

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

January 26 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm

Eric Reid, Chocolatier



"Eric and Crisoire Reid embarked on a journey in creating the most exquisite premium chocolate for the most demanding customers. After numerous attempts in selling their cacao beans to local and

international manufacturers, the Reid's decided to manufacture their own exquisite chocolates starting from home in Montgomery Village. From importing their own cacao beans, the Reid's learned the art of Roasting, Winnowing and Refining their cacao beans into premium chocolate and socialized it to friends and family members for feedback. Once they perfected the manufacturing process, the next step was learning how to make the famous European treats, Bonbons and Truffles. The Reid's attended the Barry Callebaut Academy in Chicago where they honed in their skills in the creation of Truffle and Bonbons. Once ready, they decided to open their very first premium manufacturing facility in Gaithersburg and their very first chocolate boutique above. The end result through a simple dream of agriculture was born a wonderful and exquisite brand we know today as SPAGnVOLA. SPAGnVOLA, is the only premium chocolate manufactured from soil-to-chocolate in MD, DC and VA."

February 2 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna Food

February 9 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Bob Hester - Metro

February 14 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing

February 16 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Bob Pelletier, Jay Davies

Rotary World Curling Fellowship;

Alex Honjiyo, Hilltop Microfinance

February 20 - GROW Membership Seminar,

Holiday Inn, Laurel

February 23 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm

107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rotary Founding

March 1 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna Food

## January 19 Meeting Report

Philip Tarnoff discussed the current state of the nation's highway system and offered some innovative solutions that are included in his recent book, "The Road Ahead." We have increases in demand and serious



shortfalls in funding, so driving conditions are going to continue to deteriorate. Technology has raced ahead except in the public sector. The states construct and maintain the interstate highway system. The federal fuel tax of 18.4 cents has not increased since 1993 so the federal highway trust fund ran out of funds last October. There is a push in Maryland to increase the



[Above] Alan Grant and his son Steven. Nabil Bedewi and his brother Nabih. [See page 2 for an article about Nabih's son that appeared in yesterday's Gazette newspaper.]

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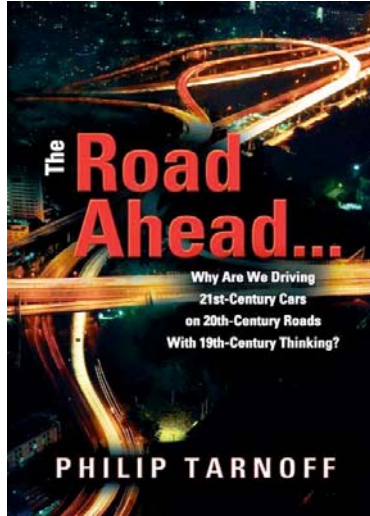
gas tax, but unconscionably some highway funds have been transferred into Maryland's general fund.

Comparing the US with European countries, the US is 13<sup>th</sup> in highway safety. The US could improve highway safety if we had the funding and the political will do better. The manufacturing process now relies on "just in time" delivery, so our warehouses are on wheels and the reliability of the system is threatened with traffic congestion. Over the past 25 years, the demand in vehicle miles has doubled and the supply in lane miles of roadway has gone up only 6%. 25 years from now our grandchildren are going to refer to 2012 as the "good all days." The US could become a third world country if we don't address this trend. Cars are becoming

entertainment centers as the auto manufacturers realize that people are spending more time in their cars.

We could improve mobility with an extensive transportation toolbox currently available. Phil had only enough time to discuss two areas, traffic signal adaptive control

systems and ramp metering. 35% of the agencies in the US have never retimed their traffic signals for changing traffic patterns. The signal actuators that register cars waiting for traffic signals have not been maintained. He showed three signals on Twinbrook Parkway that were inconsistent in timing with the first and third green but the middle light red. There is existing technology that could dynamically adjust traffic signal timing. Most countries install adaptive control systems, but the systems have generally not been utilized in the US. Phil described ramp metering used in areas such as Los Angeles and San Francisco. In Minnesota Governor Ventura ran on a platform to get government out of people's way, and so asked to have the ramp metering system shut down for two weeks. An extensive



evaluation was performed and the results were very significant: with ramp metering traffic accidents were reduced by 25% and travel time was reduced 22%. The issue is political as generally the more affluent outer suburbs are not monitored and those closer to the cities are metered. People just seem to accept the lousy signal timing and the lack of ramp metering as the status quo. We know that the utilization of proven technologies could provide significant improvement.

## **Potomac Teen Builds Car To Travel From New York To D.C. On One Gallon Of Gas**

**Potomac Teen To Go On 'One Gallon Challenge' With The Car He Built**

by Jessica Ablamsky, Gazette Staff Writer



*Rami Bedewi, a 17-year-old senior at Georgetown Prep from Potomac, is a car enthusiast who designed and built a vehicle that he plans to drive from New York City to Washington, D.C., on a single gallon of gas. He is calling the project the One Gallon Challenge. Photo by Brian Lewis/The Gazette.*

**[Rami Bedewi is Nabil's nephew, Nabih's son.]**

In 2011, the average car in the U.S. got about 34 miles per gallon. High school senior Rami Bedewi just built one that gets more than 200.

The 17-year-old Potomac resident will put his car to the test Jan. 30, with a 240-mile trip from New York City to Washington, D.C. — on one gallon of gas. Dubbed the "One Gallon Challenge," it is the end result of a year's worth of busy nights, weekends and vacations.

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"I've been working on this for so long, I would really love for this to succeed," he said. "I've also never driven it for so long, so I'm interested to see how it holds up."

This project is not a requirement for Georgetown Preparatory School, which he attends. The challenge just gets him revved up.

Rami will not be alone for the eight-to-10-hour trek down back roads. He will be in constant radio communication with "lead" and "chase" cars that will provide technical support.

His plug-in hybrid was assembled using aftermarket parts, with the exception of its frame and circuitry, which Rami designed and built. The motor gets its energy from an electric battery and a gasoline powered generator.



Rami assembled ready made products in a way no one has before, said John Balbach, Rami's AP physics teacher at Georgetown Prep.

"I have been impressed by all aspects of this project," Balbach said. "Certainly we don't tend to get a whole lot of students in our school capable of building a car. Beyond just being able to build it, being able to plan it, and knowing what goal he had in mind, he was also able to scare up funding for all of it."

Rami's final hurdle might be getting the car registered with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. With only three wheels, it falls into the category of a motorcycle, which has made it harder to register, said Rami's father, Nabih Bedewi. After getting no response from the MVA, the two reached out to Gov. Martin

O'Malley. With the help of his staff, they are certain the car will be registered in time for the challenge.

"I think it's fantastic," Nabih Bedewi said.

An engineer by training who previously build a solar car, Nabih praised his son for balancing school, sports and building the car.

Interested in cars since childhood, Rami planned to build a car for his 16th birthday. That project morphed into the One Gallon Challenge. He does not understand why electric cars are not more popular; among the first cars were powered by electricity, he said.

"It's been all downhill from there," he said.

He used aftermarket parts to prove it is possible to build an affordable car that gets more than 200 miles to the gallon. He said high efficiency cars are better for the environment and the economy because they could lessen America's dependence on foreign oil sources.

"It kind of sends a message that anybody can build a car like this," he said. "It also shows that the car companies have all these resources and yet we're still driving cars that get 30 miles per gallon."

It is hard to say how much the car costs. Before Rami began, he agreed to keep his grades up, build a car his father certifies as safe and find sponsors.



The project was kick-started by his first donor, Sport Automotive Chevrolet in Silver Spring. Loaning big ticket items, a motor, controller, and workspace, was Ashburn, Va.-based NuGen Mobility Inc., which manufactures and sells high-efficiency vehicles and other machines. NuGen President Eric Takamura also will lead the trip from New York City to the District.

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"I hope to go as far as I can," Rami said. "Worst come to worst, I can fill 1/10 of the tank and call it the 1.1 gallon challenge

Live updates will be available on Jan. 30 at <http://1gchallenge.com/NY-to-DC.html>.

[jablamsky@gazette.net](mailto:jablamsky@gazette.net)

## **Hewko Outlines Five Priorities For Strengthening Rotary's Image, Reach**

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 24 January 2012

*RI General Secretary John Hewko spelled out five priorities for strengthening the organization during the fifth plenary session of the International Assembly. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska*

A number of major initiatives are underway that will help Rotary International's professional staff, the Secretariat, be a more effective, efficient, and useful resource for clubs and districts.

Addressing the fifth plenary session of the International Assembly, an annual training event for incoming district leaders, RI General Secretary John Hewko spelled out five priorities for strengthening the organization, ones he said would put Rotary on the best footing possible as it begins its second century.

"Rotary is an organization with an incredible history and there is no question that its best years are yet to come," Hewko said. "These five priorities, as well as many others, will strengthen our great organization and have a significant, positive impact down to the level of the club and individual Rotarian."

### **Eradicating polio**

Hewko said the first priority is the eradication of polio, Rotary's signature global initiative since 1985. Eradication of polio will save hundreds of thousands of children from suffering from the disease, and save the world between US\$40 billion and \$50 billion in health care costs over the next 20 years.

A robust public relations campaign is underway to publicize Rotary's work in polio eradication.

"Our success in polio eradication will set the stage for the next global initiative that Rotary chooses to tackle, whatever that may be," Hewko said.

### **Future Vision**

The second priority is implementing RI's Strategic Plan and the global launch of the Future Vision Plan, The Rotary Foundation's new grant making model. Hewko said Future Vision is the second most important Rotary initiative, after polio, and it will be important to get district leaders on board to support the launch.

"Successful implementation of Future Vision will lead to projects and programs in the six areas of focus that are better designed and more sustainable and scalable, and that will lead to greater impact," he said. "This, in turn, will increase our profile, reputation, and public image and will make Rotary more attractive to outside funding sources. Future Vision will bring considerable and tangible positive benefits to clubs and districts."

### **Rotary Club Central**

The third priority, developing a new tool called Rotary Club Central, will help Rotary place a value on the thousands of service projects clubs do each year. The online resource will help clubs maintain a record of past activities; set and track strategic goals and initiatives; and allow reporting of the global, collective impact of club, district, and zone activities.

"We know how much funding passes through The Rotary Foundation - approximately \$100 million per year excluding polio [funding] - but we have no idea of the total value of all of the money raised, in-kind contributions made, and volunteer hours spent by clubs worldwide on service projects," Hewko said. "Having a credible number would enhance our reputation, help with membership, and make us more attractive to potential strategic partners."

### **Membership**

The fourth priority is membership, including making Rotary more appealing and relevant to younger members. The RI Board has launched an initiative to develop three-year regional membership plans tailored to specific regional needs and challenges. Achieving this priority will also require revamping the website to improve performance and make it more user friendly,



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increasing use of social media, looking at expanding e-clubs, and giving clubs greater flexibility with attendance requirements.

The board is also working with an international agency with a track record of success to provide a fresh global perspective of Rotary's brand, its membership, core strengths, competition, and operating philosophy.

"Ultimately, I believe, this process will more than revitalize a brand. It will revitalize Rotary – ensuring that Rotary is recognized the world over for what it does," Hewko said. "And make no mistake: what Rotary does is nothing short of amazing."

## **Humanitarian assistance**

The fifth priority is positioning Rotary more fully as a major player in global humanitarian assistance and development.

"Here we have Rotary, with its incredible platform of 1.2 million engaged, active, and motivated members, drawn from the business and professional networks of tens of thousands of communities," Hewko said. "In short, a private-sector platform that is unmatched in the world today."

"I re-pledge to you today that I will invest every ounce of my energy to ensure that the Rotary flame burns ever brighter, so that working together we can continue to make the world a better place," he said. "For our families and friends, for our communities and countries, and for future generations to come."

## **Banerjee Shares Advice For Building Stronger Clubs**

By Megan Ferringer RI News – 19 January 2012

*RI President Kalyan Banerjee shares advice with incoming district leaders about building strong clubs during the second plenary session of the International Assembly. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska*



The best way for incoming district governors to build stronger clubs is to serve as role models and lead as

equals, said RI President Kalyan Banerjee at the International Assembly.

Banerjee shared this and other advice during the second plenary session 16 January to help incoming district governors provide better support to Rotarians at the club level.

"We're here because we love Rotary," he said. "We're here because we love what we can do through Rotary, and we want to do more of it."

Banerjee explained that leadership in Rotary means giving support – not giving orders.

The "gold standard of great leadership," he said, is "being the kind of leader about whom every Rotarian in your district says, 'You know, if I am ever a district governor, I'd want to be a district governor just like him (or her).'"

Trustworthiness is also an important quality, Banerjee said.

"A great leader is someone you can trust, not necessarily to have all the answers but to be able to find them," he explained. "And it's someone who will listen, who will not dismiss your concerns, who will take the time to take you seriously."

Maintaining the right balance between work and fun is also vital to encouraging strong clubs, he said.

"You do need the fun, of course – that's part of what makes Rotary what it is – but fun is secondary and work is first," Banerjee noted. "We all enjoy Rotary, but the primary thing, the point of why we're here, it has to be the work, it has to be the service, it has to be the difference we are making."

Banerjee concluded that district governors must look beyond their year in office. He emphasized that serving the district isn't about attaching their names to major accomplishments, but making changes in a short time that will make their district stronger.

"To really succeed, you have to look past yourself, past your year, and into the long term, at the health of your community and our organization," Banerjee said.

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

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## **Folk Singer Turned Peace Fellow Is Changing The World**

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 20 January 2012

David LaMotte, a 2008-10 Rotary Peace Fellow, thanked Rotarians for supporting the Rotary Peace Centers. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska

Rotarians who support the Rotary Peace Centers program are helping to change the world by investing in young people with a track record of good works.

That's what David LaMotte, a 2008-10 Rotary Peace Fellow, told attendees at the International Assembly, a training session for incoming district governors. He thanked Rotary leaders for giving him the opportunity to broaden his skills and become part of the network of peace fellows.

Unlike many academic scholarships, LaMotte said, Rotary Peace Fellowships require applicants to be more than promising young leaders. "Rather, it targets people who are midcareer and already have a track record of doing good work."

He added that Rotarians "are making a big investment, and it is wise of you to make it carefully, in order to maximize the return. Based on the peace fellows I know, you have been choosing very well."

LaMotte described himself as an unlikely candidate for the program. A folk singer, he has performed 20,000 concerts on four continents and released 10 CDs. But because of his interest in working for peace, he took a break from his singing career to pursue a master's degree at the University of Queensland as a Rotary Peace Fellow.

"I never let go of my passion for peace," he said. "I continued to look for opportunities to learn and to contribute."

One opportunity had arisen in Antigua, Guatemala, in 2004, when he and his wife visited a school that served 218 children, with no running water. He was told that the facility did not have the US\$125 it needed for the water. Lacking government funding, the school relied on parents to raise money for basic necessities like electricity and plumbing.



That day, he said, he came up with the idea for PEG Partners. The nonprofit organization, which he directs as a volunteer, collects small donations, mainly at his concerts, to help schools in Guatemala. In the last two years, it has distributed almost \$100,000.

"That's not a lot of money in the United States, but it is a great deal in Guatemala," he said. "We built a one-room schoolhouse for \$2,500."

LaMotte conceded that when he'd told people he was suspending his musical career to pursue a master's in peacemaking, many scoffed at his desire to change the world. But, he said, "change the world" does not mean "fix the world."

"The fact is that you can't be in the world and not change it," he said. "Everything you do changes the world, whether you like it or not, and the small changes often add up to big ones. The question for us, then, is which changes we are going to make."

"What you're doing through the Rotary Peace Fellowship is leveraging change," LaMotte added. "This isn't about changing my life, though it certainly has. It's about changing the lives of everyone I can reach on your behalf."

A promotional banner for a Rotary International seminar. It features the Rotary International logo on the left, which is a blue gear with a yellow center and the words "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL" around it. To the right of the logo is a blue and white checkered pattern. Overlaid on the banner are the phrases "On Your Mark", "Get Set", and "GROW!" in a stylized, bold font. Below the banner, the text reads: "Putting Membership Matters Into Motion", "GROW Membership Seminar", "Monday, February 20th, 2012", "Registration at 5:15pm", "Dinner/Seminar promptly at 6:00pm", "FREE but you DO need to register", "Holiday Inn Laurel West", "15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD", "Club PEs, Membership Committee Members", and "and all Rotarians are HIGHLY encouraged to attend".

**On Your Mark**  
**Get Set**  
**GROW!**

**Putting Membership Matters Into Motion**

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