

Summer
Weekly

Reader

Volume 77, Issue 139, July 31, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 31th

Robin Harwell & Erin Cook -
"It all Starts With the Horse:
How Therapeutic Riding
Rebuilds pathways to the
Brain."

August 7

Elizabeth McCormick -
"What being an Army
Blackhawk Helicopter Pilot
Taught me about Life on the
Ground."

August 21

Nancy Voith -
"How to Grow Your Career
Withing the Marketplace's
New Rules."

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Skip Jenkins	Jul 04
Phil Dyer	Jul 06
John Ernst	Jul 07
Sara Akers	Jul 10
Howard Shapiro	Jul 12
Earnest Burke	Jul 14
Dave Bowman	Jul 15
Larry Bisno	Jul 16
Matt Jackson	Jul 22
Jim Monroe	Jul 22
L.B. Broach	Jul 30

Texas



Watchdog

B Y RIGHTS, Howard Shapiro should have said this *sotto voce*, but he didn't, leading ~~Sainted~~ Editor to believe he was meant to overhear. Howard presented his **birthday check** to **Karen Sheldon**, proudly proclaiming it to be the first such offering he'd ever made! And that's understandable since it is the antithesis of a billable hour.



ROTARY WINE APPRECIATION FELLOWSHIP

5:30-8:30, August 24, 2014
Ken & Lori Roberts' Home
\$20 BYO bottle of wine
RSVP: Lori.ltr@gmail.com



President Wonderful

gently summoned the unruly mob to order at 12:15, graciously permitting **Jan Sullivan** to give the Invocation and **Rick Horne** to lead us in the Pledge. ("Thanks, *Bob!*") No one received the nod for Greeting, but **Kelly Palmer** was resurrected for **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** duty.



Midway through the proceedings, Kelly was obliged to call upon **Randy Wright** to



tutor us yet again in the etiquette of guest introductions. Since this is the **Geriatric Club of Plano**, we are not to commence our welcomes with the guest's name but rather name them at the end, so that members' short term memories won't be challenged!

Kelly complemented Randy on his plaid shorts and moved to the business at hand.



Jeff Frauenheim introduced his wife, **Carol**. **Randy Brodhead** fed daughter **Kristin**. **Jamee Jolly** hogged the spotlight, introducing PCoC intern **Karolina Pazdrazdis**, 2013 Community Partner of the Year, **Angie Sifferman**, and even **Sarah Akers'** guest, **Katie Gimenez**. Earnest bade us welcome **Dennis Hogg**.



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Chris Phillips introduced wife, **Cathy**, and **Bob Pikna** welcomed **Cami Dean**.



Kelly fêted Visiting Rotarians **George Elwell** (*Sunrise*) and **Shaheen Salam** (*Metro*). Shaheen introduced her grandson, **Abdullah**.

Guest Angie Sifferman rose to announce her successor(s), our own **Jo Via** and **Jessica Jackson** in the role of 2014 Community Partner(s) of the Year for the Plano Balloon Festival! There were unruly comments from the unruly crowd.

George Elwell said that he was “glad to see (Earnest) has just as much control” over the meeting as he had as the *Sunrise* President. Then he announced the 2nd Annual 9/11 event to be held (paradoxically) on 9/10 and to include retired NYPD Officers. George was seeking sponsorships. Tickets to the event are \$20.

Earnest announced an “awesome” **Birthday Buck\$** totaling \$600 for July. While they were “moving the bar,” it’ll have to be tripled to beat that pledged for November. So they’re 1/3 of the way to scaring the bar.

He told us that 63 of us have completed the Club Survey, about a 50% return. (Not good for a service club.) And we’ll (or at least 50% of us) be receiving “feedback for the next steps” anon.

Alice Hobbs drew the *Black Jelly Bean of Introduction* since **David McWhorter** had planned on being AWOL (but was, in fact, present). Here are her scrawled notes:



Dave Lieber

I'm honored to introduce our speaker ^, who has all the attributes of a great Rotarian. Our speaker could easily be one.

If you've read his Dallas Morning News Watchdog column, you know how it meets the Four-Way Test.

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to All Concerned?

Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

And you will discover that Dave Lieber also meets our 5th test: Is it Humorous?

Then from the National Speakers Association she read:

Dave also co-founded one of North Texas' largest children's charities, Summer Santa, which serves thousands of children each year through an all-volunteer service.

For this, he won the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award as the columnist whose work produced positive effects on the lives of readers.

Dave was so impressed by Randy's oration that he offered to turn the floor over to him. And the stroking didn't stop at Randy. Holding aloft a copy of the *Weekly Reader*, he praised *Sainted Editor* for having an agile Right Brain in spite of being a mathematical chemist. *Sainted Editor* said, “I try to be well-rounded.” Dave shot back, “I see that extends to your haircut as well.”



Indeed, much of the following 1/2 hour was devoted to feeding the egos of his audience by using those he'd met as fodder in his presentation. On his receipt of the Coveted Rotary Clock, Dave thanked “*Mr. Wonderful*,” giving Earnest pause.

He said, in Texas, he always gets asked the same questions, starting with, “Boy, where you from?” That should be the State Motto, imprinted on licenses. When the interrogator gets his answer, inevitably the response is, “*NEW YORK CIIIIITY? Get a rope!*” However, today was the first time he was asked that by (**John Caldwell**) someone from Manhattan!



The second question is always, “What church do you go to?” It's a trick question as well.” When questioners get a negative response, they ask, “Well, don't you believe in the Lord?” To which Dave explains that he doesn't go to church because he's Jewish. One stunned victim, trying desperately to connect asked, “Well, do you know Harry Cohen?” Dave had to admit not, but added, “It's a big tribe.”

The 3rd question is likely to be, “*Do you have any children.*” When that doesn’t get a satisfactory response, a Texan is likely to give up on Dave with, “*Good luck to you, Yankee.*”

Dave’s problem is that he must connect with his audience in three columns a week, writing about what THEY find humorous. His first attempt, questioning the oxymoron, **Chicken-Fried Steak**, earned him much abuse from readers, including a letter from a **Billy Joe Bob Earl Smith**.

He’s concluded Texans are “*mostly Republican, Baptist, married conservatives,*” and it only took him HOW many years? So they have no use for “*a liberal, divorced, New York Jew.*”

His other column, WATCHDOG, is easier sledding. He takes on banks, phone companies, anyone out to scam us. His indignant columns about the DPS fingerprinting every license applicant resulted in cessation of the practice, if not an apology.

Since Texas is “*a really complicated place,*” Dave studied up on it at the Public Library. Asking a librarian if she had any books on Texas elicited an un-librarian laugh and pointed him in the direction of the full wall of tomes. His first was *The Alamo*, chronicling the origins of Texas. 2nd was the *History of the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show*, which he was amazed to discover “*had nothing to do with Wall Street.*”

Next followed a book about *Line Dancing*, and finally the most useful reference, *How to Talk Like a Texan*. (Although in New York City, that would be *How to Talk As a Texan*.)

He learned that “*he’s funning us*” isn’t a compliment. He learned that Texans are “*always fixin’.*” And that “*y’all*” is singular. He was amused to discover the plural to be “*all y’all!*” But the best was last: “*Bless your heart,*” which is not a blessing.

His editor educated him on driving etiquette: not to use his finger or he’d get it shot off. He broke himself of the NY habit and has been “*finger-free*” for a couple of decades now.

Deciding he had to dress the part, he went to *Cavender’s* and made the mistake of asking for a “*cowboy costume.*” When the clerk pried himself off the ceiling, Dave was outfitted with

the obligatory black hat, snap on shirt, and *dungarees*? That last was translated to “*coversalls,*” which he expected to find on an elder like Randy when he’s at *Sears* on Saturdays. “*Is that irreverent enough for you, Ken?*”



With “*a buckle as big as my butt,*” he sized himself up as “*the Jewish Jessie James.*” So he was almost ready to go bull riding! All he needed was another book. He entered a rodeo put on by a Baptist Church, and asked why there were five burly men assigned to settle him on his mount. One said, “*You’ll see.*”

He took the proper stance, the gate opened, and nothing happened. The steer was stunned by this foreign rider into immobility for the obligatory 8 seconds. A targeted slap by one of his handlers sent both bull and Dave flying...in opposite directions, and thereafter he was in danger of making “*too big a deal about his 1.6 seconds*” of airborne travel.

Dave entreated the Lord to send him “*a wise, mature Texas woman,*” and lo, within the week, a Women’s Club President invited him to meet “*the perfect woman I’ve picked out for you.*” She came with two kids and **Sadie**, The Dog from Hell, who, abused by a previous male owner, took it out on Dave. After six months of dating, he married “*the girl of my dreams who lives with the dog of my nightmares.*”

He offered hints from **WATCHDOG NATION**. “*Ask a BUNCH of questions.*” Google is your ally. “*Use **STARBUCKS’** Secret Size: **Short.***” Or the free **sample** size. Or the shot glass **sample frappachino** size. (& buy his book)

Thanking Randy “*for shutting up,*” Dave retired from the fray, while **Mr. Wonderful** led us in the Four-Way Test and released us at 1:03.

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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

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Randy Broadhead

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