

*The Award Winning*  
**Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter**

May 7, 2014

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President William Wishard

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman  
Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman

*In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)*

- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday May 14 at noon at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus in LC 152 (with fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.) Speaker will be Our Lady of Maibu Principal Michael A Smith. Also Malibu Rotary Club Presents Scholarship Checks to 2 Graduating Malibu High School Seniors**
- **Last Week's Meeting: Sourena Vasseghi Thinks and Writes While Linda Montellano Werner Talks how "Big Dreams Take Small Sacrifices"**
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- **Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**

- Check [Calendar](http://www.maliburotary.org) on Malibu Rotary website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org)
- Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)
- Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)
- RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Muntean (2013-14)

**Sourena Vasseghi Thinks and Writes While Linda Montellano Werner Talks how "Big Dreams Take Small Sacrifices"**



Those lucky enough to have been at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Malibu Rotary Club saw an extraordinary person, Sourena Vasseghi. Sourena is an award-winning author and inspirational speaker whose stirring effect on people has attracted a rapidly growing national audience. Because Sourena suffers from severe cerebral palsy, he has limited motor skills and a significant speech impediment. These limitations, however, don't preclude him from living a fully

successful life from his wheelchair—and being an inspiration to all!

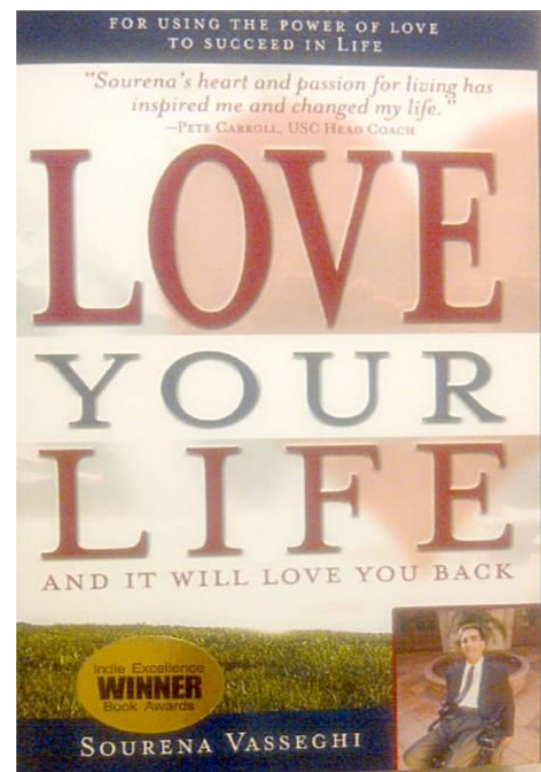


as an interpreter, when he is speaking before a group in public, like the Malibu Rotary Club. For the past year Linda Montellano Werner has been his Business Development Outreach Manager and acted as his interpreter.

Sourena has made his life's ambition to inspire people to love their lives and live them to the fullest.

From his Love Your Life seminar series, Sourena's award-winning book *Love Your Life and It Will Love You Back* was born. This impressive man is exceptional not only for his numerous accomplishments, but because he achieves them all while living with a severe case of Cerebral Palsy, the result of his being deprived of oxygen for 10 minutes when he was born

Because of CP caused speech impediment it is hard to understand Sourena when he talks. CP has affected his motor skills, not his mind, and he is thinking all the time about life, and how he, his words and his zest for life can be an inspiration to others. To understandably speak his words Sourena has had people who can understand his spoken words assist him, to act



in Iran October 21, 1977. His parents brought him to the United States when he was 2 for better medical diagnosis, and possible treatment. He was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (CP) at the UCLA medical center. Because of the CP he needs assistance with eating, getting dressed, using the restroom and other activities that require muscle movement.

Sourena started his education at a school for the disabled in Westlake Village, but after a few years teachers recommended that he mainstream into a regular school. By the time he was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade in he was in all the regular classes. When he graduated from Agoura Hills High School his goal was to prepare for college along with everyone else. When he graduated from USC with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing his fellow students and their families gave him a standing ovation during the graduation ceremony. He could not have been more proud of his accomplishments. His efforts clearly paid off. Sourena came away from those experiences realizing that he was destined to impact others lives by simply sharing a piece of himself with them.

Sourena brought a manuscript of his first book to USC Head Football Coach Pete Carroll when both were at USC. Pete was so impressed by Sourena and his tenacious winning attitude that he had Sourena address the football team regularly. On the cover of Sourena's book *Love Your Life and it will Love You Back* is a quote from Pete Carroll: "Sourena's heart and passion for living has inspired me and changed my life."

How can a guy who deals with cerebral palsy (CP) and its limitations speak out about living life to the fullest? Indeed, how can a guy with a serious speech impediment due to CP create a successful speaking business? Motivational speaker Sourena Vasseghi has had to learn more urgently than most-that if you truly love your life, it will love you back. Because Sourena believes there is no greater motivation than love, he applies the principles of creating a successful love relationship to creating a successful life-one that embraces limitations while finding ways to feel joy, passionate, and gratitude every day.

Sourena's second book, *Big Dreams Take Small Sacrifices*, will be launched at an event at the Sheraton in Agoura Hills on May 22nd from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sourena says, "Please join me. I will feed you, make you laugh and make you think."

Sourna has several websites with information about his books, and regular blogs (see Sourenav.com, Loveyourlifeseminars.com, and <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/big-dreams-take-small-sacrifices>).

### **Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**

Malibu Rotary Club President Bill Wishard and Malibu Rotary Club President-Elect were making sure leaders of the club would be attending Rotary District events the next 2 weekends:

On May 10 several members are committed to the Rotary District Assembly at the Carson Center, where activities and duties of club leaders will be discussed, ticket orders placed for the Paul Harris Dinner, etc. It was voted that the Malibu Rotary Club pay for the breakfast of members attending the event. The Following weekend, May 15 through May 18 the Rotary District Conference is at the Hyatt Resort Hotel in Indian Wells. The club will pay for registration but not the hotel or meals at the District Conference.

Following the Malibu Rotary meeting was a meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club Administration Committee attended by Bill Wishard, Hubert Luckeath and John Elman. This committee is make sure things done by other club committees get done in a timely manner.

#### **Guests**

There were three returning guests at the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club: **Beth Mohiuddin** of Beth Travel Advisor, a returning guest who is an Board member and Ambassador of the Malibu Chamber; **Carlye Rudkin**, who is a former member of the Club; and **Eddie Tobadi**, who is a friend of the speaker of the day Sourenav.

#### **Upcoming Speakers** (yet to be confirmed)

- Randy Klingensberg, Performing Arts Studio West (who trains disabled artists to perform--school attended by blind autistic musical savant Rex Lewis)
- Malibu High School Principal Jerry Block
- Founder of the National Veterans Foundation, Floyd 'Shad' Meshad
- Dana Sherman of the Fleet Street Bike Project

- Dan Wise on history of the 25,000 acres from Marina del Rey to PV Peninsula to Western Ave

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org) for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on 

May 14, 2014

**Michael A. Smith, Principal OLM School**  
"Our Lady of Malibu School"

May 21, 2014

**Griselda Espinoza**  
"Craft Talk"

One of Malibu Rotary's newest members Griselda Espinoza who has immediaty made her presence known taking leadership roles in youth and fundraising events. We will learn more about she does in her business in realty and mortgage broker, as wellll being a Malibu mom.

May 28, 2014

**Carl Christman**  
"Carl Reads Minds"

Carl Christman is a mentalist at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. His Rotary presentations are educational and entertaining. Rotarians and guests at this special meeting will learn about the power of their own mind and have a once in a lifetime experience. You can find out more about Carl and see a demo video at [www.CarlReadsMinds.com](http://www.CarlReadsMinds.com). This should be a fun Rotary meeting. Come and bring a friend.

Jun 04, 2014

**Cami Winikoff**  
"Reaching for the stars"

Jun 25, 2014

**Doug Kmiec**

"Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were both right – AMB"

Former U.S. Ambassador to Malta Douglas W. Kmiec explains Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were both right – AMB.

Jul 23, 2014

**Jo Anne Books**  
"Life After Polio"

Jo Anne Books, from Laredo, Texas, and now living in Northern California, contracted polio at age 4 and became paralyzed in both arms. She did not let that stop her, becoming a probation officer and the mother of 2 children. She has spoken at many Rotary clubs about polio and will be in Malibu this week attending the Malibu Arts Festival, taking time out to share her experiences with the Malibu Rotary Club.

Sep 10, 2014

**Dr Allison Gallwey Wishard Guerra**  
"Early Childhood Education"