



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

March 17, 2010

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President Elect and Acting President Christopher Bauman

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Pictures by Dr John W. Elman

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- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org**

Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>

RI President (2009-2010) John Kenny

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2009-2010): Susanne Sundberg



Project TRIUMPH Update by Leon Berg and Shoshana Brower

By John W Elman

Project TRIUMPH (Today's Revolution Is Understanding; Make Peace Happen) is a grassroots effort to bring Arab and Jewish teenagers together in the spirit of collaboration to build a shared vision for a peaceful future. The program was conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. It brought 10 teenage Arab and 10 teenage Jewish students from Israel to a leadership camp in Simi Valley where they all learned to work together, develop leaders skills before returning to Israel to use what they learned back home. Most of us feel helpless in trying to find a solution to the constant war in the Middle East, but at least this program is trying to do something. Initially sponsorship of this program had been mostly from the Newbury Park Rotary Club and Rotary Clubs in District 5240 and private and corporate donors. Malibu Rotary Club was the first Rotary Club in Rotary District 5280 to support the project.



Pictured to the left are the students who were hosted in 2008 as they visited Malibu on their way to the leadership camp. Today the program no longer is bringing the students to the US. There is a partnership with the Rotary Club of Haifa and one in Italy to get Jewish and Arab students out of Israel to a place where they can work together.

A new Pilot TRIUMPH project is being developed. It concentrates it's efforts on the students in Israel as a year long program that strives for lifelong results. It is a non-profit organization with Leon Berg, as its CEO



On March 17 , 2010, Leon Berg and Shoshana Browers spoke at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting to talk about the new project TRIUMPH.

Shoshana has worked with Project TRIUMPH for several years, as a board member and working with the students when they were here. She has background as a fundraiser and

professional she provides consulting and training that focuses on valuing and managing diversity for large corporations. Leon helped found the Ojai Foundation, an educational retreat center on 40 acres of land in the Upper Ojai Valley. He only recently became involved with Project Triumph. Some of the background research that Leon informs about is the attitudes that have been ingrained in both Jews and Arabs living in Israel. . He talked about surveys that have been done of Jewish youth in Israel and questions that were asked.

Should Arabs have the same rights as Jews in Israel? 50% said no. Should Arabs be allowed to be part of the Knesseth? 56% said no.

Project TRIUMPH attempts to break barriers and influence future leaders. People who have been involved with Project TRIUMPH want to create change in attitudes. Leon's background is in the practice of "council", which he says is based on learning to listen. Leon is a Certified Senior Trainer of the Ojai Foundation's Center for Council Training. In 2001, he went to Israel to seed the practice of Council among Israeli Jews and Arabs, co-founding the Israeli non-profit organization Ma'agal Hakshava. Leon has returned to Israel many times since then to conduct Council trainings and lead a variety of coexistence programs. Leon says that in addition to listening, council programs also involve storytelling. He said that there is a council program currently at Malibu High School.

Leon said that in the original Project TRIUMPH program the "carrot" for the students was a trip to California. The new "carrot" will be involvement in a digital storytelling video production. Students are already involved with digital social networking. He said that he envisions the new TRIUMPH program to involve a video production, a documentary, to be done by the students under professional supervision.

I asked Leon to tell me his vision for Project TRIUMPH. He replied with the following:

"Project TRIUMPH inspires, develops and empowers a new generation of leaders with the self-awareness, skills and commitment to effectively champion peace. Through digital media creation, dialogue/team-building and leadership development the Project transcends the deep divide between Jewish and Arab youth in Israel in a profound, innovative, and measurable way. Its new program, TRIUMPH Live!, will span fifteen months, engaging twenty Israeli teenagers, an equal number of Jews and Arabs, boys and girls from mixed socioeconomic backgrounds in the Northern Israel town of Acre. The Project combines two powerful mediums: Council, the practice of relationship building through deep listening, and Digital Storytelling, using computer-based filmmaking tools to tell personal tales.

The pilot project comprises seven components:

1. Digital Storytelling: an innovative digital story-creation process designed to be shared over the internet, blending still photography, video, narrative and music.
2. Council: a deep dialogue, listening and team-building process facilitated by two experienced facilitators, one Arab and one Jew.
3. Family Involvement: Family Council workshops to open dialogue about the Project and give support to their youth.

4. A 5-day leadership intensive: taught by U.S. instructors in Israel, to help prepare the students to serve as ambassadors for peace.
5. Travel to California: culmination for a select group of students to represent the program to high school and adult groups, inspiring new peacemakers, and engaging participating youth in the creation and editing of the documentary.
6. The Documentary: an interweaving of the individual stories, together with video footage of the storytelling, dialogue, and team-building process.
7. Measures of Success: Evaluation of change in attitudes due to participation in the program.

With its digital media and filmmaking focus, the program is designed to appeal to the adolescents who are poised to lead the next generation out of eons of conflict and into an era of greater peace and cooperation.

Please view our promotional video at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmorZ5R1Lqg>”

Just as with the original Project TRIUMPH this one will be using 20 teenagers, 10 Arab and 10 Jews and also 5 boys and 5 girls of each group. But instead of the students coming from the Haifa area, where relations between Arabs and Jews are better than other places in Israel, these 20 teenagers will be coming from the Acre area, a city of civil strife. It is expected it will take about \$50,000 to start the project and \$200,000 to complete. As with the original Project TRIUMPH the new project is ambitious and needs help from many people to make it work, both with financial contributions and those who have knowledge and want to help with the project at any level.

If you think you can help the project you can contact Shoshana at shobrower@gmail.com or Leon at Leon.Berg@gmail.com.

Other News and Guests from March 17 Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Dr Frank Le Vac, veterinarian and president-elect nominee of Santa Monica Rotary Club was guest at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of March 17.

The Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will be held Tuesday, April 20 at Malibu Stage.

Chris Bauman liked having some type of community activity such as the Fathers Who Cook barbeque competition that **Kevin Bolling** described he participates in at the Riverside YWCA. **Bill Wishard** was with others from Rotary District 5280 last week visiting various water and other humanitarian projects being done by Rotary in Ecuador.

Malibu Rotary-Pepperdine Rotaract Adopt A Highway

Although **Geoff Ortiz** was unable to participate in it he reported that the Malibu Rotary-Pepperdine Rotaract Adopt A Highway cleanup day scheduled for Saturday, March 13, went well. Maurice Collins, President of Pepperdine Rotaract Club lead the activity assisted by 6 Rotaract members and Malibu Rotarians Chris, Jack, Fred, and David .



Malibu Rotary Club to Support BioSand Filters in Ecuador

Malibu Rotary Club voted to send \$500 to the Rotary Club of Pontiac Michigan to help build and install BioSand Filters in Santo Domingo De Los Colorados, Ecuador. As was noted by Carol Cousineau, who, along with husband Ron brought the project to our attention, after installing the first BioSand filters in Ecuador (and pictured left), “That money would be matched by the next District Grant, which we have been assured we will get. So, for instance \$500.00 would become \$750.00. The filters and two 5 gallon safe water containers per unit, cost around \$60.00 each, so a donation of \$500.00 would provide 12 families of five or more with 20 gallons of water each day - enough for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, bathing and washing clothes! The filters are expected to last at

least 50 years without the need to add any expense except chlorine - available and inexpensive. That means each family will have more money to provide more nutritious food for their families, since they don't have to pay for propane to boil their water. It will mean more time to spend with their children, rather than boiling or foraging for firewood. With great improvement in the health of all the family members, fewer cases of diarrhea and stomach flu from bad water and parasites, the parents will better be able to hold down a job and provide for their families, children will be able to attend school more days and have a better future.

We are excited about this project because we anticipate that this is just the beginning. All over Ecuador, there are families struggling to survive, with a high infant mortality rate, because of bad water. This successful project will be a shining example and model. Rotary is the perfect vehicle

for getting the word out about BioSand and accomplishing the goal of providing safe drinking water for the world. **BioSand** is one of the four methods of purifying water recommended for Third World Countries by the World Health Organization. (We have researched the others. Since they provide only a small amount of water for drinking, are small and ceramic, so more susceptible to breakage or deterioration, or adding so much chlorine that the people won't drink it, the concrete BioSand is by far the best choice for all but mountainous areas, where a more expensive plastic version of BioSand is an alternative.)”

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website www.maliburotary.org for latest Calendar and future speakers.

