

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

September 5th, 2020

Club Meeting

The Rotary Club of Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, currently meets via Zoom.

For login information, write to:

GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com
Time: Tuesday at 12:15 PM

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
- Diana Swanson and Dan King, Members-at-large

Events

September 8th

Club Meeting

Speaker: Lucia Torres

Subject: Family services

Hear from Lucia about the challenges faced by too many families, especially now.

September 8th, 3:30 p.m.

Training on use of DACDB to plan a service project.

Info on the district website.

September 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Training on foundation grants
Info. on the district website.

September 12th, 9:00 am.

Training on global grants
Info. on the district website.

September 15th

Club Meeting

Does Polio Still Exist?

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, September 5, 2020



Does poliomyelitis still exist? YES! The wild virus still flourishes in Pakistan and Afghanistan, countries in which eradication has been extremely hard. Until it is wiped out, everywhere in the world, it will be a threat.

Rotary and other organizations have struggled for 35 years to drive polio from the earth. It takes constant effort to maintain awareness and generate funds to do the work. Rotary's activities are known as "Polio Plus" because they consist of **much more** than just giving vaccines.

Our district, 7620, is planning a **virtual luncheon** for World Polio Day, Saturday, October 24th. We hope every club member will attend and invite friends. There is no charge, but we hope each

attendee will donate \$45 or more (to an extremely good cause). Flyers to promote the event are being prepared.

Also, we're encouraging each club to hold its own **Polio Plus activity**, any time before June 30th. An easy way to do this is by organizing a *World's Greatest Meal*. See wgmeal.com for information.

Finally, members can donate through the Rotary Foundation at <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio>.

Virtual Luncheon September 1st

No introductory cello concert, as there was the previous week, but **Stephen Czarkowsky** was present, and so were **Susy Cambiaso** and a gaggle of members. Also, we had a guest speaker, **Jimmie Frazier-Bay**. See the story below.



Jimmie was up first, and then Frank, to report on a webinar about

The Rotary Foundation. Here are a few highlights: It was founded in 1917 and soon received its first contribution, for \$26.50. its first grant of money was made in 1930. Since then, it has disbursed more than **\$3 billion** for worthwhile activities. It currently has assets of \$1.2 billion.

The foundation gives matching grants, funds scholarships for study abroad, has developed a widely heralded literacy training program, operates "peace centers" in six universities, and more. **Imagine that - studying peace**. It offers "small grants" as well as "global grants," and these are concentrated in seven areas, the newest of which is **environment**.

President Richie told us the club had given **\$1,000** to Special Love to help finance an alternative camping experience for **children with cancer**. In normal times, we provide the first night's dinner and party at this camp.

He also said that, on Tuesday, September 29th, we would not have a meeting or a happy hour. Instead, we will meet at the Church of Nazarene, 8921 Warfield Road in Gaithersburg, **to pack food** for distribution. The hours available are 2-3 and 3-4 p.m.

Then, he announced that he, Frank and Ken had held a "fireside chat" with excellent candidates for membership. One is sponsored by Richie and one by Bob.

No fines, this time. What a pity, but many **happy dollars**, most for the speaker. Susy led the pack with \$25. Kelly contributed \$10 and several members \$5 each. Happy dollars are **fun**, and they contribute to our club's treasury.

Speaker: tbs
Subject: Tbs

September 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Training on establishing your legacy through the Rotary Foundation
Info on the district website.

September 22nd
Club Meeting
Speaker: To be Scheduled
Subject: To be Scheduled

September 29th
No meeting or happy hour
Meet at Church of Nazarene to pack food for distribution.
2:00 to 3:00 or 3:00 to 4:00.

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 build goodwill and better friendship?

- Will it be beneficial for all concerned?



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The Wells Robertson House



Jimmy Frazier-Bey is Director of Homeless Services for the City of Gaithersburg. One of his responsibilities is Wells Robertson House. It was established in 1988 to house and assist homeless people in Gaithersburg who had undergone, or were receiving, treatment for addiction.

Jimmy said the responses of staff members and residents to the COVID pandemic had been excellent, although the number of residents was reduced for safety reasons. There are now just five, and all are working. Residents usually find **jobs** in the service industry. Several recently found into **permanent housing**, with help from county services for the homeless. The house does COVID testing through the county and, to date, has had no positive results.

The average stay in Wells Robertson House used to be close to nine months, but now it is just half that. This is due to use of the "Housing First" model. Residents who go into outside housing still receive services, including "Telemed."

For several weeks during the pandemic, Wells Robertson had **a table outside** at which they provided breakfast for unsheltered people - 990 breakfasts in all. That enabled staff and residents to engage with persons who lacked housing. The two-person **Outreach Team** is doing a great job, said Jimmy.

To "graduate," a resident must be sober and have a support system, have a bank account and a budget, and be in acceptable housing. The ceremony this year will be virtual, and Jimmy invited President Richie to be **one of the speakers**. Richie quickly accepted. A possible **workshop** in resume writing or interviewing was mentioned as well.

Jimmy said he saw a rise in homelessness because of COVID's effects on the economy. He expressed gratitude for the support of organizations like Rotary. In response to a question, he said the house was always ready to accept **donations**, especially of food and that mainstay of civilization - **coffee**.
