

# Rotary



# Club of Gaithersburg

## Club Meeting

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

Fourth Tuesday - zoom only

Second Tuesday - no meeting

## Our Meeting Last Tuesday

Sunday, July 21, 2024

# Rotary



## Club Leaders

**Priscilla S. Kinnear**  
President

**Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy**  
Secretary

**Dan Dellon**  
Treasurer

**Margaret Young**  
Club Service Chair and Immediate Past President

**Janet Greiner**  
Club Foundation Chair

**Frederick W. Cooksey**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Kenneth Weiss**  
Assistant Governor, Area 6

## Events

July 23rd on Zoom  
**Graduate Women International**  
**Speaker:** Ms. Patrice Wellesley-Cole, outgoing President of a London Rotary club, President of GWI Graduate Women International, and a Former tribunal judge

July 30th  
**Happy hour** 5:00 pm. in the Bench Bar at the Marriott Hotel in Rio  
**Join club members** for appetizers (courtesy of the club) and drinks (you pay!), and get to know your fellow Rotarians.  
DO INVITE GUESTS.

Rotary meetings are always enjoyable and productive. The one last Tuesday was definitely so, especially the light-hearted banter before and after the imaginary closing bell. Our member, **Stephen Czarkowsky** was there on a short break from his work of playing cello and conducting orchestras. He was not accompanied by his cello, this time, but he played it for us a few months ago.

After the opening procedures, we heard details of our forthcoming visit to **Camp Fantastic** (for children who have cancer). We will wheel to the Front Royal, VA area on Sunday, August 4th, to serve the first night's dinner to about 120 campers, counselors, medical staff, and other staff members. This time, we will not cook; the food will be delivered. Our foundation has contributed money toward its cost. As of now, the people expected to participate are Adelaide, Bob, Ken and Bea, Margaret, and Susy.

One highlight of our meetings is "**happy dollars**," which means attendees pay a dollar or more to tell of something about which they are happy. They are for the speaker, family occasions, and more. For example, John C. was happy (and sad) that one of his offspring was heading for the far west (Hawaii). Ken was happy that his birthday had slipped by, unnoticed, but the group surprised him by singing an authentic version of the Happy Birthday song. Ken presented the customary check for one dollar for each year of life and said the amount was \$39. Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, John, reported it as \$95--a bit of an exaggeration.

## Our Speaker

Our speaker, Norm Gordon, gave us an update on the "Let's Read" program, in which some of our members participate and to which our foundation has provided a small amount of funding. This is a literacy program for second grade students. Volunteer tutors meet with young people, one on one, on Monday and Tuesday evenings, in the Stedwick Community Center in Montgomery Village. The results, as measured, are highly effective.

Statistics vary, but we know that far too few students, especially black and brown young people, cannot read well when they begin third grade. Since all other school subjects require reading in English, these students cannot keep up with their classes, and many do not come close to finishing high school.

Asked why parents do not teach their kids to read, Norm replied that many are far too busy--working at two or more jobs to cover expenses, and many are, themselves, illiterate in English. Asked about other factors, he said that school-at-home during the COVID crisis was a major factor and that MCPS had experimented with a methodology that did not include phonics.

The Germantown Global Connection, the Montgomery Village Foundation and Watkins Mill Elementary School are all partners in this program, and funding is provided by several organizations. Still, it is never enough. To continue and expand the program, Norm needs more volunteer tutors and more contributors.

To learn more, go on Google or YouTube to "Let's Read! Literacy Tutoring Program--Norman Gordon." Then, go to <https://germantowngc.org/literacy-program/> and click on the "Volunteer" button at the bottom.



August 6th  
**Transforming  
Agriculture in  
Africa**

**Speaker:** Cedric  
Nwafor, founder of  
ROOTS Africa

August 4th, p.m.  
Visit and help with  
**Camp Fanatastic**  
near Front Royal VA  
See IPP Margaret for  
details.

August 9th, 5:00  
pm  
**Frederick Keys  
baseball** organized  
by clubs in the  
Frederick area. **FUN!**  
See info. on the  
district calendar.

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### **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)**

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## **Reading: What is the Problem?**



One would think that, after hundreds of years, our schools would see the importance of reading and have a uniform way of teaching it, but this is not so. Studies recently led MCPS to "Scarborough's Reading Rope," which focused on sight recognition of familiar words. It is different from teaching "phonics," which is defined as:

*Teaching "the relationships between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language. To read, children need to understand the alphabetic principle – the idea that letters represent the sounds of spoken language."*

In Montgomery County, and many other parts of the U.S., large numbers of students come from non-English speaking countries, and many are not literate, even in their native languages. English as a Second Language (ESL) programs around the country have experimented with methodologies. The most effective techniques, as listed on one internet site, are as follows:

1. *Teach relevant and practical content. ...*
2. *Use visual aids and gestures. ...*
3. *Use repetition. ...*
4. *Choose which mistakes to correct. ...*
5. *Simplify language and give demonstrations. ...*
6. *Simple listening. ...*
7. *Vanishing whiteboard. ...*
8. *Personalize the activity.*

One would expect that, if these common-sense techniques work for students coming into the country, they would be included in any sort of language instruction for very young children.

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### **Alert: Polio Again**

There was NO POLIO in Gaza for several years, but **there is again**. Because of the war there, the vaccination rate has gone way down, water and sewerage systems have been destroyed, and the virus has been discovered. This poses a huge challenge for the international community. As we know, polio anywhere puts people everywhere in danger. The disease is highly communicable.

If you do not contribute to Rotary's **EndPolio.org**, or another component of the worldwide eradication effort, it is time to do so. If you do contribute, a little more will be highly useful.

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