



Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

February 8, 2012

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

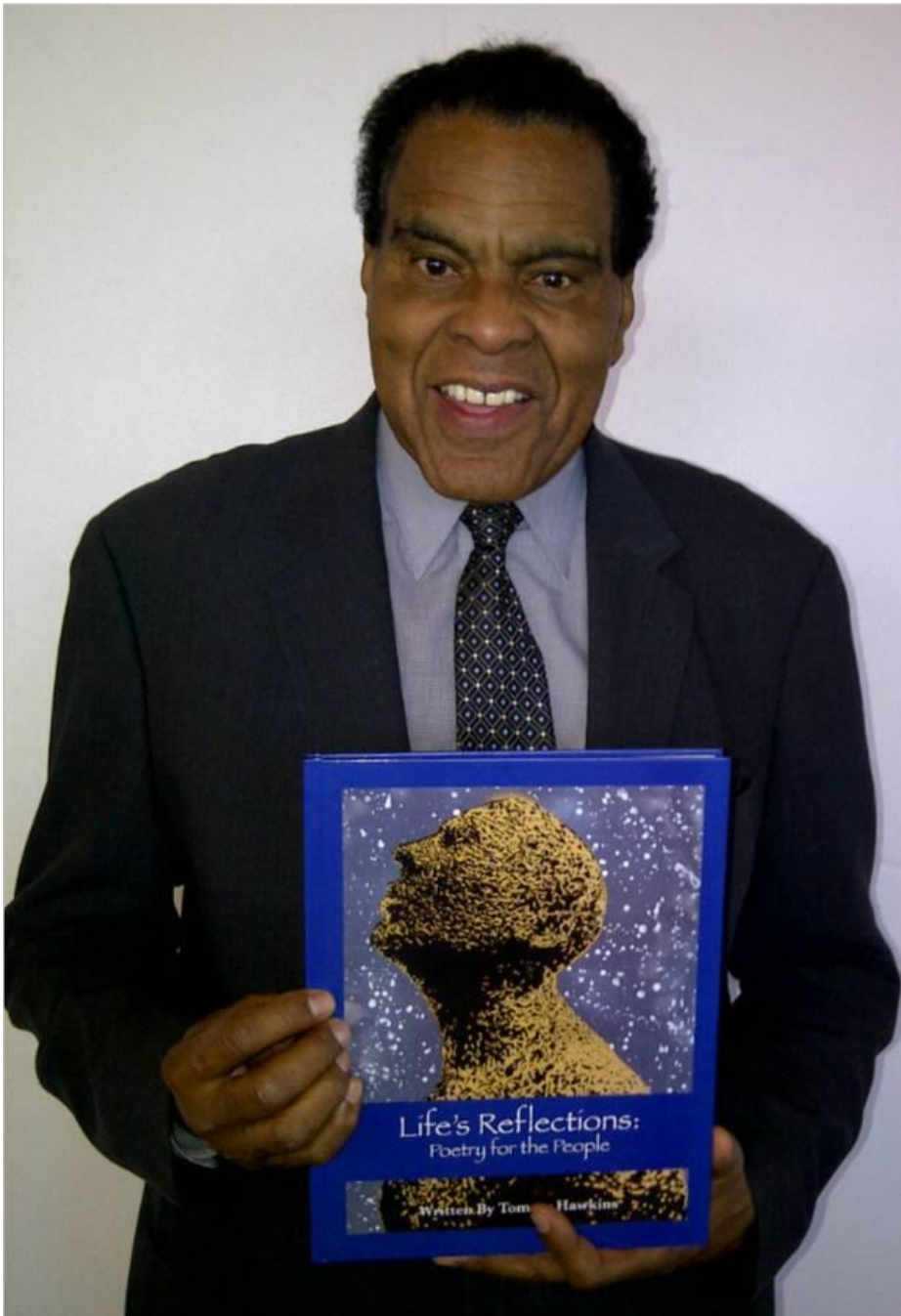
**Malibu Rotary Club President of the Month David Baird
Malibu Rotary Club President of Record William Wishard**

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

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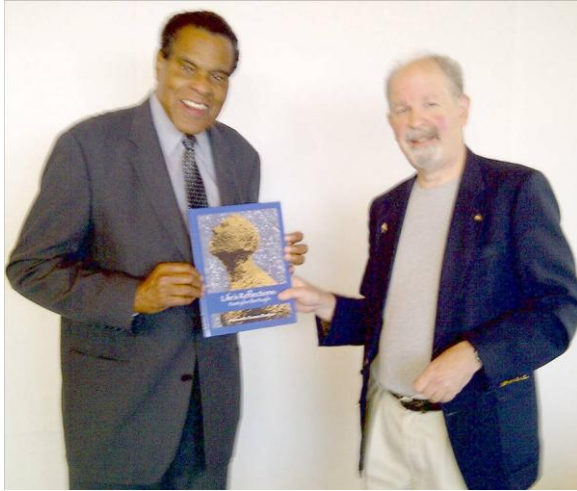
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be Feb 15 in Pepperdine Fireside Room. Program will be Pepperdine Associate Professor of Philosophy J. Caleb Clanton speaking on "On Religion, Mormonism, and the 2012 Presidential Election"**
- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
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- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org**
- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: 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](#)**



**Tommy Hawkins
and "Life's
Reflections:
Poetry for the
People"**

*Editors Note:
Growing up in
Minneapolis
Minnesota I was
always a fan of my
home team
Minneapolis Lakers.
With George Mikan
as the first great big
man in the game, the
Lakers won 5
championships
before my family
moved to Los
Angeles in 1957
when I was 13.
When you're 13 you
go where your
parents go, but I
missed friends and
my team. When
Mikan retired in
1956 the team fell
apart, but with a
losing record they
were able to get the
best college players*

in the draft. In 1958 the top player in college, and soon to be one of the best all-time players in the NBA they were able to pick Elgin Baylor. The next year the Lakers selected Notre Dame's best all-time player Tommy Hawkins. And the following year they selected Jerry West. I was happy when my home team Lakers followed me to Los Angeles in 1960. Except for me, according to Tommy, few people in Los Angeles knew about the Lakers. The first year the games were not even broadcast on the radio, and they only had 3000 fans at games in the new LA Sports Arena. Players had to drive around in trucks with bull horns promoting the team and announcing the existence of Laker games. The Lakers made the playoffs that first year but it wasn't until they hired local sportscaster Chick Hearn to do the playoff games on radio that the Lakers popularity soared, in Los Angeles, and later throughout the world.



Tommy still holds the record for the most rebounds at Notre Dame, averaging 23 points and 17 rebounds a game his senior season. Tommy played in the NBA for 10 years, and in addition he was the player representative while in the league (the roll that Derek Fisher currently has). He has adapted his life to various careers and situations. In high school and college he was a 6 foot 5 “back to the basket” center on these basketball teams who played near the basket, and a top score. When he got into the NBA they considered him too small to play center and changed his position to “small forward”, playing away from the basket where he could not

shoot, and he was forced to swallow his ego as he was relegated to the bench, rarely getting into games. One day when the Lakers were playing against the St Louis Hawks Bob Pettit was scoring at will against the Tommy’s team. The coach called a time out asked his players “Can anyone stop Pettit?” At the end of the bench Tommy said he could do it. He stopped and after that, although he wasn’t a starter, Tommy would come off the bench in every game to become the defensive stopper against opposing teams’ best scorers. Many basketball players go into broadcasting when their playing careers are over—but the broadcasting is generally having to do with commenting on basketball. Tommy went into both radio and TV broadcasting, and he covering all sports and other areas of human interest. For a long time he was associated with KABC sports, which broadcast the Dodger baseball games, and so impressed the O’Malleys they made him Los Angeles Dodgers Vice President of Communications. Growing up in Chicago he was introduced to jazz music by his brother and got to know the great artists of day as they performed in Chicago. The great Cannonball Adderley was a guest at his house and he remains friends with jazz guitarist and head of UCLA Jazz Program Kenny Burrell. Until recently Tommy hosted a jazz program on KJZZ radio. I have been a fan of Tommy’s for over 50 years, and seen him around Malibu, where he has lived for the past 30 years, but hadn’t met him till this meeting, and appreciate the time I got to spend with him both at the Rotary meeting, and in a one-on-one interview afterward.

Tommy Hawkins was the best high school basketball player in Chicago in 1954. So good that he was offered a full scholarship to Notre Dame University in Indiana. Today’s talented college basketball players typically only spend a year or two in college, using it has a stepping stone to a lucrative professional basketball career without intending to get a college degree. In the 1950’s, the college scholarship was worth more than a professional sports career. Two of the best basketball players of all-time, Elgin Baylor and Jerry West, only made \$20,000 per year playing for the Lakers in the 1960’s. Tommy realized that his college education and degree would be useful many years beyond his basketball playing days. At Notre Dame in 1955 he was one of only 10 black students on a campus of 10,000, and the only the black student on the basketball team. He has nothing but praise for his alma mater and his treatment there, especially the President of the University Father Theodore Hesburgh. Father Hesburgh let it be known that if any of the black students were not treated well at the University, he would not tolerate it.

Tommy's record performances on the college basketball court made him a first round NBA draft pick, but what he learned in the classroom was even more important preparing him for life, and his many careers after basketball. Tommy said that the typical class size at Notre Dame had 20 students. This allowed students access to professors and encouraged students like Tommy to become comfortable as public speakers.

During Tommy's sophomore year at Notre Dame there was a class on his schedule that he thought he would snooze through, but instead the class shocked him into a reality he had never known, one that one changed his life. It was one of his English Literature classes. On the first day of class at the front of the classroom stood a tall priest who spoke with a deep voice that resonated in the classroom . You couldn't ignore him even if you wanted to. He introduced himself as Father Chester A Soleta. "My specialty is poetry and I will make it live in your soul!" Making good on his promise, he introduced Tommy and the others in the class to poet T.S. Elliot, dramatically reading his composition *The Love Song of Jay Alfred Prufrock*. The reading changed Tommy's world, engendering a lifelong love of poetic expression.

Tommy not only began to appreciate the poetry of others, it inspired him to start creating poems of his own, on a variety of subjects that moved him in one way or another. Father Soleta set out "to make poetry live in [Tommy's] soul," and he succeeded.

While Tommy was pursuing his various careers, playing basketball, hosting TV and radio shows, taking care of his executive duties with the Dodgers, observing people, places, and things, the world was inspiration for unpublished poetry that he was writing. He had been planning a book for years, but never got around to it. He shared his writing only with a few people. One of them was his mother, who encouraged him to publish his work. He finally got around to it this year.

Tommy didn't want his book to be just a collection of poems. He wanted each poem to have an illustration, either a painting or photograph. It had to be high quality, hard vinyl cover, and have universal appeal. To visualize his messages he has paintings from LeRoy Neiman, Tim Stownsley, Ernie Barnes and others. Other poems are illustrated with photographs. The wide spectrum of areas covered in Tommy's poems include love, women, sports, psychiatry, travel, music, family, relationships, the 1960s and much more.

After reading a couple examples of his work nearly everyone at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting bought one of Tommy's books, which he autographed. Tommy is on a book tour, starting mostly locally, but soon he will be heading back to Chicago and Notre Dame. He is a wonderful speaker and one can buy a book for \$40.00 at any of his book tour stops. There is also more information, Tommy's book tour schedule, videos to a couple of Tommy's readings, and an order form to buy the book on his website: <http://tommyhawkins.net/>.

It is not available on Amazon.

An example of Tommy Hawkins work:

Life's Reflections

Free will is our constant companion, in life's game of players' choice;
A chorus of billions with lusty refrains in which we all have a voice.

When your world unfolds before you, will you view it with never a cringe?
Will the angels on high adore you or be shocked by your life-long binge.

When all of the traveling is over and your fast-lane life is through,
You will sit in retrospection of the things you've done and do.

Will your past reflections grip you and rip your soul apart?
Leaving a hollow feeling, as you long for a brand new start.

Or will a smile fill the lines on our face as you recount each mile after mile;
Recapping the pleasures of bygone days and a life of substance and style.

The maestro has played, you've danced to his tune and the piper must be paid.
His fee, my dear friend, depends in the end, on the types of moves you have made.

From swing to waltz you've not missed a beat, gliding across the floor;
Has it been an empty, long song and dance with some steps you'd rather ignore?

Predestined by rites of passage, from birth to day of rest,
We battle life's ocean to stay on course, as our sun disappears in the west.

So, before darkness engulfs you, and the winds of death call your name,
Give some serious thought to your life style, to ignore it would sure be a shame.

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 28th is in article appearing below and also on 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 29th, will instead be held at Giovanni’s Restaurant on PCH just down the street from Charlie’s. It turns out Charlie’s is not opened for lunch anymore. Check Calendar at MalibuRotary.org for latest updates of future meetings.

Guests at Feb 8 Malibu Rotary meeting

Guests at the February 8th Malibu Rotary Club meeting included Pepperdine Associate Vice Chancellor **Sam Lagana**, who has worked with and came to see speaker Tommy Hawkins, **Cliff Mortensen**, who has been at several previous meetings as a guest of Bill Wishard and who works with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and **Tracey Brown** Physio-therapist, Exercise Rehab Specialist & Wellness Coach in the Malibu office of chiropractor Dr Taber Chinn who will be speaking to the Malibu Rotary Club on March 14th in the third part of our health through nutrition lecture series.

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 representing the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary International projects that members of Rotary District 5280 are visiting this week in Puerto Rico. Maggie sent Barbara several Malibu Rotary Club flags, and Barbara reported that she was packing them well to get

through airport security. Barbara is always on a plane somewhere going to significant events. On February 28th she will be at the Huntsville Alabama Museum of Art Gala attending a book signing by Gloria Vanderbilt and Wendy Goodman, who is the design editor of New York Magazine. Barbara is the unofficial US representative to the Montreux Jazz Festival, and she is scheduled to have lunch with the Mayor of Montreux Switzerland in New York City on March 1. We are hoping to have pictures from Barbara from the Rotary Puerto Rican Projects. In the meantime we will continue to use the ones below.

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.

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 in sufficient 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.



In the second project (*Centro Geriatrico San Rafael, Inc* in Areciba, Puerto Rico) the Malibu Rotary Club is the PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER. 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 project involves upgrading equipment (mostly air conditioning) in a low income senior

citizen residential facility in Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

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 palate and raise money for the International Children's Surgical Foundation. The organization provides surgery, training for 3rd world surgeons, plus follow-up care for surgical correction of children's cleft palate 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 18th 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 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 15 2012

J. Caleb Clanton

"On Religion, Mormonism, and the 2012 Presidential Election"

Pepperdine Associate Professor of Philosophy and recipient of 2009-2010 Howard A. White Award for Teaching Excellence, Pepperdine University, and 2010-11 Seaver Fellow in the Humanities J. Caleb Clanton Ph.D, returns to Malibu Rotary Club to deliver another thoughtful speech about ethics, philosophy and religion and how it affects the American political process.

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 28 2012

Malibu Rotary 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.

Feb 29 2012

Malibu Rotary Club Directors

"5th Wednesday in February Malibu Rotary Club Assembly (noon 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 in 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).