

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

June 20th, 2020

Club Meeting

Now meeting on Zoom at noon on Tuesdays. For log-on credentials, ask any member.

Normally meets in Holiday Inn at 2 Montgomery Village Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Emmyrich Meneses Vicente
President and President-Elect

Kelly Grossberg
Secretary, with Kumba Brewah

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

H. Winfree Irvine Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

Scott Rebein
Immediate Past President

The Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation

- Sara Torrence, President
- Bob Bokma, Secretary
- Jack Bell, Treasurer
- Diana Swanson, Member-at-large
- Dan King, Member-at-large

Frank Senk Jr.
Assistant District Governor

Events

June 23rd, 12:15 p.m. (doors open at noon)

Gaithersburg Weekly Club Meeting

Program: to be determined.

June 24th, 7:00 p.m.

District Webinar on on-line training, seminars, board meetings, etc. Sign up on the district's website

June 26th and 27th

Our District Conference on-line. Sign up on the district website.

June 28th, 6:00

Installation of the new district governor, Jimmy Gorski. Info. on the district website.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO EVERYONE

???????The Virtual RI Convention began today.

You can still get in on the action.

Register and attend at RIconvention.org

We Zoomed Again on the 16th

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, June 20, 2020



Opening ceremonies, of course. Then, President Richie gave a review of CART, COVID and FFOH. Is that too many letters and not enough words? Members know what they mean. Richie went on to the **Gaithersburg Cares Hub** and **Camp Fantastic**, telling us it would take place this year but not in the usual way. Details will follow.

Then, T.O. reported on the **Montgomery County Muslim Foundation**. See the next story. Also, he asked about his challenge to members - \$1 for every \$2 contributed up to \$1,000 from him and \$2,000 from others - for COVID 19 Relief. The challenge is still open. **We can give** until his money is gone.

After our guest speaker (see below), Richie said we would have a virtual **happy hour** instead of a noon meeting on June 30th. At the happy hour, we'll install officers for the 2020-21 Rotary Year. **Note:** we don't say "new" officers because not many will change. He pledged to invite former members to the event and said our club needed more members so it could do more good in the community.

Then, we plunged into fines and **happy dollars**, mostly for our speaker, Dr. Shakir. Greenbacks flew in also for distribution of emergency food, Scott's house being listed for sale, the MCMF, Richie's presidency, T.O.'s shrinking golf score, and Frank planting a new plot with 300 corn seeds. He expects to eat some corn and give away some. Then, Dr. Shakir, apparently moved by what he heard of our club, bought a virtual flag for \$20. Many thanks, Doctor, for talking with us and contributing to our foundation's **Flags For Our Heroes** fundraiser.

Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF)

Our member, T.O., was asked about activities of the MCMF. He reported, first, that it was the subject of an article in **Montgomery Magazine**.

T.O. said the Federation had distributed multiple packages of food to 1,000 families since the COVID crisis began. They normally serve three meals a day to 45 residents in an interfaith women's shelter, for eight weeks a year, and take breakfasts to about 175 homeless people. In addition, they distribute fresh meat to churches for their feeding programs, provide hand-made masks to personnel in hospitals and support people in other ways.

He also mentioned help to refugees in the area, many of whom previously assisted the US Government in their countries. The MCMF meets a variety of basic needs. Many refugees now live in Prince George's County but work in Montgomery County or Baltimore, so they need transportation. MCMF has provided around 35 automobiles, refurbished by one of its "clients.". There is also a Youth Empowerment Program, which includes material on personal safety.

Asked about the need for volunteers, T.O. said the MCMF packed items for donation in its location at 811 Russell Avenue in Gaithersburg and that more volunteers were needed, both to pack the food and to deliver it to centers of distribution.



June 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Club Happy Hour on Zoom

Installation of officers

Maybe a special presentation

Probably some fun and games

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July 7th, 12:15 p.m. on Zoom

Club Meeting

Speaker: Susan Kerin

Subject: The Peace Action

Network - it's goals and activities

The Rotary Four-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it bring goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Doctor Mohamed Shakir



T.O. introduced our speaker, Dr. Mohamed Shakir, as a notable specialist in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. He served for many years at Walter Reed Army hospital and was part of the group that evaluates and treats **U.S. presidents**.

Boring, this was not - no technical medical jargon. The Doctor quipped that he used to look in on Rotary meetings and now was speaking in one.

He came in the USA in 1970 with \$7.50 in his pocket. He didn't say how he spent that or how he got into the New Jersey College of Medicine, then into Johns Hopkins University and later received a National Research Award. That led to 28 years in the U.S. Navy, during which he became a U.S. citizen and performed who-knows-how-many different medical duties.

On one occasion, his Commanding Officer asked him **to visit the Pope**. Dr Shakir tried to decline because he was not Christian but ended up going. He shook hands with the Pope and enjoyed a private tour of the Vatican.

He spoke also of spending six months at the **South Pole** a place so cold that one can only go by air and pilots don't dare to shut off their engines.

The rest of the talk focused on experiences at Walter Reed. Dr. Shakir told of a **U.S. Congressman** who had very high blood sugar. The doctor gave him insulin and asked him to call that evening, but there was no call. The Congressman hadn't mentioned that he had a speech to give that evening, on the other side of the country. There was also a meeting with a hard-core conservative **U.S. Senator**, who seemed like a very reasonable person. The Senator confided that his public posturing was to get re-elected; he knew what his constituents wanted.

Regarding **U.S. presidents**, Dr. Shakir told of a vial of presidential blood that was sent for analysis by a laboratory in California, by military jet. The result came back to D.C. the same way, all in a few hours. Also, there was a bit of presidential poop that pointed toward cancer of the colon. The White House did not want that result to get out because it could sway voters in the next election. Walter Reed agreed to say simply that the results could not be released.

The good doctor said he was still practicing and was helping with the COVID emergency. Asked about charitable organizations, he reported supporting St. Jude's Children's Hospital and a small handful of well-selected others. Hearing his talk was a rare and pleasant privilege.
