



OK. Let's talk about Jim Bradley. You won't believe what's coming here! You may know him as one of the piano players for our weekly patriotic songs at RCH meetings. If you've been next to him at the lunch table, perhaps you've noticed that he's a little shy, but seems like a pleasant fellow. Well, if that's all you know about Jim Bradley, hang on.

For starters, he is a mountain climber! Several times a year he joins an expedition to scale some major peak somewhere in North America. The climb doesn't take all that long, but the preparation and conditioning may take several months. During the climb, he is wearing a 40-50 pound back pack. So, to prepare, at the end of the work day, he puts on the pack, filled with almost 50 pounds of books, and proceeds to climb the building stairs up 30 floors! Then he goes back down and does it again 3 more times! And he does that 3-4 times per week. Can you imagine the condition his heart must be in?

Must be a real outdoors kind of man, right? Well, he also plays classical piano, practicing the songs he enjoys several hours every week. What would he change about himself if he had a magic wand? He would have the skill to play the world's most difficult classical pieces at the level of a master – not that he'd want to be a concert pianist, but so that he could enjoy those pieces and share them with family and friends.

He also enjoys reading. Did I mention that he's a runner, putting in several miles most days?

Not through yet. He owns a sail boat and participates in races around the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Mexico. His dream? To someday sail around the world. I think he probably will do just that.

You're wondering how he has time for work. He admitted that he rarely sits around wondering what he can do to pass the time... Jim is a partner with the law firm of Bracewell and Giuliani, L.L.P. (Yes, that Giuliani.) Jim's specialty is patent law, and he spends his days "writing and reading". His undergraduate degree is in mechanical engineering, so most of his work involves equipment and processes used in the petroleum

industry, and his clients tend to be large suppliers of services and tools to the major oil companies. He helps clients obtain patents for their new products, stop patent infringement from their competitors, and to protect their trademarks. He said that the work is very intellectually stimulating, and he counts his success in the profession as one of his accomplishments in life.

All this from a man who grew up in a small town in Oklahoma and whose parents' formal educations did not go past the 8th grade. He was the first person in his family to graduate from college, and the only one to obtain an advanced degree. If you've noticed that he's a little shy, you're on target: He said that the greatest obstacle he's had to overcome in life is his shyness. This was especially difficult for him as a child, but he's been able to overcome the shyness as he's moved through the decades of adult life.

The Rotary Club of Houston is Jim's second Rotary Club. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth for about eighteen years before moving to Houston in 1996. He joined the RCH after being invited by a business partner. He said he likes a large Club because it gives him the opportunity to meet businessmen and he enjoys the excellent programs.

Jim said that the most important thing that people need to change in order to improve the quality of human life around the world is to learn to be tolerant of each others' differences. We need to accept that other people's different thoughts, beliefs, religions, politics, customs, and ways of dressing and speaking do not necessarily make them bad people.

So, that's some of what makes Jim Bradley a most interesting person. At the lunch table, engage him in a conversation about most any topic and you will be impressed, too.