



# FALL Weekly

# Reader

Volume 21, Issue 20, November 18th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 18

**Sara Bonser**

*PISD Teacher of the Year*

November 25th

**NO NOON MEETING**



December 2

**Jamee Jolly**

*PISD Foundation Update*

December 9

**Marissa Pittman**

*Patriot Paws*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Martin Jackson Nov 12



## ARS GRATIA ARTIS REDUX

**P**EGGY FENWICK returned on this meeting to the role of photographer, so President Joe can safely praise the photos herein without fear of offense. **Sainted Editor**, however, is AWOL today, on his way to Scottsdale, AZ, to preview a new electric car. With any luck, **Hubert Aaron**, District 5810's former editor, will be in attendance to put him to shame.

**He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena**, fired the starting gun at 12:10, persuading **Robert Reed** to offer up the Invocation and **Sara Akers** to lead us in the Pledge. No one was credited with Greeting.

**Brad Keith** introduced whom someone named an "unofficial Rotarian" for her persistence, **Marna**, his chauffeur and loving wife.



**Sara Akers** announced Angel Tree, our gift to Samaritan Inn's 55 children last year. We raised \$2500 for the event the last time and are hoping for a like amount this year. Your gift can be communicated to **Karen Sheldon**, who will put it on your tab. The event is 9 am on Christmas Eve, celebrated with hot chocolate and donuts at the Inn. Early in December, we'll receive the list of requests and will go shopping for them. The **Sullivans** have graciously offered

to reprise their traditional roles as Mr. & Ms. Claus.

Joe said this "ties into" our Christmas Party on 16 December when our meeting starts early at 11:30 with door prizes and entertainment. (**Janelle Twyford-Silvis** volunteered Robert Reed as the singing sensation.) At that meeting we'll also be wrapping the presents for Angel Tree.



Janelle needs BBQ recipes NOW in MS WORD at jt7446@yahoo.com She's received contributions from Plano's celebrities and politicians "lickety split," but us Rotarians are lagging. The City of Plano is picking up the tab for this **Texas Forever Fest**.

She urged us not to miss the meeting of 9 December when the speaker is from Patriot Dogs (in Rockwall) and is bringing a dog to Rotary! Sara asked Janelle if the final meeting in December will include alcohol. **Rick Horne** piped up, "I like your thinking!"

Joe scotched the idea, substituting an **Ugly Sweater Contest** in its place. He asked us for pictures from the last such humiliation.

**Porcha Maten** announced that her Academy's INTERACT program will vote on officers next Wednesday. It is having a Bracelet Sale soon.

Joe reminded us that this day was Veterans Day, and he invited vets to stand and be recognized. Two who did

so were Brad Keith and **Mike McCormack**. Brad said he'd been a Cryptographic and Signals Officer aboard a heavy cruiser in the Western Pacific during the Korean War. Mike said he served in the Coast Guard from '67 to '97! He went to the Navy's OCS and was assigned to fly helicopters in Antarctica.

Joe told us of a cooperative Christmas Party at the **Haggard Party Barn** that he's hoping to pull off from 6-8 pm on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We are to bring **Coats for Cops** and wear seasonal clothing. We are to answer the Evite from Karen as will members of 3-4 other Plano Clubs. Should you bring a guest, be prepared to pony up \$25.

Janelle bragged on her Marine Dad. Joe bragged on two adopted daughters in the military. Chris bragged on his wife again, having neglected to bring \$1.

As the sign-up for Rotarian of the Month votes was being circulated, **John Caldwell** said, "And you can't vote for yourself." **Sainted Editor** reminded him, "You did." John replied, "Yes, 4 times!"

Mike McCormack volunteered to continue his life story. He joined the Travis City (MI) Club in '87. That club bought 1500 acres of woodland to be turned into a Scouting Camp. They leased it to BSA, retaining the mineral rights. When oil and gas reserves were discovered, it became the 4<sup>th</sup> wealthiest Rotary in America with \$50M in its Foundation. It does matching grants throughout a 5 county area in northern Michigan. Its "windfall" profited all the Rotaries in that area. Still members do small fundraisers like BBQs to benefit kids and teaching them to fish, and securing \$120K for computer labs for high schools. The Club's Rotary Minstrel Show morphed into something less offensive which now nets \$50-60K annually.



Program Chair Janelle introduced speaker, **Mike Mazur**, President of Plano Arts Coalition. His day job is as VP on Sara's North Texas Performing Arts, where he heads its Academy.

Mr. Mazur said that it was a "great honor" to speak at Rotary, although he thought that in do-



ing so, he was "preaching to the choir." He defined a choir as a group whose "whole is greater than the sum of its parts." And, he said, "Rotary is a great choir."

Plano Arts Coalition (PAC) is a consortium of Arts organizations and dedicated to ensuring that Plano is an Arts Destination. Assuming us all to be devotees of Mammon, he emphasized that the arts constitute an "economic driver in Plano." He lobbies Austin for funding by demonstrating "the role of Arts in Society."

He gave a nod to Mike McCormack telling us that he went to Bowling Green State U and vacationed in Travis City! ♪It's a small world after all.♪

He said he was proud to have been sent to a religious high school and happy that Rotary gave him a connection to public schools via the Four-Way Test Speech Contest, which he won! NTPA hosts our contest.

The pandemic "opened minds to" the struggles of artists who "suffered more than most." When Broadway shut down, NYC took a hit. The Arts add \$768B to the economy, what with dinner and lodgings associated with the shows. They contribute \$473M to Texas' economy yearly. 22,000 jobs were lost in the arts industry due to covid.

"Billions" of Californians have moved to Texas. (There's only ~1/3 billion total population in the US, so he meant "millions," perhaps.) They resettle "for the taxes," but when other states woo with similar tax relief, they stay for the arts (and PISD, for example). They are "why you stay."

15% of the Hotel/Motel Tax is permitted by the State to go to the Arts. In Plano, it's 9%, losing visitors in the pandemic.

1 in 15 Texans have "creative" careers; that means there are 900,000 artist types statewide. In Plano, 53,000 but 42% have lost their jobs.



He urged us to

1. Attend local events
2. Invite local arts groups to perform/display at Rotary events.
3. Fill out the survey form provided as the first Club to do so.
4. Host Rotary events at locations that support the arts, like
  - a. Heritage Farmstead
  - b. Willow Bend Center
  - c. Art Centre of Plano
5. Spread the gospel of the impact of the arts on the economy.
6. Enjoy the Arts!

A Rotarian (presumably Sara) encouraged NTPA to move to Willow Bend and grow it into the largest arts organization in the State.

John Caldwell asked for a list of Plano Arts events and was directed to

[PlanoArtsCoalition.org](http://PlanoArtsCoalition.org)

Joe told Mr. Mazur that a book, “*The Art of Tesla,*” would be donated to the Plano Libraries in his name.

Janelle announced next week’s speaker to be PISD Superintendent **Sara Bonser** who will introduce the Teachers of the Year. Joe led us in the 5-Way Test and bid us adieu at 12:57.



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JAIME SCHELL | 32 YEARS

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DANIEL ASKARI | 5 YEARS

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**Guests**

**Guest**  
Marna Keith

**Guest of**  
Brad Keith

**Visiting Rotarians**

**Visiting Rotarian**  
None

**Home Club**

