



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 5, 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, Pompeya Monteros and Bill Wishard

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- **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 (2009-2010) John Kenny

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2009-2010): Susanne Sundberg

Words and Pictures from the Queen of Tena

Malibu Rotarians had already learned a lot about its newest member **Pompeya Monteros**, when William Wishard gave presentations on April 14th and April 28th, about his trip to Ecuador with 110 Rotary members from District 5280 to visit Rotary projects in that country.



Pictured: Zoydee Monteros, Bill Wishard, Pompeya Monteros, and Myrna Zubia at Malibu Beachcomer Café.

Bill had known Pompeya for several years, when his daughter Alison, and her son Eddie were planning to get married. Now they share one granddaughter with another one expected about the time of the Malibu Rotary meeting on May 5. At the Malibu Rotary luncheon meeting held at the Beachcomer Café on the Malibu Pier, Pompeya said that it was the Rotary District 5280 trip to Ecuador that peaked her interest in Rotary in the first place. Until then she was not familiar with Rotary. Bill had invited her to go to a preliminary planning session meeting about the trip at the Del Amo-Torrance Rotary Club. There she was able to meet the principals organizing the trip, Wilson Benitez, as well as Eddie Bedon Orbe, Consul General del Ecuador en Los Angeles.. She learned of the many projects Rotary was doing in the country she grew up in. She has homes in both the South Bay area of Los Angeles, as well as Quito, Ecuador. She was impressed by all the projects Rotary was doing in Ecuador. She immediately wanted to become involved, and was inducted into the Malibu Rotary Club in December. Within a few weeks she was back in Ecuador, learning more about these projects and getting ready to greet Bill and the Los Angeles Rotary entourage when they arrived in March.

At the May 5th meeting Pompeya talked about her early life in Ecuador. She said the country of Ecuador is made up of four distinct regions. The coast (*La Costa*), the mountains (*Andes, Sierra*), the rainforest jungle (*Amazon Oriente*), and the Galapagos Island region. Quito, capital of Ecuador, is located in the Andes mountain region 10,000 ft above sea level and 22 miles from the Equator.

Pompeya was not born in Quito. She and her sister Zoydee were born in the Amazon tropical rainforest jungle *Oriente* city of Tena. Pompeya said that 7 immigrants started the city, raising cattle and were in the meat business. She said when she was a child the population was only about 2,000. (According to Internet sources city was founded by missionaries in 1560 and its current population is close to 20,000). Pompeya went to an all girls high school and college in Tena, graduating with a degree in teaching. There were only four girls in her college graduating class. It was around this time she was elected Queen of Tena.

Pompeya said the government of Ecuador is not very stable. Rarely does a president finish a term. Velasco Ibarra was elected president 5 or 6 times, and he never finished a term. Typically the president is forced into exile and the military takes over and runs the country. It's not too violent, just not too secure. If you write to the president best to write to "Occupant". Despite President Ibarra's fate the hospital in Tena is named after him.

Another recent President of Ecuador was Lucio Gutierrez, who was a Colonel in the army and a first cousin of Pompeya who also grew up in Tena. He is still popular and although he too was exiled he has returned is hoping to be elected for president again.

Both Pompeya this week, and Bill previously, had talked about the various Rotary humanitarian projects they had a chance to visit while touring with the 110 Rotarians from District 5280 who visited Ecuador in March.



One of the largest projects is a senior citizens residential facility *Fundacion Junitaria Rotary Club Quito sur Ancianto Feliz Hogar*, which was built and maintained by Rotary

Club of Quito. Both Bill and Pompeya described it as a very nice facility, with park-like grounds, and very comfortable to live in. The amount to stay there for residents is based on ability to pay, but generally no more than \$600 per month.

Rotarians often talk about their “Rotary Moment”—that occasion they are able to do something for someone that makes them feel proud to be a Rotarian, and do something that they would not have been able to accomplish had they not been a Rotarian. For Pompeya that moment came when she was talking to a fellow who worked as security guard in her condominium and she realized she could help him and his family because of her knowledge of Rotary service projects. She had told him she about to go to a Rotary supported occupational center where Rotary donated wheelchairs were going to be distributed to those who needed them. The man told her his father-in-law, who lived a long ways from the city, had a stroke and was unable to get around. Through Rotary,

Pompeya was able to arrange for a wheelchair to be delivered to him.



Shown in Picture of Rotary Wheelchair Donations at Rotary supported Occupational Center are nurse with Eddie Bedon

Orbe, Consul General del Ecuador en Los Angeles, and Pompeya Monteros with Wilson Benitez of the Del Amo-Torrance Rotary Club.

Another Rotary project Bill and Pompeya were able to visit was at a special school for the deaf in the city of Ambato. There they delivered hearing aids to children and were entertained by deaf students in costume who were dancing, despite the fact they could not hear the music. At one point there was a technical glitch and the music stopped, but the students kept dancing.

In the city of Santa Domingo, they visited a Rotary Sanitation Facility Projects, where 9 public rest rooms had been erected.



But Bill and Pompeya also arranged for a couple other projects not involved with the Rotary district 5280 visit .

Jack Corrodi is doing volunteer work at UCLA Hospital with Eric Savitsky MD, who runs a program from UCLA that sends doctors to other countries to provide global medical training

services. He had asked Pompeya about making a contact in Ecuador to expand the UCLA program, and she talked to the physician administrating the Velasco Ibarra Hospital de “Tena” and made preliminary arrangements for the UCLA Global Healthcare program to be done in Ecuador—a type of Telemedicine project that should help sharing of medical information.

The other non-Rotry District 5280 project is the one below, where Bill, with help from Pompeya, helped save the BioSand Water Filters Project initiated by Ron and Carol Cousineau and the Rotary Club of Pontiac Michigan (see below)

Bill Wishard Saves the Ecuador BioSand Water Filters Project By Making Rotary Connections—Letter from Carol Cousineau

Editor's Note: I had received the e-mail below from Carol Cousineau, of Pontiac, Michigan, who with her husband Ron, had worked on the first Bio-Sand Water Filters Project in Ecuador with a church group that became aware of the drinking water problems in the region around Santa Domingo de los Cororades, Ecuador. This was one of several projects they were doing in the Santa Domingo, Ecuador area. After they started the project, they were introduced to Rotary, and while visiting their daughter, who lives in California, gave a presentation to the Malibu Rotary Club. Being new to Rotary, they were not familiar with the workings of the Rotary Foundation, and how to get matching grants, but quickly learned the process. As members of the Rotary Club of Pontiac, Michigan, they thought they had made all the connections necessary with Tsachila Rotary Club in Santa Domingo, Ecuador, to get matching grants to expand the BioSand Water Filters Project there, so more families could benefit from this inexpensive but efficient technology to sanitize drinking water, and prevent disease. The Malibu Rotary Club joined the Pontiac Michigan Rotary Club as a partner in the project.(See story **Malibu Rotary Club Supports BioSand Filters in Ecuador**).

It wasn't until Malibu Rotarian Bill Wishard went to Ecuador in March that Carol and the Pontiac Michigan Rotary Club and its local partners, learned that the Rotary connections they thought they had in Ecuador were not valid, and therefore the Rotary grant money they were counting on to expand the project, was not going to be available. Bill was able to make the right Rotary connections on the trip, as Carol explains below.

I know Bill has been telling you about his trip to Ecuador. Last January, when he was telling me he planned to go, I suggested he try to visit our project. I told him that I would send him contact information for the Tsachila Rotary in Santo Domingo de los Colorados, where our project is, and for the Presidente of the Los Chillos Quito Rotary, who is our other partner. Just before he left, he received it and we spoke about it.

Bill solved the huge problem of replacing the original contact person on our grant, who for many months had been unable to continue providing assistance. He had business problems and was out of the country, but would not allow the person his former club recommended to take his place. Our Water Resource Coordinator had for some time, knowing how much work he had done in the past, hesitated to replace him, and the project in regard to the schools was lagging far behind, to our dismay! The 60 schools in our original project were part of the Tsachilas Rotary restroom project and the Poor Family Program, through Padre Segundo, did not even have their contact information. Ron and I were told a training of all the school administrators was scheduled in November, when we were there by our Rotario contact person, but the teachers never showed up! Training is necessary in order for the filters to be delivered to the schools. It was further complicated by the fact their Summer Break started before Christmas and lasted through February. William was in Santo Domingo visiting the rest room project, in which one of your District Clubs had partnered with the Rotario Tsachila. Bill spoke personally with the former District 4400 Governor, Juan Prinz, whom we met in March, 2009. Juan knows a lot about it

because he had been very interested in our project and had talked with us at length. He even saw a demonstration of our completed Biosand Filter!

Although William did not know about the problem we had with our contact person, the Governor did know about it, and after William told him your Club Malibu is our partner, Juan used it as an opportunity to recommend that we continue to partner with the Rotario Tsachila, also recommending as the replacement contact person we should now use, Daniel Leon. Daniel speaks fluent English (our other Rotary contact did not and was not responsive to our emails). Daniel had written to us in early December, offering to help, but Ron and I could do nothing about it since he was not named on our grant and we did not want to go over our Water Resource Coordinator's head to do that. Daniel also introduced himself to Bill and told him he is convinced Biosand is the best of all water filtration devices. This concurs with our beliefs and we are happy to hear that about him, since he is now our new contact, thanks to Bill!. After I emailed Bill's letter to our Water Resource Coordinator, telling about his encounters with Daniel and Juan Prinz, our Coordinator was finally convinced and immediately wrote to the Presidente of the Tsachila Rotary, restoring them to our project.

- I do have good news from Padre Segundo. Over 60 school administrators and teachers from 30 poor rural schools attended an afternoon training at La Dolorosa Parish. Our monitors, fabricator Gabriel and the Director of the University Clinic trained them thoroughly. They were enthusiastic about the filters and we have every reason to believe they will share the information with the childrens' parents as far away as 200 miles. In our next project, which you contributed to, we will be sending filters to schools as far 400 miles outside of Santo Domingo.
- To make a long story short, Bill saved the day. Now that we will be working with the Rotary in town, Tsachila, Padre Segundo will be relieved of all the extra work and our project can work towards completion. Thanks to Bill Wishard from the Malibu Club!!!! And isn't a small world! Ron and I look forward to attending your meeting in early August, when we will be there to celebrate Stella Grace's first birthday! (I always knew that this was not our project, but God's. This is one of several stunning examples on our project of how he works miracles - in this case, to provide all his children, all over the world, with clean water, not just those of us who have already been blessed with it!).
- MOST Fondly, Carol Cousineau

Other News and Guests from May 5 Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Guest at the May 5 Malibu Rotary Cub meeting at Malibu Beachcomer Café included **Zoydee Monteros**, from Quito, Ecuador who was visiting her sister, our speaker **Pompeya Monteros**, and Pompeya's friend **Myrna Zubia** from Hawthorne, CA.

President **Chris Bauman** asked **Kevin Boling** more about the results of the Topanga Elementary School Recycling Event held the previous month. Kevin said that 500 pounds of recycled trash earned the school \$300, which was matched by Kevin's Universal Waste Systems company with another \$300. In addition Kevin is treating the kids to 4 pizza parties and ice cream for all.

Jack Corrodi said that there will be a Kiwanis Chili-Cookoff this year, although its location is still not set. Traditionally the Malibu Rotary Club sells water at the annual event as a small fund raiser. **Kevin Boling**, who is not only all about trash, he is about food, suggested that he, either individually or representing the club, enter the Chili Cookoff. **Pompeya Monteros**, said she also has great chili recipe and she would like to enter. So there might be one or two Malibu Rotary Chili Cookoff entrants.



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 or Leon Berg at Leon.Berg@gmail.com.



Malibu Rotary Club Supports 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.)”

For a while it looked like the matching grant process was not going to happen. When Malibu Rotarian Bill Wishard visited Ecuador in March, 2010, he was able to meet with Ecuador Past District 4400 Governor, Juan Prinz, to get project back on track.

Upcoming Programs (from Margo)

May 12. Sam Freshman, "The Real Estate Investing Market Today"

May 19. Club Assembly, the first of these that will occur every 3rd Wed each month

June 2. A speaker (name to be confirmed) from Step-up on #2nd (a social service agency in Santa Monica)

June 9. Kent Campbell, "Protecting Your Online Reputation"

June 16. 3rd Wed of the month, Club Assembly

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

