

# Rotary



## Club of Gaithersburg

March 20th, 2021

### Club Meeting

**The Rotary Club of Gaithersburg, MD, USA now meets online at noon on Tuesdays. We open Zoom at 11:50 and meet from 12:15 until 1:15 p.m.**

For logon information, email [GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com)

Our meetings are on **Facebook Live**, and you can see us on our website, Facebook, Linked-in, Twitter and Instagram.

### Club Leaders

**Emmyrich Vicente**  
President

**Janet Greiner**  
President-Elect

**Kelly Grossberg**  
Secretary, with Kumba Brewah

**Dan Dellon**  
Treasurer

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

**Sara R. Torrence**  
District Foundation Advisor  
Rotary Foundation Chair  
- Dan King, Foundation Vice-President  
- Bob Bokma, Secretary  
- Diana Swanson, Treasurer  
- Nanch Scull, Member-at-large

**Frank E. Senk Jr.**  
Area Governor

### Events

March 23rd, lunchtime meeting, virtual

**Speaker:** Tanisha Briley, City Manager of Gaithersburg  
**Subject:** What's Going On in the City

March 24th, 7:00 p.m.  
**"Basic Education and Literacy"** Rotary Action Group seminar. See the district website for information.

March 26th, 1:00 p.m.  
**Infinite Possibilities: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**  
Rotary Zone webinar. See the district website.

### Fly High, My Flag

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, March 20, 2021



MVRC and GRC (Rotary Clubs of Montgomery Village and Gaithersburg) fully expect to fly **Flags for our Heroes** again this year. **Think:** 750 large American flags in Bohrer Park over Memorial Day Weekend. **Think:** driving on Route 355, past this beautiful display. **Think:** walking among those glorious flags like the girl in the photo.

**How does it work?** Anyone can sponsor a flag to honor his or her hero (and everyone has heroes these days). Sponsorship this year costs only \$25 per flag. Each flagpole will bear a medallion with the names of the sponsor and the honoree, and either may keep it when the event is over. Also, there are **corporate sponsorships** for varying amounts.

**Anyone** can sponsor a flag, honor a hero, speak up for the U.S. and raise spirits in our community. Go to [FlagsForOurHeroes.org](http://FlagsForOurHeroes.org) and click on "Sponsor a flag."

### Our Speaker: Our City Manager

Tanisha Briley, City Manager of Gaithersburg since early December, will be our speaker on March 23rd.

For credentials to log on, write to [gaithersburgrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:gaithersburgrotaryclub@gmail.com). She can talk about, and respond to questions regarding, nearly everything that is going on in our city.



### Our March 16th Meeting

An excellent invocation by Bob. Eighteen persons attended including potential members **Jacques Batako and Nia English**, Rockville Rotary Club President **Theresa Garcia-Parks**, and our guest speaker. Theresa said she was happy to see that our club was growing, as is hers. Then, our guest speaker was introduced (see following story).

**Jacques Bateko** moved quickly from potential member to new member, as John led the induction ceremony

March 27th, 9:00 a.m.  
**Annual Foundation Recognition Dinner** with Rich Glover. See the district website.

March 30th  
**Happy hour** (as far as we know)

April 6th  
**Club Assembly**

April 13th  
**Speaker:** Dawn W Williams,  
Author  
**Subject:** Being Your Trojan Creative Horse

and displayed the certificate and pin. These will be mailed due to the difficulty of "pinning" someone on Zoom. Then, Jacques introduced himself. Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he came to the U.S. in 2012, without a word of English. Now he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and a Masters in Theology and expects to receive a Masters in Clinical Psychology in December of this year. He is working as a hospital chaplain.  
**Welcome, Jacques!**

President Richie urged us to find sponsors for flags (see above) and to **donate Easter baskets** for distribution by the Upcounty Consolidation Hub. Note: The Hub would like to have 1,000 baskets and, as of March 19th, was far sort of that number. President-elect Janet is collecting baskets from our members.

**Fines and Happy Dollars** turned out to be a highlight of the meeting. T.O. admitted to not wearing a Rotary pin, and that cost him. Then, the Sergeant-at-Arms **tried to fine** Jacques' sponsor, Ken, for not getting a pin in Jacques' hand before the installation and was shouted down by the **multitudes**. Rob fined himself for **accusing Richie** of delivering a fake weather forecast. Sorry, details are unavailable.

**Dan K.** contributed \$3 for his wife finally being vaccinated and going shopping. **What? Kelly** had \$10 for various reasons including her daughter's imminent return from Ecuador. Hey, we want to hear about her experiences. **Sara** was happy to have a new iPhone, so she can join in our meetings from anywhere. Many others jumped in with satisfaction for the **speaker**, the **new member**, and recent **vaccinations** against COVID-19. **Diana** was encouraged to know that her girls would live through the pandemic, even if she didn't (smiley face). **Theresa** was happy for being there and had already sent \$5 to our foundation. Now, **that** is the way to pay.

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### 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 friendship?  
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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## MC Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions



Walter Weiss was a U.S. Navy Doctor who did extensive research on malaria. His son, Jacob, was a climate activist. About five years ago, Jacob became very busy and asked Walter to take over for him. "Anyway, you're responsible for this," said the son, referring to humanity as a whole.

For years, the **Sierra Club** and other organizations had urged County officials to do more to prevent climate change. Montgomery County is bigger than eight states and is looked to as a model by counties around the U.S.

Walter saw climate change as a **moral issue**, looked for an organization to emulate and found one in Virginia. He went to the County Council and found it receptive and easy to work with. Soon, the Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions was born. It is all-volunteer, science-based, and non-political. It helps congregations of all religions to help prevent climate change. The 50 plus congregations that are members are concentrated in the southern part of the county, and more are needed in the northern part.

The alliance worked on decreasing pollution from the **power plant** in Dickerson. It helps congregations buy clean electricity and put **solar panels** on their roofs, participated in a three-year update of the Green Construction Code and the International Energy Efficiency Code, and helped develop the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan. The main goal in this plan is to **reduce emissions in the county by 80%** by 2027.

There were questions, of course, and a final one by Sara, who asked **how a church could join** the alliance. Walter said that any member of a church could attend one of their meetings, and the alliance would help that person build a "green team" in his/her congregation. There is an application for membership at <https://ipldmv.org/mcfacs/>, and Walter can be contacted via email to [walter.weiss@verizon.net](mailto:walter.weiss@verizon.net)

