

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

March 8, 2025

Club Meeting

Meets First and third Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. in La Villa Restaurant
[18701 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879](#)

Also, on Zoom the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. For logon information, write to gaithersurgrotaryclub@gmail.com

Club Leaders

Priscilla S. Kinnear
President
President-Elect

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President
President-Elect

Jacqueline Grenning-Mulcahy
President-Nominee
Secretary

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

Margaret Young
Club Service Chair
Past President
iPast President

Janet Greiner
Club Foundation Chair

Frederick W. Cooksey
Sergeant-at-Arms

Events

March 18th, in person and on Zoom
[Air quality and software to monitor it](#)

Speaker: Linda Hembeck
College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, the University of Maryland

March 25th, Zoom only
[Leadership Montgomery: A Legacy of Leaders](#)

Speaker: Sarah Burnett, Senior Director, Programs and Training for Leadership Montgomery

Subject: Sarah will speak about the importance of community leadership and the work Leadership Montgomery does to support community education and leadership

Red Cross CPR Training for Underserved Communities



Our speaker, **Michael Maxey**, introduced himself as a former official of USAID (Editor's note: who got out in time). He is now connected with the Marie Maxey Foundation, which is a Training Provider licensed by the American Red Cross. Its focus is on training Latin American young people to use AED devices and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Mike started with a question: "What is the survival rate for people who go into cardiac arrest?" The answer shocked us: **below 10%**. If a person's heart stops, there are just six minutes to get it restarted. In Fairfax County, where Mike lives, the average response time for EMS is 14 minutes. That is fast but not fast enough.

Then, he showed us an automated external defibrillator, AED, which can be employed quickly if one is available and there is a bystander who knows how to use it. In many or most cases, however, those conditions are not met. An alternative is cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and Mike had a handy mannequin so he could give us an introduction to the process. The rhythm, he said, is like that of the song, *Staying Alive*. He also discussed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and gave each of us a tiny shield that can prevent direct physical contact.

The Marie Maxey Foundation's focus on Hispanic youth is to help them become Red Cross-certified Instructors, which can save lives and give them extra income. However, the foundation can work with organizations of any kind, and its charges are very reasonable. Many Rotary clubs have organized and paid for this life-saving training.

There is more information at <https://www.maxeys.org/red-cross-training>

Our Meeting Last Tuesday

On Tuesday, food contributed for Gaithersburg Help adorned one of the tables. Many thanks to the members who took bags and boxes full.

We were most pleased to have three guests. One was **Franklina**, a retired World Bank staff member, who participated in a "Fireside Chat" after the meeting. The others were Edwin and Giorgio, a local realtor and the Manager of the Barking Mad Cafe. They have been planning to join a Rotary club.

John Cabrera's birthday was celebrated in style, complete with our fancy bit of birthday apparel and our tiny song. John, with his lovely smile, is approaching **twenty-one years** in the club.

Then, Janet explained the innovations she has conceived for this year's production of **Flags For Our Heroes** (FFOH), and Dan K. told us of the plan for "planting" our new **Peace Pole** in Bohrer Park. A dedication ceremony will follow the inauguration of FFOH. Janet and Jim said our new **bluebird houses** would be open for occupants on March 11th, in our Monarch butterfly and pollinator garden by Lakelands Middle School.

After our guest speaker and many questions, Margaret briefed us on the back-office process of handling "sales" of flags for our Memorial Day display. Then, it was **50-50 time**. Jim drew a ticket, but, mysteriously, no one produced its number. He drew another, which was claimed, but the jokers remained illusive. For the next drawing, at our meeting on March 18th, there will be just 18 cards, including 2 jokers, and the pot is up to \$106.



development.

April 1st, in-person and on Zoom

Subject: Mediation

Speaker: Steven Corn, BCPA

What Is Mediation and

Mediate...Don't Litigate:

April 1st

[Provide and Serve Dinner for](#)

[Let's Read](#)

[Members, do put this on your calendars.](#)

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



There were numerous **happy dollars**, most of them fivers and most for our speaker. Jacque was happy that a senior member, Ron Deneau, had made it to the meeting, and Etna because she had received her visa to Spain. The rest of us are happy for her but sad that she plans to move far away.

Rotary and DEI



Rotary has been diversifying for several years and, in 2019, formally adopted a policy of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many Rotary districts have done likewise, as did ours in 2023. Great strides have been made to change from a white male organization to one that welcomes nearly anyone who is service-oriented and can pay the dues.

For the last several weeks, Rotary has not shouted about its commitment to DEI, but that commitment has not changed. Its website still says the following:

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our

vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

Those brief paragraphs speak volumes about Rotary as an organization and about Rotarians as individuals.
