

**The Forecaster**  
**Rotary Club of Alexandria**  
**Chartered 1928**  
**P. O. Box 320666**  
**Alexandria, VA 22320**

*AlexandriaRotary.org*  
*Club #5785*

**Belle Haven Country Club**  
**Tuesday, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Theme: Service above Self**

**Tuesday, No Foolin'**  
**April 1, 2025**

**Presiding Today**  
*President, Jim Carmalt*  
**Pledge of Allegiance**

*Jason Celmer*

**Invocation**

*Bob McClure*

**Introduction of**  
**Visitors & Guests**

*Pam DeCandio*

*Sergeant at Arms*

**April Programs**

*Janet Barnett*

**April Birthdays**

*TBDI*

**President's Time**

Announcements, Raffles

**Today's Program**

*Alyia Gaskins*

*Mayor of the City of Alexandria*

**Next Meeting**

*Classification and Reclassification Talks*

**Bulletin Editor, Katy Fike, fikekaty7@gmail.com**

Presentation March 25 , 2025

*"Yahui Li Westra as she discusses between the Yellow River  
and the Aegean: Rediscovering my Chinese roots through the  
lens of European life .*

"... Hello, everyone. Thank you for having me here, and I'm very glad to share some of my thoughts about my life between Europe and China. So my name is Yahweh. You can also call me Yahweh, and 3 years ago I went to Athens and there I married my husband, Alex. So I spent 2 years in Athens, and then one year in Rome. That's my life in Europe and last August I went back to China.

My hometown is called Kaifeng, which is a small city in the central plan of China, quite near Yellow River. So Marita asked me about my reverse cultural shock, and how I felt about sitting settling here. So Marita asked me about my reverse cultural shock, and how I felt about settling here. .. have to say that after I came back to my hometown I did have some different feelings and a certain reflection on my Chinese route, and I think that to have a distance away from my hometown helps me to understand my route, understand many of my cultural features. Better. So. I'd like to share with you guys some of my thoughts. ..

My hometown. Kaifon is somewhere here in China. And I lived in Athens, in Greece. It's vastly different... 2 vastly different cultures. So I'm going to give you to some thoughts about the following parts, like the cost of living and color. Something I want to let you know. I feel like something. I was very deeply impressed is the color pattern. And of course there's lifestyle and interpersonal relations and some underlying cultural influence... The 1st thing when I got out of the train and stepped on my hometown. I want to have this. It's called hotpot. I missed that very much when I was in Europe. I treated my parents. For 4 people. I spent about 200 yuan, which is about €30 for that. So this this was the 1st strike that give me about the difference. The cost of living in China is really cheap.. That's something that you like in China. You will not think too much about going out to eat, and, in fact, that is the that is a very popular choice when people hang out, and usually they would go out to hang out for a meal, because that's not really something costly. .. The second thing I would do... is online ordering Taobao or Jd, a big bunch of stuff like products, different products. And I think that after a while, if you live in China for a while, no matter in big city or small city, I guess that bigger cities would even be more convenient. But it will be quite spoiled by the efficiency of delivery... This is a website like Amazon in Greece, called Screwed and that was something I was not used to, because that's the delivery from the same city from Athens, and it took 5 days to arrive...in China, like, for example, today, I order something before as long as you give the order before 11 o'clock. Then you are very likely to get it to the the afternoon in the afternoon..." *A complete of presentations is unavailable contact fikekaty7@gmail.com*

**Dan Blaine's Quote for the Day:**

*"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice,  
but it's a good place to start."*

Jason Collins

**Announcements:**

- ◆ Pat O'Brien won the Phil Brown award for Excellence in Woodturning. at the Creative Crafts Council 35th Biennial Exhibition.
- ◆ Sharon Meisel will send out a invitation for the Flags for Heroes just to let everyone know it's going, and that it's on the website and how it works.
- ◆ **Whit Ayres** *"Jim, that's alright, there is nothing happening in the news."*
- ◆ There are opportunities, especially for any of our new members that are coming to really integrate further into Rotary, and to understand more about what Rotary does and what we're all about. Some of these programs are called RLI, which is the Rotary Learning Institute or Rotary Leadership Institute.
- ◆ Kara Hoffson to include Meals on Wheels delivery as part of the orientation for new Rotary Club members.
- ◆ Rotary Club leaders to consider attending the Chesapeake Potomac District Conference and Rotary Leadership Institute.

**Calendar:**

April 12 Fireside Chat

June 28—July 12, Flags for Heroes

**Special are always welcome.** Zoom Meeting

**Raffles: 50/50:** Zoom Meeting

**Queen of Hearts:** Zoom Meeting