

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

April 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Arthur Woods, Michael Durante and Neil Shah:

Compass Partners

Compass Partners is an innovative community dedicated to inspiring, educating and nurturing a new generation of leaders. By building communities around social entrepreneurship, Compass Partners encourages students to develop their social values into truly sustainable business solutions.

Arthur Woods is a senior at Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business, majoring in International Business and Operations & Information Management (OPIM). With a passion for social entrepreneurship, Arthur founded Mission Three which offered a campus-based farmer's market delivery service and soon expanded it to three campuses. In 2009 Arthur merged Mission Three and became a founding partner of Compass Partners. These endeavors have given Arthur the opportunity to receive international awards and work youth entrepreneurship advocacy.



Michael Durante is a senior majoring in Accounting and OPIM. Renewable energy inspires him like nothing else. To cultivate this particular passion, Mike has been involved in pretty much every environmental initiative at Georgetown in his time on campus. Mike co-founded the Campus Climate Challenge and serves as a founding member as well as Environmental Chair of M3E Consulting. Whether it's auditing the University's carbon emissions, consulting Corp businesses on how to go green, or



donning a polar bear costume in the pursuit of global warming awareness, Mike considers himself a full-spectrum environmental activist.

Neil Shah is a Senior majoring in Management and Marketing with a minor in Sociology. Neil has been involved as a key visionary in a number of entrepreneurial ventures, including A New Leaf, a fair trade tea company and Compass Consulting, a consulting firm for non-profit organizations. He went on to become a founding partner of Compass Partners. He would like nothing more than to help develop the growing social entrepreneurial field with his career.



April 10 - 9am - Four-Way Test Speech Finals
Glen Burnie High School

April 15 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
April 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
April 22 - 25 - DisCon 2010 Gettysburg, PA
April 29 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 6 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
May 13 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 1 Meeting Report (No Fooling)

President Noel Howard thanked the International Night committee for the excellent dinner and program at the University Club featuring the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. He also announced that the Jane Gordon



memorial fund has now topped \$7,000. Steve Naron gave a presentation showing his condominium in Hollywood, Florida, scenic shots of the area and beautiful photos of wildlife. He has already

become the Treasurer of his condominium association with 572 units. The town's



Rotary Club owns its own building that is depicted on the club banner. He also brought us up-to-date on technology comparing the Motorola Droid with the I-Phone and showing the extensive functionality that is available. Welcome back,

Steve, and thanks so much for your great presentation!



[L-R] Chinyere Amaefule; Dr. Tricia Kwiatkowski, guest; & Chinyere's colleague from Atlanta, Jennifer Bonds.

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Steve Naron Talks About Rotary in The Johns Hopkins University Magazine

*Johns Hopkins Magazine, "Speaking Out",
March 6, 2010, by Andrea Appleton*

Steve
Naron, JHU
Engineering
Class of
1970



A few years
after
graduation,

Steve Naron landed a job as a high-level consultant with the Center for Naval Analyses, thanks in part to his Johns Hopkins education. But when the center shipped him off to Toastmasters International, the public-speaking organization, he realized one thing he hadn't learned in school was how to present effectively in front of a crowd. Today, after years of training, he gives speeches regularly and with ease. To pass that skill along, he recently started an extracurricular course in public speaking for high school students, through the service club Rotary International.

"It's a pleasure to see these kids come out of their shells," he says. "The first week they get up and giggle and stutter. By the sixth week, they look like mini-lawyers."

Naron first joined Rotary nearly a decade ago because he liked the idea of public service in general, but he eventually realized that, through the club, he could develop new service goals that played off his own experiences and talents. For example, he is also developing an organization to train nonprofits in running large projects, a skill he knows well as a former IBM consultant.

Naron serves Rotary itself by overseeing the international graduate students who come to the

Baltimore-D.C. area through the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. (This year, four of the area's six scholars will be attending Johns Hopkins.) Each student is paired with a local counselor who hosts them during holidays, introduces them to Americans, and generally helps them become acclimated. Naron is himself a counselor, but he is also in charge of pairing counselors with students. And should any larger problems arise, he is there to solve them.

"The scholars tend to be fun, interesting, altruistic people, the ones who will change the world," Naron says. "Who wouldn't want to spend time with them?"

Dr. Dominique Howard, Daughter of President Noel and Gladys Howard, Named One of Washington's "Top Doctors" Washingtonian Magazine, March 2010



Dr. Dominique Howard is the first woman associate of Metropolitan Gastroenterology Group, a 15 physician subdivision of Capital Digestive Care.

Dr. Howard is board certified in Gastroenterology, a member of the American Gastroenterology Association, a member of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and is serving as the President of the William Clark

Society.

Her primary interests include inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, gastroesophageal reflux disease, capsule endoscopy, and colorectal cancer screening. She also is a clinical investigator on several new treatment options for digestive conditions. She is of Haitian descent and speaks French and Creole.

Metropolitan Gastroenterology is proud to add Dr. Howard to their list of other associates recognized as Washington's Top Doctors. For more than 40 years the group has received recognition for commitment to care, public service, and scholarship in gastroenterology.

Metropolitan Gastroenterology is also recognized for

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innovation in gastroenterology care, bringing colonoscopy to the Washington area, and establishing the first Medicare certified ambulatory endoscopy center in the United States. To serve our patient's needs, the group has offices in downtown Washington and suburban Maryland, and continues to participate with all of the region's large health insurance carriers.

Our doctors include: Dr. George Bolen, Dr. Kevin Collier, Dr. Richard Gelfand, Dr. Robert Hardi, Dr. Peter Kaufman, Dr. Kathryn Kirk, Dr. Louis Korman, Dr. Michael Keegan, Dr. Donald O'Kieffe, Dr. Eric Pollack, Dr. Michael Schwartz, Dr. Nelson Trujillo, Dr. Michael Weinstein, and Dr. Lawrence Widerlite.

www.mggdocs.com

Artist Alexa Meade, Daughter of Phil and Linda Meade, Featured in Washington Post

**By Dan Zak Washington Post Staff Writer
March 24, 2010**

A recent Vassar graduate, 23-year-old Alexa Meade is taking the art world by storm using the human body as a canvas. [Photo from Alexa Meade's Website]

Slender, freckled, auburn-haired Alexa Meade is in her parents' basement in Chevy Chase. It's 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. She resists the temptation to Google herself.

Instead, she sets an empty Grand Marnier jug between a mirror and an inclined plate of glass, traces the bottle and its reflection on the glass with black paint, then traces the reflection of the paint itself. Next, she sprinkles her expired thyroid medication into a can of Betty Crocker frosting, stirs it and scoops the mix into the pill bottle.

She doesn't quite call it art. It's an experiment, she says, to limber her brain, which has been consumed recently by her shotgun art career. The media inquiries, the hundreds of sales requests, the invitations from random galleries – it's a bit much for a 23-year-old who only six months ago decided to be a full-time

professional artist. This moment is playtime.

"I'm not out to make a masterpiece right now," she says as her iPod shuffles through indie rock. "I feel like anything you do gets you moving, inspires you in some way. It's also kind of satisfying playing with frosting."

Footsteps on the stairs. Her father, Phil, pokes his head in. "Off to work," he says. "Bye, Pops," she says.

Two weeks ago she was a political science grad living at home, painting her way through her first year after college. She is still that. Except now she has a deal to exhibit at the Saatchi Gallery in London, an offer to collaborate on a music video for a major record label, and hundreds of curious e-mails from people who want the story on Alexa Meade and how she turns people into paintings.

Her current medium is acrylic on flesh. She paints on people's skin and clothes until they look like they belong in a frame. And voilà: The masses are captivated, opportunity comes knocking. Even as she putters in the basement, Alexa Meade may be standing on the brink of an inventive career, or the brink of oblivion.

Internet memes are most virulent when they blow people's minds, and Meade's "Living Paintings" seem to have done that. For two weeks she has been linked, blogged, page-viewed, tweeted, Digged, thumbs-upped, CNN'd, OMG'd and lavished with parades of exclamation points by anonymous commenters – the plebeian, virtual equivalent of a good opening at MoMA, minus the bona fides.

"A portrait is something that's been with us for 3,000 years – that's not an easy genre to move forward," says Magdalena Sawon, owner of Postmasters Gallery in

New York, who has invited Meade to be part of an upcoming exhibit. "I'm more interested in the end result than just the strategy, and she has the ability to convey a powerful image. [Her work] exploded virally on the Internet, and my wish, to some degree, is to bring it back into the focus of the fine arts world. This is a valid and very interesting contribution to the portrait genre."

Meade uses a brush. She paints skin on skin, lips on lips and eyebrows on eyebrows, and the insides of nostrils, using her own mixture of nontoxic paints and



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unspecified ingredients. Her subjects must sit still for multiple hours as she follows the natural contours of their faces, varying brushstroke and color to exhume their inner essence. When she's done, they appear banished to two-dimensionality, yet they also seem fuller, more dynamic. She then sets her subjects in an installation, or photographs them. There are no touch-ups or special effects beyond acrylic on flesh and the initial complacency of the observer.

Look at the eyes, though. Bam. Real person. This effect jars people, confuses them, briefly rattles their grasp of art, space and reality. Meade, who has worked on Capitol Hill and on campaigns, says her experience in politics taught her to look beyond facades.

Dunn Loring resident Will Claybaugh spent 11 hours last month modeling for Meade at G40: The Summit in Crystal City.

"No one was categorically trying to decipher me as a person," says Claybaugh, 24. "They were trying to figure out Alexa's vision. It felt dehumanizing in an incredibly liberating way. . . . I was a piece of art looking at them as opposed to a person who had some understanding of them. It made me realize that objects, as far as I experience them, are just surface."

The human body has always been a canvas for artists – makeup, tattoos, Joanne Gair's magazine-friendly body-painting – but there's something different about Meade's project that strikes some gallerists and artists as novel and new.

"She sent me a photo of her work and I thought it was really amazing," says Elise Siegel, owner and curator of Positron Gallery in Baltimore, where Meade debuted the concept in October by painting her younger sister Julie into a lonely, earth-toned tableau. "It's something I've never seen before. It plays with your mind. During the opening, people were really impressed by her installation."

Based solely on a forwarded link, English painter Christian Furr booked Meade as a selected exhibitor at an October charity event at the Saatchi.

"She's going to create quite a stir in this country," Furr says. "People are fascinated by playing with viewpoints, and she's taking it one step further than trompe l'oeil. I was blown away by it. She's quite an established artist, by the look of things."

Except she's not. She's been working full-time only since

the fall.

Growing up in Chevy Chase, Meade was steeped in fine arts and design, and at 16 she began to focus on sculpture and politics. She went to Vassar College and studied political science while taking sculpture courses on the side. For 3 summers she interned on Capitol Hill. In the summer of 2008 she worked at Barack Obama's Denver headquarters as a press assistant. She wrote her 100-page senior thesis on community organizing and the Obama campaign, then graduated last spring and moved back home into the open, loving, mildly concerned arms of her parents, who wanted her to have a secure job with benefits. Her father lassoed her an offer for a high-paying job as a director of communications. She turned it down. Art was her choice. She was done spinning for other people. Now she'd spin herself.

She spent last year learning how to be a professional artist. She interned at a local gallery last summer, networked with artists and gallerists via e-mail, and crashed art events several times a week to pick the brains of the cognoscenti. By October she showed her first Living Painting at Positron. Her work has appeared in five minor regional shows in six months. Earlier this month, District artist Chris Bishop, whom Meade met in September, sent a link to Kottke.org, a high-traffic liberal-arts blog in Manhattan. The linkage unfurled from there.

Bold, focused and media-savvy, Meade has welded her political and artistic sides to fashion a campaign for a long-term art career, careful to weed through bogus solicitations in her in-box, bothering to respond to comment threads on social media sites like Reddit.com, declining to work on the music video to remain free of the commercial world.

"I'd rather feed my curiosity than push a product," she says. "I have so many ideas and so many things I want to explore, and I don't want to have all this hype and then have nothing."

She says the rest of this week is booked for media interviews. Then she's driving to New York to drop off prints at Postmasters. She's anxious and exhilarated and yet cool as a cucumber, pulling 20-hour days to maintain control of her not-quite career and still have time to nurture future projects, and play around with frosting.

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