



Gaithersburg Newsletter

www.gaithersburgrotary.org

September 26th, 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

9/29: **NO LUNCHEON. Happy Hour** in the Marriot Hotel, 9751 Washingtonian Boulevard in Gaithersburg

10/3: **Rotary Leadership Institute** in Morgantown, WV. Info. on the district website

10/6: **Luncheon in the Holiday Inn.** Speaker: Pascale Brady, The Challenge Coach - an excellent speaker with a valuable message

10/13: Luncheon and **Club Assembly**

10/17: District **Grants Training Workshop** in Colombia, MD. Info. on the district website. Some of us should participate.

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?

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg

Rotary is a large and wonderful organization of men and women who are dedicated to world peace and community service. The only requirements for membership are to be able to pay the dues and attend or make up at least half of our weekly meetings.

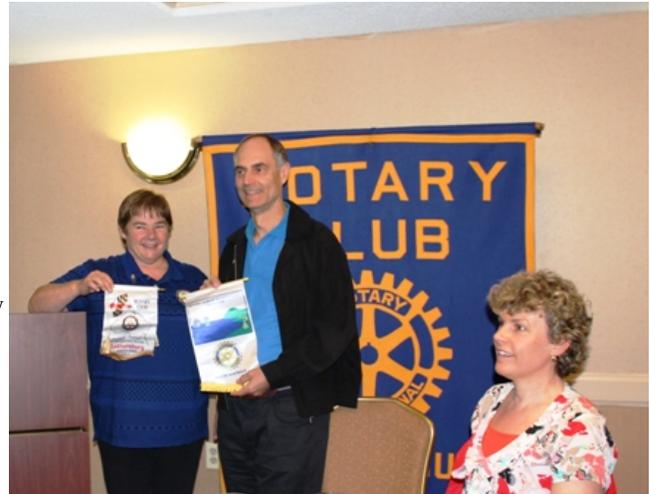
Learn more about Rotary at www.rotary.org (international headquarters), www.rotary7620.org (our Rotary district), or www.gaithersburgrotary.org (our club).

Also please "like" us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclub.gaithersburg?ref=hl>

Our Luncheon Last Tuesday

It was neat, last week; the guests nearly outnumbered the members, enjoyed seeing:

- L. N. Rajaram from a Rotary Club in Chennai, India
- Dwayne Coaxum of U.S. Health Insurance Company
- Brenton and Meridith Evert from the Canabi Rotary Club in Australia
- Edco and Cecilia Bailey from the Montgomery Village Rotary Club
- Robert Wu, candidate for election to the Gaithersburg City Council
- Bob Ekman, and Kenric Brooks, both retired and active in the the Rockville Science Center; guests of Jim
- Our guest speakers, in beautiful Korean dresses (see the following story)



After the presentation on Korea, we drew the 50-50 (no winner this week) and went into **happy dollars**. They came flying in for David's work on the flea market, Ron planning al all-nighter to save our place in the flea market, the folks who picked up merchandise at Saint Rose of Lima, the Dictionary project, being back from an amazing trip to Turkey (Diana), the guest speakers, the sweet snacks from Korea, a future daughter-in-law making progress toward getting a visa to the U.S. (Linda), and a recent Rotary district event.

Then, in extra time, Rajaram briefed us on his club's activities in Chennai - building a small library in a village, helping kids there get on the Internet, starting a farmer's market for organic veggies, and helping people produce hand-crafted items that will make nice holiday decorations. He offered them to us to use as a fund raiser, thinking we could get them for \$2 each and sell them for \$10. He left a proposal with Linda.

Linda quizzed us on The Rotarian magazine and Winfree closed with a bit of humor. Your inattentive editor missed it but laughed politely.

Our Guest Speaker

Ms. Kyung Pak and her colleague, from the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project, introduced us to their organization and showed two videos that they and Diana had selected.

The first was about how the very enlightened **King Sejong The Great** had painstakingly crafted a simple and logical alphabet in which Korean speech and writing could be expressed. He had to work secretly because the nobility of that day did not want the common people to be literate. It was introduced in the year, 1443, before Columbus sailed for America.

In this alphabet, the 24 consonants and vowels form blocks, which become syllables in words. The consonants are shaped like the mouth is when making those sounds, and the vowels represent the trinity of heaven, earth and men. There is considerable information on the Internet about this remarkable alphabet.

King Sejong **was very enlightened**, creating social policies such as maternity leave and helping the country advance in science and engineering, strengthening the country's military forces, and advancing Confucianism.

The second video summarized Korea's **outstanding advances in technology** to facilitate medical care, transportation, shopping, and much more. All households in Korea have access to the Internet, nearly all broadband. There is high speed Internet in every school. There are refrigerators that can, for example, ask for authorization to order eggs when the supply runs low. **In medicine**, the survival rates for premature infants, cancer patients and others is exceptionally high. Dental treatment is much less expensive than in the U.S., and waiting times are short. A system of **national health insurance** covers the entire population.

The videos were an excellent main course, and the sweets were the dessert. They came in a typical Korean snack box, with a round compartment in the center and six trapezoidal compartments around it. Delicious! We appreciated this high quality presentation.



Joke of the Week

A business tycoon opened the door of his BMW just as a car came by and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived, the tycoon was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious vehicle. "Officer, look what they've done to my Beemer," he whined. "You big shots are way too materialistic," retorted the officer, "You're so worried about your stupid BMW that you didn't see your left arm was ripped off!" "Oh my gaaad", replied the tycoon, looking at the stump where his arm was, "Where is my Rolex???"