

Just for friends of Youth Journalism International, the *YJI Insider* is aimed at providing a behind-the-scenes look at this Connecticut-based educational charity and its talented students around the globe.

## News, Views on Syria, Tutu, ESPN, Elections, Wigwams

A busy summer at YJI yielded an array of stories from around the globe. The threat of a U.S. military strike in Syria prompted a flurry of opinions: a South African student analyzed the [economic and human cost](#) while in the UK another defended [her country's choice to stay out](#). In Tunis, a student warned [against letting the quest for democracy turn into war](#). From Hanoi, a girl mused whether the proposed assault was [part of an American presidential pattern](#). A Michigan teen shared his [concern about his country repeating past mistakes](#) while an American girl with Syrian roots wrote [in favor of intervention](#).

YJI's summer campers at Indian Rock Nature Preserve served up a [story on how to build a wigwam](#). On stage and screen, a Kansas City girl delivered [a rave review of Broadway's Jersey Boys](#), while another wrote [the story of Stephen King's appearance](#) that wowed Hartford. A reviewer in Vietnam [offered her thoughts on the zombie movie, World War Z](#).

As Egyptians [took to the streets again](#), demanding a new government, a student there explained [the hopes of the people in](#)

[Alexandria](#), and the [joy over the ouster of the president](#). A package about Archbishop Desmond Tutu included a [story about his faith in young people](#) and, from a South African student, an essay on [her encounters with the man she learned to call "Arch."](#)

Connecticut YJI reporters ventured to ESPN headquarters in August and brought back video interviews with former NFL greats [Keyshawn Johnson](#) and [Tedy Bruschi](#) and a story about [ESPN President John Skipper's vision](#). From the UK, a student wrote of [the Wimbledon win that united his country](#).

As sure as fall means back-to-school, YJI's teens again shared advice for freshmen, including one girl's thoughts on the importance of [letting go of the fears of going to high school](#) and an [homage to an inspirational teacher](#) from a student in Nepal.

Then, as the German election approached in mid-September, YJI offered [an analysis from Münster](#) that included views of young people there. Of course that isn't everything. Lots more is on the way, so keep an eye on [www.yjiblog.org](http://www.yjiblog.org) so you don't miss anything!

### Spotlight: Gilbert Bwette of Kampala, Uganda visits USA

Since being accepted as YJI student about three years ago, Gilbert Bwette has delivered compelling news and photos from his hometown of Kampala, Uganda. From some of his earliest reports in 2011 on [political unrest in Kampala](#) and the moment when a [tear gas canister landed in his house](#), Gilbert's work included stories on [statehood for South Sudan](#), the [Ugandan 2011 elections](#) and more.

Last year, he took part in a [YJI Earth Day project](#) and produced a separate piece on the [environmental leanings of a 9-year-old Ugandan hip hop star](#). As he got involved in community projects, Gilbert wrote stories of [clean up efforts at a Kampala festival](#) and [volunteer work at a school for the deaf](#).

On a July trip to America, he seized every opportunity. He saw the ocean and New York City for the first time, visited art museums, toured the historic homes of authors Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe and more. With other YJI students, he took his first rollercoaster ride. While not as serious as some of his work from Kampala, [the video report from the amusement park](#) is a lot of fun.



Left: Gilbert Bwette visited New York City with other YJI students and alumni. Below, Connecticut YJI students went with Gilbert to Lake Compounce amusement park. From left are Gilbert, Mary Majerus-Collins, Yelena Samofalova, Alan Burkholder and Rae Martin.



# YJI Exceeds Global Giving's Online Challenge

Because of YJI's history in serving young people worldwide, the online charity clearinghouse Global Giving offered it a coveted spot on Microsoft Corp.'s Give for Youth fundraising website last spring.

The catch? YJI had to raise at least \$5,000 from at least 40 donors in July – no small feat.

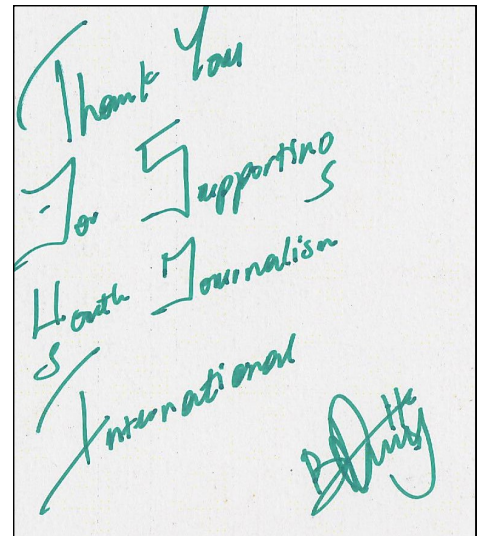
But knowing the faithful support you've shown over the years, YJI embraced the challenge, and won a permanent spot on the Give for Youth site.

Then, with the help of many friends, YJI went on to win the top prize for having the most individual donors contribute to the

challenge of any organization competing.

Who made it happen? YJI students, alums, parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors, journalists, teachers and readers, all wanting to give young people a voice, to keep the stories flowing. This victory belongs to all of you.

Your donations made a real difference to the organization's current operations – and also helped with crucial exposure over the long term. The Give for Youth site puts YJI in front of many new people seeking to support young people and that is good for all of YJI's youth journalists worldwide.



Above, a special message to YJI supporters from Gilbert Bwette of Kampala, Uganda. He decided to write this note of gratitude to the many donors who helped YJI make the online challenge in July.



With a grant from the Bristol Rotary Club, YJI taught two week-long summer camps at Indian Rock Nature Preserve in July. During one, centered on environmental reporting, students, including Kathy Santana, above, with camp Director Jon Guglietta, wrote about how to build a wigwam.

## Remembering YJI Ambassador Chief Godfrey Brokenrope

Godfrey Brokenrope, a beloved husband, father and the respected chief of police in Aurora, Nebraska, where he made his home, died July 27 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident two days earlier on a Nebraska highway. He was 50.

Chief Brokenrope, a military veteran who also trained at the FBI Academy, was an Ambassador for YJI. His eldest son, Zac, is a YJI alum who wrote many memorable pieces as a teenager growing up in Nebraska.

Chief Brokenrope was proud of his Native American Sioux heritage, but even more of his wife Deb and their three grown children, Zac, Justis and Kylie.

All of us at YJI share in the Brokenrope family's sorrow and extend our sincere sympathies.



Chief Godfrey Brokenrope