



Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

January 18, 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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- **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](#)**



Al Sturgeon, Chair of the Board of the Malibu Labor Exchange and director of Pepperdine University law school's Academic Success Program

Al Sturgeon is Chair of the Board of the Malibu Labor Exchange and director of Pepperdine University law school's Academic Success Program and soon to be its Dean of Students as well as an adjunct Professor at Seaver College. He entered law school as a nontraditional student. Married with two children, Sturgeon had already worked as high school teacher and as a pastor in Mississippi. He was a volunteer in Hurricane Katrina

and at two Habitat for Humanity affiliates before arriving at Pepperdine for law school.

When he spoke at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting January 18th, he described his path to Malibu, volunteerism and his many and varied activities, with emphasis on the history of the Malibu Labor Exchange.

He described his early years growing up in southern Arkansas in a community where everyone was white and went to the same church. While still in Arkansas Habitat for Humanity started a branch and he liked the way it included everyone, regardless of color, religion or socio-economic class. He became a minister and worked in Mississippi for 10 years on the gulf coast. While there he started another Habitat for Humanity. After Hurricane Katrina demolished his home along with others where he was living, Habitat for Humanity became even more important and ultimately became the largest one in the country, especially after writer John Grisham phoned him to make a large contribution. He stayed there as a volunteer helping with the devastation from Katrina for two years.

Al has always believed in justice and decided to go to law school, specifically Pepperdine Law School in Malibu. While a law student he was looking for ways to help in the community and found that law students were helping the Malibu Community Labor Exchange by making sack lunches.

He became more involved with the Labor Exchange and talked about its 20 year history in Malibu. He said that day laborers used to hang out in certain areas of Malibu in an unorganized manner. By 1990 there was a fear and annoyance in the city, and also a certain amount of racial prejudice about the people hanging out on the corner begging for work. It was decided to establish a Day Labor site in Zuma. But the local neighbors said they didn't want it there. There was a lot of NIMBY (not in my backyard) and in 1991 the Day Labor site was shut down, and after public hearings and much debate the City of Malibu agreed to put a trailer next to the parking lot next to the County buildings on Civic Center Way where the present Malibu Labor Exchange was established. **The Malibu Community Labor Exchange** opened its doors and hosted its first work lottery on August 31, 1993.

The Mission of the Malibu Community Labor Exchange: The Malibu Community Labor Exchange believes that no community, city or country can ignore the existence of poverty. Moved by the reality of poverty even in the midst of affluence, the MCLE has established a day labor hiring site to provide a humane and organized center where the poorest workers in the community have an opportunity to acquire day work that could lead to regular employment and a better future.

Oscar Mondragón has been the Center Director since January of 1993 after over 10 years working with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. His bilingualism and the ease with which he interfaces with workers of all backgrounds and hirers from the Malibu community contributes greatly to the success of the current operation. Al said Oscar works 6 days per week at the Center, starting at 7:00 a.m., sometimes staying into the evening hours to attend meetings of the MCLE board. All the potential laborers at the center are registered and special skills and talents noted.

Mona Loo joined the first MCLE Board of Directors in Dec. of 1992 and became its Executive Director. Loo was instrumental in shepherding the Labor Exchange to its opening day on August 31, 2003. For her work related to the Labor Exchange she received: a “1995 Malibu Citizen of the Year Dolphin Award” from the Malibu Times; 1996 recognition from the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations as a recipient of the “John Anson Ford Award”; and in 1999 a “Staples Community Star”. Even after she moved to Palm Springs Mona continued on as Executive Director.

Since Al Sturgeon has been volunteering at MCLE his background and talents have been duly noted. The Board of MCLE had been looking for a replacement for Mona and asked Al if he would do it. Al told them that until August he needed to study for the Bar exam but after that he would consider it. He has now stepped into the position and said that the MCLE Board is an amazing group of people from the community, including even a student member, people from all walks of life, local religious leaders and members of the Sheriff’s department. Malibu Rotary Club past President the late Chuck Green was President of the MCLE Board 2000-2002.

The students of Pepperdine have continued to have a relationship with the MCLE. While waiting for work at the labor exchange the workers have benefited from students teaching computer skills and learning how to write a resume.

Al said that the Judeo-Christian tradition teaches to “care for the alien.” This is the spirit that inspires all the volunteers at the Malibu Community Labor Exchange.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

David Baird presided over the meeting and had some very good stand up comedy material before the Board of Directors meeting which followed and was presided over by President of Record William Wishard (highlights of the board meeting are posted in the “members only” documents section of the Malibu Rotary Club website—members logon to site and go to View Club Documents).

Guests at Jan 11th meeting

Tom Bos member of the Rotary Club of Holland, Michigan, a Past Rotary District Governor of a was again a guest at the Maibu Rotary club meeting

Rotary Water Projects in Myanmar (Burma) Slowly Changing Political Climate

Myanmar, a southeast Asian country that was formerly known as Burma (and by many people still is), has been under military rule in one form or another since 1962, when General Ne Win staged a coup that toppled a civilian government. The current junta, formed in 1988, threw out the results of a democratic parliamentary election in 1990 that was overwhelmingly won by the party led by [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi](#), the winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize and the daughter of Aung San, one of the heroes of the nation’s independence from the British Empire in 1948.

After years of deadlock and stagnation in the country, change is coming at a rapid pace, though still on the military's terms. Nonetheless, there is hope that Myanmar is moving away from years of paranoid authoritarianism and Soviet-style economic management that has left the majority of the country's 55 million people in dire poverty.

Although Rotary Clubs have not been allowed to exist in the country since 1962, several Rotary International projects to build self-sustaining water management systems for over 200 orphanages throughout Myanmar have been allowed. The ample supply of "water on demand" for an orphanage in this very hot country means the kids and staff never have to worry about having enough to drink, prepare their meals, or wash themselves and their clothes. They also know there is enough water to sustain the critically-important survival crops they grow on their land for their own annual sustenance.

The projects may have been the start of change in diplomacy between the harsh Myanmar regime and the rest of the world who does not recognize the military rulers as representing the country of Burma. It's hard for even the most ruthless regime to say no to drinking water for kids. Many southern California Rotary Clubs, including Rotary Club of Los Angeles (LA5) have been involved in supporting these water projects.

We recommend checking out the website about the projects <http://www.myanmarwater.org/> and also the You Tube video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2E9QYU3ZLQ&feature=player_embedded.

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.



citizen residential facility in Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

In the second project (*Centro Geriatrico San Rafael, Inc* in Arecibo, 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

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

Jan 25 2012

Camille Gaon

"the benefits of anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer cooking and life-style changes"

Camille Gaon is New York writer and chef who just finished a book on anti cancer nutrition. She is a Consultant/Chef for Anti-cancer diet and general wellness life-style choices. Created tailor-made menus and instruction on how to prepare food according to safe handling guidelines to maintain optimum health benefits. Clients include cancer-survivors and patients undergoing treatment.

Feb 1 2012

Lee Schwing

"Third Millenium Awakening Biosand Water Filters in Ganeshuri, India"

Lee Schwing is curator for GreenLife Buzz in Malibu and also a spokes person for the nonprofit Third Millennium Awakening based in Malibu. TMA is dedicated to uplifting the quality of life in impoverished areas of the Thane District, Maharashtra State, India. In India, diarrhea alone causes mor than 1600 deaths daily. Lack of pure drinking water is a major cause of diarrhea. As Malibu Rotarians have seen by the project we had donated to in Ecuador Biosand Filters is the best method for purification in these type of environments and TMA is providing them in Ganeshpuri.

Feb 8 2012

Tommy Hawkins

"Life's Reflections: Poetry for the People"

**FORMER LOS ANGELES LAKERS STAR, BROADCASTER AND L.A. DODGERS
EXECUTIVE TOMMY HAWKINS AUTHORS POETRY BOOK**

***"Life's Reflections: Poetry for the People"* is an eclectic collection of
narratives and colorful illustrations, full of insights and surprises!**

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 hs 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 (noon at Charlie's Restaurant)"

Once in 40 years there are 5 Wednesdays in February. Malibu Rotary Club will mark this occasion be having a special club assembly lunch meeting at Charlie's Restautant 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 meetin March 7.

