



# ROTARY NOTARY

## Birthdays:

Barry Purdy

5/25

## Sign Up for Riverfest:

Our club has volunteered to sell Food Court tickets at the Riverfest on Friday, June 2 and Monday, June 5. Please sign up to help—there are still available slots! This is another example of how our club provides local service above self.

## Quote of the Week:

A good leader leads the people from above them. A great leader leads the people from within them.

- M.D. Arnold

## DYSLEXIA: NOT A DISEASE BUT A LANGUAGE LEARNING DIFFERENCE

People who have dyslexia may confuse left and right. Fundamental Learning Center Executive Director Jeanine Phillips explained that she wears lots of rings on her right hand so that she can distinguish it from her left hand. The Center moved 1 1/2 years ago to a former Cessna Training Center located on 21st Street and Opportunity Drive near the Boys and Girls Club.



Jeanine Phillips dreamt of becoming a veterinarian one day. But because learning differences led to struggles in school, she was told that she wasn't smart enough to attend veterinary school or even go to college.

Jeanine did attend college, and it was there that she learned she was dyslexic. Years later, as a mother, she learned that her two sons also had dyslexia, one with a much more severe case than the other.

Her experience and passion for helping families navigate their way to success is what led her to found Fundamental Learning Center (FLC) along with her business partner Gretchen Andeel. The pair recently received the Humanitarians of the Year award from the Small Business Council of America.

There are many myths associated with dyslexia, which affects one out of every five students. It is not a disease, and it is not related to intelligence. It is a genetic, inherited difference in the language processing area of the brain that has to do with how we process letters.

Think about how remarkable the human brain is in its ability to decode letters on a page into verbal language and the reverse: encoding sounds into written language. This is the essence of reading, writing, and spelling.

Then imagine how children with dyslexia, who have differences in decoding and encoding symbols and sounds, struggle to read and write. Without proper identification and instruction in their schools, many students perform

significantly below grade level. They risk dropping out of school altogether, viewing themselves as academic failures. Reading test results compiled by the National Assessment of Educational Progress show that 4th graders read, on average, two grades behind.

Unfortunately, in Kansas dyslexia is considered a medical disorder and as such, is not recognized in the classroom. The key to helping students is in diagnosing those who have it and then obtaining help from teachers who know how to recognize dyslexia and who can teach them to read, write, and spell. This is the mission and focus of Fundamental Learning Center: giving children the therapeutic and academic support they need to reach their full potential.

## AT ROTARY TODAY

### Upcoming Events:

**EWR MIXER** at Firebirds on Thursday, May 25 at 5:15. Bring a friend and kick off the holiday weekend early with your fellow Rotarians.

**NO MEETING** on May 31

**FIRESIDE** at Lee Aerospace on June 14. Please sign up!



Susan Addington introduced new EWR member Jillian VanCampen, Development Associate at Heartspring. Jillian hails from Scott City, KS and is a graduate of WSU, two things she has in common with NBA player Ron Baker.

### More at Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Deik Scram

**Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-Way Test:** Bill McConnell



Three organizations each received checks for \$3,500, the proceeds from the Kentucky Derby Party held on Saturday, May 6. L to R: Kim Goodnight, event chair; Shelley Duncan, EmberHope; Jillian VanCampen, Heartspring; Ryan Heikes, Starkey; Colin McKenney, Starkey; and Fred Heismeyer, President, East Wichita Rotary.

EWR hosted a special visitor who came to the U.S. all the way from China. Brooke, whose name in Chinese is Jiang Yi, is spending five weeks in Kansas to learn more about children and family services. She spent two weeks in Salina with St. Francis Community Services, and is now in Wichita visiting several different agencies. In China she's a social worker with child protection services at Save the Children. This system is very new in China. Brooke is also here to promote U.S.—China relations. Her home is located in the southwestern part of China, bordering Vietnam, Burma and Laos. Today Brooke wore an outfit that is typically worn by members of one of the many ethnic groups that live in her province. While in Wichita Brooke is staying with Chris and Susan Addington. She is a delight to meet and we wish her every success in her life and career.



### Next Week:

Chris Kibler will update us on what's new at the Intrust Bank Arena.