



Spring  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 118, Issue 178 June 18, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### June 18th

Diane Reeve -  
"The Health Benefits of  
Martial Arts"

### June 25th

Earnest Burke -  
"2014-2015 President's  
Final Meeting"

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Frauenheim	Jun 01
Charles Milby	Jun 07
Blair Ritchey	Jun 08
Mark Waterbury	Jun 08
Mark Geller	Jun 09
H. Wayne Hendrick	Jun 09
Bradley Keith	Jun 12
Bob Bauer	Jun 19



## Judge Not

**G**IFTERS are the most interesting folks our speakers bring. U.S. District Court Judge **Sam Lindsay** had his clerk, Ms. **Christina Powers**, in attendance. Almost fresh out of law school, she had the bright, eager eyes of a student still learning the ropes. *Sainted Editor* appreciates that.

**President Wonderful** commenced the festivities at 12:12, empowering **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** to offer the Invocation and **Alan Feigenbaum** to lead us in the Pledge. **David Bowman** was credited with Greeting, and "stand-in" **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** (soon to be President) **Kelly Palmer** did the honors, introducing a Rotarian visiting from Plano Metro, Plano Assistant Police Chief **Ed Drain**.



**Howard Matson** welcomed **Debbie Watson's** guest, **Sonny Call Me Ismael**. And **Jason Rice** bade us greet perennial politico, **Matt Shaheen**.

Earnest bribed the Club with cake to sing **HB2U** for the Birthday Boys and Girls of June.

**Randy Wright** called **Eugene Murray** and his sponsor, **Lynette Pieper**, to the podium for an opportunity to chastise the Club while inducting Gene. He said he was transitioning out of "Mr. Nice Guy" when it comes to encouraging the enroll-

ment of new recruits. That hasn't worked as well as his promised "bad cop" approach.



Membership is in danger of falling below 110, so he is whipping up support for a return to the halcyon days of 120. Rant exhausted, Randy inducted the environmental consultant found by "the nice lady." He waxed eloquent about Rotary's founding and foundation and noted that any club in the World will welcome Gene for make-ups.

**Reedy Spigner** muttered something about a fine for such a wordy induction.

**Janis Allman** had a cautionary tale of Mexico mailings. In trying to send a get-well note to **Tino Trujillo**, she discovered that his (Mexican) ZIP code sends mail to North Carolina unless **MEXICO** appears in large letters. (Such are the machinations of automatic mail sorters.) Also the inclusion of a Get Well card raises the postage to \$1.20, and a return stamped envelope requires an *International Reply Coupon* (or Mexican postage). She is mailing the *Weekly Reader* to Tino, but, if we know his email address, *Sainted Editor* can send it to him electronically.



Tino Trujillo  
Rio Cauhauyana 516  
Col. Plazetas  
Colima, Col. **MEXICO** 28050



**Olin Jaye** and Kelly Palmer tag-teamed us regarding our July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting wherein we will host all five Plano Rotaries to hear U.S. Rep. **Sam Johnson** (R, Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> District) speak on the meaning of Independence Day. Kelly



pointed us to flyers on our tables advertising the event, which he hopes will find all of us in attendance. He said we'd try to cooperate more with our comrades, hosting joint meetings and supporting one another's projects.

Reedy Spigner rose to introduce Judge Lindsay, a friend of many years. A graduate of UT Law School, Judge Lind-



say served in the Dallas City Attorney's office until 1997 when **Pres. Clinton** appointed him to be the first African-American in Dallas' Federal Court. He is married with three daughters and one grandchild.

Judge Lindsay thanked Earnest for his long-standing invitation and promised us that he lives by the Four-Way Speaker's Test:

1. Stand up
2. Speak up
3. Shut up
4. Sit down

So we were assured that, at some point, we would get to go home today.

His topic: *An Emerging National Crisis: the Disconnect Between Citizens and the Police*, was "chosen a long time ago, but if the issue is not handled, it will rip the country apart."

He prefaced his talk with a disclaimer that he is "grateful for the opportunities offered by this country," but he recalls asking his history professor, "Where are the dynasties of the past?" He was told that most only lasted 2-300 years, and that most failed not from without but from within; they essentially "imploded." It was not lost on us that the U.S. is within that range.

9 August 2014: the execution of **Michael Brown** was more a "training issue" than "the unjustified use of deadly force." And he cited a counter-example: an officer chased

a suspect into a muddy field in West Dallas, and, because he couldn't open the suspect's car door, he abandoned his training and put down his weapon, whereupon the perp shot him with an assault rifle. The officer died on the scene and the perpetrator was caught, tried, and executed, thus ending two lives where obedience to training would have meant no one would have died.

July 2014: Staten Island, NY.

**Eric Garner** was suspected of the misdemeanor of selling cigarettes when a dozen officers escalated their encounter and one used an illegal choke hold as confirmed by the medical examiner and millions on **YouTube**. Indeed, new technology (cell phone video) has brought new evidence to the investigation of police misconduct.



April 2015: Charleston, SC. **Walter Scott** was executed while running from an officer. He was not suspected of a capital offense, so, as per the Supreme Court decision in *Tennessee vs. Garner*, deadly force was not justified. Permitting the escape of such a suspect is less an offense than killing him (as emptying one's revolver into his back might reasonably be expected to do).

Just this month: McKinney, TX. A 15-year-old girl is slammed to the ground (and her peers threatened at gunpoint) in conduct characterized by the officer's Chief as "*indefensible and out-of-control.*"

So "what can be done?"

Although it is a national problem, Judge Lindsay is addressing the issue at the grassroots. He's asking us as "city leaders" to recognize that "*real problems exist between the citizens and the police.*" Too many "*live in the 51<sup>st</sup> State: the State of Denial.*"

"*The sad part*" is that the actions of one or two officers taint an entire department. All it takes is one rotten apple. Of the 12 officers dispatched to the McKinney brouhaha, 11 acted responsibly, but only the 12<sup>th</sup> is remembered. "*We must start real dialogue between the Black community and the police. And the issues are not always pleasant.*"

An alcoholic remains an alcoholic as long as (s)he is in denial. Half the solution is recognition of the problem. The City must "*realize there is a problem.*" It must "*hold bad officers responsible for violating policies or laws,*" and the Code of Silence that shields fellow officers from such prosecution must be broken. "*The Mayor, City Manager, and Council*" must act. This will put them at odds with policy unions and associations; such actions will not provoke 100% approval, but they must do their job. And they can start by "*listening to the valid concerns of the Black community.*" New technology means that the officer's word is no longer automatically taken over the community's. Those differences must be addressed.





Sensitivity training is, of course, a good start, but *“increasing community policing builds trust.”* Since the majority of Blacks fear the police, they don’t report crime. If trust is built, then crime reporting follows.

It is a two-way street. He cautions Black youth to *“respect the police”* and to *“know the complaint process.”* If necessary, *“file a lawsuit,”* but you’ll never *“win a battle on the streets.”* Address issues within the law.

Police departments are taking steps. Many have purchased body cameras even with their attendant privacy concerns.

If you wait until the problem arises in your community, it is too late: the trust is lost. This *“is the greatest country in the World,”* because the people, through united action, *“make the Nation great.”* Judge Lindsay believes police misconduct and its attendant mistrust is more of a concern than ISIS.

We have the ability to address the issue. All it takes is a change of mindset, and that is possible as is evidenced by recent events. 20 years ago, no mainstream support existed for same sex marriage, but all it took was for a single outspoken conservative, **Bush’s** Solicitor General, **Theodore Olsen**, to speak in favor of that, and it will now soon be decided by the Supreme Court.

Judge Lindsay apologized, *“I hope you’re not too upset”* but his talk, *“but, if so, you’re listening to me!”*

David Bowman cited the *“lack of family stability”* as a contributing factor, and Judge Lindsay wholeheartedly agreed.

**Kenny Wilson** pointed out that *“if I was pulled over with whiskey and a gun in my car,”* he can afford to beat the rap with a good attorney. Judge Lindsay joked that poor people shouldn’t carry weapons and intoxicants but did concede that *“justice is affected by class and money.”*

Ean Sullivan said that society isn’t patient, so problems like those in McKinney must be addressed expeditiously. Judge Lindsay

pointed out that whereas only the officer’s attorney has claimed that he’s repentant, he has, nevertheless, resigned. The judge worries that he is now eligible to carry on behaving badly in his next job. Investigation must be thorough.

**CAPTAIN KIRK Bell** fears the secularization of society and its concomitant effect of moral decline. He asked *“Where are the strong Black leaders?”* men of faith, to guide Black youth in *“strengthening Black families.”* Judge Lindsay said that his *“megachurch”* has a *“Men’s Fraternity”* that speaks to such issues.

Kelly Palmer said that the McKinney HOA called the police to eject intruders. Judge Lindsay emphasized that he was *“not condoning illegal behavior.”* The HOA acted responsibly, summoning police when the intruders refused to leave. And, if they persisted in the face of police presence, they should have been arrested, but if laws are broken *“police cannot escalate the problem,”* but rather must solve it within the guidelines of departmental policy.

In the City Attorney’s office and on the bench, he has been *“defending the police for years.”* But technology now informs decisions, and the *“goal is to de-escalate”* confrontations.

Earnest coached us to recite *“highly-coveted perpetual calendar, good into perpetuity,”* but we failed him again. He commented that the *Boys to Men* group at the Douglass Center has been working at these issues.

After leading us in the Four-Way Test, he decommissioned our gathering at 1:08.



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