

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

June 1st, 2025

Club Meeting

Gaithersburg
Meets on First and
third Tuesday at La
Villa Restaurant and
on zoom
Fourth Tuesday -
zoom only
Second Tuesday - no
meeting.
LaVilla is at 18701 N
Frederick Ave.,
Gaithersburg, MD
20879

Time: Tuesday at
12:15 PM

Club Leaders

Priscilla S. Kinnear
President
President-Elect

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President
President-Elect

Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy
President-Nominee
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Margaret Young
Club Service Chair
Past President
iPast President

Janet Greiner
Club Foundation
Chair

Frederick W. Cooksey
Sergeant-at-Arms

Events

June 2nd, 6:30 p.m.,
on Zoom

Revive and Thrive
A zone presentation
on membership.
Information on the
district website.

June 3rd
**Scholarship
presentations.**

GRC the District Newsletter

Our club looked good in the district newsletter for June.

First, there were a nice article and photo about our display, Flags For Our Heroes. The article praised us for planning, organizing, and performing a project that both involved and benefited the community.

Second, there were a brief article and photo about our Peace Pole. It showed clearly that district leadership valued that installation which, of course, is for all to see and is permanent.

Third, the newsletter included Ken's report on the recent District Business Meeting. These meetings are held just once a year and deserve to be well-attended.

Our thanks to the newsletter editors for their coverage of the Gaithersburg Rotary Club.

Our Meeting of May 27th



Egads! It's June. Well, let's jump back to May for a short report. Janet gave kudos to the **Scouts** and others who helped us with Flags For Our Heroes. Then, FFOH Chairperson **Margaret** showed photos and a video of the event and named the members who helped with it--nearly all of us.

Our super Secretary, Jackie, said that Richie had a birthday on May 29th and Diana a Rotary anniversary on June 11th. Our honorary member and speaker, County Councilman Sidney Katz, came into the world on June 14th, of some year back there.

June 16th, 7:00 p.m.
on Zoom
Zone training on
**Accommodating
Rotarians with
Disabilities**
Information on the
district website.

June 17th
**Report from
Rotary Peace
Conference**
Speaker: Hande
Apaydin

June 24th
**Rise To Shine
Education
Foundation**
Speaker: Emily
Bakhhitah

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
friendships?
 - Will it be beneficial
to all concerned?
-



President Priscilla said that she and Jacque would represent us in a district **Peacebuilder** group. It will promote peace, of course, and we **do** need that. Note: The Rockville Rotary Club is registered as a Peacebuilder Club.

Then, we gave Councilman Katz the remainder of our meeting time. We did manage to work in happy dollars, though. They were mostly fivers and mostly for our speaker. Please see a recap in the story that follows.

Councilman Katz to Our Club

Our member and councilman, Sidney Katz, gave a brief history of **Bohrer Park**, saying that, as far as he knew, buying the land for it was the only time the City of Gaithersburg acquired debt. How happy we are that it did. Then, he gave a brief history of himself. His grandparents moved from Lithuania to this area. There was a store in Rockville, and then another in Gaithersburg so that two family members would not compete with each other. Back then, in 1918, it took a while to travel from one city to the other.



Sidney became Master of the local Masonic Lodge at the tender age of 24. Then, he was persuaded to go into politics, even while he functioned as co-owner of Wolfson's Department Store, on West Diamond Avenue. It did business from 1971 until 2013, and some of us remember it.

Sidney spoke at length about the county's Operating and Capital Improvement budget for 2026, which had just been approved. It includes no increase in the tax rate or income tax. He added that just 50 people pay about half of the income tax collected in the county. **Wow!** He noted that the largest component, at \$2.6 billion, is **our school system**. There are, among other purposes, increases for special education and for school-based safety.

Another increase, for the **County Police**, includes a pilot drone program, and he explained the uses and importance of drones. More money is also going to Fire and Rescue, Animal Services, and Ride On Buses, which will be free to all users. Then, he mentioned funds for homeless people, security, food assistance, to decrease the rent for low-income taxpayers, and more. There will even be a pet food bank, as many people have pets but cannot afford to feed them.

One additional topic was a plan to build a new high school in Crown Farm. Most of us have watched that area go in a few years from land to buildings, including an evolving mix of good stores and restaurants.
