



Gaithersburg Newsletter

www.gaithersburgrotary.org

September 20th, 2015

Club Leaders

Linda Hanson

President

Jeremiah Eliason

President-Elect, Club
Membership Chair

Michael May

Secretary

Dan Dellon

Treasurer

Winfree Irvine

Sergeant-at-Arms

Diana Swanson

Immediate Past President

Meetings

Meeting from 12:15 until 1:15 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Holiday Inn, 2 Montgomery Village Ave. in Gaithersburg

Events

9/22: District **End Polio Now** annual fundraiser - "New Approach to Peace" and conflict resolution. 8:30 a.m. Details on the District Website

9/22: Luncheon: Speaker: Kyung Pak, Director of **Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project**. Korea, then and now.

Also Lisette Orellana of the City of Gaithersburg on the **Holiday Gift Giving Program**.

9/29: No luncheon. **5th Tuesday Happy Hour** instead. 5:00 until 7:00 pm. at the Marriott Hotel, 9751 Washingtonian Blvd. in Rio. This will be a perfect occasion for guests.

10/6: Luncheon in the Holiday Inn. Speaker: **Pascale Brady, The Challenge Coach**. Pascale spoke to us a few years ago and did an excellent job.

The 4-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

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

Some Upcoming Events (adapted from last week)

Germantown Flea Market October 3rd

Our Rotary Club will have a double space in the Germantown Historical Society's giant flea market, in the MARC train parking lot. Please donate merchandise for this event. What do you have for us? Contact David.Sickle@wafinet.com. Proceeds are for the Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation.

New Americans Expo October 4th

Also, we will participate in the New Americans Expo in Silver Spring, MD. At our table Diana, Frank and perhaps others will acquaint fair-goers with the work of Rotary in their countries and in Montgomery County, and with the Flags For Our Heroes project on Memorial Day weekend.

Kentlands Oktoberfest October 11th

Rotarians have been invited to provide volunteers for the wine and beer concessions at Oktoberfest. If you can join in the fun, contact weissfam@aol.com.

Also, the groups we sponsor in high schools are invited to organize an activity in the kids section of the festival. Our Interact Club at Quince Orchard HS has some excellent ideas for this.

Our Luncheon Last Tuesday

Part of Rotary is surprises, and we had one last week: **L. N. Rajaram**, a member of the Rotary Club of Chennai Carnatic, in India. He plans to attend on 9/22 and show us a fun little fund raising idea.

There was another visiting Rotarian, **Claude Morissette**, our District Governor for 2011-12, then Foundation Chair, and now Polio Chair of the District. He urged us to attend the End Polio Now fundraising event on September 22nd.

We also welcomed **Dwayne Coaxum** of U.S. Health Advisors, a guest of Ken. He is interested in becoming a Rotarian.

Our guest speakers were **Chris and Stephanie Graves** (see below).



Back behind the rostrum, President Linda mentioned the need for volunteers for Oktoberfest and for sponsors for our Dictionary Project. Members, it's time to go to our "Who Do You Know" lists. She spoke also of our Charter Night celebration November 5th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Washingtonian Center. We should start now to request restaurant coupons and other prizes for the Balloon Pop.

Linda was pleased that four members had attended the district's New Generations conference. Young people, she said, are looking for a fun environment, time to socialize, service projects in which to participate, and mentors.



After the guest speaker (see below), Linda asked questions based on The Rotarian magazine and this time we could answer. There is, however, great uncertainty regarding the 9/29 luncheon. Will her questions be on the September issue, which is now ancient history, or the October issue that is already in our hands?

Happy Dollar time was fun time. David had ten big ones for getting great deals in flea markets and for buying a high-efficiency water heater and getting more than half of the cost back in rebates. Frank was happy for his daughter's birthday, Dr. Rajaram for a newborn baby girl, and Dan for the speaker and for Georges. Claude was happy to be with us and because **Dr. Geetha Jayaram**, of the Howard West Rotary Club, had received the **Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award**. Just one is given in the world each year.

Linda forked over \$5 for meeting her future in-laws in Colombia, \$3 for members who had gone with her to the New Generations meeting, \$1 for the speaker and \$1 for "I forgot."

Winfree closed the meeting with a wonderful appeal to the Almighty: "Please make me the person every day that my dog thinks I am."

And Our Speaker



Chris Graves, President of Switch To Solar, has a PhD in Economics and experience developing large power plants in several countries and with financial analysis in Asia. Somewhat hampered by the failure to appear of a laptop and projector, he described the benefits of harnessing the sun to power homes.

According to Chris, a typical system costs about \$23,000, which, with tax credits, is paid for by cost savings in about 7 years. After that, the cost of electricity is very low. Also, when one sells a house, a solar system will increase its value. The equipment has 25 year manufacturers' warranties, and Switch to Solar adds another 15 years. Also, there are various financing options.

In the Q&A session, Chris said the house's roof should be fairly new when a solar system is installed. Also, his firm can put in community systems that serve multiple houses. Ed, our retired NRC member, held his questions until after the meeting and then got into a discussion with the speaker that sounded fascinating.