



Gaithersburg Newsletter

<http://www.Rotary7620.org>

November 22nd, 2014

Meeting at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Holiday Inn, 2 Montgomery Village Avenue in Gaithersburg

Club Leaders

Diana Swanson, PhD

President

Linda Hanson

President-Elect

Jeremiah Eliason

Secretary

Dan Dellon

Treasurer

Winfree Irvine

Sergeant-at-Arms

Tom Breece

Immediate Past President

Events

11/25: Luncheon in the Holiday Inn. **Classification speech** by Amanda Dugan

11/27: Turkey Chase Race of the BCC Rotary Club. Info at turkeychase.com

12/2: Luncheon. Speaker to be announced.

12/6: Holiday tree lighting in Olde Towne, 6:00 p.m.

12/9: Luncheon and Club Assembly

12/13: Rotary District social media training. Info. on the district website

12/15: Person of Character Award to Linda Hanson, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.

12/16: Rotary club events at Asbury, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

The 4-Way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

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

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 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. and Involve family members in useful service activities.

The Rotary Club of Gaithersburg is open to to service-oriented persons who can attend at least half of its weekly luncheons.

Club News

Club Initiative to Help Fight Ebola: Last Tuesday Club President, Diana, kicked off an ebola initiative by giving a generous grant to the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation. Members and others are invited to "chip in" with \$20 or more, in cash at a club meeting or by check sent to P.O. Box 312, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0312. To donate by credit card, call Ken Weiss at 301-947-8150. The foundation will remit 100% of the funds to a Rotary program, **Disaster Aid**, for the fight against ebola.

Linda named a "Person of Character": Our President Elect was nominated for a "Person of Character" award from the city of Gaithersburg and was selected to be a recipient. She will receive this well deserved recognition in City Hall, in Olde Towne, on Monday, December 15th, at 7:30 p.m. All club members are invited to attend.

Our Luncheon November 18th

Exciting. That's the word for last Tuesday. Our guests were Camilo Vargas Lesmes, who is going to open a juice bar in Downtown Crown, our guest speaker (see below), and her friends, Henry and Josephine Achampong.

Linda reported on **Charter Night** - a great event but a disappointing turnout.

Diana presented a certificate to David for his excellent work with the flea market fund-raiser. The she suggested we do some of our **end-of-year giving** through our club's foundation and she started it with a bang (see above). Ed responded that the idea was excellent but the foundation board would have to approve each reassignment of funds. He referred to the idea of "bucket lists" and suggested that each of us have a **"bucket list for others."** We belong to a service club; let's be of service.

After hearing from the guest speaker (see below), we celebrated Jeremiah's and Eileen's first year in the club and Rodney's birthday.

And the **Happy Dollars** poured out, mostly for Charter Night and the speaker. There was one for the work of Tom's Cleaners, one for a large food collection under the name, "Scouting for Food," and one because Deleon and Stang was named Business of the Year by the Corporate Volunteer Council. Other dollars were for successful knee surgery and a reception for outgoing Gaithersburg mayor Sidney Katz.

Our guest, Henry, won the **50-50** and donated the proceeds to the club. Thank you, Henry



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Our Guest Speaker

Anita Mpambara-Cox has formed the Mpambara-Cox Foundation for education in Uganda. The wife of a U.S. diplomat, who has traveled widely, Ms. Mpambara-Cox felt a need to help children in Uganda. In 1997, she said, just 20% of them attended school. Then the World Bank helped put up school buildings, but they were mostly empty shells. Anita decided to help provide everything else.

She found that teachers, furniture and supplies did not guarantee that kids would learn, so she started a feeding program that doubled attendance. Preparing meals requires potable water, so that had to be arranged. Then, she got the kids' parents involved via small cash incentives.

Now, there are pen pal and Skypy communications between kids in Montgomery County and in Uganda. All staff members here are volunteers, while in Uganda seven receive small salaries.

There are seven grades in primary education in Uganda. Anita copied the rainbow to produce t-shirts in seven colors, one for each grade. The children love to advance from one color to another.

"Education is the solution to all problems," says Anita. Her foundation is seeking funds to spread its model to 100 schools.

After the meeting, board members of our foundation stayed to talk with Anita about whether we might be able to help in some way.

