

# ROTARY CLUB OF ABILENE

## The Rotator

Service Above Self

THIS WEEK: Jan. 19, 2018 - Kim Yelyzaveta - Ukraine Exchange Student



Our international speaker this month is going to discuss general topics about history, politics and life in Ukraine.

Elizabeth was born in a small village in Ukraine. She is 17 years old and interested in volunteering, communicating with people and immersing herself in the American culture. Currently she is an exchange student and senior at Abilene High School. Her presence in the US has

been sponsored through the Future Leader Exchange (FLEX) program. Future Leaders Exchange is a scholarship student exchange program administered by the U.S. Department of State through funding from the Freedom Support Act.

Elizabeth is interested in Rotary as an ongoing social service organization with representation in her home country.

If you would like to get to know Elizabeth better, she may be contacted at (325) 439-0728.

LAST MEETING: Jan. 12, 2018 - Derrick Franklin - APD Drug Taskforce

We had a very interesting program last Friday when Derrick Franklin, an Abilene Police narcotics officer, spoke to us.

Officer Franklin grew up in Haskell, Texas, attended Angelo State University, played football and earned a bachelors degree in Kinesiology, with a minor in psychology and history.

He has been with the APD for 18 years working as a K9 handler for seven and a half years and now narcotics for about seven years.

Officer Franklin is married with three kids ages 22, 16 and 15.



NEXT WEEK: Jan. 26, 2018 - Ari Esfindairy - Part 2 - Beehive Restaurant

Returning by popular demand is Ali Esfandiary. He was weaving a very exciting tale on his road to Abilene from Iran when his presentation was cut short when time ran out.

The Esfandiary brothers, better known in the Big Country as "The Beehive" brothers, have had quite a journey from immigrants to restaurateurs. Their story truly emulates the American dream.

Raised in Rasht, Iran, Ali and Nariman are two of four children born to Jamshid and Rosa Esfandiary. Rosa was a Polish prisoner of war who was sent from a POW camp in Siberia to Iran after World War II. Ali and

## ROTARIAN OF THE WEEK



### KATE ALVAREZ

Kate says, "I was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (it's all my parents fault. I only lived there for the first fourteen months of my life!)." Then her father opened The Madison Hotel in Morristown, New Jersey.

From age five until twelve the family lived in Connecticut, the towns of North Branford, New Britain and Canton. Then her folks headed back to their homeland, TEXAS, two years in Dallas, two in Austin. At age fourteen " we headed north and left the great state once again, for Santa Fe, New Mexico where I graduated high school from Desert Academy." She received her BFA from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Kate met her husband, Randy Alvarez here in Abilene in 2002; he owned a bicycle shop, The Bicycle Source. He now is an owner



Nariman's father, Jamshid, was a lieutenant in the Iranian Cavalry. Rosa and Jamshid collided when Jamshid was put in charge of the Polish refugees.

Over the years, Jamshid became a wealthy military man and had close family ties to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Jamshid knew things were not going in the Shah's favor. Becoming increasingly wary of the political unrest in Iran, Jamshid began looking for opportunities to escape. In 1968, when Ali was just 17, his father sent him to America with only \$600 in his pocket.

Ali stayed with family friends in San Jose, California and began attending college. At night he worked illegally in restaurants or hotels; in the US you are not permitted to work on a student visa. It wasn't long until immigration caught on. With the threat of being deported, Ali fled to Kansas City, Missouri. Again he

attended school and worked as inconspicuously as possible.

Meanwhile, back in Iran, Jamshid continued to move his family out of the country. Nariman was next. Then Ali's other brother, his sister, mother and finally his father. Jamshid fled Iran within a year of the Shah falling. The family settled in Kansas City and built a new life in America.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 19, 2018 - Kim Yelyzaveta - Ukraine Exchange Student
- Jan. 26, 2018 - Ari Esfindairy - Part 2 - Beehive owner
- Feb. 24, 2018 - Tentative date for Abilene Park disc golf cleanup

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [NEWS FROM THE WEDNESDAY CLUB](#)

The Country Club has gone up on the cost of meals again, so the Wednesday Club will have to charge more for our makeup meals. As of Jan. 1, the meals at the Country Club will cost \$18.50.

### [EXTRA GROCERIES?](#)

Are your kitchen cabinets stuffed? Why not bring your extra groceries to Rotary on Friday and donate to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

### [PROGRAMS NEEDED](#)

As we continue along our Rotary year, we are always looking for interesting and informative programs.

If you have an idea for a program in the next six months starting in January 2018, contact Myra Dean, 2017-2018 program chair.

As anyone who has served as a program chair knows, this is a time consuming job. We need everyone's help to continue having interesting and entertaining programs.

We (Barbara and Mary Beth) **need a bio and picture of your speaker no later than two weeks prior** to their presentation in order to get it in the Rotator. **Also needed are their topics and a couple of sentences about their presentation.**

Also, please check with them to see if they need a projector and/or screen. They will need to bring their own computer.

of Genesis Combat Sports Promotions. They were married in January 2006 and welcomed Ella McLemore Alvarez (aka Ella Mac) in May 2007. Ella is a fifth grader at Jackson Elementary School.

Kate arrived in Abilene, "bright-eye and bushy-tailed" in 2001 to work for none other than Betty Hukill at Young Audiences as an Artist in Residence. There she had the honor of teaching after-school elementary and middle-school theatre workshops. Betty introduced her to Barry Smoot who allowed her to also work at the Paramount Theatre as a stage-hand for almost five years. While balancing these two jobs she took on bartending and banquet serving at the Embassy Suites. She hung on to the hotel through two name changes and countless job titles. In 2009, Kate went to work at the Abilene Woman's Club as their Club Manager. In 2013, she landed "(wink wink, nudge nudge)" at Abilene Regional Airport as the Marketing and Development Manager.

Kate sings in a big band Fanfare! "We were once the Dora Nell Finch Orchestra, but morphed due to retirements into Fanfare! where she is the official girl singer. She has been playing with the group for thirteen years.

Kate lived full-time in three different hotels. Thanks to that and her theatre background she's learned all the worlds a stage and we're just merely players. Service to others is in her DNA, so getting involved in Rotary was just another way to serve. as are serving on the Board of Habitat for Humanity and Hispanic Business Council.

"Since I had food and beverage service within my trunk of tricks, I figured TOA was the best place for me to begin." She joined Rotary in

## NEW MEMBER LUNCH POLICY

The Rotarian bringing a prospective new member to a meeting is responsible for paying for his/her lunch. The only free lunch from the club for the new member is on the day he/she is introduced as a new member.

## CLUB ATTENDANCE

January 12, 2018 meeting  
36 members out of 75 for an attendance percentage of 48%.

## DEALING FOR DOLLARS

Friday our pot will start out at \$500.00

## CLUB OFFICERS

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | Paul Thomas  |
| President-Elect          | Kate Alvarez   |
| Secretary                | Mary Beth Kilgore  |
| Treasurer                | Peter Agnell   |
| Directors                | Donna Albus<br>Dave Boyll<br>Myra Dean<br>Keith Carroll<br>Shaun Martin<br>Jim McNiece |
| Sergeant at Arms         | Marty Pothier<br>Asst: Charlie Kitchell  |
| Immediate Past President | Richard Rolison  |

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This section highlights our Rotary members who are active in the community.  
Please let Mary Beth or Barbara know when you are involved in activities outside Rotary, vacationing in exotic places, change jobs, etc.

## CAN'T RESIST RUNNING THESE PICTURES



*The North Star shines brightly on Kevin Willhelm.*



July 2014 and began working on TOA 2015. She now serves as the co-chair for TOA and as Club Service Director "which I thoroughly enjoy."

## MAKE-UPS

## SOUTHWEST ROTARY

Marty Pothier  
Richard Rolison  
Renee Gaskin

Send make-ups to [marybeth.kilgore@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.kilgore@gmail.com)  
**To complete a make-up online, contact one of the organizations below:**

<http://www.oneworldrotary.org/>  
<http://rotaryclubone.org/>

## CLUB SERVICE January 12, 2018

Registration:  
Peggy Manning  
Invocation:  
Larry Fitzgerald (guest)  
Singing/Pledge:  
Kate Alvarez  
Introductions:  
Dave Boyll  
Dealing for Dollars:  
Raymond Blasingame

## EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR (EREY)

Congratulations to the following who have contributed to the 2017-2018 EREY program.

Morris Baker  
Dave Boyll  
Ed Brokaw  
Kent Brown  
Keith Carroll  
Kayla Christianson  
Don Drennan  
Peter Fox  
Gayla Fullerton  
Paul Lenker  
Shaun Martin  
Marty Pothier



Richard Rolison  
Paul Thomas

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**POLIO PLUS CONTRIBUTORS**  
**for the 2017-2018 Rotary Year**

All members are asked to contribute \$30.00 towards the 2017-2018 End Polio Now campaign. Those contributing thus far are listed below. Members who have donated since last week are in **bold**.

Peter Agnell  
**DONNA ALBUS**

Jared Bailey  
Morris Baker

David Boyll  
Ed Brokaw

Kent Brown  
Keith Carroll

Myra Dean  
Frank Dlugas

Don Drennan  
Peter Fox

Gayla Fullerton  
Renee Gaskin

Craig Haterius  
Fred Lee Hughes

Betty Hukill  
Mary Beth Kilgore

Austin King  
Patty Knight

Sidney Levesque  
Shaun Martin

Jim McNiece  
Debbie Moot

Bob McMillan  
Peggy Manning

Marty Pothier  
**ERIK PRESLEY**

Richard Rolison  
Barbara Rollins

Mike Sadler  
Mike Schweikhard

Becky Spargo  
Paul Thomas