

Spring  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 68, Issue 130, May 22, 2014

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 22

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

May 29

Dr. Chris Parr -  
"2013 SE Asia Tour Highlights"

June 5th

"Miss Texas - Ivana Hall"

June 12th

Scott Sonju -  
Frisco RoughRiders - "What can be Learned from Minor League Baseball"

## 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

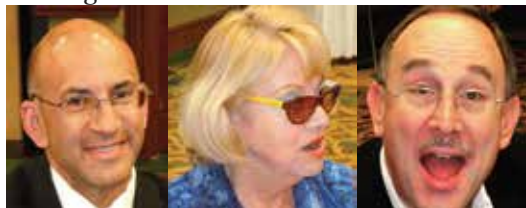


## Scary Bob, GEOPOLITICAL INSTRUCTOR

**Scary Bob**, today's speaker, always does things in a big way, but in addition to the volume of the Pledge, this day he supplied half the audience! Unfortunately, the spicy banter that ensued at his table, he placed off-limits for publication. Perhaps he's unaware what a strain that places on **Sainted Editor!** Be that as it may, he was prepared to both speak AND take the day's photos, but we'd arranged to have **Randy Wright** fill in for those.



**CAPTAIN KIRK** endorsed the festivities at 12:13, calling upon DG **Ean SANTA Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Doyle Dean** for the Pledge. **Ulysses** (in his *nom de Cyclops*) was thanked for Greeting. And **SERGEANT BARBAROSSA** was summoned to welcome Visiting Rotarian and Guests.



The single VR was **Matt Shaheen** (Frisco), stumping for votes. **Scary Bob** Epstein introduced his many, many guests, including **Diane Benjamin, Michael Ward, Lauren Rose, Ron Blumka, Chris Schutz, Mark Gard, and Bradon Hartstein.** **KIRK** noted the return of his nephew and niece-in-law, **Milton and Mariana Bell.** **Jerry Aris** welcomed **Al Hartwell.**



With the recent death of **Maribelle Davis**, our first female member, **NATHAN** wanted to interview a long-standing distaffer, **Alice Hobbs.**



Alice was born in Racine, Minnesota (not Wisconsin), which was too small a town to support a high school. This was before Title IX, so there were no girl sports, so Alice took up Band and Choir, solidifying her love of music, no doubt. She spent five years in California before moving to Virginia and immigrating to Texas. Alice has retired after 16 years with the Plano Symphony Orchestra as its



Executive Director. (**Debbie Watson** is her successor.) Favorite ice cream: chocolate chocolate-chip. First car: a tail-finned monstrosity hand-me-down from her big brother. Soft drink: **Coca Cola.** Alice has been a Rotarian for 18 years, joining because of her community involvement because she "enjoyed service."

**KIRK** thanked **John Priest** for his \$100 **Birthday Check**; he's certainly aged well. And **HE** wished **Gene Champagne** and **Scary Bob** a **Happy Birthday.**

**Phil Dyer** scored a Paul Harris+1 pin.



Chris Parr said a few words about the late Maribelle Davis. He read testimonials from the **Schwartzes** and **Camille Ussery**, and concluded, "She really was the **First Lady of Plano Rotary**, and she'll be missed."

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**KIRK** reminded us that we lost not only Maribelle but also **Lynn McLean's** husband, **Paul**. **HE** recommended that we send consolation cards; Lynette has the addresses of both surviving spouses. **KIRK** noted that Maribelle had sponsored **HIM** for membership, and **HE** was grateful for that, without which **HE'D** not know a Club full of great folk.

Matt Shaheen reminded us that while Election Day is May 27<sup>th</sup>, Early Voting (in the run-off) begins next (this) week, and he'd "appreciate your support."

**Nancy Humphrey** rose to deliver a brag: her daughter has just be accepted into *Vanderbilt University!* The news was so good that it didn't occasion a brag fine.

**KIRK** asked more of us to sign up for the May 28<sup>th</sup> Student Citizen of the Year Banquet here at the *Southfork Hotel*. He said that we're honoring 24 kids (and their parents), **Cary Israel** will address the gathering, and all eyes will be on **MISS TEXAS**. Cary complained that he didn't want to have to compete with **MISS TEXAS**, but **KIRK** noted, "It's no contest."

**Club President of the Year**, **KIRK**, wanted us all to know that DG Ean was **NOT** on the Awards Committee. (But, in truth, he was...just not voting.) *Plano Rotary* also won **Club of the Year** which is "a tribute to you and how much you do." And **KIRK** expects us to accomplish much more because "**Earnest's** hair's on fire." He quoted a Zone representative to the effect that "Rotary isn't a Service Organization with Members. It's a Member Organization that does Service." Beyond Service, Rotary is "friendship, fellowship, and business networking" that permits us to get "enormous things done together."

**Dave McWhorter** rose to introduce *Scary Bob*.

In addition to his profession with *Merrill Lynch*, Bob devotes many hours to other causes.

Bob has served for 19 years in Law Enforcement Reserves and Homeland Security, including four years with the Dallas Sheriff's Reserves and three years with the Texas State Guard, 19<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade.

Bob has been deeply involved in various fundraising events for several causes, including **Wounded Warriors**, **SNOWBALL EXPRESS**, Folds of Honor, and *North Texas Crime Commission*.

Bob has served as Fundraising Co-Chairman for *Israel Bonds*, *Congregation Shearith* events, and *Temple Shalom* events.

Bob is married and has five children. Bob's hobbies range from shotgun shooting, archery, and mountain biking to painting, singing and singing in his Synagogue's Choir. Bob's topic is *The Russian/Crimea Crisis*.

As Bob strode to the podium, someone asked, "Can you turn off the microphone?" But it was a premature concern; Bob didn't have to use it.

After stumping for our involvement with organizations like *Operation Law Enforcement* and the Dallas Sheriff's Department, he settled into his talk. He quoted **Andriy Deshchysia**, Ukraine's interim foreign minister as say-

ing that it is impossible to hold elections in the middle of a civil war. He holds that Eastern and Southern Ukraine are in a war backed by Russia.



Bob gave us an historical outline. He called upon members to give the event that transpired on these dates:

- August 1991 Ukraine declares independence from Russia backed by a 90% vote of its citizens.
- 2004 The Orange Revolution (someone inquired if UT had won a national championship) followed "widespread vote rigging" that resulted in the "election" of **Victor Yanukovych**, the government's man, over **Victor Yushchenko**, the opposition candidate. Under pressure from the international community, a second runoff was held in which Yushchenko prevailed.
- 2010 V. Yanukovych won "free and fair" election and undid the reforms following the Orange Revolution.
- 2011 Yanukovych jails the opposition.
- 2013 Kiev sees 100,000 protesting moves to distance Ukraine from the European Union and NATO.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, **Vladimir Putin** was born into "a modest family" in 1952. He joined the KGB and was sent to East Germany to recruit spies. (By the fall of the Soviet Union, it was estimated that every 3<sup>rd</sup> person was a paid informant.) Putin rose quickly through the ranks to become **Yeltsin's** right-hand man. Yeltsin made him Head of Security Services, and he became Prime Minister. When Yeltsin stepped down, Putin became President (for life...with minor interruptions to satisfy constitutional requirements of term limitation).

- 2013 To encourage alignment with Russia, Putin buys Ukraine's debt and cuts the price of petroleum products to the country.
- March 2014 Russian Parliament annexes Crimea. Anti-terrorist measures are taken against pro-Western populations. When three anti-Western figures are killed, Putin declares that all of Ukraine is heading into civil war. 50 are killed in Odessa.

Crimea is a strategic region. Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based there according to treaty. Almost 60% of the population is ethnic Russian. The language is Russian. It is important to Bob because his family hails from Ukraine. His great-great-grandfather served under Washington in the Army of the Potomac.

Contrasting Western Ukraine, the language is Ukrainian. 58% of Ukrainian gas comes from Russia. 66% of European gas imported from Russia passes through Ukraine.





Russia covets oil fields in the Black Sea. But all of Crimea's water comes from Ukraine. Ukraine's military budget is \$2B while Russia's is \$69B. Russia has 3,000 tanks to Ukraine's 730, and 1,400 helicopters to its 200. Ukraine has only 1% of Russia's 2,200 military aircraft.



**Mark Waterbury** explained that Stalin had forcibly relocated Ukrainian farmers to Russia, trading them out for Russian farmers then starved 2 million of the former.

Bob said that, prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine held its 3<sup>rd</sup> largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. It divested itself of those in exchange for a guarantee of defense from the West, a defense that is not being mounted now that the crisis has come.



AUSA forecasts that Russia can easily conquer Eastern Ukraine, but they'll have to contend with pro-Ukrainian guerilla forces. Logistics will be difficult for both sides.

The West has imposed financial sanctions on Putin's inner circle but not Putin himself or the trade infrastructure. Europe opposes trade restrictions since 27% of Italy's petroleum comes from Russia.

The sanctions are ineffective. Russia has the world's 8<sup>th</sup> largest economy at \$2T. It is asymmetric in its trade: with the U.S., Russia is ranked the 20<sup>th</sup> trading partner, while with Russia, the U.S. is its 5<sup>th</sup> largest. It is more symmetric in Europe: the EU is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest partner with Russia while Russia is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trader in the EU.



Russia's nuclear arsenal is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the U.S. with China a close 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The UN is powerless to address this situation because Russia has the veto on the Security Council. The General Assembly can only pass NON-BINDING rulings. So Russia is free to "swallow up most or all of Ukraine," then turn its attention to Moldavia and the Baltic countries.

The precedence set by unopposed aggression is disastrous. Neighbor could cannibalize neighbor without fear of retaliation. (Of course, smaller nations are more easily intimidated by world wrath.)

Bob recommended the books *Man Without a Face* and *Russia: A Short History*.

When asked for a prognostication, Bob suggested that Putin is out to restore the Soviet Union.

Handing the Coveted Clock to Bob, **KIRK** commented that it was the Clock that "put us over the top" in the competition for Best Club!

Lenny announced a Foundation meeting following immediately (then found no quorum for it). Gene Champagne announced that his daughter had won a Girl Scout award. Not to be outdone, **Carrolyn Moebius** said that her son had made Eagle Scout. Mark Waterbury noted that his eldest son was named Newcomer of the Year. And Randy Wright noted that his daughter had two graduates, one from UT, the other from PESH.

**KIRK** explained away his Best President Award by saying, "Check out Ean's new ride." Then he led us in the Four-Way Test and gonged us gone at 12:59.

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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Milton Bell

Mariana

Ron Blumka

Micheal Wald

Diane Benjamin

Chris Schurz

Brandon Hartstein

Mark Gard

Al Hartwell

### Guest Of

Kirk Bell

Kirk Bell

Bob Epstein

Bob Epstein

Bob Epstein

Bob Epstein

Bob Epstein

Bob Epstein

### AWARDS:

#### 2013 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Myrtle Hightower

#### 2013 Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year

Huffines Auto Dealerships

#### Visiting Rotarians

Matt Shaheen

#### Home Club

Frisco

## 2014 Student Citizens of the Year Banquet

Hosted by The Plano Rotary Club

Wednesday, May 28th  
5:30 to 7:30pm

The Southfork Hotel  
Central Expressway and 15th St, Plano  
Business Casual

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