

*The Award Winning*

## **Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter**

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Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

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- **Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**
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- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**

- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

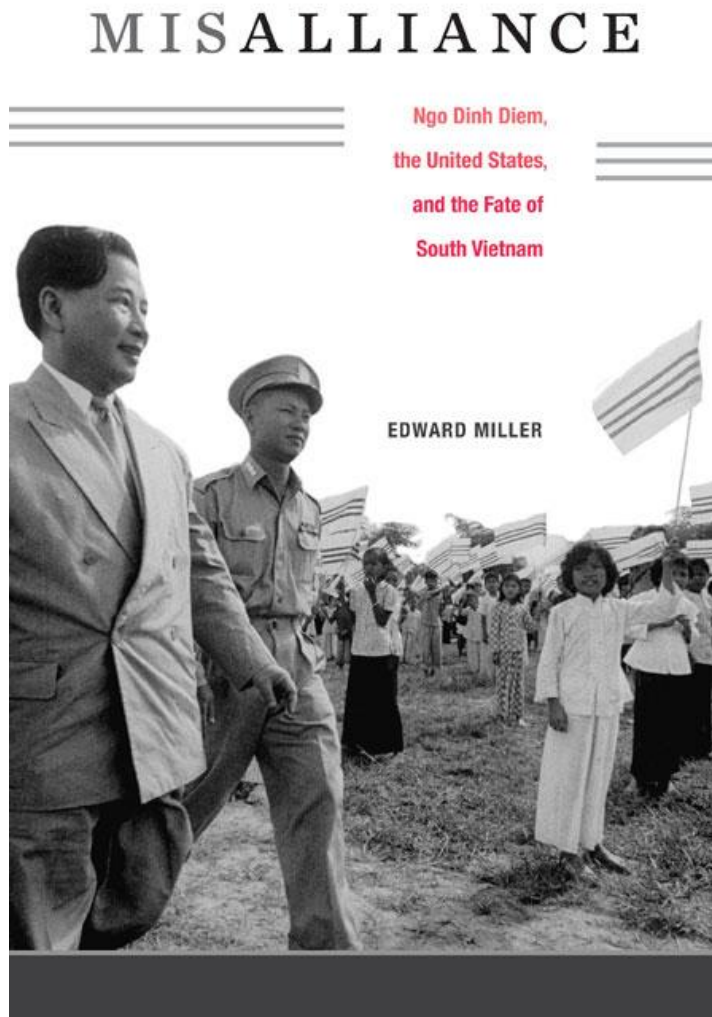
**Bill Wishard Remembers Vietnam's First President on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's Last Day in Viet Nam**



**In the early 1960's William N Wishard III, who as an undergraduate at Williams College, decided to put his family plans for him to be a 4<sup>th</sup> generation medical doctor on hold. With his uncle's encouragement he decided to become part of the stage crew for a world touring organization Moral Re-Armament (MRA), which did stage presentations of plays that encouraged morality and Sing Out musical shows which also encouraged a moral message (the group became Up With People in 1965). The MRA group was invited to the Republic of South Vietnam by its first President President Ngo Dinh Diem before Americans became involved in a war there. In the month Bill was there he was able to meet President Diem**

On the day before the 40th anniversary of the Last Day in Vietnam Bill's unique perspective is the latest in a series presented by the Malibu Rotary Club on the affects of the Vietnam war.

When Bill was in Vietnam during this time, the significance of world events of the day didn't make as much sense as it does today, after reading an enlightening recently published book: *Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, US & Fate of S.Vietnam.* (by Edward Miller, Harvard Press, April 2003.



Young Bill was put in charge of travel arrangements for the touring stage group. The play at the MRA group was doing was called *The Tiger*.

It was written by former revolutionary Japanese students, and the background on them is interesting.

The Japanese youth were former members of the Zengakuren organization whose demonstrations of 300,000 people in June of 1960 had mobbed the car of James Hagarty, Press Secretary to President Eisenhower, and which prevented President Eisenhower's visit to Japan. The youth had subsequently been introduced to Moral Re-Armament the organization that had been initiated by Dr. Frank Buchman in 1938.

Its message struck a chord with people throughout the world.

On July 19, 1939, 30,000 people attended the launch of Moral Re-Armament in the Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles. Moral Re-Armament also became established in many countries of continental Europe, but was suppressed in all the countries occupied by Germany.

When war broke out, many of those active in the campaign for Moral Re-Armament joined the Allied forces. Others worked to heighten morale and overcome bottlenecks, particularly in war-related industries. Senator (later President) Harry Truman, Chair of the Senate's Truman Committee investigating war contracts, told a Washington press conference in 1943: "Suspicious, rivalries, apathy, greed lie behind

most of the bottlenecks. This is where the Moral Re-Armament group comes in. Where others have stood back and criticized, they have rolled up their sleeves and gone to work. They have already achieved remarkable results in bringing teamwork into industry, on the principles not of 'who's right' but of 'what's right'."

In the 1950s and 1960s, MRA's work expanded across the globe. Buchman was a pioneer of multi-faith initiatives. As he said, "MRA is the good road of an ideology inspired by God upon which all can unite. Catholic, Jew and Protestant, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Confucianist – all find they can change, where needed, and travel along this good road together."

These ideas appealed to many in the African and Asian countries moving toward independence from colonial rule. Leaders of these independence struggles have paid tribute to MRA's contribution to bringing unity between groups in conflict, and helping ease the transition into independence. In 1956 King Mohammed V of Morocco sent a message to Buchman: "I thank you for all you have done for Morocco in the course of these last testing years. Moral Re-Armament must become for us Muslims as much an incentive as it is for you Christians and for all nations."

The young Japanese rioters realized how Communism, through its moral weakness had used them in an effort to take over their country. Buckman invited the Japanese students to his organization's headquarters in Caux and encouraged them to write a play, *The Tiger*, which went through Europe and, in America, was brought to the former President's attention. Eisenhower listened to their story for an hour. 'This is the last act of the June riots', he said, 'and it has a happy ending.'

The play is done in Japanese, and translated into the language of each country where it was performed. It shows how men without moral standards become the tools of men with an ideology and how so-called private sins public menace and how through Moral Re-Armament they found a new direction for themselves and for their nation.

The statesmen who see the real nature of the ideological battle immediately called these young men and women with their play to their aid.

It is not surprising then that Ngo Dinh Diem would invite the Moral Re-Armament troupe to do its shows in South Vietnam, a country he was trying to establish using his deep Christian beliefs of morality.

Portuguese missionaries had converted his family to Roman Catholicism in the 17th century, so Diệm was given a saint's name at birth, following the custom of the Catholic Church. The Ngô-Đình family, along with other Vietnamese Catholics, suffered from anti-Catholic persecutions from Emperors [Minh Mạng](#) and [Tự Đức](#). In 1880, while Diệm's father, [Ngô Đình Khả](#), was studying in [Malaya](#) for government service for the [Nguyễn dynasty](#), an anti-Catholic riot led by Buddhist monks almost

wiped out the entire Ngô-Đình family. Over 100 Ngỗ, including Khả's parents, brothers and sisters, were buried alive.

Ngo Dinh Diem had 6 brothers and 3 sisters. Past discriminatory oppression against Catholics further strengthened his father's devotion to Catholicism. Devoutly Roman Catholic, his father took his entire family to Mass every morning.<sup>[3]</sup> Diệm rose every morning before dawn to pray. In 1907, the French deposed Emperor **Thành Thái** on the pretext of insanity, because of his complaints about the colonisation. Ngo Dinh Diem's father retired in protest and became a farmer. Diệm laboured in the family's rice fields while studying at a French Catholic school, and later entered a private school started by his father. At age fifteen he followed his elder brother, **Ngô Đình Thục**, who would later become Vietnam's highest ranking Catholic bishop, into a monastery. After a few months he left, finding monastic life too rigorous.

At the end of his secondary schooling, his very high examination results at the French *lycée* in Huế saw him offered a scholarship to Paris, but he declined and enrolled to study at the School of Public Administration and Law in **Hanoi**, a French school that educated Vietnamese **bureaucrats**. It was there that he had the only romantic relationship of his life, when he fell in love with one of his teacher's daughters. After she persisted with her vocation, entering a convent, he remained celibate for the rest of his life.

After graduating at the top of his class in 1921, Ngô Đình Diệm followed in the footsteps of his eldest brother, **Ngô Đình Khôi**, joining the civil service. Starting from the lowest rank of mandarin, Ngô Đình Diệm steadily rose. Ngô Đình Diệm was promoted to be a provincial chief at the age of 25, overseeing 300 villages.

The French were impressed by his work ethic but were irritated by his frequent calls to grant more autonomy to Vietnam. Ngô Đình Diệm replied that he contemplated resigning but encouragement from the populace convinced him to persist. He first encountered communists distributing propaganda while riding horseback through the region near **Quảng Trị**. Revolted by calls for violent socialist revolution contained in the propaganda leaflets, Ngô Đình Diệm involved himself in anti-communist activities for the first time, printing his own pamphlets. In 1929, he helped to round up **Viet Minh** communist agitators in his administrative area. He was rewarded with the promotion to the governorship of **Bình Thuận Province**, and in 1930 and 1931 suppressed the first peasant revolts organised by the communists, in collaboration with French forces. During the violent events, many villagers were raped and murdered.

In 1933, with the return of **Bảo Đại** to ascend the throne, Ngô Đình Diệm was appointed by the French to be his interior minister following lobbying by Nguyễn Hữu Bài. Soon after his appointment, Diệm headed a commission to advise for potential administration reforms. After calling for the French to introduce a Vietnamese legislature and many other political reforms, he resigned after three months in office when this and other proposals were rejected.<sup>[11]</sup> Diệm



denounced Emperor [Bảo Đại](#) as "nothing but an instrument in the hands of the French", and renounced his decorations and titles from [Bảo Đại](#). The French then threatened him with arrest and exile.

For the next decade, Ngô Đình Diệm lived as a private citizen with his family in Huế, although he was kept under surveillance.

With the start of the Second World War in the Pacific, seeing an opportunity for Vietnam to free itself from French colonization, he attempted to persuade the invading Japanese forces to declare independence for Vietnam in 1942 but was ignored. He founded a secret political party, the Association for the Restoration of Great Vietnam. When its existence was discovered in the summer of 1944, the French declared Ngô Đình Diệm to be a subversive and ordered his arrest. He fled to Saigon disguised as a Japanese officer, hiding there until the end of WWII.

In September 1945, after the Japanese withdrawal, [Hồ Chí Minh](#) proclaimed the [Democratic Republic of Vietnam](#) in the Northern half of Vietnam, his [Việt Minh](#) began fighting the French. Ngô Đình Diệm attempted to travel to Huế to dissuade [Bảo Đại](#) from joining [Hồ](#), but was arrested by the [Việt Minh](#) along the way and exiled to a highland village near the border. He might have died of malaria, dysentery and influenza had the local tribesmen not nursed him back to health. Six months later, he was taken to meet [Hồ](#) in Hanoi, but refused to join the [Việt Minh](#), assailing [Hồ](#) for the murder of his brother, [Ngô Đình Khôi](#), who was buried alive by [Việt Minh](#) cadres.

Ngo Dinh Diem had three ideological enemies and there was he was uncompromising in his non acceptance of any of them:

1. Feudalism
2. Colonization
3. Communism

Ngo Dinh Diem went into exile in 1950, traveling around the world trying to get support for his forming an independent republic of Viet Nam, that was neither communist nor a colony. In the United States he met [Francis Cardinal Spellman](#), who was regarded as the most politically powerful cleric of his time. Spellman had studied with Thục in Rome in the 1930s and was to become one of Diệm's most powerful advocates. During the next three years he lived at Spellman's Maryknoll seminary in [Lakewood Township, New Jersey](#) and occasionally at another seminary in [Ossining, New York](#).

Spellman helped Diệm to garner support among right-wing and Catholic circles. Diệm toured the East Coast, speaking at universities, arguing that Vietnam could only be saved for the "free world" if the United States sponsored a government of nationalists who were opposed to both the [Việt Minh](#) and the French.

French control of Vietnam collapsed and Bảo Đại needed foreign help to sustain his State of Vietnam. Realising Diệm's popularity among American policymakers, Bảo Đại chose Diệm's youngest brother [Ngô Đình Luyện](#), who was studying in Europe at the time, to be part of his delegation at the 1954 Geneva Conference to determine the future of Indochina. Luyen represented Bảo Đại in his dealings with the Americans, who understood this to be an expression of interest in Diệm. With the backing of the [Eisenhower administration](#), Bảo Đại named Diệm as the Prime Minister.

The Geneva accords resulted in Vietnam being partitioned temporarily at the 17th parallel, pending elections in 1956 to reunify the country. The Viet Minh controlled the north, while the French backed State of Vietnam controlled the south with Diệm as the Prime Minister. French Indochina was to be dissolved at the start of 1955. Diệm's South Vietnamese delegation chose not to sign the accords, refusing to have half the country under communist rule, but the agreement went into effect regardless. Diệm arrived at [Tân Sơn Nhất](#) airport in Saigon on 26 June where only a few hundred people turned out to greet him, mainly Catholics. He managed only one wave after getting into his vehicle and did not smile.

Before the partition, the majority of Vietnam's Catholic population lived in the north. After the borders were sealed, this majority was now under Diệm's rule. The U.S. Navy program [Operation Passage to Freedom](#) saw up to one million North Vietnamese move south, most of them Catholics. The CIA's [Edward Lansdale](#), who had been posted to help Diệm strengthen his rule,<sup>[19]</sup> led a propaganda campaign to encourage as many refugees to move south as possible. Diệm also used slogans such as "Christ has gone south" and "the Virgin Mary had departed from the North", alleging anti-Catholic persecution under [Hồ Chí Minh](#). Over 60% of northern Catholics moved to Diệm's South Vietnam, providing him with a source of loyal support.

Diệm's position at the time was weak; [Bảo Đại](#) disliked Diệm and appointed him mainly to political imperatives. The French saw him as hostile and hoped that his rule would collapse. At the time, the French Expeditionary Corps was the most powerful military force in the south; Diệm's Vietnamese National Army was essentially organized and trained by the French. Its officers were installed by the French and the chief of staff General [Nguyễn Văn Hinh](#) was a French citizen; Hinh loathed Diệm and frequently disobeyed him. Diệm also contended with two religious sects, the [Cao Đài](#) and [Hòa Hảo](#), who wielded private armies in the [Mekong Delta](#), with the Cao Đài estimated to have 25,000 men. The Viet Minh was also estimated to have control over a third of the country. The situation was worse in the capital, where the [Bình Xuyên](#) organized crime syndicate boasted an army of 40,000 and controlled a vice empire of brothels, casinos, extortion rackets, and opium factories unparalleled in Asia. Bảo Đại had given the Bình Xuyên control of the national police for US\$1,250,000, creating a situation that the Americans likened to Chicago under [Al Capone](#) in the 1920s. In effect, Diệm's control did not

extend beyond his palace. In August, Hinh launched a series of public attacks on Diệm, proclaiming that South Vietnam needed a "strong and popular" leader; Hinh bragged that he was preparing a coup. This was thwarted when Lansdale arranged overseas holiday invitations for Hinh's officers. Fearing Diệm's collapse, nine members of his government resigned during Hinh's abortive bid for power. Despite its failure, the French continued to encourage Diệm's enemies in an attempt to destabilize him.

Diệm's appointment came after the French had been defeated at the [Battle of Dien Bien Phu](#) and were ready to withdraw from [Indochina](#). At the start of 1955, [French Indochina](#) was dissolved, leaving Diệm in temporary control of the south.<sup>[20]</sup> A referendum was scheduled for 23 October 1955 to determine the future direction of the south. It was contested by [Bảo Đại](#), the Emperor, advocating the restoration of the monarchy, while Diệm ran on a republican platform. The elections were held, with Diệm's brother and confidant [Ngô Đình Nhu](#), the leader of the family's [Cần Lao Party](#), which supplied Diệm's electoral base, organising and supervising the elections. Campaigning for Bảo Đại was prohibited, and Đại supporters were attacked by Nhu's workers. Diệm recorded 98.2 percent of the vote—an implausibly high result that could have only been obtained through fraud. The total announced number of votes for a republic exceeded the number of registered voters by over 380,000—further evidence that the referendum was heavily rigged. For example, only 450,000 voters were registered in Saigon, but 605,025 were said to have voted for a republic.<sup>[21][23]</sup> Three days later, Diệm proclaimed the formation of the [Republic of Vietnam](#), naming himself President. Under the [1954 Geneva Accords](#), Vietnam was to undergo elections in 1956 to reunify the country. Diệm, noting that South Vietnam was not a party to the convention, canceled these. Criticising the Communists, he justified the electoral cancellation by claiming that the 1956 elections would be "meaningful only on the condition that they are absolutely free."<sup>[24]</sup> With respect to the question of reunification, the non-communist Vietnamese delegation objected strenuously to any division of Vietnam, but lost out when the French accepted the proposal of Viet Minh delegate [Phạm Văn Đồng](#),<sup>[25]</sup> who proposed that Vietnam eventually be united by elections under the supervision of "local commissions".<sup>[26]</sup> The United States countered with what became known as the "American Plan", with the support of South Vietnam and the United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup> It provided for unification elections under the supervision of the [United Nations](#), but was rejected by the Soviet delegation and North Vietnamese.

After coming under pressure from within the country and the United States, Diệm agreed to hold legislative elections in August 1959 for South Vietnam. Newspapers were not allowed to publish names of independent candidates or their policies, and political meetings exceeding five people were prohibited. Candidates were disqualified for petty reasons such as acts of vandalism against campaign posters. In the rural areas, candidates who ran were threatened using charges of conspiracy with the [Việt Cộng](#), which carried the death penalty. [Phan Quang Đán](#), the government's most prominent critic, was allowed to run. Despite the deployment of



8,000 ARVN plainclothes troops into his district to vote, Đán still won by a ratio of 6–1. The busing of soldiers occurred across the country, and when the new assembly convened, Đán was arrested.

**Madame Nhu**, the wife of Diệm's younger brother Nhu, was South Vietnam's de facto **First Lady**, and a Catholic convert herself. She led the way in Diệm's programs to reform Saigon society in accordance with Catholic values. Brothels and **opium dens** were closed, divorce and abortion made illegal, and adultery laws strengthened. Diệm won a street war with the private army of the **Bình Xuyên** organised crime syndicate of the Cholon brothels and gambling houses who had enjoyed special favors under the French and **Bảo Đại**. He further dismantled the private armies of the **Cao Đài** and **Hòa Hảo** religious sects, which controlled parts of the **Mekong Delta**. Diệm was passionately anti-Communist.

As opposition to Diệm's rule in South Vietnam grew, a low-level insurgency began to take shape there in 1957. Finally, in January 1959, under pressure from southern Viet Cong cadres who were being successfully targeted by Diệm's secret police, Hanoi's Central Committee issued a secret resolution authorizing the use of armed insurgency in the South with supplies and troops from the North. On 20 December 1960, under instructions from Hanoi, southern communists established the **Viet Cong** (NLF) in order to overthrow the government of the south. The NLF was made up of two distinct groups: South Vietnamese intellectuals who opposed the government and were nationalists; and communists who had remained in the south after the partition and regrouping of 1954 as well as those who had since come from the north, together with local peasants. While there were many non-communist members of the NLF, they were subject to the control of the party cadres and increasingly side-lined as the conflict continued; they did, however, enable the NLF to portray itself as a primarily nationalist, rather than communist, movement, despite being in almost direct control by the Northern regime. The cornerstone of Diệm's counterinsurgency effort was the **Strategic Hamlet Program**, which called for the consolidation of 14,000 villages of South Vietnam into 11,000 secure hamlets, each with its own houses, schools, wells, and watchtowers. The hamlets were intended to isolate the **NLF** from the villages, their source of recruiting soldiers, supplies and information.

The regime's relations with the United States worsened during 1963, as discontent among South Vietnam's Buddhist majority was simultaneously heightened. In May, in the heavily Buddhist central city of **Huế**, where Diệm's elder brother was the Catholic Archbishop, the Buddhist majority was prohibited from displaying Buddhist flags during **Vesak** celebrations commemorating the birth of **Gautama Buddha** when the government cited a regulation prohibiting the display of non-government flags. A few days earlier, however, Catholics had been encouraged to fly religious flags at another celebration. This led to a protest led by Thích Trí Quang against the government, which was suppressed by Diệm's forces, killing nine unarmed civilians. Diệm and his supporters blamed the Việt Cộng for the deaths and claimed the

protesters were responsible for the violence. Although the provincial chief expressed sorrow for the killings and offered to compensate the victims' families, they resolutely denied that government forces were responsible for the killings and blamed the [Viet Cong](#).

The Buddhists pushed for a five point agreement: freedom to fly religious flags, an end to arbitrary arrests, compensation for the Huế victims, punishment for the officials responsible and religious equality. Diệm labeled the Buddhists as "damn fools" for demanding something that, according to him, they already enjoyed. He banned demonstrations, and ordered his forces to arrest those who engaged in civil disobedience. On 3 June 1963, protesters attempted to march towards the [Tù Đàm pagoda](#). Six waves of ARVN tear gas and attack dogs failed to disperse the crowds, and finally brownish-red liquid chemicals were doused on praying protesters, resulting in 67 being hospitalised for chemical injuries. A curfew was subsequently enacted.<sup>1</sup>

The turning point came in June when a Buddhist monk, [Thích Quảng Đức](#), set himself on fire in the middle of a busy Saigon intersection in protest of Diệm's policies; photos of this event were disseminated around the world, and for many people these pictures came to represent the failure of Diệm's government. A number of other monks publicly [self-immolated](#), and the U.S. grew increasingly frustrated with the unpopular leader's public image in both Vietnam and the United States. Diệm used his conventional anti-communist argument, identifying the dissenters as communists. As demonstrations against his government continued throughout the summer, the special forces loyal to Diệm's brother, Nhu, conducted a [brutal August raid of the Xá Lợi pagoda](#) in Saigon. Pagodas were vandalised, monks beaten, the cremated remains of [Quảng Đức](#), which included his heart, a religious relic, were confiscated

Simultaneous raids were carried out across the country, with the [Tù Đàm pagoda](#) in Huế looted, the statue of [Gautama Buddha](#) demolished and a body of a deceased monk confiscated. When the populace came to the defense of the monks, the resulting clashes saw 30 civilians killed and 200 wounded. In all 1,400 monks were arrested, and some thirty were injured across the country. The United States indicated its disapproval of Diệm's administration when ambassador [Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.](#) visited the pagoda *ex post facto*.<sup>[62]</sup> No further mass Buddhist protests occurred during the remainder of Diệm's rule (which would amount to less than five months).

Diệm's sister-in-law [Madame Nhu](#), who was the nation's *de facto* first lady because of Diệm's unmarried status, inflamed the situation by mockingly applauding the suicides. A Catholic convert from Buddhism, she referred to the suicides as "barbecues", stating, "If the Buddhists want to have another barbecue, I will be glad to supply the gasoline."<sup>[64]</sup> The pagoda raids stoked widespread public disquiet in [Saigon](#). Students at [Saigon University](#) boycotted classes and rioted, which led to arrests, imprisonments and the closure of the university; this was repeated at [Huế University](#). When high school students demonstrated, Diệm arrested them as well; over 1,000 students from Saigon's leading high school, most of them children of Saigon civil servants,

were sent to re-education camps, including, reportedly, children as young as five, on charges of anti-government graffiti. Diệm's foreign minister [Vũ Văn Mẫu](#) resigned, shaving his head like a Buddhist monk in protest. <sup>1</sup>When he attempted to leave the country on a religious pilgrimage to India, he was detained and kept under house arrest

As the Buddhist crisis deepened in July 1963, noncommunist Vietnamese nationalists and the military began preparations for a coup. Bùi Diễm, later South Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States, reported in his memoirs that General [Lê Văn Kim](#) requested his aid in learning what the United States might do about Diệm's government. Diễm had contacts in both the embassy and with the high-profile American journalists then in South Vietnam, [David Halberstam](#) (*New York Times*), [Neil Sheehan](#) (United Press International) and [Malcolm Browne](#) (Associated Press). On 20 August 1963, Nhu's security forces raided the Xá Lợi Pagoda in Saigon. They chose to wear Army uniforms during the raid to make it appear as if the Army were behind the crackdown. Nhu's forces arrested more than 400 monks who had been sitting cross-legged in front of a statue of the Buddha. Thousands of other Buddhists were arrested throughout the country.

[Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.](#), the American ambassador to South Vietnam, refused to meet with Diệm. Upon hearing that a coup d'état was being designed by [ARVN](#) generals led by General [Đương Văn Minh](#), and supported by the [CIA](#), Lodge gave secret assurances to the generals that the United States would not interfere. [Lucien Conein](#), a CIA operative, had become a liaison between the U.S. Embassy and the generals, who were led by Trần Văn Đôn. Conein provided a group of South Vietnamese generals with US \$42,000 to carry out the coup with the promise that U.S. forces would make no attempt to protect Diệm.

The orders that ended in the deaths of Diệm and his brother originated with [W. Averell Harriman](#) and were carried out by Henry Cabot Lodge's own military assistant.

Having served as ambassador to Moscow and governor of [New York](#), W. Averell Harriman was in the middle of a long public career. In 1960, President-elect Kennedy appointed him ambassador-at-large, to operate "with the full confidence of the president and an intimate knowledge of all aspects of United States policy." By 1963, according to Corson, Harriman was running "Vietnam without consulting the president or the attorney general".

The president had begun to suspect that not everyone on his national security team was loyal. As Corson put it, "Kenny O'Donnell (JFK's appointments secretary) was convinced that [McGeorge Bundy](#), the national security advisor, was taking orders from Ambassador Averell Harriman and not the president. He was especially worried about [Michael Forrestal](#), a young man on the White House staff who handled liaison on Vietnam with Harriman".

At the heart of the murders was the sudden recall of Saigon Station Chief Jocko Richardson, and his replacement by a hitherto unfamiliar group. Special Operations Army officer, John Michael

Dunn was key to the operation. Dunn took his orders, not from the normal CIA hierarchy but from Harriman and Forrestal.

According to Corson, "John Michael Dunn was known to be in touch with the coup plotters", although Dunn's role has never been made public. Corson believes that Richardson was removed so that Dunn, assigned to Ambassador Lodge for "special operations", could act without hindrance.

Minh and his co-conspirators overthrew the government on 1 November 1963 in a swift coup. On 1 November, with only the palace guard remaining to defend Diệm and his younger brother, Nhu, the generals called the palace offering Diệm exile if he surrendered. That evening, however, Diệm and his entourage escaped via an underground passage to Cholon, where they were captured the following morning, 2 November. The brothers were assassinated together in the back of an M113 armoured personnel carrier with a bayonet and revolver by Captain Nguyễn Văn Nhung, under orders from Dương Văn Minh, while en route to the Vietnamese Joint General Staff headquarters. Diệm was buried in an unmarked grave in a cemetery next to the house of the U.S. Ambassador.

President Kennedy asked in recording staff meetings what would happen if Ngo Diem were removed from office. No one had an answer at the time, but in three months Kennedy himself would be assassinated and his successor President Johnson would be sending American troops to South Vietnam to fight the Viet Cong communists.

Upon learning of Diệm's ouster and assassination, Hồ Chí Minh reportedly stated: "I can scarcely believe the Americans would be so stupid." The North Vietnamese Politburo was more explicit:

"The consequences of the 1 November coup d'état will be contrary to the calculations of the U.S. imperialists ... Diệm was one of the strongest individuals resisting the people and Communism. Everything that could be done in an attempt to crush the revolution was carried out by Diệm. Diệm was one of the most competent lackeys of the U.S. imperialists ... Among the anti-Communists in South Vietnam or exiled in other countries, no one has sufficient political assets and abilities to cause others to obey. Therefore, the lackey administration cannot be stabilized. The coup d'état on 1 November 1963 will not be the last."

After Diệm's assassination, South Vietnam was unable to establish a stable government and several coups took place after his death. While the United States continued to influence South Vietnam's government, the assassination bolstered North Vietnamese attempts to characterize the South Vietnamese as "supporters of colonialism"

## **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**

Bill Wishard will be representing the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary District Conference May14-17 at the Loew's Coronado Bay Hotel.

### **Guests**

Only guest at the April 29<sup>th</sup> Malibu Rotary Club meeting was Chris Bashaw of the *Malibu Surfside News*.

### **Bill Wishard, Rotary District Special Olympics Chair**

Bill Wishard is coordinating Rotary District efforts for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015. People in Los Angeles, and especially Rotarians, can get involved. Bill spoke about this at the Rotary District Breakfast March 31. The Special Olympics will have 7,000 athletes from 177 countries.

Rotarians to participate as volunteers "Fans in the Stands," or by sponsoring an athlete. It is free to go to the games, and individual Rotary Clubs should each have a captain to have club members go to the sporting events together for a fun group experience. Sponsoring an athlete financially costs \$2500. Some large clubs in District 5280, LA 5 and Wilshire Rotary Clubs have done this. For smaller clubs, like the Malibu Rotary Club, they can join with other clubs to raise the \$2500. The Malibu Rotary Club is contributing \$500, and will join with another club to support an athlete.

### **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher**

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on YouTube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher, makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>



# Calendar (for details on these programs see [maliburotary.org](http://maliburotary.org))

**May 6, 2015**

**Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder**

**Wishtoyo Foundation--Preserving Chumash Culture in Malibu**

"Wishtoyo was founded in 1997 by Chumash ceremonial elder, Mati Waiya and our mission is to address modern day environmental issues by preserving and utilizing the ancient wisdom of Chumash culture and inspiring the public and its youth to have environmental awareness and responsibility for sustaining the health of our land, air, and water. At the heart of our programming is the Chumash Discovery Village, an authentic recreation of a working Native American village next to Nicholas Canyon Beach in Malibu. We provide education programming to over 3,000 school children per year and we open our doors to the general public one Sunday per month. Our board members include: Beau Bridges (actor), Terry Tamminen (Schwarzenegger administration), Carole Goldberg (Vice Chancellor UCLA), Debora Sanchez (Supreme Court Judge) and David Kaplan (Surfdog Records). For more information about us, you can visit our website at [www.wishtoyo.org](http://www.wishtoyo.org)

**May 13**

**Shannon Latson**

**“Enjoying the Freedom of Healthy Boundaries”**

**Christian Pierce and Keaton Brewster May 20, 2015**

**RYLA Experienece**

**Bob Syvertsen Jun 03, 2015**

**Malibu Rotary Club Budget for 2015-2016**