

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

May 7- 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

Larry Heilman: "How Does a Rotary Club Find and Fund a Development Project in the Third World?"

Larry Heilman, PhD, had a long career with USAID where he planned, implemented and evaluated development activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He is currently a Research Associate in the Anthropology Department with the South America Archaeology Project at Smithsonian's Natural History Museum where he is preparing a study on the impact of U.S. Development Assistance in Bolivia over the past seven decades. He has taught at the University of Maryland, University College and Montgomery College. Larry is a member of the Friendship Heights Rotary Club. He has developed projects with Rotary funding in Bolivia, Belize, Honduras, Botswana, Poland, Bulgaria, and India. Larry was an honorary member of a Rotary Club in Poland where he lived for 15 months.



(Left) Larry Heilman is pictured with a Bolivian on the Altiplano at 15,000 ft. He was in Bolivia to develop Safe Blood projects for our Rotary District. (Right) Larry is hiking with wife Anne in the Sierras. Last year they walked 100 miles on the John Muir Trail ending in Yosemite.

May 9- 9:00am Fix-Up Project@Jewish Group Home

14005 Breeze Hill Lane, Silver Spring

See Map on Page 4

May 14- 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

Judy Welles: Legends of Cabin John

May 21- 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

Amgad Fayad:

Information Security - What You Should Know at Home

May 28 - 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

June 4 - 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

May 11- 6:30pm Meeting-Normandie Farm

April 30 Meeting Report

We welcomed Edco and Ceclia Bailey from the Montgomery Village Rotary Club and guests Gary and Lonnie Thorud. The speakers for the evening were



Debbie Siebert and Russell Lacey from Marylanders for Reliable Power. Russell grew up in Bethesda and his current vocation is an electrical power broker. He described the seven-state blackout that occurred in 2003 and indicated the current risk of the electrical



grid operating at 90% of capacity. To ensure that Maryland's future electricity needs are met, a coalition called "Marylanders for Reliable Power" (MDRP) was created in March 2008. 75 businesses and organizations are now members of MDRP. The



coalition works "to inform the public of the critical need to act now so that electricity is available to ensure the state's future productivity, public health, and security." Future electricity needs can be met "through

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conservation, additional generation of electricity from traditional and renewable energy sources, and improvement of transmission capacity." He pointed out that 600,000 new Marylanders are expected by 2016 and there is too much electricity running in too few lines. He mentioned an example of additional energy usage: an HDTV uses four times as much energy as an earlier model television set. There has been no significant infrastructure improvement in the past thirty years and electricity usage has increased 300 percent during that period. Over the past thirty years only three new electricity generation plants have been built in Maryland and one new nuclear power plant is planned to be completed in 2015. Maryland now imports 32% of its power from out of state resulting in Marylanders paying the highest marginal prices of electricity users supplied by the 13-state regional grid (PJM Interconnection). MDRP has a conservation goal of reducing consumption by 15% by 2015. On the national scene, the Obama administration has proposed 3000 miles of new transmission lines be constructed with proposals for wind farms in the center of the country and along coastlines. The talk generated a lot of discussion from the club members with Alan Cookson and Tom Leuchtenburg having experience in the subject areas. For more information on becoming a member of the coalition, call 410-295-2959 or visit www.forreliablepower.com.



Phil Meade conducted a fun survey titled "Have You Had Any of These Accidents". The survey questions are listed on page 5.

Rotary, Partners Respond To Polio Outbreak In Africa

By Dan Nixon RI News – 1 May 2009



A child in Sudan receives oral polio vaccine. Photo courtesy of World Health Organization

A recent wild poliovirus outbreak in southern Sudan has spread into parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. In response, Rotary is providing a total of US\$500,000 in emergency grants to UNICEF and the World Health Organization for immediate immunization efforts in the Horn of Africa.

In January, The Rotary Foundation Trustees approved \$2.2 million in PolioPlus grants to support immunization activities there.

The outbreak requires urgent action by governments and partner agencies to make the region polio-free, health officials say. The emergency response is aimed at reducing the threat of the virus spreading to other polio-free countries, a process called importation. The emergency grants will support immunization activities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda through May. Immunization rounds are also continuing in southern Sudan in an effort to halt the source of the outbreak.

"Polio importations highlight our global vulnerability to infectious disease, particularly where routine immunization is low and vulnerable children are missed," said Carol Pandak, manager of PolioPlus.

The government of southern Sudan has launched a polio eradication action plan, including the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee, which is placing full responsibility and accountability for the outbreak response on state and district governments. President Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a directive to

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all 10 state governors, requesting that they secure the support of nongovernmental organizations and traditional and religious leaders for the effort.

Leadership commended

Dr. Hussein Gezairy, director of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region, commended the government of southern Sudan "for putting in place these important new measures to address this dangerous spread of



disease. It is precisely this leadership which will help ensure the outbreak is rapidly stopped and will prevent further international spread. No child in southern Sudan need ever again know the pain of life-long polio paralysis."

The persistent outbreak in southern Sudan threatens the progress made by polio-free countries in eliminating the wild virus and preventing importations. Although outbreaks sometimes occur during eradication efforts, they do not lessen the feasibility of the eradication initiative. Outbreaks do, however, highlight the critical need to stop polio transmission in the remaining polio-endemic countries, such as Nigeria and India, which have exported the poliovirus to other nations in recent years, health officials say. The only other endemic countries are Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Large-scale outbreak response is now underway across the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and northern Sudan. An immunization campaign was held in southern Sudan 27-29 April, targeting more than 2.9 million children under age five. The next campaign is scheduled for 26-28 May.

"Experience shows that where polio transmission has been stopped before, it can be stopped again," said Pandak. "A fast, large-scale, and high-quality immunization response and strong surveillance are absolutely critical to prevent the virus taking hold in the longer term."

Bumblebee Awards Sponsored by Howard County Rotary Clubs

Thirty-three first, second and third graders were honored as Howard County Library Bumblebee Award Winners March 9 at the awards ceremony. Winners received a dictionary from Howard County Rotary Clubs plus a T-shirt, personalized trophy, and

certificate. Howard County's Rotary Clubs sponsored the Bumblebee events, which promote spelling and literacy. Standing in the rear is Nancy Szlasa, Rotary Assistant Governor. Photo by Fritzi Newton.

The Rotarian Magazine Takes Silver In 2009 EXCEL Awards

RI News – 28 April 2009

The Rotarian magazine was recognized this month by industry leaders for its exceptional work in association publishing.

The October, November, and December 2008 issues won the Society of National Association Publications' esteemed EXCEL Silver Award in General Excellence for publications with a circulation of more than 100,000.

The EXCEL Awards honor and represent the best in publishing products of the association industry and is the pinnacle of peer recognition.

The winning issues were the first to feature The Rotarian's new cover design, approach to layouts, and refinements to the front and back sections.

*Please send news articles and photos
to Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter*

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Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary

Contributed by Jerry Gross who found this article on the Rotary website rotary.org.

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868, Paul P. Harris was the second of six children of George N. and Cornelia Bryan Harris.

At age three, he moved to Wallingford, Vermont, where he grew up in the care of his paternal grandparents, Howard and Pamela Harris. He attended the University of Vermont and Princeton University and received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1891.

While he was in school, both of Harris's grandparents died, and he spent the five years after graduation traveling around the country and working odd jobs. After arriving penniless in San Francisco in 1891, he worked as a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and then as a ranch hand, grape picker, actor, and cowboy. He was also a hotel night clerk in Jacksonville, Florida, and a traveling marble and granite salesman.

In 1896, he settled in Chicago and opened a law practice. Along with Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey, he founded the Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905 and was elected its president in 1907.

Club membership grew rapidly. Many members were originally from small towns and found an opportunity for fellowship in the Chicago club. Harris was convinced that the club could be expanded into a service movement and strove to extend Rotary to other communities.

In 1910, he met Jean Thompson during an outing with the Prairie Club, a Chicago-based organization for wilderness enthusiasts. Harris and Thompson married three months later and settled on Chicago's South Side.

In the same year, the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed, and Harris was elected its first president. He held the office for two years and afterward became president emeritus, serving as the



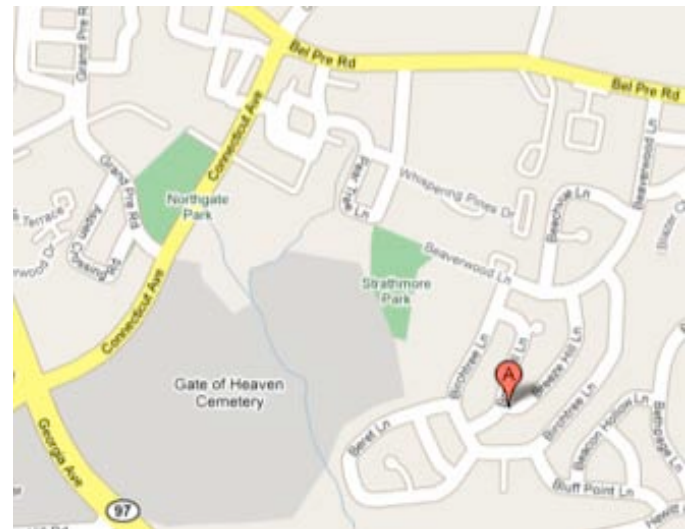
public face of the organization and promoting membership extension and service around the world.

He wrote several books about Rotary and his life and travels, including *The Founder of Rotary* and *This Rotarian Age*.

In addition to his work with Rotary, Harris was involved in other civic organizations, including the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, City Club of Chicago, Chicago Bar Association, Prairie Club, and Easter Seals. He was also recognized by the Boy Scouts of America and honored by the governments of Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Peru.

Harris died on 27 January 1947, leaving a rich legacy of fellowship, professionalism, service, and friendship. His passing also sparked an outpouring of donations to The Rotary Foundation from all over the world, allowing the Foundation to greatly expand its programs and services.

Directions to Fix-Up Project at the Jewish Foundation Group Home, 14005 Breeze Hill Lane, Silver Spring, 20906



Drive east on Bel Pre Road passing Georgia and Connecticut Avenues

Turn right onto Beaverwood Lane

Turn left on Breeze Hill Lane to 14005

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Special Hut Promotes Peace In West Africa

By Jennifer Lee Atkin, Rotary International News

6 May 2009

In the small border town of Jendemah, Sierra Leone, Richelieu Allison is known as "the peace hut guy."

It's a title he's earned: Months of weather delays, poor road conditions, building material shortages, and even a snake bite haven't kept Allison from constructing a peace hut for this community of 10,000.

Now the focal point of a special park, the palaver hut was built with help from the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and The Rotary Foundation. Allison, a 2006 Rotary World Peace Fellow, hopes it is only the first of several huts linked by a caravan that he envisions as a "cross-border, people-to-people movement for peace."

In West African culture, a palaver hut is where town chiefs and elders settle conflicts. "The construction of these huts will provide a permanent forum not only for the local people to settle disputes but also to discuss issues relating to development," Allison says.

Jendemah connects Sierra Leone and Liberia by way of the Mano River Union Bridge. Constructed along a major trade route in 1973, the bridge was meant to be a symbol of regional prosperity.

But people on both sides have endured decades of mutual fear and distrust. The civil war that broke out in Liberia in 1989 degenerated into a conflict that spread to Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The war officially ended in 2003, but the bridge didn't reopen until 2007.

"There is still a need to ensure that the people continue to reconcile their differences," Allison says.

A native of Liberia, Allison knows the horrors of war. "I saw summary executions. I witnessed the recruitment of some of my friends who, as young as eight, were sent to the battlefield," he recalls.

Determined to restore peace to his country, in 2001 Allison helped found the West African Youth Network, which trains young West Africans in peace-building and other humanitarian endeavors.

In 2006, he became a member of the inaugural class of the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies certificate program at Chulalongkorn University, in Bangkok,

Thailand. Soon after, he began envisioning a peace caravan.

Once he secures funding and materials, Allison plans to construct seven more palaver huts along historically troubled borders in the region. Each hut, which costs US\$5,200 to build, will have The Four-Way Test inscribed on it, he says.

Allison, along with local Rotarians and members of the West African Youth Network, will then travel to each palaver hut to conduct conflict resolution workshops and hold peace vigils.

The hut in Jendemah has already had an impact. "The construction process helped people to focus and think about the importance of peace," Allison says. "It has brought together chiefs and elders, immigration and law enforcement officers, young people and traders, on both sides of the border."

Phil Meade's Survey:

"Have You Had Any of These Accidents?"

Dropped a bottle of wine

Dropped a cake

Dropped a dozen eggs

Dropped a turkey

Dropped an open gallon of paint

Dropped your cell phone in the toilet

Dropped your glasses in the toilet

Dropped your wallet in the toilet

Fallen down some stairs

Fallen off a roof

Fallen out of a tree

Fell off a ladder

Fell through the ice

Forgot your anniversary

Forgot your wallet at a restaurant

Had a ring fall into the sink

Hammered your thumb, big time

Locked your keys in your car

Sat on your lunch

Stepped on a needle

Walked into a mirror

Went to work by mistake

Checked with your hand if you had dog poop on your shoe