

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

August 23rd, 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 26th on Zoom
[Flags for our Heroes Update and fundraising.](#)

September 2nd in La Villa

Speaker: Janette Rosenbaum
Subject: The Role of the Muddy Branch Alliance in

Teaching Kids To Read



???????Norm Gordon has spoken to our club before about his program, "Let's Read," and some of us are helping with it. The program is vital, he says. If kids can not read by the time they start third grade, they cannot follow their lessons, and they are not likely to finish high school. Much of their potential will be wasted. Since the pandemic, only about half of the third graders in Montgomery County schools can read satisfactorily. As one can guess, Black and Latino kids, and those from poor families, are the most likely to need help.

A few years ago, Norm saw this situation and created "Let's Read," a dynamic tutoring program. Twice a week, kids meet with a volunteer tutor for a full hour. The room where they meet has rows of tables, each with one tutor and one child. Of course, there are refreshments to get youngsters in the proper mood. Also, there is a table at which parents can meet to improve their reading skills, in part so they can help their children.

The result is that, after a few months of tutoring, the children can read simple stories. Moreover, their **attitudes** toward reading change dramatically. They actually **want** to do it.

The program's success, in Montgomery Village, has led to more demand and expansion. In the 2025-26 school year, there will be 4 sites with totals of 75 students and 120 tutors. That is a drop in the bucket, but a big drop. Of course, each site requires personnel and financing--about \$40,000 per site per academic year. People who would like to help with time and/or money can go to <https://germantowngc.org/literacy-program/> and express their willingness to do so.

Our Luncheon on Aug. 19th

Gaithersburg

September 10th on Zoom
Board of Directors Meeting
All members are welcome.

September 16th, at La Villa
Speaker:
Thomasina Byrd
Subject:
Improving Education and Employment success for youth and young adults with disabilities.

September 11, 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit in a GGCC event at Smoky Glen
Farm Opportunity for two members to staff our table.

September 21st
International Day of Peace
Coffee and doughnuts at our Peace Pole in Bohrer Park

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 



???????On Tuesday we enjoyed meeting a guest, Annette Koroma. She is a friend of Frankie and Denise, recently retired from the U.S. Department of Labor, and might be interested in a recommendation for membership in our club. Welcome, Annette!

We celebrated the birthday of Roy Green, who moved away long ago but has remained a club member, and Rick Cooksey. We sang to Rick via Zoom. If DJ Casey Kasem were still with us, he might put us in his "Top 40."

Janet said our butterfly garden now offered a true feast for the beautiful monarchs, and Margaret commented that the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation's closing date for grant applications was August 31st.

We beat our goal for collecting backpacks for students of Whetstone Elementary School, as a table in La Villa overflowed with forty of them. Great job, everyone!

There was discussion of asking young Rotarians in other clubs why they joined Rotary. Also, President Priscilla told of a peace concert being organized by the Rockville Rotary Club. It will take place in the Rockville Senior Center, on Carnation Drive, on November 15th, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. Our members are invited to help with photography, videography, music, and other aspects of the event.

After an excellent talk on teaching kids to read, we dashed to where the backpacks were for a string of photographs. Then, we somehow managed to draw a 50-50 ticket, and Ruby won enough for a coffee and a sandwich. She will take a new deck of cards to our next meeting. Priscilla announced forthcoming events, and we left, smiling.

Addendum: The backpacks have been delivered. The school's staff, faculty, and students are very grateful.

A Meaningful Rotary Poem

WHAT DOES THE ROTARY CLUB DO? (author unknown)

Someone asked me that question once, And I stood there feeling like a dunce!
What do our Rotarians do! I hemmed and hawed a time or two,
Then said, "We gather for a meal And ask each other how we feel.
Get our food and have some fun, Chattering till the meal is done.
We get club business out of the way And have the program for the day,
Some are good. and some are great! And some run on till fairly late,
But then my friend, he turned to go, "That wasn't," he said, "What I wanted to Know."

I've thought a lot about this since. What could I possibly say to convince
My Friend that Rotary does more than meet. Greet. Take a Seat. then Eat?
Well, this is how I would make amends By explaining Rotary to my friends.
5 million children are healthy today In lands both near and far away
Who otherwise might be lame or dead From polio. that childhood dread!
And hungry children are being fed Through better ways to grow their bread.
Rotarians in many lands are teaching, And doctors of all kinds are reaching
Out to heal the sick and lame With little thought for wealth or fame,
And men and women are meeting the need to teach little children how to read.

A hundred things there are to say About what Rotarians do each day,

In every land and every town To lift someone when they are down
And help each other along the way. Service Above Self. What more can I say.

Well, if my Friend should ask again, I'll have an answer for him then.
Youth come here from every land In answer to our outstretched hand
To learn to know us and know our ways Bringing peace and friendship to all our days.
And clubs are formed in every nation, For fellowship and conversation,
For education and information, And practicing the cultivation
Of peace on earth, good will to all And a speedy end to every wall
Which separates the folk of earth And keeps us from seeing each other's worth.
