

# Rotary



## Club of Gaithersburg

August 10th, 2025

### Club Meeting

Meets on First and third Tuesdays in La Villa Restaurant and on Zoom, Fourth Tuesday - zoom only, Second Tuesday - no meeting.

La Villa: [18701 North Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20879](#)

Time: 12:15 PM sharp

### Club Leaders

**Priscilla S. Kinnear**

President  
Immediate Past President

**Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy**  
President-Elect  
Community Projects Chair

**Denise Macfoy**  
Vice President

**EsiSonia Sotoglo**  
Secretary

**Maria R. Garcia**  
Treasurer

**Frederick W. Cooksey**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Janet Greiner**  
Rotary Foundation Chair

**Kenneth Weiss**  
Bulletin Editor

### Events

August 13th on Zoom  
[Board Meeting.](#)

August 19th in La Villa  
[Let's Read Update](#)  
Speaker: Norm Gordon

August 21st  
Rockville Rotary Club

### Franklina (Frankie) Buck



No props, no pictures, just information--that enthralled us. That was the "Classification speech" of Franklina (Frankie) Buck. She was one of four children and exists because a contraceptive failed. She was educated and became a teacher but decided that was not her calling.

Frankie left her homeland for France, learned its language, and applied to several organizations for work. Then, lo and behold, the World Bank went looking for her. Yes, quality sometimes rises to the top. She was offered a two-month contract, which eventually lasted for five years. She participated in the bank's human relations, conflict mediation, and more, and was involved in sanitation, energy, transportation and finance projects. It was an enormous learning experience. She was a young, black lady traveling frequently to difficult countries such as Afghanistan.

Then came COVID. Working from home, she had to learn the technology and keep up with changes in the structure of the bank. She soon realized that, before COVID, she had been away from home about **fourteen hours a day**. Why go back to that? Soon after, she resigned and was given a going-away party, on a boat, no less. She turned in her badge, cell phones, computers, etc. and woke up on the first day of retirement with no bells or buzzers. She could literally feel her blood pressure dropping.

Then, she accepted an invitation to join the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg. Welcome, Frankie. We are enormously pleased that you have joined us.

### What is a Backpack?

What is a backpack? According to AI, "...they provide a practical way to carry necessary school supplies and promote a sense of ownership and belonging, which can boost student confidence and academic performance. They also foster organizational skills essential for effective time management and studying."

### happy hour

At Botanero, in King Farm

August 26th

Flags for our Heroes Update and fundraising - ZOOM only.

September 2nd

The Muddy Branch Alliance

Speaker: Janette Rosenbaum

Subject: The Role of the Muddy Branch Alliance in Gaithersburg

### The Rotary 4-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?

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Rotary

Given that, how could we say "no" to a staff member from Whetstone Elementary School, in Montgomery Village, who asked our club for backpacks for her students? This was discussed by the Board and the members, and we decided to provide thirty, each purchased by a member. The expected cost is about \$30 each.

So, what to buy? According to AI, again, "In style for 2025 are backpacks with **sustainable materials, artistic or bold patterns, futuristic and reflective elements, and compact, modular designs**. Popular brands include **The North Face, JanSport, Fjällräven Kånken, and Herschel**, ... with brands like **Patagonia** and **Everlane** leaning into eco-friendly options." The time to buy is **now** because there is no sales tax this week. Then, take yours to the club meeting on August 19th.

Our member, Sol, is trying to locate scholastic items to put in the backpacks. If he succeeds, we will probably have a small stuffing party. It will be easy--just a few of us, a table, and liquid refreshment.

## DISCON IS COMING

From the afternoon of October 3rd through the morning of the 5th, Rotarians from our District 7620 and from District 7610 will meet and greet in the Westin City Center, in D.C. They will enjoy the House of Friendship, mindful relaxation, a service project, a number of memorable speeches, stimulating breakout sessions, good food, and a joint hospitality suite. They will meet important people, learn more about Rotary, make new friends and enjoy themselves from start to finish.

Yes, there is a cost. It is \$325 for the whole conference or just \$225 if this will be your first time to attend. Our club will reimburse \$150 of the cost for each of the first four members to request it. \$225 - \$150 = next-to-nothing. How can you pass it up? Tell President Priscilla that you plan to attend and then REGISTER, at <https://www.rotary7620.org/discon-2526/>

## Our Meeting on August 5th

President Priscilla presented two cards for us to sign. One was for Alicia Hannon, Past President of the Rockville club, who has invited us all to her impending wedding. The other was for the family of Ron Huber, who passed away recently.

Then, Priscilla spoke of the **district convention** (see separate story). Our club will contribute \$250 toward its cost and will subsidize the fee for up to four members to attend. Our secretary, Jacque, said we had enough people for the next distribution of food, for Gaithersburg Help, and she reminded us of the celebration of **International Peace Day** on September 21st, near our peace pole in Bohrer Park.

Regarding **membership**, Priscilla said our focus during August should be on attracting young men. Each of us knows some. Let's tell them about Rotary. Then, our **Public Image (PI)** Chair reported that an article about the club was in the latest district newsletter, he was happy to see more members posting photos on Facebook, Priscilla and Margaret were going to "populate" our Gallery on Facebook, we would exhibit in the GGCC Non-profit Showcase, he would work on winning an award for PI during the current Rotary year, and the Historic Emory Grove Rotary Club had greatly improved its Facebook page. Priscilla added that she was putting club photos on Instagram.

Also, Priscilla asked for names of potential speakers and said that **Janet** had undergone surgery and was in rehabilitation. Further, the Board of our Foundation has decided to take over a few of the projects that, in the past, have been funded by the club. Then, she discussed our new school **backpack** activity.

After an enthralling Classification Speech, we held the 50-50 lottery (no winner yet) and went to **happy dollars**. **Richie** paid to ask us to support his candidacy for the title of Mr. America Global. He is already Mr. Maryland Global. Many dollars were offered for **Frankie** and her talk, and Jim donated \$15 for the life of **Ron Hauber**. John C. had gone to see his grandchildren in California, Ken had become a great-grandfather, Priscilla's youngest son had gotten engaged to be married, and there were others. Happy dollars let us tell each other important bits about our lives.

