



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 23 2018

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence
Pictures by John Elman and MCLE

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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

- Kay Gabbard, Oscar Mondragon & Tom Urban talk about The Malibu Community Labor Exchange—and Accept check from Malibu Rotary Club
- Next regular Malibu Rotary Club meeting May 30 2018 Room LC 152 on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. Speaker will be John Elman, who will Show and Tell “What you should know about ClubRunner”
- Malibu Rotary Club Board of Directors/Club Assembly will follow the regular May 30 Rotary meeting—The Club Assembly will start at 9:05 a.m.
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org
- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2017-2018) Cozette Vergari

Kay Gabbard, Oscar Mondragon & Tom Urban talk about The Malibu Community Labor Exchange as they Accept check from Malibu Rotary



Pictured above: Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence holds flag of the 2017-18 theme of Rotary “Making a Difference,” after presenting a check to Malibu Community Labor Exchange board members Kay Gabbard and Tom Urban far right. Oscar Mondragon, MCLE Executive Director since 1993, pointed out this could well be the theme of the Malibu Community Labor Exchange as it has made a positive difference in thousands of lives of the people it has served in the Malibu community.

The Malibu Community Labor Exchange is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose primary function is to provide a safe and convenient place for people to wait for day jobs. This facilitates a connection with prospective hirers. The benefit to the community is in having a central location where people can find workers; and the benefit to the workers is in having a safe and supportive organization that helps facilitate the work process. The MCLE is neither an employment agency nor an employer. All workers are independent.



After a quarter-century of providing a free service to help day laborers find work and help local residents, organizations and businesses find temporary labor, Malibu Community Labor Exchange Director Oscar Mondragon says over 20,000 workers have registered. Service is free to both the workers and employers. Oscar keeps a file on workers, to assist employers with the services they need. The MCLE has been able to connect enough workers with employers that the workers have collectively earned \$300,000 per year. About 30% of the workers are women.

“We’ve become kind of an institution in the community,” Mondragon said. “But the bottom line has always been to provide a venue for workers to get jobs.”

For the past 25 years, the Labor Exchange has been operating out of a trailer parked in the parking lot in front of the old Malibu Sheriff’s Station, in the Civic Center area near the library; Mondragon has run it the entire time.

“It’s like my home,” he said. “I come here every day.”

In the morning, the Labor Exchange opens for business at 6:30 a.m. Workers interested in day jobs gather outside the trailer to sign up for work. When local residents and employers start calling or stopping by to find workers for various short-term jobs, Mondragon does everything possible to make sure they get what they need. Workers for unskilled jobs are often chosen by lottery.

At 1:30 p.m., the trailer closes. By that time, most employers and residents who need help have already come by. The routine is repeated six days a week from Monday through Saturday.

They have had to deal with homeless, and all sorts personal needs for people.

“Our little trailer gives local folks a place to go for help if they need someone to clear brush from their property, paint a room or build a dog run, among many other things,” Kay Gabbard, president of the Board of Directors and head of fundraising, said.

Tom Urban, a member of the board of the MCLE who was at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on May 23 talked about an incident that connected him with MCLE earlier that week. Visiting his dentist he mentioned he was a volunteer at MCLE the dental hygienist told him she had started her first job, and began earning the money that allowed her to pay for the education needed for her position at the dental office, when she went to the MCLE years ago as one of the workers.

In next couple months, before Santa Monica College begins to demolish the old sheriff’s station to construct its new Malibu campus on the site, the Labor Exchange will relocate to the east side of the library. Construction on the SMC campus is supposed to begin in August.

The Board of Directors decided the upcoming move would be the perfect time to reorganize their setup. The old trailer, which has Mondragon’s office and a small classroom, will be replaced by the City of Malibu, and the group also hopes to modernize training facilities and security.

The MCLE has received a Federal Grant of over \$100,000 that will buy a much needed new trailer, is currently trying to raise \$25,000 for its upcoming relocation and a Go Fund Me at gofundme.com/8dq8yq raised about \$8,000 toward that goal.

“Our biggest challenge is to get the word out to the community that we exist — not only letting the community know there are workers in Malibu every day looking for the dignity of a job to help them provide for their families, but also in terms of finding a base of local patrons that we can count on from year to year to sustain our work,” Gabbard said.

“For 25 years, we’ve scrambled every year to make up the difference between our budget and the amount of continuing support we receive from the city, county, local churches and a few longtime supporters,” Gabbard explained. “We have operational expenses in keeping the hiring site open and run in an organized manner, including our one employee, Oscar Mondragon. However, we pride ourselves on providing services at a very low cost — a fraction of what other community exchanges operate on.”

“The board’s real mentor and guide is Mondragon — one of the most selfless and genuine people I’ve ever met,” Gabbard said. “His caring and sensitive interaction with our clients is inspirational, and his dedication to helping them learn to help themselves is impressive.”

The Labor Exchange also provides volunteer and student internship opportunities for the Malibu community, including Pepperdine University, churches, high schools and scout troops, who teach subjects to workers that include English, CPR in Spanish, how to set up a bank account and family budget, immigration laws and rights, resume writing and how to use the internet.

“It’s a forum for anyone in the community to share skills with our clients,” Gabbard described.

“Our clients include both men and women trying to improve their lives, educate themselves and ultimately move into a full time position,” Gabbard said. “Our goal has always been to help them move into the future through employment and skills training.”

Anyone looking for work or needing to hire a worker can go to: 23595 Civic Center Way, Malibu, visit malibulaborexchange.org or call 310.317.4717.

Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

As President of the Malibu Rotary Club Bianca Torrence was invited to attend a meeting of the Malibu Optimist Club, which meets Thursday morning at the Fireside Room at Pepperdine, where the Malibu Rotary club used to meet. The presidents of all the Malibu service clubs were invited to attend the meeting, to find common ground and perhaps do joint projects. Bianca told us that the Malibu Optimist Club has about 40 members. Although all the service clubs were invited, nobody from either the Malibu Kiwanis Club or Malibu Lions Club attended the meeting. Bianca said she told the members of the Optimist Club we would like to do something with them.

At the Malibu Rotary Club meeting there was some discussion about the future of Malibu's biggest annual community event, the Labor Day Malibu Kiwanis Chili Cook-off. Apparently former President of the Malibu Kiwanis Club John Paola has left the club, and a new version of the Labor Day event will be done by the Malibu Boys and Girls Club. It may or may not continue to be a Chili Cookoff, but it will be a community fund raiser. We expect the Malibu Rotary Club to be part of new event, which will be held at the same site on the corner of Webb Way and Civic Center Center. The City of Malibu is in the process of buying the site from the Malibu Bay Company. We expect to hear more about this in the near future. The Boys and Girls Club had invited the Malibu Rotary Club to tour their facilities and we may have a future Malibu Rotary Club meeting at the B&G Club on the Malibu High School campus.

Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence announced that the first Homeless Connect Day of 2018 is set to take place on May 30 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Malibu Courthouse.

The event will provide free services—including legal assistance, medical services, housing resources, complimentary lunch, haircuts, food stamps and more—for homeless individuals.

Volunteers are still needed; if interested, contact Reuben Vicente at rvicente@stjosephctr.org or call 313.961.0499 or Bianca who has been one of the Malibu CART volunteers since the organization started.

This event is sponsored by LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, City of Malibu, St. Joseph Center, The People Concern and Malibu CART.

Guests

In addition to guest speakers **Kay Gabbard, Oscar Mondragon & Tom Urban** there was one other guest at May 23 Malibu Rotary Club, meeting, **Nagy Henein**, Regional Vice President and Private Mortgage Banker at First Bank. Nagy is a member of the Malibu Chamber and came to the meeting because of what he heard about the Malibu Rotary Club at the Malibu Chamber breakfast at Paradise Cove Café. Nagy will be the featured speaker at the August 1 meeting the Malibu Rotary Club talking about “New Trends in Banking.”

District Events

- May 17- May 20 **District Conference** Hyatt Grand Champions, Indian Wells -- Bill Wishard and Margo Neal represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary District Conference—Bill attended the 3 day conference and Margo was there 1 day. Bill has pictures and a report that he will share when he returns from his annual trip to the Memorial Day Week End Indy 500 Race.
- June 2 District Assembly Carson Community Center. Immediately following the Club Leadership Assembly will be the District Grant Training. It is a must to be able to qualify for any District and Global Rotary grants. Cost is \$45.00

CALENDAR

May 30 2018 John Elman will Show and Tell “What you should know about ClubRunner” at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting

John Elman is Malibu Rotary Club secretary, writer of the weekly Malibu Rotary Club newsletter, and webmaster of the Malibu Rotary Club website www.maliburotary.org. The website uses communication tools of ClubRunner, which is used by many Rotary Clubs and districts around the world. Non-members of the Malibu Rotary Club can learn about what the Malibu Rotary Club is, what it does, when it meets, who the future speakers are, and who the past speakers were. Members of the Rotary Club can log into the site and view reports and communicate with other members of the Rotary Club and the Rotary District. John will explain what you should know about the Malibu Rotary ClubRunner site when he is the featured speaker at the May 30th meeting of the club.

May 30 2018 Malibu Rotary Club Board of Directors Meeting Follows the Regular Meeting

June 6 2018 Ellen Shane will talk about The Emily Shane Foundation

Discussion will focus on why and how founder Ellen Shane created the SEA Program of the nonprofit charity, The Emily Shane Foundation. She will discuss the SEA Program, explain exactly what it is, and give specific examples of her work. In addition, founder will touch on her grief support practice. Her story can hopefully inspire others!

June 20 2018 Demotion Party Dinner Honoring Bianca Torrence at Tra di Noi

Demotion Party Dinner honor Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Tra di Noi Restaurant in Malibu. There will be no morning meeting that day.

June 27 2018 Simon Treselyan on “How Special Forces Techniques Has Helped My Business and Personal Development”

Simon Treselyan was trained in Special Forces for Great Britain. At the June 27 meeting of the Malibu Rotary meeting Simon will tell how the techniques he learned in Special Forces helped him in business and personal development.

July 4 2018 Independence Day—No Rotary Club Meeting—Enjoy the National Holiday!

July 11 2018 Marianne Gisele Bema on “Bantu Arts Atelier For Kids”

July 18, 2018 Claire Fullerton, “A Novelist Discusses her Path to Publication”

Claire Fullerton will be speaking to the Rotary Club July 18th about the process of writing a novel and the road to traditional publication. In this day and age of so many self-publishing, she will provide insight into how to enter the arena of the traditionally published, beginning with writing a novel.

According to Clair the good news is it's not as daunting as many assume.

Claire Fuller grew up in Memphis, TN and now lives in Malibu, CA. She is the author of contemporary fiction, "Dancing to an Irish Reel," set in Connemara, Ireland, where she once lived. Dancing to an Irish Reel is a finalist in the 2016 Kindle Book Review Awards, and a 2016 Readers' Favorite. Claire is the author of "A Portal in Time," a paranormal mystery that unfolds in two time periods, set on California's hauntingly beautiful Monterey Peninsula, in a village called Carmel-by-the-Sea. Both of Claire's novels are published by Vinspire Publishing. Her third novel, Mourning Dove, is a Southern family saga, to be published in June, 2018 by Firefly Southern Fiction. She is one of four contributors to the book, The South in All Seasons, with her novella, Through an Autumn Window, to be published in October, 2018 by Firefly Southern Fiction. Claire is represented by Julie Gwinn, of The Seymour Literary Agency, and can be found on WordPress, Twitter (cfullerton3) Goodreads, Instagram (cfullerton) as well as the website under her name.

August 1 2018 Nagy Henein, Regional Vice President and Private Mortgage Banker at First Bank, talking about “New Trends in Banking”

August 8 2018 Malibu Rotary Club’s newest Member Mark Koller answers the question “How did I get here?”

August 15 2018 Danial Fereydani speaking on “Income Planning and Overall Tax Strategies for 2018”

Danial Fereydani, President and Founder of Pendo Insurance Services of Beverly Hills will be the featured speaker at the August 15 2018 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club at 8:00 a.m. at Pepperding University Upper Drescher Graduate campus Room LC 152. Mr. Fereydani specializes in income planning, tax-advantaged strategies and tax-free legacy planning.

Mr. Fereydani named his company Pendo after the Greek word for value” because he is passionate about adding value to clients. He focuses on helping clients achieve their long-term financial goals by understanding their specific situation and implementing a strategy that will position them for principal protection, minimizing taxes and leaving a legacy for loved ones.

