



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 06, February 17th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb 17th**
Patrick Nugent
Military Photographer
"American Military Birds of the Air"
- Feb 24th**
Rick Cocker
"Samaritan Inn"
- Mar 3rd**
Doreen Bruner – Camp Esparanza
"A Camp for Children With Cancer"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Hayden Padgett Feb 01
- Jason Kramer Feb 07
- Sam Greif Feb 14
- Rick Grady Feb 27
- Carrolyn Moebius Feb 27



Texas Uber Alles Fest

HE Who Shall Be Named, **Joe Camarena**, called for cessation of camaraderie at 12:09, giving the Invocation himself and calling upon a strangely present **Sainted Editor** for the Pledge.

John Caldwell, who doubled as today's photographer and **SGT.-AT-ARMS**, bade Visiting Rotarian, **Mary Yu**, tell us about herself. He cautioned us, quite unnecessarily, not the read her name as "**Marry you.**"

Mary has just moved from Virginia to DFW as a result of a spousal job change. Their 18-year-old daughter has accompanied them. Mary says she loves the weather change (and, if nothing else, we do have changeable weather), and she is still in touch with fellow Rotarians back in Virginia. And she left just in time; she was her club's President-Elect!



Joe urged all of us to encourage her to join (because we're in such desperate need of leadership, Joe?), but he neglected to tell us to be on our best behavior so as not to spook her.

He said that he cancelled the last meeting not because of the catastrophic

ice storm but rather because he was recovering from coronavirus and was loath to infect the members of the Geriatric Club of Plano.

He marveled at the surprise of January's **ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH, Porcha Matcn**, at the news she'd been chosen. One of the reasons for the choice was that she was hard at work forming her Interact Club even before she became a member.

John Caldwell said we so are overwhelmed with 4-Way Test Speech contestants that we've started a wait list! He claimed he had sufficient judges for the 65 contestants. They'll begin next (last, as you read this) Monday to judge their 7 or 8 speakers via YouTube videos. From their scoring sheets (you can't tell the players without a score card), he'll pick the finalist for the last bracket of judging.

Joe listed the service awards as **Marco Solano** (6), **John Caldwell** (9), and **Jim Monroe** (26). He had us sing what **Rick Horne** described as "*five-part harmony*" to the birthday list.

He next asked for **BRAGS FOR BUCKET BUCKS** and was rewarded by one: **John Priest** bragged on being cancer-free via a benign biopsy report! Joe was surprised that no one wanted to brag on Superbowl teams. When he asked for predictions, the response was Bengals 6, Rams 3, Commercials ∞.



Janelle Twyford-Silvis would have done the honors, introducing today's speakers, but she had a puppy mishap and was absent. Her family adopted the furry creature only to discover that Janelle was severely allergic to dog hair! So Joe had to make the introduction:

When you think of all the fun events that the City of Plano puts together such as managing the Courtyard Theatre, the tree lighting, the hip-hop competition, concerts at McCall Plaza, or the amphitheater...and much more, it is due to the efforts of **Michelle Hawkins** and her team. They work really hard behind the scenes to make sure Plano is truly an arts destination.

Our club has been working with Michelle's team as we are part of the upcoming **Texas Forever Fest**. Michelle is here to let us in on all the exciting features that will be going on at the same time as the **TEXAS BLUES AND RED HOTS BBQ COOKOFF**.

Michelle said that **Texas Forever Fest** is a Council Initiative to be held from 11 to 6 on March 26 in Haggard Park. She introduced



Events Specialist **Madeline Walker** who works to create this "fun opportunity for the community." HEB is sponsoring the event. There'll be a Main Stage in the parking lot featuring **Roger Kramer**? A 2nd stage will appear at the Saigling

House (now the Arts Centre of Plano) featuring **Walt Wilkins**? There will be:

- Fishing in Haggard Pond
- Kids' Area with bounce house
- Rope Trick artist
- Gun fights
- Card Sharks
- "Spirits of Texas" liquor tastings (after the gun fights) sponsored by Liquid Courage
- Yellow Rose Project, interactive art
- Mascots from Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers
- A historical area set up at the Gazebo with artifacts sent by the Alamo Trust
- "Curated vendors" (?)

Since the parking lot is dedicated to the bandstand, visitors will be encouraged to use City Hall or any other public parking.

There is no inclement weather backup plan. And no wifi in the park implies the use of Square for credit card purchases. Stir crazy patrons will flood the place. As an example, in 2018 the audience for the Dickens Event was 6000; in 2019, it rose to 10,000. The City anticipated a drop when the pandemic arose in 2020, but the crowd INCREASED to 20,000! So expect an inundation.

Members suggested cooperation with Downtown Plano Association. Restaurants should have a good day/night as well.

The schedule for setup is:

- 3/25
 - Decorate Gazebo, set up tents and mobile stages
- 3/26
 - 7 am start
 - All vehicles out of lot by 10
 - Vendors ready by 10:30
 - 11-6 **Texas Forever Fest**
 - No vehicles in park except as authorized by PPD.

15th Street will remain open, since closing it involves prohibitive PPD overtime. So McCall Plaza is off-limits. However H Street will be the site of food trucks. The Courtyard is staging their own events at the same time, so its parking lots will be unavailable.



Our contribution to the event will be a BBQ Cookoff between the Police and Fire Departments, among others, and the sale of our BBQ cookbooks: price ~\$30, yet to be determined.

Mary Jo Dean wanted to know if we must “eat the food” that PPD and PFD fix? Joe said, “Yes.” Then he thanked both presenters and touted next week’s speaker, **Patrick Nugent**, Military Photographer, talking about “*American Military Birds of the Air*.” Joe led us in the Five-Way Test and abolished the meeting at 12:54.

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Guests

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