

A Few JOYCE Words

Time passes so quickly as you get older. Yet still there seems to be so many things you must cram into each day. For me, these involve illnesses that crop up quickly, answering phone calls from people who either want to sell you something, ask you to donate money, or coerce you into making changes in your life that you are not interested in making.

Still there are so many good things that occur and take your attention - family, nature, people you want to see or just talk to. And, then there are the things that excite, anger or please you. Today, I want to talk about some of those. Excitement came with the re-election of Mayor Nirenberg. I was glad that the election was over at last. Hopefully, his next re-election effort won't seem so difficult. In any event, it was exciting. Most of all, we got a big turnout.

It was, however, the things that angered me that have the most to do with this column. First, watching the whole property tax issue before the Legislature was frustrating. Texas is not an over--taxed state. The major source of taxation is the school district. And, I was always glad to pay those taxes when I had children and continue to feel that way even today. It was the impact the tax bill had on our city taxes that appears to be most likely to have a negative effect. After learning that the city, in an effort to be responsive appeared to provide each taxpayer an amount of about \$28 a year reduction that I became most angry.

Angry that the city should need to add one more negative impact to its tax base. Angry that we should each look forward to such a small amount of money which could add one more blow to our bond rating, costing the city more money if that rating is reduced. In addition, it is estimated that for the taxes being lowered, the city could add 36 police officers. While there are many taxpayers who could truly use that reduction, there are an equal or greater number who will never notice they receive it. I have decided that whatever the amount is this year I will return it to the city for them to use to pay for some particular service that is vastly underfunded to benefit either children or the elderly. If there were a groundswell of taxpayers willing to do this and we could find a catchy name for it, it might raise enough money to actually do something good.

For those of us 65 or older, all major taxing jurisdictions (city, county, school districts) already provide that our taxes are frozen at age 65. Hey, young people, see what you have to look forward to? Hey, "young people" over 65, be grateful.

Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner 2019

August 15, 2019

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Omni Colonnade

Keynote Speaker: Rick Casey

Sponsorship Levels:

1 Eleanor Roosevelt	\$2,500
2 Michelle Obama	\$1,500
3 Hon. Ann Richards	\$1,000
4 Hon. Barbara Jordan	\$600
5 Hon. Ruth Jones McClendon	\$110/2 tickets
6 Hon. Nancy Pelosi	\$60

Honorees: Women—Trailblazers

Hon. Alma Lopez, Judiciary

(Justices of the Peace to Texas Supreme Court Judges)

Hon. Katie Reed, Education

(School Volunteers to University Professors)

Hon. Leticia Van de Putte, State

Legislature

(Staff for Legislators to Elected Legislators)

Hon. Maria Berriozabal, City Government

(Staff for City Government to Elected Officeholder)

We want every woman present to be recognized in one or more of the four categories represented.

**You are Awesome; You are Powerful;
You are WOMEN.**

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IMPORTANT DATES

July 20	Northwest Democrats meeting
August 15	Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner
August 17	Northwest Democrats meeting
August 26	School begins
September 21	Northwest Democrats meeting