



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

June 24, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

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)

- **Last Week Margo's Demotion Party Dinner at Gravina Malibu Restaurant**
- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting July 1 in Pepperdine University Malibu Upper Drescher Graduate Campus LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m and meeting starting at 12:00 noon. Speaker will be Martha Templeton, Manager of Artific Tree (see more about this in story *Important News about the Artific Tree* by Shannon Latson)**
- **Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.**

Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org

- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/**

- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

Malibu Rotary Club President (2014-2015) Margo Neal is Roasted and Toasted at Rotary Demotion Party



David Zielski (L) presided over the demotion party for Margo Neal as President of the Malibu Rotary Club. Margo was the club president from 2014-2015, and also 1998-1999. David Zielski will serve as President of Malibu Rotary Club for 2015-2016 with his term starting July 1.

The demotion party was a dinner Wednesday evening June 24 at Gravina Malibu restaurant. Nearly everyone in attendance had something to say Roasting and Toasting Malibu Rotary Club's outgoing president.

During her year Margo went on the Rotary District Humanitarian trip to Guatemala where she was presented with several handmade colorful textile miniature dolls. As Guatemalan lore has it, when one of these tiny dolls are placed under the pillow at night you will not have worries. She presented these dolls to several of her executive board members: Bob Syvertsen, David Zielski, Bill Wishard and John Elman. Margo was also gracious in her thanks to other members who her helped during her administration—Carlye Rudkin, Beth Mohiuddin, Shannon Latson, and everyone else for supporting her during the year.

Margo, a nurse, who went into healthcare publishing, is fond of limericks and several originals were written and read for her during the evening:

From Bob Syvertsen:

The woman was said to curse.
She said, "I suppose I coulda done worse—
Maybe been a cheerleader
Or even a proofreader
Instead I became a nurse.

(Actually Margo currently is a proofreader—for the Malibu Times)

T'was said Margo was nice
To serve as president twice.
Now there is a movement
That believe an improvement
To have her serve trice!

From John Elman (after explaining how Margo was born in Pictou, in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia and how much she loves to fly—to just about anywhere in the world):

There was a lass named Margo.
She's the only one I know born north of Fargo.
She'll get on a plane
Fly anywhere from Saskatchewan to Maine
She'll ride anywhere—even in cargo!

Bill Wishard, Rotary District Special Olympics Chair

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. At the June 17th meeting Bill showed us the flyer (which is now at the district website) and also the Ticket Registration Form, which will be available on the district site starting June 22.

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 22-26, 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 T-shirts.

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

Important News about the Artific Tree

The speaker at the next regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting on July 1 is Martha Templeton, Manager of the Artific Tree. Shannon Latson, sent the members of the Malibu Rotary Club the following e-mail this week about the fate of this special community asset:

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.

Thank you,

Shannon Latson

Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club

Everyone had a good time at the demotion party but at least 2 members did not read the previous week's Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter nor all the announcements of our special demotion party event on the website, and went to the Malibu Rotary Club normal meeting place in room EC 150 on the Drescher Campus of Pepperdine, where Villa Grazadio manager Kevin Quinn had set up the normal noon meeting room. Both Fred Cornet and David Baird looked at each other in the otherwise empty room wondering where everyone was. David, who had already made plans to babysit at the time the demotion party was starting at the Gravina Restaurant, managed to make it to the restaurant near the time everyone was leaving, but wanted to pay his respect to outgoing president Margo. Unfortunately no one thought to pick up Fred, who does not drive at night.

Bill Wishard, Beth Mohiuddin, and Dave Zielski attended the District Assembly June 20th at the Carson Community Center. It is there that plans for the 2015-16 Rotary year were discussed.

Bill noted that three members of the Malibu Rotary Club have their pictures in the new 2015-2016 Rotary District 5280 Leadership Directory: **David Zielski (Malibu Rotary Club President); Margo Neal (Rotary District Music Awards); and Bill Wishard (Rotary District Special Olympics Chair).**

In addition to Rotary members and spouses that attended Margo's Demotion Party Dinner were guests Griselda Espinoza and Veera Mahajan and her personal guest.

Malibu Rotary Club Drops Honorary Members from ClubRunner

Before the current Rotary year ends on June 30, 2015 the Malibu Rotary Club Board of Directors had considered various options to balance the operating budget of the club. Club Treasurer and Budget Director Bob Syvertsen showed how income for the operating budget had dwindled over the past several years while expenses have generally increased. Last month the club raised the quarterly dues back to \$100 which is what it was before Kevin Boling had reduced it in an attempt to attract more members. In addition initiation fee of \$60.00 was reinstated. This latter measure is only for new members, not retroactive.

This month the treasurer received the subscription bill from ClubRunner, which hosts the Malibu Rotary club website, and which provides certain administrative services and coordination of the club information with the Rotary District and Rotary International. The amount of the subscription depends on the total amount of active and honorary Rotary Club members. As of June 24, 2015 the Malibu Rotary Club had 18 Active Members and 5 Honorary Members, so the club would be charged for 23 members. Having more than 20 members puts the club into a higher subscription bracket. Bob made a motion by e-mail that we remove all honorary members from our roster list on ClubRunner. It was seconded by David Baird and there was a consensus by e-mail vote of board members that this action be done. Club Secretary and Webmaster John Elman deleted the 5 honorary members from ClubRunner on June 24, so that the membership subscription on July 1 (and billed for year) is 18 members, and put the Malibu Rotary Club in the lowest ClubRunner subscription bracket.

E-mails were sent to all the previous honorary members.

The 5 honorary members will continue to receive the Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter e-mailed to them and will of course be welcome at all Malibu Rotary Club meetings and events, and if they choose to become regular members, they have only to pay the current dues--they will not be charged an initiation fee.

E-mails received from the honorary members, all but one of whom were previous members, was positive, with at least one indicating he hoped to return as an active member.

A revised annual subscription notice was received from ClubRunner by treasurer Bob Syverstsen on June 26 reflecting the lower amount \$275.40, instead of \$347.40.

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)

July 1 2015

Martha Templeton

Artifac Tree

The Artifac Tree is a thrift shop in Malibu that raises funds to help the community. (see story in this newsletter)

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.