Rotary

Club of Gaithersburg

October 10th, 2020

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 and Diana Swanson, Members-at-Large

Events

October 13th
Club Meeting
Speakers: Liz Nardin and Teille Ademiluyi of Opportunities, Inc.
Subject: Providing services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
'
October 20th
Club Meeting
Speaker: To be Scheduled
Subject: To be Scheduled
.
October 24th, 12:00 - 1:10 p.m.
District virtual luncheon on World Polio Day
No fee but suggested contribution $45 or more.
Registration on the district website

Very Short Stories

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Friday, October 9, 2020

1. Charter Night, a virtual celebration of our club's birthday. Frank and others are planning it for Friday, November 6th. We'll enjoy Zoom networking, a comedian, a guest speaker and wonderful music, all for $40. Registration will open soon.

2. COVID-19 Relief: Besides donations already made by our foundation, we have $3,000 more for COVID relief. The plan is to give ten grants of $300 each to families who need funds immediately for utilities or rent. The operating procedure will be firmed up in a few days.

3. Our president, **Richie**, made a very short video as part of a larger one on **Wells Robertson House**. He was on the program with Mayor Ashman, City Manager Tanisha Briley and other dignitaries.

4. Ken, a member this year of the district's **Polio Plus Committee,** was the speaker in the October 8th meeting of the Rockville Rotary Club. He provided bits of humor and much information as he described ways of meeting the district's goal of $45 per member donated in Rotary year 2020-2021.

AI and the Emerging World

Our speaker, Dr. Moidin Mohiuddin, had much to say about A**rtificial Intelligence** - at least 100 times more than time permitted. He recently retired as Director of the IBM Research Center in California and now is co-founder and Chief Technical Officer of **ScoreData.** It's work is hard to describe briefly. See the details at https://scoredata.com/ He has known T.O. for a long time and has been a Rotaractor and **a Rotarian.**

Dr. Mohiuddin said much had been done to develop artificial intelligence (AI) in computers, but they were still not good at every task. The term, AI, he said, was coined in 1950 in a project known as the *Dartmouth Workshop*. Other terms, created later, include *Expert Systems, Artificial Neural Networks,* and *Deep Learning Networks*.

Moidin told of how IBM's *Watson* beat the **Jeopardy** champion, Ken Jennings, in 2011 and Google's *AlphaGo* beat the world **Go** champion, Ke Jie, in 2017. Computers can accumulate huge amounts of data and, to some extent, learn languages in a natural way. AI has many applications in, for example, banking and financial services, retailing, healthcare, autonomous vehicles, **the space program** and the Military.

Turning to whether computers were now smarter than humans. Dr. Mohiuddin told us of the "Turing Test," named for British mathematician, Alan Turing. It is: *If a human evaluator observing a conversation in typed text between a human and a computer, without knowing who is who, cannot tell the computer from the human, the computer could be said to have passed the test.*

Then, he showed us a number of rational questions, which computers can answer instantly. When he turned to **irrational questions**; however, there was a serious breakdown. Examples are: "How many rainbows does it take to jump from Hawaii to seventeen?" "How many games did the Miami Dolphins win in 2021?" "Which colorless green ideas sleep furiously?" Computers don't answer those well. Our speaker's conclusion was that Artificial Intelligence will not replace human intelligence. I don't know about you, but your editor was happy to hear that.

The Rotary Four-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:
- Is i the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial for all concerned?

Our Meeting Last Tuesday

An even twenty of us were present including our speaker and guests, Kim Cox of Apex Home Loans and Diamond Chaflawee of New York Life. We hope to see them again. Our new member by transfer, **Bob R**, baptized himself "Bob L" but didn't find an opening to explain why. There will be **suspense** until Tuesday the 13th.

Kelly, fresh in one sense but not the other from her 310-mile bicycle trip, known as *Ride Allegheny,* reported raising **almost $9,000** for the benefit of wounded warriors. That put her near the top of the pack! The event as a whole raised about **$650,000.** cheers for everyone involved!

Frank reported on **Charter Night** and our work on **COVID-19 relief.** See Short Stories (above). He and T.O. each donated $1,000 to the relief fund.

Time was short, so Dan K. waived all fines. Who was guilty of what, we will never know. Then **happy dollars** sprouted for Kelly, Dr. Mohiuddin, and more. T.O. reported that the **Montgomery County Muslim Federation** had raised a whopping **$52,000** for its fund to help African Americans study law enforcement. We say, "Hooray for the MCMF." It provides valuable services in our community.