



The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 21, 2014

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President William Wishard

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman
Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Jeannie Ruse

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday May 28 at noon at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus in LC 152 (with fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.) Speaker Will be Carl Christman.** Carl Christman is a mentalist at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. His Rotary presentations are educational and entertaining. Rotarians and guests at this special meeting will learn about the power of their own mind and have a once in a lifetime experience. You can find out more about Carl and see a demo video at www.CarlReadsMinds.com. This should be a fun Rotary meeting. Come and bring a friend.
- **Griselda Espinoza's Story—Not your ordinary Rotary Craft Talk.**

- **Last Week's Meeting: Our Lady of Malibu Principal Michael A Smith Talks About Education the OLM School and Community Fund Raisers to Support It**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Presents Scholarship Checks to 2 Graduating Malibu High School Seniors**
- **Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**
- Check **[Calendar](#)** on Malibu Rotary website **www.maliburotary.org**
- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/**
- **RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Muntean (2013-14)**

Griselda Espinoza's Story—Not your ordinary Rotary Craft Talk

By John W Elman

Since being inducted into the Malibu Rotary Club last October Griselda Espinoza immediately has made an impact. She worked with Geoff Ortiz setting up the Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Music Competition, became the official photographer at the December holiday party, is working with Dave Zielski as co-Director as Malibu Rotary Club Youth Services and has already started to work on a new Malibu Rotary Club fundraiser “Hollywood Halloween” on October 25th. It took months for us to make a Rotary Club badge for her. She does so many things it was hard to find a single classification to fit her. She is a realtor and a mortgage broker. And although she doesn't seem old enough she has a daughter who is in college and a son at Malibu High School. Even though she missed a few meetings when her son was in and out of the hospital, she has been to almost 90% of the Malibu Rotary Club meetings, hand has a smile 100% of the time. Somebody with a smile like that, who is so accomplished at so many things, must have had a happy childhood. I was anxious to see Griselda's Craft Talk.

I have been a Rotarian a long time and have seen a lot of Craft Talks, and each one is different. But the story we got to hear and see (with her PowePoint presentation) from Griselda Espinoza was indeed very special. It was like a Spanish *telenovela*—a Spanish soap opera. Or maybe it's more like an American Soap Opera. The telenovelas end after a finite number of episoddes but Griselda's story is still going. Those early years are definitely worth of telenovela consideration.

I asked Griselda to send me her notes so those who were not at the Malibu Rotary meeting on

May 21, could also see Griselda's story too.



So in Griselda's own words here is her story. She divided into sections. To me, each section was like a chapter in a novella, so I took the liberty of calling them chapters and numbering them.

The Griselda Espinoza Story

Chapter 1

The beginning-Mom and dad meet in Tijuana

—Born in 1971 in Durango, Mexico

The beginning-Mom and dad meet in Tijuana

It all begins with a love story that takes place in one of the most popular cities across the border...Tijuana.

Yes, my mother and father met there. My father, who was in the military at that time, was stationed in San Diego. He went across the border for a day trip. He met my mother, a girl of 17, while she was working at a store there. They never lived together but my mother got pregnant. A few months later my father left for Vietnam and was killed in the line of duty.

My mother was devastated to hear about his death and being only 17 she was overwhelmed with the idea of having a child away from her family, so she moved back to Durango to live with her mom, my grandmother. Two months after I was born, she decided to go to Los Angeles to find work to support me. I was left in the care of my grandparents.

Chapter 2

Confusing times-Meeting mom and sister

As a child I was never told about my parents, but I had a very happy life while living with my grandparents until a turn of events took place. In late 1977 my 51 year old grandmother was diagnosed with stomach cancer.

My mother flew from LA to be with her and a few days later grandma passed away. No one told me that she was dead but I remember that we had a lot of visitors that day. They were all very nice to me. One of my grandmother's friends took me to her house. The next day they took me back and my uncle Victor told me that I was going on a trip to the US. He said "you will be living with your mother Maria."

"My mother?!" I said.

I guess they forgot to mention that Maria, who I always thought was an older sister was in fact my mother. They always said "Maria sent you clothes and shoes" or "Maria sent you money".

I was very happy to have such a generous sister. Finding out that she was my mother was very confusing to me. To make matters worse, they said that grandma went on a trip to the mountains. So I asked if she would come to the US with us.

"She will join you, later" they said.

I was so sad about grandma leaving without me. It just did not make sense!

When we went to Los Angeles, my first house was on Sawtelle and Olympic. What is now a beautiful shopping center was a series of old bungalows.

Chapter 3

Disappointment-Grandma never arrived

Day after day I waited for grandma to join us. I kept dreaming of her arrival, every time I saw a plane in the sky I thought grandma was in it. Almost a year went by when I began to lose hope that grandma would ever come back to pick me up and told my uncle that I was not going to wait for her anymore.

"Grandma is not coming," he said "She died".

My whole world collapsed. I felt very sad and at the same time angry and disappointed. The fact that I was not told the truth about her death made me feel betrayed and lost. I could no longer trust adults; to me they were not truthful.

I became withdrawn and resentful. This was especially so because I did not have a close relationship with my mother.

By the time I met her she already had another daughter who was three months old at that time. For me it was a shock because just like that, practically overnight, I went from being the baby of the house to being the big sister and I was expected to help take care of the baby. On top of that that my mother had drinking problems and did not know how to talk to me.

She communicated by screaming and hitting me . The relationship got worst as I grew older.

Chapter 4

Back to Mexico

—In 1982 she sent me back to Mexico for a year. While I was there she got married. I came back and mom and my sister and brother where living in a beautiful large house. I was very happy to have a complete family with a father who was very kind to us. Having a father figure at home made me feel secure and normal. His arrival brought joy and happiness to our family.

Two years later, we moved back to Mexico so once again I had to leave my friends.

This time it was a permanent move, my step father built a beautiful house for us. My hopes of going back to LA remained. I could hardly wait to turn 18 and leave.

I had a plan. I was going to save money and be ready. My first job was selling jewelry from a catalogue.

I was 12 years old when I started door knocking in every house in town. I had no idea what direct sales and network marketing were but I was doing it.

I was proud of myself because I was making more money than some of my adult relatives. I hired three of my friends who were 16 at that time. They were my "distributors" .

Ever since then I fell in love the concept of building a team and being self employed.

I also sold shoes in a family owned store, helped out my uncles and grandfather with farm work. I helped my step father do construction work. I learned how cut peoples hair & make dresses. I did anything I could to make money. I loved having multiple streams of income and being independent . The best part was that *I had money to go back LA!*

Chapter 5

My Spiritual journey.

Besides going to school and working odd jobs, I became very involved with the Catholic Church.

In searching for meaning in life, I became a catequist at the age of 14. I joined a group of parishioners and went on charity missions . I loved reading the bible; the book of Ecclesiastes was and is my favorite. It was then when I began to explore philosophy. I became so involved that at one point I wanted to be a nun!

I went to a convent with a friend of mine and asked the nuns the process of getting started. They took the time to explain the joys of being married to the Lord. I was convinced that being a nun was my calling in life. I went home and told my mother about my determination for serving God.

“A nun” She said, laughing. “You are not the nun type!”

Maybe she is right, I thought, what if I want to get married and have kids? There and then, I realized that I was not going to be nun, it was just a phase I had. I continued being a catechist.

Chapter 6

MORE HAPPY MOMENTS

The time came when I turned 18 and made my way back to Los Angeles.

I went worked and went to school.

I got married in Los Angeles in 1994.

My daughter Elizabeth was born in 1995.

My son David was born in 1999.

While I was married and raising my children, I still worked and went to school to finish college.

Epilogue

Fast forward to 2002

2002 I became a loan processor

- 2002 I started my investment company-Bought several apartment building in 5 states.

2004 Became loan originator- CPK MORTGAGE- Residential and commercial Loans

- Conventional, fha, va & reverse mortgages

2007 I got my broker's license to be a realtor- SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

- Sothebys International Realty has over 12,000 agents worldwide, 650 offices in 40 different countries

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Luxury brand

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I joined the Rotary Club in 2010-

- Received Paul Harris Award in 2011

Participate with a Charity Group in Tijuana & Ensenada. Senior Center in Culver City,

Moving back and forth from the country to the city gave me a better perspective in life. I learned how to appreciate life, people, nature & adjust to different ways of living in a positive way.

Being self employed and having multiple streams of income gives me the freedom to enjoy life more by spending more time with my loved ones, travel more often and participate in many charity events.

Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

David Zielski was back at the Malibu Rotary Club after a 34 hour combined flight at layover returning from doing 10 Raincatcher projects in Kenya and Uganda. The latest one was sponsored by the Entebbe Rotary Club. The projects help 50,00 people get clean drinking water. There was a videographer on the trip and David will be presenting a report to our club at a future meeting.

Bill Wiashard said that an ongoing theme at last week-ends Rotary District Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Indian Wells was District Governor Doug Baker's humorous references to La Quinta Hotel in Indian Wells, where the Rotary District Conference was originally supposed to be held, based on a contract set up by Jim Dyer, who was supposed to be this year's District Governor, until he died on the eve of Governor-Elects Training Seminar. Jim had wanted to have the 2014 District Conference at La Quinta, but apparently La Quinta did not honor Jim's contract. They got a better deal from another group the weekend scheduled for the Rotary Convention. Doug did not let anyone forget what La Quinta did and kind of suggested a Rotary boycott La Quinta. Bill said that there were several major changes in Rotary International programs this year. One is that there will no longer be Group Study Exchanges (GSE) which is when a group of business people from one country goes to another country to compare how things are done (Tom Bos gave a presentation February 28th on GSE from his district in Michigan to the Netherlands), The new program involves a vocational training team that concentrates on peace and conflict resolution.

Bill said Margo will have more to say about the Rotary District Conference when she returns to our meeting next week after recuperating from foot surgery this week.

Bill had a couple of Happy Dollars to contribute. He had to leave the District conference early to attend his granddaughters 4 birthday in San Diego. He had dinner the previous night with one of the last South Vietnamese families to leave Saigon when the Americans left and the Viet Cong took over. Over Memorial Day weekend Bill will go back for the Annual Indy 500.

John Elman had a happy dollar from Lee Ann, who, even with the record heat, enjoyed representing the Malibu Rotary Club at Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Livia Giovano's graduation from the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution. Livia hopes to stay in California and get a job here in a law office. Apparently there are not many jobs in her field available—most go to retired judges—but she is also a graduate of the Law School of University of Zurich, and will take a position as law clerk. Resume on request.

Guests

Regular guest **Beth Mohiuddin** of Beth Travel Advisor was only guest at the May 21st meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club

Upcoming Speakers (yet to be confirmed)

- Randy Klingensberg, Performing Arts Studio West (who trains disabled artists to perform--school attended by blind autistic musical savant Rex Lewis)
- Malibu High School Principal Jerry Block
- Founder of the National Veterans Foundation, Floyd 'Shad' Meshad
- Dana Sherman of the Fleet Street Bike Project
- Dan Wise on history of the 25,000 acres from Marina del Rey to PV Peninsula to Western Ave

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

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Speakers

May 28, 2014

Carl Christman

"Carl Reads Minds"

Carl Christman is a mentalist at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. His Rotary presentations are educational and entertaining. Rotarians learn about the power of their own mind and have a once in a lifetime experience. You can find out more about Carl and see a demo should be a fun Rotary meeting. Come and bring a friend.

Jun 04, 2014

Cami Winikoff

"Reaching for the stars"

Jun 18, 2014

Club Assembly

"Club Assembly"

Jun 25, 2014

Doug Kmiec

"Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were both right – AMB"

Former U.S. Ambassador to Malta Douglas W. Kmiec explains Why Aristotle and Jimmy Stewart were both right – AMB

Jul 16, 2014

Nora MacLellan
"Vision to Learn"

Vision To Learn's eye doctors bring state-of-the-art mobile eye clinics to elementary schools in low-income communities to provide free eye exams and quarter-million young children across California do not have the glasses they need to read their books, see the chalkboard, or participate in class. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Public Health, more than 20 percent of elementary school students in low-income communities have a vision problem and 96 percent of those students with untreated eye problems have lower academic performance which impacts their life trajectory.

Jul 23, 2014

Jo Anne Books
"Life After Polio"

Jo Anne Books, from Laredo, Texas, and now living in Northern California, contracted polio at age 4 and became paralyzed in both legs. She is a former police officer, a probation officer and the mother of 2 children. She has spoken at many Rotary clubs about polio and will be in Malibu this week to share her experiences with the Malibu Rotary Club.

Jul 30, 2014

Brian Turner
"How to Kill a Lawsuit"

Brian Turner recently published a book - How to Kill a Lawsuit - through Tate Publishing Company ("America's Top Publisher") which is one of the largest Christian-based publishing companies. Each year, Tate Publishing Company receives over 10,000 author submissions and publishes only 100 of the books it receives. When Tate Publishing Company received Brian's book, they decided to publish it immediately. At his recent presentation to the Malibu Rotary Club he explains ways to protect against lawsuits, a critically important topic in our extremely litigious society with over 100 million lawsuits filed annually. It's a disturbing fact that most Americans will invariably be sued sometime during their lifetimes, whereas most people in other countries will never be sued at all! He will also discuss asset protection planning and tax-saving strategies where you can protect your assets.

Sep 10, 2014

Dr Alison Gallwey Wishard Guerra
"Early Childhood Development"

Assistant Professor, UC San Diego Education Studies, Dr. Wishard is an alumna of Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, Student Body President, UC Santa Cruz '97, UCLA PhD School of Psychological Studies in Education '05, speciality in early childhood development and maternal and child health.

Her husband Eduardo Guerra, UC Santa Cruz '97, a club leader of Del Mar Solana Beach Rotary, son of Malibu Rotarian Pompeya Guerra, lives in Manhattan Beach, CA

They have 2 daughters, Sofia Alexandra Wishard Guerra 6 y.o., Alina Luz Guerra, 4 y.o. expected to accompany her 10 Sept.

UCSD Dean Elman noted: "her work is sophisticated, important, thoughtful, and impactful," in recently announcing her being tenured.