



SPRING Weekly

Reader

Volume 22, Issue 18, May 19th, 2022

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 19th
RYLA
"The Closer Few"

May 26th
Christopher Biane
Plano Police
"The Scams we were not prepared for"

June 2nd
Mimi Connor / LovePacs
Please bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to LovePacs

June 9th
Curtis / CPS Board
Transitioning from Foster to College

June 16th
Colin Cahoon / Author
"Mended Wings"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ray Huffines	May 01
John Priest	May 05
Chris Parr	May 06
Howard Matson	May 11
Mary Jo Dean	May 27

Montgolfier Plano

WE had an actual Greeter this day, although **Gary Garza** chose to label **Johnny Lewis** as "more of a bouncer."

Johnny greeted this with equanimity, all the while plotting revenge.

He Who Shall Be Named Joe broke the reverie at 12:11, forcing Johnny into double duty as the *Invocateur* while punishing his *Provocateur*, Gary, with the Pledge.

Hayden Padgett made a Celebrity Appearance as **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**, prompting **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** to introduce her guest, **Mavis Everett**→, writer and *bon vivant*, who uplifted us all with her "you are more than enough..." quote.



Gary Garza introduced the CEO for Habitat for Humanity Collin County, **Celeste Cox**. Celeste↑ is a Rotarian in

her own right. Her club eats well at Rick's Chop House in McKinney.

Joe felt obliged to make a game of speaker **Jo Via's PLANO BALLOON FESTIVAL**. He offered prizes (of RI's Annual logo) to those who could answer his two questions, the 1st of which was "What is different about this year's Festival?" Gary piped up, "It's being held!" in contrast to the past two covid years. **Joe** held that to be insufficient, so someone else ventured "because it's four days" as opposed to the usual three. That was the sought answer.

The 2nd question was "Why?" No stranger to inside trading, the VP of the PSO Board, **Chris Parr**, shot his hand up and announced, "It's because of a concert by the PSO." **Joe** feigned ignorance, "PSO?" **Sainted Editor** patiently enunciated, "**Plano Symphony Orchestra.**" Chris collected his prize.

It was then time for the 1st prize-winning presentation of our 4-Way Test Speech Contest. **Joe** struggled with the video until several members stood in for the AWOL tech guru, **Bob Kehr**.

Andie Abell of J.J. Pearce High School (RISD) had taken as her topic the stereotypical characterizations of women as portrayed in Reality TV shows. She decries *The Bachelor* and *Love Island* and their ilk as misogynistic. A U Penn study demonstrated 3x the instances of emotional women as men in such series. Men seeking sex are lauded

for their “*dominance*,” whereas similar-behaving women are castigated and shamed. Indeed the producers wait until menstrual cycles are at their peak before filming the women, emphasizing, as if it were necessary, the scripted aspect of Reality TV. Andie held that to be an invidious double standard. Indeed the humiliation follows the women after they leave the show via online abuse alleging mental instability.

She asserts that such portrayals contribute to the characterization of the Me Too movement as “*attention-seeking*.” She charges the listener to consider giving women the respect that their own mothers, sisters, and wives deserve.

John Priest commented that the talk was well organized. **Maria Mott** believed it to have been “*delivered with grace*.” Gary Garza thought that the emotional subject was discussed without anger. Johnny Lewis criticized it for being tainted with the references to Reality TV. **Janis Allman** admitted going to school with Johnny; Johnny admitted to being the younger of the two. Janis said she’s “*never experienced what these women are going through*,” because she “*never had a man tell me I can’t do*” anything to which she’d set her mind. Nevertheless, she admires their courage to speak out.

Joe mentioned the need for someone from the Club to attend the 5810 4-Way Test Speech Contest for the 5 finalists, including our own! We need to show the flag, as it were.

Johnny said he’s busy with RYLA, so he can’t be there. (Gary [mock] cheered.) Indeed our candidates for RYLA will be at next week’s meeting with school officials. We’ll do an A:B check, before and after the camp, to see the difference it makes in the campers.



Celeste and Gary joined Janelle, **Joe**, and Johnny for a group photo with the Giant **\$5,000** Check to Habitat for Humanity. Johnny told of the 1st Habitat recipient in Collin County, a 101-year-old lady in 1991. Gary thanked **Joe** for all the volunteer help at the ReStore and home sites.

Meanwhile, Maria Mott’s unsilenced phone cost her a \$5 fine, which she promised Padgett to bring next time for sure.

Janelle rose to introduce they who needed no introductions: Jo Via and **Jessica Jackson**, originally both members of the Club. (Jessica swears they’ll return...sometime.) Janelle knew Jo from Leadership Plano’s **BEST CLASS EVER**, and Jessica was her mentor in Junior League. Janelle praised the pair as “*the epitome of reimagining*” during the pandemic.



Jo asked for a show of hands for those familiar with the Balloon Festival. When all the hands went up, she said, “*OK, we’ll sit down now*.” (Teasing promises.) The poster art painting is hanging in their offices. (One wonders whether they’ve considered commissioning an original watercolor from **Jean Godfrey**? **Sainted Editor** bought one for **Randy** and **Diana Wright** to ease the pain of giving up his balloon.) The Festival is scheduled for **22-25 September** this year, and it will appear in Oak Point Park (adjacent Collin College’s Plano Campus) at “*Red Tail Pavilion*,” the renamed amphitheater.

PSO Exec. Dir., **Robert Reed**, proposed the event for the symphony’s first outdoor concert. Both boards now approving, it’ll take place on Thursday, 22 September. Doors open at 5 for picnickers, and the concert starts at 7. Since its usual venues top out at 1,500, this unlimited audience will be a chance for the symphony to make new friends (and donors and patrons).

Jessica said that Friday and Saturday evenings will be Glow Nights when the balloons light up. Audiences will be permitted on the field if the weather holds up. There’ll be 30 balloons, sky divers, and fireworks to enliven and entertain the crowd.



Jo said the Festival is a 501(c)(3) that's been in operation for ~40 years! Its major contributor is the City of Plano (the Festival gets the biggest slice of the community arts events pie), and it is extremely grateful to the Parks Dept. and all City services that contribute to its success.

Jessica told us that ~50 local nonprofits do almost everything for the Festival, which reduces the need to purchase such services. Some of the nonprofits maintain booths to advertise their services and seek donations. For the donation of parking, Collin College received **\$223K** in scholarships over the years.

Jo gave us her mantra: *"We produce this event for 90,000 of our closest friends."* The Festival has a Board (Janelle serves on it). And it generates enough electricity *"to power 30,000 households!"* She and Jessica have been steering the Festival for 30 years. Someone grumbled about *"child labor laws."* Jessica said *"You got us all if Jo was involved."* Jo returned the compliment, stating that Jessica *"has great detail skills."* It has put Jessica through SMU to be of greater assistance to the Festival! Then the discussion devolved into the merits of funnel cakes. Jo admitted to loving festival foods.

The first Balloon Festival was held in 1980 on the Westside of Plano, spearheaded by **John**

Brodhead (Randy's father) and Randy Wright (an unrelated Randy). The mother-daughter duo are happy to be part of such a beautiful event.

"Now, who wants to go?" Jo asked as Jessica circulated the tables with complimentary tickets. There were still hands up when the 5 tickets ran out, and Jo promised to supply more.

Joe asked, *"What's Janelle do?"* Janelle said that she runs the Information Booth. Janis asked if we can **bring guns to the event**. Only in Texas! When eyes widened, Janis admitted *"just joking!"* *"Only if you don't shoot the balloons!"*

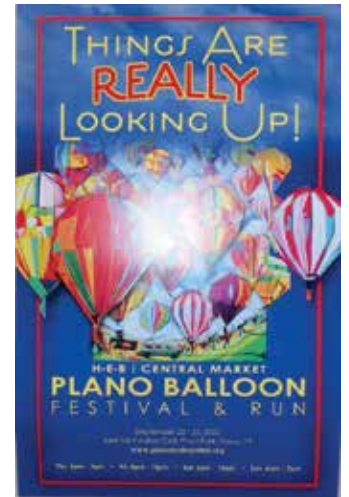
Porcha Maten needed one or two posters for her Legacy Academy, and Gary need one for the ReStore.

Nancy Humphrey asked if the Festival *"is gonna have wi-fi."* Jessica dodged the question with *"working on that...do you know anyone?"* The park has **REALLY SLOW** wi-fi, but the Festival needs better.

Festival minions posed for a group photo (pg.2) and received the gratitude of the Club for their presentation.

Joe asked Porcha for an Interact update. She said two of the club's members have graduated, one to Collin College and one to UT Dallas.

Joe then led the Club in the 5-Way Test and scattered us to the Four Winds like Aeolus at 1:02.




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Guests

Visiting Rotarians

Guest	Guest of
Mavis Everett Celest Cox	Janelle Twyford - Silvis Gary Garza

Visiting Rotarian	Home Club
none	

