



The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

June 18, 2014

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

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

- Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday June 25 at noon at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus in LC 152 (with fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.). Speaker will be Doug Kmiec who will explain “Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were both right”
- Last Week: Demotion Party for President Bill
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org
- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Muntean (2013-14)

Demotion Party for President Bill



Malibu Rotary Club President (2014-2015) Margo Neal Presents Plaque to Malibu Rotary Club President (2012-2014) William Wishard III

It had been three years since the Malibu Rotary Club had a “Demotion Party” for its outgoing president. The club has grown and changed in those three years, and most of the current members of the Malibu Rotary Club had not even seen a Demotion Party before.

That all changed on June 18th, 2014, at the Duke’s Restaurant in Malibu, when William “Bill” Niles Wishard III was honored for his many years of service to the club—not only during the past two years, but through previous terms as president and service to the club.

The Demotion Party was planned and scheduled last week, when Bill was at his 50th college reunion at Williams College in Massachusetts. He was away for most of the week and found when he got to his alma mater his T-Mobile cell phone didn’t work—so when he was able to get his voice mails on Sunday from the Albany airport, it was only then he was told to show up at Duke’s on Wednesday night, and he didn’t really know what was in store for him.

Bill arrived at the Dukes wearing his Williams College class of '64 shirt and cap. Bill started this, one of his last meeting as president (official term ends June 30) , talking, as he often does, about the amazing people he met, his classmates at Williams College, many of whom had made major impacts in the world. One in particular he spoke about was John Fielding, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., M.B.A, who is the Director of the Los County Health Department and Professor of Health Services and Pediatrics in the Schools of Public Health and Medicine UCLA. On February 15, 2012, the school received a \$50 million gift from Dr Fielding, the largest single donation the school received since its creation in 1962. The school bears a new name: the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. He of course was honored by Bill's Williams College Class of '64. And of course Bill talked to him and asked if he'd be a speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club. He said if he could work it into his schedule he might. Wow. If we only had speakers who were acquaintances of Bill we would have some of the best speakers anywhere!

Margo had asked club members to write limericks about Bill for the demotion party. And several recited their poetry at the meeting once Margo took over. Bob Syvertsen had prepared three limericks including this one:

*There once was a man who could talk non-stop
About acquaintances who had made it to the top.
He had quite a few
People that he knew
So he never lacked for a good name to drop.*

John and Lee Ann Elman composed this one:

*There once was a man from Indiana
Who became our club's top banana.
In sickness and health
He's long been our wealth
He's cooler than a fridge from Amana!*

John was able to amplify on these themes and talk about Bill and his family in a speech that preceded special tributes by friends and family who couldn't attend.

Afterward Bill asked John for a copy of the speech and this is it:

Speech for Bill Wishard

A couple weeks ago Garrison Keillor was at Diesel bookstore in Malibu and told the story of an older couple who lived on a farm in Minnesota--Nils and Greta Swenson.

Nils was ill in bed, and brought Greta close to him at bedside.

"Greta, you've been here by my side for all the things that have happened during my life.

You were here when I rolled the pick up truck into a ditch and broke my leg.

You were here for the flood, when we lost the barn and half the house.

You were here for the virus that killed the chickens and cattle

You were here for the drought when we lost all the crops we planted that year.

You were here when the doctor told me I had liver cancer.

Greta, you've just been bad luck for me!"

I was club president when Jack Corrodi introduced Bill into Rotary back in 2001. It was obvious he had taken leadership rolls in many large organizations he had been associated in his life--Up With People, the 1984 Olympics, and I recommended in a short time that he become club President Elect Nominee, and serve as President after Geoff Ortiz, the following year. He agreed to be president elect, eagerly went to PETs. But just before he was going to assume the presidency he was told that his heart condition, which was causing shortness of breath and other Sx, needed major open heart surgery, at least a quadruple by pass, new valves, front end alignment, the works, and he went for medical help to a place where he was he knew lots of good doctors, to a heart surgeon in Indianapolis, Indiana. He returned to complete the presidential year, after convalescing for a couple months in Indianapolis. He agreed to be President Elect again last year when no one else did, after serving several terms in between. But again he developed those heart sx and needed to have another huge heart surgery another quadruple bypass more valves were replaced.

He could have said "Rotary your you've just been bad luck for me!" like poor Nils. But Bill has embraced Rotary and loves Rotarians. It does what Bill has been doing most of his life--promoting peace, and bringing people together.

William Niles Wishard III was born in Indianapolis, IN over 70 years ago this week.

His great grandfather Dr William Henry Wishard was one of the first surgeons in the state of Indiana. He was the first in the area to use chloroform and was a charter member of the state medical association--practiced for 70 years, delivering a baby on his 90th birthday. Dr William H Wishard's son William Niles Wishard, Bill's grandfather, was not only a pioneer in the specialty of Urology, they named the largest public hospital in Indiana after him, William N. Wishard Memorial Hospital. . It is now part of the Indiana University College of medicine. Urology of Indiana is the oldest continuously operating urology practice in the country tracing its roots to 1887, when William N. Wishard, M.D. founded his practice to specialize in the field of genitourinary surgery. Bill's ancestors had come to the United States in 1774 from Scotland via northern Ireland. A lateral ancestor George Wishart was burned at the stake at St Andrews during the Reformation in Scotland. He was condemned for heresy by the bad ass Cardinal David Beaton who used Catholic Church money and

power to pick up girls (he had 20 illegitimate children who he appointed to high church positions) and kill people who opposed him, like poor cousin George.

Some 400 years later Bill's grandfather did a prostatectomy on a descendent of the cardinal. The patient said he was glad they didn't trace the ancestry until after the surgery.

Bill's father, William N Wishard, Jr, was also a successful physician in Indiana. And Bill assisted at the hospital as a teenager, learning the ropes of the medical profession--what was expected of, a fourth generation William Wishard. When he graduated from his exclusive prep school he went off to Williams College in Massachusetts, like his father before him, to be a pre-med major and follow in the family business.

He was accepted to Harvard Medical School, but something pulled at him, and took him in a different direction. The 1960's was a time of turbulence in America. There were people, especially college students, who encouraged civil disobedience as a justification of perceived wrongs in the world. There was a fear that the Cold War that was being fought between the eastern communist countries and America and its western allies would turn into a real war.. The civil rights movements that had begun in the 1950's was now breaking out into riots across America.

Yet there were certain groups, certain people, who tried to work for international peace and harmony. Bill got to meet Martin Luther King when he spoke at Williams College. He would also meet Ghandi's son. He also heard and saw a group that appealed to his own feelings about the direction the world should go. **Up with People (UWP)** is an American education organization whose stated mission is to bridge cultural barriers and create global understanding through service and a musical show. The roots of Up with People can be found in the Sing Out shows of **Moral Re-Armament (MRA)** in the mid-1960s. Previously, throughout its existence, MRA had staged dramatic performances with music to put forth its message which consisted of its four tenets of "love, honesty, purity and unselfishness." Later, Up with People was separated from MRA. In the early 60's they were looking for someone to scout out places around the world to put on their shows.

To Bill, this sounded like a more intriguing and important thing to do than go to medical school. He could do that later. He would join a group that was doing things he believed, and see the world at the same time. In his early 20's he would travel the world as scout for UWP bringing the musical message of peace and love. One of the first places they would go was to South Viet Nam, invited by its first President Ngo Dinh Diem and Bill got to meet him. On Nov 2 1963 Diem was assassinated. Three weeks later, an assassin shot President Kennedy.

Because the US government considered what Bill was doing in Viet Nam, working with Up With People as a good thing--trying to create peace while others in the US government were trying to create war--he was given a deferment from having to be a combatant in the US military.

To this day Bill, along with the rest of us, wonder what the Viet Nam war, what the Vietnamese call the American War, was all about. He had a chance to talk to a lot of the principals--his classmate was the son of the head of CIA at the time. Nobody who knew anything would say anything. Bill tries to connect the dots of history, has met and continues to meet, people who were involved in the conflict, trying to figure out what and why this happened. Bill has had this driving ambition to do what it takes to bring people together and promote world peace. Both Up With People and Rotary have those same goals, which is why when Bill joined Rotary, he realized he was a Rotarian all along.

This past year when Rotary had its international peace conference in Hawaii Bill jumped at the chance to go.

He was with me when the Malibu Rotary Club joined the Rotary club of Newbury Park as they brought together Jewish and Arab teenagers from Haifa to go to a summer Camp together in Simi Valley--Project TRIUMPH Today's Revolution Is Understanding--**Make Peace Happen.**

Bill has managed to represent the Malibu Rotary Club at nearly every district and international event he can get to. Through sickness and in health, he is dedicated and enthusiastic about being there and doing.

Rotary is a continuation of what he has been doing his whole life--serving and promoting peace.

John then read letters from two people Bill sees nearly every Friday, Parnelli Jones son Page Jones and his caregiver Iggy Estrada:

“GOOD AFTERNOON ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS,

REGRETFULLY, I'M UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS LUNCHEON TODAY

BECAUSE OF A PREPLANNED VACATION. IN LIEU OF BEING THERE WITH

YOU HOWEVER, I HAVE SENT THIS MESSAGE TO BE READ ON MY BEHALF.

I HAVE KNOWN BILL WISHART SINCE 1994 WHEN WE MET AT DANIEL

FREEMAN HOSPITAL WHERE WE BOTH WERE RECOVERING FROM

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES. LEARNING OF BILL'S DRAMATIC RECOVERY

AND EXPERIENCING HIS UP BEAT PERSONALITY AND FRIENDLY

DEMEANURE INSPIRED ME TO DO MY BEST TO TRY RETURN TO THE

STATE THAT I WAS PRIOR TO MY INJURY. THAT MEETING HAS EVOLVED

INTO A LASTING AND ENDEARING FRIENDSHIP.

OVER THE YEARS BILL HAS CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT AND

ENCOURGING PRESENCE IN MY LIFE. HE HAS PROVIDED ME AND MY

CARE GIVER IGGY ESTRADA, WITH VALUABLE INSIGHT AND KNOWLEDGE

ON MANY SUBJECTS, ALONG WITH GREAT CONVERSATION REGARDING

TOPICAL ISSUES OF THE DAY AT OUR USUAL FRIDAY LUNCHESES PRIOR

GOING TO THE MOVIES. I CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH THANKS TO BILL

FOR UNSELFISHLY GIVING ME SO MUCH OF HIS TIME AND FOR BEING

SUCH A WONDERFUL FRIEND.

IN ADDITION, BILL HAS ENCOURAGED ME TO DO MUCH PUBLIC

SPEAKING, ESPECIALLY TO THE VARIOUS ROTARY CLUB CHAPTERS IN

THE LOS ANGELES AREA. AND THANKS TO BILL, THIS ENDEAVOUR HAS

VASTLY IMPROVED MY SELF CONFIDENCE AND AT THE SAME TIME,

MADE ME MORE AWARE OF THE GOOD DEEDS PERFORMED BY THE

ROTARY, AND BILL HIMSELF.

IN CLOSING, ON BEHALF OF MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY, MY PARENTS, I

SINCERELY THANK YOU BILL, FOR BEING A TRUE FRIEND.

RESPECTFULLY,

PAGE JONES

Iggy's letter was equally touching and thankful to Bill.

The grand finale was very special. Bill's daughter Alison Wishard Guerra, who lives in Carlsbad near San Diego, with her husband Eduardo (who at Bill's recommendation is a member of the Del Mar Sunrise Rotary Club) and Bill's two granddaughters, prepared a movie video "Papa's Demotion Video" featuring the granddaughters as they talked about their grandpa, and the 6 year old, Sofia, even recited two limericks.

One of which was:

*There once a Papa from Malibu
Who always had so much to do
But he was never too far
Because he had so many cars
So he could always drive close to you*

Following the amazing video, which was beautifully edited by Alison that morning, with music and family screen credits, Bill, who was speechless for the first time in his life was presented with several gifts by Margo. The plaque shown at the beginning of this article, engraved with the dates of Bill's Malibu Rotary Club presidency, a pair of book ends, also engraved for the occasion, and also a Rotary watch. Bill had been given a diamond Past Presidents Rotary pin in 2004, when he was Malibu Rotary Club President the first time.

Other News and Guests at the Demotion Party

Bill had sent a copy of the John's tribute to him to Bill's brother Gordon Wishard, an attorney in Indianapolis. Gordon wrote back in an e-mail to be Bill "Many thanks, Bill, these comments are well put and, more to the point, well deserved, just further reasons why I'm proud to be your brother, gdw"

Guests

Besides most of the members of the Malibu Rotary Club in attendance honoring President Bill guests at the dinner included Malibu Surfside News Associate Editor **Chris Bashaw**; Margo Neal's husband **LaVern Schenkelberg**; Bob Syvertsen's wife **Jeanne**; Rotary Ambassdorial Scholar and good and adopted daughter to many in the Malibu Rotary Club **Livia Giordano**; past and future Malibu Rotary Club member **Carlye Rudkin** and husband **Donald** who is on the faculty teaching accounting at Pepperdine i Graziadillo Gradluate School of Business and Management and several who made their presence known by proxy, which include the messages and video shown by John. Bill's daughter **Alison Wishard Guerra Ph.D**, is an associate professor of education at the University of California San Diego, and was committed to deliver a presentation in San Diego the day of her dad's party, and because of that could be at the party only by video. She is the scheduled speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club September 10th, talking about her specialty, Early Childhood Development.

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 for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on 

Calendar

June 25 (at Pepperdine LC 152)

Doug Kmiec “Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were Both Right

July 9 (at Pepperdine LC 152)

Brian Turner—“How to Kill a Lawsuit”

July 16 (at Pepperdine LC 152)

Nora MacLellan “Vision to Learn”

July 23 (at Pepperdine LC 152)

Jo Anne Books “Life After Polio

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

