **CAPTAIN KIRK** prides himself on amending **Sainted Editor's** sports *faux pas*, but he pretended from the lectern that he could not do so for fear of editorial



retaliation. So he outsourced it to **Alan Feigenbaum**.

PRESIDENT KIRK caught our attention at 12:12, calling upon **UB the Good** for Prayer and **Rick Horne** for the Pledge. ("Thanks, Bob!") **Bob Pikna**, "West Point Class of '76," was credited with Greeting. **KIRK** summoned **Nathan Barbera**, the new and improved **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**, to welcome Visiting Rotarians (of which there were none) and Guests (in abundance).



Nathan introduced **Tino's** guest, **Travis LaGrone**, Past President of Plano Rotary. **Randy Wright** welcomed **Janis Allman** but had to be prompted to introduce Prodigal Son **Satinder**

Baweja. Nathan recognized **Yoram Solomon**, **Gerald Brenc** lauded PWSH Coach **Ralph Hinos**, **Alice Hobbs** bade us welcome prospective member **Jason Kramer**, and **Jeff Frauenheim** brought retired PISD teacher (who worked with Jeff's wife), **Bob Fenton**.

Nathan touted PRC **FANTASY FOOTBALL** saying the group had openings for suckers. After a 2-3 hour draft meeting and payment of a fee (surely not a waged pool), the rest of the season is virtually obligation-free.

Then moved, no doubt, by **Kirk's Mani-festo**, Nathan announced the demise of Classification Talks. Instead, he'd become a roving reporter, interviewing unlucky members. He picked first on **Gary Basham**.



continued on page 2



Calling this segment **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan asked his “*first contestant*” his father’s profession; Gary answered “*Gypsy*” because he travelled a lot, being in construction. Gary admitted to not being a well-behaved child. He played football at Kileen, TX, and accumulated 128 hours “*at several colleges.*” His first job was as an internal auditor for *Texas Instruments* while still a student. Favorite movie? *Michael*. First car? *1951 Chevy coupe*. Favorite beer? *Wheat*. Nathan judged that a girly drink. First joined Rotary in 1976 when **Nathan White, Jr.**, was President. Dropped out but rejoined in 2004. His most memorable Rotarian experience was a drug abuse program in Collin County in 1980. And Gary said that the RI Foundation work is “*still to be done.*”



KIRK awarded a 3-year Attendance pin to Bob Pikna and was yelled at to “*turn around*” by *Scary Bob*. **KIRK** admitted to being a little nervous “*with Bob shooting me.*” Recovering, **HE** presented **Skip Jenkins** with an 18-year pin then mentioned that **Jim Monroe** and **Matt Jackson** were suffering birthdays soon.



Jim Monroe, Rick Horne, **Lynn McLean**, **Bill Wray**, **John Parker**, and Gerald Brence all received their Paul Harris Certificates, brought by “*the lovely Vanna*,” **Lynette**. Bill Wray also picked up his PHF pin. **Ray Huffines** scored his second.

Janis Allman announced an opportunity to participate in the Collin County Archeological Society dig in the ancient ruins of the Carpenter House (16th & Ave. M) while they’re renovating the property. Any finds become the property of the owner.

Alan Feigenbaum wanted everyone to know that the Hendrick Golf Tournament on November 1st will be at **STONEBRIAR** regardless of how wrong the *Weekly Reader* got it last time. Skip Jenkins was credited with sponsoring today’s Golf Social at the *Crystal Lakes* links.



KIRK asked for an explanation of the humiliating loss during the **BATTLE OF THE BADGES**, and Fire Chief **Brian Crawford** told him that Police Chief **Greg Rushin** stuffed the ballot boxes. **KIRK** thanked the volunteers, especially **Kenny Wilson** who chaired the event.

It was mentioned that *Habitat for Humanity* needs one more volunteer for their next barn raising.

John Parker introduced historian and raconteur, **Jim Gatewood**, currently a professor at *Richland College*. Jim writes books and gives lectures on figures and events in Dallas history. Today’s talk was on “*Benny Binion, the Dallas Vigilantes, and Texas Hold’em Poker.*”



Jim began telling tales of **Mark Wayman**, the *Godfather of Las Vegas*. How 18,000 guests crowded Mark’s 83rd birthday celebration while **Willie Nelson** and **Hank Williams** performed. But this was merely context for the Binion story since both arrived in Dallas in 1923. Gangsters all.

As a youth, Benny cut school, never completing a formal education. While fighting a bully, he was about to lose consciousness from strangulation when he pulled a knife and severed his opponent’s hamstring. Word spread that he’d actually killed that **Bill Hobbs**, but as the Sheriff approached, Benny lit out of town on a troop train. By the time it had reached El Paso, he’d made \$600 managing a dice game for the soldiers. He tried to join up, but recruiters wouldn’t take a seasoned gambler.

From El Paso, he crossed the Rio Grande to Juarez, there to take advantage of the Volstead Act that pushed booze storage into Mexico. Benny got 5% of all the traffic. He took the same cut from gun running.



When an argument with a Federal Officer ended in proof that Benny's .38 Colt was superior to the Fed's single action revolver, he was struck by the officer's colleague and awoke in a Mexican jail. He was sprung by Texas Marshall, **Frank Bass**, who told him to flee to Dallas, leaving his Juarez enterprises to the Marshall. Gangsters all. But Bass did give him a letter of (anti-) recommendation to Mafioso **Joe Civello**.



On the strength of that, Benny was put in charge of the Mafia's liquor stash in Dallas. He sold it on the street opposite the Adolphus Hotel. **Warren "Knuckles" Diamond** used Benny as a middleman turning \$5 barrels of beer into \$45 barrels in the Roaring 20s. As Warren was dying of cancer, he bequeathed all his many (illegal) businesses to Benny, who, at age 26, was the #1 gambler in Dallas, owning 27 casinos in the city alone, paying off the Mayor (\$60K) and City Councilmen (\$20K). When Councilman **Felix Washburn** sought a second \$20K on the strength of a threat to tell the FBI, Benny sent him the \$20K in counterfeit currency.

All was well until 1938, when a massive drug bust put Civello in jail. **Sheriff Bill Decker** summoned Benny to "deputize" him to run all drug dealers out of town or face the same fate as Civello. Benny chose discretion. With the help of disgruntled Texas Ranger **Manuel D. Gonzales** (fired by Gov. **Ma Ferguson** for having jailed her embezzling husband, **Jim**), Benny executed his way to a drug-free Dallas. The bodies were deposited in a Collin County barn. Their vigilante actions were confined to drug dealers since booze and prostitution were still in Benny's jurisdiction.



In 1946, **Estes Kefauver** made a deal with the Devil in the form of Jewish Mafia Boss **Meyer Lansky** because he needed Mafia support in his (eventually failed) bid for the White House (Eisenhower was elected handily).

Kefauver's committee was investigating organized crime, but permitted the Mafia to find a state where gambling was legal, Nevada. Benny and **Bugsy Siegel** moved into Las Vegas, but Benny's *Horseshoe Casino* pulled in \$420 per minute, 24 hours a day, and earned Benny a fortune that put Bugsy to shame.



The old Cowboy Killer (so named for his style of executions), bought Montana property from **H.L. Hunt** and lived to a ripe old age of 85.

Jim offered to autograph his books for us for \$30 each, saying that they were easy to write for each was "*low-hanging fruit*."

KIRK gifted him with our Rotary clock, led us in the Four-Way Test, and belled us out at 1:01.



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Satinder Baweja

Janis Allman

Jason Kramer

Yoram Soloman

Travis LaGrone

Ralph Hinos

Bob Fenton

Guest Of

Randy Wright

Randy Wright

Alice Hobbs

Ean Sullivan

Tino Trujillo

Gerald Brence

Jeff Frauenheim

2012 Best Community Organization by the Junior League of Collin County

Children's Theatre
(Sara Egelston Akers)

Citizen of the Year:

Jamie Schell

Outstanding Corporate:

The Shops at Willow Bend
(Octabio & his team)

Proposed Member

Proposed member: Janis Allman

Classification: Apartment owner/operator

Proposed by: Randy Wright

Proposed Member

Proposed member: Jason Kramer

Classification: Chiropractor

Proposed by: Alice Hobbs

Proposed Member

Proposed member: Yoram Solomon

Classification: Technology

Proposed by: Ean Sullivan

AWARDS:

2012 Best Community Partner

Children's Theatre
(Sara Egelston Akers)

Athena Award:

Camille Ussery

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