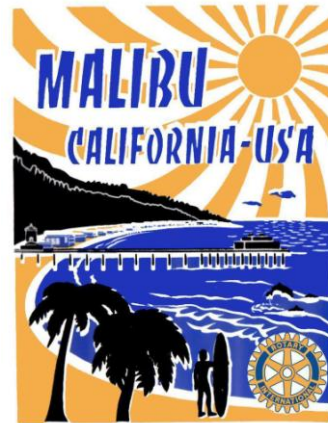




**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

January 31 2018

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence
Pictures by John Elman and Hongjin Walle Li

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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

- Last week Malibu Rotary Club Assembly
- Next regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting February 7 2018 Room LC 152 on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus Speaker will be Dennis Torres talking about new true life book “The Amazon of Ray Goldberg Rivera”. Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. Special post meeting coffee Q & A with community guests interested in Rotary. Dennis will not sell books but will autograph books you have.
- 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

Rotary Club Assembly

Next meeting Feb 7 2018

Dennis Torres and the “The Amazon of Ray Goldberg Rivera”

See details in Calendar Section—Don’t miss it!

Malibu Rotary Club Assembly

The January 31 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club was Malibu Rotary Club Assembly/Board meeting led by Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence, at which time various club officers gave reports, including Teresa Le Grove, who reported on the successful Middle and High School Singing Competition which she chaired for the second year, and also ideas she had garnered going to the District Membership Forum. The club wanted to thank her husband John Cherkas for taking all the music competition judges to dinner. Teresa also announced the amount of donations to Rotary that people had left the singing competition event. This will be used as a special gift to the singing competition piano accompanist Joellen “Cha Cha” McNaughton, who for years has played for the singers in our contest as well as our entrants at the district competition pro bono.

At the Membership Forum Teresa had picked up on various suggestions from district membership leaders. These included having no agenda social events for members, and the importance the website is for attracting members. Rotary has always been a non-denominational organization. Some people have objected to having the traditional “Invocation,” at the start of Rotary Club meetings and instead prefer a “Moment of Inspiration.”

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

Malibu Rotary Club Treasurer gave and had approved budget reports for both operating budget and charity budget. It was suggested that people in the community who did not have time to become Rotary Members should be made members of the group “Friends of Malibu Rotary” and donate \$100.00 per year.

Bianca announced she would like the club to order new name badges for everyone. John Elman and Bianca will be working on this. David Baird volunteered to cover the cost if it wasn’t in the budget.

Bianca announced future Rotary District events—PERLS on Feb 3 and the District St Patrick’s Day 5k Color Run to End Polio, starting at 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.stpatricksdaycolorrund.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.

2018 Malibu Rotary Club Malibu Middle and High School Singing Competition



Winners of the 2018 Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition from Left to Right High School Division Winners 1) Claire Anneet, 2) Gabby Farrer, 3) Kiraw Smit and then Middle School Division Winners 1) Camille Anneet, 2) Lauren Reed, and 3) Ellie Eddins

Post event publicity

Both the *Malibu Times* and *Malibu Surfside News* sent reporters and photographers to the 2018 Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition on January 24. The Feb 1 *Malibu Times* article with pictures and story by Judy Abel had a multipage story “Kid Singers Show Off Skill” that started on the cover page B-1 of its Malibu Life section. It can be seen on line at <http://onlinedigitaleditions.com/malibutimesweekly/>.

The February 1 *Malibu Surfside News* story and pictures were by Barbara Burke. Barbara, who has covered many Malibu Rotary Club events in the past, detailed the performances of all 17 singers in an article entitled “Rotary Club competition puts talented youth in the spotlight.” There is a teaser picture on the newspaper’s Life & Arts cover page entitle

“TAKING THE STAGE More than a dozen compete in Rotary Club of Malibu’s annual singing competition, page 25”.



Above left Claire Anneet belts out her winning number and to the right her middle school winning sister Camille Anneet does her thing.



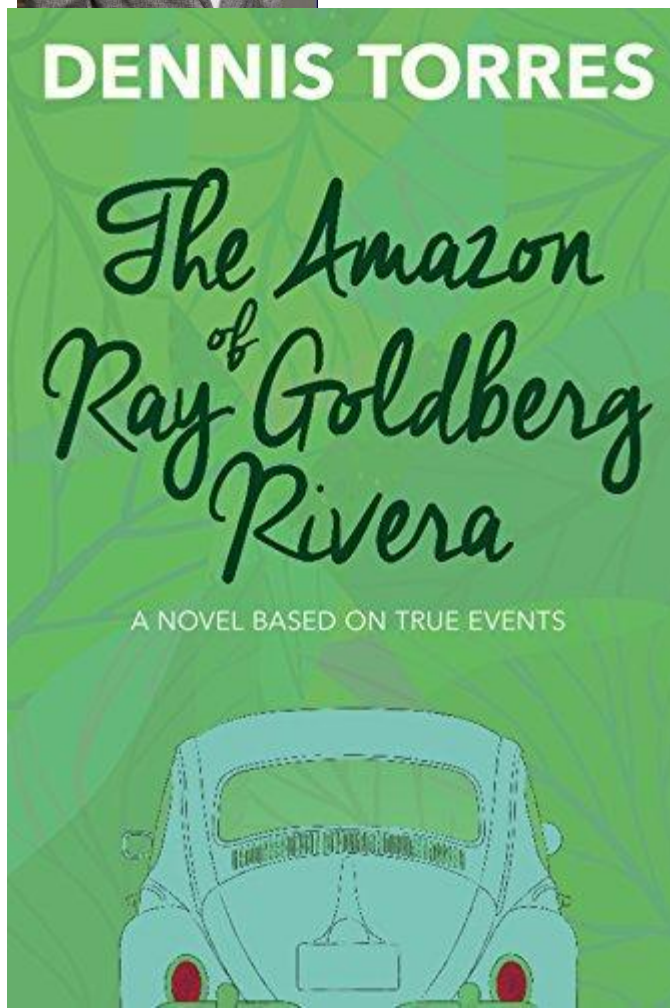
Pictured above winners of the 2018 Malibu Rotary Middle and High School Singing Competition on along with the judges flanked by Event Chair Teresa LeGrove on left and emcee Ted Silverberg and Malibu Rotary Club President on the right (pictures above from Honjin Li).

Calendar

February 7 2017 Dennis Torres and the “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.

This thrilling novel is based 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.

Dennis will be talking about it at the February 7 2018 Malibu Rotary Club meeting 8:00 a.m. in Room LC 152 at the Pepperdine Graziadillo Graduate campus in Malibu.

There will be a special post meeting coffee Q & A with community guests interested in Rotary.

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.

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.

