

The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

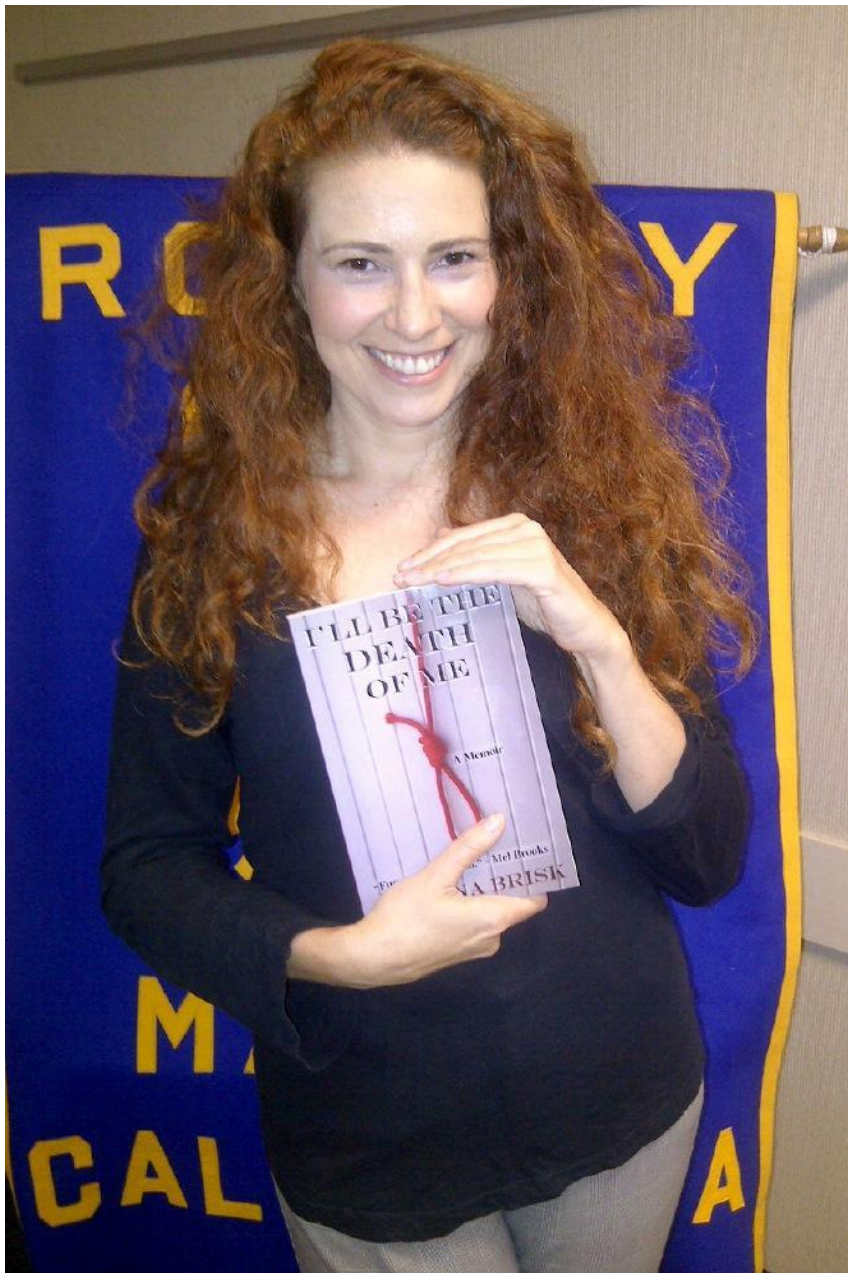
January 29, 2014

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President William Wishard

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)

- **Susanna Brisk--More from "I'll Be the Death of Me--A Memoir"**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting February 5 Malibu Rotarian Irene Bettler Talks about "My Life and Learning" at noon (with Fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.) in LC152 at Pepperdine Drescher Campus.**
- 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.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Muntean (2013-14)



Susanna Brisk--

More from “I’ll Be the Death of Me--A Memoir”

The Malibu Rotary Club had a teaser glimpse of Susanna Brisk at the club meeting last November 20th, when her her irreverent humor, spot on dialects, beauty and ability to turn an

otherwise boring meeting into an entertaining event, begged for an encore appearance. January 29th was the date and Susanna did not disappoint.

Although you can certainly get Susanna's Book on [Amazon](#), [Kindle](#) and [iBooks](#) seeing her perform live, bringing all the characters in her life alive, as only a great actor can, is a special treat.

There are stories about and by Susanna all over the Internet. An early bio from IMDb:

Susanna Brisk was born in Estonia in the former Soviet Union, and moved to Australia with her family at the age of 4. She started modeling at the age of 16, performing stand-up comedy at the age of 17 and did her first televised stand-up spot live on Australian national television at the age of 19. Over the next four years, Brisk performed stand-up and sketch comedy on every Australian television network including The Australian Comedians in Concert (twice) at the Melbourne Concert Hall in front of 2,500 people. In addition, she wrote and performed characters for FOX Breakfast Radio, was featured in many national TV commercials and wrote, produced and performed numerous shows.

Brisk produced and performed her one-woman show Megababe, a send-up of models and the fashion industry, when she was twenty, as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. The show took place at the Universal Theatre, using a chorus of models which Brisk choreographed, and which attracted national publicity on television, radio and print media. Her next multi-character show, JAP - Jewish Australian Princess, sold out the season in its first week and gained excellent reviews. In 1997, Susanna headed to New York City to study at the Stella Adler Conservatory for the summer. Immediately, she landed a role in the indie feature [Some Fish Can Fly](#) (1999) and began performing extensively on the new York stand-up circuit. In New York, she booked lead roles in NYU films, several indie shorts, the interactive CD-Rom The 24-7 and performed Off-Broadway in "The Cleansing of George Cuthbert". She shot two pilots for VH-1 (Couch Potato and Rock n' Roll Stand-Up) and became a stand-up regular at the Comic Strip, Stand-Up New York, the New York Comedy Club and Caroline's NYC, as well as downtown venues such as Surf Reality and Collective Unconscious.

In 1999, Brisk returned to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival with JAP 2. The season involved twenty-four shows in twenty-five days in Melbourne, with two additional sold-out shows at a 350-seat venue in Sydney. Brisk returned to NYC to produce and perform JAP - Princess in the City for a four-month season to packed houses at The Duplex in historic Greenwich Village. She played 17 different characters and the piano, received a rave review in Time Out New York and was invited to perform the show at the HBO

Workspace in LA. Once in Los Angeles, she booked a guest principal role on JAG, and hosted The Kisser, the first pilot for POP.com for Dreamworks/Imagine.

She performs stand-up regularly at the Improv, the Comedy Store, Dublin's and the Laugh Factory. Stand-up gigs include her headlining tour with the Star Spangled Girls of US Military Bases in the Balkans, including Bosnia, Hungary, Macedonia, Sarajevo and Kosovo and opening for international acts at The Riviera in Los Vegas. She recently screened "Whim", a short film which she wrote, produced, directed and starred in. She has also produced and performed a workshop reading of a new show Waiting to Breed, at the Larry Moss Studio.

In 2002 Susanna became part of The Actors' Gang theater company in Hollywood, taking part over many months in Commedia del Arte workshops with Tim Robbins and other veteran Gang members and playing the piano in the late night show "Alagazam."

This bio says she is happily married to Barry Katz, but we learn from her first appearance at the Malibu Rotary Club, they are now divorced---but still living together.

As introduction to her autobiographical *I'll Be the Deam of Me* a more personal view of her biography emerges:

Born an only child in the Soviet Union and raised in Australia, Susanna is educated at an Orthodox Jewish School, raised by a somewhat angry Soviet-style father, a brilliant yet domineering mother, and her borderline personality grandmother Babushka (she of the ever-roaming eyebrow.) Cursed with a black depression from childhood, but blessed with a genius sense of humor, a decade later, she becomes a comedy star in Australia. Seeking the American Dream (and to piss off her parents) she travels to NYC for fame and fortune, where she falls in love with the greatest city in the world, but finds that the romance is one-sided. In the Big Apple, she samples the local circumcised offerings, hangs out with prostitutes (not Jewish), lives with Kenny Kramer (yes, the real Kramer from Seinfeld), and marries the rarest of creatures from her Australian homeland - a large Jew. Eventually she finds herself living that fabled American Dream in Malibu, California, the mother of "Irish Twin" boys, but in typically self-destructive style, attempts to throw it all away by running away from home. Only when committed to lock-down psych facility does our heroine finally learn that she may not be as crazy as she thinks she is, to stop trying to control the universe, and that children are actually useful, as they may keep you from killing yourself.

Although the book is finite example of Susanna's work, there is an on-going outpouring of innermost thoughts--Susanna writes an almost daily blog on her website www.MalibuMom.com. Her personal Recap of 2013 went something like this:

Dear Esteemed Reader,

My kids turned 8 and 9 this year, and with that came the glories of teen angst. They by turns informed me that they hated me, hated themselves, and hated each other. Also, there were fun times and nobody died. And one kid now plays the flute. So, that's good.

2013 was also the year I published my book, had the best sex of my life, got the best reviews of my career and earned the love and esteem of fans around the world for both my **book**, **short films**, blog and **sharing** about my mental health diagnosis. I worked diligently in therapy (both group and individual) on said diagnosis, even when I didn't feel like it. I also started writing fiction (who knew?) and should have a new book of short stories for you in 2014.

Also, we began shooting the feature film it has taken me ten years to write, in which I play the lead, with an incredible co-star, director and DP – all of whom are committed to seeing the project through in 2014.

So I guess that's one reason to keep living.

I wish you all my beloved readers, the best New Year ever, as I continue to mourn, masturbate and meditate for the rest of 2013 (but at least not self-medicate.) And I hope you will join me in 2014, when I can once again lay bare my own foibles as a kind of single mom (sort of, if you count the fact that their dad and I live in the same house.) My suffering remains for entertainment purposes only.

Love you.

Malibu Mom a.k.a. Susanna

In several recent blogs Susanna has begun writing about sex. She notes that since she had done

that views to her blog website have gone up 800%.

Susanna also has several short sketches on YouTube. One of our favorites shows her impression of what happens when a mother of three believes she is the Disney Pixar character in "Brave."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tym04JHYjVA>

Although we believe Susanna is a brilliant stand up comedienne she tells us she does not want to do that anymore, hoping to concentrate on her writing and performing in other media. Her book has gotten 18 reviews on Amazon, all 5 stars.

Beside buying the book (which you can get \$1 off list with coupon code NZKF8ERTY on <http://amzn.to/13y1tkq> you can also follow Susanna on Twitter @MalibuMom1 and check out her website www.MalibuMom.com

Other News and Guests at the last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Happy Dollars: Malibu Rotary Club President Bill Wishard made "Happy Dollars" contributions because he was proud that the Malibu Rotary Club, with its paid attendance of 17 people, had the largest attendance of any club at the Rotary District Breakfast on January 14. There are 73 clubs in the district, and that is quite a feat for the small Malibu club that has only 19 members! Malibu Rotarian **Griselda Espinosa** contributed as she was happy to report her son finally home from the hospital after having gone there three times from complications of his recent ruptured appendix.

There were two guests at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting Jan 19, Rotary Assistant Governor **Alice Muntean** as well as **Chris Bashew**, a photographer and writer for the *Malibu Surfside News*.

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

Feb 05, 2014

Irene Bettler

"My Life and Learning "

Feb 12, 2014

Bill Wishard

"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"

Feb 19, 2014

Steven Glasberg (pending)

Feb 26, 2014

Tom Bos

"My Experience with Rotary Group Study Exchange from Holland, MI to The Netherlands"

Tom Bos, a Past District Governor from the Holland Michigan Rotary Club will share his

experiences as Team Leader of group of business people from his Rotary District in Michigan to the land of his ancestors in The Netherlands.