

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

April 21, 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 23rd, 12:00 noon in La
Villa

**FFOH: Envelope stuffing and
labeling; tag prep, then
delicious food and
beverages**

**April 23rd, 6:00 p.m. on
Zoom**Zone meeting: Public
Image Boot Camp. A good one
to attend. Info. on the DACDB.

Aprl 28th, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Fundraiser for **Disaster
Aid**. This Rotary affiliate
deserves our help.
Participate! Info. on the
DACDB.

April 30th, 5:00 p.m.
**Happy hour at Teds
Montana Grill in Downtown
Crown**
Delightful appetizers (courtesy
of the restaurant), drinks (you
pay!) and get to know your
fellow Rotarians.

May 7th in La Villa
Club matters--open discussion
of all sorts of important stuff.

Remember Niger

"Niger" is not short for "Nigeria," everyone. It is a French-speaking West African country that has been in the news lately. Per capita income and the rate of education among girls are among the lowest in the world. Also, there is a high incidence of child marriage, which has life-long negative impacts on the girls involved. Our club's foundation has made grants to help the school and, previously, the Montgomery Village Rotary Foundation did likewise.

The Hanna Girls Training Center is probably the only all-girls' middle school in Niger. Our speaker, Char Haruna, first spoke of two friends who helped the school a great deal--our club Past President Linda Hanson and our current member, Art Elgin. According to Char, the school is now well established and has about 100 students. The country's Department of Education provides teachers and, now, some administrative staff members. There is a very high pass rate on the country's fifth grade examination.

Rotarians have helped the school in many ways. For example, to have solar power and a solar water system, so it is not affected by blackouts. The country receives less than an inch of rain per year, but sunshine is plentiful.



Our Meeting Last Tuesday

Last Tuesday was a good day for guests. We enjoyed the company of Kevin Bouen, a guest of Bob R., Steven Clark, from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Rotary wives Grace Chong and Adriana Bokma, and Tamika Bennett Wall. A native of South Carolina and now a resident of Germantown, Tamika is interested in becoming a Rotarian.

President Margaret said we had openings for speakers as of June, and suggestions would be welcome. Diana reported on funds received from Flags For Our Heroes, while Margaret and Stu emphasized that every club member should participate. Yes, each of us should sponsor at least one flag and help and/or help with preparations on the field.

Still regarding FFOH, Margaret said we were going to try a direct mail campaign to possible sponsors. To help implement this, we will meet in La Villa restaurant on April 23rd to prepare pieces for mailing. There will be rewards for all of us who participate, like: (1) helping with this exciting project, (2) fellowship, and (3) lunch (as usual).

Foundation Chair Janet reported that the Board had decided to grant \$1,000 to Nourish Now, \$2,100 to Freedom Schools (for students with emotional disabilities), \$1000 to the Personal Care Foundation (for women who suffer from domestic



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)



foundation (for women who suffer from domestic violence), and \$500 to Gaithersburg Help to buy food items. Also, it is participating with \$2,000 in a Rotary Club Global Grant to improve lives in a community in Cameroon. Our foundation continues using its money wisely.

Then, with a seemingly endless stream of happy dollars, we adjourned until the 23rd.

A DisCon to Remember

Matt, the guy in charge, the finalists in the Four-way Test Speech Contest, and DG Delores

Our annual Rotary District Conference wound up late this morning in the beautiful Hyatt Hotel and Resort in Cambridge, MD. About 175 people attended including, from Gaithersburg, Ken and Bea, Sara, and Janet.



Every District Governor put his/her stamp on the annual conference, and

Governor Delores was no exception. She and the conference staff produced an event in which Africans and African-Americans played major roles from beginning to end. Friday afternoon and evening were all important and serious. So was Saturday, but the group came to life Saturday after dinner. There were flute music by Alicia of the Rockville Club, a poetry recital by Ukpeme, also from Rockville, a wonderful song and dance presentation by two people from Cameroon, and lovely music by the chorus of the Universidad of Maryland, Baltimore County. Then, it was outside for **disco dancing** (and samoras for the kids). Yes your Gaithersburg members were in the disco scene.

A highlight, as always, was the **Four-way Test Speech Contest**. The talks by the four finalists were engrossing. Ken's mentee ended up in second place--a slight disappointment--but her check for \$1000 made her happy again. Awards were given to several clubs, and we left with a **Gold Plus** for our work on the environment. Bea claimed it, and will take it to the next club meeting.

Our next District Governor, Nomie Hamid, who was dressed in red, orange and pink for much of the event, announced coming events including his installation on June 22nd and the next district conference, in October, with another Rotary district. Then, it was back across the Bay Bridge, with new friends and happy memories.
