



## **Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter**

**February 15, 2012**

**Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu**

**Malibu Rotary Club President of the Month David Baird  
Malibu Rotary Club President of Record William Wishard**

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

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- **Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website MalibuRotary.org**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: [www.MalibuRotary.org](http://www.MalibuRotary.org)**
- **Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280la.org](http://www.rotary5280la.org)**
- **Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>**
- **[RI President \(2011-2012\)](#) Kalyan Banerjee**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2011-2012): Brad Robinson**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Kevin Smith**
- **Rotary District Newsletter—see it on Rotary District 5280 site or click [here](#)**

**Pepperdine Associate Professor of Philosophy J. Caleb Clanton Ph.D**  
**speaking "On Religion, Mormonism, and the 2012 Presidential Election"**



When Malibu Rotary Club President of the month and Dean Emeritus of Pepperdine University **David Baird** introduced Professor **J. Caleb Clanton** at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> he said before the young philosophy professor came to Pepperdine there were only 6 Philosophy majors on campus, but since Caleb's arrival there are now over 100 students majoring in Philosophy. When Caleb walks across campus there is a trail of students trying to engage him in conversation and hanging on his every word.

After receiving his undergraduate degree at the University of Alabama Caleb received Masters and Doctorate at

Vanderbilt University. Caleb has written multiple papers and books in the area of philosophy, religion and politics, such as □ *Religion and Democratic Citizenship: Inquiry and Conviction in the American Public Square*, "On the Tension between Religion and Democracy," *The Ethics of Citizenship: Liberal Democracy and Religious Convictions*, "Religion in the Public Square?: A Critical Response to Cornel West," and now he was pondering how this applied to the presidential election of 2012.

Despite the fact that in 1802 Thomas Jefferson wrote of a “wall of separation between church and state,” Caleb argues that it is virtually impossible to separate the two. He wrote his first book *Religion and Democratic Citizenship* around the time of the time of the 2004 Presidential Election. He says that George W. Bush beat John Kerry in large part because of his appeal to conservative religious voters.

He points out that recent studies indicate that as many as 95 percent of Americans claim a belief in God, and 70 percent are members of a church, synagogue or mosque. Recent surveys indicate 56 percent of Americans say that religion is very important in their lives, and 82 percent report that it’s at least somewhat important. Another survey indicates that three-quarters of all Americans seek religious guidance of some sort in their day-to-day living. In a 2003 Gallup poll, some 64 percent of registered voters said that their personal religious beliefs and faith would be a factor when deciding how to vote in the 2004 Presidential election. Other polls said that more than a quarter of Americans who were asked said that religious leaders should advise government officials when it comes to drafting policy, while 46 percent, according to Caleb, agreed that the Bible should be a source of legislation. Roughly 44 percent admitted that their religious beliefs play a role in deciding which candidates to support, and nearly half said their religious views would affect their vote.

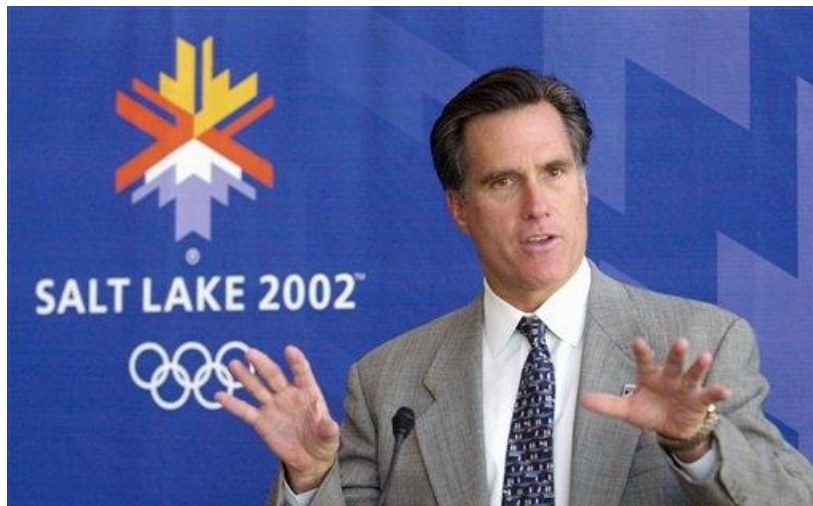
These stats, Caleb argues, suggest that many, if not most, Americans act as though they think religion has a perfectly legitimate role to play in the activities of the democratic public square—from deliberation of public policy, to political advocacy to voting.

Caleb asks the question: Are citizens acting improperly when deciding how to vote—or not to vote—on the basis of a candidate’s religious affiliation or association with certain religious views or leaders? Are citizens wrong to ground their political behavior on sectarian religious reasons?

Caleb talks about different views on how much religion should affect democratic policy. Political theorists whom he calls “separatists” believe that religion and politics should be kept in two distinct and separate spheres: religion should be kept in the personal domain and out of the public sphere. He says the leading voice of the separatist view, John Rawls, states the exercise of political power “is only proper when we sincerely believe that the reasons we offer for our political action may reasonably be accepted by the other citizens as a justification for those actions.” Caleb says that in the separatists view, “citizens should practice a sort of conversation restraint or observe a kind of gag rule with respect to their own religious or other comprehensive doctrines when it comes to public deliberation of political matters of voting for presidential candidates.”

Caleb says that in the current national election, although Mitt Romney has been the Republican front runner, there are reasons that many Republicans, as well as other Americans, are uncomfortable with him. Although there are many possible reasons for this, Caleb contends that a major one could be his religious beliefs. Romney is a Mormon and Caleb says that many conservative Christian Republicans don’t regard Mormonism as a legitimate denomination of

orthodox Christianity. They are suspicious that Romney, as a Mormon, does not share their same baseline values, conviction, and worldviews and hence that he cannot represent them well as president



Caleb cites the American Values Survey taken in September 2011 by the Public Religion Institute. According to the poll, 28% of all voters (Republicans, Democrats and independents) are uncomfortable with the idea of an evangelical president, 42% are uncomfortable with the idea of a Mormon president, and 64% are uncomfortable with a Muslim president, and 67% say they would be

uncomfortable with an Atheist president. Caleb said that according to other polls Americans are more likely to vote for an openly homosexual candidate than an openly atheist one. Caleb hypothesizes that Romney would be a more appealing candidate among conservative Republicans if he were a Baptist or a Methodist as opposed to a Mormon.

Caleb says that while the separatists view he alluded to which says that good citizens should not consider their religious views when voting in a presidential elections, these polls about the discomfort people have about candidates' religion makes one wonder if this is really possible.

The view that Caleb has been defending for nearly ten years is: Citizens are not stepping out of line when they decide how to vote on the basis of religious reasons. He believes the separatist view is wrong for three reasons:

1. He believes it is hypocritical. Whereas religious citizens are expected to refrain from appealing to their comprehensive religious doctrines, separatism presupposes its own comprehensive doctrine according to which such restraints can be motivated.
2. Separatists have yet to answer where the source of truly public reasons, i.e. reasons that are actually common to all citizens and neutral among all comprehensive religious, moral, and philosophical doctrines, are to come from. If you can't use religion as a guide in political decision making it does not give another source from shared political culture and history from which political decisions can be derived.
3. Caleb states "Even if the first two problems weren't there, separatist views are dangerous. If the religious gag rules and conversation restraints of separatism were actually



observed, this would discourage citizens from discussing their political views and votes publicly and in a manner that reflects the deeper comprehensive doctrines that actually animate them.”

In conclusion Caleb believes that citizens should feel free to deliberate public policy and vote in accordance with their deepest commitments, including their religious views. He believes that they should do that with an open mind, admitting that their religious reasons or arguments can be defeated by other considerations, be transparent and sincere about their religious commitments, and make their decisions virtuously, respecting the religious views of others. Caleb also believes they should practice deliberative friendliness, wit, empathy and temperance.

As is always the case when Caleb ponders an idea, and then writes and speaks about it, he gives his audience much to think about and debate, and it is no surprise he is a Pepperdine campus favorite.

### **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**

**David Baird** presided over the meeting and had more good stand up comedy material, with more “dates in history.” Also announced at the meeting was the date of the **Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition**. Information about this event on February 28<sup>th</sup> is in article appearing below and also on [MalibuRotary.org](http://MalibuRotary.org) Calendar. Not announced at the meeting but what this this writer and Maggie discussed later was the Malibu Rotary Club luncheon meeting initially scheduled for Charlie’s Restaurant for noon on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, will instead be held at Giovanni’s Restaurant on PCH just down the street from Charlie’s at 11:30 a.m. It turns out Charlie’s is not opened for lunch anymore. Check Calendar at [MalibuRotary.org](http://MalibuRotary.org) for latest updates of future meetings.

### **Guests at Feb 15 Malibu Rotary meeting**

Guests at the February 15<sup>th</sup> Malibu Rotary Club meeting included our regular guest from the Rotary Club of Holland Michigan Past District Governor **Tom Bos** and **Geoff Matlock**, a Peace Corp volunteer who spent over a year in Fiji and will be speaking to the Malibu Rotary Club on April 4<sup>th</sup> on the topic “Small Business Development in the South Pacific.”

## **Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition**



The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will take place February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Stauffer Chapel on the Malibu Campus of Pepperdine University. Six cash prizes will be awarded, 3 to the top 3 middle school contestants and 3 to the top 3 high school contestants. Members of the Malibu Rotary Club judge the music competition and each year the student performances are professional level and entertaining. The top contestant will be sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club to participate in the

Rotary District music event March 3rd at Cal State Dominguez Hills where top prize money will be \$1000. **Last year's middle school winners shown above.**

## **Malibu Rotary's International Director and Traveler Barbara**

**Barbara J. Riley** is represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary International projects that members of Rotary District 5280 are visited last week in Puerto Rico. Story, picture and links follow:

## Malibu Rotary Club International Projects in Puerto Rico



With matching grants from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 5280 (District Designated Funds [DDF]), and in partnership with other Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5280 and host clubs in Puerto Rico, the Malibu Rotary Club is involved in two humanitarian international projects in Puerto Rico in 2012. Barbara Riley (front row third from left) represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the *Centro Geriátrico San Rafael*, Arecibo, PR Rotary Project in February, 2012. Malibu Rotary was one of the lead sponsors of the project, along with 4 other Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles, CA Rotary District 5280 who also sent representatives.

Malibu Rotary Club was also a sponsor of a second project, *Hogar Santísima Trinidad* (HST) in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico which involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management.

More on Rotary District 5280's humanitarian trip to Puerto Rico can be seen at <http://www.facebook.com/PuertoRico5280>.



In the *Centro Geriatrico San Rafael, Inc* in Areciba, Puerto Rico project the Malibu Rotary Club is the PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER. 5 Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles along with Rotary Foundation and the host Arecibo Rotary Club has helped the senior residential center purchase needed maintenance and repair tools, 8 energy efficient air conditioning units and a commercial sliding gate opener. This is a geriatric home for indigents founded in 1925. The Arecibo Rotary Club has been supporting them since 1935. This project costs \$15,585.00 of which the Malibu Rotary Club and the Westchester Rotary Club have given \$1170.00 each. Other partner clubs are Culver City, Wilmington, along with the host Rotary Club of Arecibo.

The most ambitious project (*Hogar Santisima Trinidad* [HST] in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico) involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center (who are also highly likely to have HIV) to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management. HST is a private community based non-profit organization, offering a safe residential rehabilitation and treatment program to 35 young males addicted to drugs and /or alcohol, established in 1993. HST depends on income from their semi-industrial aluminum and metal recycling and processing program. As part of their rehabilitation program, the HST implements occupational, physical and work therapies through their Mobile Recycling Center Program (MRCP). It consists in the training of patients in the use of a fixed industrial recycling unit permanently located at the Center, where they learn how to process and recycle aluminum, car batteries, diverse metals and other materials under the close supervision of trained supervisors. They also pickup recyclable materials in nearby communities to process at the center. The project also addresses a problem of waste management in Puerto Rico. Studies done by the US Environmental Protection Agency have revealed that improper or insufficient capacity to dispose of solid waste in Puerto Rico has created public health problems. The management and disposal of solid waste in the Island has long been a challenge, aggravated by the limited space available due to its geographical size, roughly 100 mi by 35 mi, and its delicately balanced ecosystem and the large amount of solid waste generated, at 4,000,000 tons per year. Puerto Rico's residents generate more waste than people living on the mainland and recycling rates are lower. Much of Puerto Rico's waste ends up in landfills, most of which do not comply with local and federal governments' landfill requirements. The cost of HST Rotary project in Puerto Rico is \$22,570. The primary international club sponsoring this project is the Westchester Rotary Club. Malibu Rotary Club is an equal share holder with the Westchester Rotary Club, with each club contributing \$1570.00. Besides the host Rotary Club of Santurce, the Rotary Club of Torrance-Lomita is a partner in this project.

## Malibu Rotary Club is Official Sponsor of Smile Trek



Marine Sargent Winston Fiore Started his 5,000 mile Cross Country Motorcycle Trip in Malibu. His purpose is to bring awareness of children's cleft palette and raise money for the International Children's Surgical Foundation. The organization provides surgery, training for 3<sup>rd</sup> world surgeons, plus follow-up care for surgical correction of children's cleft palette disease. The US trip was in preparation for a 5,000 mile walking trip across Southeast Asia. He explains, "In late September,

2011, I will set out on a 5,000-mile walk through Southeast Asia. My route will take me through eight different countries, beginning and ending in Singapore, and the yearlong trek will be an ongoing effort to raise funds for the ICSF and awareness for children living with clefts in the developing world. I chose to base this trip in Southeast Asia because of the region's high prevalence of cleft births." Malibu Rotary Club is one of his sponsors. One surgery costs \$240.

See Winston's blog at <http://www.smiletrek.org> (which includes multiple videos) as he travels across the world. As of January 18<sup>th</sup> he has raised almost \$33,000 for ICSF, over 73% his goal of \$50,000.

A post card mailed by Winston to Malibu Rotary from Thailand on December 31 read "1,000 miles down, 4,000 miles to go...Thanks again for making a difference. Wishing you a happy new year from Bangkok! ---Winston smiletrek.org"

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org) for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

**Like Rotary Club of Malibu on**



## **Calendar**

**(all Malibu Rotary Club meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Fireside Room of Pepperdine University unless otherwise noted)**

Feb 22 2012

**Lee Kats**

"Latest Research on Frogs and things"

Dr Kats is Pepperdine University Professor of Biology, Vice Provost For Research and Strategic Initiatives, Associate Dean for Research, and Frank R. Seaver Chair of Natural Science who has delivered a couple of very interesting programs to the Malibu Rotary Club on research he and his students are doing in Tropical Rainforest and locally on frogs and other amphibians.

Feb 29 2012

**Malibu Rotary Club Directors**

"5th Wednesday in February Malibu Rotary Club Assembly (11:30 a.m. at Giovanni's Restaurant)"

Once in 40 years there are 5 Wednesdays in February. Malibu Rotary Club will mark this occasion by having a special club assembly lunch meeting at Giovanni's Restaurant in Malibu.

Mar 7 2012

**Tracey Garnaas**

"My Experience as Exchange Student in Brazil"

Tracey Garnaas is a senior in International Studies at Pepperdine Seaver College. She was a Rotary high school student exchange student from Arizona to Brazil and will talk about that experience at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting March 7.

Mar 14 2012

**Tracey Brown**

"Why Breakfast is the Most Important Meal"

Tracey Brown, "Physio-therapist, Exercise Rehab Specialist & Wellness Coach" in the Malibu office of chiropractor Dr Taber Chinn. Tracey will tell us why breakfast is the most important meal and give us other important wellness tips!

(This is the last part of Malibu Rotary Club trilogy on nutrition (Susan Helm, Camille Gaen, Tracey Brown).

Mar 28 2012

**Robert Lloyd**

"What we need to know about Africa"

Dr. Robert Lloyd is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Pepperdine University. He also directs Seaver College's International Studies program. He received his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., an M.R.P., in regional planning from Cornell University and a BA, cum laude, from the University of Arizona.

His areas of research include international conflict management and negotiation, Africa, democratization, and development

**Geoff Matlock**

"My Peace Corps Experience: Small Business Development in the South Pacific"

Geoff Matlock is Peace Corp volunteer who spent over a year in Fiji doing Small Business