



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 6, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Bow Bowman

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Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr John W. Elman and Faith Nunley

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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 \(2008-2009\) D.K. Lee](#)

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2008-2009): Chuck Anderson

Last Week Malibu Rotary Club Meeting: May 6 Malibu Rotary Revisits Camp Bloomfield

In 1953, Norman Kaplan and a group of a dedicated volunteers founded Junior Blind of America (formerly known as Foundation for the Junior Blind) to provide recreational services for children who were blind or visually impaired. In 1958, Henry Bloomfield gave Junior Blind access to a 40-acre campsite in Malibu, California. Since then, Camp Bloomfield has served as a year-round residential camp for youth who were blind or visually impaired and their families. One of the first projects of the Rotary Club of Malibu after its incorporation in 1971 was to build the restroom for Camp Bloomfield. It was completed in 1974.



Malibu Rotary Club members and past presidents Bill Wishard, John Elman, Bob Syverstsen and Geoff Ortiz surround current Malibu Rotary Club President Bow Bowman and Camp Bloomfield manager Michael Bloomfield in front of the restroom at the camp that was built by the Malibu Rotary Club in 1974..

Through the years Malibu Rotary continued to contribute to toward Camp Bloomfield and had visited to club and had

a meeting there about 10 years ago. Faith Nunley, Development Coordinator for Junior Blind of America, the parent organization runs many activities for blind and visually impaired youth, including Camp Bloomfield, wanted to do a program for the Malibu Rotary Club, and John Elman and Margo Neal thought that having the presentation at Camp Bloomfield, rather than our normal meeting place at Pepperdine, might be a good idea, so that meeting, which included breakfast at the camp, was done the morning of May 6.

Faith Nunley, Development Coordinator for Junior Blind of America and Michael Bloomfield, the on-site resident manager of Camp Bloomfield, driving the open air tour bus at the camp.



In addition to a presentation about Junior Blind of America by Faith, the Malibu Rotarians who came to the meeting were also taken on a tour of the camp in a small open air bus by Henry Bloomfield's grandson, Michael Bloomfield, who runs the Camp Bloomfield year round, and lives there.

children receive round-the-clock care, counseling and education).

Faith explained that the mission of Junior Blind of America is to help children and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence. The differ from the Braille Institute in that Jurnior Blind concentrates on children with these disabilities while Braille concentrates on adults. Services offered by Junior Blind includes **Child Development Program** (in-home therapy, early intervention and support to multi-diabled blind children [ages birth to 6]); **Special Education School** (a state certified, non-public school that offers individualized instruction for students with visual impairments and other disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy); **Children's Residential Program** (serves the unique needs of children and youth, ages 5-21, who are blind, visually impaired and /or have moderate to profound disabilities. In a home setting,

Youth and adult services include the **Student Transition & Enrichment Program (STEP)**, which concentrates on developing work-readiness skills through individualized instruction, group seminars and activities, and an internship work experience matched to a student's identified strengths and interests. Another program aimed more at adults is the **Davidson Program for Independence**. It is a comprehensive program designed to help adults ages 18 and older, who are blind or visually impaired through training in four key areas: Braille, Assitive Technology, Orientation and Mobility and Living Skills (such as cooking, cleaning and money management).

Other programs of the Junior Blind are vision screening programs for low-income pre-school and elementary school children and an After School Enrichment Program

designed to integrate children who are blind, visually impaired or mutil-disabled with those who are sighted. Students take part in fun and educational activities while learning about the importance of physical fitness and health nutrition. There is also a program called **Visions: Adventures in Learning** which provides experiences for teens who are blind or visually impaired through exciting three-day adventure, doing such things as water and snow skiing with a sighted aid. These challenging activities help teens prepare for independent living by challenging them to overcome physical and emotional obstacles. There is also a **Junior Blind Olympics** for blind and visually impaired who are ages 6 through 19.

The guided tour of Camp Bloomfield by Mike Bloomfield allowed us to visit dorm rooms, fields and playgrounds and various locations on the 40-acre residential camp site where blind or visually impaired campers are able to participate in horseback riding, swimming, archery, campfire activities, wall climbing and more, as they learn independence skills and self-advocacy. The little bus carrying Rotarians slowly climbed heart attack hill, a very steep going up to Arts and Crafts, Archery, Campfire, Boystown, Upper Playground, Pool and finally the large ball field on top called

Happy Hollow. Before going up the hill we were able to tour the rest room built in 1974 by the Malibu Rotary Club.

We are hoping to stay in touch with Faith and the people of Camp Bloomfield to participate with the campers as a hands on experience for Rotarians (and possibly Rotaractors). Faith Nunley had put together many printed handouts and also had several gifts for Rotarians in attendance. Much of this will be available in our meeting room for those who could not attend the meeting.

The headquarters for Junior Blind of America is 5300 Angeles Vista Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90043. Camp Bloomfield is located at 35375 Mulholland Highway Malibu, CA 90265. The Junior Blind pays the Bloomfield Foundation \$1.00 per year to use the 40 acre camp. Also on hand at the Malibu Rotary Club presentation was **Bonnie E. Harris, Esq.**, who is Director of Planned Giving for the Junior Blind of American.

Faith can be reached at 323-295-4555 x 228 (e-mail: fnunley@juniorblind.org) and Bonnie can be reached at 323 290-6295 (e-mail: bharris@juniorblind.org).

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

The Malibu Rotarians were the guests of Junior Blind and Camp Bloomfield. Those who attended the event were **Bill Wishard, Bow Bowman, Bob Syvertsen, Geoff Ortiz, Margo Neal** and **John Elman**. Margo had to leave before the tour and is not in the picture.

Who Will Step Up to Write Malibu Rotary Surfwriter from May 13th through June 10?(see message from John)

Dear Malibu Rotarians,

Lee Ann and I are going to be out of town for 2 weeks starting May 9th, while we drive to my daughter Shana's graduation from medical school in Wisconsin. In addition I am flying back to Milwaukee June 3rd to drive with Shana from Milwaukee to Seattle where she will begin her residency in surgery. I WILL NOT BE WRITING THE MALIBU ROTARY CLUB SURFWRITER THESE DATES. I am hoping somebody will step in and write the bulletin during this time because if they don't there will be no Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter those weeks.

John W. Elman

Editor,

Malibu

Rotary

Club

Surfwriter

**Musical Malibu Rotary Club Fund
Raiser**

Margo Neal and **Geoff Ortiz** are cochair Malibu Rotary Club fund raiser at Malibu Stage featuring the singing talents of Malibu Dolphin winner and popular Ralph's employee **Debra Caraway**. The event will also feature an auction and the first auction item offered was a flight along the coast in the plane piloted by club president Bow. This event will take the efforts of ALL of our members. We are now considering a date of July 18th and time of 7:30 p.m. for this, which we hope to be an annual event, and ticket price of \$40.00 per person. Will update this when confirmation date is set with the theater and all participants. Look for information on our website: MalibuRotary.org.

Get to Malibu Rotary Meetings on time!

To show respect to speakers and to get a chance to enjoy each other's company we all made a vow to get to the meetings closer to 7:15 a.m., get our food and be in our seats closer to 7:30 a.m. Food lines are also shorter before 7:30 a.m. since students generally have not arrived yet. Meetings will be called to order no later than 7:45 a.m.



Editors Note: Most of you know how strongly I feel about the Project TRIUMPH program conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. The program 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 Mid East, but at least this program is trying to do something, In the last issue of The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter I had written about e-mail communications I had had with Frances Fuji of the Project TRIUMPH organizing committee. She had written

Club of Haifa, provided us with a budget and proposal to hire a part-time facilitator to



be responsible for year-round support of both new Project TRIUMPH students and alumni. We are sending money to contribute to the facilitator's salary, and she has already begun meeting with the kids there.

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting students this year, we are taking the opportunity to strengthen infrastructure in Israel and to establish collaborative relationships with aligned organizations.

Upon our request, Shaul, from the Rotary

We are excited about prospects for 2010 and beyond (the plan is to resume bringing kids over in 2010, assuming that we can raise enough funds in 2009) and believe we will emerge from this fallow year with an even stronger, more well-rounded and promising program than ever before.”

In a subsequent e-mail she had written

about what some of the student alumni of the Project TRIUMPH program (many of whom we had met when they were here) were currently doing after participating in the Project TRIUMPH program:

“Our greater vision is to inspire leaders of tomorrow by imparting wisdom and broadening the perspective of high school students. Our first year students, who were here in 2006, are now in the army or beginning to build careers. We have stayed in contact with some of them through Facebook. Very soon, their generation will be making pivotal choices that will impact not only their region, but the world.

We're proud of all the young people we've worked with, and we thank you for your belief in them.

I received the following e-mail from Frances Fuji on May 7, 2009 about an upcoming event:

Dear Project TRIUMPH
Community,

On May 17th at the Westlake Village Civic Center, Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation is hosting an inspiring talk by acclaimed speaker and educator, Lisa Profumo, on how innovative educational methods (known as Waldorf methods) are helping Jewish and Arab children in Israel work and heal together. Salaam Shalom's founder, Shepha Vainstein, is a friend and collaborator of Project TRIUMPH, and we encourage you to attend and forward this invitation to

others who may be interested.

This event is free, and not a fundraiser.

When: 4 o'clock Sunday, May 17

Where: Westlake Village Civic Center
31220 Oak Crest Drive (just off Agoura Road)
Westlake Village 91361

For more information

call (818) 707-2164

or email

shepha@ssefoundation.org

"Healing Children and Building Bridges with Jewish and Arab Children in Israel"

- In 2003 43% of ALL children in Israel suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- What can be done for Jewish and Arab children in Israel who are growing up under the chronic stress of conflict in the region?
- What can be done to help Jewish and Arab children learn new skills for communication and cooperation to create a peaceful society?

“It is real and it is happening now.”

“Lisa Profumo opens our eyes to a new paradigm happening in education for Jewish and Arab children in the Middle East that heals while promoting new capacities to build a peaceful and prosperous future.”

— Barnet Bain, Producer of What Dreams May Come and Homeless to Harvard, nominated for 3 Emmy Awards.

Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation promotes conflict resolution training and educational methods (Waldorf methods) aimed at nurturing the minds and souls of Jewish and Arab children in the Middle East.

La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project

The Malibu Rotary Club is one of the clubs joining with the Century City Rotary Club to bring clean water to the Village of La Estanzuela in Honduras. There wasn't enough time to complete funding of this project during the past Rotary year. We are hoping to complete the project this year with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant

Calendar

May 20 2009

Sterling Long-Colbo of Maverick Fitness
"Staying Fit"

Are you fit? If yes, is there such a thing as "fitter."
If no, what can you do to change the situation?
Come and find out on this day.

May 27 2009

Brian Gabbard
"I Was a Musher in the Iditerod"

Malibuite Brian Gabbard will be the speaker: "I
Was a Musher in the Iditerod." Now this should be
a very interesting tale.

Jun 17 2009

Ed Gillespie
"Tales From the Planning Commission"

Ed Gillespie, a member of the Malibu Planning
Commission. "Tales From the Planning
Commission." Another very interesting meeting.

The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter is sent weekly to members of the Malibu Rotary Club and friends of the Malibu Rotar Club, those interested in the work of Malibu Rotary. This e-mail is sent to you at no charge. If you wish to opt out of our mailing list send an e-mail to maliburotary@hotmail.com with the subject: Take Me Off Your Mailing List