

The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

December 19, 2012

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

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- **Next meeting:** Malibu Rotarians go to Rotary District Breakfast on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 a.m. at Westin LAX Hotel 5400 W. Century Blvd. in Los Angeles with Speaker LMU President David Burcham— There will be no Malibu Rotary Club meetings at Pepperdine on either Wednesday January 2nd or January 9th—Next meeting at Pepperdine Jan 16th

- **Swiss Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Livia Giovania Talks About her First 4 Months in US**
- **Other News And Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- 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 (2012-2013) Sakuji Tanaka Rotary District 5280 Governor (2012-2012): Lewis Bertrand
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Julie Jenkins (2012-13)

Swiss Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Livia Giovania Talks About her First 4 Months in US



Left—Livia Giovania and Malibu Rotary Host Counselor Margo Neal.

Even before Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Livia Giovania first arrived in Southern California from Zurich Switzerland in July, 2012, Malibu Rotarians got to know her. Malibu Rotary Host Counselor Margo Neal started communicating with Livia while Livia was still in Zurich, and since her arrival she has interacted with most members. She gave her first official presentation to the Malibu Rotary Club on August 8 (see [Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter Aug. 8 2012](#)), and at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting December 19th she delivered a thoughtful Powerpoint Presentation of her impressions for the first 4 months studying at the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine Law, where is she is earning her Masters degree Dispute Resolution.

In reflecting on her first four months Livia says that they went by too fast, that they “have been the best time of my life,” and “have been filled with precious new and meeting wonderful people.”

Her PowerPoint presentation was filled with wonderful graphics to illustrate her points. Showing a room piled with books she states “Law in America requires you to read more books in one

semester than you have to read within 2 years of Swiss law school, and just when you think you are done...” and she shows slide showing a room stacked even higher with books!

“Law school in America is exhausting [slide of girl with slumped over computer keyboard, eyes closed] and “kept me so busy that my friends and family in Switzerland sometimes wondered if I am still alive.” Further she said the “Socratic method was a shock for me.”

Despite this she admits she learned a lot, it was very interesting, and she knows for sure what she would like to do after graduation. She adds “Pepperdine’s professors are outstanding” and “Pepperdine’s staff is wonderful and took care of all of our problems.” She was also impressed by how the students help each other.

About living in California her graphic shows thumbs up. “I LOVE IT !!!” She likes shopping at Ralph at midnight...”and at any other shop on Sunday.” She likes the beach, weather, food. “I think the people are awesome. Everybody is so helpful and caring—especially YOU!”

Livia compared Switzerland to California in several categories. We think of California as one state that makes up the United States, but it can easily be compared to other countries in the world, and is larger than Switzerland in most categories:

Switzerland

16,000 sq mi
Population: 8 mil
Biggest city: Zurich
(population 400,000)
Highest mountain: Monte Rosa
(15,203 ft)
Official Languages: German,
French, Italian, Rhaeto-Romance

California

160,000 sq mi
Population: 38 mil
Biggest city: Los Angeles
(population 3.8 million)
Highest Mountain: Mount Whitney
(14,505 ft)
Official Language: No
English

In questions after her presentation people wanted to know Livia’s plans after her graduation. She said her first choice would be to stay in California. Her second choice would be to go to Italy, where she said dispute resolution and mediation is new field where trained mediators are needed and at a premium.

We hope to get another report from Livia after she graduates, and in the meantime we will continue to enjoy her company whenever she joins us

Other News And Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

The Malibu Rotary Club meeting of December 19th was supposed to be held at the Fireside Room of Pepperdine University—the normal meeting place for the Malibu Rotary Club. That day, one of the coldest in Malibu in recent memory, there was no fire in the fire place and the heater was not working. Fortunately the projector was working and everyone there was able to

enjoy Livia Giovania's wonderful PowerPoint presentation while bundled in coats. The only ones who didn't find it too cold were Livia's two invited guests from Zurich, Switzerland, **Daniela Grahovac**, who went to Law School with Livia, Switzerland, and Daniela's friend, **Thelo**, a computer programmer also from Switzerland. The couple had just left 14 degree below zero weather in Zurich hours before, and to them the weather was quite pleasant.



The Zurich Connection L to R Daniela Grahovac, Livia Giovania, and Thelo in front of the picture of prerestored Malibu Lagoon in the cold Pepperdine Fireside Room

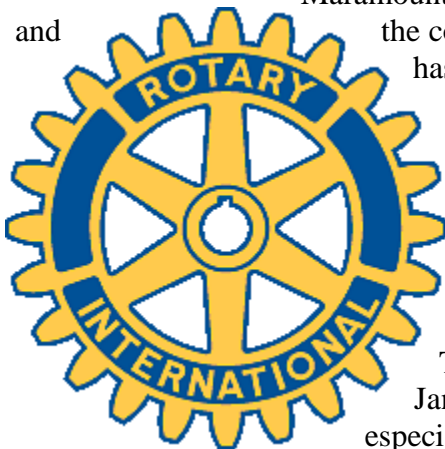
In addition to Livia's friends from Zurich another guest at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting was Maggie's neighbor and walking buddy in Malibu West **Yvonne Gelbman**.

Malibu Rotary Club President **Bill Wishard** announced that two Malibu Rotarians will be attending the The Rotary Global Peace Forum Conference January 25th through 27th in Honolulu, **Barbara Riley** and **Margo Neal**. In addition **Livia Giovania** is planning to go. At least 5 Malibu Rotarians will be attending the next official Malibu Rotary Club meeting, which is actually the Rotary District Breakfast Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 a.m. at Westin LAX Hotel 5400 W. Century Blvd. in Los Angeles with Speaker LMU President David Burcham. The Malibu Rotarians attending are Bill Wishard, Chris Bauman, Margo Neal, Hubert Luckerath, and John Elman

—There will be no Malibu Rotary Club meetings at Pepperdine for the remainder of December or on either Wednesday January 2nd or January 9th—Next meeting at Pepperdine is Jan 16th

Rotary District News New Generations

The Rotary District 5280 high school Speech, Music, Art and Dance Competition will be held March 9 and prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 will be awarded in each category. Entries are due in by February. Members of Rotaract can win \$1500 at an Ethics Forum to be held at Loyola Marmount University March 29. RYLA camp will be held April 26-28 and the cost is \$190.00 per student. Typically the Rotary Club of Malibu has sponsored 2 students. The deadline for entrants is Dec 20.



Other Rotary District Events:

April 6th will be a Rotary Day of Service. Melody St John, President of the Hollywood Rotary Club, is heading up this event. .

The Rotary Global Peace Forum Conference will be held January 25th through 27th in Honolulu. Young adults are especially encouraged to attend, and Rotarians who can afford it are encouraged to sponsor young adults. Malibu Rotarian Barbara Riley is planning to attend.

Rotary District 5280 is having a Group Study Exchange (GSE) this year with Rotary District 2620 in Japan. 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.

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 held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Fireside Room of Pepperdine University unless otherwise noted)

Date: Jan 09, 2013

Speaker There will be no Malibu Rotary Club meeting on Jan 2 or Jan 9th, 2013.

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Topic: In lieu of Jan 9th meeting Malibu Rotarians go to Rotary District Breakfast Jan 8 at Westin LAX--Speaker LMU Pres David Burcham