

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

June 14th, 2019

Club Meeting

Meets at Holiday Inn
2 Montgomery Village Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com
Time: Tuesday at 12:15 PM

Club Leaders

Scott Rebein
President

Emmyrich Vicente
President-Elect

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Frank Senk Jr.
Immediate Past President

Kumba Brewah
Secretary

Winfrey Irvine Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Gilchrist
Assistant Governor

Events

June 18th, luncheon in the
Holiday Inn
Speaker: Denise Fredericks
Subject: Impact of poverty
Denise is an excellent speaker
who knows her subject well. Do
come to meet and hear her.

June 25th, luncheon
Speaker: TBD
Subject: TBD

June 29th
**SummerFest at Bohrer Park
from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. Come
to help sell tickets to our classic
car and enjoy the festivities,
including fireworks.**

July 2nd, luncheon
Speaker: Todd Shenk
Subject: Jewish Social Services
in Montgomery County - who they
help and how they help

July 9th, luncheon
Speaker and subject to be
determined

Editorial: R U gung-ho or so-so?

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Wednesday, June 12, 2019



In every organization there are so-so members and **gung-ho members**. They're the ones who do the bulk of the work. Remember the *Pareto Principle*? It's also known as the 80-20 rule.

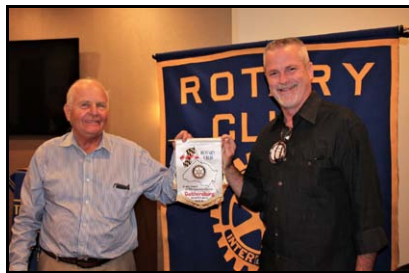
A major challenge in an organization is to convert so-sos to gung-hos. How do you do that? In Rotary, a great way is to emphasize **participation beyond the club level**. There are many ways for members to do that including our Rotary Leadership Institute, district

meetings, other clubs' events, international interest groups, and of course the wonderful international conventions.

A major event above the club level is upon us. It's the **District Conference**, June 21st and 22nd in Frederick. At least three of us are registered, but why not everyone? There will be **fun and fellowship**, project exhibits, a 4-way test speaking contest, entertainment and more. Everything you need to know is at www.rotary7620.org. Let's meet in the hospitality suites!

Can Blind People See Again?

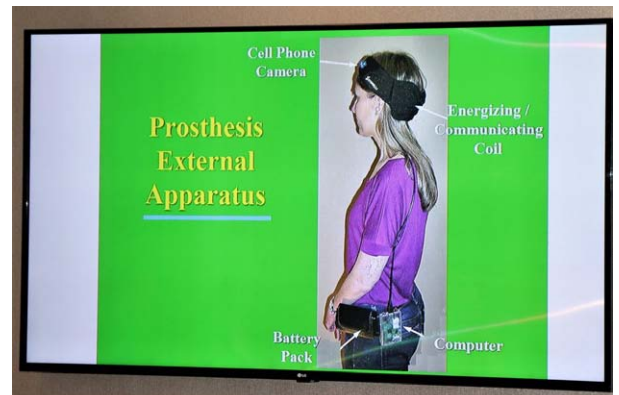
Can blind people see again? Maybe, to some degree, if they once could and if Martin Bak is on the right track. His company, Microprobes Inc., has funding from NIH to develop and test a method. If we understood correctly, a cell phone camera on the person's forehead will flash images to a small computer, which will send impulses to electrodes implanted in the person's visual cortex. That's the part of the cerebral cortex that receives messages from the eyes. The first test on a living person will be done this year. The test subject will hopefully be able to see well enough to navigate familiar places and to read large print. Later subjects with a larger number of electrodes might be able to recognize their friends and family members. It will be a **huge** step forward.



Martin summarized the history of research on the visual cortex. He said most centers around the world were working on retinal implants, which would be limited in spatial resolution compared to his group's approach of choosing cortical stimulation. This approach features implanting tiny electrodes made of advanced iridium oxide, and he passed one around in a small clear box.

He showed pictures of how the electrodes are produced, in his offices in Gaithersburg, and spoke of principal investigators in JHU and five other institutions. The system has been tested on macaque monkeys, and electrodes have been implanted in human cadavers. Now it is time for an actual test. Subjects for the process must be selected carefully, and care must be taken that they do not have unrealistic expectations.

How great is this! The gift of renewed sight! It is starting here in Gaithersburg with Microprobes for Life Science and highly recognized universities in Chicago, Baltimore and Dallas.



Of all that we think, say and do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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BE THE INSPIRATION

Our Luncheon June 11



Confused? Who, us? With our secretary absent, Dan K. took attendance and meal orders, Ken jumped in and asked the guests to introduce themselves, and Kelly supervised the process. Well, it worked. **Adriana Bokma** and **Rich Cooksey** were present as guests.

Scott briefed us on the **district conference** (see Story #1) and then introduced our guest speaker (Story #2 above). Then, Carl spoke of preparations for our work at a camp for kids with cancer. We would like to obtain donations to cover the expenses. A **\$3,000 sponsor** would be very well received.

Scott said we would start early this year to contact sponsors for our huge **display of American flags**, and Ken offered to look for a list of firms to contact. Sara and Bob gave a brief foundation report and said the foundation and club boards should meet together soon after the first of July.

The BIG news is that we will celebrate the 2018-19 **club officers**, and the incoming 2019-2020 officers, in a happy hour on the July 1st. The time and location will be announced soon. Scott reported that our incoming president, **Richie**, was awarded membership in the Circle of Excellence of PNC Bank during a meeting in Nashville. Not to be outdone by Rotary, PNC implemented a service project carried out by people who were attending.

Richie praised Ken and T.O. for their work for the club. Then, Winfree went to **happy dollars**, of which several were for our speaker. **Bob** was happy because family members were back from a trip and **Nish** because his eldest son had gone to work for Google. **Kelly** spoke of her daughter's arrival in Budapest as part of a multi-country tour that will include visiting holocaust sites and working on an archeological dig in Israel

Our speaker added **five happy dollars** to speak about of a foundation to which his firm contributes, **Arco Iris America**. It supports **Fundación Arco Iris in Bolivia**, which works with more than 30,000 **street children** in that country. It operates eight houses, homes for unwed mothers, hospitals, vocational training facilities and more. The need is great, and more resources are always needed. Arco Iris America has a **fund-raising event** in Washington D.C. toward the end of each year.