



The Award Winning

## Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

November 5-8, 2014

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

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Livia Giordano

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

- **Next Week: Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting is November 12<sup>th</sup> in room LC 152 at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus with meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. Speakers will be Maria D'Angelo, Founder and CEO of Children's Life Saving Foundation and Sean McCaffery, program director of CLF, who will be talking about their non-profit foundation, which provides camps and tutoring programs for homeless and at-risk youth and also inviting everyone to volunteer Thanksgiving Day for event they are having at the House of Blues on Sunset.**
- **Last week: Pepperdine Professor Darlene Rivas Talks About Vietnam- "The Politics of War" --The Second in Malibu Rotary Club Exclusive Speakers Series of affects of the Vietnam**
- **Malibu Rotarians at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Foundation Dinner**

- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.**
- Check **Calendar** on Malibu Rotary website **[www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org)**
  - **Rotary International Website: [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**
  - **Rotary District 5280 Website:[www.rotary5280.org/](http://www.rotary5280.org/)**
  - **RI President (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
  - **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**
    - **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Neil Godsey (2014-15)**

**Last week: Pepperdine Professor Darlene Rivas Talks About Vietnam-“The Politics of War” –**

*The Second in Malibu Rotary Club Exclusive Speakers Series of affects of the Vietnam*



Darlene Rivas is Pepperdine Seaver College Professor of United States and Latin American History who received her Ph.D from Vanderbilt University. She was asked by the Malibu Rotary Club to be part of the Malibu Rotary Club's series of presentations on the Vietnam conflict, an area she covers in courses such as United States History since 1952, and Foreign Relations of the United States in the twentieth century.

This presentation "Vietnam and the Politics of War," tells us how the United States was drawn into conflict became. until Afghanistan, America's longest war, yet it was never declared a war, and as we learned in last week's Malibu Rotary speaker Shad Meshad, National Veteran's Foundation founder, millions of Americans were negatively affected, both physically and mentally, by the fact they participated in this undeclared war.

How and why did the United States get drawn in to the Vietnam conflict?

The area had been in conflict and war before the United States became involved. The First Indochina War began in French Indochina on December 19 1946 and lasted until August 1 1954. Fighting between French forces and their Viet Minh opponents in the South dates from September 1945. The conflict pitted a range of forces, including the French Union's French Far East Expeditionary Corps, led by France and supported by Emperor Bảo Đại's Vietnamese National Army against the Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap. Most of the fighting took place in Tonkin in Northern Vietnam, although the conflict engulfed the entire country and also extended into the neighboring French Indochina protectorates of Laos and Cambodia.

The French were defeated in 1954. After the war, the Geneva Conference on July 21, 1954 made a provisional division of Vietnam at the 17th parallel, pending unification on the basis of internationally supervised free elections. Control of the north was given to the Viet Minh under Ho Chi Minh, and the south continued under Emperor Bảo Đại. A year later, Bảo Đại would be deposed by his prime minister, Ngô Đình Diệm, creating the Republic of Vietnam. Soon an insurgency backed by the North developed against Diệm's government. The conflict gradually escalated into the Vietnam War.

American involvement actually started in the 1950's under President Eisenhower. A friend of Diem managed to organize a meeting with Wesley Fishel, an American academic who had done consultancy work for the United States government. Fishel was a proponent of the anti-colonial, anti-communist third force doctrine in Asia and was impressed with Diệm and helped him organize contacts and meetings in the United States to enlist support. It was an opportune time for Diệm, with the outbreak of the Korean War and McCarthyism helping to make Vietnamese anti-communists a sought after commodity in America. Diệm was given a reception at the State Department with the Acting Secretary of State James E. Webb.

Diệm toured the East Coast, speaking at universities, arguing that Vietnam could only be saved for the "free world" if the US sponsored a government of nationalists who were opposed to both

the Việt Minh and the French. He was appointed as a consultant to Michigan State University's Government Research Bureau, where Fishel worked. MSU was administering government-sponsored assistance programs for cold war allies, and Diệm helped Fishel to lay the foundation for a program later implemented in South Vietnam, the Michigan State University Vietnam Advisory Group. As French power in Vietnam declined, Diệm's support in the U.S. increased.

A referendum was scheduled for October 23 1955 to determine the future direction of the south. It was contested by Bảo Đại, the Emperor, advocating the restoration of the monarchy, while Diệm ran on a republican platform. The elections were held, with Diệm's brother and confidant Ngô Đình Nhu, the leader of the family's Cần Lao Party, which supplied Diệm's electoral base, organising and supervising the elections. Campaigning for Bảo Đại was prohibited, and Đại supporters were attacked by Nhu's workers. Diệm recorded 98.2 percent of the vote—an implausibly high result that could have only been obtained through fraud. The total announced number of votes for a republic exceeded the number of registered voters by over 380,000—further evidence that the referendum was heavily rigged. For example, only 450,000 voters were registered in Saigon, but 605,025 were said to have voted for a republic.[ Three days later, Diệm proclaimed the formation of the Republic of Vietnam, naming himself President. Under the 1954 Geneva Accords, Vietnam was to undergo elections in 1956 to reunify the country. Diệm, noting that South Vietnam was not a party to the convention, canceled these. Criticising the Communists, he justified the electoral cancellation by claiming that the 1956 elections would be "meaningful only on the condition that they are absolutely free." With respect to the question of reunification, the non-communist Vietnamese delegation objected strenuously to any division of Vietnam, but lost out when the French accepted the proposal of Viet Minh delegate Phạm Văn Đồng, who proposed that Vietnam eventually be united by elections under the supervision of "local commissions".

The United States countered with what became known as the "American Plan", with the support of South Vietnam and the United Kingdom. It provided for unification elections under the supervision of the United Nations, but was rejected by the Soviet delegation and North Vietnamese.

Eisenhower started economic aid and American support of South Vietnam. President Kennedy provided advisors and military equipment for the South Vietnamese to fight the communist Viet Cong. The feeling was the South Vietnamese needed this support to fight the Viet Cong, which were being supported by the Soviet Union. The American presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and later Johnson all knew that the South Vietnamese army could not defeat the North Vietnamese forces alone. Kennedy did not want to appear to be the appeaser. He didn't want to appear weak against communism.

Many classified documents have become available in recent years of telephone conversation that have shown what presidents were saying to their advisors and what they were thinking. Continued investigation of the presidency of John F. Kennedy further strengthens the view that the of U.S. support for the coup which overthrew South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem

50 years ago traces directly to President Kennedy, not to a "cabal" of top officials in his administration. As the documents posted by the National Security Archive in 2009 and new material posted in 2013 indicates, the often-told story that a "cabal" of senior officials, in combination with U.S. ambassador to Saigon Henry Cabot Lodge, were responsible for the coup is a myth.

The 2009 posting used the then-newly released audiotapes of President Kennedy's discussions on South Vietnam in late August 1963, combined with the declassified documents on the same meetings, and the State Department cables to Saigon bearing instructions for Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, to show that Washington officials acted in unison in determining the U.S. approach.

Notes that national security assistant McGeorge Bundy wrote on a CIA report during a crucial August 28 1963 meeting indicate the degree of pro-coup thinking. The notes include Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara's statement that the problem was "how to make the thing work" and Undersecretary of State George Ball's advice to "let it go as it is." According to Bundy's notes, the "worst thing we can do is leave it [the Saigon political situation] that way." The notes include a "Principle of Action," which was "we should never encourage them [the South Vietnamese generals] and then let it fail."

President Kennedy resolved to modify his instructions to Ambassador Lodge, not to end U.S. backing for the South Vietnamese generals, but rather to ensure Washington lent the weight of its support to a coup that would succeed.

The tapes' discussion of the purposes for planning an American withdrawal from South Vietnam weakens claims by some that President Kennedy all along intended to get out of the conflict. Though JFK expresses doubts—in the Oval Office on August 29 Kennedy tells his inner circle, "We're up to our hips in mud out there"—the president never forthrightly rejects the Vietnam commitment. In fact Kennedy tells the same group shortly afterwards that while Congress might get "mad" at the U.S. siding up to the Vietnamese generals, "they'll be madder if Vietnam goes down the drain". President Kennedy's emphasis indicates his determination to fight the war, not abandon it.

After President Kennedy's assassination November 22 1963, Lyndon B Johnson became president.

"If we quit Vietnam tomorrow we'll be fighting in Hawaii and next week we'll have to be fighting in San Francisco."

Johnson was encouraged by his advisors to take up a more forceful approach to the Vietnam conflict and to send in US troops to bolster the South Vietnam Army. The new leader of South Vietnam was General Khanh and he made it clear to Johnson that he did not believe that the South Vietnamese Army could withstand the NLF. Initially Johnson was not keen to send in

troops to South Vietnam. He knew that politically that this would not be a popular move and that he was facing an election in 1964. Johnson told the Joint Chiefs of Staff that he would do all that was necessary to support Khanh but would not include sending in US troops until the November 1964 Presidential election was over.

Johnson was not adverse to greater US military involvement – he was simply aware that it would not be well received in some quarters of America. He gave his support to ‘Operation Plan 34B’. This involved sending Asian mercenaries in to North Vietnam to carry out acts of sabotage. As part of a reconnaissance program, the ‘USS Maddox’ was sent in to the Gulf of Tonkin to examine North Vietnamese naval defenses. The outcome of this was the attack on the ‘Maddox’ by three North Vietnamese torpedo boats.

Johnson was given the reason he needed to order bombing raids on North Vietnam. As president and commander-in-chief he would have been seen as a weak leader if he had done nothing to counter this – just as both his Chiefs of Staff and he, himself, had bargained on. On national television Johnson told the US public:

“Repeated acts of violence against the armed forces of the United States must be met not only with alert defence, but with a positive reply. That reply is being given as I speak tonight.”

Congress gave Johnson near enough total support for his actions (Senate 88 to 2 and House 416 to 0) and also authorized him to take whatever measures he deemed necessary against North Vietnam.

In the lead up to the 1964 presidential election, Johnson was chided by the Republican candidate, Barry Goldwater, for being too soft in his approach to the North Vietnamese. In response, Johnson told the public that he was not prepared to send US troops thousands of miles overseas to do what the South Vietnamese Army should be doing – protecting its people.

Johnson won the 1964 presidential election with ease. It was not long before US troops were sent to South Vietnam.

In early 1965, Johnson authorized ‘Operation Rolling Thunder’, which started on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This was the wholesale bombing of North Vietnam and NLF-held territory in South Vietnam. Initially, ‘Operation Rolling Thunder’ was meant to last for eight weeks – it lasted for three years. The NLF responded to the bombing by attacking US air bases in the South Vietnam. The commander of US advisors in the South, General Westmoreland, informed Johnson that the men he had in the South were inadequate to defend their bases and that he needed more men. Johnson responded by sending in US troops – this time they were not ‘advisors’. On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1965,

3,500 US Marines – combat troops - arrived in South Vietnam. Johnson sold this deployment to the US public by claiming that they would be in South Vietnam as a short-term measure. In a poll held in 1965, 80% of those Americans polled indicated that they supported Johnson.

In a 1964 telephone conversation with Richard Russell LBJ says, “I’d be impeached if I got out of Vietnam.”

When U. S. Senator and now U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel heard that admission he said “I wish I knew I was just saving a president’s legacy when I was sitting in a tank in Vietnam” (Hagel was the recipient of two Purple Hearts while an infantry squad leader in Vietnam).

Johnson could never have envisaged what he had started. By the time of the 1968 presidential election, America had become embroiled in a war that was to take on far greater dimensions than anyone could have believed in 1965. Although Johnson never told the people of America how many American troops were in Vietnam, there were half a million there by 1969.. Johnson did not stand for the 1968 presidential election and many pundits at the time stated that this was the result of what was happening to US troops in South Vietnam at the time.

So what was the reason for the American involvement in the Vietnamese war? To save some president’s legacy—except the legacy was not saved.

## **Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**

### **Happy Dollars**

There were Happy Dollars by **Bill Wishard**, who said that the Tuesday election had a record turnout of voters but a record low for election volunteers but he was able to get Malibu Rotary Rotarian **Jimmy Mon** to help, **Shannon Latson** for the condolences and kind words she has received from so many people since the passing of her father; **Beth Mohiuddin** to thank Bob Syvertsen for giving her more business; **Maggie Luckerath** for leaving town and going on vacation in the Caribbean and **Hubert Luckerath** because Maggie was leaving town and going on vacation in the Caribbean.

.

### **Guests**

In addition to regular guest realtor **Bianca Torrance**, two past Malibu Rotary Club presidents were in attendance to hear our guest speaker: **Dennis Torres**, Pepperdine’s head of Real Estate

and his cohort **Rex Levi**. Another guest was **Dr Frank LeVac**, member of the Santa Monica Rotary Club, who is a Veterinarian in Santa Monica.

### **Malibu Rotarians at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Foundation Dinner**



Malibu Rotarians attending the November 8<sup>th</sup> Rotary Foundation Dinner at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles were joined by Rotary District photographer **Linton Morgan** of the Inglewood Rotary Club (standing to left), Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar **Livia Giordano** who was hosted by Malibu Rotary Club (standing in center). Also standing is Malibu Rotary Club Past President **Bill Wishard**. The other Malibu Rotarians attending were (L to R Seated) **Hubert Luckerath, David Baird, Peter Formosa, and Delvin Glymph**

### **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher**

#### **Malibu Rotary—Home Club of RainCatcher Executive Director David Zielski**

Every 21 seconds, a child dies from a water-related illness. Women and children spend 200 million hours a day collecting water.

There are over a billion people who do not have access to clean drinking water. RainCatcher is efficiently doing something to try to reduce that number. They get low cost, low maintenance and sustainable water systems to Uganda and Kenya so women and children have a safe and close water source.

Besides the obvious health benefits, providing a local and safe water source multiple other social, economical, and educational benefits also accrue. There can be an increased girls' school attendance, level of education and literacy rates, as they no longer need to miss school to secure water for their families and have adequate and separate sanitation facilities.

There can also be reduced physical injury from constant lifting and carrying heavy loads of water, reduced risk of rape, sexual assault, and increased safety as women and girls do not have to go to remote and dangerous places to defecate or to fetch water during the night.

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. The latest video showing what David and the Raincatcher people are doing 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>

After viewing this RainCatcher video on YouTube look at some of the others. This is a project that all of the Rotary world should be participating in. Malibu Rotary Club is proud to take a lead in this endeavor.

### **Upcoming Speakers** (yet to be confirmed)

Dana Sherman of the Fleet Street Bike Project

Dan Wise on history of the 25,000 acres from Marina Del Rey to PV Peninsula to Western Ave

## Calendar (for details on these programs see [maliburotary.org](http://maliburotary.org))

Sean Mccaffery Maria D'Angelo Nov 12, 2014

Camps and tutoring program for homeless and low-income children

He will be speaking about non-profit for homeless and at-risk youth and also inviting everyone to volunteer Thanksgiving Day at the House of Blues on Sunset.

[www.childrenslifesaving.org](http://www.childrenslifesaving.org)

[sean@childrenslifesaving.org](mailto:sean@childrenslifesaving.org)

There will be no Rotary meeting on November 19 or November 26

Rick Mendoza Dec 03, 2014

Rick's Underwater Images -- A slide show you won't want to miss

### **Richard "Rick" Mendoza, PDG**

Rick joined Rotary in 1986 - was club president in 1993-1994. And he served as **District Governor in 2002-2003** –

In 2009 he was recognized with Rotary International's highest award the "**Service Above Self**" award.

In 2012 he was recognized with The Rotary Foundation's highest award, the "**Distinguished Service Award**".

He served a three year term as the District Rotary Foundation Chair for D-5280. And, he is currently serving Zone 26 as the Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator in 2013-2015.

In 1973, as a hobby, he became a Los Angeles County Certified Under Water SCUBA instructor - and was cross certified with NAUI and PADI. He taught SCUBA for 4 years certifying 200+ students.

His passion for photography is recognized throughout the District, Zone and Rotary International. At this meeting Rick will show some of the images he has captured with underwater camera.

Evening Dinner Holiday Party Dec 10, 2014 (location to be determined)

Dec 17 will by Budget Meeting Club Assembly

Shannon Latson Jan 14, 2015

Managing Conflict at Home and at Work

**Description:** Few of us like conflict, but it will always be a part of our lives. Dealing with conflict in healthy ways can deepen your relationships, permit personal growth, and improve the outcome of challenges that you face. Join us to get some tools on how to approach your next difficult conversation.

**About the Presenter:** Shannon Latson works as a Marriage and Family Therapist for Stillpoint Family Resources in West Hills, and she also works as an Office Manager in the International Studies and Languages Division of Pepperdine. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Business from Michigan State University, her master's degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University, and her Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine's School of Law. Shannon volunteers as a club convocation leader for Pepperdine students, serves as the faculty/staff advisor for the Pepperdine Swing Dance Club, and she has presented at many community organizations, including a psychiatric facility, a gang prevention unit of the Van Nuys police department, a domestic violence shelter, Many Mansions, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Malibu Rotary Club Middle & High School Music Comp Jan 21, 2015

Khoi Pham Jan 28, 2015

Community Service Integrated into Affordable Housing for Low Income

Khoi Pham MBA, UCLA Anderson School of Management, one of last helicopter evacuees out of Saigon as 8 year old, and now Executive Director of Bella Communities, will talk about integrating community service into affordable housing for low income.

Third in Malibu Rotary Club exclusive series of outcomes of American involvement in Vietnam war.

- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2529/Speakers#sthash.uJTvcsUe.dpuf>