



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

March 23, 2011

**Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Christopher Bauman**

**Edited by Dr. John W. Elman
Pictures by Dr John W. Elman**

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- **Last week: Saing Non Talks About “Mon – The Forgotten Nation”**
 - **Next regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be Wednesday, March 30th at 7:30 a.m in the Pepperdine University Fireside Room. Speaker will be form Malibu Times reporter Jonathan Friedman who will talk about his current endeavor-- Malibu.cabbagepatch.com**
- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports BioSand Filters in Ecuador**
- **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.rotary5280la.org**

- Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>
- RI President (2010-2011) Ray Klinginsmith
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2010-20 11): Doug Baker

Saing Non Talks About “Mon” – “The Forgotten Nation”

Saing Non was a monk in the Mon Buddhist faith who worked with Doctors Without Borders when he was living Thailand as a refugee from his native Burma. He received a George Soros scholarship and was able to migrate to the Los Angeles area, where he has now become an American citizen. He works for a company in Sylmar making cochlear implants, medical devices that aid those afflicted with partial deafness.

Malibu Rotarian Bill Wishard introduced him to the Malibu Rotary Club at the meeting on March 23rd, to tell the story of the Mon people, whom most of us never heard of. He brought with him his wife, Mon Chan, and Nuchree Sridaodoen, two other recent immigrants Thailand, who like Saing, were dressed in Mon native garb.

Pictured below(L to R): Nuchree Sridaodoen, Saing Non and Saing’s wife Mon Chan



Saing speaks four languages: Burmese, Thai, Mon and English.

The Mon people are an ethnic group from Burma (which much to the disgust of the persecuted and repressed people who live there is called Myanmar). They live mostly in Mon State, Bago Division, the Irrawaddy Delta, and along the southern Thai-Burma border. One of the earliest

peoples to reside in [Southeast Asia](#), the Mon were responsible for the spread of [Theravada Buddhism](#) in Burma and Thailand. The [Mon culture](#) is credited as a major source of influence on the dominant [Burmese culture](#).

As the eastern Mon were absorbed into the [Thai society](#) long ago, the western Mon of Burma have largely assimilated into Burmese society. In Myanmar, the Mon are fighting to preserve the [Mon language](#) and culture, and regain a greater degree of political autonomy. We were told that the costumes that Saing Non and the two women were wearing at the Rotary meeting would be illegal to wear in their country now.

The Mon people originated in the Gobi Desert region of northern China and southern Mongolia. Malibu Rotarian **David Baird**, Pepperdine Professor of History who specializes in the history of the Native American Indians points out that the forefathers of the people who first occupied the Americas, also originated in the Gobi Desert. In fact, an amazing revelation at this Rotary meeting was when David asked the Mon guests if the blue spot seen at birth on the back of American Indians but which disappears as the child gets older, is also present on Mon babies and Nuchree said that it was!



They crossed the Yangtze River and by 300 BC had established the Mon Kingdom in the area of what is now Bangkok Thailand in the center of Thailand.

The Mon became sea traders with India and were influenced by Indian culture and religion. They were the first receivers of [Theravada](#) missionaries from [Sri Lanka](#), in contrast to

their Hindu contemporaries like the [Khmers](#) or [Chams](#). The Mons adopted the [Pallava script](#) and the oldest Mon script was found in a cave in modern [Saraburi](#) dating around 550 AD. Though no remains were found belonging to the Thaton kingdom but it was mentioned widely in Burmese and Lanna chronicles. The legendary Queen [Jamadevi](#) from the [Chao Phraya](#) Valley came to rule as the first queen of [Haribhunjyaya](#) (modern [Lamphun](#)) kingdom around 800 AD. The Mon Kingdom lasted 12 centuries.

After 1000 AD onwards the Mons were under constant pressures. With the Tai migrations from the north and Khmer invasions from the east, the Mons of Dvaravati perished and gave their way to Khmer Lavo kingdom by around 1000 AD. The Mons were killed in wars, transported as captives, or assimilated into new cultures. The Mon as an entity virtually disappeared in Chao

Phraya Valley. However, Haribhunjaya kingdom survived as a Mon outpost in northern Thailand under repeated harass by the [Tai Yuan](#).

In 1057, King [Anawrahta](#) of [Pagan](#) conquered the Thaton kingdom. The Mon culture and script were readily absorbed by the Burmese and the Mons, for the first time, came under Burmese rule. The Mons remained a majority in Lower Burma. The Mon Kingdom prospered from 1287 to 1492. By 1500 Lower Burma became effectively war fronts between Burma, Siam, and Arakan. Following King [Naresuan](#)'s campaigns against the Burmese, the Mons were, either forced or voluntarily, moved to Siam.

Burma was conquered by the [British](#) in a series of wars. After the [Second Anglo-Burmese War](#) in 1853, the Mon territories were completely under the control of the British. The Mon aided the British to free themselves from the rule of the Burman monarchy. Under Burman rule, the Mon people had been massacred after they lost their kingdom and many sought asylum in the Thai Kingdom. The British conquest of Burma allowed the Mon people to survive in Southern Burma. When Burma was granted independence in 1948 the Mon sought self determination but the Burmese Prime Minister U Nu refused them this and they rose in revolt only to be crushed again.

Today, according to Saing Non, there are still 10 million Mon living in Burma (Myanmar), of the 55 million total population of the country. They continue to be repressed by the government and denied basic human rights. About 1 million Mon people live in Thailand, where many try to escape to. 95% of the Mon are Buddhist and its version of Buddhism is more like the Buddhism of India than the Buddhism of China.

The 2012 Rotary International Convention is scheduled to be held in Bangkok. Its safety is good as long as the present king is alive.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Kevin Boling announced that the Inglewood Rotary Club has procured a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant with the Rotary Club of Cape Town South Africa. He was asking our club to join with other district clubs in this project and a decision about that will be made next week.

Guests

There were more guests at the meeting Malibu Rotary Club meeting of March 23 than Malibu Rotarian members. The included Kevin's son **Steven Boling**, **Jim Dyer** Rotary District 5280 Disaster Relief Chair and Past President of the Santa Moinca Rotary Club (as will Rotary District Governer Elect Designee [he will be District Governor in 2013], who told us about Rotary's Japan and Pacific Island 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund (see article below), PDG **Tom Bos** of the Holland Michigan Rotary Club, **Dr Tom Riley** who, as Professor of Chinese History at Pepperdine University had special interest in the day's speaker. There were several other guests who came to the meeting because of the speaker **Saing Non**, and his subject about the Mon people:his wife **Mon Chan**, and his friends **Nuchree Sridaodoen** and **Tala Mon (Jimmy)**. Jimmy became an American citizen the week before, with Bill Wishard, going with him to the ceremony.



Pictured (L to R) Tala Mon (Jimmy), Nuchree Sridaodoen, Saing Non, Mon Chan

Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund

Jim Dyer, District 5280 Disaster Relief Chair, sent the following message about what Rotary is doing through the Rotary Foundation in Japan's current emergency situation and how you can help.

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake, Japan's largest in history, caused a devastating tsunami that swept over northern coastal towns. At least 10,000 people are assumed dead, but government officials say the death toll will rise. The emergency situation is still unfolding but what is clear is the immediate need for money to support relief efforts and shelter.

In response to this massive earthquake and tsunami, The Rotary Foundation has established the *Rotary Japan & Pacific Islands Disaster Recovery Fund*. Also, ShelterBox, a designated Global Rotary Club Project, had response team members on the ground within 24 hours after the earthquake, one of the first international aid agencies to arrive in Japan. The first deployment of ShelterBoxes, including the provision of emergency shelter, water purification and lifesaving supplies are on their way to Tokyo with more on stand by.

During this initial response period we are encouraging District 5280 Clubs, Rotarian's and friends to support one of the Rotary affiliated relief efforts or other recognized international relief organizations like the Red Cross.

- **Rotary Japan & Pacific Islands Disaster Recovery Fund** - Checks should be made payable to The Rotary Foundation - note on your check that the contribution should be used for the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund, #G10005. Please see the attached PDF with answers to frequently asked questions. The Foundation will begin accepting online in the coming days.

- **ShelterBox** - donations to ShelterBox USA can be made on their website at www.ShelterBoxUSA.org, or use the attached sponsorship form to mail in your donation. Be sure to note your club name and District 5280.

As relief efforts progress, we will establish direct contact with Rotarians in Japan. For more information, please contact Jim.Dyer@RotaryClubofSantaMonica.org

Jim Dyer

District 5280 Disaster Relief Chair

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I make a contribution to support the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund?

Contributions designated to the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund may be made in the same fashion you normally contribute to The Rotary Foundation. Checks should be made payable to The Rotary Foundation (note on your check that the contribution should be used for the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund, #G10005).

The ability to make online contributions on the RI website is forthcoming.

How will contributions designated to the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund be used?

Rotarians in affected areas will identify and determine how best to help these communities recover after initial disaster relief efforts are completed. The funds contributed will not be used for immediate disaster relief but rather for recovery efforts. Contributions to the Fund will be made available to clubs and Districts in the affected areas for participation in Rotary Foundation Matching Grants and Global Grants. As with all Matching Grants and Global Grants projects, Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund grants will require Rotary clubs or districts in at least two countries (a partner outside of the project country and a partner within the project country) to work together to plan, implement, and complete the project. The projects must involve active personal Rotarian participation. As with all funds contributed to The Rotary Foundation, the Trustees will manage funds contributed to the fund.

Will I receive Paul Harris Fellow recognition for my contribution?

No. Contributions designated to the fund are not eligible for Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Will my contribution count toward my club and district's total contribution goals?

Yes. Contributions designated to the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund will count toward club and district total contribution goals. However, contributions will not count toward club and district Annual Programs Fund goals.

Will my contribution be included in my total Foundation giving?

Yes. Your personal contribution will appear on your giving history and will apply toward major donor recognition.

Is there a minimum contribution amount?

No.

Can District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations go to the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund?

Yes. DDF can be used for recovery efforts relating to this fund. Please refer to the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Recovery Fund District Designated Funds form.

Who should I contact with contribution questions?

Questions may be directed to the Contact Center at 1-866-976-8279 or contact.center@rotary.org

Where can I find more information on Rotary clubs' relief work in Japan and the Pacific Islands?

Please contact relief@rotary.org for information on Rotary club and district relief efforts in Japan and the Pacific Islands

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

Calendar

Malibu Rotary Club Speakers (all meetings at at 7:30 a.m in the Pepperdine University Fireside Room)

Mar 30 2011

Jonathan Friedman

"MalibuCabbagePatch.com"

April 6 2011

Club Assembly

Apr 20 2011

Yvette Yurcisin

"Life as a Locations Manager"

Locations manager for the TNT show "Justified"