



SUMMER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 26, July 21, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

IMAGINE
ROTARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- July 21st**
PISD Coaches Day
- July 28th**
Plano Public Libraries
The Written Word
- Aug 4th**
Jackey Babb
*"Thinking Clearly" Pathways -
State of Mental Health*
- Aug 11th**
TBD

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joe Camarena	Jul 01
Sara Akers	Jul 10
Larry Bisno	Jul 16
Peggy Fenwick	Jul 19
Kathy Taylor	Jul 20
Jim Monroe	Jul 22
Maria Mott	Jul 23



Cruise Not Ted

ERRATA: Sainted Editor received these corrections after the *Weekly Reader* went to press.

1. **Nora Gravois** did not mention **Paige Trawick**, nevertheless, Paige corrected Nora's assertion that she was from UH.
2. The Memory Café meets from 1-2 pm monthly on the 4th Wednesday.
3. The Homeless Initiative Grant provides some seniors for up to **15** months housing relief.
4. 1 in 3 senior will suffer dementia by 2025. Currently, it's 1 in 5 (as stated in the Bulletin).

Due to an A/C catastrophe at the Chamber, we met at the PISD HQ at the kind (and timely) invitation of its Board



VP, ↑**Nancy Humphrey**, who also provided beverages. Non-adult beverages. The cheese board, cookies, pizza, and other comestibles were provided by **Marco Solano**↗, Sainted Editor, and President-for-Life **Janelle**↑ **Twyford-Silvis**. Past President **Joe** served as

Photographer du Jour in place of the AWOL **Peggy Fenwick**. Indeed, beaucoup members failed to find PISD HQ. As a public service, it's here:



PFL Janelle opened the proceedings at 12:14, summoning a **Priest (John)**↘ to Pray and an **Allman (Janis)** to Pledge. Photographer **Joe** was our Greeter, but he arrived dead last.



SERGEANT MIKE MCCORMACK↘ found no one to fine as we were all dutifully wearing our name tags. But there was a guest, ↘**Jeff McGee**, who is considering membership. "I want to see how I can help out."





Janelle applauded **Hayden Padgett** (7) and Nancy Humphrey and **Carrolyn Moebius** (12 each) on their years of Rotary service. She also wished the **BirthDay List** a **Happy BirthDay**, thoughtfully sparing us the off-key sing. But **Sara Akers** was having none of it; the ex-Arts maven insisted on HB2U, and we made her pay by our rendering (as off fat).

Johnny Lewis took the opportunity for an RI Moment, educating Jeff McGee in the ways and means of Paul Harris Fellowship. He told the rest of us that the 5810 “matching” grant had finally come through for our ShelterBox contribution. Then he explained what a PH+X means (\$1,000 plus X thousand more), and that we are now a 91% PHF club, aiming for 100%. He presented



Jerry Aris with his PH+2 certificate, pointing out that he'd met Jerry and John Priest in a Prison Ministry (volunteers, not inmates!).

Janelle said we'd meet next week back at Prosperity Bank. The Chamber's A/C is apparently on the mend. She passed around a sign-up sheet for Rotary tee shirts via **Alan Feigenbaum**, a former member and current doodad salesman. Then she turned to introducing the speaker, **Angela Kelso**→.

Angela is owner of AK (not Abercrombie & Kent) Destinations Travel Group, a Full-Service Travel Planning Agency since 2013. AK Destinations connects people through travel with a focus on individual needs to create lifelong memories. Born and raised in Ireland, where her love of travel began, Angela traveled throughout Europe and lived in Denmark, Italy, and the Greek Isles during her hospitality career. After coming to the USA, Angela attended Kennesaw College in Atlanta, where she began a decade-long career in Private School Fundraising. She was part of an Alumni and Development team focusing on Annual Giving and Endowment Fund for a NW Atlanta private school. She moved to Texas in 1999, and her career eventually transitioned to her love of Travel and Hospitality. Today, Angela and her team plan individual and group travel, solo travelers, couples, multigenerational family travel, bucket list destinations worldwide, and groups. Her true focus is still connecting people through travel and bringing people together with a common theme and becoming lifelong travel friends, and the love of traveling.



If we were hoping for a brogue, we were disappointed; she's been in the US long enough to lose it. But some of the Old Country has stuck: she didn't need a microphone!

Angela decried the staycations visited upon all of us in the pandemic. For herself, she longs for Italy. She asked us for a show of hands and discovered that none of us had traveled outside the US...yet. (Sainted Editor and spouse take the Orient Express this September.) But it takes fortitude (and patience) to travel now; we're *“waiting for hours on hold only to be cut off!”* That frustration is also felt online.



Some of us are waiting for the dust to settle while others are itching to get on the road. But covid restrictions are still confusing because still evolving. Angela is here to tell us that *“the excitement and the fun is back!”* Her cautions are that we must set realistic expectations.

- Pack light
- Pack your patience
- Expect changes!

She then put a plug in for travel agents <surprise, surprise>, saying that *“they help out when you’re stranded in ways that Expedia can’t.”* Use trip apps on your smartphone that track you and inform you of things like gate changes. Use apps that verify your vaccine status, although most countries are now open.

LAND: Hotels are pivoting away from business travelers (who now use ZOOM) and toward leisure travel, for whom ZOOM doesn’t cut it. As an agent, she’s tracked more Land than Cruises.

CRUISE: That industry has been the most affected by the pandemic. River cruising has ascended over larger ships. Retirees cruise. Families are still *“building back.”* And a negative covid test is still required for cruising.

AIRLINES: Be sure your passport has 6 months on it beyond your return date. Take your covid vaccination card, and take out travel insurance (but read the fine print!).

Airlines are suffering from insufficient staff, having let lots of them go (rather than use the government monies to keep them as intended; CEOs became millionaires on it). Amsterdam, Heathrow, and Frankfurt (major waypoints all) are suffering because they didn’t anticipate current travel demand.

If you DIY and book online, inform your agent anyway! He/she/it may still be able to help.

Jeff McGee asked about passport delays and was told it will take 4 months unless you pay to have it expedited. If it’s expired, you must appear in person.

Janelle asked if *“insurance is any good?”* Johnny Lewis had an anecdote about being in a Paris hospital, missing his flight, and the insurance flying him 1st class in evacuation. Jeff agree that MedJet is worth it, despite the \$500 annual subscription.

Sainted Editor asked about repositioning cruises, and Angela said they’re a *“very good deal,”* and she’s booking a higher percentage of them.

Janelle thanked her, led us in the 5-Way Test and dismissed the gathering at 1:00.



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Guest Jeff McGee

Guest of

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none

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