

# ROTARY CLUB OF ABILENE

## The Rotator

Service Above Self

THIS WEEK: Sept. 22, 2017 - My Journey to Texas  
- Ali Esfandiary - Beehive Owner

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 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.

LAST MEETING: Sept. 15, 2017 - Glenn Dromgoole

Glenn Dromgoole's presentation covered the two sides of every book. First the story itself and second what inspired the author to write the book in the first place.

## ROTARIAN OF THE WEEK



### JENNIFER KENT

Jennifer Kent was born in Big Spring and grew up in Wichita Falls but went to school in Electra then graduated from Wylie High School, so we can say she's a total West Texas woman. She received her Bachelor of Behavioral Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from HSU with double minors in Reading and Psychology.

Jennifer has been Mrs. Jody Kent for twelve years and they have two beautiful daughters. Andie Kay, fourteen, goes to Clyde Junior High, and Emma Lee is nine and goes to Clyde Intermediate School.

Jennifer started working shortly before turning sixteen, and jobs have included stints at Golden Corral, Wolfe's Nursery, Dandy's Western Wear, and Hendrick Medical Center, all before graduating from HSU. She taught school in South Carolina for four-and-a-half years, then in Texas was a sales associate at AT&T for three

Books written by Dromgoole cover a wide range of topics and styles, mixing whimsy with a generous dose of optimism. Most of his books are still in print, including *What Dogs Teach Us*, which was a New York Times Bestseller Plus selection for eight weeks, reaching Number 24 in Hardcover Nonfiction in 1999.



Many of his books are more regional in focus -Abilene Stories; West Texas Christmas Stories; Coleman Springs USA; and Good Night Little Texan.

Glenn and his wife Carol own Texas Star Trading Company in downtown Abilene.

### NEXT WEEK: September 29, 2017 - Joey Light - Wylie ISD Superintendent

Joey Light has been the superintendent of schools for Wylie ISD since 2008. His entire career has been in education.



He has been a teacher, coach, and administrator.

Light has had the opportunity to lead Wylie ISD during an exciting time of growth and success in academics, athletics, the arts, and agriculture.

He grew up in Abilene and graduated from Wylie High School in 1978 and McMurry University. After graduation from McMurry, Joey and his wife, Karen, were married in 1982 and they now have

six children and three grandchildren.

Light taught and coached at Midland Greenwood, Brackettville, Hamilton, and Hawley. He received his master's degree from ACU while he was at Hawley. During his last two years at Hawley, Light became the 7-12 principal. Also, while at Hawley, Light and his wife were house parents at Hendrick Home for Children.

In 1992, Light became the principal at Wylie Middle School and in 2000, he became the assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and technology.

Light has been very active in the Abilene community having served on numerous boards including United Way, 211, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Texas Association of School Administrators, Big Country School Administrators and Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Council.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 22, 2017 - Beehive owner - "My Journey to Texas"
- Sept. 29, 2017 - Joey Light - Wylie ISD Superintendent
- Oct. 6, 2017 - Dr. Johnny Bliznak - Birds
- Oct. 7, 2017 - Disc golf work day - 9AM til noon

years. She worked at First National Bank of Baird - First Bank Texas for nine years. She is currently at the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

She's been a Rotarian ten years as well and helps with most everything, including Taste of Abilene, Disc Golf, and Dealing for Dollars. She served on the board for two years and was president 2013-14. Julie Hofmann proposed her as a member.

Active in the community, Jennifer works with March of Dimes, FCA Golf/All-Stars, Abilene Chamber of Commerce where she served as a Board Member, past chair for the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Business Council, West Texas Autism, serves on the Children Performing Arts Series and is now over the Red Coat s (Chamber Ambassador). She's also been a Kiwanian, and helped with Rescue the Animals and Abilene Crime Stoppers.

In all that spare time she has, Jennifer enjoys photography, entertaining and camping.

### MAKE-UPS

#### SOUTHWEST ROTARY

Marty Pothier  
Richard Rolison

#### FLAG DETAIL - PATRIOT'S DAY

Shaun Martin

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

Sept. 15, 2017

Registration:

Oct. 13, 2017 - Dokpe Ogunsanya - Motivational Speaker  
Oct. 20, 2017 - Hannah Wiginton - New Horizons  
Oct. 21, 2017 - The Mayors Cup disc golf tournament. Will Hair  
Park on Ambler.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEET OUR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Be sure and be at Rotary Friday to meet our two exchange students: (Isra) Israel Logos, Rotary Youth exchange student from San Bernado, Chile, and Klara Kozlikova from Pisel, Czech Republic. They will give a one-minute talk each on what they've learned thus far in the U.S.

### FOUNDATION FESTIVAL

Rotary Districts 5790 & 5810 proudly present a FOUNDATION FESTIVAL on Nov. 18, 2017, at The Grand Hyatt DFW Hotel - Terminal "D" of DFW Airport. Terminal "D" of DFW Airport.

Check-in begins at 5:30 PM. General Theater Seating Registration - \$80 per person. Premium Theater Seating - \$100 per person.

All ticket prices increase by \$10 after October 31, 2017.

Registration fees include: Gourmet Food Stations, Entertainment, Silent Auction, Open Bar (Beer & Wine) and Cash Bar (Mixed Drinks).



### EXTRA GROCERIES?

Are your kitchen cabinets stuffed? Why not bring your extra groceries to Rotary on Friday and donate to the First Methodist 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 July 2017, 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 topic 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.

### 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

Sept. 15, 2017 meeting

36 members out of 73 for an attendance percentage of 49%.

### DEALING FOR DOLLARS

Friday our pot will start out at around \$267.00

Chris Meeks

Invocation:

Raymond Blasingame

Singing/Pledge:

Introductions:

Riley Griffith

Dealing for Dollars:

Donna Albus

### EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR (EREY)

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

Ed Brokaw

Kent Brown

**KAYLA CHRISTIANSON**

Don Drennan

Paul Lenker

### 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

Morris Baker

David Boyll

Ed Brokaw

Kent Brown

Myra Dean

Frank Dlugas

Don Drennan

Peter Fox

Renee Gaskin

Craig Haterius

Betty Hukill

Mary Beth Kilgore

Sidney Levesque

Bob McMillan

Mike Sadler

Mike Schweikhard

Barbara Rollins

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Paul Thomas
President-Elect	Kate Alvarez
Secretary	Mary Beth Kilgore
Treasurer	Peter Agnell
Directors	Donna Albus Dave Boyll Myra Dean Carissa Gast Shaun Martin Jim McNiece
Sergeant at Arms	Marty Pothier 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.

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