



SUMMER Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 11, September 16th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 16th

Britney Wynn
"Texas Legends"

September 23rd

Duncan Webb
Collin County Updates

September 30th

Sam Grief
Plano Fire Rescue & New Training Facility

October 7th

Dr Matkin
Collin College Update



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Hubert Aaron

Sep 17



Calling All Scholars!

JAMEE JOLLY made the mistake of sitting at **Sainted Editor's** table. He hastened to warn her that she was in mortal danger of being quoted in the *Weekly Reader*. He had neglected to so warn **Mike McCormack** last week, to Mike's confoundment. So let this be a written warning to all members: free pizza comes at a dear price!

He Who Shall Be Named, Joe Camarena, called for a cessation of frivolity at 12:11, summoning long-suffering (more later) **John Caldwell** to Pray and **Maria The Eager Mott** who jumped over John to Pledge. **Janelle Twyford-Silvis** noted that Joe still owed **BUBBA'S BUCKET** \$10 from last week; she'll take it out of the \$20 he dropped in this week.

Robert The Clarinet Reed reminded us of the Rotary Social at the 9/25 PSO performance of the (faux) **BEATLES' MYSTERY TOUR**. Code Rotary2021 gets you \$5 off your ticket price, and Robert is still trying to arrange a social hour either preceding the 8 pm concert or following it. John Caldwell suggested that we invite the other Plano Rotaries to the same discount, and Robert agreed; Joe said he'd notify them.

As **BUBBA'S BUCKET** was being carried around by **Johnny Lewis**, stumping for increased donations there-

to, **Janis Allman** praised him for being so "good at raising money!"

John *the Woefully Overworked* Caldwell was called upon for a **ShelterBox** report. He noted the **ShelterBox** donation form before each of us; we can either use that or email **Karen Sheldon** to have her debit us for our Foundation which will funnel the \$ to **ShelterBox** via a 5810 matching grant (hopefully \$7500). (That's even better than donating directly, even if you credit Plano Rotary with the donation, because John gets to use it toward the match.)

John encouraged us with "The more you donate, the bigger the number on the Really Big Check!" He also suggested denominations: \$400, \$1000, and \$1500, corresponding to the size and accommodations of the **ShelterBoxes**. When asked if she had anything to add, photographer **Peggy Fenwick** demurred saying, "No, he pretty well covered it."

John *the Fully-Fatigued* Caldwell (that's what you get when you're named Rotarian of the Month, John) was called upon again to discuss the reactivating Rotaract Club. He rose, commenting that his *iWatch*® tells him how many times he's stood





during the day, to tell us that 4WT Speech Contest winner from PESH is scoping out two possible faculty sponsors for a resurrection of Rotaract there. She has a little list of past members (who've not yet aged out), and he is "cautiously optimistic" about success. **Nancy Humphrey** recommended resurrecting the Bylaws as well. John promised to seek them out then asked in his usual dulcet tones, "IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE FOR ME?" Then he donned his mask and sat down. He, Nancy, and Robert were the only ones taking the Delta Variant seriously; **Sainted Editor** was loath to admit having neglected his own mask; but he'll not make that mistake twice. (Epidemiologists will tell you that we'll all catch COVID eventually. That inevitability would lead some to fatalism, eschewing all mitigation, but the smarter move is to mask up, even if fully-vaccinated! That is because **all viruses mutate**. The natural mistakes in replication lead to variants. We've seen the Delta variant rise to 95% of all infections because it was a more successful mutation. Eventually, a variant will arise that defeats the current vaccines! That just means we must wait ~6 months for a new mRNA to become available. During those 6 months, masking will slow the spread and reduce your and your loved ones chances of being hit with it. Words to the wise.)

Janis Allman reported the cancellation of the **PLANO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** and all associated booths; so Rotary will stand down for a year. Luminara will be lit in the park for the souls cut down by COVID. Robert's PSO will still take part in *Dancing with the Symphony* in the Courtyard Theater on the evening of the Festival 10/9. (Two years ago, that was an event well-worth attending! It supports not only the artists but also youth music scholarship winners. And it was very professionally done!)

Joe touted ReStore volunteering and nominations for Rotarian of the Month. He also urged us to sign up for the humiliation of the Rotary Minute (your life story in 60 seconds).

Jeff Beckley happily reported having his wallet returned and shilled for the Chamber's Plano Podcast which recently featured Jamee Jolly's PISD Education Foundation.

Jeff also called for volunteer spotters for an upcoming Golf Tournament Monday through Wednesday of (last) week. The *Weekly Reader* revels in such late notices.

Joe noted the existence of pizza and Madeleines, the **Lunch of Champions**, provided by **Sainted Editor** and Peggy?

Jeff rose (without complaint, John) to introduce today's speakers, **Shelley Strickland** and **Berk Smith**, both from a near and dear NGO, the Hendrick Scholarship Foundation.

Shelley is its Director of Community Relations, and Berk is its Board VP. Shelley is a Rotarian of 15 years standing with Plano Metro and its Past President. She's from Class 23 (the best ever) of Leadership Plano, the 2014 Athena Award winner, and a member of *Women Making a Difference*. She and husband of 2 dozen years, **Ray**, have 2 college-aged children and a less demanding lake house (Lake Cypress Springs).

Berk is a "social entrepreneur," having spent 30 years as President of Healthcare Services at Perot Systems/Dell. Wife Joan is with Children's Hospital Women's Auxiliary & Plano Fine Arts.

Shelley was not at all amazed to discover a room full of Hendrick supporters, given **Wayne's** influence. She then struggled with and finally mastered her video presentation which (predictably) involved Hendrick Scholars who struggled with and finally mastered their college education thanks to the help of the Foundation. They were all first in the families to go to college, but, as Berk pointed out, their progeny won't carry that burden! "I am that smart girl, so thank you," Hendrick.



Started in 1991 by community leaders, HSF looks for “*the neediest grads from PISD*” who have “*shown the determination to succeed,*” and supplies college scholarships through the B.S./B.A. But, via volunteers, it also offers career advice and (more importantly) mentoring and life skills training. Fiddling with our heart strings, Shelley said, “*Imagine you’re a 17-year-old with legal custody of a younger brother*” because Mom’s a crack-head and Pop’s incarcerated. “*These are the stories we hear on a routine basis.*” PISD teaches 15K at risk students. 12.5% of them go to college, but >50% of Hendrick scholars graduate with four-year degrees. (More if you include AA’s and certificates.) Hendrick has awarded some \$2M+ since 1991.

—MODEL FOR SUCCESS—

1. Coaching and tutoring
2. Educational planning
3. Career guidance
4. Life skills workshops
5. Referrals to community resources

John *the spread too thin* Caldwell is “*a big leader*” in the workshops. They cover effective study habits, networking, and how to find a job.

Shelley made an example of a **Mr. Alvarez**, who graduated from *UTD* and became a teacher. **Ms. Rutledge** entered the medical field. She offered us volunteers positions as coaches, tutor, ambassadors, fundraisers, and gofers at Hendrick events. We can underwrite a full scholarship for **\$15K**, none of which goes for administration!

Berk Smith gushed his appreciation for Plano Rotary Club. He fêted **Mary Jo Dean** for her



“*being everything*” in the Hendrick. He honored Nancy Humphrey for having run Hendrick for years. He cited **Bob Kehr** for “*kehring*” about Hendrick. And John *the Exhausted* Caldwell gained further

praise for his workshops.

Surprisingly, he declared the Foundation in good financial health, perhaps due to the unusual rejection it received from one potential scholar. He noted that the 55 active scholarships all are fully funded through their completion. Most of the Foundation’s funding goes directly to the students; it only has one full-time employee.

Berk has a vision of a 3-year challenge to fund the college aspirations of 100 kids! He touted the donation of stock, tax-exempt, to HSF. HSF needs only 1/3 more funding to reach his vision.



Following the Giant Check presentation, Joe led us in the 4WT and belled us out at 1:02.



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ROBERT KEHR | 2 YEARS

EMMA SMITH | 2 YEARS

JANELLE TWYFORD-SILVIS | 3 YEARS

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