



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 18, 2011

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

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- **Malibu Rotary Club Triple Induction of Members Increases Club Membership by 25% in One Day!**
- **President-Elect Kevin Boling Wins Golden Spatula Award at 2011 Rotary District Conference in Indian Wells.**
- **Next week May 25th. The next Malibu Rotary Club meeting will be held 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, in the Fireside Room of Pepperdine University in Malibu. Students that the Malibu Rotary Club sponsored to go to the**

Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) on Catalina Island will report about their experiences.

- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **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 (2010-2011): Doug Baker**

Pon Nya Mon Ph.D, a Buddhist monk from Burma and Thailand

Explains How He Escapes From Prison Truck in Burma

To become an American Economist and Banker

While he Continues to Talk and Write About the Ethnic Conflict in Burma



Pon Nya Mon grew in a small village of ethnic Mon people in Eastern Burma, where for the past 60 years, there has been ethnic conflict between Mons, and at least eight other ethnic groups. when he was 12 years old his mother sent him to study and live in a Mon Buddhist temple in Rangoon where he became a monk. In 1988 he

became involved in a student demonstration against the repressive government and he fled to

Thailand. He went to the American Embassy and ultimately received a scholarship to study in the U.S and disrobed from Buddhist monk in 1992.

Before he could leave, Pon was arrested by Thai police and was to be sent back to Burma. Apparently the Thai police were given \$200 for each student they arrested. Pon had \$100 on him, and asked if he could be left alone if he paid them the \$100. They took the \$100 and arrested him anyway, along with two other students. The future in a Burmese prison did not seem bright, and as the truck driven by Burmese soldiers was taking Pon and his two friends through the jungle road towards prison one of the other students jumped out of the truck and Pon and the other student followed and ran into the jungle. Shots were fired in the air as Pon found himself hidden in the jungle, but stuck on a sticky bush near the road. He managed to make his way to Bangkok, Thailand, and with the help of the U.S. Embassy arrived in Fort Wayne Indiana as a political refugee in 1993. He was the first of many Mon refugees who found their way to Fort Wayne Indiana, and it was to become the largest settlement of Mon in the United States, with 5,000 Mon refugees. Pon received a **B.S.**, Business Administration, Indiana-Purdue University, in Fort Wayne in 1998. A year later he received a B.A. in Political Science from Indiana-Purdue University and was chosen as one of two Mon students to study at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, where he received his **M.A.**, in Development Economics in 2000. He received an **M.A.**, in Agricultural Economics, from Washington State University, in Pullman, WA, and received his Ph.D degree in Political Science in 2010 from WSU. Pon never forgot where he came from and research of what caused him to leave his homeland became the subject and title of Pon's Ph.D Dissertation: *Identity, Image and ethnic conflicts in Burma*.

He is in the process of writing about this subject in a book. Pon's presentation is a synopsis of his research paper. There were approximately 60 million people living in Burma in 2010. There are eight major ethnic groups: (Burman 69 %, Shan (8.5 %), Karen (6.2 %), Arakanese (4.5 %), Mon (2.4%), Chin (2.2%), Kachin (1.4 %), Karenni (0.04 %), and others including Chinese and Indians (5.4%) (1982 census). There are 135 dialects spoken (e.g. Chin has 53 dialects, Mon has one) and there four religions: Buddhism 89.4%, Christian 4.9%, Islam 3.9%, and Hindu 0.5%

Pon talks about the political systems that have dominated Burma in the last 60 years:

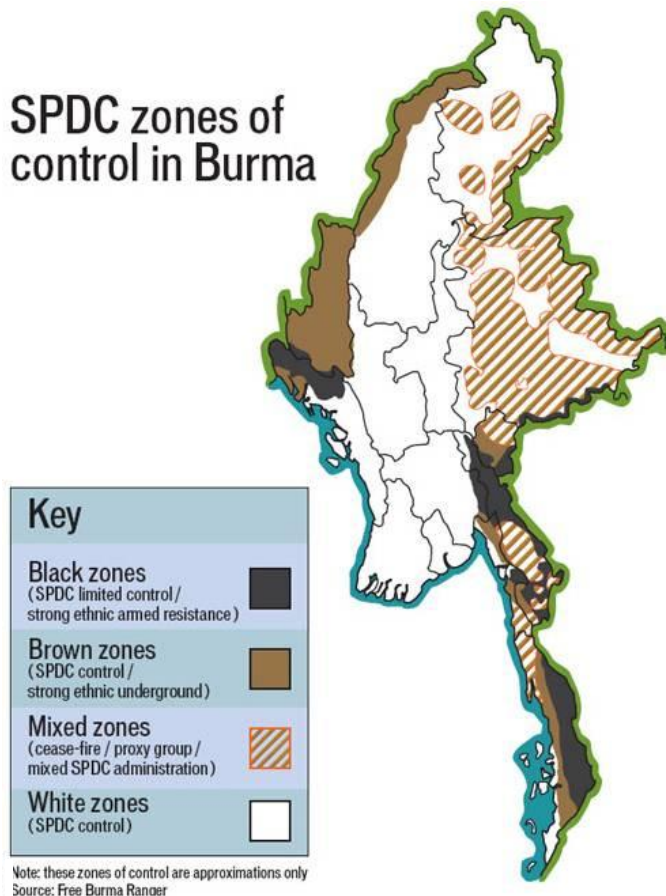
- 1948-1958 :Democratic government
- 1959-1988: Military and Socialist governments
- 1988-2010: Military government
- Present : Quasi-military government

Burma's ethnic conflict is one of the longest conflicts in the world. The current conflict has been going on since 1948. There was conflict prior to colonial rule. There were wars between Mon, Arakanese and Shan and Burman. The Mon people were one of the original groups to occupy the Burma-Thai area. The first war was in 1057 A.D. when Burman invaded Mon kingdom. The Mon and Burman fought forty years war from 1383 to 1422. Mon and Burman fought another war in 1757. Mon lost its independence to Burman

Then came the British. The British fought three wars (1828, 1858, 1889) to occupy the whole Burma. The British used “Divide-and-Rule” to rule Burma. It gave favor to Karen, Chin, and Kachin ethnic groups. Burman felt marginalized under the British rule.

Pinglong Agreement was signed in 1947 to form a federal union between Burman and some non-Burman leaders. The Agreement granted succession rights. Mon, Karen, and Arakanese were excluded from the agreement.

SPDC zones of control in Burma



Mon, Karen, and Arakanese started revolting against the government in 1948. In 1962, Kachin, Shan, and Karenni started armed rebellions because the government nullified the Pinglong Agreement.

The government began signing cease-fire agreements with ethnic armed groups in 1989. NMSP reached cease-fire agreement in 1995. As of 2010, there were 37 ethnic armed groups in Burma (24 reached cease-fire agreements and 13 are still fighting). KNU, SSA (South), and KNPP did not sign cease-fire. DKBA and SSA (North) resumed fighting this year. Other ethnic armed groups are preparing for the fight.

The tragedy of this prolonged conflict is of epic proportions. There has been an estimated 1 million loss of lives over five decades of fighting. There are countless human rights violations (e.g. Rapes and forced labors). As of 2008 there are over 1 million Refugees and



Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs). Approximately 150,000 refugees live in refugee camps along Thai-Burma border and approximately 200,000 live outside camps. Burma increased its army from 190,000 in early 1990s to 400,000 in 2000, and these include child soldiers as young as 13 years old. HW estimated 35 to 45 percent of Burmese army is made up of child soldiers. And not surprisingly the UN declared Burma

one of the least developed countries in the world in 1987.

Although Burma had its first election in 20 years in January, 2011, the government did not give representation to all the ethnic groups and the result was the conflict got even worse.

Pon has four recommendations to end the conflict:

- (1) Country wide cease-fire
- (2) Dialogue and democratization
- (3) Power sharing
- (4) Forming new national identity

Bangkok Thailand is the location of the 2012 Rotary International Convention. The King of Thailand has managed to keep the ethnic groups living in Burma's neighbor peaceful. RI President Ray Klinginsmith has said the RI Convention in Bangkok should be safe as long as the king is alive. Paul Netzel had asked Bill Wishard to ask Pon about the safety of Thailand in the event the King is not alive. Like all hypothetical questions we are not sure what the true answer is. We should remember that stability in this area is subject to change depending on who is in charge and there could be a power struggle if the current king were no longer on the throne.

**President-Elect Kevin Boling Wins Golden Spatula Award
For Malibu Rotary Club at 2011 Rotary District Conference in Indian
Wells.**



Shown Above—Malibu Rotary Club President-Elect Kevin Boling (Center) Holding Golden Spatula Award For Best Food presented to him by Rotary District Governor Doug Baker (second from left) during Hospitality Night at 2011 Rotary District Convention in Indian Wells May 13. Current Malibu Rotary Club President Chris Bauman (R) helped with the cooking in Malibu Rotary Booth.

There are about 45 club in Rotary District 5280. Malibu Rotary Club has not had a food booth at a Rotary District Conference since Malibu Rotary's only District Governor, Larry Hornbaker, had the club host a food booth about 25 years ago. Kevin told the club members last month that not only is the Malibu Rotary Club going to have a booth this year, but he plans to win the award for the Best Food with his pulled pork sliders and special barbeque sauce. He was also planning to win the award for best drinks with his margaritas. It turns out the same club has never won both awards.

Kevin's enthusiasm brought a very strong turn out for the Rotary District event. Of Malibu's 12 members 6 made it to the District Convention on Friday night, and some brought in other family

to



members

participated. Malibu Rotarians seen in these pictures include chef **Kevin Bolling**, **Margo Neal**, **McKade Marshall**, **Chris Bauman**, **Bill Wishard** and **John Elman** (who got there just before the booth closed because **Lee Ann's** Santa Monica jury was not dismissed until 5:00 p.m.). Kevin always has family help at his food booths, and in this case it was his daughter Kelli.



Malibu Rotary Club Triple Induction of Members Increases Club Membership by 25% in One Day!

At the start of the meeting on May 18th Malibu Rotary Club had the same amount of active members it had the past five years (plus or minus a member here and there), exactly a dozen—12 members. By the end of the meeting President-Elect **Kevin Boling** had inducted three new members, increasing the club membership by 25% in one day.



The three new members are **Danielle Anjou, Hubert Lukerath, and Maggie Lukerath.** All three have only recently lived in Malibu, but have been guests at our meetings for several months, and we have gotten to know them. Maggie and Hubert are pictured to the left. In 1991 Maggie was recognized by the Rotary Club of Denville as Citizen of the Year and was presented the plaque shown. We have already seen that since Maggie has arrived in Malibu, she has he immersed herself in community affairs, SOS to Save the Trancas Nursery. We decided that Hubert will

have the Rotary Classification “International Banker-Retired.” **Danielle Anjou** is a world renowned sculptor and her Rotary classification will be the same as it was at the Montecito Rotary Club from which she is transferring, “Sculptor.” It was hard to define a Rotary classification for Maggie. We have observed how involved she is with the community wherever she has been, and we therefore coined the Rotary classification for her of “Community Advocate.”

Although David Baird was listed as the sponsor for the three inductees Kevin has assigned a Malibu Rotary Club Past President as an individual mentor for each new member. Margo Neal was appointed mentor for Hubert; Bill Wishard was appointed mentor for Maggie; and David Baird was appointed mentor for Danielle.

After the induction a line of all members was formed for handshakes and hugs welcoming the three new members:



Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Bill Wishard said there were several moving moments given by presentations of the high school Interact students on the Saturday morning session at the Rotary District Conference. He hopes to tell us about them next week, at which time our local Malibu High Students who were sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club to attend the RYLA camp last month will give their presentation.

There were two guests at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of May 18th. **Tala Mon (Jimmy)**., another Mon Monk from Burma and Thailand who was at the Malibu Rotary club on March 23 when **Saing Non talked** about the Mon people (see [Malibu Rotary Club Mar 23 2011](#)) and **Jeff Runyon** an investment advisor from the Beverly Hills Rotary Club

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)

- **May 25, 2011 Students that the Malibu Rotary Club sponsored to go to the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) on Catalina Island will report about their experiences.**