

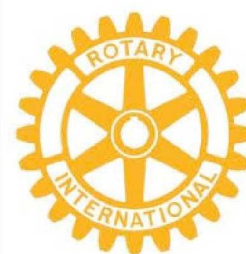


## ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BETHESDA

Meeting on Fridays @ 7:30 AM

Contact us at [nbrotary.org](http://nbrotary.org)

**February 2022**



### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

| Date                     | Speaker                       | Topic  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| February 4<br>Zoom Only  | Steve Vaccarezza              | 3-Minute Speaker                             |
|                          | Wendy Harder & Martin Mayorga | First NBRC Business of the Year Award        |
| February 11<br>Zoom Only | Christine Syversen            | 3-Minute Speaker                             |
|                          | Janice Pliner                 | History & Role of OASIS in Montgomery County |
| February 18<br>Zoom Only | Linda Berg-Cross              | 3-Minute Speaker                             |
|                          | Ambaree Majumber              | Revitalizing the Oceans                      |
| February 25<br>Zoom Only | John Waterston                | 3-Minute Speaker                             |
|                          | Mary Kimm                     | Potomac Almanac (Connection Newspapers)      |

*Meetings in February will be on Zoom Only  
7:15 AM to 7:30 AM Mix and Mingle*

### FEBRUARY MILESTONES

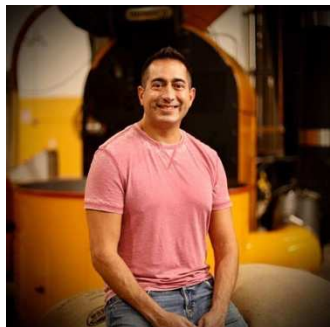
|              | Event       | Date        |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tas Tousimis | Birthday    | February 13 |
| Kevin Flynn  | Birthday    | February 18 |
| Rob Follit   | Anniversary | February 27 |



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

**SPEAKER – February 4, 2022 (Zoom Only)**

## **First NBRC Business of the Year Award Wendi Harder and Martin Mayorga for Mayorga Organics**



### ***Mayorga Organics is our Business of the Year!***

Mayorga Organics, based in Rockville, Md., embodies the spirit of Rotary. At Rotary we use the four-way test in our business dealings. We ask: Is it true? Is it fair to all concerned? Does it promote good will? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Mayorga Organics grew into an international company by telling the farmers and the customers the truth, about market forces, the process of production and how they maintain quality. They are dedicated to being fair to the farmers who produce our coffee and giving them a fair price for their labor.

Martin Mayorga (pictured at left) started roasting coffee in Rockville in 1997. The company has expanded and now operates a state-of-the-art roasting facility on Gude Drive.

Mayorga Organics has promoted good will not only in their business model of non-exploitation but by many generous corporate acts including donating \$145,000 to build homes in Nicaragua that was destroyed by floods and donating food and water to over 700 families in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua when disaster struck. They are regular donors to local food banks in Montgomery County, and they donate time to help social enterprise groups in Tennessee that create jobs and provide mentorships in coffee roasting and the retail business. They have developed a scholarship program that awards 10 scholarships a year, each valued at \$5000. Mayorga has also donated prizes for our club's fundraising events.

North Bethesda Rotary is awarding Mayorga the first North Bethesda Business of the Year Award for their mission and their success. We wish them continued growth and prosperity. Congratulations Mayorga Organics!

**Wendi Harder** is originally from Southern California and she moved to the east coast in 2008. Having grown up on a small family farm herself she understands the importance of crop diversification and environmental responsibility. She joined the Mayorga Family because she fully believes in the company's purpose and vision. In her downtime you can find her in her vegetable garden or enjoying a Netflix binge with a cup of Costa Rica Perla Negra.

**Martin Mayorga** is dedicated to providing organic farmers and their families opportunity for development and true sustainability by engaging them with the U.S. market. He started the coffee business in 1997 in Rockville, and was a leader in Direct Trade. Mayorga Organics focuses on comprehensively supporting small organic coffee farmers and delivering quality and value to consumers. Their main focus now is supporting farmers with organic crops to create long-term opportunities for them--and creating value for consumers.

**SPEAKER – February 11, 2022 (Zoom Only)****History and Role of OASIS in Montgomery County****Janice Pliner, Program Manager, Washington Metro Oasis**

**Janice Pliner** has worked for more than 30 years in the areas of adult education and volunteer and program management. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts in Human Resource Development from Marymount University.

She has worked for large corporations, including Gannett and Host Marriott Services, and for national non-profits, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2013, Janice has been the Program Manager at Washington Metropolitan Oasis. In this role, she is responsible for the planning and development of all course offerings at the Oasis center and other community locations.

**SPEAKER – February 18, 2022 (Zoom Only)****Revitalizing the Oceans****Ambaree Majumber**

**Ambaree Majumber** is a second generation Rotarian. Her father has been a long-term Rotarian and a past president in the state of Sabah in Malaysia. She is a member of the Marina City Rotary club in Singapore. She is also the co-chair of the Plant-Rich Diet taskforce in the Rotary Action Group for Environmental Sustainability (ESRAG), co-leader of the Southeast Asian chapter of ESRAG and the Regional Chair for Environmental Protection in Singapore.

Although she is an IT Business Analyst by qualification, she has spent most of her time in the past 7 years as a Social Entrepreneur, Speaker and Educator in the field of Plant based Lifestyle. Her journey of a plant-based lifestyle began in 2006 when she took an ethical stand to stop eating meat and fish. However, in 2016, when she completely went plant based by removing dairy and eggs from her diet, she experienced immense health benefits. She was able to reverse many chronic health issues like joint aches, a weak immunity, many digestive issues and also hypothyroidism.

Being passionate about health and environment, she soon realized that the diet which was the healthiest was also the most planet friendly. She undertook certification courses like Plant based Nutrition and Food Sustainability from e-Cornell, the online version of Cornell University. She has spoken at various Rotary clubs around the world, corporate platforms, schools and universities about how our plates and the planet are more interconnected than it might seem. She presents scientific data to show that every meal is an opportunity for us to fight a climate catastrophe knocking at humanity's doorstep.

**SPEAKER – February 25, 2022 (Zoom Only)**

## Potomac Almanac (Connection Newspapers)

Mary Kimm



**Mary Kimm** is an award-winning journalist, opinion writer and editor inspiring excellence and change in media for more than 20 years. As publisher of the newspaper group, she has led operations as well as news and editorial, recently leading Connection Newspapers to the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service.

Mary is editor of the Connection Newspapers, serving the suburbs of Washington, D.C., including the City of Alexandria and the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County and Arlington County in Virginia, as well as parts of Montgomery County, Md. The papers have won hundreds of press awards for investigative reporting, public service, editorial writing, news, election coverage, projects, features, sports, design, photography and more during Kimm's tenure, all in an ever-tightening economic environment. Kimm has worked at the newspaper chain in a variety of roles since 1989.

Winner of multiple awards in editorial writing and public service in the Virginia Press Association and the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, Kimm's editorials have been cited in local efforts to end homelessness and increase government transparency. Mary Kimm serves on the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, and on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Region. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Media in Democracy Institute and numerous community organizations, including the Potomac Chamber of Commerce. Kimm holds degrees in Economics and Political Science from Swarthmore College. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1955, she is the mother of two PhD scientists. She has also worked in banking, real estate and education. Interests include kayaking, the Potomac River, birding, photography and horseback riding.

## NORTH BETHESDA ROTARY'S NEW ROTARIANS!



Our membership committee has been busy! In September, we inducted **Michele Levy** of MobileMed in Montgomery County (left) and **Mana Rose** of NHTAC/Growth Partners in Florida (above) as new members of the Rotary Club of North Bethesda. At our October 29 meeting, we welcomed **Dr. Sam Goldberg** and his wife **Patricia**. Congratulations to the new members! We're delighted to welcome you into the Rotary family!

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Rotary District 7620****District 7620's Four Way Test Speech Contest**

From the earliest days, Rotary has been concerned with promoting high ethical standards. One of the world's most widely quoted statements is Rotary's 4-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor. Every year Rotary District 7620, along with Rotary districts around the world, sponsors high school 4-Way Test speech contests. The purpose of the speech is to persuade others while applying the principles of the Rotary 4-Way Test. The goal is for students to make the world a better place, to practice the virtues of critical thinking and ethical decision making, to develop public speaking and leadership skills to positively influence and inspire others regarding an issue that they find passionate.

**2022 Contest Information****TIMELINE**

- *January 2022: Club members and Interact mentors recruit students*
- *January 2022: Students without school mentor support will be assigned to a Rotarian or Rotaractor*
- *Before March 25: Clubs hold their own selection competitions if desired*
- *March 25: Club Participation forms are due including the \$200 fee per student*
- *March 25: Student Application forms are due*
- *April 9: Semi-Final Contest will be held live at Glen Burnie High School: 830 a.m. If the situation is not conducive to meeting in person, we will have a virtual competition.*
- *April 30: Final Contest (To be judged by conference attendees).*

<https://rotary7620.org/four-way-test-speech-contest/>

**THE ROTARY 4-WAY TEST**

Of the things we think, say, or do:

**Is it the TRUTH?**  
**Is it FAIR to all concerned?**  
**Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**  
**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

**Rotary Themes and Speakers for 2022**

Here’s a list of suggested themes for the next several months, along with club members who are coordinating speakers and presentations for our weekly meetings. If you have suggestions for upcoming speakers or would like to coordinate presentations for May or June, let us know!

| Month    | Rotary Theme                             | Rotarian         |
|----------|--|------------------|
| February | Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution | Linda Berg-Cross |
| March    | Water and Sanitation                     | Rob Follit       |
| April    | Maternal and Child Health                | Bob Sonawane     |
| May      | Youth Service                            |                  |
| June     | Rotary Fellowship                        |                  |

**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BETHESDA 2021-2022 OFFICERS**

|                                     |                              |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>                    | Nick Martinez                |  |
| <b>Vice President</b>               | Carmela Carr                 |  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                    | Steve Vaccarezza             |  |
| <b>Secretary</b>                    | Linda Berg-Cross             |  |
| <b>President-Elect</b>              | Steve Vaccarezza             |  |
| <b>Club Administration Director</b> | TBD                          | Chairs the Club Administration committee which is responsible for performing the logistical tasks related to club meetings.  |
| <b>Club Service Director</b>        | Victoria Feldman             | Chairs the Service Projects committee which is responsible for planning and carrying out successful service projects which focus on Rotary's Areas of Service.   |
| <b>Membership Directors</b>         | Ron Sigelman<br>Bob Sonawane | Chairs the Membership committee which is developing and implementing an action plan to attract and engage members.   |
| <b>Public Relations Director</b>    | John Waterston               | Chairs the Public Relations (PR) committee which is responsible for developing and implementing a plan to create awareness of club activities and projects among club members, media, and the community. |