

ROTARY ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

Vol. 90 No. 18

October 31, 2008

Editorial

An Open Letter to the Next President of the United States



Cindy Fontaine

Dear Mr. President:

I know you have a lot on your plate as you begin your new job—the economic problems, the wars we are fighting, the health care crisis . . . However, I write to bring your attention to another pressing issue that demands your leadership: a crisis in American civic literacy.

A recent survey of American adults revealed that 41% of respondents were unaware that there were three branches of the federal government, and 61% of respondents could not name the three branches of the federal government. Another survey of American teenagers revealed that only 35% of respondents knew that the phrase “We the People” begins the United States Constitution, while

71% knew that “www” begins an internet website address. Study after study has revealed serious deficiencies in many Americans’ understanding of basic American democratic governmental fundamentals (such as separation of powers, bicameralism, and federalism) and constitutional values (such as liberty, representation, compromise, and tolerance).

Yet, ours is a participatory democracy that depends on an informed electorate to fulfill its role in the constitutional plan. James Madison said, “a well instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.” Former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor recently said that civics education is our best hope for “preserving a ro-

bust constitutional democracy. The better educated our citizens are, the better equipped they will be to preserve the system of government we have.”

It is no coincidence that at the same time we have seen a dramatic decline in civics education, we Americans have stopped talking to each other and started yelling at each other. We have stopped focusing on our common American conscience and instead we have focused on our differences. We have begun to view discussions about controversial topics as disruptions rather than as opportunities for civic engagement, and we have become obsessed with categorizing people based on their differences rather than embracing compromise and tolerance. Part of our civic duty as adults is to educate our children about their civic responsibilities and set good examples as

(continued page 4)

Program

October 31, 2008

SPEAKER:

D'Ann Dagen,
President & Founder,
Hangman's House of Horrors

FORT WORTH CLUB

Chairman for the Day:
Darla Robinson

NEWSCAST: *Tom Wright*

Last Meeting



Vickie Mauldin

Rotarians were promised an interesting story by today's speaker, and *Eddie Gossage* delivered a great one! As the innovative manager of Texas Motor Speedway, *Gossage* operates one of the largest sports facilities in North America. His story was one about business and government working together to create a great deal for all.

In August 1995, the City of Fort Worth sought and won the right to bring a speedway to Fort Worth. The city paid \$12,100,000 for the land then annexed the land to Fort Worth. Cost to build the Texas Motor Speedway? City of Fort Worth: \$0; Texas Motor Speedway: \$783,124,454. With the first race in 1997, the economic impact of having the speedway in Fort Worth is \$2,000,000,000. That is indeed a great story and impact for all.

The City of Fort Worth also gets 10 days of national TV coverage via the races. The Texas Motor Speed-

way is used 300 days each year and can park more cars than Walt Disney World. They have contributed \$5.5M to civic organizations, and given away \$250K annually in free race tickets to schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations. They employ 433 full-time employees and 1,800 part-time employees. Through their Children's Charities, youth in four counties have received \$4.7M, with 2008 amounts set to increase 25% over 2007. *Gossage* said Fort Worth has been a great partner and has done all they promised to do; the same can indeed be said about *Gossage* and the Texas Motor Speedway.

Jim Austin provided the invocation and *Mike Guyton* delivered a very entertaining "same ole story" interview with both presidential candidates. President *Doug* promised to be in costume at next week's meeting and dared all Rotarians to dress for Halloween. Two new members were introduced, *Matt Carpenter* and *Carol Noel*.

~ *Vickie Mauldin*,
First Command Educational
Foundation

First Readings

* John O'Rear:

- Proposed by *Ginger Head-Gearheart*
- Classification: Finance - Capital Investments
- Company: Gravity Capital Management

If no written objection is received in the Rotary office by next Friday, this proposal will be given second readings and voted on by the club.

Next Week's Program

November 7, 2008

SPEAKER:
Judith Dillard & Kids Who Care,
Walk the Nation

Chairman of the Day:
Steve Dutton

ROTARIAN: *Brandon Chase*

ROTARIAN: *Steve Dutton*

ROTARIAN: *Emil Friberg*



Brandon L Chase
Financial Advisor

4455 Camp Bowie Suite 224
Ft Worth, TX 76107
817-763-8097

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

A Home Is Hope Find Out Why!



Call 817-332-6410, ext. 179
to attend a SamaritanTour

 **SAMARITAN HOUSE**
Where there's a home, there's hope.

FRIBERG ASSOCIATES INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**Engineers of Record
for
Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing**

**THE FORT WORTH CLUB
11th FLOOR RENOVATIONS**

Take a look at the 11th floor
before or after Rotary
It's worth the time.

817-336-0543

Friday's Speaker



D'Ann Dagen

D'Ann Dagen is president and founder of La-De-Da Productions in Fort Worth, TX, and past president of the International Association of Haunted Attractions. D'Ann has produced haunted attractions for thirty-two seasons, each one incorporating hundreds of volunteers and benefiting local charities.

D'Ann's current and most renowned production is "Hangman's House of Horrors." In its 20th season, Hangman's has frightened half a million victims and raised over \$1.5 million for local charities. The production features a 45-minute walk-through haunt with 120 live actors and 100 support personnel, along with three stand-alone haunts: a 3-D Funhouse, the Hillbilly Café and The Beast. Hangman's 3.3-acre facility, one mile west of downtown Fort Worth, also houses midway rides, carnival games, live bands and concessions. Over 1300 volunteers and

225 companies were involved in the production this past season. Major sponsors include Coca-Cola, Coors, KSCS Radio, NBC5, Blockbuster, Valero and Magic etc.

In addition to her haunting activity, D'Ann also produces themed events for companies and individuals. Recent activities include directing the national awards show for Keep America Beautiful in Washington, D.C., coordinating seven concurrent award presentations for Nalco International, producing a variety of fashion shows and orchestrating several high-end debutante parties.

D'Ann happily resides with husband Evan McShirley, 110-lb. dog Jake, and three kitties, Frankie, Raven and Ki-Ki.

Make-Up Attendance

Fort Worth East — 10.20.08 — *Emil Friberg*

Western Fort Worth — 10.14.08 — *Clem Constantine, Harry Knudsen*
10.21.08 — *Clem Constantine, Harry Knudsen*

Fort Worth North — 10.22.08 — *Perry Pillow*

Judith Carrier Online
Kimberly Mills St. Louis, MO
John Fletcher Wasco, TX

How Rotary can Improve Your Day

Your Rotary pin will open the door of friendliness all around the world. Locally, it brings friendliness and appreciation. You start a befuddling day, one that seems to move against your at every turn. Finally, the noon hour comes and you rush to your Rotary meeting. The clouds begin to thin. A few minutes later you are surrounded by friends joined in joyous conversation, friends who know you for your true worth and believe in you.

Celebrate Halloween at Rotary!

In keeping with the spirit of our October 31 program presented by D'Ann Dagen of Hangman's House of Horrors, adventurous Rotarians are encouraged to join the Board by attending in full Halloween costume attire! We will recognize and honor the Rotarian judged as having the best costume, so put your best freakish foot forward and enjoy a Friday of special fun with Rotary!



Special Thanks to *Bob Jameson* for prize donations!



Editorial

(continued from page 1)

engaged citizens; we can't do that when we are focused on reacting with hostility to people who disagree with us.

You and your opponent both promised during your campaigns that you would bring change. If we are going to have a national conversation about the kind of change that will put the United States back on the path to becoming the best we can be, we need to educate our citizens about our system of government and our constitutional values so that we can re-engage as a civic society.

Yours in the spirit of service and civic responsibility,

~ Cynthia Fountaine,
Texas Wesleyan School of Law

Rotary Band



Holiday Harmonies this year hopes to add a new feature – an overture. Sounds like fun doesn't it? We need a variety of musical instruments. You do not need to be a performer on the level of a symphony musician.

If you play a musical instrument and would like to join in the spirit of the Holiday Harmonies group, please contact band director *Neva Williams*.



ROTAGRAPH

ROTARY CLUB OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Club No. 75, organized February 27, 1913
Published weekly, subscription price \$1.00 per annum.

Publication office, 715 Fort Worth Club Building 76102
TELEPHONE: (817) 332-7977 — **FAX:** (817) 335-4759

EMAILS: neva@rotaryfortworth.org

lisak@rotaryfortworth.org

WEBSITE:

www.rotaryfortworth.org

Executive Office, 715 Fort Worth Club Building
Luncheon Friday, 12:15 p.m., 12th Floor
Fort Worth Club Building
Neva Williams, Executive Director
Lisa L. Kruczynski, Associate Director

District 5790 Governor, Rotary International
Jerry Parr, Lake Kiowa, Texas

OFFICERS

Doug White President
Sid Johnston President-Elect
Susan Morgan Vice President
Cathy Neece-Brown Vice President
Ames Fender Secretary
Mike Baylor Treasurer
Tran Trong Sergeant-at-Arms

DIRECTORS

Mike Baylor	Kathryn Bryan
Fernando Costa	Ames Fender
Sid Johnston	Barbara Lamsens
Susan Morgan	Cathy Neece-Brown
Bo Soderbergh	Tran Trong
Doug White	Dorothy Wing

ROTAGRAPH

Craig Schaefer / Roger Yandell Co-Editors
Associate Editors

Roger Yandell Last Meeting
Perry Pillow Advertising
Roger Yandell Personals
Craig Schaefer New Members
Craig / Roger Editorials

Honoring Our Members

Dr. Louis Levy and Joe Rady were two special men who made many contributions to this club including being instrumental in starting the Rotary Children's Fund and laying the groundwork for the creation of the Child Study Center.

O. Roy Stevenson, Past President of this club, was instrumental in the creation of the Endowment Fund and the investment policies used for our charitable funds.

To honor these men and their gifts to this club and the community, we recognize members contributing to our charitable funds cumulatively in the amount of \$5,000, as a Levy/Rady Fellow and in the amount of \$1,000, as O. Roy Stevenson Fellows.

These gifts make it possible to reach out to our community and make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens. Watch your dues statement for your next opportunity to donate.

Our most recent honorees are:

O. Roy Stevenson Fellows

Barrett, Jack
Blake, Connie
Compton, Mattie
Earley, Robert
Hugon, John
Moncrief, Mike
Montgomery, Lynn
Noto, Martin
Ransom, Scott
White, Doug
Williams, Neva



Levy / Rady Fellow

Bob Jameson