



The Award Winning

## Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

December 17, 2014

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

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

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  - **Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**
  - **Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)**

- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

## **Special presentation of checks to recipients of Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser**



**Pictured above-- Rex Lewis-Clack and his mother Cathleen receive check for Rex & Friends Foundation from Malibu Rotary Club Treasurer Hubert Luckerath and Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser Event Chairperson Maggie Luckerath**

The Malibu Rotary Club distributed checks to 3 Malibu non-profit organizations at its weekly meeting on December 17th. The money came from the profits of the club's successful October 24th Halloween Fund Raising event, which raised over \$5,000.

It was agreed that the split of that net income would be distributed as follows:

Rex and Friends Foundation, 60% (\$3,253.45), Malibu Youth Football Team 15% (\$813.36), and Malibu Sharks Youth Surf Team, 15% (\$813.36). The remaining 10% went into the Malibu Rotary Club's charity account.



**Mike Bonewitz Youth Sports: Malibu Rotary Club Treasurer Hubert Luckerath presents check to Malibu Youth Sports Founder And Coach Mike Bonewitz, with Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser Event Chairperson Maggie Luckerath.**



**Malibu Sharks Surf Team: Malibu Sharks Surf Team Organizers Chris Stiegler, Jerri Churchill, Linda Zielski, Scott Lewis, and Dale Rhodes accept check from Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser Event Chairperson Maggie Luckerath.**

**About the recipient organizations:**

**Rex & Friends Foundation:**

Based on the transformation in the life of blind, autistic, musical savant Rex Lewis-Clack, who only was able to communicate when he was introduced to music at age 2, this foundation recognizes music as a therapy and communication tool for blind and autistic children and adults, often changing the lives and reaching people that seem lost to socialization.

**Malibu Youth Sports:**

Michael Bonewitz started this project with his own money, creating organized youth football in Malibu when there had been none for many years. He has 47 kids ages 6 through 14. divided into two teams. 50% of the kids are on scholarship--Mike tries not to turn anyone away because they can't afford a uniform. He says the kids participating in the program are not just learning the game of

football, they are learning life skills, discipline, and being part of a team where everyone has a responsibility. They play against teams which are generally more talented than they are, but the coaches from the other teams often talk to Mike's players after the game, telling them that even though they have lost the game, they have won the other team's respect.

**Malibu Sharks Surf Team:**

80 boys and girls from Malibu Middle School and High School--from 6th to 12th grades--are out on the beach at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, to be part of this first year program, which is not associated with the school, except as a club. No kid is turned away from this program, whether they have a boogie board or a long board. 40 parents have been certified in CPR, and have noted how participants have gained self confidence and have improved their grades at school by being part of the Malibu Sharks Surf Team, which competes against kids from about a dozen other schools.

## **Bianca Torrence Inducted as Newest Malibu Rotarian**



**Bianca Torrence (2nd from left) was inducted as Malibu Rotary Club's newest member on December 17. She was sponsored Margo Luckerath (L), and inducted by Rotary Past District Governor Tom Bos and Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal (R). Bianca is a senior Real Estate Specialist with Remax Elite in Malibu.**

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

This would be the last Malibu Rotary Club meeting of 2015, and also the last meeting of **Hubert and Maggie Luckerath**, who announced they would be leaving the club Dec. 31. They both have been active members and will be missed—we wish them the best of luck. Hubert presented the final budget of the year at the meeting. His duties as treasurer and budget director will be shared by **Irene Bettler** and **Bob Syvertsen**. President **Margo Neal** said that **David Baird** has applications for the high school students who want to go the RYLA camp sponsored by Malibu Rotary Club. Margo also announced that those wishing to attend the January 13 Rotary District breakfast at 7:00 a.m. at the City Club downtown must tell her before the deadline of January 5. **Bill Wishard**, who worked with Peter Ueberroth at the 1984 Olympics talked about program speaker Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, which will be held in Los Angeles. McClenahn will share with us the evolution of the Special Olympics from a backyard activity to a powerful global movement that promotes equality, acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities around the world.

### **Happy Dollars**

**John Elman** had a couple of happy dollars: \$1 for being able to assist his daughter in Seattle last week as she recovered quickly from vascular surgery and was able to take him on a tour of Seattle, and the second \$1 because he received a call from his niece's husband in Austin, Tx, who is a major UCLA Bruins supporter, who is flying John to Austin to travel on a party bus to a suite in Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on Jan 2, for the UCLA-Kansas football game.

**Veera Mahajan** had a happy dollar for being made a Malibu Rotary Club Honorary member.

**Hubert Luckerath** had a happy dollar for improved Cuba-US relations and **Maggie Luckerath** had a happy dollar for the opportunity to give out the checks to the Halloween Fund Raiser recipients.

### **Guests**

Besides our regular winter time guest PDG **Tom Bos** from Holland, MI, and new Malibu Honorary Rotarian Malibu Chronicle editor **Veera Mahajan**, two other guests included **Ross Armatage** (not sure of spelling) and **Hans Laetz**, who announced he was launching a new Malibu based 100 watt FM radio at 97.5. Hans is a veteran newsman who spent three decades in print, TV and radio, and invested hundreds of hours of personal time in a solo effort to win tougher safety standards on utility poles after the disastrous 2007 Malibu Canyon wildfire. For this he was a 2013 Dolphin Award winner. He told us new metal poles (still above ground) will soon be installed on Malibu Canyon Road.

## **Malibu Rotary—Home Club of RainCatcher Executive Director David Zielski**

Every 21 seconds, a child dies from a water-related illness. Women and children spend 200 million hours a day collecting water.

There are over a billion people who do not have access to clean drinking water. RainCatcher is efficiently doing something to try to reduce that number. They get low cost, low maintenance and sustainable water systems to Uganda and Kenya so women and children have a safe and close water source.

Besides the obvious health benefits, providing a local and safe water source multiple other social, economical, and educational benefits also accrue. There can be an increased girls' school attendance, level of education and literacy rates, as they no longer need to miss school to secure water for their families and have adequate and separate sanitation facilities. There can also be reduced physical injury from constant lifting and carrying heavy loads of water, reduced risk of rape, sexual assault, and increased safety as women and girls do not have to go to remote and dangerous places to defecate or to fetch water during the night.

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 You Tube 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. The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing 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-RLo&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

After viewing this RainCatcher video on YouTube look at some of the others. This is a project that all of the Rotary world should be participating in. Malibu Rotary Club is proud to take a lead in this endeavor.

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

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



Happy Holidays—No Malibu Rotary Club meeting until New Year

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

January 7, 2015

**Next Malibu Rotary Club meeting Jan 7, 2015 with fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m. and meeting starting at noon in room LC152 Pepperdine Drescher Graduate Campus—Speaker will be Qadir Mohiuddin Present global Outlook for New Year**

**January 13, 2014**

**Rotary District breakfast at 7:00 a.m. at the City Club downtown deadline for reservations is January 5. Speaker Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, which will be held in Los Angeles.**

Shannon Latson Jan 14, 2015

Managing Conflict at Home and at Work

**Description:** Few of us like conflict, but it will always be a part of our lives. Dealing with conflict in healthy ways can deepen your relationships, permit personal growth, and improve the outcome of challenges that you face. Join us to get some tools on how to approach your next difficult conversation.

**About the Presenter:** Shannon Latson works as a Marriage and Family Therapist for Stillpoint Family Resources in West Hills, and she also works as an Office Manager in the International Studies and Languages Division of Pepperdine. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Business from Michigan State University, her master's degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University, and her Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine's School of Law. Shannon volunteers as a club convocation leader for Pepperdine students, serves as the faculty/staff advisor for the Pepperdine Swing Dance Club, and she has presented at many community organizations, including a psychiatric facility, a gang prevention unit of the Van Nuys police department, a domestic violence shelter, Many Mansions, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Malibu Rotary Club Middle & High School Music Comp Jan 21, 2015

Khoi Pham Jan 28, 2015

## Community Service Integrated into Affordable Housing for Low Income

Khoi Pham MBA, UCLA Anderson School of Management, one of last helicopter evacuees out of Saigon as 8 year old, and now Executive Director of Bella Communities, will talk about integrating community service into affordable housing for low income.

Third in Malibu Rotary Club exclusive series of outcomes of American involvement in Vietnam war.

- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2529/Speakers#sthash.uJTvcsUe.dpuf>