



The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

August 14, 2013

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 and Sandi Turner

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

- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting August 21st at noon in LC152 at Pepperdine Drescher Campus. Speaker will be Bill Freuz of SoCalEvents (SoCalEvents.com) and producer of this year's Malibu Music Festival speaking on "Creating Opportunities."**
- **Last Week: Sandi Turner, new Media Information Officer for the City of Malibu, talks about her experience in Rotary Group Exchange from Athens, Georgia visiting 40 Rotary Clubs in Australia.**
- **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Charles "Chuck" Green Memorial Monthly Lecture Series at Malibu**
- **Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website MalibuRotary.org**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org**
- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/**
- **Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>**
- **RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker**

- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Mautean (2013-14)**



Sandi Turner, new Media Information Officer for the City of Malibu, talks about her experience in Rotary Group Exchange from Athens, Georgia visiting 40 Rotary Clubs in Australia

Editor's Note: Sandi Turner is the new Media Information Officer for the City of Malibu. For the past dozen years was the public information officer for Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, as well as co-owner of Mercury Art Works, an Athens art gallery. She was the first person hired as the communications officer for the Athens-Clarke government and she built a comprehensive and award-winning communications program. It was because her husband believed Los Angeles was a better place for his art business they moved

and Athens loss is Malibu's gain. In the year 2000 Sandi was chosen by Rotary District 6910 in the Athens Georgia to be part of Rotary Group Study Exchange to a Rotary District in Australia near the "Out Back" part of Australia. While she familiarizing herself with Malibu we asked Sandi to tell us about her Rotary Group Study Exchange experience..

According to the Rotary International website the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

In a typical four-week tour, applicants participate in five full days of vocational visits, 15 to 20 club presentations, 10 to 15 formal visits and social events, two to three days at the district conference, three to four hours per day of cultural and site tours, and three to four hours per day of free time with host families.

For each team member, the Foundation provides the most economical round-trip airline ticket between the home and host countries. Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel within their district.

For Sandi the experience was one of the most intense, eye opening, unforgettable experiences of her life. A dozen years later she considers the 5 people in her GSE group 5 of her best friends.

In GSE a Rotarian leads the group and the other 4 people are not Rotarians. Those who apply for the honor to be in a GSE group go through a very competitive process. In the GSE group that Sandi was a part of the leader was Rotarian Walter Gordon, an Athens attorney. The non-Rotarian members included Eric Waters, a teacher in Rome, Georgia and the other 3 all employees of the Athens city government. Sandi said it is unusual that 3 members of a GSE team would all work for the same employer, but the three all had special qualities that made the Rotary District interviewers believe they would be the best people to represent their district, their country on the exchange. Beside Sandi, the Public Information Officer for Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, there was Julie Brunner who Athens' Human Economics Development Officers, a position that helps people find low cost housing, and David Clark who was Athens' Public Works Director. Sandi added that Julie had previously been a Peace Corp volunteer and currently is working on San Juan Island in the state of Washington trying to find affordable housing for people working on San Juan Island.



L-R – David Clark, Eric Waters, Kate Carnell, Sandi Turner, Walter Gordon, and Julie Brunner. Members of the GSE Team from Rotary District 6910 met with Chief Minister

of the Australian Capital Territory Kate Carnell in Canberra

The group left from the Atlanta, GA, airport on the very special leap day of February 29, 2000. They arrived at the airport in Sydney Australia, and stayed in a hotel only that night and the night they were to leave 6 weeks later. In between they would be staying in the homes of host

Rotarians. But they would stay only 2 days in each home as they were whisked from place to place, seeing the terrain of mountains near the coast to the flat plains of the OutBack in the southeast New South Wales area of Australia. Their first stop would be Bathurst, the oldest inland settlement in Australia, located 120 miles west of Sydney. Sandi described it as a Victorian town, and in general whenever they arrived in town there were welcomed ceremoniously. At night Sandi said she could see a sight that in respects could be viewed as beautiful and potentially horrifying. These would be the fire balls that could be seen from the flammable gas that is emitted from eucalyptus trees in the distance. At best it was a fireworks show. At worst it could lead to one of the many wild fires that are quite common in Australia. Sandi said that in Athens, Georgia wild fires were not something she had to worry much about. She knows it is a big problem for Malibu.

The days of the GSE group were filled with non-stop activity. Typically the day would go from 6:00 a.m to midnight for 40 straight days. Sometimes they would have breakfast with their host family. Other times the GSE group would meet for breakfast. They were taken to local businesses. Whenever possible these businesses would be the same business that the visiting GSE was in back home. So if there was a public information officer in the city Sandi would be taken to see that person, and David would be taken to see the Public Works Director. They were also taken to the businesses that the area was known for. Surprising to Sandi was the fact that one of the major industries of Australia is rice production. They were able to reverse the flow of the main river to irrigate rice paddies. Australia exports rice to Asia.

They noticed the traffic signals at many of intersections had countdowns for pedestrians. The group from Athens hadn't seen that before, and liked the idea. When they returned to Athens they put the countdown on their traffic signals.

They also visited 1 or 2 Rotary clubs each day. Sandi said that most Rotary Clubs in Athens meet in the morning for breakfast. Most of the Rotary Clubs she visited in Australia met for dinner. And the dinners at these clubs invariably were barbecues. Whether the visitor was a vegetarian or not, the menu was some kind of meat on a barbecue. Sandi said the average member of the GSE team gained 15 pounds during their stay in Australia. Those that weren't vegetarians before the trip became vegetarians when they returned.

Sandi said that the sun was intense in most of the Australian cities visited. It is law that children must wear sun bonnets and the Australians are very ware of UV radiation and the need for protection from exposure. The GSE group had been driven everywhere and spent a lot of time inside buildings and homes. One day she said they wanted to walk somewhere just to get some exercise. When they told their hosts they wanted to walk they were asked why don't you just let us drive you. They insisted on the walk, and paid the price with a sun burn.

Sandi said that one of the most interesting people she met on her trip was a Rotarian named John who was a host in Cannowindra. He had been a successful banker, then a successful sheep farmer, and then created Natures Incredible Valley (NIV) where everything he and other residents needed to live was made on the premises. This included food, building materials, everything. NIV was completely self sustaining.

The last city visited in Australia was one named Hay. After returning back home to Athens, Georgia, Sandi created a slide presentation called, in honor of that city “Hay, Y’All.” This presentation was given the District 6910 Conference which held a few miles away from Athens, Georgia, in Florida.

Later the Rotarians of the Athens, Georgia district had an opportunity to host the GSE team from the New South Wales District of Australia. Appropriate dinners were prepared with a local Southern specialty---barbecue!

The experiences of the Athens GSE team in 2000 impressed others in the Athens Georgia district to go on other GSE in subsequent years.

Pictures of some of Sandi’s GSE experiences are seen below.



Rural School Children Studying Gallipoli



School Children in Wombat, Australia Perform for the GSE Team

News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Malibu Rotary Club President **Bill Wishard** arrived announced that for the sold out Rotary Foundation Dinner Celebration to be held this year at 6:30 p.m. on November 9th at the California Science Center a table of 10 has not been reserved for the Malibu Rotary Club under the wing of the Space Shuttle Endeavor. It is only a table of 6. Bill is trying to figure out a way for at least the first 7 to still get in. If those at the Malibu Rotary table of 6 look up they may see President Bill hanging from space shuttle wing. He seems to always get into sold out events.

Maggie Luckerath passed around a duty roster signup sheet for Malibu Rotary Club booth at the annual Malibu Chili Cookoff held Labor Day weekend August 30 through September 2..

Peter Formosa attended the Rotary District Literacy Breakfast in Los Angeles on August 9th and briefly reported on it at the August 14th Malibu Rotary Club meeting. Keynote speaker at the

district event was **Kyle Smith**, general secretary of the international Salvation Army. In speech "Life Lessons on Literacy" Kyle made some points that many of us hadn't considered previously. One is how important being able to read and write is to self esteem and well being. Illiteracy leads to homelessness. Staggering statistics are that 23% of the people living in California and 33 % of the people living in Los Angeles County are illiterate.

Guests

In addition to guest speaker **Sandi Turner** there were at least 6 other guests at the August 14 Malibu Rotary Club meeting. **Jeanne Custis**, who has been a guest at the past several meetings, was back again. She was instrumental in getting **Kyle Smith** as Malibu Rotary Club speaker on Spetember 4 after she heard him speak at the Rotary District Literary Breakfast the previous week. Other guests at the meeting included **Irene Bettler** who is from Switzerland and now lives in Malibu West and **Cindra Ranieri**, who is a former member of the Del Mar Rotary Club, which is where President Bill has been making up while living and rehabbing in the Carlsbad area. Three other guests at the meeting will be returning to give programs at the Malibu Rotary Club meetings in September. President Bill has known **Sherry Weinstein** for over 30 years. Sherry has worked the Prem Rawat Foundation for 47 years and helped develop the successful Peace Education program that been used in a Texas prison which lowered the recidivism in the prison population. We thought it appropriate to have a talk about peace at our September 11 meeting. **David Zielski** and **Julic Lomakka** were also guests at the August 14 Malibu Rotary Club meeting. David is Executive Director of RainCatcher, and Julic is the organization's Excutive Development Dirrector. RainCatcher is dedicated to healing communities by providing clean water for children in the developing world using affordable and sustainable solutions. A program dedicated to what they do will be presented at the Malibu Rotary Club meeing September 25th.

Charles "Chuck" Green Memorial Monthly Lecture Series at Malibu Methodist Church

By Larry Jones

Chuck Green was a long time member and a past president of the Malibu Rotary Club. In his memory, we are starting a speaker series in Malibu that will be taught by another long-time Malibuite, Larry Jones. This is free and open to the public. We are hoping you can help get the following information out to your members. If you send me an email address, I can send you an attached flyer with pictures. Thank you. Here is the information: Charles Green Memorial Lecture Series Did you love your history class in school because the teacher had a passion for connecting the past to the present? This series is for you. Did you hate your history class in school because it was presented as a tedious list of dates and irrelevant facts? Then this series is for you, too. If you are interested in learning about current issues as well as local and global history, in sharing ideas as to how people and ideas of the past are linked to the ongoing struggle for social justice, or in discovering new perspectives about our nation's past, you are invited to a

new lecture and discussion series in Malibu. Topics as diverse as the Supreme Court's Voting Rights Act decision, the history of Pacific Coast Highway through Malibu, the human rights lessons we can learn from leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, and how artwork can be used to decipher American history will be part of The Charles Green Memorial Lecture Series, which is free and open to the public. Named in honor of the late Dr. Charles B. Green, a history/current issues lecture and discussion series will be hosted by the Malibu United Methodist Church, with the first session at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, August 21. Chuck Green was a long-time resident of Malibu and Santa Monica, an educator for 72 years, and remained active in politics, drama, civic organizations, and current events until just before his death in 2011 at age 93. Sandy Liddell, pastor of the Methodist Church, said "We are excited to initiate this series in the spirit of Chuck Green's quest to stay informed while helping educate others in the importance of both current issues and historic events. We hope people throughout the community interested in hearing about and discussing social causes and historic events will attend." Larry Jones, nationally recognized educator and Chuck Green's son-in-law, will be teaching the series. Jones, a former history teacher at Malibu Park Junior High School, has ties with Malibu that stretch back to 1951 when his parents Al and Rita Jones moved to Malibu. Jones' teaching career spanned six decades, starting at Our Lady of Malibu and included eight years at Malibu Park Junior High. For 25 years he taught history at Moorpark High School while also coaching the school's Academic Decathlon Team to thirteen Ventura County Championships, five California State Championships, and four U.S. National Championships. He and his Academic Decathlon students were honored during Oval Office meetings in the White House during the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations. "I am honored to be conducting a series in memory of my father-in-law Chuck Green," said Jones, who was inducted into the Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame last year. "To be doing it my hometown of Malibu is extra special. It was while at Webster School in the late 1950s that I knew I wanted to become a teacher and I'm glad to have the chance to impart some of what I've learned through the educational career I had since then. Chuck emphasized the importance of connecting the past to the present and of staying informed and involved, and I'm thrilled to carry on that tradition in his name." The monthly meetings will focus on current issues, local history, and connecting the relevance of the past to the present, and will be in the sanctuary of the Malibu United Methodist Church, 30128 Morningview Drive.

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website www.maliburotary.org for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on

facebook

Calendar

(All Malibu Rotary Club meetings are at 12:00 Noon in LC 152 at the Pepperdine Drescher campus Villa Graziadio Executive Center unless otherwise noted).

Aug 21, 2013

[Bill Krenz](#)

"Creating Opportunities"

Malibu Rotary Club knows Bill Krenz as the caterer who provided the food and the entertaining poi fire ball dancers for the successful fundraising event at Chris Bosh's house on May 29th. His company SoCalEvents (see SoCalEvents.com) produces over 200 events party rentals with various themes. Bill will be producing this year's Malibu Music Festival. He will be the featured speaker at the Malibu Music Festival. He will talk about "Creating Opportunities."

Aug 28, 2013

[Alice Muntean](#)

"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly with Assistant Governor Alice Muntean"

In preparation for the official Rotary District Governor visit on October 23 Assistant District Governor Alice Muntean will help Malibu Rotary Club Planning Guide for the year and answer questions about what is going on in the Rotary District. Alice is past president of the Rotary District Governor for the Rotary Clubs of Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Tarzana-Encino, Universal City Sunrise.

Sep 04, 2013

[Kyle Smith](#)

"Life Lessons on Literacy"

Major Kyle Smith is General Secretary of the Salvation Army from New Zealand. He has done relief work all over the world, including the year's Rotary District Literacy breakfast in Los Angeles and Malibu Rotarians who saw him there were so inspired by his presentation that they invited him to speak at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting at Pepperdine University on September 4.

Sep 11, 2013

[Sherry Weinstein](#)

"Peace Education Program "Peace on the Inside" from Prem Rawat Foundation"

Sherry Weinstein has worked with the Prem Rawat Foundation for 47 years and helped develop the successful Peace Education program in a Texas prison which lowered the recidivism in the prison population. On a date associated with hostility, September 11, Sherry will bring a message of peace.

Sep 18, 2013

[William Wishard and Malibu Rotary Club](#)

"Rotary Information Meeting--What is Rotary?"

This is a meeting especially meant for new and prospective members to find out about the Malibu Rotary Club and Rotary International.

Sep 25, 2013

[David Zielski](#)

"Solving the World's Water Crisis--1 Raindrop at a time"

David Zielski is Executive Director of RainCatcher, an organization that is dedicated to healing communities by providing clean drinking water to the world using affordable and sustainable solutions. Currently, RainCatcher systems have been setup in Kenya, Uganda and Haiti across the globe to other third world countries that need clean drinking water as well. One of its main mission's focuses is on teaching individuals not only how to use our RainCatcher system, but also enlighten them about the diseases that can arise from lack of clean water.

Oct 02, 2013

[Kimberly Rusell](#)

"And Then There Were Eight"

Kim and Michael Rusell have 3 children of their own. The number of their children grew suddenly to 8 when they agreed to take care of 5 children of a friend who had passed away.

shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Kim's moving story will be told at the October 2 Malibu Rotary Club meeting at noon in the Graduate campus.

Oct 23, 2013

[Rotary District Governor Elect Elsa Gillham](#)

"Rotary District Governor State of the District Report"

Annually the Rotary District Governor visits all the clubs in the Rotary District to report on the state of the District, and also receives reports on projects, plans and events of the clubs. This year, because of the increased number of clubs in the district DG Doug Baker is going to the other half. Governor Elect Elsa Gillham is going to the other half. The Malibu Rotary Club will host DGE Elsa at noon on October 23rd in Room 100 at the Drescher Graduate campus.

Oct 30, 2013

[Kate Rosloff](#)

"Working on the Rotary Rose Parade Float "