



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

May 13, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

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

- **Last Week Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder, on “Wishtoyo Foundation--Preserving Chumash Culture in Malibu”**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be May 13 in Pepperdine University Malibu Upper Drescher Graduate Campus LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m and meeting starting at 12:00 noon. Speaker will be Shannon Latson on “Enjoying the Freedom of Healthy Boundaries.”**
- **Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.**
- **Check Calendar on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org**
- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website:www.rotary5280.org/**
- **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**

- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**

Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder, on “Wishtoyo Foundation--Preserving Chumash Culture in Malibu”



Mati Waiya (Little Hawk) is a life long resident of Ventura County, a member of the Turtle Clan of Chumash people, from the Santa Clara River area. At the Malibu Rotary meeting on May 6, Mati served as the voice of a people who were mostly wiped out by European settlers from Spain, who from 1542 to 1770 conquered the people who had peacefully lived there for as long as 15,000 years.

There are no more full-Blooded Chumash people now, and Mati himself is about 54% Chumash, but it is that part him that he tries to bring forward, speaking, dancing, playing, praying, for a people that had been killed and suppressed by the European conquerors. The Chumash did not have a written language and the Spanish missionaries discouraged Native Americans to speak their native Chumash language and instead speak Spanish, and when the English took over America, to speak English.

So even though Mati was mostly Chumash his heritage was not that easy to learn about. It was only later in life, through talking to anthropologist Phil Holmes and others, that he found out more about his culture, learned spoken Chumash language and became a Chumash ceremonial leader and Dolphin Dancer.

Mati is a graduate of Buena High School, and attended Ventura College before joining his uncle's contracting business. Mati said that he was first on the Pepperdine Malibu campus as part of the construction crews that built Rockwell building, which the main cafeteria and Fireside Room was built in about 1970. Driven to succeed, Mati later started his own construction company, and moved his family to Newbury Park in 1989. Soon thereafter, he connected with his Chumash culture, embracing their ways and ceremonies, and began studying with elders of his tribe. He learned the dances, songs and stories, as well as the history of his native people. He appreciated the Chumash culture's connection with the natural environment and their teachings of sustainability and responsibility.

After many years of study, in 1997 Mati created the Wishtoyo Foundation, a non-profit organization. Wishtoyo is the Chumash word for rainbow, and like the legend telling of the arrival of the first Chumash settlers on a rainbow bridge from Santa Cruz Island, Wishtoyo serves as a bridge to link the people of today to their environment - the land, air and water that support and sustain them. Wishtoyo aims to preserve Chumash culture by using traditional beliefs, practices, songs, stories and dances to create self-respect and teach a greater awareness of the connection with and dependence upon the natural environment.

Wishtoyo's strong ties to environmental awareness fostered the launch in February 2001 of the Ventura Coastkeeper, 54th member of the national [Waterkeeper Alliance](#), founded by Robert Kennedy, Jr., Mati is the first Native American to become a Keeper - an ombudsman dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring our marine habitat, coastal waters and watersheds and to bridging the gap between pollution laws, as stated in the federal Clean Water Act, and the government's ability to enforce them.

Mati is actively involved with preservation of Chumash cultural / historical sites He also addresses cultural resource laws protecting sensitive archaeological sites as well as endangered species and natural resources.

Mati conducts Chumash ceremonies including Solstice, and continues the mission of the Wishtoyo Foundation by giving cultural presentations for schools, public events, government functions and

grassroots foundations. Wishtoyo offers presentations and programs at our living Chumash Village at Nicholas Canyon County Beach Park in Malibu, on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Programs introduce students and the public to the sights, sounds and workings of an authentic Chumash village. Waiya's believes education is the primary tool for a future healthy, sustainable environment, awakening a passion for our natural surroundings to be passed on for generations to come.

" At the heart of our programming is the Chumash Discovery Village, an authentic recreation of a working Native American village next to Nicholas Canyon Beach in Malibu. We provide education programming to over 3,000 school children per year and we open our doors to the general public one Sunday per month. Our board members include: Beau Bridges (actor), Terry Tamminen (Schwarzenegger administration), Carole Goldberg (Vice Chancellor UCLA), Debora Sanchez (Supreme Court Judge) and David Kaplan (Surfdog Records)."

For more information about us, you can visit the Wishtoyo Foundation website at www.wishtoyo.org

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Malibu Rotary Club President-Elect **David Zielski** presided over the May 6 meeting of the club because President Margo was again out of town. It gave David a chance to discuss plans for Margo's Demotion Party. He will be working on the venue, but it will probably be the evening of July 1 at Dukes Restaurant. That is the day Margo officially hands over the gavel to Dave, although he has been given lots of practice running meetings during Margo's term. Whatever evening the Demotion Party fill be there will be no regular noon meeting that day.

Bill Wishard will be representing the Malibu Rotary Club at the Rotary District Conference May14-17 at the Loew's Coronado Bay Hotel.

Guests

Guests at the May 6th Malibu Rotary Club meeting included **Marian** who was invited by David Zielski, and two members of the Wishtoyo Foundation who accompanied speaker **Mati Waiya---Valarie Grossman** and **Lindsay Huff**. Lindsay is Director of Development and Fundraising for the Wishtoyo Foundation/Ventura Coastkeeper. There was some discussion of the Malibu Rotary Club of having one of our future meetings at thw Wishtoyo Chumash Village. We are thinking about doing this in early August, when Malibu Rotarian

children will still be out of school and we can invite family there---they do have food services at the Village.

Bill Wishard, Rotary District Special Olympics Chair

Bill Wishard is coordinating Rotary District efforts for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015. People in Los Angeles, and especially Rotarians, can get involved. Bill spoke about this at the Rotary District Breakfast March 31. The Special Olympics will have 7,000 athletes from 177 countries.

Rotarians to participate as volunteers “Fans in the Stands,” or by sponsoring an athlete. It is free to go to the games, and individual Rotary Clubs should each have a captain to have club members go to the sporting events together for a fun group experience. Sponsoring an athlete financially costs \$2500. Some large clubs in District 5280, LA 5 and Wilshire Rotary Clubs have done this. For smaller clubs, like the Malibu Rotary Club, they can join with other clubs to raise the \$2500. The Malibu Rotary Club is contributing \$500, and will join with another club to support an athlete.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. The Malibu Rotary Club along with the Rotary Clubs of Beverly Hills, CA USA and the Rotary Club of Entebbe, Uganda has applied for a Rotary Foundation Grant to assist Raincatcher. There are several videos available on You Tube that show the amazing things Raincatcher is doing bringing clean drinking water to places in Uganda and Kenya where there was previously no clean drinking water.

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher, makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to do Raincatcher installations and maintenance. In February The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing in Africa was shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on August 20. A link to the video is now on the MalibuRotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcm-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see malibuRotary.org)

May 13, 2015

Shannon Latson

“Enjoying the Freedom of Healthy Boundaries”

May 20, 2015

RYLA Students sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club Christian Pearce and Keaton Brewster Share Their Experiences at the RYLA Camp

May 27, 2015

Realtor Bianca Torrence Gives Her Craft Talk

Bob Syvertsen Jun 03, 2015

Malibu Rotary Club Budget for 2015-2016