

# ROTARY ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

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## Editorial

### *A Better Way to Die*

Have you ever had the responsibility of helping a loved one die?

When someone very dear to you suffers from a terminal condition, the natural reaction is to deny the inevitable. The truth of the coming loss is overwhelming. But at some point a responsible person must overcome the resulting disengagement and begin focusing on what is best for their loved one.

I've borne the weight of this responsibility twice in the past few years. After treatment for prostate cancer, my father lived for many happy years. But by 2003 it was clear that the disease had returned aggressively and was approaching its final stages. Medical treatments had exhausted their benefits. When his comfort and dignity became the primary concerns, I am truly grateful that Community Hospice of Texas was



*Jim Parr*

available. My dad entered their inpatient facility on the fourth floor of the James L. West Center in December of 2003. A loving, caring staff took the responsibility for his physical care, freeing family members to maximize personal time in the last few days we had to share.

Within fifteen days of my father's death, we received the devastating news that my wife Karen was suffering from rapidly growing liver cancer. She battled valiantly, subjecting herself to treatments that are hard now to think about.

In February, 2005, while on a weekend trip to Austin, her liver just completely shut down. Rushed to the emergency room, the doctors made it clear that the battle was nearly over.

On that gloomy Sunday, desperate to get her back home to see friends and family, I called Community Hospice. They assured me that a room would be made available, and on Monday we transported Karen back to Fort Worth. She spent her final two days in the same facility where my dad had received his care. Spared from a lonely hospital room far from home, Karen died surrounded by love, friendship, and support.

Given its mission of compassionate end-of-life care and services, it is not surprising that several Board members and senior staff of Community Hospice of Texas are members of our Rotary club. I'm honored to have been included in that group with my election to the CHT Board this past year.

If you are ever responsible for helping a loved one die, please don't think that you are alone. Care is available in your home, in a nursing center, or in Community Hospice's four in-patient facilities. Please let them help your loved one as they have helped mine.

— *Jim Parr*,  
William C. Jennings Co.

## Program

March 5, 2010

### SPEAKER:

Major General Graham Hollands  
Topic: Normandy

Chairman for the Day:  
*Jim Thomason*

FORT WORTH CLUB

NEWSCAST: *Dennis Shingleton*

# Last Meeting



*Sherry Matina*

The United States of America celebrates Black History Month in February, and our February 26, 2010 speaker, Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, gave us a terrific overview of this celebration's significance. Dr. Dulaney, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas, Arlington, called special attention to the story of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who founded "Negro History Week" in 1926. His initial goal was to draw the attention of his students to the celebration of the end of slavery and emancipation. (His celebration evolved into became Black History Month.)

At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a "climate of terrorism" existed in our country toward African Americans, and the feeling that African Americans had no history (and that their lives had no value) existed among many. Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, because he fer-

vently believed that African American history is a part of the fabric of American history. In 1933, he published The Mis-education of the Negro, to expand on his belief that Negroes were being taught what to believe about themselves and their own history, and that these teachings were often false or misguided. He is quoted as saying "The most mis-educated Negro is the most educated Negro."

Mr. Dulaney lamented that Dr. Woodson passed away in 1950, before school integration was successful. He (Dr. Dulaney) shared that the first college courses focusing on black history were developed in the late 1960's, and were called "Black Studies" courses. His hope is that our society evolves past needing a "Black History" month.

*Gary Cumbie* took a swing at Tiger Woods, compared Dick Cheney's heart to Joe Biden's brain, wondered about jobs, and commented on Mayor Moncrief's "Mo's" in the weekly newscast. *Jim Patterson, Bob Parmelee, Bob Middleton* and *Mac Churchill* were honored for years of service, and *Ann Wiley* received her Blue Badge.

~ *Sherry Matina*,  
Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors

# Thank you!

On February 24<sup>th</sup> the Club hosted a Workplace Literacy Summit with keynote speaker Dr. Ed. Gordon. We would like to extend our thank you to all of our sponsors who helped make this Summit possible. Sponsors for the event were: The Learning Center of North Texas, United Way of Tarrant County, Fort Worth Business Press, BBVA Compass, Williams Trew and the Friends of the Fort Worth Library. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Fort Worth Club, UNT Health Science Center and Fort Worth Human Resource Management Association.

Thank you to our panelists: *Kenneth Barr*, *Sal Adamski* and *Dick Ruddell* who did an outstanding job helping attendees understand the literacy challenges here in Tarrant County. And, a HUGE thank you to the Literacy Committee who orchestrated the entire Summit.

# Make-Up Attendance

Western Fort Worth — 02.23.10 — Clem Constantine

Fort Worth South — 02.23.10 — William Fitzgerald  
02.23.10 — Trey Lofton  
02.09.10 — Kathryn Thompson

Jack Barrett.....Edna, Texas  
Judith Carrier.....eClubOne

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# Friday's Speaker



Major General Graham Hollands

Major General Graham Hollands served for 32 years with the British Royal Artillery. He commanded artillery at every level between Troop and Army Group and served as a principal Operational Staff Officer up to Army level. His service included five operational tours in Northern Ireland and a major role in the planning and deployment for Operation DESERT STORM.

He first came to Normandy in 1975 to study the battles of 1944 with some of the key participants. They included the renowned Panzer Commander Colonel Hans von Luck, General "Pip" Roberts, Sergeant Major Stan Hollis VC, veterans from the spectacular glider borne assault on Pegasus Bridge and local Resistance leaders.

Since then, aside from extensive research, he has led tours for historians, veterans, families and management groups. General Hollands lectures regularly on the Queen Mary 2 and has appeared on the Discovery

Channel and the BBC as an expert commentator on D-Day and the Battle for Normandy.

Graham and his wife Lesley have lived in Normandy for 10 years. They run a successful and highly recommended bed and breakfast.

## Next Week's Program

March 12, 2010

**SPEAKER:**  
**Joe Becker**  
Vice President of Disaster Services, American Red Cross  
**TOPIC:** Haiti

Chairman of the Day:  
*Bob Mitchell*

# Personals



*Bernie Appel* and his wife recently flew to Hartford CT and drove to Gedney Farms in New Marlborough MA for a wedding. They stayed at Mepal in a 120 year old mansion. No cell phone reception and no TV. They were on the third floor and no elevator either! It was cold! It snowed Thursday night and it was fun watching the kids and some adults frolicking in the snow. Wedding was wonderful on Saturday night in an old converted barn. On Sunday after brunch they drove back to Hartford to return to FW. They had a great weekend.

On the local front, *Marilyn Ackmann's* 3-year-old granddaughter Kadence-Grace enjoyed her first rodeo when she recently attended the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

*Sharon Bailey* and *Johnnie Spruiell*, both of Southlake, wed on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at a family service in Grapevine, followed by a brief honeymoon at Cedars on the Brazos in Glen Rose.

To be 7 years old again! *Karen Holcomb* escaped the Fort Worth snow days just in time. She spent time in Naples, Florida helping her granddaughter celebrate her birthday. The American Girl doll theme incorporated caring for our planet and exploring our environment. Children and grandchildren are such a gift.

ROTARIAN: Fred Parker

ROTARIAN: Nancy Gibson

ROTARIAN: Walter Littlejohn

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## Rotary Education Committee hosts Science-focused Assembly at Riverside Middle School

On Wednesday, February 17, 2010, *Tim Plocica* arranged for Dr. Vincent Tam, Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Cook Children's Medical Center, to speak at an assembly for 8<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll students at Riverside Middle School.

Dr. Tam began his presentation by telling the students that he and his family emigrated from Hong Kong when he was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He said he did not speak much English, and learned very quickly that to be successful in this country, you have to speak English well. He shared that there were five children in his family, so he and his sisters knew that each of them would have to provide for themselves to get to college. He did so with a combination of scholarships and loans. He attended the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and did his residency and a fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Tam told the students that he enjoyed medical school. He encouraged them to pursue a field that they would really enjoy. He emphasized the importance of speaking English again when he said that the language of science and medicine worldwide is English. He has traveled to the

Republic of Georgia and Ethiopia to perform surgeries and to provide instruction to local doctors.

He went on to explain the five types of heart defects that he sees most often, and talked about how he approaches each surgery. He even brought a video of an actual heart surgery that he performed on an infant. It was amazing to see the size of his thumbnail in relation to the size of the heart he was working on. It truly is amazing surgery.

It was very encouraging that several students stayed after the assembly to meet Dr. Tam, and to ask him questions about going to medical school, what classes they should take in high school, etc. He was very generous with his time.

Our Rotary Club has been instrumental in arranging many of these assemblies, which supports FWISD's emphasis on Math and Science, and exposes the students to career ideas, and how a subject they may be interested in can be applied to a job sometime in their future.

—*Susan Morgan*  
Bakutis, McCully & Sawyer

# ROTAGRAPH

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

**EMAILS:** neva@rotaryfortworth.org

rotaryoffice@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  
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Paula Parrish .....	Advertising
Betty Harvey .....	Personals
Pat Dohoney .....	New Members
Drew Martin .....	Editorials



Top Left: *Tim Plocica*, Cook Children's Medical Center/Rotary Education Committee, Quanda Collins, Assistant Principal, Riverside Middle School. Dr. Vincent Tam, Cook Children's Medical Center, *Susan Morgan*, Bakutis, McCully & Sawyer/Rotary Education Committee

Top Right: Dr. Tam answers students' questions