



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Ric Wolford</i>	11/28
<i>Scott Nelson</i>	12/1
<i>Tom Morris</i>	12/8

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Tom Church

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Fred Heismeyer

Special Guest:

Dwight Oxley

Photography:

Ric Wolford

Rotary Anniversaries:

Ric Wolford—29 years

Scott Holder—12 years

Anthony Ndungu—6 years

Markus Meyer—2 years

Zach Wetta—1 year

Wedding Anniversaries:

Jim & Barbara Crawford—

26 years

Schoen & Nancy Fitzgerald—

46 years

Quote of the Week:

We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown.

— Marcie

MINISTRY THROUGH EDUCATION HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD

Gail Goolsby served as the principal of the International School of Kabul, Afghanistan from 2005–2012. She shared her story at today's meeting. Cultural changes, the love of a people for learning, and living with danger were part of her life then. Today she is a life coach, counselor, and author of the book *Unveiled Truth*.



Plans change. And sometimes we see the hand of God in those changes. Certainly Gail Goolsby did when her plans to go on a 25th wedding anniversary cruise became a mission trip to Afghanistan.

Goolsby was a Christian school educator in St. Joseph, Missouri. She had started a counseling office there, which led to running Missions Week at the school, and then traveling to missions in other countries. She and her husband visited an international academy that was opening in Kabul. Goolsby accepted the position of founding administrator of the Kabul International Academy, which was officially not a school but a "learning center."

Noting that administrators are important for their role as the mortar, while teachers are the bricks of education, Goolsby

and her husband moved to Afghanistan in 2005. When they first arrived it felt as though they were living in Biblical times. The roads were dusty and food on the store shelves was often expired.

After the Taliban was taken out of power following 9/11 the schools overflowed with young students eager to learn; 40% of them were female. The schools were built by foreigners eager to help. Students came in shifts with girls coming in one shift, boys in another so they wouldn't mix.

Goolsby observed that girls all wore the same black pantsuit, distinguishing their look by carrying different umbrellas and wearing distinctive shoes. Boys, on the other hand, could wear whatever they want. "It's a man's world in Afghanistan," she wryly noted.

To complete the school the administrative team rented buildings on a city street and transformed them. They had guards and other high-level security. The Kabul International Academy had the largest collection of English books in its library.

First Lady Laura Bush visited the school in July 2008, and it was fully accredited later that year. Goolsby and her husband stayed until 2012, extending after extending their original contract by five years, and the school was closed in 2015 by the Taliban.

A few years after returning to the U.S., Goolsby wrote a book about her experiences. In many ways her life in Kabul mirrored life during the worst of the COVID pandemic. In her role today as author and counselor she encourages us to grow through risk, fulfilling our call and trusting that God will lead us through any crisis.

Club Announcements:

Semi-annual dues will be mailed on December 1.

Governor Laura Kelly is scheduled to speak at the January 8, 2024 Rotary meeting of the Downtown club at Botanica. Please sign up if you are interested in attending.

Our club is volunteering again to ring bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 16 at Dillons, Central and Rock (a.k.a. Gucci Dillons.) Please sign up if you can join us!



MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

This year our club launched the PolioPlus Society, an initiative whose members pledge to contribute \$100 annually to PolioPlus until polio is fully eradicated from our world. For each \$100 contributed, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match the donation. Here **Fred Thurlow** is awarded a certificate by **Tom Church**, EWR President-Elect, who headed up our PolioPlus drive this year.

**Mix It Up With Fellow Rotarians:**

Following the turkey delivery join your fellow Rotarians and guests for a pre-holiday mixer at DOMA, 7703 East Douglas in the Towne East Square parking lot. Whether you're delivering dinners or just want to hang out with friends before the big holiday, the fun begins at around 4:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 21.**

Christmas/Holiday Luncheon:

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 13**, the date of this year's Christmas/Holiday luncheon at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Office, 624 W. Douglas from 11:30—1:00. Members and their guests must RSVP by December 7.

**Next Week:**

NO MEETNG on Wednesday, November 22. See you back at the Wichita Country Club on Wednesday, November 29!

FAST THANKSGIVING FACTS



1. Did you know that Thanksgiving as a national holiday was championed by American writer and activist Sarah Josepha Hale? Widowed after only nine years of marriage and the mother of five children, Hale turned to writing poetry to earn income. Her most famous book *Poems for Our Children*, included the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb." She

became editor of the magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, making her one of the most influential voices of the 19th century. She used her platform to support causes such as women's education, child rearing, and abolishing slavery. Beginning in 1846 she pushed the president and other politicians to recognize Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Finally in 1863 President Lincoln signed into action "A National Day of Thanksgiving and Praise." Hale's letter to him is often cited as the main factor in his decision.

2. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade originated in 1924. Originally the parade only stretched two blocks, featuring animals from the Central Park Zoo and four bands. It also had costumed Macy's employees and a Santa float. Newspapers called it a "marathon of mirth."

3. Thanksgiving leftovers led to the first TV dinner. There are many accounts of how tv dinners came to be, but the most widely accepted is that a Swanson salesman named Gerry Thomas conceived the company's frozen dinners in late 1953 when he saw that the company had 260 tons of frozen turkey left over after Thanksgiving, sitting in ten refrigerated railroad cars.

4. The first Thanksgiving dinner took place in 1621. The Pilgrims' feast with the Native American Wampanoag people lasted three days. Although there are few records of the actual menu, it is known that the Wampanoag brought five deer while the Pilgrims hunted for local fowl.

5. Canada celebrates its own version of Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October. The tradition originated in harvest festivals celebrated in Britain and continental Europe, giving thanks for the bountiful harvest.

Sources: countryliving.com; womenshistory.org