



SUMMER  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 169 , Issue 235, September 15th , 2016

The Plano Rotary Club

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sep 15

**Sarah Crilley-Hill**

*Rotary Club Social Media*

Sep 22

**Daniel K Long**

*District Governor William Dendy*

Sep 29

**Kathleen Turner**

*Five Fatal Flaws of Leadership*



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ean H. Sullivan	Sep 04
Rick Boyer	Sep 06
Clay Curtis	Sep 10
Satinder Baweja	Sep 16
Hubert Aaron	Sep 17



# KUKLA, FRAN, AND HIV

**DAVID ALLISON** returned for the day. He's a former member **AND** an advertiser on our back page! We have room for 3 more ads **FROM MEMBERS** (not counting the *quid pro quo* double-spaced ad for **Fleming's**). So pluck up your **CLUB SPIRIT** and contact **Karen**.



**King David** convened council at 12:13, summoning **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** for the Invocation and **Casey Stewart** for the Pledge. **Howard Matson** was our Greeter, and **Jason Kramer** was our **SER-GEANT-AT-ARMS**.

The drought was broken by Rotarian **David Goodson** visiting from *Park Cities*. **Jamie Schell** seemed flustered by **Jason** calling upon him to introduce **David Allison**. **Charles Milby** welcomed **David Askari**, and **Jerry Aris** had brought his better half, **Laura**.



Having drawn (figuratively) Jason's Black Bean, **Alex Johnson** took the limelight (he was destined for it) and announced that this was his 2<sup>nd</sup> Classification Talk in 13 years. Since much of the Club has turned over in that time, he thought it only appropriate that he reintroduce himself. He told us he's Principal Broker for **Laurex Realty Advisors**

working in Commercial Real Estate. But of what we're undoubtedly unaware: he's a Sourdough, having spent the first 10 years of his life in Alaska. His father was in the Special Forces and thus unable to explain further what he did. He was a 21-year war hero having secured the Bronze Star and three Army Commendations.



He lived three years in a suburb of Cleveland, went to school in Ohio, graduated from *Purdue*, majoring in Robotics! He's worked (not in Robotics) at **PEPSI**, **NORTEL**, and **Alcetal-Lucent**, among others, before he met **Laurex's** namesake, wife **Laura**, VP of Operations. (Let's hope he never ends up as **Laura's Ex**, as it were.) They have two daughters (9 and 13).

As for the obligatory "In what sports did you engage in high school?" question, Alex said (though we'd not believe it now) he was a 115 lbs weakling (who had sand kicked in his face until he met **Charles Atlas**). His seeking to remedy that via body building earned him his wife, a devotee of the sculpted physique. Indeed, he was offered a shot at the Olympics in hockey (it was Alaska, after all), but he settled for a black belt in Tae Kwan Do.

He and his progeny have joined *High Adventures for Dads and Daughters*, camping out 8-9 times a year. "Awesome!"

Jason drew **Olin Jaye** to humiliate next week, but Olin was AWOL, so **Satinder Baweja** will suffer in his place. David noted a "late guest" to be introduced later, but then didn't follow through.

Rotary Service pins went to **Rick Boyer** (2) and **Lenny Schwartz** (16). Chief **Greif** said he had to send the golf clubs to **Chief Rushin**, who'd won the **BATTLE OF THE BADGES**.

continued on page 2





- Dennis Hogg** was called up for
1. Receiving his Blue Badge and
  2. Touting the *Rotary International Foundation*.

Dennis recommended that all those non-Paul Harris Fellows take advantage of the Club and **SECRET SANTA** discounts bringing the total down by 1/2. Sort of a PHF sale.



Howard Matson inducted **Jeff Beckley** into the Club, and sponsor **Kelly Palmer** pinned him. Jeff squealed like a stuck Rotarian.

**Nancy Humphrey** said the need for volunteers for our *Scramble for Scholarships* is great. In addition to golfers and sponsors, Nancy needs drivers to ferry golfers to and fro. The event is 27 October; see Nancy to volunteer.

Jerry Aris thanked over two dozen Rotarians for attending the event at **Fleming's**. He was trying to set the next Tuesday event, and **Carrollyn Moebius** asked, "Can I request it not be on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday?" Jerry said, "You can request all you want." ☺

**SPIRITWARE** Feigenbaum introduced the speaker.

**Darren Collins** is a member of the *DeSoto Rotary Club*. He has been spearheading a global grant on behalf of district 5810 which teaches HIV/AIDS EDUCATION in East Africa. The program uses puppetry as a vehicle for social change within schools all around Nairobi, Kenya. Darren is on hiatus from the project and returns to Kenya at the end of the month. More information can be found at [www.projecthandup.org](http://www.projecthandup.org)

Darren announced that he was returning to let us know how he spent our money! His efforts at stemming the HIV-AIDS epidemic in Africa through education are funded by grants from 5810 as well as the Nairobi, DeSoto, and Plano Rotaries in the amount of \$35K.

What he does is a combination of a school assembly and vacation Bible school. Through puppeteering and magic, he lets kids and adults know how AIDS is and isn't transmitted between people.

AIDS is, of course, a medical problem, but it's so misunderstood in Africa that it's a social problem as well. Even getting yourself checked at a clinic is stigmatizing since clinics are seen as **WHERE YOU GO TO GET AIDS!** So Darren has researched the social aspect in Kenya with church and school leaders, some of whom are critically ignorant about the issues. Nevertheless, he has compiled a list of what the misconceptions are and has thus prepared a curriculum for what folks need to know.

He submitted the curriculum to the group that writes the *McGruff the Dog* scripts. Their output was funneled to a screen writer, whose credits include *The Secret Lives of Dogs and Cats*. The anthropomorphic critter play that resulted was sent to Kenya to be edited into Swahili then prerecorded by local voice personalities in East Africa.

Darren played a three-minute video of the project's influence. It featured catchy music and portions of the play seen by adoring children (and their teachers). "Education is their way forward," the video contends, saying that, in addition to the performance, the children take home a booklet for their parents.

While he respects the Four-Way Test, the problem in developing countries is "They don't say the bad stuff," so problems fester rather than being solved. And, in an adroit segue, he listed a litany of problems that faced him on his last visit to Nairobi. He and his team spent 11 weeks, using one vehicle to reach 17,800 students and adults.

After an orientation meeting, his friend and helpmate, **Helen**, died in a swimming pool as a result of undiagnosed anemia. Unaware of local customs, Darren was nearly arrested for "early burial." The black cloud expanded when his host family was involved in a car accident, and another five friends died!







On top of that, record rainfall necessitated hiring a contractor to fix his house back in the States. He chose his renter, who promptly took the cash and bailed.

And in Nairobi, the police “*riddled my office with bullets*” in their efforts to catch a thief. Thankfully, no one was injured; that goes for the crook too.

Darren is most concerned about the children born with AIDS. They are discriminated against through no fault of their own. So the script has been rewritten to include “*talk about respect.*”

His project has become a victim of its own success. *Doctors Without Borders* “*sent a spy*” to his performances and ended up contracting him to create another puppet theater about gender-based violence. *Hand Up*, his nonprofit company, is considering kidnapping as a tutorial subject as well.

Then came the pitch. It costs **\$85** to put on a school performance (mostly salaries for the puppeteers) and an additional **\$43** to produce the literature that they distribute. What he really needs is sustained, monthly support that will permit him to forgo seeking big, episodic grants. Darren is an advocate of “*2<sup>nd</sup> Giving.*” 1<sup>st</sup> giving is to the local community. 2<sup>nd</sup> is for international projects.

He tried to impress upon us that Third World problems are in our national interests to solve. The example he gave was the Ebola Crisis that shut down international flights and tanked airline stocks. So “*it’s all related.*”

**Lenny** asked why he worked in Kenya. What’s the “*ultimate impact?*” Darren told him that he has been invited to work elsewhere, South Sudan, for example. (So he’s a glutton for terrorist punishment.)

Jamie Schell reiterated Lenny’s question, “*Why Kenya?*” The answer is that he was invited there, and it’s a “*hub of talent.*” AIDS is worse in West Africa, however.

**John Caldwell** asked about the crushing expense of AIDS medication. Darren said that that’s a problem for developed countries. In Kenya, it’s free for most individuals.

Ean asked about the mischievous baboons. Darren said that you can’t have an outdoor barbecue because they swarm the place, stealing the best parts. It’s so bad that Darren “*shops at night when the baboons are asleep!*”

David presented Darren with our Non-Perpetual Desk Organizers, cautioning him to keep it away from the baboons. Kelly Palmer announced a Foundation Board Meeting to follow lunch. David led us in the Four-Way Test and belled us out exactly on time.



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Thank you Kenny Wilson

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*Guests & Visiting Rotarians*

**Guest**

David Allison

David Askari

Laura Shwaluk

**Visiting Rotarian**

David Goodson

**Guest of**

Jaime Schell

Charles Milby

Jerry Kezhaya

**Home Club**

Park Cities

Please send photos and or contributions to share with the club in the Weekly Update to

lpieper2@aol.com

Rotary activities/ volunteering, vacations, family additions or any interesting activities or events are welcomed.

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the more you connect!**

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