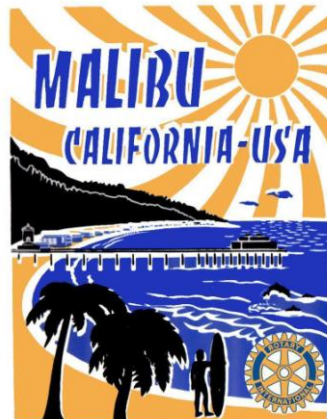




**ROTARY:
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DIFFERENCE**



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

August 23-28, 2017

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence
Pictures by John Elman

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/**
- **RI President (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley**

- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2017-2018) Cozette Vergari**

TRAGIC NEWS—DAVID TORRENCE FOUND DROWNED IN POOL IN PHOENIX ARIZONA



We learned the tragic news that this morning, David Torrence, son of Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence, was found drowned in a swimming pool in Phoenix Arizona. David had spent the weekend with his family in Malibu, after returning from world track and field competitions in Europe last week. David was a world class mid distance professional runner, and was going home to train before entering other running events on the east coast. Before becoming a professional runner David represented UC Berkeley where he set the mile record for his school. He competed for Peru (birth place of his mother) in the 2016 International Olympics in Rio. He set the South American country's record in the mile run on June 1, 2017 when he won the event at the Massachusetts-based Adrian Martinez Classic in 3 minutes, 53.21 seconds. He set a Peruvian record in the 1,500-meter race 17 days later.

All of us in the Rotary family and beyond send our most sincere condolences to Bianca and her family at this tragic and devastating time.

The Life and Times of Teresa Le Grove—More than just a Craft Talk



Editors Note: Often new Rotarians join Rotary and give a craft talk to promote their business and occupational interests. Rarely do we get a chance to know their life's story—the personal side that only family knows and business associates don't. After giving her "Craft Talk" at the August 23rd meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club Teresa Le Grove sent me an e-mail asking me not to write too much of her personal details in this newsletter. I responded with my own e-mail:

Teresa,

The story of you and your family is a fascinating one--your parents so inspirational--your mother's family, the Wilkinsons, that produced world Rotary leaders--the search for your birth mother and the irony that you grew up so geographically close to her---and then being able to connect--I don't know how to write it without being personal. So I am going to defer to you entirely on it. Can you write the story the way you want it? You have such a powerful story that you could probably turn into a novel, weekly soap opera, or screenplay some day in the future with fictitious characters. Thanks so much for sharing it, even if it does not go beyond the people in the room. I will write nothing--but I hope you will write something I can publish for the next issue of the newsletter. I usually don't send anything out until Sunday. I am sure the story you told moved us more than talking about real estate!

Thank you again for what you've shared and for whatever you write.

All the best for the future chapters of your life!

John

I was looking forward to taking the week off, but Teresa later decided to let me write the story I heard her tell at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting. I hope I do it justice and that you are inspired by Teresa and her amazing family, who although they are large, are also close and exceptionally giving, living the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self.--John

The 1967 International and Universal Exposition or Expo 67, as it was commonly known, was a general exhibition, Category One [World's Fair](#) held in [Montreal, Quebec](#), Canada, from April 27 to October 29, 1967. It is considered to be the most successful World's Fair of the 20th century with the most [attendees](#) to that date and 62 nations participating. It also set the single-day attendance record for a world's fair, with 569,500 visitors on its third day.

A successful Montreal transportation company owner and hockey player Frank Le Grove, who along with his wife Gerry, had already adopted 5 children, was asked during the time of the Fair if he would consider adopting one more baby. The little girl was 6 weeks old, and how could Frank and Gerry resist this beautiful little girl, who they named Teresa.

Teresa and her siblings grew up in a Roman Catholic household and went to Catholic schools. Frank and Gerry encouraged the family to participate in community charity events. Frank cared much for his employees and family, and started a credit union for his employees among many other things. Teresa recalls growing up in a family full of love and benevolence. Her mother was involved with Meals on Wheels, caring for her ailing family members who were dying with her nursing background night and day. She recalls her mother always giving gifts to people who had no one to celebrate Christmas with, who she would invite back after midnight mass as well as feeding those in need.

Teresa's mother came from a family of 10—the Wilkinson's. Her mom's uncle is Wilfrid J. Wilkinson. He has served Rotary International as president (2007-2008), and also as vice-president, director, trustee of The Rotary Foundation and district governor, and this year headed Canada Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. Wilf's brother, Terea's Uncle Tom Wilkinson, is a Past District Governor of District 7820 in Canada. This generation of Wilkinson's gave Teresa 36 1st cousins.

Teresa said that her grandparents lived above her parents and her siblings in the same house for 10 years, on the floor above them. Her mother became a Pastoral Care coordinator and was the director of one of the main hospitals in Montreal overseeing priests and nuns in their jobs to service the sick and guide the dying with their passage from this life.

It was a family tradition in the Wilkinson and LeGrove families to volunteer and give back. Teresa became a Special Needs Counselor and also received a Real Estate License in Canada, also learning French as a second language, which would open the opportunity for better jobs in Quebec.

Teresa was married when she was 22 and gave birth to 2 daughters of her own. She tried to work and pay for childcare but decided she would rather raise her children herself and relished her role of being a mom.

As her children were entering into adulthood Teresa separated and ultimately divorced. One of her daughters moved to Australia to manage a large popular restaurant with many staff underneath her and the other is finishing college and probably will not stay in Montreal. One of Teresa's sisters had moved to Camarillo, California and had encouraged Teresa to come to California too where her parents spent half the year through the winters. The weather is much better than Montreal.

With less keeping her in Montreal Teresa moved to So Cal 3 years ago. She decided to date again and met someone who she fell in love with and married Jon last month.

Teresa said that for most of her life she never wanted to know or meet her birth mom. The Mom and dad who raised her, said they would support Teresa if she wanted to try to find her birth mom. As she grew older and talked to other adopted children they pointed out certain reasons that a person might want to know about their birth parents besides just genetics that they might be passing on to their children and propensities for disease, but perhaps deep down personal reasons that may have been buried over the years.

When she was 26 years old Teresa finally started in earnest to search for her birth mom. She didn't know what she would do if she found her. It might be terrible for the birth mom's present family. Teresa said she would pay for any therapy the birth mom might need because of Teresa's discovery. Some hospitals wouldn't make their records available, but Teresa had some connections that could help her look Teresa was able to go through marriage records in the Montreal and surrounding area, looking for a marriage record with her birth mom's name which she attained from an anonymous source. Finally her persistence paid off. Now what? She decided to wait until a Monday mid morning to call her maternal grandmother who she found through the marriage records, when her birth mother would hopefully not be at the grandparents' residence.

Well she finally connected with a social workers help, and the birth mother was happy she did. She was happy to connect Teresa with her blood relatives.

She learned that her birth mother was not only from the Montreal area, but it turned out her birth mom's current husband lived in a building across the street from where Teresa had lived for over 40 years of her life. His house could even be seen from Teresa's porch in Montreal.

Teresa's mom and dad will always be Gerry and Frank. With the discovery of her birth mom Teresa's already large family has grown even larger.

The latest on the planned Halloween Fund Raiser

Because of tragic events in the Torrence family those who attend the August 30 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club will decide about the future of this event—whether there will a Halloween event or not.

Other Malibu Rotary And District News

Chili Cook Off

Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence talked about the Malibu Rotary Club participation in this years Labor Day Weekend Annual Kiwanis Chili Cookoff. She passed around a sign up sheet and later sent out e-mails for shifts at the Malibu Rotary Club Booth for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Based on the events of August 28 Malibu Rotary participation may change.

If participating the Malibu Rotary Club will sell watermelon slices, watermelon choice, water and special Fruit non-dairy Spanish Ice Cream that Bill has found for us

Every Malibu Rotary member in the district, in addition to their other contributions to the Rotary Foundation, is expected to give another \$20.00 towards the End Polio Now campaign. If each Rotarian contributes \$20.00 then the district goal of \$250,000 to end polio should be met.

David Baird is doing a minor Bill Gates matching grant thing, by matching all the Malibu Rotary Club members donations, and therefore effectively doubling them for the Polio campaign.

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CALENDAR (see up to date calendar on maliburotary.org)



August 30 2017 and September 6 2017 Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence was to have led Club Assembly/Board meeting—Because of recent tragic events we do not expect Bianca to be there, but the rest of us will be there if only to hold hands and pray—no speaker scheduled

September 20 2017 Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari “Make a Dream”

Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari theme for the 2017-2018 year is "Make a Dream." At this meeting she tells members of the Malibu Rotary Club and their guest about latest news from the Rotary District. Members of the Malibu Rotary Club Board and Committees tell the District Governor and her group what the Malibu Rotary Club plans are for this Rotary year.