



Gaithersburg Newsletter

<http://www.Rotary7620.org>

February 20th, 2016

**Meeting at 12:15 p.m.
on Tuesdays in The
Holiday Inn, Route 355
and Montgomery
Village Avenue**

Club Leaders

Linda Hanson

President

Jermiah Eliason

President-elect

Michael May

Secretary

Dan Dellon

Treasurer

Winfree Irvine

Sergeant-at-Arms

Diana Swanson

Immediate Past President

Events

2/23/16: Luncheon in the Holiday Inn, 12:15 p.m. Speaker: Ken Weiss on "**The Rwandan Miracie**"

2/23: Meeting of the Board of Directors of Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation. 6:00 p.m. at Tom's place of business

2/23: Anniversary of Rotary's founding and start of [Rotary World Understanding and Peace Week](#)

2/27: Rotary Leadership Institute in Townson, MD. Info. on the district website.

3/1/16: Luncheon in the Holiday Inn. Speaker to be determined

3/3-5: President-elect training for the one and only Jeremiah

3/8: Luncheon and Club Assembly

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 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, and develop leadership skills. [More info.....](#)

Please "like" us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclub.gaithersburg?ref=hl>, and select the Gaithersburg Rotary Club Foundation when shopping on Amazon Smile: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0992470>

Our Luncheon February 16th

The schools were closed, but we were open. Our Pres. made an exception to the policy because the roads were clear and our guest speaker had no other dates available. See (below) a report on her and her companion.

We were pleased to welcome a guest, **Mr. T.O. Shanavas**, a retired pediatrician who was a Rotarian for many years in Michigan. We look forward to seeing him again on the 23rd.

After opening formalities a bit of introductory talk and a brief discussion of the "flags" project, we enjoyed some good conversation and then heard from her speaker. She was followed by the **Happy Dollars**, as follows: **Diana** for being back from Nashville, **Dwayne** for the guest speaker, **Dr. Shanavas** for being with us, **Linda** (\$3) for her table buddies and the thought that she might survive her son's wedding in April, and **Frank** (\$2) for the speaker and our guest. Then, Frank kicked in another because his daughter, who came to Gaithersburg as a Junior in high school. had reported being HAPPY. Good for her! She survived the move at a difficult time and is doing well in all ways.

Our Guest Speaker: Remember Niger

Our speaker was **Kara Vanderkamp** of RememberNiger.Org. She was introduced by **Char Harouna**. Both are active in the **Remember Niger Coalition** and have extensive contact with and knowledge of the country. Ms. Vanderkamp has a Masters degree in International Educational Development. She is an educator and the founder of the Coalition.

She introduced Niger as the [least developed country](#) in the world. That puts it below Afghanistan, Haiti, and others. Fewer than half its people have even been in a classroom, and the rate of literacy is just 9% for women and just 28% overall. Also, it has the highest fertility rate in the world with an average of seven children per woman. **Editor's comment:** [Holy moley!](#)

Via a Power Point presentation, Kara introduced us to **Amina**, a young girl who studies in a school run by the Remember Niger Coalition. She is pursuing an opportunity that was denied to her mother. This year, 99% of the school's students passed the 6th grade examination, which is a prerequisite for continuing in school.

The Coalition works with community leaders, who can help plan and carry out activities but need financial assistance. Besides schools, they have set up a playground and a garden, have a computer laboratory, operate a feeding program, and have done some work with health and sanitation, electrification, and control of mosquito-borne diseases. Their working language is French.

The group works with a Rotary Club in Niger and has close ties with a number of Rotary clubs in Minnesota. They need funds to build another school with latrines, to equip their computer laboratory with Internet access and solar power (local access and power are not reliable), and to sponsor students. Just \$360 funds a child's education for a year.

The organization's website is www.rememberniger.org. In early October, they will hold a bicycle rally to raise funds for their activities.