



WINTER Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 07, February 24th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb 24th**
Rick Cocker
"Samaritan Inn"
- Mar 3rd**
Doreen Bruner – Camp Esparanza
"A Camp for Children With Cancer"
- Mar 10**
TBD
- Mar 17**
John Perez – Homeland Security
"Human Trafficking"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



WHAT'S THE WORD?

ONLY 3 folks were wearing masks even fitfully this day. Of course, it's tough eating through any mask, except, perhaps, a Venetian one, and they're no protection. **S**ainted Editor, his photographer, **Peggy Fenwick**, and **John Caldwell** all know why they're wearing N95 masks even as some may have already had the virus. In **S**ainted Editor's case, he had it and wasn't even aware! **ASYMPTOMATIC**. So he could've been accused of being a super-spreader *a la* **Typhoid Mary** but for the fact of his having worn the mask. So it's not to protect him from others...quite the reverse. (Enough preaching for the day. You can now report him to **Gov. Abbott**.)



He Who Shall be Named, **Joe Camarena**, belled us to order at 12:10, assigning **John Caldwell** for the Invocation and **Janis Allman** to the Pledge. He offered a spare sandwich, intended for the speaker, **Patrick Nugent**, but Patrick had thought ahead and brought his lunch. **Karen Taylor** bought it for a \$5 **BUBBA'S BUCKET** contribution.

In announcements, **John Caldwell** has sent out links to the 4-Way Test competition talks and expects the results of the judging back by Friday. Judges include minions of the Chamber of Commerce in whose house we reside.

Bob Kehr was **SGT.-AT-ARMS** in **Hayden Padgett's** absence. He welcomed **↓Ron Silvis**, standing in for ailing wife, **Janelle Twyford-Silvis**, whose recently broken humerus is giving her fits. It's not at all humorous.



Bob then introduced a **Don Huehn**, who is considering joining a Rotary club. So we should be on our best behavior! **Don** has been a TX resident since 1990, working for American Airlines. He and his wife, **Flora**, live in NE Carrollton and found Plano Rotary on Facebook, "*which was a great attraction.*" He is a professional finance planner and native of upstate NY. His Dad was a Rotarian, joining in 1945! He said he "*got a lot out of it over the years,*" considering the widespread good works and the diverse membership.

But we had a real Visiting Rotarian in **Sulakshan Mahajan**, Guragon, India! **Sulakshan** was sporting an Indian Navy cap when he exchanged flags with



Bob. Captain Mahajan has retired from the Navy and is now in the US visiting his sons, one local and one in Atlanta, following the death of his wife of 50 years. He just joined Rotary in August and tried to travel here then but was stymied by the COVID travel ban. He is now

finding comfort in the Rotary family, having visited clubs in Atlanta, Colorado, Frisco, and Plano. "I thank you so much, and G*dbless you!"

In Janelle's entirely excused absence, Joe plugged the **Texas Forever Fest** from 11-6 on 3/26 in Haggard Park and our (#2) part in it.



Porcha Maten → plugged the Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy's Black History Program starting at 8:30 am on 2/24 (this morning, as you read this). It's on Facebook live LPCA-PTO.



← Kathy Taylor dropped her sandwich long enough to tell us she's now doing double-duty on her YMCA boss' resignation. Her first act was to take down the Plano Rotary flag because we are in arrears, having failed to donate for two years! She returned the banner to Joe to present to the Foundation for amends. She stumped for the Y, stating it's "the community center where exercise happens," serving everyone from teens to seniors. She will be AWOL next Thursday to host **Mayor Muns** as a part of his Mayor's Listening at 3300 McDermott (YMCA).

Joe, hastening to correct the oversight, noted that the Foundation would like to hear from reps from all nonprofits who seek part of our budget. Then he presented ↑ **Jim Monroe** with a Paul Harris +3 award, prompting Porcha to ask, "What's Paul Harris?" (Oooo, have we got an answer for that, Porcha.)



Joe substituted for Janelle again, introducing Patrick Nugent, a Photojournalist for the USAF, as Senior Master Sgt., assigned to the (*What's the Word?*) **T hunderbirds**. But his 1st assignment was as a parachute rigger. One he prepared helped a pilot of a doomed F-100 escape with his life and then trade it to a Vietnamese farmer for a ride to a clearing where he was rescued! He was then trained in the DoD Photojournalism program at Syracuse U., after which he filmed "Presidents, Kings, Queens, Legislators, hostages, and celebrities," his favorite of which was **Bob Hope**. Following his military service, he was a Govt. Account Mgr. for Eastman Kodak and Nikon, Inc. He now lives in Allen with his wife of 50 years! (There's a lot of that going around.) They have two adult children and five grandchildren.

Patrick "marvels" every time he hears that long-winded introduction. He's a Yankee, originally from Chicago; his wife's a Southerner from Louisiana. So they fought "the Civil War every night" until he agreed to retire. For Kathy's benefit, he plugged the Estes Park, CO, YMCA and its Snow Mountain Ranch.

He joined the **T hunderbirds** 10 days after a major accident; a bird strike had killed the Pilot Commander. Then after 18 months of training, all six pilots were lost when the leader went down and the wing, watching only his plane for cues, followed him into the ground! That was an impetus to add positional awareness into the program.



Their HQ is in Las Vegas, and it boasts a motif of a Native American Thunderbird (see it in the photo above) on its floor. A part of the new recruit hazing has them polish that floor patch for days. It's such an honor to be chosen for the unit that any misdemeanor on your record disqualifies you, as does the team's veto.

T hunderbirds came to be 7 years after the Navy's *Blue Angels* in 1953. Recruits graduate from T-38 trainers to F-16 Fighting Falcons. John Caldwell asked if 40 hours of maintenance preceded every 1 hour of flying. "No."

Then he dazzled us with tales of hanging upside down to shoot their formation flying while juggling two cameras with different focal length lenses and directing his chase pilot to rise or fall!



The Hoover Dam and Las Vegas shots were the most harrowing. They must seek permission 3 months in advance to fly in that controlled airspace at 1,100 feet. His pictures are mostly for public relations purposes, appearing on brochures and in newspapers. He told of a wild ride, driving to Kodak HQ in NY to process his film in

time to one Independence Day celebration. His most widely-used shot turned out to be a vertical flight above Shay Stadium, but he's been to the UK to shoot the British Red Arrow and the Control de France with the **T h u n d e r b i r d s**, and to Morocco photographing the Crown Prince. The most harrowing trials are refueling runs with an air tanker. He's now traded his Nikon F3 cameras in for little GoPro ones.

Joe thanked Patrick for a most illustrated talk, led us in the 5-Way test, and dismissed the assembly at 1:10.



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The Plano Rotary Club
P.O. Box 864316
Plano, TX 75086

Guests

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