



*Award Winning*

## ***Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter***

**March 31, 2010**

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

**Malibu Rotary Club President Elect and Acting President Christopher Bauman**

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

**Pictures by Dr John W. Elman**

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- Check Calendar on Malibu Rotary website [MalibuRotary.org](http://MalibuRotary.org)
- Malibu Rotary Club Website: [www.MalibuRotary.org](http://www.MalibuRotary.org)

Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)

Rotary District 5280 Website: [www.rotary5280la.org](http://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

**Malibu Rotary Club meeting March 31--Malibu City Council Forum #2**

**Featuring Matthew Katz, Mike Sidley, Kofi, and Ed Gillespie (pictured below L to R)**



The Malibu Rotary Club of March 31, 2010 featured the second part of the Two Week Malibu City Council Candidates forum. The first part was held on March 24 and featured Lou La Monte, Steve Scheinkman, Laura Rosenthal, and John Mazza. The second week was to feature Mathew Katz, Mike Sidley, Kofi, Ed Gillespie and Jan Swift, but Swift was unable to attend the event, so only a total of nine of the ten candidates vying for the two available seats for the Malibu City Council were able to present their cases to the Malibu Rotary Club and guests who attended the meetings.

Just as with the candidates presented the first week all the candidates said they liked each other, but felt they could do a better job than the present Malibu City Council.

The first candidate to speak was **Ed Gillespie**, who has chaired the Malibu City Planning Commission and who is a yacht broker. He pointed out that none of the candidates at the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting was connected to the existing Malibu political machines.

Ed said that he (along with current City Council members) has had a chance to talk to Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Executive Director Joe Edmiston, as well as Jerry Brown and Gray Davis, who told him that most state agencies have dim view of the current City of Malibu City Council. The state views the city as elitist, NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard), and even when the state has asked the city to write a coastal plans and has given deadlines for reports the city has paid little attention. Therefore the state has written the plans for the city. Even though nearly all the residents of Malibu agree that overnight camping should not be allowed in the Santa Monica Mountains agent to Malibu because of fire safety concerns, the state looks at the Malibu City reason as NIMBYism rather than the safety issue.

Ed believes that the City of Malibu should have the CHP patrol PCH in Malibu for traffic safety, leaving sheriffs for other crime.

Ed also believe the City should contract with the state to have an Air Tanker ready during the fire season.

**Mike Sidley** was the next speaker. He is the only Malibu City Council Candidate that grew up in Malibu going to the Santa Monica-Malibu School District Malibu elementary and Malibu Park Middle School before graduating from SaMoHi (before Malibu High existed). He later received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and Law Degree from University of Pacific. He now lives in the Serra Retreat area of Malibu. His wife was President of PTA, and he noted how things changed when he moved back to Malibu. He was concerned especially about the Civic Center Wastewater Problem. He pointed out that septic problem always existed, since way before Malibu became a city. In fact it was the threat of having to connect to a county sewer system that caused many to believe if a city was formed it was solve the problem. It didn't solve the problem, it just put off the solution. The City of Malibu and the City Council is now forced to make major decisions now. It is naïve to think that businesses in the Civic Center area can afford to

pay \$17,000 per month to pay for a central sewer, or that the residents in the area can afford to pay \$500 per month. If it is determined that current septic systems aren't working it may be an issue that the entire city must face, even beyond the Civic Center. Other issues that require decisions of the City Council involve the View Ordinance and the schools. There are some that believe Malibu should form its own school district.

**Matthew Katz** was the next speaker. He has run several companies in the music industry and although he is the senior citizen of the candidates he said he has always been comfortable talking to kids to find out what's happening. He has lived in Malibu since 1955, when he rented Rod Steiger's home. He (as all candidates) believed there should be no camping in Malibu. He thought that it was a poor idea that present city council bought the building in which the new City Hall will be. He is against the City being in the real estate business. He said the building would have to be completely rebuilt be suitable as a City Hall. He said the current City Council like to take credit for things that they had very little to do with. He said it was the whole community of Malibu came out to oppose the LNG—it wasn't the city council that made the difference. He believes that the current city council has made many bad decisions and thinks he could do better.

**Kofi** was born in the west Africa country of Ghana. He has lived all over the world. One of those places was Bataan, where he said they measure the success of the country not in gross national product, but in happiness. Kofi currently lives with Cher, and he has associated with many successful affluent people living in Malibu who give money to various institutions but who have nothing to do with the Malibu community in which they live. As examples, he pointed out that David Geffen has given \$200 million to the UCLA medical school, Larry Ellison has given \$100 million to Harvard, and David Foster has given to charities all over the world. Kofi said he is friends with this people, and most of them never go out in the community beyond their walls. He believes he can convince his friends to invest in the needs of the Malibu community.

## Other News and Guests from March 31 Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

**Bill Wishard** had just come back from an Indianapolis Rotary Club meeting, where he went soon after returning from Ecuador. Usually when he is introduced in his home town of Indianapolis he gets jokes at being from Malibu Rotary Club, but he was wearing a T-Shirt under a T-Shirt. He stood up and he revealed the one T-shirt underneath—"Butler University Final 4" T-shirt. At the time Butler University, located in Indianapolis, had just made it to the Final 4 of the NCAA basketball championship which was being held in Indianapolis. There were big cheers when he revealed the Butler shirt. Butler not only was the home town favorite but was America's Cinderella team later beating Michigan State to go to the championship game against Duke.

Bill Wishard will give a slide presentation at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting April 14 on the March 2010 trip that show Rotary humanitarian projects in Ecuador. 110 Rotarians from District 5280 went. Also see contributions of Malibu Rotary's newest member Ecuadorian Pompeya Monteros who showed everyone their way around in her country.

There was one guest at the March 31 Malibu Rotary meeting, **Vivian Baer**, who lives in the Saddlepeak area of Malibu and has a business Baerskin Medi-Spa in Malibu. She came to the meeting to see the Malibu City Council Candidates Forum.



*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 above 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 learn to work together and apply this when they return to Israel. A new Pilot TRIUMPH project is being developed. It concentrates it's efforts on the students in the City of Acre in Israel as a year long program with Jewish and Arab students working together making a video documentary that strives for lifelong results. The new Pilot TRIUMPH project is a non-profit organization with Leon Berg, as its CEO.*

If you would like to help with Project TRIUMPH you can contact Shoshana Brower at [shobrower@gmail.com](mailto:shobrower@gmail.com) or Leon Berg at [Leon.Berg@gmail.com](mailto:Leon.Berg@gmail.com).



### **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](http://www.maliburotary.org) for latest Calendar and future speakers.**