

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

April 23rd, 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 gaithersurrotaryclub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Margaret Young
President

Margaret Young
President-Elect

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Janet Greiner
Immediate Past President

Sara Torrence
Club Foundation Chair

Hannah Katakam
Club Foundation Secretary

Frederick Cooksey
Sergeant-at-Arms

Kenneth Weiss
Area Governor

Events

April 25th, via Zoom
Composting and other green initiatives at Dufief Elementary
Speaker: Greg Baron, Principal

April 25th, 2:30 p.m. on Zoom
DACDB University on Club Finances on-line
Info. on the district website

April 26th, Red Line Happy Hour in Washington, D.C.
All are welcome to attend.
Sign up on the distinct website

May 2nd
In-person at La Villa restaurant
Club Assembly

May 9th
No meeting

May 11th, 4:45 p.m.
Service: Distribute food in the Gaithersburg Help food pantry.
Sign up with President

Our Meeting April 18th



In attendance: A good number of members, plus, **Stu Rutlick**, President of the Rotary Club of Montgomery Village and **Mary Kuric**, a potential member. Mary met us in December when we played Santa at Asbury. She received a Rotary scholarship many years ago to study in Japan.

Margaret announced DisCon and new **contributions to Flags for Our heroes**, thanks to two of our members. Also, she said that interviews of the students who had applied for **the Hanson scholarship** would take place this week.

After our speaker (see below), Janet told us again how to recycle "crinkly" plastic. President Margart added that we needed more children's books for the Little Free Library with which we are helping at Watkins Mill High School. Bob passed around the blue buckets to collect coins for Alzheimer's research, and Rick asked for Happy Dollars. There were many for the speaker, our visiting Rotarian (Stu) and our guest (Mary). **Richie** offered \$10 for various reasons, especially Africa Fashion Week in New York. A past president of our club, he wears many hats and has added a new one: model.

Rotary Intercountry Committees

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Thursday, April 20, 2023

There are many parts to Rotary. Did you know about its **Inter-country Committees**, or ICCs?

The first ICC was started in 1950 in Strasbourg, Germany. It was to help improve relations between Germany and France. In general, these committees promote bilateral humanitarianism and peace and, now, there are several throughout the world. The USA participates in eleven - with Romania, France, Russia, Austria & Germany, Lebanon, Mexico, Egypt, India, Honduras, Ukraine, and Spain.

Note that the third on the list is **Russia**. Our former district governor, **Barton Goldenberg**, is the district's representative to and President of this committee. Interestingly, he is also our representative on the U.S. - Ukraine ICC. Can you imagine the dynamics at the meetings, which are continuing. One of the US-Russia committee was held earlier this month at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

There are well over 100 Rotary clubs in Russia. Their 1000 + members have the Four-way Test to consider, but they must avoid speech or actions that would jeopardize Rotary in that country. There are about 60 clubs in Ukraine, and they have been very active in helping with relief supplies and more.

These sound like exclusive organizations, but membership is open to Rotarians. For information, see <https://rotary-icc.org/>



What is the Rumi Forum?

Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director of the Rumi Forum, spoke to us on Tuesday. He has teaching and other experience and holds a BA in Economics from Istanbul University, an MA in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Sabanci University (in Turkey), and a certificate in Strategic Management for Leaders of NGOs, from Harvard.

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Ibrahim said the Rumi Forum was established in 1999 to promote **interfaith dialogue and cultural understanding**. For several years, it focussed on

Margaret

May 16th

Ferzan Jaeger, Olive & Loom

Speaker: Ferzan Jaeger

Subject: Ferzan Jaeger is the founder of the brand and store, *Olive & Loom*. Its mission is to provide traditional, old world goods with a fresh, modern aesthetic - Mediterranean-style housewares and other items made using artisanal methods and natural materials.



people of Abrahamic religions but is now reaching out to people of other faiths. Its main activities are a speaker series that includes panel discussions, interfaith engagement including community outreach, and an Interfaith Leadership Forum about every eight months. Also, they have an annual gala with an award ceremony.

Another key activity is the organization's **Center for Faith Identity and Globalization**. It publishes books that are in line with their goals. There was recently a "Rumi Night" in Washington, D.C. that included music for meditation. More information is available at <https://rumiforum.org>.

DisCon2023

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 make it **fun!**)



photo: Four young ladies - winners of the Rotary Four-Way Test Speaking Contest

Four from our club attended at least part of our District Conference, from Friday through Sunday. They were President Margaret, Janet, Sara, and Ken. Our friends in Rockville had ten registered. Hooray for them! We were given an award for our environmental activities.

What were the highlights? Probably, all the breakout sessions, the bourbon/wine tasting, the Four Way Test speech competition, and the Heroes Brunch, but everything was lively and interesting. The keynote speakers included Congressman David Trone and past RI President Barry Rassin.

Let's try for good attendance and more awards in 2024.