



N A I R A T O R

(That's Rotarian Spelled Backwards)



New Milford Rotary Club
Chartered January 12, 1960



District 7890

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May 2021

May Birthdays

May 4 - Art Klein

May 19 - Rob Belden

May Anniversaries

May 8 - Peter & Pauline Lang

May 20 - Peter & Elaine Daubner

May 21 - Deb & Bert Ouellette

May 25 - Ralph & Priscilla Williams

May 27 - Andrea & James Wilson

May 31 - Lou & Kay Abella



Upcoming Meetings All via ZOOM

May 4th - In-person lunch meeting - Harrybrooke Park. Bring your own lunch.

May 8th Rotary First Shred Event of 2021 – @ NM Senior Center. Details to follow.

May 11th - Liz Krebs, Education Manager, Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.

New Rotary Peace Center

The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation has pledged 15.5 million dollars to start a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East or North Africa.

This generous gift comes from the Walter Foundation located in Booth Bay Harbor, Maine. The money will fund the start up costs and operating expenses, as well as an endowment that will provide peace fellowships for up to 40 students each year.

Otto Walter was a lawyer in Germany but when the Nazi government enacted the Nuremberg laws this summarily disbarred Otto, so he and his parents fled to New York city in 1936. Starting all over, Otto first learned English, then became an accountant and finally graduated from New York Law School in 1954. With the support of his wife Fran, his firm eventually employed 40 lawyers. Otto was a member of the New York Rotary club. He died in 2003.

You can read more about this wonderful man and his success on the Rotary International web site. The foundation he started will bring untold goodness to those touched by the peace center, which should be opened by 2024.

Polio Plus

Rotary has been working to eradicate Polio for more than 35 years. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we have reduced polio by 99.9% since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Today polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

By the numbers the average cost to fully protect a child against polio \$3.00. 430 million children have been vaccinated in 39 countries since 2017. It cost \$100. million dollars to conduct polio surveillance worldwide.

Though much has been done we can not congratulate ourselves till we finally cross the finish line, and we must recognize the heroic efforts being done half way around the world. You and I may give money but in the final push many are giving their lives. On March 31, 2021 the New York Times reported that 3 women were shot dead while working to vaccinate children in Jalalabad Afghanistan. The women , all in their 20's were going about their jobs in the bustling town near the border with Pakistan when they were gunned down in two separate attacks.

Semin, 24 and Basira, 20, who, like many Afghans, went by only one name, were shot and killed by two gunmen as they entered a house in Jalalabad to vaccinate the children who lived there, the governor's office said. The two were going door to door in the city, a practice the Taliban have banned in the past, in areas under their control.

It was Semin's first vaccination campaign, said Ahmad Faisal Nizami, the victim's cousin. She had recently been married and had graduated from a teacher training college. Negina,24, a supervisor for the polio vaccine campaign, which started in Afghanistan on that Monday, was shot and killed about a hour later elsewhere in the city.

Afghanistan recorded 56 cases of polio in 2020. These latest killings are part of a wave of targeted assassinations often singling out women.

“My niece Basira was a poor girl”, said Haji Moqbel Ahmad, a tribal elder in Jalalabad, who added that the woman had not been threatened before. “ She was shot and killed while she was doing her job,” Basira, a vaccine worker since her teens, had been enlisted for a five-day vaccine campaign for which she would have been paid less than \$30, officials said.

Ross Wilson, the U.S. Charge d'affaires in Kabul, denounced the killings. “Such attacks are a direct affront to Afghans' dreams of building a better life for their children,” Mr. Wilson wrote on Twitter.

This is a sobering tragic story. These three women are heroes and martyrs. Some day we may reach our goal and hopefully these women's efforts and their sacrifices will not be in vain.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW ROTARIAN - **Arthur Klein**

Where were you born ? *Queens, NY*

Who introduced to Rotary ? *A Rotary member and patient at the time, Martha (Marti) Henry, who worked for the Litchfield County Times*

Your favorite sport team ? *None*

Your favorite dessert ? *A home-baked chunky chocolate chip cookie*

Your dream vacation ? *A month in Tuscany, Italy and a month in Provence, France*

If I won a million dollars, I'd *change my phone number. I would use the money to support solving the problems of human rights abuse, climate sustainability, food insecurity and pollution.*

Where do you hope to be 5 years from now ? *Alive and Healthy*

Do you have any hobbies ? *Photography, bicycling, fixing things*

How did you get your current job ? *A friend suggested I look into the chiropractic health care profession as a way to help people using non-drug methods. The idea appealed to me and I applied to a chiropractic college. I am in my 42nd year of practice.*