



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

January 26, 2011

**Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Christopher Bauman**

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

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

- **Last week: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Member Ben Allen On The State of the District**
- **Next regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be February 2 Wednesday, at 7:30 a.m in the Pepperdine University Fireside Room. Speaker will be Gary Darakjian whose topic will be "Inside Malibu's SOS" .**
- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports BioSand Filters in Ecuador**
- **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.rotary5280la.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>**
- **[RI President \(2010-2011\)](#) Ray Klingensmith**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2010-20 11): Doug Baker**

**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Member Ben Allen
On
What's New in the District**



Ben Allen, at age 32, the youngest member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, spoke about the achievements of the District at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on January 26.

A student of the district from kindergarten through graduation from Santa Monica High School in 1996, Ben appreciates what the district did for him, preparing him for Harvard, where many of the students have come from private prep schools. Despite budget cuts test scores for students graduating from the schools of the SMMUSD are among the tops in the nation. Since 2002 achievement scores of SMMUSD graduates have gone up 11%, and for minorities the scores have increased even more, with African Americans showing a 16% increase and Hispanics showing a 15% increase. A whopping 95% of the graduates from SaMoHi and Malibu High go on to some type of higher education, whether it is community college (especially Santa Monica College) or universities across the country. This is in contrast to neighboring LA Unified School District, where there is a 50% drop out rate.

SMMUSD high schools are also providing more AP (Advanced Placement college level) classes, and the scores in these classes are also rising. Besides the academic achievements SMMUSD has managed to maintain its excellence in the arts, with world class music and theater programs. Funding for education has been dwindling for several years.

In the 1970s, California had among the highest per-pupil spending in the nation. Now it spends among the least per capita. As an example, Ben pointed out that the State of California spends only 50% of what the state of Vermont spends per student for education. And we all know the budget crisis the state of California is in currently. The SMMUSD budget is due each June, and they have always depended on the state to provide funds for most of the budget, but the state budget is typically still not ready months after June. There is also a question of labor costs.

To minimize the amount of programs cut, employees laid off, and to offset the shortfall of state funding the SMMUSD has had to seek local revenue sources: parcel taxes, fundraising, and generous help from the City of Santa Monica.

Santa Monica is giving approximately \$7 million this fiscal year to the SMMUSD as part of a contractual agreement for an annual contribution. The Measure Y .5% sales tax passed November election in Santa Monica designating half the estimated \$12 million in annual revenue expected to be generated by the tax toward the school district, benefitting schools in both Santa Monica and Malibu. Malibu has a \$140,000 agreement with the SMMUSD for joint use of various Malibu facilities, a far lower contribution than that made by Santa Monica.

Ben was asked about his opinion of the recent application of the Point Dume Marine Science Academy for status as a charter school. The school has the second highest scores in the district, is the smallest school in the district, and thus is the most costly school per capita to operate in the district. Before the City of Santa Monica had come up with extra funding through Measure Y, there was talk of closing the school. Point Dume parents wanted to turn it into a charter school and said that they could raise enough money to do it and sustain it. Ben said that one of the District's concerns was that if Malibu could not come up with enough money to sustain the school it would still be the responsibility of the SMMUSD. The charter process itself is costly. In general charter schools were created to bring up the conditions of inner city schools that were failing. This definitely was not the case at Pt Dume, a high achieving school.

Ben says he understands the frustration of people in Malibu not having representation on the SMMUSD board. He understands they want a sense of ownership for their schools. Malibu joined the Santa Monica School District many years ago, before Malibu was a city, and when there were much fewer people living there. He believes that some day Malibu may secede from the SMMUSD and form its own school district, and many people Santa Monica would welcome that, because with the passage of Measure Y and increases in Santa Monica's joint use agreement funding, Santa Monica is now effectively subsidizing the Malibu schools. The people of Malibu may want to be careful what they wish for. When they look at the numbers, they may prefer to leave things as is, as they'd have to recreate the same amounts of generous local funding that currently sustain the exceptionally strong programs of the Santa Monica-Malibu schools.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Margo Neal did a superb job at the podium substituting at the January 26th Malibu Rotary Club for both Malibu Rotary Club President Chris Bauman and President-Elect Kevin Boling, who were both out of town.

Kudos again to **Geoff Ortiz** for another fantastic Annual Malibu Rotary Club Senior and Middle School Singing Competition on January 12th (pictured below). The Stauffer Chapel venue was one that everyone seemed to like and we will probably have the music competition there in the future. Geoff also announced the newest production at Malibu Stage, an original production of *A Night At The Oscars* playing from February 11th through March 20th.

Guests

Guests at the meeting included Jack Corrodi's son **Ben Corrodi, Past Rotary District Governorn Tom Bos**, from Holland, Michigan, and sculptress **Danielle Anjou** of the Montecito Rotary Club who we hope to have joining our club.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports BioSand Filters in Ecuador

Malibu Rotary Club voted to send \$500 to the Rotary Club of Pontiac Michigan to help build and install BioSand Filters in Santo Domingo De Los Colorados, Ecuador. As was noted by Carol Cousineau, who, along with husband Ron brought the project to our attention, after installing the first BioSand filters in Ecuador (and pictured left) "That money would be matched

by the next District Grant, which we have been assured we will get. So, for instance \$500.00 become \$750.00.”

Malibu Rotary Club President Chris Bauman signed papers in November, 2010 for the Bio Sand Filters Michigan Rotary District Simplified Grant.

The filters and two 5 gallon safe water containers per unit, cost around \$60.00 each, so a donation of \$500.00 would provide 12 families of five or more with 20 gallons of water each day - enough for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, bathing and washing clothes! The filters are expected to last at least 50 years without the need to add any expense except chlorine - available and inexpensive. That means each family will have more money to provide more nutritious food for their families, since they don't have to pay for propane to boil their water. It will mean more time to spend with their children, rather than boiling or foraging for firewood. With great improvement in the health of all the family members, fewer cases of diarrhea and stomach flu from bad water and parasites, the parents will better be able to hold down a job and provide for

their families, children will be able to attend school more days and have a better future.

We are excited about this project because we anticipate that this is just the beginning. All over Ecuador, there are families struggling to survive, with a high infant mortality rate, because of bad water. This successful project will be a shining example and model. Rotary is the perfect vehicle for getting the word out about BioSand and accomplishing the goal of providing safe drinking water for the world. BioSand is one of the four methods of purifying water recommended for Third World Countries by the World Health Organization. (We have researched the others. Since they provide only a small amount of water for drinking, are small and ceramic, so more susceptible to breakage or deterioration, or adding so much chlorine that the people won't drink it, the concrete BioSand is by far the best choice for all but mountainous areas, where a more expensive plastic version of BioSand is an alternative.)”



For a while it looked like the matching grant process was not going to happen. When Malibu Rotarian Bill Wishard visited Ecuador in March, 2010, he was able to meet with Ecuador Past District 4400 Governor, Juan Prinz, to get project back on track

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website www.maliburotary.org for latest Calendar and future speakers

Calendar

(Next Page)

Speakers

Feb 2 2011

Gary Darakjian
"Inside Malibu's SOS"

Feb 9 2011

Jen Woods
"Intelligent & profitable investing & retirement planning"

Feb 16 2011

Luci Prosapio
"Rotary Ambassador Scholar-to-be"

Mar 9 2011

Jonathan Friedman
"malibu.patch.com"