

Winter  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 9, Issue 27, March 1, 2012

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com



## Myrtle's Follies

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 3/1 Tom Leppert- U.S. Senate Candidate
- 3/8 Collin College Nursing Students
- 3/15 Ted Cruz, U.S. Senate Candidate
- 3/22 Dallas Arboretum "Chihuly in Nature" by Kathleen Cunningham
- 3/29 Simple Sleep Services, John Truitt

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Benjamin Criste	3/1
Marshall Johnson	3/10
Chris Henry	3/11
Myrtle Hightower	3/11
Jamie Schell	3/18
John Pittman	3/24
George Wong	3/28
Louise Davis	3/31
Bruce Glasscock	3/31

**S**ainted Editor must apologize to both **Camille Ussery** and **Karla Oliver**. Camille was, no doubt, terrified to learn from the last *Weekly Reader* that she was in the line of succession to the exalted

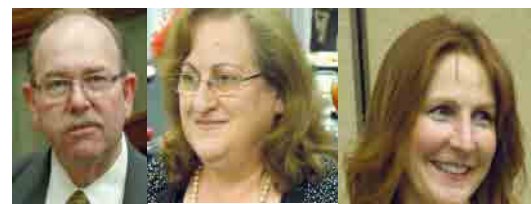


leadership of *Plano Rotary*. Karla was, no doubt, miffed to learn that she had been passed over for the same onerous challenge. Prince John had admonished Sainted Editor about his inadvertent swap, but, with the plenitude of editorial changes to the last newsletter, that one got overlooked. So apologies to both worthies, and Camille, it'll come to you in time, I fear.



Duke Schwartz belled the convocation to order at 12:10, anticipating a full program for Black History Month. Lenny persuaded **Ean Sullivan** to give the convocation's invocation followed by a beautiful rendering of the Lord's Prayer by **W.T. Greer**. The Pledge of Allegiance fell to **Chris Henry**. ("Thanks, Bob!") And Lenny gave **Dave McWhorter** credit for greeting.

**CAPTAIN KIRK** stood in for sergeant jenkins and welcomed our cruise-load of Visiting Rotarians and



Guests. We welcomed **Terry Box** (McKinney Noon), running for Sheriff as the incumbent, **Angela Miner** (N. Texas Pioneer), **Missy Bender** (Plano Metro), **Ed Drain** and **Helen Macey** (Plano West), **Greg Rushin** (Plano Sunrise), and **Drinda Randall** (5810). There were so many guests of **Myrtle Hightower** that **KIRK** simply asked the movers and shakers of Plano's African-American community to stand and be applauded by the Club. The complete list is given elsewhere within.



But others had brought guests as well. **Earl Simpkins** brought **Alice** and **Barbara Simpkins**. **KIRK** hosted **Ben Matthews**.





**Judge Johnny** brought his “bodyguard,” **Lawrence Mann**. **Ben Criste** introduced **R.J. Tang**. [skip jenkins](#) welcomed **Pam Little** *in absentia*. **John Priest** introduced wife **Anita**. And the Club hosted **John Parker**. **Cary Israel** brought Collin College maven **Trudy**.



A Perfect Attendance pin went to **Chris Henry** (2).

Lenny exhorted us all to congratulate Rotary on its 107<sup>th</sup> birthday. There was even a cake! Given a captive audience, he couldn't resist a bit of advertising, telling them and us that on March 1<sup>st</sup> we would hear from **Tom Leppart** (former Mayor of Dallas) running for the U.S. Senate. Ever fair and even-handed, the Club would also hear from **Ted Cruz**, Tom's opponent, running on a Tea Party platform.



Lenny congratulated **Carrolyn Moebius** on her birthday, but, the soul of discretion, he mentioned not which birthday this would be.



Although we knew the day was Myrtle's, **Earnest Burke** was Master of Ceremonies for our celebration of *Black History Month*. Having evolved from *Negro History Week*, founded by **Carter Woodson** in 1926, it developed its current title during America's Bicentennial in 1976. Earnest told us it is an educational opportunity which fosters information begetting appreciation begetting mutual respect begetting love.



The first element of the program was a keynote address by the National President of the *Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.*, Brigadier General (ret.) **Leon Johnson**. A 33-year veteran of the Air Force, Gen. Johnson was Vice Commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He has logged over 3,500 hours in tactical fighters, the A-37 and the A-10 “*Warthog*.” He flew interdiction sorties in Bosnia, and, following 911, he headed up the



Pentagon's Air Force Crisis Action Team. As a UPS and a TWA pilot, he flew Boeing 727s. As of last year, he was awarded a Doctorate in Humane Letters by *Tuskegee University* and a position on the Board of Governors of the Civil Air Patrol. He is serving a two-year term as President of the *Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.*



He thanked Myrtle for her generous 15-minute allotment; he couldn't help giggling her for giving him only two minutes last year. He said that even the White House gave him 10.

Although he was here to help us recognize the contributions of all minorities to American Life and Liberty, he would have been remiss if he did not

mention the opportunity we had to contribute to the *Tuskegee Airmen*. While the 13,000+ participants in the *Tuskegee Experience* have dwindled as the years have claimed them, anyone is invited to join TAI at

[www.tuskegeearmen.org](http://www.tuskegeearmen.org)

He introduced us to the first soldier to die in the Revolutionary War's *Boston Massacre*, **Crispus Attucks**. He was memorialized via a monument on the Boston Commons in 1888.



Another gentleman who “*set an example for others to follow which resulted in the birth of our nation*” was **Bernardo Galvez**, the Governor of Spanish Louisiana, who led a force of 7,000 Hispanics against the British in the South. He secured the equivalent of \$150M from Cuba for **General Washington's** troops, and he supplied Washington with 12 regiments leading to the *Battle of Yorktown* which led to **Cornwallis's** surrender. 4,000 Hispanics were killed, wounded, or captured during that battle, meaning that the birth of the nation had a “*heavy Spanish accent*.” Galvez was honored as the namesake of Galveston and its Bay.

**Sacagawea** and **Slave York** aided **Lewis** and **Clarke** in their expedition to map the Northwest Territories. Her Shoshone husband had been recruited as the expedition's guide, but he failed at it, leaving Sacagawea to serve while carrying her *papoose*. York was pressed into service as a cook, but, by the time they reached the Pacific, Clarke said of him, “*He was a valuable ambassador of peace and goodwill with the Indian tribes we met*.” Neither was paid for their services, and York was returned to slavery. He was eventually freed and set up a business in St. Louis.

**Dorie Miller** was a cook on the Battleship *Virginia* who took over for a slain machine gunner. He was awarded the



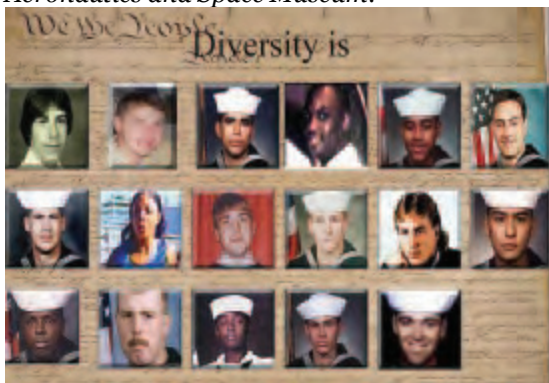


Navy Cross by Admiral Nimitz and died two years later when the Carrier *Lipscomb* was torpedoed. Like others before him, he led by example and did what had to be done.

**Donald S Lopez, Sr.,** was a decorated pilot in the Pacific War, credited with five Japanese fighter kills, one from a P-51, the same



fighter chronicled in **RED TAILS**, the current movie about the Tuskegee Airmen. Not content to rest on his laurels, Donald was an engineer for the *Apollo* and *SpaceLab* programs and created the *Aeronautics and Space Museum*!



Of course, his talk would not be complete without a reference to the Tuskegee Airmen. He spoke of the deployed fighter squadrons as well as the undeployed bomber squadrons; the War ended before the bombers saw action. While “dramatic,” **RED TAILS** doesn’t try for accurate history. General Johnson referred us instead to

the documentary *Double Victory* on the History Channel.

We were treated to tales of the Navaho Code Talkers, the Chinese laborers who built the Transcontinental Railroad, and General Johnson concluded with the diversity of the 17 sailors killed aboard the USS *Cole* in the 2000 terrorist attack at Yemen.

He said, “*Freedom is a dream for which we die,*” and, “**We the People** keep us from becoming terrorists.”

Earnest continued the theme, citing African-American pioneers like **Dr. Charles Drew**, who developed blood plasma, saving countless lives on the battlefield and at home. He fêted Congresswomen **Shirley Chisholm** and **Barbara Jordan** and educators **Booker T. Washington** and **Mary Bethune**. From the audience, he pointed out Assistant Police Chief **Ed Drain**, postmaster **Arthur L. Young**, and businessman (and Head of Collin County Republican Party) **Fred Moses**. He cited noted Blacks who had graduated from PISD, among them **Dr. Chris Howard**, actress **Candice Patton**, **Seeley Thomas**, and **Justin Blaylock**.

**Sarika Pride**, Principal of *Memorial Elementary*, was called up to receive a Plano Rotary Club check for \$1,000 to facilitate attendance of fifth graders at a PSO concert held especially for them. She read us comments from students who had participated in previous PSO concerts.



“**Doc**” **Gibbs** read us a history of Blacks in Rotary. The International organization opened to them in 1982. He and **Richmond Punch** celebrated the late **Etta James**, **Don Cornelius**, and **Whitney Houston** with several songs, *Temptation*, *My Girl*, and *I Will Always Love You*. Lenny invited them to play us out with Myrtle’s favorite, *Down Home Blues*.

Lenny thanked Gen. Johnson, Earnest, and Myrtle (to a standing ovation). Then after concluding that birthday girls Carolyn Moebius was 22 and Karla Oliver hadn’t yet been born, he led us in the Four-Way Test and belled us out at 1:07.

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The Plano Rotary Club

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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?

### Guests & Visiting Rotarians

#### Guest

Larry Frauenheim  
John Parker  
Joe Foor  
Travis LaGrone  
Kristen Brodhead  
Jan Sullivan

#### Visiting Rotarians

None

#### Guest Of

Jeff Frauenheim  
Plano Rotary  
Plano Rotary  
Tino Trullio  
Randy Brodhead  
Ean Sullivan

#### Home Club

### Member NEWS

#### AWARDS:

**Harold Sullivan Award**

Randy Wright

**Athena Award**

Rebecca Caso

**Fred Moses Award**

Richard Butterly

**Business Executive of the Year**

Gary Base

#### Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

#### Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

#### Rotary Make Up Website:

[www.rotaryclubplano.org](http://www.rotaryclubplano.org)

#### New Member Proposals:

Pam Little

Classification: Construction

Proposed by: Lloyd “Skip” Jenkins