



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

July 1, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman
Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman

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- **Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club**
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Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org

- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**

- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2015-2016) K.R. Ravindran
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2015-2016): D.J. Sung

Martha Templeton, Manager of Artific Tree, The 42 year Thrift Shop and “Heart of Malibu,” Looks for a Place to Transplant the Tree



Martha Templeton, who came to the Artific Tree in Malibu, as a Thrift Shop customer, then became a volunteer, and then the manager, explained all the good the organization

does for the community, when she spoke at the July 1 meeting at the Malibu Rotary Club. Martha's visit became more than an explanation of the mission of the Artific Tree in recycling unneeded clothing and house items, but also a plea for continued existence after the shop received a surprising 60 day eviction notice from the property landlord, The Mariposa Land Company, which is owned by Leslie Admson London, descendent of the Malibu's original land owners.



Shannon Latson introduced Martha Templeton at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting, saying she first became aware of the Artific Tree when she was looking for inexpensive costumes for her ball room dancing. We were later to learn from Martha that she often loans costumes and props to local schools for theatrical productions.

Shannon had sent the members of the Malibu Rotary Club the following e-mail last week about Martha and the Artific Tree:

Martha Templeton, Manager of the Artific Tree, called me yesterday to say that the Malibu Artific Tree thrift shop got a 60 day notice to move out of their current location on Cross Creek Road. Some of you may have met Martha when she volunteered at our recent Halloween fundraiser, working until the late hours of the night after her full day's work at the

Artific Tree.

For those of you not familiar with the Artific Tree, the Artific Tree is a thrift shop in Malibu that raises funds to help the community.

Some of the ways that this amazing organization helps the community are as follows:

Supporting students, teachers, local schools and theater groups through the loan and/or availability of items for projects, productions, and events.

Providing free household items and clothing for individuals whose homes are destroyed by natural disasters.

Providing jobs for established community members.

Coordinating housing for individuals willing to rent rooms and low income citizens trying to stay off of the streets.

Pet rescue - finding good homes for abandoned animals.

Providing jobs, job training, job history, and emotional support for individuals in rehab.

Providing free basic household items for people who are able to get off the streets and into housing, yet without the funds to buy the basic necessities.

Providing clean clothing for individuals transitioning to a better life and preparing for a job interview or starting a new job.

Providing gas or bus money for low income people to get to work or go to a job interview.

Providing bus tickets or gas money for homeless people who decide to leave the area and return to home towns where they have support to get back on their feet.

Providing assistance with paying for medications for individuals who cannot function without their medications.

Providing grocery money for struggling individuals and families.

Recycling (via reselling) items for community residents, keeping vast amounts of clothing and household goods out of the dump.

Conducting fundraisers for community groups.

Here is a segment from one of many blogs (<http://patch.com/california/malibu/artifac-tree-has-hidden-treasures-for-home-cooks>) posted about an interview with Martha, and demonstrating the variety of ways that the Artifac Tree serves the Malibu community:

"...when fires periodically sweep through Malibu, Artifac Tree invites burned-out families to come and choose anything they need (clothing, shoes, furniture, kitchen items, for example).

She continued, "When your house burns down, you are left with nothing. About the last thing you want to do is go shopping, so we open our store to people and they can just choose whatever they need for free."

Templeton also notes that they will clothe homeless people. "After it rains and their things are ruined, they come in and we can give them shoes and whatever clothing they need to be comfortable," she said, her voice soft with compassion.

The store also allows students and teachers to borrow whatever artifacts they might need to produce the annual one-day colonial reenactment called Websterville.

"They don't have to buy the things; they just bring them back the next day," she said.

She gives students a 10 percent discount, and contributes financially to local schools, even holding fundraisers for them.

The Artific Tree keeps Malibu safer by assisting people who are working to straighten out their lives, and by keeping individuals from becoming desperate or going off of their psychopharmaceutic medications. This work decreases crime and panhandling in the community. Additionally, the Artific Tree makes Malibu a better place for all, assisting with community events, supporting youth, supporting the arts, and being there for the community whenever natural disasters strike.

To my knowledge, the Artific Tree gets no financial support from the city, yet they have raised and reinvested hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the Malibu over the years.

If you have ideas or connections for a new location for the Artific Tree, or if you can help with the move when it occurs, please let Martha or me know. I have cc'd Martha on this email, so that you will be able to contact her if you have any suggestions. Please keep Martha, her employees, and the Malibu community in your prayers during this time of decisions and transition.

Martha has so many stories about people that have been helped in various ways by the generosity of the Artific Tree its support from the community there is not enough room to list them. She said that she gets constant requests for needs and then presents the needs to the members of 7 member board that make up the Artific Tree, which is chaired by Sandra Milkin.

Some in the community might say the Artific Tree encourages the homeless to live and stay in Malibu, but Martha disagrees with that idea. She says the Artific Tree helps people to get off the street, to help people get on their feet and transition into mainstream society. They provide a "Little Band-Aid" Someone missing a front tooth might have trouble finding a job

because of their appearance. They work with local dentist Dr. Pheifer to help people, and also give people wheelchairs that have been given to them.

They have also paid to have dogs of homeless people get vaccinated against rabies. Sometimes the sheriffs will bring people to the Artific tree that have found their way into town and want to get back to where they came from.. The Artifact Tree provides these people with Greyhound bus tickets, others who have broken down have been given gas cards to get out of town.

Another example of a recent recipient of help by the Artific tree was a single mom who reported that her roommate had taken the rent money and skipped out. Artific tree paid the \$825.00 rent so that the mother and her child would not be evicted.

The Artific Tree works with internships with the Boys and Girls Club. The Artific Tree has provided 15,000 shoes for needy kids.

Six of the Artific employees are Special Needs people. Ironically (for this month) three of the will be in the Special Olympics.



Not only is landlord the Mariposa Land Company evicting the Artific Tree with only a 60 day's notice, they have posted a \$5.00 parking fee near the front entrance of the Artific Tree Thrift Shop on Cross Creek Road, which is a private road between Civic Center Way and Serra Retreat. Customers are deterred from going into the shop. The Artific Tree is actually a large trailer that could

be moved to another location if another location can be found.

In the mean time there has been public outrage in Malibu about the plight of this 40 year institution that was started by Honey Coatsworth in 1973. "Our beloved Artific Tree has been given 60-day notice to vacate," Mayor Pro Tem Laura Rosenthal said during Monday night's City Council meeting. "If you're interested in saving this, I would go into Martha and see what you can do. It's a really important place and it's been here for many, many years."

An online petition has been started trying to get the Mariposa Land Company and its principal Leslie Adamson London to not evict the artifact tree thrift shop store.

The petition

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/566/488/085/save-the-artifac-tree-thrift-store-in-malibu-ca/>

reads “We, the Friends of the Artifac Tree, respectfully petition Leslie (Adamson) London, principal of the Mariposa Land Company, to reconsider the decision to evict the Artifac Tree, a beloved thrift shop which has served Malibu for generations.

We urge you, as a member of the Adamson Family — perhaps the most revered family in Malibu — to continue your family’s tradition of doing what is in the best interest of our city. The Artifac Tree is a unique institution which has served all of us in Malibu, but particularly the least fortunate among us. With the generous support from the many people who donate goods and shop there, the Artifac Tree has been able to help those in need in countless ways.

“The reality is that eviction of the Artifac Tree from its current location might well prove the death of this great institution and the loss of something which cannot be replaced. We ask you to work with the Artifac Tree to resolve whatever issues there are between you, and to keep the Artifac Tree exactly where it is, so it can continue to serve the needs of our wonderful city.

Please save the Artifac Tree. Stop the eviction.”

The petition, which is trying to get 1,000 signatures, had 490 at this writing on July 3. The 490th signer John Elman wrote, “When one hears and reads about all in the community that the Artifac Tree has helped and the generally positive legacy that the Adamson family has had on Malibu, it seems unfathomable that the current members of Malibu's first family (Mariposa Land Company--Leslie Admson London et al) would want to tarnish that legacy.”

Bill Wishard, Rotary District Special Olympics Chair



Special Olympics
**WORLD
GAMES**
LOS ANGELES 2015

Bill Wishard is coordinating Rotary District efforts for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015. People in Los Angeles, and especially Rotarians, can get involved. The

Special Olympics will have 7,000 athletes from 177 countries.

Rotary District 5280 is getting a block of 1020 tickets for the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics which will start at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum 5:00 pm July 25th. Price for ticket and special Rotary T-shirt that will be worn at the event is \$40.00. Members can register on line at the Rotary District website www.rotary5280.org/ or by clicking here if you are viewing this newsletter on line. The log on is the same on the district site as MalibuRotary.org and if you register on line at the district site they have all your information except T-Shirt size and how many tickets you want. Over the July 4th weekend Bill was able to get bus transportation to the Coliseum from Malibu for Rotary members and guests. Price for this will be announced.

Rotarians can also participate as volunteers "Fans in the Stands," or by sponsoring an athlete. It free to go to the games, and individual Rotary Clubs should each of a captain to have club members go to the sporting events together for a fun group experience. Sponsoring an athlete financially costs \$2500. Some large clubs in District 5280, LA 5 and Wilshire Rotary Clubs have done this. For smaller clubs, like the Malibu Rotary Club, they can join with other clubs to raise the \$2500. The Malibu Rotary Club is contributing \$500, and will join with another club to support an athlete.

Highlights of the Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies flyer are printed below::

Rotary District 5280 is supporting thousands of international athletes at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games Opening Ceremonies. Be a part of this amazing experience!

About The Event: All Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, friends and family are welcome to attend. 1,000 seats have been reserved for Rotary District 5280 at Opening Ceremonies at the LA Coliseum on July 25, 2015

How To Sign Up: *Tickets are available from June 22-July 6 2015 only on a first come, first served basis.* Sign up at www.rotary5280.org or mail back the registration form.

Ticket Prices: All tickets include admission to Opening Ceremonies and a T-shirt. \$40 for Small, Medium, Large, XL T-shirts. \$42 for XXL and XXXL Tshirts.

Procedure For Picking Up Tickets & T-shirts: All tickets and T-shirts must be picked up at the District Office between July 20-25, 2015 only. Rotary District 5280 Address: 8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210, Los Angeles, CA 90045. *No tickets or t-shirts will be mailed to attendees.*

Contact Information

Ticket info: office@rotary5280.org or 310-670-9792

Event info: Bill Wishard, Special Olympics Chair, wnwishard@aol.com or 310-625-5339

Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club

Bob Syvertsen had announced he no longer wanted to be club treasurer but would stay on till a replacement could be found and trained. **Carlye Rudkin** has agreed to step in to the post, and Bob will train Carlye in club money matters.

Bill Wishard, Beth Mohiuddin, and Dave Zielski attended the District Assembly June 20th at the Carson Community Center. Bill told people about District participation in the Special Olympics. Beth concentrated on the special seminars on membership.

Guests at the July 1 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club include **Chris Bashaw**, who had just been named Editor of the *Malibu Surfside News*. Beth brought with her 2 guests who were quite familiar to the club, her husband **Qadir Mohiuddin** who was back from China and their son **Amir**.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary

Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on You Tube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see maliburotary.org)

Christian Pearce Jul 08, 2015

RYLA Experience

Christian Pearce and Keaton Brewster were chosen by the Malibu Rotary Club to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) at the Alpine Conference Center in the San Bernardino Mountains near Blue Jay, CA in April, 2015. Keaton spoke to the Malibu Rotary Club about his experience on May 20. Christian will relate his experience on July 8.

David Zielski July 15, 2015

What to Expect in this New Rotary Year

Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski talks about what he learned at this year's President Elect Training Seminar and messages from RI President K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran and How Rotary is and can continue to be a "Gift to the World"