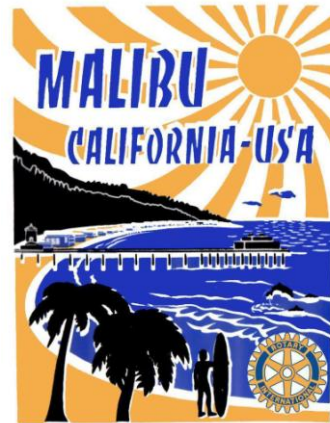




**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

February 7 2018

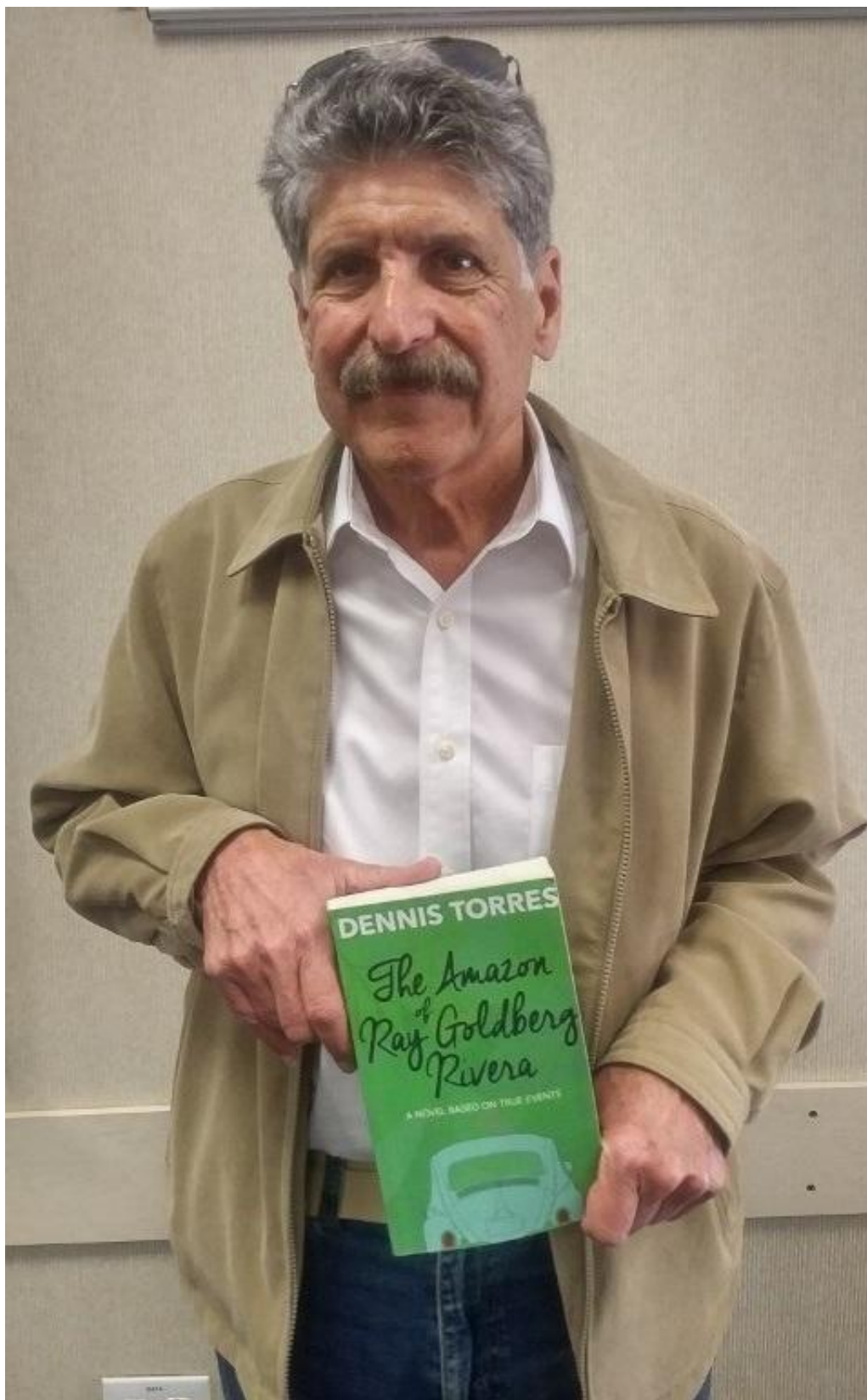
Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence
Pictures by John Elman and Teresa Le Grove

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

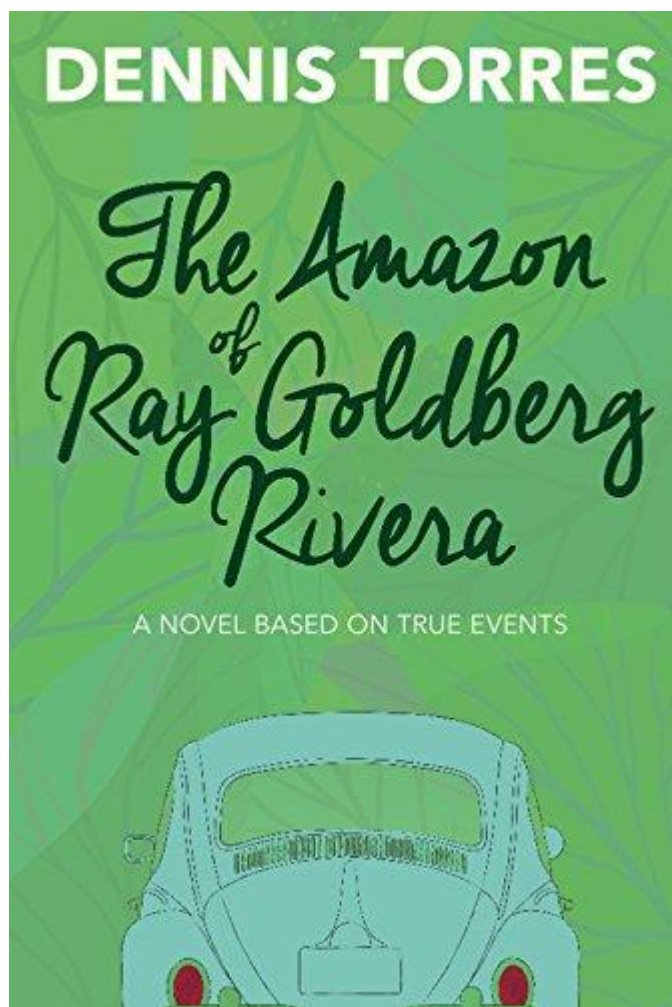
- Last week Dennis Torres talks about his true life book “The Amazon of Ray Goldberg Rivera”
- Next regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting February 7 2018 Room LC 152 on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus Speaker will be Alex Ayzin on “Successfully Selling Your Business.”. Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a.m.
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org
- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2017-2018) Cozette Vergari

Dennis Torres talks about his true life book “The Amazon of Ray Goldberg Rivera”



Before Dennis Torres was the head of real estate operations at Pepperdine University, and before he became Mediator; Arbitrator; Litigation Consultant; Real Estate Professional; Businessman; Adjunct Professor of Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University before he started Angel Flight West, in which private pilots fly medical supplies and organs from remote area to sick , and before he became President of the Malibu Rotary Club, at a time when it had more members than it had any time before or after his tenure, Dennis lived an adventure that few could imagine. He talked about that adventure as a guest speaker at two successive Malibu Rotary Club meetings. After hearing Dennis tells his story, Rotarian John Elman told Dennis, "This is an amazing story--you've got to write a book about it." Years went by, with John always asking Dennis about the book, which Dennis was still thinking about writing. Finally in November 2017, Dennis announced the book, in the form of a novel called *The Amazon of Ray Goldberg Rivera* had been published.

Dennis came back to speak at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on February 7 at Pepperdine University to talk about the life experience that led to the book.



This thrilling novel is based on Dennis' true life adventure. Dennis has changed the name of the characters to protect the innocent. His character is Ray Goldberg Rivera. After coming home from the war in Vietnam, Ray Goldberg Rivera (Dennis) needs a job, but the only ones he finds are in sales and require him to put on a suit and tie—two things he just can't bring himself to do. He then chances upon an ad reading, "Want to Explore the Amazon," and he soon finds himself driving his beloved 1962 Volkswagen beetle from his parents' home in Pasadena, California, to the country of Panama along with two strangers: a sexy bible-thumping southern belle and a California surfer who has never been away from home.

As the three strangers wind their way through Mexico, Central and South America, their secret motivations are revealed while experiencing amazing adventures, meeting unforgettable characters, experimenting with drugs, engaging in wild sex, and surviving near death encounters. In the end they each discover meaning in their lives.

This entertaining novel based on author Dennis Torres's experiences will captivate armchair travelers and history buffs as well as readers who enjoy a good adventure yarn. If it weren't true

it would be an amazing story. The fact that this was part of Dennis' life makes it even more amazing. Much of the book is the adventure of getting to the Amazon, driving his 1962 VW beetle from Pasadena, California down the Pan American Highway, which was often a dirt road through central American countries, to Panama, and the adventures getting to South America and entrance to in Amazon jungle in Iquitos, Peru. He passes through and lives with many cultures and people. By the time he gets to the entrance to the Amazon jungle he is alone, but is able to take lessons from an Indio who grew up in the jungle and who had been introduced to English and Christianity by Mormon missionaries and who was called Jesus of the People. He compared the jungle (la selva) to the Garden of Eden, and told Ray(Dennis) that the Garden will provide and you must thank it everytime it does.

How can anyone live 6 months in the Amazon jungle with nothing but his brain, hands, instincts, what he could carry in his back pack and his machete? How can you communicate with native Amazonian aborigine? How can you not get killed by the dangerous animals that crawl and fly around you? How can you eat ants and the strange foods necessary for subsistence? In answer to some of these questions there is a spiritual part of the book where Dennis is able to communicate with the native who is teaching his son to hunt—it was only after their encounter that Dennis realized that instead of verbally communicating it was done with mental telepathy. On eating insects Dennis, who is now a vegetarian, commented that he did not feel bad eating the ants because they were eating him.

The book is available online at Amazon both in a print edition and Kindle:

<https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Ray-Goldberg-Rivera-ebook/dp/B077T22RPJ#customerReviews>

Dennis is now working on another book based on his experience in Viet Nam.

Malibu Rotary Gives Donations to Malibu Dolphin Foundation and to Music Competition Accompanist



Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence (L) presents check of Karen York, a Malibu Rotary club past president and publisher of the Malibu Times, for the

Malibu Dolphin Foundation. The Dolphin Award is given annually to people and organizations in the community who have demonstrated outstanding community service. The Malibu Times started presenting Dolphin Awards 28 years ago and there have been over 300 recipients. They formed a 501 c3 foundation to give a financial reward to the various charities that the Dolphin Award recipients have. Karen York announced that the February 8 Malibu Times has the list of 2018 Dolphin Award winners. One of them is Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence.



Malibu Rotary Club Youth Chair and Chair of the Middle and High School Singing Competition presented special gift to the singing competition piano accompanist Joellen “Cha Cha” McNaughton at Malibu High School For years Cha Cha has played for the singers in our contest as well as our entrants at the district competition pro bono.

Meeting of Past Presidents

There were many guests at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting February 7 the see Malibu Rotary to see Dennis Torres speak. There were 9 past presidents of the Malibu Rotary Club present. Past presidents included **Rex Levi, Chris Bauman, Karen York, Margo Neal, David Baird, Bob Syvertsen, John Elman, Bill Wishard and Dennis** himself (president in 1991).

Bill Wishard at PETS (again)

Malibu Rotary Club President Elect Carlye Rudkin was unable to attend PETS this week end. She was unable to to attend. Bill Wishard was already planning to be there because he was asked by the District to evaluate those who were presenting classes there. He was assembling a full report to bring back to Carlye and the club In a preliminary report this

weekend Bill told this reporter it was the best organized PETS he has attended. He bought a video recording of the great speakers and said there is at least one of them we may have at a future club program.

District Events

Membership Forums will be held March 3rd and April 25th.

Bianca announced future Rotary District events—PERLS on Feb 3 and the District St Patrick's Day 5k Color Run to End Polio, starting a 8:30 a.m. Saturday March 17 in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area at Griffith Park. Cost is \$50.00 for adults and \$20.00 for Rotaractor, Interactors and participants under 18. Registration includes a t-shirt, sunglasses, lunch and one raffle ticket. There will be live music. Register at <https://www.stpatricksdayercolorrun.com/> All proceeds from this event will go to End Polio Now and will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Malibu Grove



Did you know? When Dennis Torres was Malibu Rotary Club President in 1991 he and the Malibu Rotary Club members planted trees in what was to become Bluffs Park as part of the theme Rotary International had that year "Preserve Planet Earth". After they were planted State of California parks people said they did not comply with what they wanted in the park and the trees were removed, but this plaque (missing the Rotary wheel at the top) still adorns the entrance to the park as a remembrance of that Malibu Rotary Club project. This year local Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs are planning to plant trees in nearby areas in Ventura and Santa Barbara area where vegetation was lost by fires and floods.

Calendar

February 14 2018 Alex Ayzin Speaks on “Successfully Selling Your Business.”



Malibu Rotarian Alex Ayzin is known in our club as the creator of Winds of Freedom Music Video celebrating man's quest for Peace and Freedom. Alex is also the Executive Director of Frontier Brokers (www.frontierbrokers.com) which specializes in successfully selling businesses. At the February 14th meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club Alex will tell us the essentials to consider when selling a business.

February 21 2018 Malibu Rotary Club Singing Competition Debriefing

The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition was held January 24 this year. At this meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club chair of the event Teresa Le Grove will discuss the organization of the event and recommendations for future events.

February 28 2018 Malibu Rotary Club Assembly led by Bianca Torrence.

March 7 2018 Rotary Membership club assessment and recruitment

This day Malibu Rotary club President Bianca Torrence asks that the meeting be devoted to Membership club assessment and recruitment lead by Teresa LeGrove, Bill Wishard and Carlye Rudkin who have attended forum.

It will also be a day to discuss, plan and set date for a social/happy hour to invite community