

The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club **Surfwriter**

November 20, 2013

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

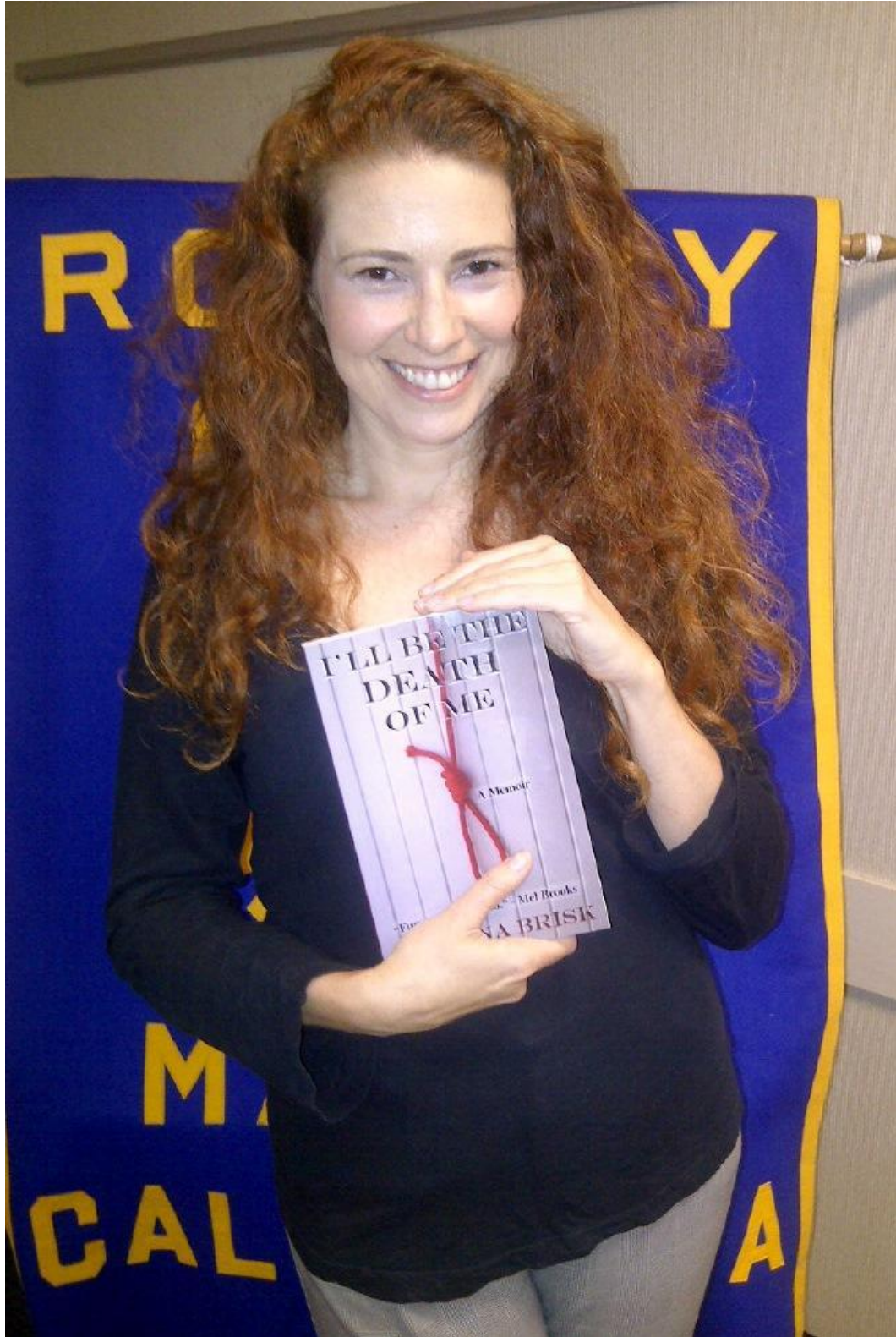
Edited by Dr. John W. Elman
Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Frank Lamonea

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

- **No Meeting Wednesday November 27th**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting December 4 at noon (with Fellowship starting at 11:30 a.m.) in LC152 at Pepperdine Drescher Campus. November 13, 2013 This will be a Malibu Rotary Club Assembly--last day for payment to Hubert for Holiday Party on December 11th at Malibu West Beach Club**
 - **Malibu Rotary Club Sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner For The Homeless with SOS another Success at Webster School**

- **Last Week Meeting:** Susanna Brisk, author of "I'll Be The Death of Me," Makes Late Appearance at Malibu Rotary Club But Leaves Everyone Laughing as Preview for January 29th Appearance at Malibu Rotary
- **Other News and Guests From Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party December 11, 2013**
- Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website MalibuRotary.org
- Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org
- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>
- RI President (2013-2014) Ron D Burton
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2013-2014): Doug Baker
- Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Alice Mantean (2013-14)

Susanna Brisk, author of "I'll Be The Death of Me," Makes Late Appearance at Malibu Rotary Club But Leaves Everyone Laughing as Preview for January 29th Appearance At Malibu Rotary meeting



Many who attended the November 20th Malibu Rotary Club meeting wanted Club Rotary President Bill Wishard to adjourn the meeting early at 12:45 p.m., 15 minutes before normal meeting ending time, because the expected speaker author, actor and blogger Susanna Brisk had not yet arrived.

Club business had been discussed, members and guests had finished their lunch, and there seemed to be a consensus that Bill should adjourn the meeting.

But before Bill could ring the bell to adjourn the speaker suddenly arrived.

Wearing a coat and carrying her autobiographical memoir book *I'll Be The Death of Me*, the attractive lady rushed into the room, not just apologizing for her tardiness, but turning the Rotarians and guest, which were hardly paying attention to the previous part of their luncheon, and who couldn't wait to leave what they collectively thought was a dragging meeting--turning them into an alert, attentive ready to be entertained appreciative leave-them-wanting-more audience.

One of her first lines was "Let me disrobe," after which she took off her coat. Getting everyone's attention she immediately explained why she is the way she is.

"I have a borderline personality disorder." She explains that psychiatrists know how to deal with people that are bipolar, schizophrenic and have other well defined mental illnesses, but she was borderline--they really didn't know how to completely diagnose and treat what she had. She said she had found the best self diagnosing of her mental disorder on line--and essentially what she has is trying to avoid abandonment. If we all left we would only be contributing to her borderline mental disorder!

When Sussana came in late, it was like changing the channel on the TV just before you were going to turn the TV off just to make sure you weren't missing a good show instead of the one you were watching, and you stumble on to a show that you find totally entertaining, engaging and funny, and now you can't turn off the TV. Once Sussana came into the room, she was a game changer, a mood reverser. Some people can turn you off and some people can turn you on. When Sussana entered the room she lighted it up with her self effacing humor and personality, whether it was some sort of borderline personality disorder it was totally entertaining.

I loved the Seinfeld TV show--still watch reruns. The personalities of the characters were so well defined that you wanted to see how they would react to different odd predicaments they found themselves in. Susanna is like a character in Seinfeld. She could have been one of the neighbors. They all had borderline personality disorders. Sussana could easily have been there with Elaine and George. I thought this when I saw her and then read that she actually lived with one of the craziest characters on the show--Kramer! But wait, Seinfeld's Kramer is Cosmo Kramer (Michael Richards) and Sussana lived with Kenny Kramer.

An online description of her book:

Born an only child in the Soviet Union and raised in Australia, Susanna is educated at an Orthodox Jewish School, raised by a somewhat angry Soviet-style father, a brilliant yet domineering mother, and her borderline personality grandmother Babushka (she of the ever-

roaming eyebrow.) Cursed with a black depression from childhood, but blessed with a genius sense of humor, a decade later, she becomes a comedy star in Australia. Seeking the American Dream (and to piss off her parents) she travels to NYC for fame and fortune, where she falls in love with the greatest city in the world, but finds that the romance is one-sided. In the Big Apple, she samples the local circumcised offerings, hangs out with prostitutes (not Jewish), lives with Kenny Kramer (yes, the real Kramer from Seinfeld), and marries the rarest of creatures from her Australian homeland - a large Jew. Eventually she finds herself living that fabled American Dream in Malibu, California, the mother of "Irish Twin" boys, but in typically self-destructive style, attempts to throw it all away by running away from home. Only when committed to lock-down psych facility does our heroine finally learn that she may not be as crazy as she thinks she is, to stop trying to control the universe, and that children are actually useful, as they may keep you from killing yourself.

Sussana read excerpts from the *I'll Be The Death of Me* book, and of course the writing is excellent. But to see and hear her read, with her facial expressions and her dialects as she describes her Russian grandmother Babushka, are a must see, even if you buy the book (available on Amazon at: <http://www.amazon.com/Ill-Be-The-Death-Of/dp/1490548955>) Experiencing Susanna read and talk about her life, and the humorous spin she puts on it all, is a special entertaining treat.

We extended the November 20th meeting for Sussana so we could hear a few more than 10 minutes, but she has accepted a return appearance to the Malibu Rotary Club at the meeting January 29th. Don't miss it! Admission is still free!

For more information about Susanna visit www.malibumom.com and <http://amzn.to/13y1tjq>.

**Malibu Rotary Club Sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner For The Homeless with
SOS another Success at Webster School**



Some of the Malibu Rotary Kitchen Crew at the November 21st SOS Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless at Webster (Picture by Frank Lamonea *Malibu Surfside News*)

Malibu Rotary Volunteers along with SOS community volunteers cooked and served 17 turkeys and all the trimmings for an estimated 300 people at the event.

Other News and Guests From Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Malibu Rotary Club President Bill Wishard was again holding the “Happy Dollars” and contributed a few himself for a couple things that he accomplished during the week: 1) He had qualified for and was again an official California Election Inspector for Runoff Election in the Valley. 2) For the 50th Anniversary for his college reunion he was to write an autobiography. He finally completed it--3,000 words--someone was going to help him to edit it down to the required 75 words! New member **David Zielski** said he had contacted the new Principal at Malibu High School about starting an Interact Club. It would indeed be cool if **David Z.** can start an Interact Club the same year that **David Baird (David B)** reactivates the Pepperdine Rotaract Club!

Returning guest **Kimberly Russel Bonewitz** contributed to the Happy Dollars Box for a friend who had been in auto accident that morning and airlifted to hospital was going to be ok. Kim was the Malibu Rotary Club speaker 2 weeks earlier, talking about how she and her husband Michael were in the process of adopting the 5 children of a Malibu mother who had died of cancer. Kim is a friend of this mornings speaker **Sussana Brisk** and it was obvious Sussana appreciated Kim's support and encouragement

Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party December 11, 2013

Maggie Luckerath has worked with Bill Krenz for a place and menu for the Malibu Rotary Club Annual Holiday Party to be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Malibu West Clubhouse, on the beach at the corner of Trancas and PCH in Malibu

Price of \$35.00/person not including alcohol BYOB includes the following dinner menu and amenities:

Besides a personal RSVP to Maggie at Malibu Rotary Club, e-mail or phone call, and giving check to Hubert for \$35.00 per person, you can also RSVP for you and your guest(s) on www.Maliburotary.org and mail check.

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

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on

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Calendar

(All Malibu Rotary Club meetings are at 12:00 Noon in LC 152 at the Pepperdine Drescher campus Villa Graziadio Executive Center unless otherwise noted)

Dec 11, 2013

Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party (no meeting at noon)

"Evening Holiday Party at Malibu West Club House PCH at Trancas in Malibu (no meeting at noon)"

Dec 18, 2013

Speaker: Richard Erkes and Oscar Mondragon

Topic: Malibu Community Labor Exchange

Malibu Community Labor Exchange Director Oscar Mondragon is a recent Dolphin Award recipient. He and Richard Erkes will outline Malibu Community Labor Exchange activities and needs at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting Dec 18 in Room LC 152 of Pepperdine University Graziadio campus in Malibu. . Oscar has vigorously served this community for the past 20 years and our services have grown. Oscar and Richard will talk about the need for volunteers, donations and supplies.

Dec 25, 2013

Christmas Holiday (no meeting)

"Christmas Holiday (no meeting)"

Jan 01, 2014

Happy New Year (no Rotary meeting)

"Watch the Rotary Float in the Rose Parade"

Jan 14, 2014

To Be Announced

"Rotary District Breakfast"

District 5280 Breakfasts are held at the Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. Free self-parking is available in the hotel parking structure. Valet parking at Westin Hotel rates.

Jan 15, 2014 (no noon meeting at Pepperdine)

Jan 16, 2014

Malibu Rotary Hi School Singing Competition

6:30 p.m. at Stauffer Chapel

