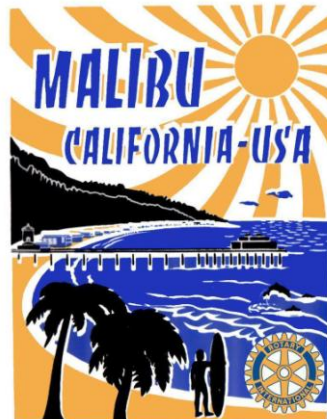




**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**



*The Award Winning*

## ***Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter***

August 30-September 3, 2017

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

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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- Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)
- RI President (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley
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## Running World and Rotary Mourn Passing of David Torrence



We were shocked and

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of David Torrence, the 31 year old son of Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence, on Monday August 28th. David was an elite athlete, and as a Peruvian-American middle distance runner competed at the 2016 Olympic Games. He competed in Europe last month, and was training in Scottsdale Arizona before competing in a race in Long Island New York next week. He was found at the bottom of a pool at the condominium complex in Scottsdale where he was training.

David trained and competed around the world but considered Malibu his home. He ran collegiately at UC Berkeley. He was sponsored by HOKA ONE ONE. Originally he trained for the U.S. Olympic team before switching to Peru, where his mother holds citizenship. He made the 1500-meter final at the 2016 Olympics and recently set Peruvian national records in the 1500 Meter and mile. He was ranked among the top 10 milers in the world this year.

When asked why he decided to represent Peru rather than the U.S. prior to the 2016 Olympic trials David said, "A big part of it is inspiring other people and athletes, non-athletes and kids. I kind of realized that whether or not I make the U.S. team, the [American public](#) as a whole is going to have heroes to look up to. The U.S. can send a full team in the 1500, a full team in the 5k, a full team in every sport across the Olympic Games, right? It's expected of Americans to be there.

"Whereas in Peru, they only have a handful of athletes. I think there's 12 track athletes now, maybe under 20 in total across all sports. So me running for Peru and being someone who can make a final in events that [Peruvians](#) typically have not been good at, I really hope to have a much greater impact on that population, on those people, on those kids and I can hopefully change the running culture out there a little bit and also kind of introduce the idea of professional track because it's really not well-known, the sport."

He was also one of track and field's most active advocates of clean sport. In 2014 Torrence briefly trained with Jama Aden, a Somalian who coaches some of the fastest runners in the world, including Genzebe Dibaba, the 26-year-old Ethiopian world-record holder in the 1500 meters. Torrence [became uncomfortable with what he experienced at a training camp](#) in Spain. He quietly left the coach and went to authorities with his concerns. Eventually, partly because of Torrence's help, Aden was arrested by police in a doping raid.

"Just this month when he was in doping control at the world championships, an IAAF official he worked with on the Aden case approached David about becoming a clean sport ambassador in South America," Soos said. "He was excited about that opportunity. His legacy in terms of clean sport is clear to see."

Torrence was well-liked among fellow runners and fans of the sport. Many took to Twitter to tell stories and share their grief of his passing.

Fellow HOKA athlete Kyle Merber announced they would name the Long Island [Mile race](#) he organizes every year after Torrence naming it The David Torrence Mile. He was the two-time champion of that event and a good friend of Merber's.

Will Leer, a competitor and close friend of Torrence's, remembers how David always made time for fans. "The passion with which he competed and trained was the same passion with which he approached being an ambassador for the sport. I hope that is something we can all learn—this is a bit of a cult sport and it's a little bit of a strange sport. And the people who follow it are a little bit strange. But he returned the love to them. He was so good at it. We could all do better."

Chanelle Price, an 800-meter specialist who was an Altis teammate, called Torrence the glue that held their group together. The two began training at Altis during the fall last year, but it wasn't until January, when Price was hospitalized with a [pulmonary embolism](#), that she grew closer to him as a friend.

"He surprised me at the hospital—I wasn't expecting that because I had only known him for two months," Price said. "He came with magazines and chocolate and his upbeat spirit. He sat with me for hours, keeping me company. That meant a lot to me and our friendship grew from there."

At practice, usually all the athletes are on the track at the same time—sprinters, jumpers, throwers, hurdlers, and runners. But Torrence usually was the outlier, the one who ran farthest and had the most grueling workouts.

"Everybody cheered when David was on the track," Price said. "He was on his own because nobody could stick with him. I remember thinking, 'He's crazy.' He'd even come on my workout days to cheer our group on. He'd hop in on the track and start pacing my intervals if he saw me struggling. He was so giving and just truly loved to run."

Leer said that the only thing Torrence was more competitive at than running was trying to be a good friend.

"Nobody really knows what it is to be the perfect friend, but damn it, David wanted to find out," Leer said. "If that meant somebody inviting him over for a game night and playing board games for five hours straight, he was in. Also, he just really loved board games."

Lea Wallace, who was among those closest to Torrence, concurred.

"If there is one thing I learned from David Torrence, he taught me how to love with all my heart," she said, in a text message.

After that failed attempt at the Spartan Race two years ago, Torrence called up Leer and wife Aisha (Praught) Leer, an Olympic steeplechaser for Jamaica, who were then living in Oregon. With a training break in full swing, he decided to come for a weeklong visit.

The trio piled in the car one day in search of hot springs. Torrence sat in the middle seat in the back so he could talk more easily with the Leers. Suddenly he put a hand on each of their shoulders and leaned forward.

"He said, 'You know what? I really love you guys,'" Leer said, choking up. "It was the sweetest thing. That's just who he was.

"He was just such a lover."

David's spirit lives on with friends and running advocates around the world.

A memorial service is being planned for David on Saturday October 7 at the Malibu Jewish Center 24855 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265. More details about this will be announced later.

## The latest on the planned Halloween Party Fund Raiser



The planning and details of the October 27 Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Party Fund Raiser were discussed at the August 30 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club and at least part of the meetings leading up to that meeting, especially September 6 and 13th.

David Zielski and Margo Neal were able to negotiate with the Calamigos Beach Club (formerly Beaurivage) to make it an affordable, although still more expensive venue, than the Malibu West Beach Club, for our event. The ticket prices therefore had to be raised from the \$50.00 per

person we were considering at the Malibu West Beach Club to \$75.00 per person or \$125.00 per couple) at the Calamigos Beach Club. At the Calamigos Beach Club, parking, food, and beverages are included, and our needs for volunteers is reduced. In order to make this an affordable event we need to get 140 paid attendees, have great auction items (silent and live) and limit complimentary tickets. David Zielski designed a poster which was ready for Chili-Cookoff

David also made arrangements with EventBrite.com to have attendees register and pay online and worked with John Elman so that a link for the event registration and payment can be done through the club website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org). EventBrite will add a processing fee on each order, which is \$5.12 on \$75.00 tickets or \$8.86 on a couple (the \$125.00 per couple tickets). In addition to the Calamigos Beach Club another sponsor of the event is Malibu's radio station KBUU 97.5 FM which streams live on the internet at <http://www.radiomalibu.net/>.

The Malibu Rotary Club Calamigos Beach Club Halloween Fund Raiser online registration link went live on Friday September 1. It currently shows details and map of the event and will soon start to show auction items.

Current details of the event posted are:

Our 2nd Halloween party to raise funds for local causes such as Malibu Sharks Surf Team, Malibu High and Middle school scholarships, KBUU-FM and other amazing Malibu causes.

- Spooky Halloween Party at the beach
- Special Musical Guests Brandon & Leah Jenner and Claire & Camille Anneet, winners of the 2017 Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition
- Dancin' to the DJ's grooviest tunes
- Silent & Live auctions
- Huge taco bar
- Beer, wine, nonalcoholic drinks INCLUDED in ticket price
- Free parking
- The world's best MC--Ted Silverberg
- Special prizes for wearing costumes!

Come help support our local people!

Space and tickets are limited to 140 people to this special event held at Calamigos Beach Club (formerly Beurivage).

It directs people to buy tickets on line and has the link to the eventbrite site:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-malibu-rotary-club-halloween-event-2017-tickets-37440830532>.

## Malibu Rotary Booth Chili Cookoff Pictures



Above John Elman, Rudolpho Lopez, Joy Arcenas, and Bill Wishard at the Malibu Rotary Club booth at the 2017 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Malibu Kiwanis Club Chili Cook Off. Besides selling water, watermelon slices, and watermelon juice the Malibu Rotary Club booth this year also sold Artisan Mexican Ice Cream bars, the invention of Rudolpho. Chair of this year's event was Margo Neal picture to left, holding poster for Halloween Fundraiser .





**Rudolpho's Atisan Mexican Ice Cream bars, which come in 13 flavors, mostly of non-dairy fruit, was a popular, rare treat at the Malibu Rotary booth. People bought them on Saturday came back on Sunday for more.**

### **Other Malibu Rotary And District News**

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.

**CALENDAR (see up to date calendar on [maliburotary.org](http://maliburotary.org))**

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**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.