



Rotary Club of Gaithersburg

Bulletin, May 12th, 2013

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Club Leaders

Thomas Breece

President

Fredric Abramson

President-Elect

David Sickle

Secretary

Linda Hanson

Treasurer

Winfrey Irvine

Sergeant-at-Arms

Adrian Halperin

Immediate Past President

Birthdays

No birthdays found.

Events

May 14: Luncheon at the Hilton. Club Assembly

May 21: Luncheon at the Hilton.

Speaker: Ken Banks -- Starting a Tea Business

May 28: Luncheon at the Hilton (tentative)

May 29: Evening reception (tentative)

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds [More info.....](#)

Rotary membership provides the opportunity to: Become connected to your community. Work with others in addressing community needs. Interact with other professionals in your community; assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts. Establish contacts with an international network of professionals. Develop leadership skills. Involve family in promoting service efforts [More info.....](#)

Dr. Starr Becomes Honorary Member

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County, Maryland, was made an Honorary member of the Gaithersburg Rotary Club, prior to his talk to the club on May 7th.

He is just the second person to receive this distinction in the nearly 50 year history of the club. The first was the Honorable Sidney A. Katz, Mayor of Gaithersburg. The Rotary organization is proud to welcome Dr. Starr as an Honorary Member.



Remarks by Dr. Joshua Starr

Dr. Starr has been at the helm of MCPS since July 1st, 2011. He began his career as a special education teacher in New York City and moved to progressively more responsible positions.

Dr. Starr praised Rotary for all the good work it does. Then he said MCPS was a very large school system and was growing at the rate of 2,500 students per year. It has 149,000 students in 202 schools, and the ethnic diversity is truly exceptional. The graduation rate of African-American kids is the highest in the country. About 13% of all students are not proficient in English, and about one-third qualify to receive free and reduced-price meals.

Our speaker said the democratization of information was a huge shock to public education. Now, the students can obtain nearly any kind of information in seconds. This means that the way of teaching them must change.

In a brief review of history, Dr. Starr spoke of panic when Russia reached the moon before the U.S. did, of the No Child Left Behind Act, and then the prevalence of common standards.

However, our distinction in the U.S. is not that we are the best at teaching facts, but at teaching kids to think. This must now be emphasized more; we must teach kids to work in teams, solve problems, develop social and emotional capabilities, resolve conflicts, and persevere. We must help kids develop a sense of hope and well being, so they will thrive in the future. Also, we must help them learn to overcome adversity. They should earn their rewards through outstanding performance.

In addition, Dr. Starr said that MCPS would be designating ten of its lower-performing schools as "Innovation Schools." They will receive extra attention and will try new teaching/earning methodologies. He believes Rotary clubs can help make this initiative successful.

Our Meeting May 7th

On this important day, 40% of our members were unable to attend (all for good reasons). Fortunately, we had an outstanding group of guests. They were: **Bob Parkinson**, our District Governor; **Andy Baum**, former District Governor; **Jack Aal**, past and future member; **David Frey**, guest of Cristina; **Ron Deneau**, past and future member; **Mark Cabrera**, guest of John; **Jack Bell**, guest of Linda; **Oren Golanski**, guest of Jack; **Bea Weiss**, guest of Ken, and **Dr. Joshua Starr**, our guest speaker and new honorary member.

Bob spoke of the role of oysters in healing the Chesapeake Bay and of the Rotary Club oyster fest,

the third week of October.

In a **Foundation Moment**, John reminded us of Rotary's increasing role in moving toward world peace.

In briefings for our guests, Ron described our Dictionary Project and Cristina spoke of our Scholarship Program, Interact Clubs and youth leadership training.

Then, Tom reminded us of the Leadership Assembly May 11th. and Shu-fen said members should give her the money, on May 14th, for tickets sold for our big Comedy Night on June 19th.

After a talk by Dr. Starr (see below), our Sergeant-at-Arms turned to Happy Dollars. David had one for his 29th wedding anniversary and John one for a great meeting. Bob handed over a five dollar bill, but the explanation was too fast for your editor.

Ken's ticket was drawn for the 50-50, now over \$500, but the card he drew was not the right one.

Do You Do Trivia?

Late in the meeting we welcomed another guest, Yaw Donkoh of the Dupont Circle Rotary Club. He came to tell us of their Trivia Night, starting at 5:30 p.m. on May 19th. It will be at the Bier Baron, 1523 22nd St. NW in the District. For information or to donate a door prize, email ilovewordsworth@gmail.com or jwesleymba@gmail.com. The cost is just \$20 per person. Teams will be formed to compete for cash, yes, cash, prizes. Proceeds will go toward eradicating polio and ending exploitation of girls.