



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 25, Issue 04, February 9, 2023

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb 9**
Marvin Jolly
Housing in Plano
- Feb 16**
Larry Bisno
Unmet Medical Needs in Collin County
- Feb 23**
Kathy Taylor
The YMCA is not a Place, but a Purpose, with a Bold Vision for a Brighter Future

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Hayden Padgett Feb 1
- Sam Greif Feb 14
- Rick Grady Feb 27
- Carrolyn Moebius Feb 27



Political Bridgebuilding

January 26, 2023 meeting

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 by president, **Janelle. John Caldwell** shared our invocation and **Pradeep Samudra** led the pledge of allegiance.

Sargeant of Arms, **Mike McCormack**, welcomed out visitors before passing the Bubba Bucket. **Mike Cook** visited us from Plano West Rotary while **Emily Bickerstaff** came to us through a lead from Rotary International.

Vol Berezhniy was a guest of **Jeff McKee** last week and we were delighted to have him rejoin us at this week's meeting. **Ann Bacchus** visited us as well. She is an attorney and friend of Janelle's...and she is interested in joining Rotary.





Following our sponsorship of Hendrick Foundation's Taste of Plano, **Marta Lilly** visited to share a little bit about the upcoming event. She also thanked us for the scholarship donation.

President, Janelle announced that our club

has been invited to come visit Dallas Uptown Rotary on March 30. They meet in a restaurant off Oak Lawn. They would not have a program but it would be

a brainstorming session and exchange of ideas. Later they would follow up and come visit our club at Gleneagles.

John Priest provided our Rotary moment by sharing who mentored him in Rotary and influenced him.



Our speaker, **Dr. Eleanore Knox**, Psychiatrist kicked off her presentation with reasons for recent societal division. The severity of political diversity has become increasingly a feelings disagreements disguised as policy disagreements.

Our society is also becoming increasing divided by who we marry/date, who we live next door to and even who we work for. Majorities in both parties view members of the opposing party as immoral, dishonest and close-minded. The philosophy of Us versus Them seems to be at the forefront of social messages and media/news.

Why is this problematic? Short term, it leads to dysfunctional systems of governance - gridlock, stalmates and the inability to address problems. Long term impact includes national security risks and it endangers our democracy. Overall, we become miserable.

Political bridgebuilding is an intervention implemented on a variety of scales. These are aimed at improving our mutual understandings of our commonalities as well as our differences.

Knox referred to a group called Braver Angels that meets to have open, safe conversations to explore feels, beliefs and misconceptions. They address listening and speaking skills, as well as how to handle difficult moments. She referred to a book titled How Minds Change by David McRaney.

She also mentioned Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group in the House of Representatives whose members seek to foster bipartisan cooperation on key policy issues.

She closed with this quote: Supurb humans do hard things necessary to create good socie-ties.....We need to give some thought to a larger system that are part of - a system that asks us to recognize that people we are arguing with are friends we need to persuade, and not enemies we need to destroy. Michael Austin, author, We Must Not Be Enemies.



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The Plano Rotary Club
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Guests

Guest

Ann Bacchus
Voladimir Berezhniy
Marta Lilley
Emily Bickerstaff

Guest of

Janelle Twyford-Silvis
Jeff McKee
Nancy Humphrey
Peggy Fenwick

Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarian

Michael Cook

Home Club

Plano West