



The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

June 12, 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 Knowles Adkisson

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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 (2012-2013) Sakuji Tanaka**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2012-2012): Lewis Bertrand**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Julie Jenkins (2012-13)**

Rico Cabrera Sr Inspires His Son Rico Cabrera Jr to Form "Rico's Get Better Foundation"



Speaker at the June 12 Malibu Rotary Club was Rico Cabrera Jr., Founder and Executive Director of Rico's Get Better Foundation and son of Rico Cabrera Sr, who created and still produces, East L.A. Sports Scene. The inaugural program aired on Saturday, March 3, 1991 via the East Los Angeles-based Buenavision [Cable TV](#) Company, and the Sr Cabrera can be seen both on cable and the Internet, hosting shows promoting the sports programs of schools in the East Los Angeles area (see www.eastlasportscene.com).

Both Rico Cabrera Senior and Junior were standout basketball players in high school, Senior at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, and Junior at Harvard-Westlake High School. Both Cabrera's earned athletic scholarships to universities—Senior to University of San Diego, Junior to Colgate University, which each earned degrees, and the appreciation of what it means to excel both in the classroom and on the court, as well as the importance of involvement in community service.

Rico's Get Better Foundation, a registered 501 (c) (3), was created by Rico Cabrera, Jr. in the spring of 2008 after Rico received official approval from the NCAA to run an NCAA Sanctioned College Summer Basketball League in the City of Los Angeles. Rico's vision was to create an environment where amateur inner-city student-athletes could grow both as students and as athletes while also being put in positions to succeed.

By combining basketball with a built-in [education](#) and life skills mentorship program along with cutting edge technological resources, Rico was able to create an innovative, state of the art, college summer basketball league; a league that would combine high level basketball with high level new media and innovative technology. Furthermore, this new platform stimulated competition and provided an opportunity for a wide range of student-athletes to compete with, and against, one another.

After the successful completion of the league in 2008, in addition the league and its player receiving national media attention, Rico felt he could offer more to amateur inner-city student-athletes. Rico expanded the Get Better League Program beyond just a league for just collegiate student-athletes, offering a new program called the Get Recruited League to Middle School and High School student-athletes within the Greater Los Angeles area.

In 2009, while recovering from a global economic downturn, Rico decided to postpone all programs. When the economy demonstrated signs of recovery, Rico decided to lead a select group of 14 inner-city student athletes from Los Angeles to [participate](#) in a nationally recognized basketball tournament in New York City in the summer of 2010. In the following year, in 2011, with the success of the trip to New York and the foundation's new found momentum and energy amongst High School student-athletes, the foundation was able to host another Rico's Get Better League.

Given each of the programs individual and collective success, Rico, on behalf of the foundation, has also received numerous requests to bring his "Get Better" vision to different cities domestically within the United States and internationally around the world...

The mission of Rico's Get Better Foundation is to help inspire youth around the world to G.E.T. B.E.T.T.E.R. (Grow and Evolve Through Better Experiences To Transmit Enlightening Results) through sports, education, community service, and innovative technology. RGBF supports its youth by creating innovative sports, and [educational programs](#) year round. Along with its year

round innovative sports and educational programs, RGBF incorporates the most up-to-date innovative technology into each of its programs to help accelerate each participant's growth for enlightening results.

Rico Cabrera Jr met Nelson Mandela's grandson Kweku, and after telling him about what he was doing with RGBF they decided to combine students from the U.S and South Africa to play in a tournament in South Africa as part of Nelson Mandela Day during the 2012 Olympics. In addition to the sport, there would also be cultural and educational experiences. They didn't have enough money to make the 2012 project happen, but a more scaled down version was planned for this year.

“Kweku and I have always been passionate about building bridges with kids from all socioeconomic backgrounds through sports, education, and community service I honor of Mr. Mandela's Legacy and Mandela Day.” ---Rico Cabrera Jr.

Rico's Get Better league for Mandela Day is an opportunity to RGBF to move from local classrooms and communities to a global stage. “The opportunities provided to our student Ambassadors, thanks to our partnership with the Mandela Family and our supporting charities and organizations in Africa, will be extraordinary and life changing.”

“The overarching objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action, to help change the world for the better, and in doing so, build global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower communities everywhere. Mandela Day is a call to action for individuals—for people everywhere—to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as Mr. Mandela did. Take action; Inspire Change; Make Everyday a Mandela Day.”

The founder of the [Creative Visions Foundation](#) and the co-founder of [Red Digital Cinema](#), Kathy Eldon and Ted Schilowitz, respectively, have agreed to partner with Rico's Get Better Foundation to help produce a unique documentary on its Global Ambassadors Program for Mandela Day in South Africa this summer. The focus of the documentary will focus on the African philosophy of Ubuntu and its [power](#) when spread and conveyed by youth around the world to one another.

As stated by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Ubuntu is:

“A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, based from a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.”

The documentary will also look at the power of Nelson Mandela's legacy of cultural unity and forgiveness for all. The main focus of the trip and the documentary is to help inspire youth around the world to become better leaders using the values of sports, [education](#), and community service.

In honor of the 67 years Mr Mandela spent serving his community, his country and the World, Rico's Get Better League for Mandela Day will have 7 “Mandela Day Inspired” Community Service Projects, designed to last, (of course), 67 minutes. The Student Ambassadors will visit

12 historic monuments and landmarks including Table Mountain, Cape Point, District 6 and South Africa Jewish Museum and Robben Island.

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”

-----Nelson Mandela 2000

RGBF has enough money now to send four students from Los Angeles to South Africa for this project, which is now scheduled for August 11. At the Rotary meeting he spoke about the selection process, how when he went to the high schools and spoke to the parents they all were excited about the program, about taking part in Mandela Day. He was surprised to find out that most of the high school students didn't know who Nelson Mandela was.

Education is large part of what this is about.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - -- Nelson Mandela

Another activity Rico wanted to tell us about is his recent partnership with Heal the Bay, which sponsors a monthly beach clean up day. A special beach clean up day on July 20, 2013, will be Nelson Mandela Day. Volunteers must be 13 years old or accompanied by an adult. It will be at Will Rogers State Beach, 15800 Pacific Coast Highway at the end of Temescal Canyon from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For information call 1-800-HEAL BAY x 148.

Other News & Guests From Last Malibu Rotary Meeting

David Bair again presided over the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 12th, even though Malibu Rotary Club President Bill Wishard again made it to the meeting from Carlsbad, where he is recuperating and rehabilitating from his April open heart surgery. Bill caught the Amtrak train in Carlsbad and Malibu Rotarian Jimmy Mehmon Mon again picked up Bill at the Van Nuys Amtrak train station and drove him to the Malibu Rotary Club meeting at Pepperdine in Malibu. Bill was to undergo more testing at the UCLA Medical Center.

Besides the fact that the Malibu Rotary Club Brazilian Bash Blowout raised money for the club, it introduced the Malibu Rotary Club to the Malibu community and Maggie Luckerath invited those at the party to come to a regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting, such as the one on June 12th. There were seven guests at this Malibu Rotary Club meeting, most of whom had been at the Malibu Rotary Brazilian Bash Blow Out in the Palisades Highlands on May 29th. These included speaker **Rico Cabrera Jr**, his father **Rico Cabrera Sr**, Peter Formosa's daughter **Crystal Sufer**, who has been works with children and has been working with Rico's Get Better Foundation since she met Rico at the BBB, **Chastidee Davis**, who works

with Rico at RGBF, and three friends and neighbors of the Luckeraths: **Dianne Peterson, Yvonne Gelbman and Fred Wilkin.**

More About the Malibu Rotary Club Brazilian Bash Blow Out



Pictured: Malibu Rotarians bulletin editor John Elman, club treasurer Hubert Luckerath, Donna Bohana, President of Solstice International Realty, who sold this Palisades Highland property to an NBA star and manages it for him, and Maggie Luckerath, who was the producer of the Malibu Rotary Club Brazilian Bash Blowout held on the property on May 29, 2013, and David Baird, who has been acting president of Malibu Rotary Club while Bill Wishard has been recovering from his surgery. (picture from Knowles Adkisson, Malibu Times).

The Malibu Rotary Club held one of its most successful [fundraisers](#) in years, the Brazilian Bash Blowout, held May 29th, 2013 at the home of an NBA star in Palisades Highlands.

The event featured Brazilian food, a poolside silent auction, poi ball fire dancers, and live music. About 85 people attended the event which raised about \$3000 for Malibu Rotary Club charities. About 50 pictures of the event can be seen on the Malibu Rotary Club facebook album [Malibu Rotary Club Brazilian Bash Blowout 2013](#).

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).

Jun 19, 2013

[David Baird & Malibu Rotary Club Board](#)

"Club Assembly discussing Future Club Activities"

Club Assembly led by David Baird where such topics as Malibu Rotary participation in Chili Cookoff will be discussed.

Jun 26, 2013

[Isabelle Fox](#)

"Mending Kids International"

Isabelle Fox is Surgical Mission Filmmaker & Media Consultant who lives in Malibu who works with Mending Kids International. She will be the featured speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting June 26th at noon in Room LC 152 at Pepperdine University upper Drescher Graduate campus in Malibu. Mending Kids International provides life-changing surgical care to children worldwide. Over the years, thousands of children have received corrective, transformational surgeries that have given them a chance at longer, healthier and happier lives. Most of the surgeries are to correct congenital heart defects, orthopedic abnormalities, severe scoliosis, and significant cranial facial deformities. Ms Fox will be accompanied by Marchelle L Sellers, MKI's Executive Director, who is President-Elect of the Rotary Club of South Pasadena.

Jul 03, 2013

[Malibu Rotary is Dark While the Skies Light Up](#)

"No Meeting in Honor of Independence Day Week--Happy Holiday"

Jul 10, 2013

[Ado Eyang](#)

"Painter of the White Dove"

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.