

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

April 8th, 2024

Club Meeting

Meets at 12:15 p.m.
on First and third Tuesdays on
Zoom and in La Villa Restaurant
[18701 N Frederick Ave
in Gaithersburg, MD](#)

Fourth Tuesday - zoom only

Second Tuesday - no meeting

Club Leaders

Margaret Young
President

Margaret Young
Immediate Past President

Priscilla Kinnear
President-Elect

**Jacqueline Grenning-
Mulcahy**
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Janet Grenier-Hanson
Club Foundation Chair

Bob Bokma
Interact Club Sponsor

**Frederick Cooksey and John
Cabrera**
Co-Sergeants-at-Arms

Janet Grenier-Hanson,
President of the Gaithersburg
Rotary Foundation

Kenneth Weiss
Assistant Governor

Events

April 15th, 5:45 p.m.
Zone Membership Action Plan
webinar. Part of an ongoing
and useful series. Info. on the
district website.

April 16th
[What is happening in Niger](#)
Speakers: Char & Ibrahim
Harouna
Subject: They are the
founders of the Hamsa school.
Ibrahim recently returned from
Niger.

April 18th, 5:00 p.m.
Rotary **Red Line** Happy Hour
The Dubliner, 4 F St. in D.C.
If you haven't been to a Red
Line Happy Hour, drop in for
fun, contacts, and more.

April 23rd
[Club Assembly - zoom only.](#)

NEWS OF THE ECLIPSE

**Sorry, our report on the eclipse today was canceled.
???????It was too dark to type.**

Our April 2nd Meeting



Past President Janet once introduced us to the *birthday song*, and we sang it for her on Tuesday. "This is your birthday song. It isn't very long." That's it, and we enjoy it.

Then, President Margaret said the district was collecting **gently used clothing**, to be delivered during the district conference and later, given to people in need. Also, she said we were up to about \$4,000 in income for **Flags for Our Heroes**. That is nice but not nearly enough. Stu produced numerous medallions from last year, which we might be able to reuse.

President-elect Priscilla said we needed a **President-elect**, and a Vice President, to work with her in the 2024-25 Rotary year. She asked each of us to suggest members for these roles and made it very easy for us to do so.

Then, came our guest speaker, Adá, who enthralled us all. See the report below. When she finished, Margaret said we would, again, receive an award during the district conference for activities to help save the environment.

Nearly everyone donated Happy Dollars, mostly for Adá and her talk. Rob gave one for many "misfortunes," including his lamentable failure to display our American flag, so that Margaret had to hold it during the Pledge of Allegiance. She held it well. Stu offered four greenbacks for Dale Howard, who was with us in person for the first time since the merger. He lives too far away to attend often

Sara told us she would leave on April 5th to see **the solar eclipse** in Indianapolis. We wish her a no-cloud day. To end it all, Priscilla, Janet, and Denise each said she had sent money to sponsor flags in our Memorial Day event.

Adá-Ari from Africa

Born in Lagos Nigeria, of Ibo descent, Adá, like many other people, was afraid of speaking in public. She explained that Adá means "first daughter" in the Ibo culture, so many girls and women have that name. Her parents were professional people. She showed an old photo of four sisters and asked us to guess which was her, and that proved to be quite hard.

She did not tell us her age, but we can guess at ..., oh, never mind. She moved with her family to the U.S. in 1996, and was suddenly exposed to cultures from everywhere. She loved our variety of sports, developed a passion for physical fitness and created a virtual workout site, Ada Ari Fitness. Just Google it. It's there.

Later, Adá was married via a traditional wedding in Nigeria. (She didn't say whether a bride's price was paid). She has two children. Moving along in life, she started writing **books** to teach children the Ibo language. Now, she has books in 21 languages and is going for 30. She packages them with maps and cultural facts to teach children even more. Also, she puts on **cultural programs** in schools. On her website, www.ada-ari.com, is a video about these programs. They look quite fun and helpful. Ten percent of her revenue is donated to orphanages in Nigeria.

Fear no longer holds her back, she said, but many people are paralyzed by it. She hinted that the worst kind of failure is to not try the things you are afraid of. Several of us were thinking of people who should get to know Adá, and Stu connected her immediately with Maryland State Delegate Gregory Wims. He is also a philanthropist, a member of the Historic Emory Grove Rotary Club, and a former Rotary district governor. **Adá**, thank you for speaking to us.



April 30th
Happy hour @ Teds
Montana Grill

Speaker: Happy hour
Subject: Join club members for appetizers (courtesy of the establishment), drinks (you pay!) and get to know your fellow Rotarians.

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 bring goodwill and better friendship?
- **Will** it be beneficial to all concerned?

(**And**, make it FUN)



An excellent Rotary tradition



What is the Four-way Test? Rotarians all know it . We **live** by it. Every year, our district of 60 clubs offers high school students an opportunity to compete in a *Four-way Test Speech Contest*. Any club can sponsor a student, and the district can connect him or her with a mentor. When a club has more than one student who wants to speak, the club usually holds a contest to select a candidate.

A student can choose any topic, and the speeches are usually **persuasive**. They are scored largely on how the topic is related to the parts of the Four-way Test. This year, the **semi-finals** were held on April 6th at Glen Burnie High School, where twenty-one students competed to be among the four finalists. It was hard to choose, but the panels of judges succeeded!

The final event is always at lunchtime on the Saturday of our district conference and, in this event, every Rotarian present is a judge. We vote, or at least did last year, on forms that came up when we scanned a QR code. Is this democracy, or **what**?

There are small cash prizes for the winners. Also, the students who participate get training and experience in public speaking **and** learn about Rotary--at least about the principles by which Rotarians live.

This year, **Ken** is a mentor for a high school freshman who was put forward by a club in Howard County. When it was her turn to speak in the semi-finals, Ken was away being interviewed for a video. The student barred her parents from the room, went in alone, and impressed the judges. Now, it is **on** to the final four.
