

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

March 11th, 2023

Club Meeting

Meets First and third Tuesdays
at 12:15 p.m. at La Villa
Restaurant

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

Also, on Zoom the 1st, 3rd and
4th Tuesdays. For logon
information, write to
gaithersurgrotaryclub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Margaret Young

President
President-Elect

Margaret Young

President
President-Elect

Dan Dellon

Treasurer

Janet Greiner

iPast President

Sara R. Torrence

Club Foundation Chair

Hannah Katakam

Club Foundation Secretary

Frederick W. Cooksey

Sergeant-at-Arms

Kenneth D. Weiss

Area Governor

Events

March 16th

[Volunteer at Gaithersburg](#)

HELP If you can join us,
contact Ken.

March 21st

[Children's Aid to Ukraine](#)

Update

Speaker: Eliseo & Iryna Lujan
from the Rockville Rotary. Hear
current information on how the
war is affecting kids.

March 28th

[Save money & Help the environment](#)

Speaker: Jeff Turner & Dr.
Cliff Strawitch

Subject: How club members
can save money and help save
the planet by taking advantage
of the new Inflation Reduction
Act.

April 4th

[Classification Speech](#)

Speaker: Etna Cavalcante.

CPETs, a Medical Mission, etc.

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Saturday, March 11, 2023



On Tuesday, after a celebration of **John's birthday**, President Margaret showed her certificate of completion of President-elect Training (CPETs). Then, she played a short video of future RI President, Gordon McNalley, explaining why the theme for his year will be **Create Hope in the World**. A woman in Thailand, who had lost everyone and everything to a tsunami, regained **hope** because of what Rotary did in her town. Hope is **so important**, he said.

Margaret also summarized the topics in CPETs and said she, and the other presidents-elect in our area, had planned to meet soon. Then, she gave a quick report on Flags for Our Heroes.

Next, John reported on his participation in a trip to the Philippines. Filipino American Cancer Care had just completed its 21st annual four-week "Medical Mission of Mercy." No one is paid, said John, and the approximately 80 participants pay their own expenses. In a remote part of the country, the group provided numerous medical and dental services to about **3,000 people**.

John's job was "crowd control" outside the clinic. People needing medical help walk for hours in the mountainous terrain, he said, and arrive exhausted and impatient. John tried to make them feel at ease, assure them a doctor would see them, and even use humor to help them feel better.

Service is our game, right? What better way to play than by helping people who have medical problems?

After Divine spoke (see below), Janet reported on a most enjoyable Rotary district **trip to New York**. It will probably be repeated next year, she said, right after holiday decorations go up. Then, we heard announcements and happy dollars. Sara offered \$1 for each day of her Caribbean cruise, even though she came back with COVID, and \$5 for our new member.

Divine Ngunyeh Kangami



Also, continue planning for our participation in the District Conference.

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?
(and, what the heck, make it fun!)

We were eager to hear Divine's Classification Speech, and he did not disappoint. A professor of business and economics, he was born in Cameroon, in Central Africa. He explained briefly the colonial history and how the country came to have a French-speaking part and an English-speaking part. Note: This relic of colonialism continues to cause problems.

Divine showed photos of his elementary school and later schools, until he obtained Master's and PhD degrees from the University of the Western Cape, in South Africa. He would like, someday, to go back and help the first school he attended. He also showed a wonderful wedding photo. Then, he mentioned his teaching experience and some of the **projects** done with his students, like helping develop organic hair products based on Shea butter and studying the feasibility of acquiring a poultry farm.

Later, among other things, he worked for four years in Mauritius and sang in a choir. We are waiting to hear him sing. He recently moved to this area and is living with his wife in Gaithersburg. She works for the U.S. Public Health Service. We hope to meet her in the near future.



IMAGINE
ROTARY

DisCon 2023

Our Rotary district conferences are **amazing!** Every Rotarian should attend every year. The more who attend, the better our organization will be.

The 2023 version will take place from **April 20-23** in the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. Rooms are available for a special rate, but most of us will commute. **Thursday** will feature Golf for Polio Eradication. It's time to start practicing. On **Friday**, look for a service project, the House of Friendship (displays of club projects) and, it needs to be said, bourbon and wine tasting. **Saturday** will feature lunch and district awards, breakout sessions, and the fabulous **Four-way Test Speaking Contest**. On Sunday, there will be a brunch to **honor heroes** chosen by the clubs.

In general, there will be breakfasts, lunches, dinners, exotic hospitality suites, entrancing speakers, and special sessions for Interact and Rotaract members. One price of \$290 covers it all. There are still opportunities to pot forth participants for the speaking contest, exhibit in the House of Friendship, organize a hospitality suite, attend a Rotary Leadership Institute course, and be a sponsor of the conference. You can see it all at rotary7620.org.
