

THE BLASTOFF

SPACE CENTER ROTARY'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



ROTARY CLUB OF SPACE CENTER • P. O. BOX 58862 • HOUSTON, TX. 77258
WWW.SPACECENTERROTARY.ORG • CHARTERED AUGUST 1964 • ROTARY DISTRICT 5890
MEETINGS: MONDAYS AT NOON • BRENTWOOD INN • 1300 NASA PARKWAY
CLEAR LAKE, TEXAS • VOLUME 43, NO. 5 • AUG. 7, 2006

TODAY'S PROGRAM

KINKY FRIEDMAN

Outrageous and irreverent but always thought-provoking, Kinky Friedman wrote and performed satirical country songs during the 1970s and has been hailed as the Frank Zappa of country music. The son of University of Texas professor, S. Thomas Friedman; Kinky studied psychology at Texas and founded his first band while there. *King Arthur & the Carrots*, a group that poked fun at surf music, recorded only one single in 1966. (The group included his friend, who would metamorphose, into Little Jewford in his next band.) After graduation, Friedman served three years in the Peace Corps; he was stationed in Borneo, where he was an agricultural extension worker.

By 1971 he had founded his band, *Kinky Friedman & the Texas Jewboys*. During the life of the band, in keeping with the group's satirical songs, some members had colorful or politically incorrect names: Little Jewford, Wichita Culpepper, Rainbow Colors, Sky Cap, Panama Red, and Snakebite Jacobs.

Friedman got his break in 1973 thanks to Commander Cody, who contacted Vanguard Music on behalf of the acerbic young performer. That was the year he and his group made their debut album, Sold American, featuring John Hartford and Tompall Glaser. In 1974, he recorded a self-titled album for ABC Records, produced by Los Angeles pop helmsman, Steve Barri. During the mid-'70s, Friedman and his band toured with *Bob Dylan & the Rolling Thunder Revue*. In 1976 he cut his third album, Lasso From El Paso, featuring Dylan and Eric Clapton. The *Texas Jewboys* disbanded three years later, and Friedman moved to New York, where he often appeared at the Lone Star Cafe. In 1983, he released Under the Double Ego for Sunrise Records.

After that, Friedman turned primarily toward writing, although he continued to make occasional nightclub appearances. He has written for *Rolling Stone*, for 3 years was a featured columnist for *Texas Monthly* magazine and, most famously, is the writer of 20 unique and outrageous mystery novels such as Greenwich Killing Time, A Case of Lone Star, The Mile High Club and Ten Little New Yorkers. He is also the author of 5 other books, the styles ranging from novel to non-fiction travel log. Many of Friedman's songs of the 1970s and early '80s were collected on two CD compilations, Old Testaments and New Revelations (1994) and From One Good American to Another (1995). In 1999, Willie Nelson, Tom Waits, and Lyle Lovett and others covered Friedman's music on the tribute album Pearls in the Snow: The Songs of Kinky Friedman, a second tribute volume is planned. In 2003, Vanguard released a 30th anniversary edition of Sold American (which included bonus tracks). In 2005, Sphincter Records issued the historically significant CD Mayhem Aforethought, a previously unreleased radio broadcast from 1973, of an entire stage show with Kinky and the original Jewboy band members. Most significantly, in February 2005, fed up with 'Texas politics as usual', Friedman announced his candidacy for Texas Governor. How Hard Could It Be? Source: Sphincter Records & All Music Guide



Agenda

- Luncheon Begins..... 11:45
- Call to Order..... 12:00
- Song..... Debby McBride
- Invocation..... Carlos Villagomez
- Pledge..... Tony Bloomfield
- Four-Way-Test..... Mark Humphrey
- Introductions of Guests & Visiting Rotarians..... Bill Geissler
- Announcements..... 12:10
- Program..... 12:30
Kinky Friedman
- Adjourn..... 1:00

THIS YEAR'S SHRIMPOREE SPONSORS SO FAR!!

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Food for thought...

In his essay "The Station," Robert Hastings writes, "Tucked away in our subconscious, we see ourselves on a long train that spans the continent. As we look out the windows, we drink in the passing scenes - children waving, cattle grazing, city skylines and village halls. But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day, we'll pull into the station, bands will play, and flags will wave. Once we arrive, we believe, so many wonderful dreams will come true. Restlessly we pace the aisles, despising the minutes, waiting for that station. When we reach the station, that will be it, we cry! When I buy my Mercedes. When I get married. When I've paid off the mortgage. When I retire. Waiting for the station. But sooner or later we realize that the true joy of life is not the destination, but the journey itself." So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Enjoy the journey. The station will come soon enough.

PEEK AT NEXT WEEK

Ken GURRY and crew
will be talking about the
Rotary Pavillion project.
Come check it out!



AREA MEETINGS

- **TUESDAYS @ NOON PEARLAND**
GOLFCREST COUNTRY CLUB
2501 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE
- **TUESDAYS @ 12:10 LA PORTE**
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BROADWAY @ AVE G
- **WEDNESDAYS @ 12:05 PASADENA S.**
BAYWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
5500 GENOA-RED BLUFF
- **THURSDAYS @ 7:00 AM SEABROOK**
LAKEWOOD YACHT CLUB
2425 NASA ROAD ONE
- **FRIDAYS @ NOON PASADENA**
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SERVICE Above Self

Rotary Did You Know

By: Billy Smith, Parliamentarian

Q. When introducing a guest, should a member say something like "This is my friend _____, who is interested in joining Rotary." or "This is _____ and he may be giving us his membership application soon."

A. The answer is an emphatic NO! Membership in a Rotary club is by invitation based on a proposal by another club (transferring member) or by a member of our club. The proposal should be kept secret from the person being proposed until the proposal has been accepted by the club's board of directors.

HAPPY Birthday to you...

Delia Stephens	2-Aug
Murray Epstein	3-Aug
Hector A. Marin	5-Aug
Mark Humphrey	13-Aug
Roger Donnelley	16-Aug
sheila self	22-Aug
steve Waldner	26-Aug

(if you haven't given your birthday to Tony or Sharon, please do so. Thanks!)

Space Center Rotary Club (SCRC) matched the awarded Blane Grant of \$1,000 for a \$2,000



donation presented by District Governor Suzi Howe, Pam Culpepper and Jennifer Keller to Teresa Graham, Executive Director, Interfaith Caring Ministries (ICM) to fund the immunization event that was held on July 20th at ICM in League City. Three entities worked collaboratively for this event, Galveston County Health District (GCHD) providing nurses, screening and educational staff, and medical supplies; ICM providing their facility, administrative staff and who reached out into the communities promoting this event to the neighboring apartment complexes, churches and special needs families who currently access ICM for support; and SCRC providing the funding and volunteers for this event. SCRC volunteers included, Micki Czarnik assisting with registration services, Art Wood, Mike Dennard and Jennifer Keller assisting in the immunization flow process, and Charles Milby assisting in the coordination of traffic flow. Our collaborative effort made it possible for the administration of 210 immunizations to special needs children ranging from 2 months to 18 years of age. Another immunization event is being planned for September.

Four Way Test of the Things We Think, Say or Do
Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to All Concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to All Concerned?

As was announced last week, the position of Blastoff editor is being sought. If you are interested, please let Geoff Atwater know as soon as possible. We will need someone to step up by the end of August. If you have any questions about what is involved, please feel free to email me at sbloomfield@houston.rr.com. Your Rotary needs you! Thanks!

SPACE CENTER ROTARY BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

- Geoff Atwater (P)** 281-480-5186
- Dick Gregg, III (PE)** 281-480-1211
- Mike Hernandez (S)** 281-280-5159
- Gary Johnson (T)** 281-382-3608
- Rafael Lugo (SAA)** 713-349-7310
- J.B. Fox (PP)** 281-333-4460

BOARD MEMBERS

- Mark Humphrey** Club Admin
- Scott Rainey** Public Relations
- Bill Taylor** Membership
- Mike Cornett** Fundraising
- Tony Bloomfield** Community Service A
- Pam Culpepper** Community Service B
- Jerrold DeWease** International Service A
- Dick Kidder** International Service B
- Art Wood** Vocational Services

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PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB MITCHELL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING MENTIONED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW!