

The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

July 10, 2013

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 and Ado Eyong

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- 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/
- Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>
- RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: ? (2013-14)

Speaker Ako Eyong, “The Painter of the White Dove” on Political cartooning and human rights within the context of a third world dictatorship



Maggie Luckerath introduced most Malibu Rotarians to **Ako Eyong** at the May 29th Malibu Rotary Club Brazilian Bash Blowout fund raiser where he donated a copy of recent book *Vision of the Blind King*.

At the July 10th meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club we learned a lot more about the gentleman from Cameroon, and also about the country of his birth.

Ado holds a bachelor's degree in history and a diploma in Political Science. Presently, he is working on his next book; **THE GENERAL'S SON**.

Ako is an artist who employs different types of artistic media like writing, painting, and music with the content and expression of the art almost always about the same theme:

-The world and man's role in it.

Ako's signature on his paints is the “Painter of the White Dove,” a universal symbol of peace.

Ako had some success Cameroon as a cartoonist in the largest newspaper in the country. *The Post*. He said he enjoys being a cartoonist because even people who are illiterate can understand cartoons. Some of his cartoons were political in nature. Not only could the illiterate understand

Ako's cartoons, so could the corrupt government which was often the subject of his cartoonist. This ultimately led Ado to unceremoniously exit the country in 2003 using a fake passport.

Cameroon, officially the Republic of Cameroon (French: République du Cameroun), is a country in the west Central Africa region. It is bordered by Nigeria to the west; Chad to the northeast; the Central African Republic to the east; and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Bonny, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean.

After World War I, the territory was divided between France and Britain as League of Nations mandates. The Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) political party advocated independence, but was outlawed by France in the 1950s. It waged war on French and UPC militant forces until 1971. In 1960, the French-administered part of Cameroon became independent as the Republic of Cameroun under President Ahmadou Ahidjo. The southern part of British Cameroons merged with it in 1961 to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. The country was renamed the United Republic of Cameroon in 1972 and the Republic of Cameroon in 1984.

Compared with other African countries, Cameroon enjoys relatively high political and social stability. This has permitted the development of agriculture, roads, railways, and large petroleum and timber industries. Nevertheless, large numbers of Cameroonians live in poverty as subsistence farmers. Power lies firmly in the hands of the authoritarian president since 1982, Paul Biya, and his Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party. The English-speaking territories of Cameroon have grown increasingly alienated from the government, and politicians from those regions have called for greater decentralization and even secession (for example: the Southern Cameroons National Council) of the former British-governed territories.

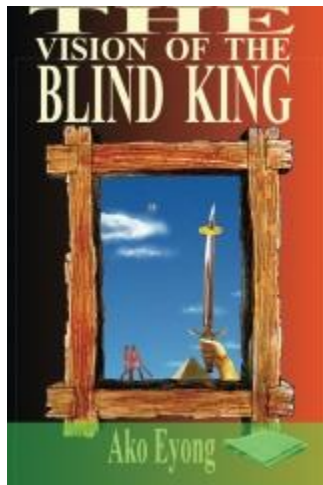
The President of Cameroon has broad, unilateral powers to create policy, administer government agencies, command the armed forces, negotiate and ratify treaties, and declare a state of emergency. The president appoints government officials at all levels, from the prime minister (considered the official head of government), to the provincial governors and divisional officers. The president is selected by popular vote every seven years.

Corruption is rife at all levels of government. In 1997, Cameroon established anti-corruption bureaus in 29 ministries, but only 25 percent became operational, and in 2011, Transparency International placed Cameroon at number 134 on a list of 183 countries ranked from least to most corrupt.

Ako says all African governments are corrupt, but Cameroon tops the list. Some of this is detailed in the Messi Messi Affair in which the President had special deals with the main Bank of Cameroon whenever he need it (See http://www.dibussi.com/2006/03/looking_back_at.html?cid=15138348). The president filled the prisons with anyone who opposed him or was suspected of opposing him. The prisons became so full that the President had the military go into the prisons and randomly kill prisoners and bury them in shallow graves.

It was under this climate that Ako, in 2003, found himself at the airport in Cameroon with a fake passport, with a destination of Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He said he chose Atlanta because, having lived his life near the equator, and didn't want to go anywhere where it was going to be cold, like Chicago or New York. Of course when he landed with a fake passport he had a log of explaining to do to US officials. Ultimately he was granted political asylum and ultimately chose another warm place in the U.S. to live, the City of Buenaventura, which is the official name of Ventura, California, where he continued to apply his art to media and also to tell people about what is going on Africa.

Because Ako is a Political Exile he cannot return to Cameroon. If set foot on Cameroon soil he would be arrested and who knows what would happen if he was imprisoned there. He recently received his American green card, and will apply for American citizenship as soon as he is eligible, which will be in 3 years. As an American citizen he could return to Cameroon without being arrested, because the Cameroon government doesn't want to have to deal with the American State Department.



Ako published his book *Vision of the Blind King* on February 14, 2014 and signed copies of it at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting.

Description of the work:

A people find themselves caught in a web of circumstances that push them to question the most fundamental beliefs about existence. It is a time of distrust, confusion, and uncertainty, -a time when loyalties are questioned and love is challenged. News that a powerful foreign enemy has its army on the march will quickly complicate an already complex situation, exposing fault lines that accentuate the stakes into a drawn out debacle between survival and extinction.

As the people fight back to undo the tightening vise, it never dawns on them that their predicament could be a function of one man's infatuation with Time. The Vision of the blind King is a literary historical fiction story that spills over into the present day. It is a book that allows us to draw clear and important parallels that may hold a key to the survival of our civilization as we know it.

You can buy a copy online at: <https://www.createspace.com/4111880>



Ako's unique background allows him to speak on several interesting topics: Political cartooning and human rights within the context of a third world dictatorship; The consequences of Timber lumbering

on the environment and people of the Congo basin; Human rights and social justice in sub-sahara Africa; The consequences of political corruption on environmental conservation; What is the nature and fate of all the billions in aid that go to Africa, The politics of democracy, oreign intervention, and Neo-Colonilism; Is there a connection between poverty and war? Or is it a vicious

Circle? Africa is the richest continent on Earth-- So why are its people

the poorest? Dwindling natural resources, blood minerals, and a new age of economic

imperialism; How Africa rob Africa; Religious nuts, fundamentalism, politics and

the justification of violence and war; and finally, Ako's speech on Gas, water, and war.

Everyone at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on July10 had a special treat in seeing and hearing Ako Eyong tell his story. He delivered an entertaining, humorous and gracious presentation. If you missed it there is still hope for you to recapture those moments Peter Formosa video recorded most of it. We may put the video up on the Malibu Rotary Club web site some time in the future.

Ado's website is www.painterofthewhitedove.com

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Neither Malibu Rotary Club President **Bill Wishard** nor Vice President **David Baird** were able to attend the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of July 10th (although Bill apparently arrived after the meeting was over, driven by **Jimmy Mon**, who picked him up from his morning doctor's appointment at the UCLA medical center where Bill's condition has been upgraded to make it possible for him to drive, although he still is rehabbing at his daughter's house in Carlsbad). David was in Oklahoma, perhaps on a book signing tour—he literally wrote the book on Oklahoma.

John Elman presided over the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of July 10. Guests in included the always beautiful **Veera Mahajan**, publisher of the *Malibu Chronicle* (www.malibuchronicle.com), which is now available in printed glossy color magazine format. Veera had examples of this to distribute to meeting attendees. Another guest was attorney **David**

Yardley, who will be the speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on July 24, about Mystic Lifeguard Tower No. 3 (Or, How I Lived Bankrupt In The Malibu Colony) .

Hubert and Tom Send Greetings From RI Convention in Lisbon



Hubert Luckerath (L) represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the 2013 Rotary International Convention held June 23-28th in Lisbon, Portugal. **Tom Bos (R)**, a Past Rotary District Governor from Holland Michigan, and a regular visitor to the Malibu Rotary Club, joined Hubert and thousands of other Rotarians from more than 225 countries and geographic areas at the annual event, held in a different country each year. Hubert will be talking about his experience visiting his first RI Convention when he is the feature speaker at the July 31 Malibu Rotary Club meeting.

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 at 12:00 Noon in LC 152 at the Pepperdine Drescher campus Villa Graziadio Executive Center unless otherwise noted).

Jul 17, 2013

Rotary Club Leaders

"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"

Jul 24, 2013

David Yardley, Esq

"Mystic Lifeguard Tower No. 3 (Or, How I Lived Bankrupt In The Malibu Colony)"

David Yardley lived and practiced law in Malibu for about 18 years. He had a roller coaster life beginning with a 2009 economic crash, loss of his law practice, tumbling into the Malibu Colony as a house and dog sitter, becoming an actor at Malibu Stage Company, and presently reviving his law practice.

At the Malibu Rotary Club meeting at noon on July 24 in Room LC 152 of the Drescher Graduate campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu Mr Yardley will read brief excerpts from his story, the book he is writing, Mystic Lifeguard Tower No. 3 (Or, How I Lived Bankrupt In The Malibu Colony), and talk about his personal enlightenment from all these experiences.

Jul 31, 2013

Hubert Luckerath

"Report of the 2013 Rotary International Convention in Lisbon"

Hubert Luckerath was the lone representative of the Malibu Rotary Club attending this year's Rotary international Convention in Lisbon. He will give a report back from that adventure at

noon

at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting at Drescher Campus of Pepperdine University on July 31.