

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

September 22nd, 2024

Club Meeting

Next meeting:
Tuesday, September
24th, 12:15 to 1:15
p.m., on Zoom.
Meeting number 868
9762 2516. For the
password, call 301-
947-8150.

We meet at noon on
the first and third
Tuesdays of each
month in La Villa
restaurant, at 18101
North Federick
Avenue in
Gaithersburg. These
meetings are also on
Zoom. Service
project on or about
the second Tuesday.
Meeting on Zoom
only on the fourth
Tuesday.

Club Leaders

Priscilla S. Kinnear
President

Diana Swanson
Vice President

**Jacqueline
Grenning-Mulcahy**
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Margaret Young
Immediate Past
President

Janet Greiner
Club Foundation
Chair

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

Kenneth Weiss
Assistant Governor

Events

Ruby Shined on Tuesday

Saturday, September 21, 2024



Our newest member, **María "Ruby" García**, told us about herself on Tuesday. She was born in Colombia but has lived in the U.S. for more than 35 years. In Colombia, she had two daughters when, rather suddenly, she was presented with opportunities to travel to France and to the USA. She chose the U.S., thinking she could go to France later, but she liked her experience here and decided to stay. After a relatively short period of time, a kind immigration officer offered her a "green card" so she could bring her daughters here.

Unlike many immigrants, Ruby had no trouble finding employment in the U.S. She is now a **licensed realtor** working with her sponsor, Jacque, in KW Capital Properties. She especially enjoys mentoring newer real estate agents. She has served as a volunteer for realty organizations and chairs the Community Service Committee of the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors. She has also volunteered with Comfort Cases, Interfaith Works, and other not-for-profit entities.

Ruby joined Rotary because it is a vehicle for helping others, locally and internationally, in an organized way. She did not share information about how she spends her leisure time, if any, but left it to her fellow Rotarians to ask about that.

September 24th
CART & Alzheimer's disease research - zoom only

Speaker: Tammy Mosteller
Membership Chair of Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART)
Division Director and Community Educator with Alzheimer's Association

September 26th, 5:00 p.m.
Rotary Red Line Happy Hour in Bethesda.
Info. on the district website.

October 1st
Club Assembly, October 4th through 6th, **District convention** in Washington D.C.
You can still get in on the action.

The Rotary 4-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.



Our Meeting Last Tuesday



Networking. We need to do it. That was the subject of Bob's message to open the meeting. Ken was selling tickets for the 50-50, and President Priscilla asked what was special about the current 30-day period. The answer: It was Hispanic Heritage Month. Also, Priscilla spoke of a Club Assembly on October 1st and our shredding event on November 2nd.

Further, she urged us to attend the September 26th meeting of the Historic **Emory Grove** Rotary Club, on-line on September 26th. She will provide logon information. We need to know its eleven members better. Then, Bob spoke of the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust and our speaker on that subject, on September 24th.

Still on announcements, Jacque said planning was underway for a joint happy hour with the Rockville Rotary and for a Rotary Red Line happy hour. Stu followed, saying that Henry Sterenberg, who spoke to us a few months ago, was coming soon to the D.C. area with mayors from numerous Ukrainian cities. They will look for partners in social and commercial projects in **Ukraine**. To meet members of the delegation, see Stu.

Ken reported that our exhibit in the GGCC showcase for non-profit organizations had gone well, and Denise said the foundation board had met and awarded three **grants**. Then, Ruby took the microphone for her Classification Speech.

The first happy dollars were from **Stu**. He had seen a family member act in a play in New Hampshire, and he and his brother had landed a 700 pound tuna. We hope their boat was large enough to hold it. **Jim** was happy for his daughter's 50th birthday. That would make Jim about ..., well, never mind. There were other dollars for other events and for Ruby's speech, and there was a not-so-happy dollar from Divine. He had lost his wallet with important papers in it, both green ones and white ones. We are sorry, Divine.

There was a 50-50 drawing but no winner. The pot is up to \$16. As a grand finale, Priscilla bade us all stand and greet each other, especially our newer members. To maintain our wonderful camaraderie, we need to be friends as well as fellow Rotarians.

Peace Festival in Stepanek Park



It was beautiful. It was touching. It was happy. More than that, it demonstrated the enduring legacy of Mattie Stepanek and the organizational ability of his mother, Jeni. There were a covered stage, covered chairs for the audience, and tables with activities for children. The Potomac Passport Rotary club, of which Jeni is a member, had one of the tables.

After the National Anthem, there was good Irish music and good dancing, led by a group of young people who were "otherwise enabled." Then a comedian and songs, some of which were created from poems by Mattie. Those were followed by a talk by Jeni and introductions of state, county, and city officials, some of whom spoke briefly. Stepanek Park is in Rockville, but **Gaithersburg** Mayor Jud Ashman was present and was introduced.

There followed a ribbon cutting to call attention to a new labyrinth in the small plaza, and then a procession, with everyone carrying small green flags. Mattie's message of **peace** radiated from each presenter, and Jeni was there to represent him. The photo shows her in the center, in her motorized

wheelchair.

"Peace is possible," said Mattie Stepanek. Yes, it is possible--but far from being achieved in the world.
