



# WINTER Weekly

# Reader

Volume 188, Issue 253, March 2nd, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## Black History Drama

### NEWS FLASH!

#### Plano Rotary's 25<sup>th</sup> 4 Way Speech Contest

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Plano Rotary Club held its 25<sup>th</sup> 4 way Speech Contest. We had students from PISD speech classes, PISD AVID classes, John Paul II, and home schools. We also had nine judges and helpers from Rotary. Here are the results:

- 1 **Caleb Cummings** Apollos Speech & Debate (Homeschool)
- 2 **Sachi Nayak** Plano Senior
- 3 **Eden Mackie** Apollos Speech and Debate (Homeschool)
- 4 **Aisha Abbasi** Plano East



### TURNOUT was light for our Black History Month

Extravaganza disappointingly. But a good part of that was due to our recent defections (but **Ean & Randy** had returned for **BHM**). We must redouble our recruitment!

**King David** left off composing for the **Book of Psalms** long enough to call us to order at 12:12, conferring upon **Blair Ritchey** the *imprimatur* for the Invocation followed by **Kelly Palmer** with the Pledge. **Howard Matson** greeted and, since **Jason Kramer** was AWOL, **David** himself assumed the role of **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**.



**John Caldwell** announced the need for two more judges at the following Saturday's 4-Way Test Speech contest (see above).

**Alex Johnson** announced a **CANDIDATE RALLY** at his home the following Tuesday on behalf of **Kaci Prince** (running for City Council).

We had oodles of guests today to help fill the empty tables. **John Caldwell** brought



**Ross Shamshiri**. **Lenny Schwartz** welcomed back **Randy Wright**. **Kelly Palmer** lost \$5 sponsoring **Al Valente** (City Council candidate). **Earnest Burke** fed wife **Sherry**. **Earl Simpkins** did the same for **Barbara** and threw **Fred** and **Mazzie Moses**



into the bargain. The redoubtable **Myrtle Hightower** welcomed **Betsy Coffey**,



**Wyndy Jones-Reddick**, **Pamela Ziegler**, **James Jones**, **Sally Magnuson**, and **Kathy Kuddes**!



**Earnest** announced that the program was done in collaboration with his "brother," **Lenny**, and the two tag-teamed us.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 2**

**Abe Minkara**

*Mark Cuban Companies*

*(including Shark Tank)*

**Mar 9**

**Earnest Burke**

*MLK*

**Mar 16**

**Plano Children's Theater**

*Sara Akers & Darrell Rodenbaugh*



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**Marshall Johnson** Mar 10

**Jamie Schell** Mar 18

**Bruce Glasscock** Mar 31



continued on page 2



*make her fries again, but this time, I decided to cut the potatoes extra thin and fry them for extra long until they were hard and crispy, just to spite her. To my surprise, she absolutely loved them!"*



The first person they introduced us to was Dr. **Carter G. Woodson**, "the Father of Black History Month." He was the "one of the first African-American to earn a doctorate degree, and he also founded the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History."

Blacks first came to America as indentured servants to European immigrants; earning their freedom, they became land-owners. But soon Blacks arrived in shackles, and slavery became the order of the day until 1862 and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, enshrined in the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1865. **LBJ** ended Jim Crow laws in 1964 with the Civil Rights Act. "...so sit back and enjoy learning something new as we take you through the centuries of Black History."

Narrator, **Christina Sexton**: "The color of the skin is in no way connected with strength of mind or intellectual powers.' These are the words of the scientist **Benjamin Banneker**. Having been born in 1731, Banneker lived through most of the 18<sup>th</sup> century."

**Denise Cuellar** (as Banneker): "I educated myself in astronomy and mathematics to play a critical role (as a city planner) in the deciding points of the nation's capitol." My almanac included "information on literature, the tides, and medicine" as well as "my thoughts on civil rights. I invented...the Reverse Mortgage..." to protect "many elderly homeowners from losing their estates..."



Christina: "...Whenever I crave junk food, I want salty things like peanuts or potato chips.' ...**Tyra Banks** obviously likes her potato chips, and really, who doesn't...Take a moment to honor this great snack and **George Crum**, the man who invented it."

**Chandelyn Moody** (as Crum): "I was working at my restaurant when a snobby lady sent her French fries back for the third time. Annoyed and frustrated, I started to



**Andrew Nicholas** (as **Bert Williams**): "I had no idea of the doors which were opened for me when **Florenz Ziegfeld** hired me for his Follies in 1910. When his white actors threatened to quit, rather than perform on stage with a black man. Ziegfeld told them to feel free to go. I was the first writer, composer, and producer of Black work for the Broadway stage. When I asked for a martini, the bartender looked at me and said, 'For you, that'll be \$1000.' I pulled out my wallet, laid out five \$1000 bills, and said, 'I'll take five.'"



**Alexa Sananikone** (as **Ethel Waters**): "The words of my song, Stormy Weather, always flow through my head. It isn't [the song] that put me on the map. That would be my rendition of St. Louis Blues, which I did in a soft, subtle style that distinguished me from the other performers of my time, who all sang with an open, sweeping style. 'I never was a child. I never was cuddled or liked or understood by my family.' I try to prevent those hardships from turning my heart blue. I mean, look at me now! I'm an accomplished singer who's had 3 songs inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame..."



Andrew Nicholas (as **Ralph Bunche**): "Before the [Palestine] Armistice Agreement had even been signed, I optimistically had special memorial plates made for each of the leaders in the negotiations. Although, I must admit, when one of those leaders asked me what I would have done if no agreement had been reached, I couldn't help but answer that 'I would have broken the plates over [their] damned heads.' Luck-





ily, I didn't have to do that, and I received a Nobel Peace Prize for my work in that region. I believe that everyone should have equal rights, no matter their race or creed, and I'm proud to have helped bring us one step closer to that dream."

Chandelyn [as **Maya Angelou**]: "Many know I have had a rough past. Through all of my mistakes, I have written poems that have helped women and men find confidence in themselves. I paved the way for amazing people well known today, including **Oprah Winfrey**.



I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please.  
And to a man  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees."



Alexa [as **Annie Easley**]: "I guess you could say that I'm pretty good at math. That is, if you count being a human calculator for **NASA** and writing the computer code that has now been used in over 220 launches as 'pretty good.' Plus I was doing this as an African American woman in the 1960's, a time when it wasn't great to be either of those things. Like my mother always said, 'You can be anything you want to, but you do have to work for it.'"

Denise [as **Patricia Bath**]: "I won't brag about my underappreciated intelligence, I mean, who else can take her research abroad to Europe, Germany, Paris, and England? That is where I nurtured my research of laser science to soon go into fixing the eyes of other people, while the difference of what I faced in America fixed my own sight. I was both the first woman and first black woman ophthalmologist to be on UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. I founded and discovered my own device and technique



for cataract surgery that's still used today...so you may have your eyes thanks to me."

Earnest: "Throughout the history of America, African Americans were instrumental in the development of this great nation. The ability to seize the opportunity to celebrate the great accomplishments made in this country by African-Americans and others is an opportunity to open our minds to become a more perfect nation, embracing, with inclusion, the fabric of our nation. '**E pluribus Unum**' Out of the many, we are One."

Lenny: "Let's give it up for [the presenters], and behind the scenes, pulling the whole play together with her incredible writing, **Jillian Walker**. And none of this would have been possible without **Lance Morse**, their faculty director." Lenny was to have written the program, but "the students took over, exploring the amazing achievements of Black community."

Earnest said that he wants feedback from the audience at 972-816-8792, Lenny's phone! He then turned the mic over to Myrtle, who said she was "happy to be here with Rotarians and Friends. This was a fine program." Plano Rotary Club "was the first to do this" at the insistence of **Ray Huffines**. Myrtle praised **PISD** and **Sarah Watkins** and said she was "proud it's in this Club," making other clubs jealous. She thanked Earnest.

**King David** distributed desk organizers, led us in the 4-Way Test, and closed the meeting.



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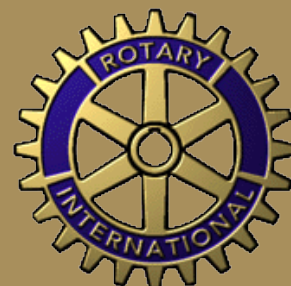
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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Sherry Burke

Al Valente

Barbara Simpkins

Fred Moses

Mazie Moses

Ross Shamshiri

Randy Wright

Pastor Sam

James Jones

### Guest of

Earnest Burke

Kelly Palmer

Earl Simpkins

Earl Simpkins

Earl Simpkins

John Caldwell

Lenny Schwartz

Myrtle Hightower

Myrtle Hightower

## Guests & Visiting Rotarians, cont.

### Guest

Pamela Zeigler-Petty

Wyndy Jones-Reddick

Betsy Coffey

Sally Magnuson

Kathy Kuddes

### Visiting Rotarian

Ean Sullivan

### Guest of

Myrtle Hightower

Myrtle Hightower

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