

Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 66, Issue 128, May 1, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 1

Yoram Solomon
"Children & Entrepreneurship"

May 8

No Meeting - Please attend
District 5810 Conference

May 15

Robert Epstein -
"The Russian/Crimea
Military Crisis"

May 22

"A Memorial Day Holiday
Celebration with the UNT
Music School."

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ray Huffines	May 01
John Priest	May 05
Chris Parr	May 06
Jason Rice	May 09
Gerald Brence	May 13
Mike McCullough	May 15
Eugene Champagne	May 18
Kelly Palmer	May 20
Robert Epstein	May 21
Karen THunert	May 24
Mary Jo Dean	May 27
Lenny Schwartz	May 27
Chris Phillips	May 28
Wally Reed	May 29
Randy Wright	May 29



WHEN **Sainted Editor** demonstrated the love-making techniques of the Africa Lion in his travel video, the Robertses reported the salutary effects of the tutorial. Today's speakers advocated enhanced physical intimacy in marriage. **Ken**, I don't want to know.

PRESIDENT BELL channeled **J. Arthur Rank** at 12:16, summoning **DG Ean SANTA Sullivan** (shouldn't he be giving gifts?) for the Invocation



and **Scary Bob Epstein** for the Pledge. **Mike Baldwin** was credited with Greeting and **SERGEANT MAUCIERI** showed up to Welcome Visiting Rotarians of which we scored zero.

Lynette introduced **Rola Burnett**, and **Rick Kasmiskie** bade us welcome **Brian Morrison**. For his renamed **ROTARY SHOWCASE**, Rick picked on a Fellow Philadelphian, **Earl Simpkins**. He went to high school at **Simon Graff**, but, when pressed to ID other famous graduates, he mentioned **Roy Campanella** but not Rick Maucieri. Earl went to college at **Lincoln University** and **University of Pennsylvania**. His first job was that of stockboy in a Deli with a starting salary so small he couldn't remember it. He was not a member of any high school clique, having to work after school. Earl declared his "talent" to be "**Eating**," and because **Barbara Simpkins** wasn't present, Rick felt it safe to ask the name of his first date. Earl couldn't remember but "**there may**



have been a kiss." In the shotgun round we learned that his favorite band is **The Temptations**. Movie: **Let's Do It Again**. Car: Chevy. He was dragged into Rotary by **Rick Neuhooff**, and his favorite Rotary Memory was of the publicity photo for the **FISH FRY**.

KIRK wanted to know if Earl favored **GENO'S** or **PAT'S** (rival Philly Cheesesteak houses). Earl preferred **PAT'S** (unaware, perhaps, that Rick once worked at **GENO'S**).

Rick Kasmiskie was congratulated as the source of a \$200 Paul Harris Fellow match.

KIRK reminded us yet again that there'll be **NO MEETING ON MAY 8th** in favor of the District Lunch in Rockwall on the 9th. The Club will pick up that tab if you RSVP to Lynette in time.

HE invited us yet again to the May 28th dinner at the **Southfork** recognizing our **Student Citizen of the Year**, and he read off a list of donors, starting with **Genie and David Hammel** with what ought to be a signature donation! We've raised \$8K thus far.



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HE also spoke of the recent opening of the *Williams High Academy* at which **Cary Israel** was the Keynote Speaker. **HE** praised the students who also spoke as being “articulate and highly motivated.”

Bob Pikna announced next month’s Rotary Social for 5 pm on May 27th at *Vickery Park*. (Choose: Be there or be square.)



KIRK referred to the Rotary Spirit Wear for sale at the check-in table and called Program Chair **Dave McWhorter** to introduce the day’s speakers.

Melinda Eitzen is a partner with the law firm *Duffee & Eitzen*. She has been practicing family law for 19 years.

Joanna Jadlow is Director of Financial

nant wife. She said that she should have seen it coming when he had earlier tossed her out of a moving car.

Instead Melinda would focus on salvageable marriages of which she gave us a second example. The wife neglects the husband to concentrate on the kids. The husband neglects the wife to concentrate on work. Both resent the other for emotional abandonment. If it can be caught before irreparable damage occurs via sexual or financial infidelity, the marriage may be saved.

She defined financial infidelity as keeping secret credit cards or bank accounts, and, since money issues constitute the majority of events prying marriages apart, it is as serious as its sexual counterpart.

Such marriages call for intervention in the form of **TRUE COMMUNICATION**, which, she said, is more complicated than “*I talk and he pretends to listen.*” Of course, communication is critical to other endeavors, pursuing careers or raising kids, but it isn’t quite the minefield in those pursuits that it is in marriage.

She referred us to the works of **Sharon Ellison**, *Taking the War out of our Words*, and **Brené Brown**, *The Power of Vulnerability*, TED talk. The latter is a social worker who studies relationships to discover exactly two kinds:

1. Wholeheartedly connected, and
2. Disconnected.

Those with wholehearted connections are found to have embraced their vulnerability. Most of us try to avoid vulnerability out of fear; “*it doesn’t sound fun to be vulnerable.*” But those who **ACCEPT** themselves as **IMPERFECT**, are able to pull it off. As long as we’re willing to concede that we’ll never be X enough, where X is any positive attribute, we can afford to be vulnerable.

Addictions are an attempt at “*numbing vulnerability,*” but it’s not just the negative emotions which get thus numbed, it’s positive ones as well. And, of course, you can’t connect with anyone if you’re numb.

The Ellison book focuses on how to pose questions in a neutral tone, neither offensive nor defensive. She gave an example of a husband leaving for work and tossing over his shoulder the remark, “*I almost cleaned out the account and left you and the children.*” The wife thinks that’s a divorce trigger, but she is counseled instead to ask, “*Why did you feel you should do that?*” to discover he’s fearful on the job and thinks about running away from his life. With counseling, the wife went to work giving the husband the opportunity to change jobs. They’re still together.

Joanna then took over the microphone to speak of feeling loved. Everyone needs to feel loved, and things go great if your spouse feels loved. Things are a bit harder if the opposite is true. So what’s the secret for inculcating a loving environment?



Planning for *RGT*, a wealth management firm, and has been serving clients for 13 years.

Melinda and Joanna have recently co-authored a book with **Brenda Roberts** entitled *Considering Divorce? Critical Things You Need to Know*. Due to their work in the divorce arena, they are here to present today’s program entitled *How to Have a Happy Marriage from the Perspective of a Divorce Professional*.

Melinda pointed out that she’s colleagues with **Dennis Fuller** and **Howard Shapiro** who said that he appeared today to marvel at yet more misinformation from her! They’ve apparently faced one another down at opposing tables in court once too often. Melinda allowed as how “*it’s always nice to meet one another over cases.*” Howard said that “*nice*” wasn’t the word he’d have chosen spontaneously.



Melinda said that she was not going to talk about saving miserable marriages. Staying in those is altogether too common and regrettable. She gave an example of a well-deserved divorce: a husband who struck down his preg-

Joanna referred us to a book by **Gary Chapman**, *5 Love Languages*:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Acts of Service
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Quality Time
5. Physical Touch



Being a financial counselor, Joanna focused on money as the single greatest threat to a marriage. She decries spouses hiding financial matters under the pretense that the other partner can't be bothered. She advocates

sitting down to a budget session, and, if necessary, seeing an advisor TOGETHER.

Since money is uniquely empowering, Joanna recommends setting aside discretionary funds in your family budget that partners may spend without being held accountable.

Melinda suggests that doing service projects together is important. At PTAs or church or scouts or other gatherings where only one parent is involved, she says she can see marriages fraying at the seams.



She also recommends praying together, "Because you're never more vulnerable" than when you speak to your Deity.

Of course no marriage counseling would be complete without at least a glancing reference to lovemaking. She has seen couples sexless for 5 years who are shocked to be undergoing divorce. She says that in an era of "pills

and toys," there's no excuse for being without "a vibrant sex life."

Inappropriate relationships "sneak up on us." If your spouse is sending "500 texts a day" to their personal trainer, it should be raising a red flag, and so should you. If "it's getting weird," step up to cool it down by saying calmly, "I'm concerned that this level of communication is not healthy for our marriage."

In response to a question as to whether they always "tag team" their audience so, Melinda replied that it's because they co-authored their book, which, by the way, was available free to the audience.

Someone wanted to know "What do I tell my wife," about bringing home such a tome, Melinda recommended a plain paper cover. *Sainted Editor* recommended the cover to *50 Shades of Gray*.

Melinda gave Howard some compliment, but he complained, "You've never said one nice thing in over 20 years." But, "trying to be good," he told the tale of a man sneaking in late at night to get caught and scolded by his wife. The next night he barges in late and asks, loudly, "Who here wants to have sex?" There wasn't a peep out of her."

KIRK offered up our Rotary Clocks and displayed a plaque from *Memorial Elementary* showing the fun they had at *Cowboys Stadium*.

Ean wanted to know, "How is a tornado like an Arkansas divorce? Somebody's gonna lose a trailer."

With that disposed of, **KIRK** led us in the Four-Way Test and gonged us out at 1:02.



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Guests & Visiting Rotarians

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Rola Burnett
Brian Morrison

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Lynette Pieper
Rick Kasmiskie

AWARDS:

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Hosted by The Plano Rotary Club

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