



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

July 29, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne III

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Pictures by Dr John W. Elman

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Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org

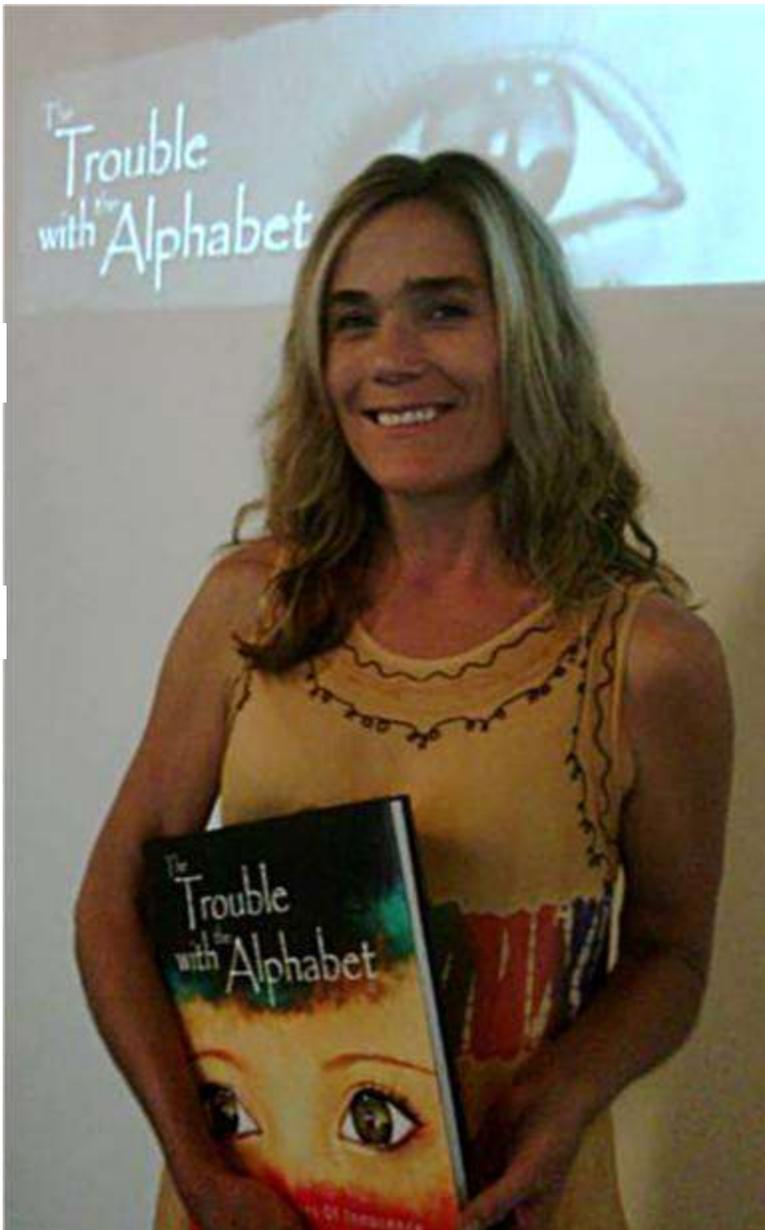
Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>

RI President (2009-2010) John Kenny

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2009-2010): Suzanne Sundberg



Caryn West : “The Trouble with the Alphabet”
—a journey into the heart of human rights violations and the children who suffer globally

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.” --Albert Einstein

Caryn West is an artist trained at the Pasadena Arts Center College of Design. She is a creative person who could have illustrated and written a cute children’s book going through the alphabet and choosing comfortable subjects from A to Z. In fact she originally set out to do that. Living in the ski area of western Colorado with her husband

and small children the letters of the alphabet could have been represented by ski themes (A is for Alpine, etc). Instead she created a book using as the subject of each letter of the alphabet the names of 26 countries whose human rights insensitivities are known to harm children. Her illustrations are beautiful. The subject matter is crushing.

The book itself, besides being available and signed at Caryn's speaking appearances, is available at Amazon.com and bookstores for \$64.95.. Amazon describes the book in the following way:

The Trouble with the Alphabet, Through the Eyes of Innocence is an artistic and literary journey into the heart of human rights violations and suffering of children around the world. With one country represented by each letter of the alphabet, the book addresses the many heart wrenching issues plaguing the world's children: genocide, child labor, human trafficking, the use of child soldiers, poverty, AIDS and the devastating effects of corrupt governments to name a few. It invites the reader to consider these issues through vibrant portraits that illustrate the emotions and vulnerability of each child. It challenges indifference and apathy through poetic messages, delivered as if through a child's eyes, messages that cut through the rhetoric and pierce the heart and soul. It clarifies the issues through short essays that aim to enlighten even the informed. Finally, it involves experts: organizations that provide answers, strategies and a platform for every reader to become a giver, a doer and an activist. The foreword written by Jack Healey, former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA and renowned human rights activist, states in this book, children, always the first to be hurt and harmed in any conflict, receive the full attention their innocence deserves. Talent, paint and prose become compelling instruments that Caryn uses in an unforgettable manner. The combination of the three lifts the veil of detachment and allows us to enter the room where a new day may dawn and convictions are born; convictions that energize and foment new action for decency and justice. *The Trouble with the Alphabet* is a 12"x12"- coffee table book printed in the USA in High Definition Hexachrome. It has been manufactured using wind energy, 25% post consumer recycled FSC forest managed paper and vegetable based inks. In addition to being green it aims to raise awareness to these important issues and support the organizations involved.

Before Caryn talked about the book an amazing five minute DVD music video was shown which was inspired by the book entitled *The Trouble with The Alphabet- Enough is Enough*. I encourage everyone to view and hear this video on You Tube at:

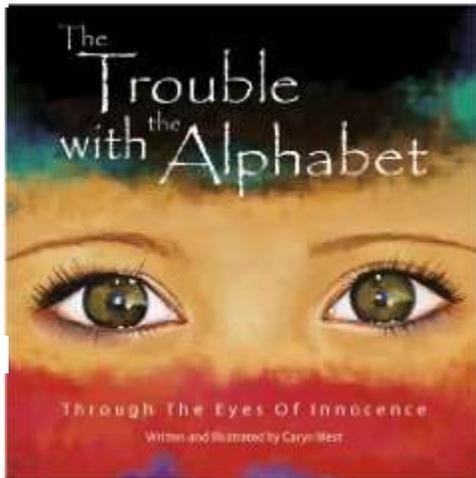
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIysyvuJAgA>

The video, produced by Caryn and her husband Brock and members of their family, features illustrations from the book, an original rap song background with words appropriate to the subject matter, as well as an unlikely voice over by the British TV personality Robin Leach who in this instance turns his attention away from the rich and famous to concentrate on Caryn's subject matter—the poor and ignored. The video itself is a work of art.

Regular readers of the *Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter* know how this editor often goes to the website of the weekly Rotary speaker to gather more information, check facts, and give readers of this newsletter web links to learn more. When I attempted to go to the website www.the-trouble-with-the-alphabet.com multiple ominous warning messages popped up saying *This site may harm your computer*. Clicking on one of these warnings found on a Google search for “The Trouble With the Alphabet” brought me the message: *The last time Google visited this site was on 2009-07-30, and the last time suspicious content was found on this site was on 2009-07-29.*

I was able to phone Caryn who told me that this sabotage of her website along with other problems related to publishing her book and her promotion of it have been going on ever since she first tried to publish it. The website host assured her that the website would be cleansed of the malicious content by Monday. Periodic sabotage of the website been going on ever since the site was launched. Other instances of the sabotage to Caryn’s project include a radio interview with her in which her side of the conversation was not heard at all.

When Caryn started her book she, her husband Brock and their three children Felica, Blaze, and Cruz, were living in house in Colorado. Her husband lost his job and ultimately they lost the house. She never stopped working on the book though. They put their furniture in storage, got an RV bus, and the whole family has been traveling across the country, as she talks about the book at service clubs, schools and book stores. Caryn grew up in Orange County and her family lives there.



Why did she create the book? She says she is just planting seeds of insight and knowledge—tools to spark ideas for compassion. She doesn’t have an answer for what to do. She feels her job is to bring awareness of the problem through her work. So far Caryn has visited 60 Rotary clubs across the country. She said Rotarians have the compassion that she feels for the abused children she illustrates in her book.

Guests and Other News from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

In addition to our speaker **Caryn West** there was one other guest at the July 29 Malibu Rotary Club meeting, Caryn’s husband **Brock West** who gives her technical and moral support in the *Through the Alphabet* project.

Jack Corrodi told us that the before and after school program at Juan Cabrillo Elmentary School in Malibu has about 65 kids in it. About 15 of the kids are on scholarship. The cost of the scholarship programs has partially been funded by contributions of the paying parents and others but \$17,000 is needed. The Malibu Kiwanis Cub and the Malibu Optimist Club has made recent contributions and Jack asked the Malibu Rotary Club to help at the meeting of July 29. The members present voted to contribute \$500 to the Juan Cabrillo after school program. In addition Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne said the Rotary District wanted the Malibu Rotary Club to contribute \$500 toward the Gang Initiative. We asked budget director Bob Syverstsen if we have the money in the charity budget for both of these items and we do if we sell some of the mutual fund investment in the charity account. We have decided to give to both of these causes.

Margo Neal read a thank you letter from **Jean Craig** who had spoken to our club a couple weeks ago about the One Voice Scholars program which prepares and laces low-income inner city Los Angeles high school students in colleges. The \$500 the Malibu Rotary Club contributed went to a student at King Drew High School to participate in this program.

Bill said the District Leadership Seminar at Crown Plaza LAX Hotel 5985 W. Century Blvd Los Angeles the past Saturday, July 18th was excellent. He said the printed Awards Booklet that we have created each year to give to the district has been replaced by an online system. Items that should be put into the online awards file have been printed out and Bill had printed copies for each avenue of service printed out for the appropriate board members of the Malibu Rotary Club and handed these out at the meeting.

Chris Bauman has more raffle tickets for the Rotary Foundation Celebration Dinner & Casino Night at the Carson Community October 3rd, for which the Malibu Rotary Club already was reserving a table for 10 at a cost of \$75.00 per person.. Grand prize is timeshare in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico including 60,000 frequent flyer miles on Alaska Airlines. Second Prize is \$1000 cash and third prize is \$500 gift certificate to Gearys Beverly Hills.

Use of Hahn Fireside Room--

Finding Where Malibu Rotary is Meeting This Month

Chris Bauman reports the following regarding the use of the regular meeting place of the Malibu Rotary Club, the Hahn Fireside Room on the Pepperdine campus and alternatives during the month of August.

The Fireside Room will not be available on the following dates.

August 5, Wednesday

CCB 140 has been reserved for you August 5. If you want to use this room, please let me know so I can do a

set-up.

August 12, Wednesday

Faculty Dining Room has been reserved for you on August 12 (various FR improvements during this week)

August 26, Wednesday

Unfortunately, due to NSO, there is not another space on campus available.

\$\$\$ Don't Forget the Syvertsen Deal! \$\$\$

“What’s the Syvertsen deal?” you ask. It a special deal given to Members of the Malibu Rotary Club to help them pay for the minimum Rotary Foundation \$100 raffle tickets. I asked by Bob to explain it:

For each club member who has paid the entire amount due to the club, as reflected by the 7/1/09 statements, by September 30 the club will send \$100 and the raffle ticket stubs to district 5280. As there are some drawings prior to the event, we will forward the stubs and \$100 when each bill is fully paid at three different dates:

July 29.

August 26. and

September 30, 2009.

You of course can get more raffle tickets from Chris Bauman, but \$100 contribution is minimum.

Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Place and the Options at Pepperdine University

Earlier in the summer Chris Bauman outlined some of the conclusions we had about out meeting place at Pepperdine:

In short, they will continue to set up the tables as usual through the summer. If, during the summer, a situation arises where they are unable to set up the room for us due to the room being occupied the

day/evening prior, I will receive a phone call alerting us of the situation. We can then elect to either take the room 'as-is' or pay the additional set up fee of \$68.

We also spoke of the possibility of them checking a key out to me to have access to the tables in the instance we accept the room 'as-is' and there are no tables available. We would then set up our own tables; which is not to assume that we would not possibly face the situation of having 100 chairs set up in the room from the prior event.

After the summer, In August, we can revisit the longer term solution and decide the best route.

Hope this helps,
Chris Bauman



Editors Note: Most of you know how strongly I feel about the Project TRIUMPH program conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. The program brought 10 teenage Arab and 10 teenage Jewish students from Israel to a leadership camp in Simi Valley where they all learned to work together, develop leaders skills before returning to Israel to use what they learned back home. Most of us feel helpless in trying to find a solution to the constant war in the Mid East, but at least this program is trying to do something, In the last issue of The Malibu



*Rotary Club
Surfwriter I
had written
about e-mail*

communications I had had with Frances Fuji of the Project TRIUMPH organizing committee. She had written

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting students this year, we are taking the opportunity to strengthen infrastructure in Israel and to establish collaborative relationships with aligned organizations.

Upon our request, Shaul, from the Rotary Club of Haifa, provided us with a budget and proposal to hire a part-time facilitator to be responsible for year-round support of both new Project TRIUMPH students and alumni. We are sending money to contribute to the facilitator’s salary, and she has already begun meeting with the kids there.

We are excited about prospects for 2010 and beyond (the plan is to resume bringing kids over in 2010, assuming that we can raise enough funds in 2009) and believe we will emerge from this fallow year with an even stronger, more well-rounded and promising program than ever before.”

In a subsequent e-mail she had written about what some of the student alumni of the Project TRIUMPH program (many of whom we had met when they were here) were currently doing after participating in the Project TRIUMPH program:

“Our greater vision is to inspire leaders of tomorrow by imparting wisdom and broadening the perspective of high school students. Our first year students, who were here in 2006, are now in the army or beginning to build careers. We have stayed in contact with some of them through Facebook. Very soon, their generation will be making pivotal choices that will impact not only their region, but the world.

We're proud of all the young people we've worked with, and we thank you for your belief in them.

Report from Shahram Hazany on La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project

The Malibu Rotary Club had committed to join the Century City Rotary Club as well as the Brentwood Rotary Club in trying to get a Rotary Foundation grant for a water project in the Village of La Estanzuela, Honduras that was being built by the SC Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. We recently received the following e-mail from Century City Rotary Club Past President Shahram Hazany, who had presented the proposal to the Malibu Rotary Club.

Dear Rotary Clubs of Brentwood and Malibu,

It has been a while since I have given an official update on the status of this project that we are working on with the USC Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. I have given updates to Nathan Lee of Brentwood and Bill Wishard of Malibu along the way. Here is a chronological review of what has been occurring:

- 1) Over a year ago, at the end of David Moyer's governorship, we worked with the district to come up with the following:
 - a. Century City, Malibu, Brentwood and Marcala (in Honduras) would submit a matching grant application to bring clean water to La Estansuela
 - b. Palos Verdes Sunset (David Moyer's club) and Marcala would eventually submit an application to bring clean water to the adjacent village up the hill from La Estansuela
- 2) At this time (over a year ago) we sent the application approved by the district to Marcala
- 3) Before EWB USC moved forward, they needed approval of their design from EWB USA. They submitted a design and EWB USA asked them to revise it so that more water could be pumped from the river into the storage tank
- 4) EWB USC came up with a new design and it was approved by EWB USA
- 5) We asked Marcala to sign the grant application so we could move forward with the project
- 6) Marcala said that before they would sign the agreement that EWB would need an independent study to show that the project would be feasible and sustainable
- 7) The independent study was done and the independent study showed that it was feasible and sustainable
- 8) On numerous occasions we asked Marcala to sign the application but they were slow to respond
- 9) We recently had a conversation with Marcala and we were informed that their board chose NOT to approve the project. They said that the pump system that EWB designed would get clogged with dirt and the villagers would not be able to fix it. They said that there was a similar problem with a similar system in another village. The engineers have assured me that their design was different and would not cause this problem. The independent study had come up with this same conclusion. Marcala decided that they do not want to take the risk.
- 10) We attempted to see if the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa in the capital city of Honduras would want to sign on as our partner. Due to the distance, they would not be able to monitor the project and declined to work with us.

So this is where we are now:

- 1) This will no longer be a Rotary Matching Grant Project but EWB USC is committed to completing this project and making it work. They will most likely work with a local NGO.
- 2) Since Century City has raised \$4,000 in the name of bringing clean water to La Estansuela, we have decided that we will submit this as a donation to EWB USC for this project with the understanding that EWB USC will have to give us continuous updates that the funds will be used effectively for this project

- 3) Pending their board approval, Palos Verdes Sunset will most likely contribute the \$10,000 that they had set aside with similar requirements

Here is what I need to know from Brentwood and Malibu: This is completely up to you but please let me know if your clubs would be willing to submit the funds towards this project, knowing that it is no longer a Rotary Project but an Engineers Without Borders Project.

Yours in Service,
Shahram Hazany
Past President, Rotary Club of Century

Calendar

Aug 5 2009

Lee Kats

"Solar Frogs"

Aug 19 2009

Michael Schultz

"The Costs of a DUI"

Sep 16 2009

Jonathan Light

"Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball"

Sep 30 2009

Rotary District Gov Suzanne Sundberg

"Rotary District 5280 Year 2009-2010 Annual Report"

October 3 2009

Paul Harris Dinner at Sheraton Universal Hotel

The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter is sent weekly to members of the Malibu Rotary Club and friends of the Malibu Rotar Club, those interested in the work of Malibu Rotary. This e-mail is sent to you at no charge. If you wish to opt out of our mailing list send an e-mail to maliburotary@hotmail.com with the subject: Take Me Off Your Mailing List

