

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

July 25th, 2021

Club Meeting

Gaithersburg
Meets at Lu Buffet
and Grill
218 N Fredrick Ave
301-948-8900
Gaithersburg, MD
20879
Time: Tuesday at
12:15 PM

May be available on
Zoom for members
and others who can't
attend in person.

Club Leaders

Janet Greiner
President

Kelly Grossberg
Secretary, with
Kumb Brewah

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

**Emmyrich
Meneses Vicente**
Immediate Past
President

**H. Winfree Irvine
Jr.**
Sergeant-at-Arms,
with Dan King

Sara R. Torrence
Gaithersburg Rotary
Foundation Chair
- Dan King, Vice-
chair
- Bob Bokma,
Secretary
- Diana Swanson,
Treasurer
- Nancy Scull,
Member-at-Large

Mark P. Milby
Area Governor

Events

July 27th
Speaker: Bob
Bokma
Subject:
Classification talk
**Hear the story of
Bob - the past,
the present, and
Rotary**

Our Rotary District



Rotary clubs are visible. Most have physical meetings, and all have activities - fundraising, service, social and public relations. Rotarians are out in the community.

However, the **district hierarchy** that backs us is mostly out of sight. Our new District Governor is **Geetha Jayaram**. Her husband, Jay, is a past district governor. There is a waiting line behind her - our governors for 2022-23 and 2023-24 have already been chosen.

Governor Geeta is backed up by 12 **area governors**. The new AG for clubs in our area is Mark Milby, of the Mount Airy Rotary Club, who replaced Frank Senk on June 30th.

Then, our district has nearly 40 committees, each headed by a member of some club. **Ken**, for example, is on the District **Polio Plus** Committee. Want a list of them in this report? Not a chance, but they're on the district website. There is a lot of other information on the site also. Take a look - at www.rotary7620.org

Much of the work; however, is done by Executive Secretary Deborah Burgess, working from her home in Annapolis. She is a nerve center for the entire structure. THANK YOU, Deborah.

Starting a Farm in Gaithersburg

July 27th, 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

District webinar on the grants process, to access funds from the district. Free. Info. on the district website

August 3rd
Club Assembly
Subject: Club admin. activities, etc.

August 10th
Speaker: Fernando Carvajal
Subject: Cyber security
Talk about a hot topic! Come to hear what Fernando has to tell us.

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, July 24, 2021

Who says there are no more farms in Gaithersburg? Claudia Tsas started one, last year, to grow **lavender**. Now, she makes beautiful lavender products and has an oil press. She welcomes visitors to an education center, called "the barn" or the "she shed," has yoga lessons on-site, and who knows what else in the future.

Claudia was our first speaker to use the monitor in the Lu Buffet, and it took several of us to figure out how to turn it on. With that accomplished, we could enjoy her Power Presentation. She started with **the decision to start** a lavender farm and how she learned the business, created plans, and "knocked on a lot of doors." She had to test the soil, try varieties of lavender, install an irrigation system, and much more. Later, she started building the education center and a septic tank for it. All that involved umpteen **approvals** from the city and the county. She came to know some inspectors very well.

Kharis Lavender Fields is a family business, mostly run by women. She employs women and buys products from female artisans, and from an NGO in her birth country, Bolivia. Its mission is to help children who have cancer. To produce lavender oil, she imported a hand-made, copper **distiller** from Portugal. Its a beautiful piece of equipment.

Asked what you can do with lavender, Claudia listed numerous products including body cream and bug spray. Luckily, she said, the cicadas didn't like it. She sells in selected farmers markets, on-site and on-line. See www.kharislavender.com. "Kharis," she told us, is the Greek word for "grace."



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?



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Our Meeting Last Tuesday

Guests! We love guests! Besides **Claudia and Robert Tsas**, there were **Jose Ilagan, Margaret Young** and **Nicole Deneau**. All are potential members (although Nicole might not know it yet).

President Janet spoke of our work in the Gaithersburg Help food pantry, Polio Awareness Day, the Dictionary project, Youth & Peace in Action, and our Monarch butterfly garden. Plans are afoot to hold a **party** there late in August. Bob B. brought out blue buckets to collect coins for **Alzheimer's** research and said that, to date, participating Rotary clubs had provided **more than \$1 million**.

After the guest speaker Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Dan K. collected cash for happy dollars, and there were many for the speaker, Claudia. Also there were bucks for a wife's book club, family members traveling to Hawaii, Sara's mask, Claudia's nails, and more.

T.O. said the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation had more **beef** than it needed for distribution and could supply some to another charitable organization. Then, President Janet gave him a special pin for having contributed \$5,000, over the years, to Rotary's **Paul Harris Foundation**. The people of the world are grateful.

