

The Award Winning

## **Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter**

July 16, 2014

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

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

- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday July 23 at noon at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus in LC 152 (with fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.). Jo Ann Books will be the speaker. She is from Laredo, Texas, and now living in Northern California, who contracted polio at age 4 and became paralyzed in both arms. She has spoken to many Rotary clubs about the disease, which is still no completed eradicated.**
- **Last week: Malibu Rotarians go Rotary District Breakfast in New Venue to see Kareem Abdul Jabbar Talk About Camp Skyhook and see Nora MacLellan Next Day Talk about Vision to Learn.**
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org)
  - Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)

- **Rotary District 5280 Website:** [www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)
- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Neil Godsey (2014-15)**

**Malibu Rotarians go Rotary District Breakfast in New Venue to see Kareem Abdul Jabbar Talk About *Camp Skyhook* and Next Day see Nora MacLellan Talk about *Vision to Learn***

Eight Malibu Rotarians and one guest went to the first Rotary District Breakfast of the Rotary year on Tuesday morning July 15th, and the first ever meeting at the new Rotary District Breakfast location, at the City Club on the 51<sup>st</sup> Floor of a building on 550 Flower in downtown Los Angeles. The next day, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Malibu Rotary Club had its regular noon meeting at the Graziadio Pepperdine campus in Malibu, with Margo Neal, back from Nova Scotia in time to preside over the lunch meeting. Margo missed the breakfast the day before while travelling across the continent.

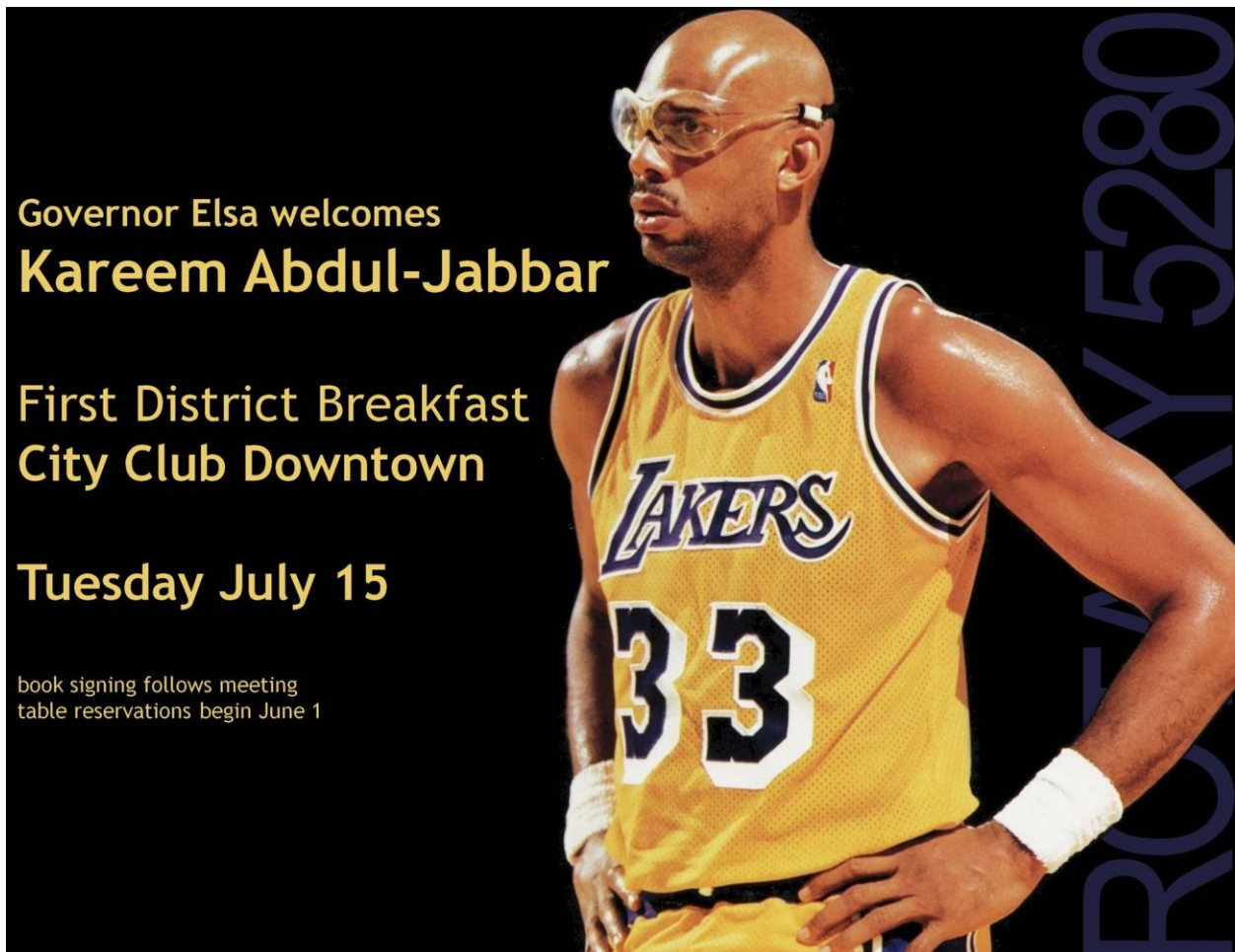
Both meetings featured speakers who talked about special projects benefiting youth.

### **Rotary District Breakfast**

The spectacular view from the 51<sup>st</sup> floor of one of Los Angeles' tallest buildings was only



matched by the entrance of the 7 foot 2 inch body of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Before he was introduced there were several videos about him.



**Governor Elsa welcomes  
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**

**First District Breakfast  
City Club Downtown**

**Tuesday July 15**

book signing follows meeting  
table reservations begin June 1

When Kareem Abdul-Jabbar left the game in 1989 at age 42, no NBA player had ever scored more points, blocked more shots, won more MVP awards, played in more All-Star Games, or logged more seasons. His list of personal and team accomplishments is perhaps the most awesome in league history: Rookie of the Year, member of six NBA championship teams, six-time NBA MVP, two-time NBA Finals MVP, 19-time All-Star, two-time scoring champ, and a member of the NBA 35th and 50th Anniversary All-Time Teams.

As a basketball player Kareem wasn't just big, he was agile. The dunk shot, which Chick Hearn later called "slam dunk", was banned in college from 1967 to 1976, because Kareem, then known by his birth name Lew Alcindor, made it look so easy. He was later to tell us "I can do more than stuff a ball through the hoop; my greatest asset is my mind"

In the Q and A at the breakfast someone asked how he developed the "shot that can't be blocked," his famous sky hook shot, which he could shoot and make with either hand. He

explained that he was always tall for his age, even in elementary school. By the time he was in fifth grade he knew he was going to be a basketball center, and studied the moves of the first great basketball center, George Mikan, who played for the Minneapolis Lakers in the 1950's. Mikan dominated the game in the early days of the NBA just as Kareem was to do later, and he did it with the hook shot. The young Lew Alcindor practiced the hook over and over when he was in elementary school, so by the time he was in high school and college he was unstoppable. He went to UCLA, where he played under coach John Wooden. He explains that John Wooden was not just a great coach. According to Kareem, what Wooden emphasized was that winning basketball games was not as important as building good character among his players. While Kareem played under Wooden the Bruin basketball team won 88 out 90 games and four national championships.

Kareem's main purpose in speaking at the Rotary District Breakfast was to garner support for SkyHook Foundation and Camp Skyhook, which is directed by Deborah Morales. The Skyhook Foundation's mission is to "Give Kids a Shot That Can't be Blocked" by bringing educational opportunities into under-served communities through innovative literacy programs.

Being a sponsor of the Skyhook Foundation enables the under-served youth in disadvantaged areas to participate in its flagship program — Camp Skyhook, which is in the Angeles National Forest on land owned by the Los Angeles Unified School District. Each week eighty-five 4th and 5th graders are immersed in a hands-on outdoor program staffed by the Los Angeles Unified School District that engages our young people in STEM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). There is more information and videos on the foundation's website at [CampSkyhook.org](http://CampSkyhook.org).

## Nora MacLellan Talk about *Vision to Learn* at July 16 Malibu Rotary Club Meeting



The Malibu Rotary Club meeting on July 16 featured Nora MacLellan, a member of the Westchester Rotary Club, and Rotary Chair of Vision to Learn (VTL), a 501C3 corporation that was founded in March 2005 by Austin Beutner, to provide free eye exams and glasses to kids in low-income communities.

The way VTL works is LAUSD, parochial and charter schools conduct vision screenings and identify children with visual challenges. Vision To Learn's Mobile Eye Clinic goes to each school. The VTL optometrists and opticians conduct free eye exams and fit children for free eyeglasses. According to VTL “Because the students

pick out their own frames, it's a fun experience for them. Kids can't wait to receive their new glasses!” Two weeks after the examination, Vision To Learn delivers kids' free eyeglasses to their school.

According to Nora and Vision To Learn:

“Vision To Learn solves a problem affecting as many as 1.5 million children nationwide who lack the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, study math or participate in class. Kids in low-income communities and minorities are disproportionately affected. More than 89% of kids served by Vision To Learn live in poverty and 87% are kids of color.

“The problem is one of access as most of the kids, for a host of reasons, do not get to a doctor. Vision To Learn solves the problem by bringing the clinic to the kids at schools and community organizations and providing eye exams and glasses free of charge. Vision To Learn has accomplished a great deal since it was started two years ago in Los Angeles and plans to use that experience to serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

“Vision To Learn has screened over 120,000 kids in Los Angeles and Sacramento, provided over 20,000 with eye exams and more than 16,000 with free glasses,

“Vision To Learn serves the needs of the hardest-to-reach kids in poverty-stricken, urban communities,

“UCLA research shows the direct impact VTL has on education outcomes – students helped by VTL have measurable improvement in grades

“UCLA research also shows VTL helps improve the learning environment for the entire classroom and school.

More information on Vision To Learn can be found on it’s website: [visiontolearn.org](http://visiontolearn.org).

In a Q & A following Nora’s presentation Malibu Rotarian Dr John Elman, an optometrist in Santa Monica, questioned whether there is really a need for Vision To Learn, given the fact that all children in the State of California who are not covered under their parent’s health insurance or whose parents cannot afford eye exams and glasses are covered by several other existing programs:

1. Under Covered California (the California State version of the Affordable Care Act [aka Obamacare]) a family of 2 whose income is between 0-\$21,000 qualifies for Medi-Cal, which provides eye exams and glasses for anyone under age 21.
2. Since 1975 the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic has provided eye care to underserved populations. They make weekly visits to Southern California community locations including public and private schools. In a typical year 4,000 children and 1,000 adults are examined and an additional 1500 people receive vision and glaucoma screenings and free prescription eyeglasses.
3. VSP, a vision insurance provider headquartered in California, but serving all 50 states, has full featured Mobile Eye clinics, which is mobilized during disasters, and during non disaster times travel to community events across the US with VSP optometrists who volunteer their time and services. There is an onboard dispensary of eyeglass frame donated by Marchon Eyewear and lens fabrication that can deliver glasses same day as exam

In response to #1, some parents cannot get their children to the doctor, and so the mobile

delivery system to the school is the only answer. And for #2 and #3, their mobile units are not getting to the schools that Vision to Learn is getting to.

## **Other News and Guests at the Last Meeting**

**Bill Wishard** said the next Rotary District Breakfast is October 7 with speaker Jeff Whitfield. He also encouraged members to go the Literacy Breakfast at Lawry's on August 13 which will have two speakers, including the Founder and Chair of Vision to Learn Austin Beutner.

**Maggie Luckerath** said she was contact with people from the Kiwanis Club to confirm Malibu Rotary Club's participation in Kiwanis Chil Cook off on Labor Day weekend. Malibu Rotary will again be selling water and watermelon.

## **Happy Dollars**

**John Elman** had happy dollar for his daughter last week and being able to join him going to his sister's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party in San Diego on Saturday and niece's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Sunday in Carlsbad.

## **Guests**

Guests at the meeting included **Delvin Glymph**, a counselor at Pepperdine, **Chris Bashaw**, Associate Editor of the *Malibu Surfside News*, and John's daughter **Shana Elman MD** who just completed her residency in Nuclear Medicine at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, and was spending a couple days back home in Malibu before returning to Seattle that evening to begin a Fellowship in PET Scan and before finishing a residency in Radiology next year.

## **Upcoming Speakers** (yet to be confirmed)

Randy Klingensberg, Performing Arts Studio West (who trains disabled artists to perform-- school attended by blind autistic musical savant Rex Lewis)

Founder of the National Veterans Foundation, Floyd 'Shad' Meshad

Dana Sherman of the Fleet Street Bike Project

Dan Wise on history of the 25,000 acres from Marina del Rey to PV Peninsula to Western Ave

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org) for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

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## **Calendar**

**July 23 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**Jo Anne Books “Life After Polio**

**July 30 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**Qadir Mohiuddin Ph.D “Personal Observations on GeoPolitics & Economics”**

**Aug 6 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**Laura Cazares “Master your Mind, Master your Cash”**

**Aug 13 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**David Sagona and Quinn Carter “Youth Commission, Helping Malibu**

**Aug 20 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**Carl Christman “Carl Reads Minds”**

**September 10 (at Pepperdine LC 152)**

**Dr Alison Wishard Guerra “Early Childhood Development”**

**October 25 Hollywood Halloween Costume Party Fund Raiser**