



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

January 28-31, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Khoi Pham

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 - Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
 - Rotary District 5280 Website:www.rotary5280.org/

- RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham

Khoi Pham, Who With His Family, Was Part of the April 30 1975 Exodus of Saigon, Explains How He Started Bella Communities, Low Income Housing That Incorporates Volunteer Community Service



Khoi Pham (L) with his parents Thanh My “Mimi” and Khai Pham, Escaped on the Last Helicopters to Leave Saigon April 30th, 1975. At the January 28th, meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club, Khoi told how his background inspired him to found Bella Communities, which allows low-income families to become involved with community service through volunteerism as a pathway to earned income.

Malibu Rotary Club Past President Bill Wishard introduced Khoi Pham at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting, and also explained how he first met Khoi at LAX when both of them were waiting

for a flight to Indianapolis on April 27th last year. Bill was carrying a book about 50th college reunion he was going to and Khoi asked Bill about the book. Bill had spent part of his college years in the 1960's in Viet Nam, had met its President Ngo Dinh Diem, and always interested in its history. Recognizing Khoi was Vietnamese, he asked Khoi, "Do you know what anniversary occurs this week, April 30 1975?"

Of course Khoi knew. It was the day of the evacuation of Saigon. Bill was blown away by how well and why Khoi knew about that event. "I was on one of the last helicopters."

Bill wanted to talk to Khoi more, but both of them had full schedules during the short time they both be would be in Indianapolis, and it turned out Khoi was living in New York. The only time that Khoi had available in Indianapolis was during the time Bill was planning to be at the Indianapolis Rotary Club meeting, so he invited Khoi to meet him at the Indianapolis Rotary Club meeting. That club has 500 members, with usually 300 attending, and Bill was able to introduce Khoi at that club meeting, and find out more about Khoi, and what he did.

In Vietnam Khoi's family had history of government service. Members of the Pham family were part of the last Imperial Court in the Nguyen Dynasty in 1802. Khoi's father Khai was part of the Vietnamese military, Khoi's mother Thnkkhmy, besides being a singer, was involved with Air Vietnam, which was owned by the Republic of Vietnam until 1975 and the fall of Saigon. Because they were friendly to America their lives were in danger when American troops pulled out of Vietnam in 1975.



Khoi Pham, his brother, sister and parents managed to successfully escape from Saigon's Tan Son Nhat airport by helicopter April 30 1975

Khoi was only eight years old when he left Vietnam with family. Khoi said he was fortunate that all the members of the family were able to get on the same helicopter and all land on the same aircraft carrier. Many Vietnamese evacuees were not so fortunate, and their families were split up, unable to communicate with each other.



After leaving Vietnam the aircraft carrier *USS Okinawa* became the Khoi and the Pham family's home.

In 1975, in the closing days of the Vietnam War, about 130,000 Vietnamese who were generally high-skilled and well-educated, and who feared reprisals for their close ties to Americans, were airlifted by the United States government to bases in the Philippines, Wake Island, and Guam and then transferred to temporary housing at U.S. Army bases in the U.S, including [Camp Pendleton](#) (California), [Fort Chaffee](#) (Arkansas), [Eglin Air Force Base](#) (Florida), and [Fort Indiantown Gap](#) (Pennsylvania).

Military Row Housing that Pham family lived in is seen below



Later Khoi and his family lived in a single wide trailer.



The family remained together, and Khoi's mother said, "It's not where you live but how you live."

Khoi's father Kai was well educated in Vietnam with a background in military aircraft, was able to become a systems analyst with Northrop Grumman and the family moved to California, where Khoi was able to continue the tradition the family had put on education.

Khoi received a BA degree from UCLA Cum Laude in Economics and an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Beginning his career as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, followed by corporate positions in financial management at Nestle, Sony Entertainment, other start-up companies, and Adjunct Lecturer in Finance at Woodbury University, he decided to put his background together with his education and CoFounder and become Executive Director of Bella Communities (see <http://bellacommunities.org>).

Bella Communities integrates Community Service with affordable housing for low-income families through participants engaging in a multi-part Social Capital Professional Network Volunteership Program they have developed.



BellaCommunities

together our housing communities flourish



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The reason Bill ran into Khoi on a trip to Indianapolis is because the pilot program for Bella Communities is in Indianapolis. He calls the program **Resident Vounteership United Program**, or **ReV-UP**. It joins the owners of low cost housing with the low income residents, and asks the owners to reduce the rent to low income residents by having the residents volunteer to do community service in the area where they live. The people living in these communities can barely scrape up enough money to pay for their rent and food each month. They are the hard working poor.

Studies have shown that low-income residents have virtually little savings and reserves to weather financial hardships. In their struggles to make ends meet, residents suffer from anxiety and perilous housing instability resulting from rent skipping and evictions. It is easy for residents to lose sight, feel overwhelmed and dismiss civic engagement. Compounding the problem, a lack of involvement and local volunteerism further reduces the residents' connection to the community, which then fails to strengthen social networks, and accure social equity, and fails to foster skills-building and self-worth. The very foundations of a healthy community and personal advancement remain off-limits to the low-income residents.

Volunteerism increases the chance of employment, and the resident's involvement in the community will increase the pride and value of where they live.



The elements of the program are:

- **1) Self-Determination into program**
- **2) Orientation & Workshop to program**
- **3) Participation in Spark event**
- **4) Volunteer minimum 4 hours per month**
- **5) Receive rent credits**
- **6) Receive financial and budgeting counseling**

In addition to the economic incentive the hoped for outcome would be to change attitudes and behaviors and instill self-worth in the residents.

The Indiana pilot program involved 4 affordable housing projects, with a pool of 1,000 households. The rents were either below market rate or subsidized.

The results of the ReVUP program over a 2-year period (2012-2013) in 4 Indiana properties are seen below. With 100 households participating (10% of the total outreach of 1,000):

- Hours of Volunteer time generated—2000
- Percent of Participants that felt connected to community—96% Survey
- Volunteer Earnings---\$17,000

There was a trend of more participation as the program continued. Bella Communities wants to provide technical assistance and technology support to “early adopter” wit the combined goal of outreaching to 6,000 households (among 25 properties). The ReV-UP Program Demonstartion Phase will run up to 24 months.

For more information about ReV-UP and Bella Communities you can go to the organization’s website at bellacomunities.org, or contact Khoi D. Pham at 213-268-0359 (kpham@bellacomuniities.org).

Khoi Pham’s father and mother Khai and Thanh My (Mimi) Pham, spend most of their time developing Reach Out Foundation they created to aid Vietnamese families in need.

Reaching Out Foundation

The Reaching Out Foundation (ROF), formerly Nhom Thien Hoi Glendale, began its work in 1992 by mobilizing a grassroots effort to establish a non-profit organization to help orphanages, handicapped children, and the aging in nursing homes.

The ROF’s mission is to reach out and offer financial and educational assistance to those who have the will but not the means to

lead a meaningful, dignified and peaceful existence.

The ROF's objectives are to help the unfortunate and under-privileged through financial and non-financial assistance, and to provide exemplary civic and community volunteerism for younger generations.

The ROF receives its funding from donations solicited from individuals and corporations, and fund-raising events. Currently, all staff members are volunteers and receive no compensation for their services.

The ROF's community outreach programs include performing free, live musical programs at nursing homes in Orange County, California, visits to orphanages and nursing homes, and publishing a newsletter.

Reaching Out Foundation is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. ROF founders are Khai D. Pham and ThanhMy T. Nguyen, who now serve as Secretary/Treasurer and President, respectively.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal announced that when she goes on the Rotary District Humanitarian Trip to Guatemala in a couple weeks backpacks are going to be given to kids, and she wanted members to bring stuff for kids to be put into the bags, like sticky notes and crayons. She said she will be allowed to take 70 pounds of luggage.

Margo also talked about the success of the annual Malibu Rotary Club sponsored Middle and High School Vocal Music Competition that was held at Raitt Recital Hall the previous week, and thanked chair of the event **Delvin Glymph**.

David Zielski is planning the 2015 Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser, which it appears will be at Duke's Restaurant in Malibu. Halloween is Saturday October 31, 2015, and if the party is held on Saturday, the room will cost twice as much as any other day. We voted therefore to have the 2015 Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Fundraiser the night before Halloween, on Friday, October 30.

PDG Tom Bos, our winter visitor from Holland, Michigan, not only delivered an inspirational invocation at the last Malibu Rotary Club meeting, he agreed to be the speaker at the next meeting, talking about the latest developments in Rotary's eradication of polio.

Bill Wishard went to the Pre-PETS seminar on Saturday Jan 31, representing Malibu Rotary Club in place of David Zielski. President Elect David Zielski will be going to PETS.

Guests at the last Malibu Rotary Club

There were many guests at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on January 28th who came with speaker **Khoi Pham**. In addition to Khoi's parents **Khai** and **Thank My (Mimi) Pham**, were Bell Communities Board members **Ben Downing** and **Thomas Dougherty**.

Community Remembers Malibu Rotary Club Charter Member Jack Corrodi in Memorial Service at OLM



Jack Corrodi is seen above in this picture taken January 2, 2000, as he was hosting members of the Malibu Rotary club at Adamson House, where he was a docent.

Malibu Rotary Club charter member John T. “Jack” Corrodi Jr., 79 passed away passed away at UCLA Santa Monica Hospital on January 24th following a long illness.

Jack was known by most people in Malibu for his wit and humor and involvement in so many things and because of the extended family he created. Besides helping start the Malibu Rotary Club, he helped start the Psi Upsilon fraternity at Pepperdine University having been an alumni of the fraternity at Wesleyan College. He and his family were also known as for their membership at Our Lady Of Malibu Catholic Church.

Born in Ohio, Jack grew up a fan of Ohio State University. He hoped to play football there, but when football coach Woody Hayes saw him, he recommended he go somewhere else, and he became the center on the Wesleyan University football team. In 1963 Jack graduated from the Harvard Business School. For their 50th anniversary HBS invited their 1963 graduates to submit advice in chapters of a book called “If I knew then.”

Jack submitted some quotes on several topics including the topic of Marriage and Family. For this section Jack wrote

“Don’t rush into getting married. At age 35, I knew better where I was headed and whom I wanted to be with.

We were shocked at not being able to get pregnant. Never mind. Adoption of newborns turned out to be delightful. (We did it 16 times.)”

A story that appeared in the July 5, 1995 *Los Angeles Times* written by James Rainey entitled “A House of Love : One Couple's Boundless Compassion Has Given 16 Adopted Children a Second Chance at Life” (http://articles.latimes.com/1995-07-05/local/me-20360_1_adoptive-children) tells how, over the course of 25 years Jack and Kay’s frustration at trying to adopt local children, brought them to Central and South America to build a family of 16 adopted children.

The Corrodis' quest for family began in 1972. Unable to conceive their own children after two tubal pregnancies, then stalled in early efforts to adopt through Los Angeles County, the couple found a Mexican woman who wanted to give up her daughter. That little girl, Luci, is now 42. At the time Jack still recalls "roaring down the 405 Freeway at 2 in the morning to get to the hospital in time to see her born."

There were many trips after that, forays to Central and South America. Some ended with Jack and Kay clutching a new bundle as they hopped a plane or car for home. Others ended in disappointment--like the time a young Colombian woman wanted to give up her child, but was still in labor when the Corrodis had to leave the country. Failed adoptions "really tore us up," Jack Corrodi said. So, after adopting seven children, the family began taking in foster children from the county Department of Children's Services.

The first foster child was so badly damaged by her mother's drug abuse that, well into childhood, she could not speak or sit up on her own. But the Corrodi’s persevered--eventually becoming parents to a total of nine more children.

More than half the Corrodi clan was born drug addicted--a scourge that left the children with enough medical, emotional and learning disabilities to fill a book, literally. Jack and Kay Corrodi learned so much about children born hooked on alcohol and cocaine that they helped write a pamphlet that officials at UCLA once used to help counsel other parents of drug babies.”

Jack was an entertaining story teller. Until recent years he could always be counted on to be the closer at annual Rotary Demotion Party Roasts. Able to weave parts of the outgoing Rotary Club president’s personality into an elementary grade school classroom, with the that person sitting next to an imaginary character named Archibalus Hollis, Jack would always have the room in stitches as he told the story. Even though the audience had heard the routine many times before, Jack would have them laughing before he was half through.

We appreciate Kay and the Corrodi family sharing Jack with us for so long.

Those who attended the Memorial Service for Jack had to be touched by the love shown by those whom he touched, especially 10 of his children who all had inspiring words of love, and remembrances of his always present humor.

Malibu Rotary—Home Club of RainCatcher Executive Director David Zielski

The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on You Tube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher, makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RLo&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see maliburotary.org)

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February 11 Speaker Dustin Plunkett

News of 2015 Special Olympics and Volunteer Opportunities For Locals to be Presented at Feb 11 Malibu Rotary club meeting



2015 Special Olympics will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world.

Josh Voorhees Feb 18, 2015

How he received Pepperdine Scholarship from his Boston area Rotary Club

Sade Obanwo Feb 25, 2015

Science Care whole body donor program

Sade Obanwo is Manager of Community Relations for Science Care.

The Science Care whole body donor program links those that wish to leave a lasting legacy through medical research with the researchers and educators that need human tissue to do their important work. Each donor not only gives of him or herself but gives hope to future generations. Hope for new disease treatment options, better patient outcomes and advanced surgical procedures to improve the future for all of us.