

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

July 18th, 2020

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Club Meeting

Currently meeting on-line at noon on Tuesdays. Write to GaithersburgRotary@Gmail.com for logon credentials.

Our normal meeting place is the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA.

Website:

GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Emmyrich Vicente

President

Scott Rebein

Immediate Past President

Kelly Grossberg

Secretary, with Kumba Brewah

Dan Dellon

Treasurer

H. Winfree Irvine Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms, with Dan King

Frank E. Senk Jr.

Area Governor

The Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation:

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

Events

July 20th, 22nd, 25th and 26th
(four options)

Club Membership Training

Very Important!

See the district website for times and logon information.

Cybersecurity - Who Needs It

Cyber security has become a hugely important topic. We will hear about it on July 21st in the club's weekly meeting. The speaker will be **Sajan Mohammad**, now the security guru for a large financial firm. He has degrees, licenses and certificates in cybersecurity, computer science, engineering and business management.

To hear Sajan, log on at noon on Tuesday. For logon credentials, write to gaithersburgrotary@gmail.com.

The Speed of Change

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, July 18, 2020

ROTARY didn't change much for nearly 100 years. Why mess with a good thing? Around 2008, the rate of change increased. It had to, to keep up with the world. Now, in 2020, COVID-19 has accelerated the change from about 10 MPH to 100.

Most Rotary activities have gone virtual. That saves on travel time and lets people from anywhere in the world speak and attend. Beyond that, it has given a huge boost to Rotary's worldwide components such as Fellowship Groups (sailing, etc.) and the **25 Rotary Action Groups (RAG)**.

The **Literacy Rotary Action Group** held an excellent webinar on July 16th. See the next story. The Rotary Action Group for **Peace** will hold a general meeting on July 20th. You can log on at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89217062937>. Everyone should belong to at least one RAG. You can find a complete list at <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/rotary-action-groups>.

Literacy Rotary Action Group - Remember Niger



What a webinar, on July 16th, by the **Literacy Rotary Action Group**. It featured Lidia Oxi and Ted Ning of **MAIA Impact** in Guatemala, Anand Seth (Rotarian from Bethesda) on **Edu Girls** in India and Nepal, Razia Jan of **Razia's Ray of Hope** in Afghanistan and Kara VanderKamp and Raymond Panczyk (Rotarian from Montgomery Village) of **Remember Niger**. Our foundation has given two small **grants** to that organization.

The speakers emphasized the sad state of girls' education in most developing countries and the immense benefits of helping girls through secondary school. One point was that, in at least one project, the first thing girls are taught is **to write their fathers' last names**. The girls demonstrate at home, and their fathers, many illiterate, instantly change their attitudes toward educating girls.

Kara, of **Remember Niger**, said that just 2% of the girls in that country attend high school, and the average marriage age is 15. Schools sponsored by the project are changing that dramatically. Lidia, of **MAIA Impact**, said their school had a retention rate of 96%, in rural indigenous Guatemala. All agreed that **education was** the key to better lives, stronger families and more viable countries.

Our Club in the Food Bank

On July 16th, it was our club's turn in the Gaithersburg Help Foodbank. Three or four people can do the job. We had five, and more were "on deck" in case we needed them. Hooray for Rotary! Thirteen families - perhaps 50 people in total - came for packaged

July 21st
Club Meeting, on-line, 12:00 to 1:25 p.m.
Speaker: Sajan Mohammad
Subject: Cybersecurity
Also: Awarding the Sam and Ester Eig Scholarship

July 22nd, 25th and 26th (three options)
Club Membership Plans
See the district website.

July 28th
Club Meeting
Speaker: Judith Clark
Subject: Women Who Care Ministries

July 31st, 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Sylvia Whitlock, first female president of a Rotary club
Subject: Infinite Possibilities - Women in Rotary
Information on the district website.
Do not miss this one!

August 4th
Club Meeting
Speaker: Leena Palav
Subject: Vision Spring

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?



foods, milk and eggs, cheese, meat, and fresh produce. Also, there were small bags of "goodies" for the children.



Gaithersburg Help provides this excellent service five days a week, every week in the year. This excellent 50+ year-old, all volunteer organization also helps with medical transportation, purchasing prescription medicines and referrals to other sources of assistance.

Haiti - Water for Life



July 14th, **John Kolm and Kenric Brooks**, Rockville Rotary Club, briefing on a valuable project.

They made it visual. They showed how the water supply for a small city in Haiti, including a school built with help from Rotary, has run out. Water is vital for cleaning, food production and sanitation. Kids are walking miles to carry water, often missing school to do it. All that is needed is an artesian well, which, in Haiti, will cost just \$10,000. Twenty percent of that is in the bank - just eighty percent to go.

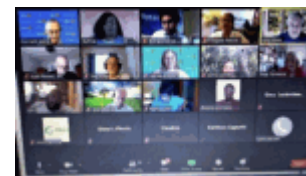
John said a few words in German and Chinese and then showed a dramatic video of **the earthquake in 2010**. It was the first in generations, and people didn't know what to do. There were huge destruction and loss of life. Just six months later, John and a few companions traveled to the **hard-hit town** of Leogane and decided to replace a school that had been destroyed. Leogane is beautiful, he said, but was the dengue fever and malaria capital of the world.

A new school was built in record time for just \$15,000. It opened with 100 children, and there are now 200, many of whom were orphaned by the earthquake. They receive uniforms, shoes and one meal a day and do not pay tuition. There are adult literacy classes in the evenings.

Donations to help with the \$8,000 shortfall can be sent to the **Rockville Rotary Foundation**, PO Box 4100. Rockville, MD 20849. What a superb way to use any amount of money!

Our Meeting Last Tuesday

The Zoom Room was filled with 20 people. Theresa Garcia-Parks, President of the Rockville Rotary Club said her group had joined in collecting Coins for the **Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART)**. That is excellent news!



Acting Secretary, Kumba, introduced our guests: Theresa and Hande from the Rockville Club, John and Kenrick (our speakers), and Claudina and John (guests of Kumba in South Africa and Germany). They were most welcome! Hande, who hails from Turkey, said her husband had established the second Rotary club in Azerbaijan.

President Richie asked members for **ideas on the format** of our meetings, and there were several. They are likely to be implemented gradually. He was broadcasting our meeting on **Facebook Live** and said that Anjou, from the fairly new club in The World Bank, was listening in.

After our excellent guest speakers, Ken asked about interest in working with a firm that helps Rotary clubs earn money via **virtual fundraisers**. The Montgomery Village Rotary has shown interest in this.

Taking over as **Sergeant-at-Arms**, Dan K. fined everyone who had gone out during the week without a visible Rotary symbol. Then, he waived the fines because we answered a quiz question successfully.

At **happy dollar time**, Bob announced interviews for the **Hanson Scholarship** and a goal for **CART** of \$40 per member during the Rotary year. Note: A winner of the scholarship has since been selected. **Sara** donated \$30 and **Ken** \$25. There were other happy dollars for the club and our speakers. Richie moved, and Ken seconded, that all the money collected - \$86 - be given to the **Haiti Water Project**. Every bit helps. Note: Other funds have since been earmarked for that project.
