

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

December 24th, 2023

Club Meeting

Meets First and third Tuesdays
at 12:15 p.m. at La Villa
Restaurant
[18701 North Frederick Avenue,
Gaithersburg, MD 20879](https://www.google.com/maps/place/La+Villa+Restaurant/@39.118,77.045,15z)

Also, on Zoom the 1st, 2nd and
4th Tuesdays. For logon
information, write to
gaithersurrotaryclub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Margaret Young
President

Nia English
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Sara Torrence
Club Foundation Chair
- Dan King, Vice-Chair
- Bob Bokma, Secretary
- Diana Swanson, Treasurer
- Nancy Scull, Member-at-Large

Janet Greiner
Immediate Past President

Frederick Cooksey
Sergeant-at-Arms

Kenneth Weiss
Area Governor

Events

December 27th
Sorry, No Meeting

January 3rd
Club Matters

January 12th
**Volunteer at Gaithersburg
HELP**

January 17th
Gaithersburg HELP update
Speaker: Margo Goldman

Other Pending Events:
???????There will be many as
Rotary emerges from its holiday
break.

The Rotary Four-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR
A JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.**

We Were Back to Asbury

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Friday, December 23, 2022



COVID kept us away for two years, but on Tuesday we were back - back to the Wilson Health Care Center in Asbury Methodist Village. What's more, we were back better than ever, with three Santas and seven elves. There were a few differences from the past. Each of our Santas had an Asbury guide, one area was off-limits because of COVID, and we wheeled our boxes of oranges in laundry carts (which worked well except that only long-armed Rotarians could reach the boxes at the bottom).

Each Santa and his/her team roamed the hallways, knocked on doors, wished every resident and staff member a happy holiday, and gave out cold, delicious oranges. This service activity was started many years ago by our long-time member, Winfree Irvine, in gratitude for the excellent care his mother received at Asbury. A few months ago, at a reception to celebrate the life of Winfree, he was at the door, in the form of a mannequin, wearing his Santa suit.

We definitely expect to keep this tradition alive in the future.

He CAN Still Play his Cello

Our member, Stephen Czarkowsky was our speaker on December 19th. His presentation was divided into parts - a brief concert, a brief talk, questions and answers, and another brief talk.

Stephen came out of the music world in Pennsylvania and now leads four orchestras, works with four schools, and plays his cello in churches and at special events. He has played for presidents and paupers. On December 22nd, for example, he was escorted to Camp David to play for dignitaries. He would tell us more if he could, but he can't, so he won't.

How does he do all that? "Time management," he said, and "believe in what you do." If you do too much and are very tired, and it's time to perform, you simply "... find that hidden energy."

As to moving up in the musical world, he said to apply for the jobs you want. "The worst they can do is say 'no'." He named famous musicians he had met and told of playing for a group when, unbeknownst to him, a U.S. senator was in the audience, and that opened other doors for him. It all started when he was a kid and liked to play bass, but the instrument was too big to fit in the family car, so he went for the cello.



- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

And so, he spoke to us and played for us. It was a marvelous presentation.



And, more in Our Meeting



On Tuesday, we were pleased to see our former member, **Tom Breece**. He was our club president from 2012 until 2014, and he played Santa for us last Tuesday. Another guest was **Peyman Paris**, a medical chemist who had worked for important laboratories, and still another was Divine Hangamil. He lived in Mauritius and Camaroon before coming to the U.S.

President Margaret discussed our work in Asbury that afternoon. Then, she named the newly elected and continuing officers of the **Gaithersburg Rotary**

Foundation. They are pleased and proud to play a role in awarding both local and international grants. The foundation has about \$20,000 to donate in the year, 2023.

When the **happy dollars** began, it seemed like they would never end. They were for our speaker, Stephen, home heating systems that worked, friendship in our group, our service in Asbury that was begun by Winfree, and more. We closed with a reminder that **we would not meet again** until the 3rd of January, 2023.