



*The Award Winning*  
**Malibu Rotary Club**Surfwriter

June 26, 2013

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President William Wishard  
Acting President David Baird

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman, Isabelle Fox and Tom Bos

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- **Next Week: No Meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting July 10<sup>th</sup> at noon in LC 152 at Pepperdine Drescher Campus. Speaker will be Ado Eyong, who 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.**
- **Last Week: June 26<sup>th</sup> Isabelle Fox Tells How She Became Surgical Mission Media Consultant of Mending Kids International –And Why She is Passionate About it.**

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- **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Hubert and Tom Send Greetings From RI Convention in Lisbon**
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website [MalibuRotary.org](http://MalibuRotary.org)
- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: [www.MalibuRotary.org](http://www.MalibuRotary.org)**
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- **Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280.org/](http://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)**

### **Isabelle Fox Tells How She Became Surgical Mission Media Consultant of Mending Kids International –And Why She is Passionate About it.**



**Isabelle Fox** was an actress in Canada for 20 years. She later became a director of film and stage and ended up in Malibu with 2 kids. She met Rick Johnson, the former artistic director of Malibu Stage, and in fact directed the last Malibu Stage production on under Rick Johnson at Malibu Stage.

She attended a fund raising auction and found herself bidding on an unusual item: going on surgical mission with an organization called Mending Kids International to anywhere in the world. One of Isabelle’s children is an adopted child from China, and she had always wanted to find out about the child’s background and she thought if she went as a volunteer on this surgical mission to China she could also learn more about her adopted daughter.

A surgical team from Cedars Sinai Hospital was ready to go and there was supposed to be a photographer or cameraman going with the team. The surgeries are filmed so that they can be used as training tools for local doctors in the countries where the Mending Kids International missions go. The photographer who was supposed to go couldn’t make it. When MKI learned of Isabelle’s background, not necessarily involved photography but having to do with film, they asked if she could film what happened on that surgical mission.

She got a camera started to document what she saw on the mission. She was amazed how the doctors dropped whatever they were doing in their regular life to positively change other people’s lives on this and other missions she subsequently went on. Isabelle was overcome by her experience on this 8 day mission. She went on a mission to Guetamala, and the one in Haiti was her 8<sup>th</sup> one.

She is divorced and said her husband is able to take care of the kids while she goes on the missions, filming them. She said that everyone has skills that can be utilized on the missions to assist the surgical team.

The U.S. surgeons teach the local surgeons so that they can do the procedures. Hopefully the local surgeons become proficient enough that they can charge for the procedures for the families that can afford to pay.



Picture of Isabelle Fox shooting a cath procedure in Ethiopia



Also attending the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 29<sup>th</sup> was **Marchelle L Sellers**, Executive Director of Mending Kids International, as well as incoming President (2013-14) of the Rotary Club of South Pasadena. She was also the Founder of the Ronald MacDonald House in Pasadena.

Marchelle says, “As a mother of a child who endured 14 surgeries in 13 years, I never realized the luxury of having top surgeons down the street that had all of the knowledge to do the best job for my son. I also never realized until I traveled to other countries, that mothers have no health insurance or options when they discover their child's life-

saving surgery is something they will never be able to afford. What makes us so lucky to live in a country with everything we need to get help for our children, while others are so unfortunate. I work every day with a committed staff and Board to ensure that EVERY child and EVERY parent gets the surgery they need to live a long, healthy childhood. Medical care should not be optional or impossible.”



**Group shot of MKI staff and volunteers on recent mission to Guatemala with a family whose child was helped. Isabelle Fox is second from right and Marchelle Sellers, MKI Executive Director is standing far right.**

We asked Marchelle to tell us more about MKI and she sent us the following:



Since 2006, Mending Kids has helped over 1000+ kids with life-changing and life-saving surgeries. Known for their separation of the previously conjoined twins "The Two Marias" from Guatemala, MKI has been featured on the Anderson Cooper Show, CNN, LA Times, People Magazine, Good Day LA and countless other media outlets. Founded almost 30 years ago, MKI now reaches into more than 52 developing countries around the globe.

Mending Kids International provides life-changing surgical care to children worldwide. For 30 years, thousands of children have received corrective and transformational surgeries that have given them another chance at a longer, healthier life. Most of the surgeries performed are for congenital heart defects, orthopedic abnormalities and cranial facial deformities. Mending Kids International provides surgeries through 4 core programs:

The U.S. Surgeries program identifies children with complex surgical needs and flies them to Southern California to receive treatment by renowned children's hospitals in the Los Angeles area. Children are cared for by MKI approved Host Families who make certain all of their emotional needs and living arrangements are provided. An exciting new Hometown Mission being introduced this year, will provide surgeries to children from Southern California who do not have access to the life-mending surgical care they need. (20 children)

The Surgical Mission program targets areas where there is a high concentration of children requiring surgery. MKI brings surgical teams (15-20 members composed of surgeons, techs, nurses and volunteers) to a hospital to not only perform delicate surgeries on 15-50 children and evaluate over 100 children for future mission trips, they teach their colleagues in the process. This year alone, MKI will send 9 mission teams to Ecuador, Haiti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, China, Mozambique, Cambodia and Christmas Island.

The International Surgeries Program identifies children in remote areas who need corrective surgery. For many reasons, including funding, it may be near impossible to fly the child to Los Angeles or send a surgical mission team to correct one patient. To solve this problem and provide surgery to as many children as possible, MKI arranges to fund or provide surgeries to these children by partnering with local hospitals and other NGO's who may have access to surgeons but no money to pay them.

In July 2013, MKI is launching the first inaugural Hometown Mission at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Volunteer surgeons will be performing 20 surgeries in 1 day utilizing 6 OR spaces. Patients who are receiving surgeries are being referred from both international locations and local patients from right here in the U.S. who do not have insurance or documentation to receive the care they need. MKI will host a second Hometown Mission in December 2013.

In 2009, MKI provided complex surgery to 89 children. In 2010, MKI provided surgery to 162 children, in 2011 MKI provided surgery to 284 children, and in 2012, we provided 302 surgeries! This year we are likely to expecting to exceed 400 kids! While our demand has increased, we have worked hard to restructure our organization, reduce costs, and add emphasis to surgical missions and international surgeries in order to serve more kids. In essence, we are serving more children with a reduced budget.

Funding for Mending Kids International is provided by individual and corporate sponsorships, special grants, special events and in-kind contributions. Donated services are a large portion of our annual revenues and are instrumental to the work we do to save lives. Currently 92% of donations we take in goes directly to fund our surgical costs!

As you can imagine, there are thousands of children waiting for surgeries so they too can reclaim their normal childhoods.

For more information visit [www.mendingkids.org](http://www.mendingkids.org) or contact Marchelle L. Sellers, Executive Director at 818-843-6363 or [marchelle@mendingkids.org](mailto:marchelle@mendingkids.org)  
4100 W. Alameda Avenue #103 Burbank, California 91505.

A major contributor to Mending Kids International is Mel Gibson and his estranged wife Robyn. A March 2011 article in TMZ reported "A rep for Mending Kids tells TMZ ... Robyn finished her term as President in December [2010]... and is now in charge of the Malibu branch of the charity.

The rep adds, ""Mel and Robyn Gibson have been tremendous supporters of Mending Kids International over the years and have provided life-changing surgeries to children across the globe."

A week ago at a Malibu Rotary Club board meeting there was talk of people who were being made honorary Malibu Rotarians. There is probably nobody in the community that donates more to children's charities than Mel Gibson. How about making him honorary Malibu Rotarian?

## **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**

**David Baird** again presided over the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 26<sup>th</sup>, with Malibu Rotary Club President **Bill Wishard** listening in on the meeting via **Peter Formosa** speaker phone hookup from Carlsbad where Bill is still recuperating and rehabilitating from his April open heart surgery.

Thanks to **Maggie Luckerath**, who arranged for speaker **Isabelle Fox**, there was a room full of guests that were especially interested in the Mending Kids International. They included Mending Kids International Executive Director (and South Pasadena Rotary Club President-Elect) **Marchelle Sellers**, **Patt Healy**, **Susan Salas**, who, like Isabelle is also into media and film production, and **Nancy Safinick**, a certified physician assistant who is Director of the Pepperdine University Student Health Center.

As Maggie was to remark later this was a very special Malibu Rotary Club meeting, as people stayed until 2:15 talking and networking. Attending the meeting was Malibu Rotary Club's rarely seen member, chiropractor Dr Tabor Chinn. Maggie introduced Dr. Chinn to Nancy Safinick, who heads up the Pepperdine Health Center and they networked and then Maggie said "well Dr. Chinn you must have something to donate to Mending Kids". He thought for a moment and donated 3 portable tens machines valued about \$150 each which Maggie picked up from his office and dropped off to Isabelle, who will transport them to their trip to Haiti. The other great networking which came out of the meeting was the fact that Nancy will most likely be making a donation of supplies to Mending Kids.

## 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.

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**

(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 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 Eyong***

*"Painter of the White Dove"*

*Ado Eyong 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.*

*His website is [www.painterofthewhitedoc.com](http://www.painterofthewhitedoc.com) and he will be first speaker of Malibu Rotary Club 2013-2014 year when he addresses the club on July 10, 2013 at noon in Room LC 152 on the upper Drescher Graduate Campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu.*

*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.*