

Summer  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 37, Issue 101 September 12, 2013

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### September 12

Ean Sullivan  
"District Governor"

### September 19

Lynn McClean, CEO  
Children's Advocacy Center  
of Collin County"

### September 26

Robbie Robinson  
"Legacy" (1:10 end time)

### October 3

Richard Matkin, PISD  
Superintendent  
"PISD Today"

### October 10

Admiral Patrick Walsh  
"Current National Security  
Challenges."

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sullivan, Ean H.	Sept 04
Baweja, Satinder	Sept 16
Aaron, Hubert	Sept 17



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

## Assassination at the Half Century

**T**HE WARREN COMMISSION declared Oswald to be the lone assassin. But before it had finished its work, Supreme Court Justice **Earl Warren** made a curious comment: "We may not know the whole story in our lifetime." But that just encouraged 82% of Americans to make up their own.

**CAPTAIN KIRK** Belled us to order at 12:16, calling upon **Earnest Burke** to give the Invocation and **Jason Kramer** to lead us in the Pledge. "Where's **Bob**?" someone asked. Someone else suggested that he may be in hiding after his focus *faux pas* last week. But **Sainted Editor** is more sanguine; **Scary Bob** isn't one to dwell on embarrassment. In his absence, **Randy Wright** took up the **Matthew Brady** mantle.



**KIRK** thanked **Phil Dyer** for Greeting and called for **SERGEANT BARBERA** to welcome Visiting Rotarian (there was only one) and **KIRK'S** Guests (there were only his).



**NATHAN** welcomed **Paul Huang** from *Plano Sunrise*. **KIRK** introduced wife **Beverly** and two candidates to be inducted next week, **Bev Kilmer** and **Gene Champagne**.

For **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, **NATHAN** picked a Newbie, **Jason Kramer**, to interview. Since these segments are replacing Classification Talks, it was only appropriate. Jason was born and raised in Seattle. He's been in Texas all of 2½ years, brought here by his *fiancée*. He is a chiropractor,



here, someone reported at an earlier meeting, to "straighten us out." He played basketball and baseball among other sports in grade school. His first auto driven was his Mom's minivan, *sans* permission. It didn't impress chicks: "So not the coolest kid," **NATHAN** surmised. Favorite movie: anything with Jeffrey Hunter in it. Coke or Pepsi? "Water!" He's been 4 weeks in *Plano Rotary*, joining because he wanted to "get involved in the community." **NATHAN** pressed him to give the name assigned his

team, and he said something that sounded like "Brokeback," which sent the audience into hysterics. **Sainted Editor** couldn't believe anyone that cruel.



**CAPTAIN KIRK** called **Hendrick Scholarship Foundation** Board member, **Jacquie Johnston**, to stand and deliver about the Golf Tournament. She swallowed her *sopaipilla* and introduced herself as a competitor to

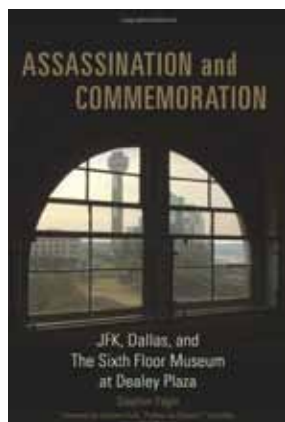
**Olin Jaye**. She said that her family eschewed sending their kids to private schools since "Dr. Hendrick had built the best school system in the country."

She said that the *Hendrick* interviews are so gut-wrenching that she goes home and tells her children how lucky they are to have a loving home life.

continued on page 2

She thanked *Plano Rotary* for being a “great community partner” for the Golf Tournament (November 1 at the *Stonebriar Country Club*). She mentioned other Hendrick fundraisers including the [PRO AM TENNIS TOURNAMENT](#) at *Gleneagles* on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and the *Taste of Elegance*, March 31<sup>st</sup> at *Southfork Ranch*.

**KIRK** exhorted us to sign up for the 9/11 event at the *Plano Centre*. **HE** mentioned the need for *Memorial Elementary* mentors, and recommended that we ready our rotten tomatoes for the Governor’s Visit next week. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, we are to adjourn to *Canyon Creek Country Club*, there to participate in a “shambles” (best drive of the foursome counts) round of golf for a mere \$30. Announcement exhausted, he called **David McWhorter** to introduce the day’s speaker, **Stephen Fagin**, Associate Curator and Oral Historian for the *6<sup>th</sup> Floor Museum* at Dealey Plaza.



Since 2000, he has managed the museum’s ongoing Oral History Project and contributed to collections, exhibitions, education, and programming initiatives. He is the author of *Assassination and Commemoration* published in 2013 and an *American History* magazine biography of Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Fagin holds degrees from *SMU* and *OU*.

Mr. Fagin’s program, based on his new book, explores the long-term impact of the assassi-

nation of **President John F. Kennedy**, and details the history and development of the *6<sup>th</sup> Floor Museum* at Dealey Plaza.

Stephen announced what his talk was (prepared for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination) and what it was not (a nod to conspiracy theories). He told us that he would “concentrate on the effects of the assassination” on the City of Dallas. And he pronounced those to be “profound effect(s) on people around the world.” In the days following the deed, Dealey Plaza became a shrine, and there were calls to demolish the Texas School Book Depository.



Dallas was viewed by the rest of the country as extremist, abetted by the likes of General **Edwin Walker** and the *John Birch Society*, which had its headquarters here. The assassination confirmed the world’s opinion in that regard: Dallas had killed the President. The *Saturday Evening*

*Post* ran an editorial speaking of the shame of Dallas. The criticism was international.



The City put up a bronze marker on Dealey Plaza and erected the *Open Tomb*, dedicated in 1970. But the School Book Depository remained “a birthmark on your child’s face,” said **Blackie Sherrod**, something you can live with until a stranger’s remarks bring it into focus. He went on to say that it was a “day and a shadow that will never be erased from memory.”

In 1970, music producer **Aubrey Mayhew** purchased the Depository out of an abiding interest in Kennedy memorabilia, hoping to make a commercial go of it, but the wounds were still too fresh. The State of Texas had no interest in it. Prominent citizens like **Tom Landry** and **Ross Perot** wanted it expunged, but **Mayor Wes Wise** put a hold on any demolition plans. Finally, Dallas County took it over as its Administration Building, placing a historical marker at the site.

Serious preservation began with **Lindalyn Adams**, President of the *Dallas County Historical Foundation*, and **Conover Hunt**, its Project Director. They surveyed Dealey Plaza visitors and discovered that 100% of them were interested in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Depository. The project was delayed by several factors: the failure of the National Park Service to recognize it as a historical landmark, the assassination attempt on **President Reagan** by **John Hinckley, Jr.**, who was obsessed with Oswald and Kennedy’s assassination, an arson attempt during the Republican Convention (and by archeologists bent on surveying the site of the museum’s proposed external elevator as being the only undisturbed plot in the City. From it, they discovered that reactionary Dallas was originally an integrated community!).

Dismissing worries that the *6<sup>th</sup> Floor Museum* would glorify Oswald and further embarrass Dallas, County Judge **Lee Jackson** supplied the funds and construction began in the spring of 1988. A planned parking garage and subway station had to be quashed before the museum opened on 20 February 1989 to mostly positive reviews. The *Dallas Morning News* headline read **TODAY WE STAND WHOLE AGAIN**.

2/3 of the patrons at the opening had personal memories of that day in 1963. Today only 1/3 do. Historical panels lead chronologically to the **Sniper’s Nest**, but the organization of its approach leads to chaos on its departure. Multiple exits suggest confusion after the event. Only one alcove in the exhibit is devoted (though perhaps that is not the right word) to Oswald and Ruby.





By 1992, it had attracted its 1 millionth visitor. It is an education site housing 45,000 articles and 1,100 oral history interviews.

At this point, he threw the meeting open for questions, the first of which, from Paul Huang, was more of a statement, asserting that everyone should have been prepared for security breaches in Dallas. Whose responsibility was it to clear the building before the President passed, he wanted to know. Stephen asked whether Paul thinks the conspiracy involved the government itself. Paul said, *"The government needs to answer the question."* Stephen acknowledged that nothing polarizes a discussion like competing conspiracy theories, and that's why he doesn't take a position on who was responsible and why they acted. The Museum permits attendees to come to their own conclusions. He added that *"the view out the window validates all opinions;"* there are those who believe they could have *"hit the President with a football,"* and those who believe the shot was impossible without coconspirators elsewhere around Dealey.

**John Caldwell** asked about preparations for the anniversary. Stephen said that the City will commemorate the event for the first time. Historian **David McCullough** will speak. The *Dallas Museum of Art* will host an exhibit. The *6th Floor Museum* will organize new material on the 7th Floor. He directed us to YouTube® for recordings of oral histories.

It being 1:01, **Sainted Editor** rudely pointed to his (watchless) wrist, and Stephen said, *"I see*



*that I'm out of time,"* and graciously concluded. **KIRK** noted that *Plano Rotary* has paid the Curator the highest compliment. *"It's after 1, and no one has left!"* Then **HE** offered Stephen an apparently redundant Rotary Clock (why do we not give speakers the clock BEFORE their address?) and mentioned that November will see a speaker from *Parkland Hospital* talking on this issue.



**Rick Maucieri**, quashing the notion that the Mafia was involved, said that no Italian American had anything to do with it or there would have been pasta at the scene. **NAAN** refused to fine Rick since his joke *"was too terrible."*

**KIRK** led us in the Four-Way Test and dismissed the gathering at 1:03.



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## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

### Guest

Bev Kilmer

Gene Champagne

Bev Bell

### Guest Of

Kirk Bell

Kirk Bell

Kirk Bell

### AWARDS:

#### 2013 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Myrtle Hightower

#### Huffines Auto Dealerships

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### Visiting Rotarian

Paul Huang

### Home Club

Plano Sunrise

### Proposed Member

Proposed member: Eugene Champagne

Classification: Restaurant Management

Proposed by: Kirk Bell

### Proposed Member

Proposed member: Bev Kilmer

Classification: Motivational Speaker

& Author

Proposed by: Kirk Bell

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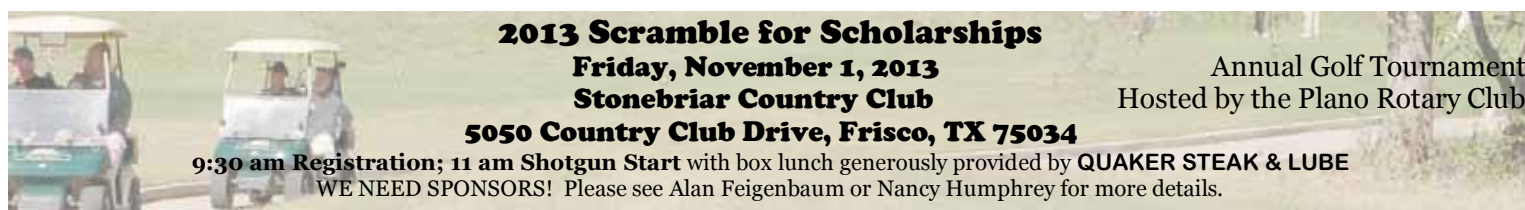
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**2013 Scramble for Scholarships**  
**Friday, November 1, 2013**  
**Stonebriar Country Club**  
**5050 Country Club Drive, Frisco, TX 75034**

9:30 am Registration; 11 am Shotgun Start with box lunch generously provided by **QUAKER STEAK & LUBE**  
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Annual Golf Tournament  
Hosted by the Plano Rotary Club