

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

August 1st, 2020

Club Meeting

The Rotary Club of Gaithersburg, Maryland now meets on-line at noon on Tuesdays. For logon credentials, contact GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com

For more information, see www.gaithersburgrotary.org

Club Leaders

Emmyrich Meneses 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

- President: Sara Torrence
- Secretary: Bob Bokma
- Treasurer: Jack Bell
- Members-at-large: Diana Swanson and Dan King

Events

August 4th, 12:00 noon
Club Meeting on-line
Speaker: Leena Palav
Subject: VISION SPRING

Leena has taken her considerable experience to the job of CEO at Vision Spring. Hear how this organization provides low-cost vision exams and eyeglasses to needy people in more than 40 countries. She is well worth listening to.

August 11th and beyond:
Meetings at noon each Tuesday.
Information about speakers: to be announced.

July 31st, 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Sylvia Whitlock, first female president of a Rotary

Meetings and Money

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Meetings: President Richie says the Holiday Inn will be closed for the rest of this year, so we will have more on-line meetings. They have advantages, like no travel time and **not paying for lunch**.

Our **Zoom Master**, Ken, expects to be available every Tuesday, but, in case he has to miss a week, we'll need someone else who can set up, open, manage and close a virtual meeting. Can you do that? If so, please make it known.

Money: Members of our club are being asked for extra contributions this year. There is \$45 for the fight against **polio** and \$40 for **Alzheimer's** research. We should support Kelly's 310-mile bike ride to raise money for **wounded veterans**, and the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation's program in favor of African American residents. More is needed for Women Who Serve Ministries and everyone else who provides emergency **food**, assistance with rent, etc.

Can we afford it? Yes! By not meeting for lunch, we are each saving at least \$350 per year. Kick in, say, \$50 X 5, and we will each have \$100 left for a great take-out dinner.

A High-powered Happy Hour

By Kenneth D. Weiss



John Hanson, honored. welcome and will be welcome again.

Seventeen people on July 30th, with about equal numbers of Gaithersburg Rotarians and **guests**. The latter included Yvonne Chitiva, a real estate agent in Upper Marlboro; Ken ?, whom we have seen before, Rotarian John Hanson, former Hanson scholarship winners Kiana and Jessica, Maripat from the staff of Quince Orchard HS, Theresa and Todd from the Rockville Rotary Club, our former member, Kathleen, and a mystery person named Yu C. All were

Some good-natured banter, then someone, probably Sara, asked **John Hanson** to tell how the **Linda M. Hanson Memorial Scholarship** came into being. In an elegant response, John described how his then-wife, Linda, became a dedicated social activist and Rotarian. A key event was **a trip to Ecuador**, to a school assisted by Rotary clubs. School employees were proud of their library, which had no more than 300 books and which students could use only rarely. Linda and John saw how Rotary clubs were helping improve **education** in Ecuador and how great the need was. Being fluent in Spanish, Linda could interpret during the trip. Note: Since that time, the number of Rotary education projects in that country has grown substantially.

Back in the U.S., Linda went all in for Rotary and, later, for **Gaithersburg Help**, of which she became the executive director. She and John visited Rotary projects in Brazil and planned to do so in other countries, until an unsuspected illness took her from us. The Gaithersburg Rotary Club, with John, **established a scholarship** in her name - an annual award to a senior in Quince Orchard High School. As per what everyone know would be Linda's wish, the main criterion for selecting the awardee is **community service**. Each of the three winners, to date, has around 800 hours - far more than required to graduate.

Also, Linda worked to get **parents** more active in high school activities including the Quince Orchard High School **band**. When snipers ran wild in the D.C. area, in 2002. Students weren't safe outdoors, so John and Linda arranged to take them by bus to New Jersey, where they could perform. Another time, they rented the large building in the Montgomery County Soccerplex. Finally, to the scholarship winners, John said something like: "The skills you're developing will serve your communities after you leave college." Nice!

There followed a discussion of establishing and operating Interact clubs in high schools and Rotaract clubs in colleges or the community. Then, Ken asked Richie why **Rotary clubs in the Philippines** were so successful, and our pres. related the story of a single case of polio

club

Subject: Infinite Possibilities - Women in Rotary Information on the district website.

Do not miss this one.

Advance notice:

World Polio Day activity, 10/24
Ken is on the district committee.

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?



discovered on one of the country's remote islands. **The very next morning, at 2:00 a.m.,** Rotarians boarded a boat to vaccinate the victim's contacts.

Then, President Richie asked for **high school stories**, and we heard them from Scott, Theresa, Richie, Ken, Todd, Maripat and John Hanson. John's was about how he had been praised for fixing a problem he had inadvertently created. That is not a bad deal. Then, John C. and Scott had riddles for us to solve.

On the serious side, scholarship winner Kiana said she was **looking for an attorney** she could "shadow" to learn about law as a profession. Theresa said **Meals for Wheels** needed drivers in Rockville and might need them in Gaithersburg too. Then, sadly but surely, one by one, our images disappeared from our screens.

Women Who Care Ministries

In our July 28th meeting, Judith Clark explained the past and present of **Women Who Care Ministries**. She started it nearly 20 years ago by organizing a meeting in her home. Its mission is straight-forward - **to provide food** for needy children on weekends when there are no meals in schools. It is the only provider of free food in Montgomery Village.

Now, with Coronavirus and with schools closed, the program has exploded from 2,500 meals a week **to 6,000**. These are packed by volunteers - ten items in each bag - then are taken to 15 distribution centers. Judith praised the county for its work during the crisis. Every Monday, the Montgomery County Food Council meets on line for updates and to discuss problems, with more than 125 people in each meeting.



During the Q&A, Judith said the organization was always open to receive food donations, monetary donations and volunteers. Information about these opportunities is on its website, www.womenwhocareministries.org.

Our Meeting Last Tuesday

Last Tuesday, we had a good group of Rotarians and three guests of Kumba: **Claudia Cummings** in the United Kingdom, **Mulu Bezynneh**, who recently retired from 31 years with the United Nations, and **Miatta Joe Tucker**. Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, Dan K., got us underway, and we went straight to the guest speaker (see above).

After Judith spoke, Bob announced a goal for this year of \$40 per member for the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART). **Bob**, please tell us how and to whom to send our money.

President Richie announced that our pre-COVID meeting place, the **Holiday Inn**, would be closed for the rest of the year. Fortunately, we have mastered the Zoom thing. Bob suggested we look at holding face-to-face meetings in other locations, such as members' houses.

Dan K. tried to extract **finances** from people who did not bear Rotary identification, but there weren't many. Hint: one can always draw the Rotary emblem and tape it on. Kelly announced that she was accepting donations for her participation in a **310-mile bicycle ride** that is expected to raise a half million dollars to help "wounded American heroes." **Kelly**, how and to whom should we send that money?

Sara donated \$5 to Women Who Care Ministries, and **Kumba** had happy dollars for her guests and for **Daniel C.**, making his first appearance in our virtual meetings. It was great to see him. Then, John C. gave a happy buck because he had no more kids in high school. No more PTA meetings! Hooray!

Rick was happy for Kathleen, who had brought him into Rotary, and **Ken** paid because he had finally gotten the courage to visit a barber shop. To wind up (or wind down,) the meeting, Richie urged us to attend the forthcoming happy hour and on-line events of the **Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce**. They are described on the website, ww.ggchamber.org.
