

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

June 7 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Rami Bedewi, Georgetown Prep

“New York to DC on nearly One Gallon of Gas”



Rami Bedewi is a 17 year old rising college freshman who will be studying Mechanical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University starting this fall. He recently graduated from the Georgetown Preparatory School where he spent four years studying a variety of subjects and expanding his interest in mathematics and physics. Outside of school, Rami’s interests include playing rugby, which he has pursued for three years, as well as playing and following soccer on a global

scale; he also has great interest in international travel and loves to visit foreign lands to expand his understanding of other cultures. Another one of Rami’s interests includes performing a variety of service projects such as teaching at the Washington Jesuit Academy, packing food with the Share Program and working as a counselor for Potomac Community Resources. One of Rami’s greatest passions has been cars. From an early age, he experimented with different models and with the aid of his father constructed a miniature Bat Mobile. Recently he undertook a project called the One Gallon Challenge which involved designing and constructing a hybrid-electric vehicle that he drove from the New York City area to Washington D.C. metro on nearly one gallon of fuel.

June 11 – 6pm – Grow Your Membership Seminar



Holiday Inn Laurel West

15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD

6:00pm dinner

6:30pm seminar

Register at [rotary7620.org](http://rotary7620.org)

FREE but you DO need to RSVP and register

June 13 – 7pm – Manna Food Center Packing Night

June 14 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Installation of 2012-2013 Officers

June 21 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Ann Thompson, World Vision

June 28 – 6:30pm – Social – Normandie Farm

July 5 – No Meeting

July 12 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

July 19 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

July 26 – 6:30pm – Social - Normandie Farm

June 7 Rotary Club Meeting Special Feature:

“One Gallon Challenge:

Rami Bedewi has done it!”



Georgetown Prep Hoyas in the News

The Georgetown Prep senior drove his homemade hybrid electric vehicle more than 230 miles on a little more than one gallon of gasoline on Monday, March 12, traveling from New York to Prep’s campus, where he arrived to a hero’s welcome that included a local TV news station.

“My goal is completed,” Rami told WUSA 9 of the challenge he undertook more than a year ago.

Rami’s drive began at 5:30am in Liberty Park, New Jersey, with the Statue of Liberty as a picturesque backdrop.

Almost 12 hours later, he rolled onto campus, where students, faculty, and Prep’s Board of Trustees—which had just concluded a meeting—surrounded him with cheers of congratulations. Prep’s baseball, lacrosse, and rugby players abandoned their practices and literally sprinted to greet him.

As euphoric as the closing scene was, Rami’s trip was not without its travails.

Even with the help of vehicle escorts driving in front and behind him, Rami described getting out of Jersey City’s gridlocked traffic as a “nightmare.” Soon after he entered Delaware, the state police pulled him over. Once Rami produced the Virginia-issued license and permit for his custom vehicle, his drive resumed. All along the way, he attracted curious looks from passing motorists and bystanders.

[www.pb-rotary.org](http://www.pb-rotary.org) [www.rotary7620.org](http://www.rotary7620.org) [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

June 7, 2012 - Page 1

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Fatigue and the duration of the trip forced Rami to stop more often than planned, and he ended up needing a total of 1.25 gallons of gas, but the drive was a tremendous finish to his One Gallon Challenge.

[http://www.gprep.org/Relld/728279/InfoGroup/3947/ISVars/default/One\\_Gallon\\_Challenged.htm](http://www.gprep.org/Relld/728279/InfoGroup/3947/ISVars/default/One_Gallon_Challenged.htm)

## **The One Gallon Challenge drive took place on March 12, 2012**

### **The following are facts about the drive:**

Started at 5:30 AM in Jersey City, NJ, by Liberty Park. Arrived in Georgetown Prep in N. Bethesda, MD 12 hours later (this included a few stops on the way).

The major cities passed through included Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore.

Top speed was around 42 mph but I tried to maintain a speed of around 30-35 mph the entire way.

The drive out of Jersey City was a bit difficult with lots of traffic lights, stop signs, and construction. The first 15 miles or so were very slow and took over an hour and a half and used up a lot of energy.

The vehicle drove very well and there were no incidents. There were strong head and side winds especially over bridges and once I left Wilmington, daylight savings time kicked in and I had to use all the lights (headlights etc.) for longer than originally planned. The fuel needed to power the lights in the morning is equivalent to about 15 miles of range.

The Yamaha generator seemed to be heating up too much and there was significant gas evaporating and spillage through the gas cap. It is clear that it was not intended for mobile applications. It is hard to estimate the fuel lost but the chase vehicle team members complained of strong fuel smell at lights and stop signs.

### **Fuel economy analysis:**

Overall the vehicle used up a little over a gallon for the 231 mile trip. The gauge is not very accurate but it is somewhere under 1.25 gallons. This translates to 184 miles per gallon.

The four factors described above contributed to the extra gas needed, but otherwise the vehicle would have definitely achieved the one gallon goal.

It should be noted that the battery was still fully charged when I arrived at Prep, which would have given me an additional 70 miles or so. Technically I did not need the extra 1/4 gallon if I drove the final 47 miles from Baltimore on pure battery only.

## **Liberian Nobel Peace Laureate Says Collective Strength, Selflessness Needed To Face Global Challenges**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 5 May 2012



*Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee addresses Peace Fellows, Rotarians, and Rotary Foundation alumni at the closing plenary session of the Rotary World Peace Symposium 5 May. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska*

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee called upon Rotary Peace Fellows, Rotarians, and Rotary Foundation alumni to use their collective strength and passion to help tackle today's global challenges.

Speaking at the closing plenary session of the Rotary World Peace Symposium, Gbowee shared her personal journey from an angry victim of war to a peace activist. "My purpose here is to inspire where inspiration is needed, to encourage where encouragement is needed, and to raise up where complacency has set in," said Gbowee.

In 2003, Gbowee mobilized women across religious and ethnic lines to bring an end to Liberia's long and bloody war. As the founder of Women for Peace, she rallied women in a fish market to sing and pray in protest, and urged wives of leaders of warring factions to withhold sex until the leaders laid down their arms.

The campaign culminated in the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as Liberia's president, the first woman freely elected as a head of state in Africa.

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Service as a Mandate

Gbowee described how she traveled throughout Africa to communities where brutalization of women is common.

"I expected to find bitterness and hatred – what I found instead was strength," Gbowee said. "They transcended the sorrow of their lives to discover in themselves the courage and will to rebuild their lives and communities. These women came to the realization that banding together for action wasn't a choice but a life."

"Like Rotarians, these women see service to humanity as a mandate that must be obeyed," she added.

The world still struggles with the true meaning of service, Gbowee said, and Rotarians and Peace Fellows must join together to help the world understand what service can achieve. "The challenges in our world can't be solved by individualistic thinking. These challenges must be tackled by groups of individuals who understand that collective strength and selflessness is the only way out," she said. "Sometimes the craziest ideas can give you the most impressive change."

## Working For Peace

Peace Fellows gave Gbowee a standing ovation. Yolanda Cowan, a 2003-05 peace fellow at Sciences Po in Paris has been working for UNICEF in Liberia. She said she's seen the impact Gbowee had on the country's women.

"She was a mythical and wonderful figure in Liberian society," says Cowan. "Her message today was about the courage it takes to stand up for what you believe in. She's empowered so many women."

Earlier in the session, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson thanked the Peace Fellows for their work and praised the Rotary Peace Centers program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

"We have vastly increased peacemaking resources," said Wilkinson. "Providing clean water, food, and education to all children will go a long way at attacking the root causes of war. With all the positive forces we are creating, how can we not believe peace is possible?"

## Former Sudanese Soldier Pumps Up The Volume As Peace Symposium Opens

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 3 May 2012



*Emmanuel Jal, former Sudanese child soldier and now a recording artist, speaks at the Rotary World Peace Symposium's opening plenary session, 3 May, in Bangkok, Thailand. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

Emmanuel Jal began his

keynote speech at the 2012 Rotary World Peace Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, not by talking about peace but rather by singing about it.

The former Sudanese child soldier, now an international peace advocate and hip-hop star, energized the morning session crowd with his song "We Want Peace."

At the opening plenary session of the symposium, Thursday, 3 May, Jal talked about what peace means to him, the atrocities he witnessed as a child soldier, and the horrors he experienced while escaping Sudan's bloody civil war.

"Peace means different things to people all around the world," said Jal, a spokesman for Amnesty International, who has also worked on behalf of Save the Children, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and Christian Aid. "Peace is when you leave home and come back safely. Peace is when you have a full stomach. For me, peace is justice, equality, and freedom for all."

## Escape

Jal lost his mother and most of his family to the civil war and became a soldier for the Sudan People's Liberation Army at the age of nine. Three years later,

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

he was one of 400 boys who escaped the war by walking across the desert in search of refuge. In a poem, Jal described the journey and the effects it had on him.

"I was at my lowest point as a human being during my escape," said Jal. "I was angry. I wanted to hurt those who killed my family and friends. But I learned to forgive. It's a constant struggle for me. But forgiveness is a path to peace."

A British aid worker found Jal and smuggled him into Kenya. Gradually, he discovered that music was a way to share his story. He founded GUA Africa, an organization that works with individuals, families, and communities to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty.

## Chulalongkorn

During a breakout session later in the day, Rotary Peace Fellows discussed the successes of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Former classmates Erinma Bell and Charles Allen discussed the skepticism they felt at first about having much in common. Bell is a grassroots peace activist in Manchester, United Kingdom, and Allen is a police officer in Victoria, Australia.

"We've had rough dealings with police officers where I work," said Bell. "But I was interested in how [Allen's] police dealt with crime in his area."

After discussing ways to stem violence late into the night over tea, they both concluded they did have a lot in common.

"Eventually we realized that we did the same thing: we resolved conflict resolution through coproduction of communities, government, and nongovernment agencies," said Allen. "Our professional relationship didn't end when we left Chulalongkorn."

Staying in contact, they developed a leadership program for Sudanese youth who live in Greater Dandenong, one of the neighborhoods Allen's police department patrols.

"Many of these teenagers were disengaged and lacked hope," said Allen. "Our goal was to activate them in the community so they could see the difference they could make."

The former classmates are also working on an initiative to help get guns off the street in Manchester, where Bell works.

"One of the more important things I took away from Rotary's program was understanding the difference between peacekeeping, peace building, and peacemaking," said Bell. "There is a difference, and it can be implemented in war and disaster zones, as well as localized urban conflict. I learned it's not just talking about resolving conflict; it's getting together and actually doing things that produce results. Rotary does a great job at highlighting that."

The symposium, together with the Rotary Alumni Celebration, was held 3-5 May, immediately preceding the RI Convention.

*Please send news articles and photos to  
[Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov)  
for inclusion in the newsletter*

## 2012 Rotary Photo Contest Winners

The Rotarian – June 2012



**First place.** Shot outside Kisumu, Kenya. Says Benson, "This photograph, of a little child trying to get fresh water for the family, is unpretentious and poignant and tells an important story. You know exactly the situation and are moved by the look of expectation in her eyes, as if she's asking for help. It is an image you stop and look at, and that is the main criterion for good photography." Darryl Brown, Rotary Club of Boulder, Colo., USA

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



**Honorable mention.** Shot in Sylhet, Bangladesh. Says Benson, "Covered with mud, this group posed for their picture without trepidation. They were open and seemed happy. The decision to use black-and-white instead of color makes this photograph more dramatic and gives the viewer insight into these innocent children." *Zahid Hasan Moon, Son of Md. Abdur Rashid Talukder, Rotary Club of Sylhet New City, Bangladesh*



**Honorable mention.** Shot in Gitagum, Philippines. Says Benson, "I usually am not partial to sunset photography, but this photograph, with the silhouette of the two boys with their poles reflected in the water, offers a modern, graphic twist while the sunset looms magnificently in the background." *Carlo Antonio Romero, Rotary Club of Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines*



**Honorable mention.** Shot in Entebbe, Uganda. Says Benson, "The maze of bright blue umbrellas surrounds the graceful fountain in the center of the photograph. It's almost as if it were a frame from an old Busby Berkeley film in which the dancers move in unison while the camera shoots them from above." *Joe Otin, Rotary Club of Nairobi-East, Kenya*



**Honorable mention.** Shot in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda. Says Benson, "This close-up of a gorilla, intently gazing at a twig as if reading a thermometer, is amusing and catches your eye. It is a quiet moment in time that will not happen again." *John Glassford, Rotary Club of Coolamon, Australia*

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



**Best of the Rest.** Breadmakers near Giza, Egypt  
*Jon Gilbert Fox, Rotary Club of Hanover, N.H., USA*



**Best of the Rest.** A child at an orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti.  
*Jameson Midgett, Greensboro, N.C., USA*



**Best of the Rest.** An immunization clinic in Rumbek, South Sudan.  
*Chris Offer, Rotary Club of Ladner, B.C., Canada*



**Best of the Rest.** A National Immunization Day in Ethiopia.  
*Robert J. Martin, Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, Wash., USA*



**Best of the Rest.** Facing the waters in Cagayan de Oro City.  
*Carlo Antonio Romero, Rotary Club of Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines*