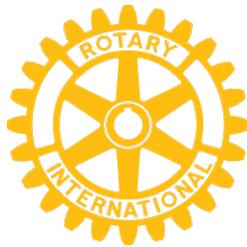


Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

March 30th, 2024

Club Meeting

Meets at 12:15 p.m. on First and third Tuesdays in La Villa Restaurant [18701 N Frederick Ave](#) in Gaithersburg, MD, and on Zoom.

Fourth Tuesday - zoom only

Second Tuesday - no meeting

Club Leaders

Margaret Young
President

Margaret Young
Immediate Past President

Priscilla Kinnear
President-Elect

Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Janet Grenier-Hanson
Club Foundation Chair

Bob Bokma
Interact Club Sponsor

Frederick Cooksey and John Cabrera
Co-Sergeants-at-Arms

Janet Grenier-Hanson, President of the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation

Kenneth Weiss
Assistant Governor

Events

April 2nd
An Author's Journey

Speaker: Ada Ari. She is on a mission to promote diversity and inclusion in children's literature.

April 3rd, 7:30 p.m. Info. session about the RI convention in Singapore. See the district website.

April 6th, 8:00 a.m. 4-way Test speech semi-finals at Glen Burnie HS. Ken says his mentee will **win!**

Best wishes to our readers for a very happy Easter weekend Topic 1, Habitat for Humanity

Friday, March 29, 2024



Two topics mingled in our March 26th meeting--two organizations that work together. Ben Litton is Director of Public Relations for **Habitat of Metro Maryland**, and Reverend Timothy Warner works closely with that organization. At the same time, both are vitally interested in the future of **Historic Emory Grove**.

Habitat of Maryland is one of 1,400 affiliates of the organization started in Georgia in 1976. Former **President Jimmy Carter** has long been its chief booster and public face. Carter is now 99 years old and swung a hammer until not long ago. The organization builds and restores houses for low-income people. Habitat of Maryland has several projects underway at any time. The largest now--27 units--is at Randolph and Viers Mill Roads. The organization partners with the county government and numerous other entities.

Habitat finds, buys and repairs houses and offers them to screened buyers with a down payment of just **one percent**. It loses money on every deal but compensates through grants and fundraising events. These include a golf tournament, a polo match, a benefit breakfast, and special activities such as "Women in Construction." **A house key unlocks many doors**, says their website--doors to better health, better education, strength, stability, and self-reliance.

An easy way to keep in touch with Habitat and its activities is by signing up for its monthly newsletter at <https://p.constantcontactpages.com/sl/CMuE3gR/newslettersignup>

Topic 2, Historic Emory Grove



When Reverend Warner became Pastor of the **Emory Grove United Methodist Church**, ten years ago, he found the congregation to be small and disheartened. Through a series of meetings with the community, he identified the cause. The residents were sad about the area's fall from a thriving community to a collection of old and new houses. The newer ones had been built by a "redevelopment" project in the 1970s but actually harmed the community.

Emory Grove was founded in about 1864 by freed slaves, who moved from nearby parts of the county. It became a "Camp Meeting" ground, and the meetings continued for several years. Gradually, the tight-knit community succumbed to numerous pressures, to the point that the church is almost the only original building that remains.

Red Lining and other policies have made it difficult for African Americans to own homes in many parts of the U.S., but ownership is considered a critical way to build "generational wealth." This is because homes generally increase in value and can be passed from one generation to the next.

Now, members of the community, including the Historic Emory Grove Rotary Club, are helping create **Heritage Emory Grove**, a redevelopment project in partnership with Montgomery County, the Housing Opportunities Commissions of Montgomery County, and Emory Grove United Methodist Church. **Habitat for Humanity** is heavily involved. Located adjacent to Emory Grove, the area will have about 450 single family and town houses. Construction is expected to begin in 2015 and be completed in 3-5 years.

April 16th

What is happening in Niger

Speaker: Char & Ibrahim Harouna
Subject: They are the founders of the Hamsa school. Ibrahim returned recently from Niger.

April 23rd

Club Assembly

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?

(And, make it FUN)



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

And Still More in Our Meeting



One of the paintings by Janet

Bob's invocation was a prayer for the men who lost their lives due to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Well done, Bob.

Then, **President Margaret** briefed us on the district conference, the foundation, and Flags For Our Heroes. She said a club in Florida had contacted her to ask who did our website for FFOH. They want one like it. Was it Eric? Here is a big money opportunity. Then, Margaret said the 30th anniversary of her move to the USA was coming up. Welcome, Madame President (a little late). Does that mean a sip' o' Irish whiskey for each of us?

Rob said he was "shocked" by the history of Emory Grove and its description of how hard it was for freed slaves to get ahead. The deck was clearly stacked against them.

Stu announced that his friend from Ukraine, who is working to build an industrial park in that country, would come to the U.S. on a **trade and investment mission** and would be in the D.C. area from May 18-20. Stu's friend spoke to our club a few months ago.

Our artist, Janet, said she was selling prints of her paintings on her website and profits would go to a charity for **Ukraine**. Tell your fingers take you to jcgartstudio4.com.