



Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

November 9, 2011

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President (2011-2012) Kevin Boling

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Shen Yun

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- **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.rotary5280la.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>**
- **[RI President \(2011-2012\)](#) Kalyan Banerjee**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2011-2012): Brad Robinson**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Kevin Smith**
- **Rotary District Newsletter—see it on Rotary District 5280 site or click [here](#)**



Dr. Michael Ye Tells the Story About a Subject the Chinese Government Doesn't Want You to Know: The Renaissance of Chinese Culture

—And the Show the Chinese Government Doesn't Want you to see: *Shen Yun*

The November 9th program of the Malibu Rotary Club was presented by Dr. Michael Ye, who received his Ph.D. degree from the School of Policy, Planning and Development, University of Southern California (USC) in 2007. As a scholar coming from China, Dr. Ye has been actively involved in community events and promotion of the

traditional Chinese culture. He helped organize cultural events and supports nonprofit organizations dedicated to Chinese culture.

Dr Ye's colorful PowerPoint presentation deals with the 5,000 year history of Chinese culture. China is known as "The Land of the Divine."

The **Yellow Emperor** or **Huangdi**^[1] is a legendary **Chinese sovereign** and **culture hero**,^[3] included among the **Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors**.^[4] Tradition holds that he reigned from 2696–2598 BC. Traditionally credited with numerous inventions and innovations, he is regarded as the initiator of Chinese civilization. In traditional Chinese accounts, the Yellow Emperor is credited with improving the livelihood of the nomadic hunters of his tribe. He teaches them how to build shelters, tame wild animals. He invents carts, boats, and clothing. While **Taoism** is often regarded in the West as arising from **Laozi**, Chinese Taoists claim the Yellow Emperor formulated many of their precepts.

There are three main spiritual leaders of China: Lao Zi, Buddha (who came from India), and Confucius. Lao's Daoism features Truth and Truthfulness. Buddha features Compassion and Benevolence, and Confucianism features Humanity, Justice, Courtesy, Wisdom, Integrity, Tolerance, Loyalty and Filial Piety.

Traditional Chinese Culture incorporates Oneness of Man and Heaven, "Good begets Good, Evil begets Evil," Uphold High Moral Standards and Cultivation of Virtue and Harmony among Different Teachings. Virtues historical figures are historian Dong Hu, Official Yan Zhen, and Prime Minister Wen.

Chinese rich tradition was destroyed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The party was founded in July, 1921 in **Shanghai**. After a lengthy **civil war**, the party defeated its primary rival, the **Kuomintang** (KMT), and expanded into all of **mainland China** by 1949. It changed the moral fabric of the country. It persecuted millions of intellectuals and spiritual cultivators. It instigated destruction of traditional culture and values by using Power and Violence. Although Communism espoused to make everyone equal it caused a class struggle, and there were no longer universal shared values. There was no respect for the Divine and atheism was the law. Classic works and antiques were labeled as "four old" (thought, culture, custom, habit) and destroyed.

There was and is culture and art in China, but under the CCP, it is without traditional values, and is only allowed if it celebrates the ideas of the Communist Party. Dr Ye's presentation shows what happens with the destruction of traditional values,

Certain people, like Li Hongzhe, felt there was a need to return to traditional values. He founded **Falun Gong** (literally means "*Dharma Wheel Practice*",^[1] alternatively **Falun Dafa**) a spiritual discipline first introduced in China in 1992. It combines the practice of meditation and slow-moving **qigong** exercises with the moral philosophy. Falun Gong places a heavy emphasis on morality and the cultivation of virtue in its central tenets of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance (**Chinese**: 真、善、忍), and identifies as a qigong practice of the Buddhist school, though its teachings also incorporate elements drawn from **Taoist** traditions.

People who practice Falun Gong could easily be Rotarians, and some of them are. Doesn't Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance sound a lot like the Rotary 4 Way Test. Doesn't compassion lead to "Service Above Self?"

Falun Gong doctrine also counsels against participation in political or social issues. Excessive interest in politics is viewed as an attachment to worldly power and influence, and Falun Gong aims for transcendence of such pursuits. According to Hu Ping, "Falun Gong deals only with purifying the individual through exercise, and does not touch on social or national concerns. It has not suggested or even intimated a model for social change. Many religions...pursue social reform to some extent...but there is no such tendency evident in Falun Gong."

The 5,000 year history of China, with its emphasis on the tradition of virtue and morality, is the basis of **Shen Yun Performing Arts**, formerly known as **Divine Performing Arts**. It performs classical Chinese dance, ethnic and folk dance, and story-based dance.

Founded in 2006, the Shen Yun troupe is often associated with the [Falun Gong](#) spiritual practice, and performances around the world are hosted by local Falun Dafa Associations. Kelly Wen, Master of Ceremonies for Shen Yun, stated that the underlying idea of the performance is to "revive the essence of 5000 years of Chinese culture", which Wen described as a lost art destroyed by the Chinese communist government.



Among others, the show has been praised by Broadway critic Richard Connema, who gave it five stars. Shen Yun has more than 200 members who perform around the world seven months a year. The show's acts and production staff are trained at Shen Yun's

headquarters in Cuddebackville, in Orange County, New York. Shen Yun shows feature traditional Chinese dance and song. A January 2010 seven-show run of Shen Yun at the [Kennedy Center](#) Opera House in Washington, DC, consisted of twenty-two vignettes with colorful costumes, dancing, and "thrilling operatic singing".

Shen Yun enacts three distinct forms of Chinese dance in its performances: classical Chinese dance, ethnic and folk dance (for instance, dances of China's Dai and Mongolian ethnic minorities), and story-based dance, presenting classic Chinese stories such as the [legend of Mulan](#).

Aside from the dance pieces, there is also a live orchestra of Chinese and Western instruments. The songs are in Chinese, but the lyrics, both in Chinese and the local language where the performance is being held (English in the US), are projected onto a backdrop revealing the performances' themes, "dealing often with historical movements and their devoted disciples."

The group is composed of three performing arts companies: The New York Company, The Touring Company, and the International Company, which typically tour different parts of the world consecutively. Each year the Shen Yun Performing Arts show tours several countries, performing across Europe, North America, Oceania, and Asia.

The June 10 *Epoch Times* wrote about some of the attempts of the Chinese current government to block performance of *Shen Yun* show not only in China, but wherever the show tours around the world.

On Feb. 9, 2009, Mr. McMillan-Scott held a welcoming party for Shen Yun's 2009 European tour, attended by more than 100 people, including many European parliamentarians, their assistants, and stewards. Mr. McMillan-Scott said the show "is a contemporary historic poem that can be enjoyed by both Easterners and Westerners."

British MEP Mr. Barden said, "Tell everyone, go see the show, feel it and do your best to support the meaning behind it."

The communist leaders are so insecure that they fear just a handful of actors could pull back the veil of propaganda and show the people what is really going on in their own country. – Rep. Dana Rohrabacher

Disregarding pressure from the CCP, 25 members of the Swedish Parliament published a joint statement in 2008, saying they were going to see Shen Yun, adding, "We warmly welcome the first visit of the Divine Performing Arts to Sweden! We, members of different political parties in the Swedish Parliament, condemn the Chinese Embassy for violating freedom of speech in our country." [Shen Yun](#) was also called Divine Performing Arts.

In 2007, the Chinese Embassy had also threatened Swedish Culture Committee Chief Johan Lundgren. Mr. Lundgren said the CCP's threats were empty and caused no problems with Swedish-China relations. "I was very clear on the fact that freedom of expression is applied here," he said.

In many other countries, politicians and public leaders learned of, and went to see Shen Yun, only after receiving threats from the CCP not to see the show.

During a Shen Yun performance in Canada in 2007, the Chinese Embassy sent letters and made calls to various government offices. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper personally sent a congratulatory letter to Shen Yun and Environment Minister John Baird attended the show to personally relay congratulations from the PM.

Also in 2007, California's Chairman of Orange County's Board of Supervisors Chris Norby received a letter from the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles requesting he not see the show. Mr. Norby responded by saying, "Your request is an insult to me. Of course I will not comply."

In late January 2010, the government of Hong Kong refused entry visas for members of the production crew for the troupe's performances scheduled between 27 and 31 January, saying that "work visas were considered case by case", and said the applicant generally had to offer expertise not easily found locally; the troupe cancelled the performances which it claimed to have been sold out. Democratic Party chairman **Albert Ho** said the denial of the visas was a worrying new erosion of Hong Kong's freedoms, and damaged the reputation of Hong Kong as a liberal and open society.



SHEN YUN
神韻晚會

REVIVING 5,000 YEARS OF CIVILIZATION

ALL-NEW 2012 SHOW | WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

Shen Yun offers an exhilarating world-class production on a grand scale and exquisite performances of classical Chinese dance and music inspired by the myths, legends, and divine beauty of 5,000 years of civilization.

JAN 11 - 12, 2012
 Segerstrom Center for the Arts

JAN 13 - 14, 2012
 Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Info: ShenYunPerformingArts.org
Presented by U.S. Southwestern Falun Dafa Association

tickets: LASpectacular.com
1.800.880.0188

Join us in this amazing journey!

Hope we will not be intimidated by Chinese government officials in Southern California for the performances scheduled Jan 11-12 and Segerstrom Center for the Arts or Jan 13-14 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

For these performances 10% of ticket sales will be donated to Malibu Rotary Club if you enter "Rotary-Malibu" as special coupon code when ordering tickets. For more information enter www.LASpectacular.com or calling 1-800-880-0188.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Bill Wishard has confirmed that our Holiday party will be Wednesday Dec. 14, at Beaurivage restaurant. Most of us who have lived in Malibu for some time have had special occasions in this unique restaurant. (It was the location this reporter's engagement party, as well as the location for one of Malibu Rotary club's earliest High School music competitions). Daniel & Luciana Forge established the picturesque Mediterranean restaurant in 1982. The restaurant is about to be sold, and as one of his last acts before leaving the business and as a sense of community Daniel is giving the Malibu Rotary Club a very special price for the evening and use of his upstairs room--\$35.00 per person, including tax and tip. The club will be collecting money from members for this dinner party at meetings before the event.

Malibu Rotary Club/SOS Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 17th

Maggie Luckerath has the signup sheet for Malibu Rotarians, family and friends who are providing food for the annual Malibu Rotary sponsorship of the SOS Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless held at Webster School in Malibu the Thursday before Thanksgiving—this year on November 17th. 200 people are expected to attend dinner.

There will be a regular morning Malibu Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday November 16th, but no meeting the following week, November 23rd, the week of Thanksgiving.

Guests

Cathy Liu Mendelsohn was again guest at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of November 2nd. She works for the international newspaper *The Epoch Times* (see <http://Epochtimes.com>). The Epoch Times is one of the sponsors of Shen Yun, and she was the one who brought to your attention **Dr. Michael Ye** and his program on The Renaissance of Chinese Culture.

Two other guests at the meeting were Rotary Assitant District Governor **Kevin Smith**, Fire Chief of El Segundo and member of El Segundo Rotary Club. Another guest was a visitor a visiting Rotarian from Boulder, Colorado but was unable to get his name while setting up and talking to Dr Ye's presentation.

Highlights of the Chuck Green Memorial Celebration

Chuck Green's family is encouraging donations to a scholarship in Chuck's memory for students pursuing a career in education or in foreign service at the colleges where his son and daughter teach. The Malibu Rotary Club has already made a commitment for the Santa Monica College scholarship.

For those who wish to donate checks may be made out to either the Santa Monica College Foundaton

Santa Monica College

1900 Pico Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90405

Or

The Moorpark Board/Management

Scholarship fund

ATTN: D. Kolibas

Moorpark Unified

5297 Maureen Lane

Moorpark, CA 93021

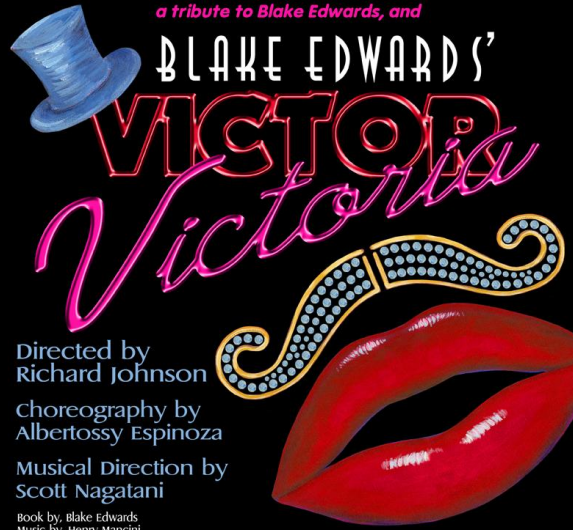
Please indicate that the check is in memory of Dr. Charles Green.

Reading about this in last week's Malibu Rotary Surfwriter Malibu Rotary Club Past President Holmes Osborn e-mailed he was contributing to both Chuck Green Scholarship funds.

Malibu Rotarians Enjoy Malibu Stage Company Theater Production of *Victor/Victoria*

Malibu Rotarian **Geoff Ortiz** has been President of the Board of Malibu Stage for years and now another Malibu Rotarian **Maggie Luckerath** is managing the box office. Between the two of them Malibu Rotarians were able to get half price tickets to the current production at the theater, Blake Edwards's *Victor/Victoria*, a musical with music by Henri Mancini and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. At the November 2nd meeting of the Malibu Rotary meeting Geoff managed to get a bootle of wine on campus to give to Maggie for her amazing efforts getting all the Malibu Rotarians so efficiently booked into the theater at such short notice.

Malibu Stage Company
presents
a tribute to Blake Edwards, and
BLAKE EDWARDS'
VICTOR
Victoria



Directed by
Richard Johnson
Choreography by
Albertosy Espinoza
Musical Direction by
Scott Nagatani

Book by, Blake Edwards
Music by, Henry Mancini
Lyrics by, Leslie Bricusse
Additional music by, Frank Wildhorn
Starring
Julia Holland, Jake Broder,
Kristen Towers Rowles,
Butch Anderson, Oscar Best,
Diane Peterson, Marce Candell,
Albertosy Espinoza, George Fisher,
Bonnie Frank, Don Pitts,
Anibal Siveyra, Richard Van Slyke,
Emilia Vill, Allison Williams,
Ako Eyoung, Steven W. Nielson,
Colby Nielson, Jonathan Mercer,
Miha Rimoldi,
The Band
Ian Dahlberg, David Lamont,
Matt Clark, Danny Yamamoto,
Scott Nagatani

October 28th
through
December 4th 2011
Friday & Saturday 8 p.m.
Sunday 5 p.m.
(Sunday the 20th at 7:30)
Tickets \$34.99

MALIBU STAGE COMPANY Box Office (310) 589-1998
29243 Pacific Coast Highway, and: www.brownpapertickets.com
Malibu, CA 90265 www.malibustagecompany.org

The Malibu Rotarians attended the Saturday October 29th performance were entertained and impressed by the acting, singing, dancing and staging of this production directed by Malibu Stage Artistic Director Richard Johnson. Most of us have seen the screen version of this work with Victoria played by Blake Edwards' wife Julie Andrews. In this stage production the title role is played by Julia Holland. Blake Edwards and Julie Andrews lived in Malibu. Edwards died December 15, 2010 at age 88, and Richard Johnson decided to do this production dedicated to him.

Besides **Geoff and Michelle Ortiz** and **Maggie and Hubert Luckerath**, other Malibu Rotarians attending the night at the theater were **Bill Wishard**, **Margo Neal** and husband **LaVern**, **Nichola Lenehan**, **Bob and Jeanne Syvertsen**, **Fred and Connie Cornett**, and **John and Lee Ann Elman**. The production continues to December 4th.

Rotary Club Vice Presidents of the Month

November: David Baird

December: Bob Syvertsen



Malibu Rotary Club is Official Sponsor of Smile Trek

Marine Sargent Winston Fiore Started his 5,000 mile Cross Country Motorcycle Trip in Malibu. His purpose is to bring awareness of children's cleft palate and raise money for the International Children's Surgical Foundation. The organization provides

surgery, training for 3rd world surgeons, plus follow-up care for surgical correction of children's cleft palate disease. The US trip was in preparation for a 5,000 mile walking trip across Southeast Asia. He explains, "In late September, 2011, I will set out on a 5,000-mile walk through Southeast Asia. My route will take me through eight different countries, beginning and ending in Singapore, and the yearlong trek will be an ongoing effort to raise funds for the ICSF and awareness for children living with clefts in the developing world. I chose to base this trip in Southeast Asia because of the region's high prevalence of cleft births." Malibu Rotary Club is one of his sponsors. One surgery costs \$240.

See Winston's blog at <http://www.smiletrek.org> (which includes multiple videos) as he travels



across the world. As of November 5th he has raised almost \$32,000 for ICSF, over 60% his goal of \$50,000.

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

facebook

Calendar

(all Malibu Rotary Club meetings are held at Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. in Fireside Room of Pepperdine University unless otherwise noted)

Nov 16 2011

**Shawn Bromnell & Robert De Santis
"Update on Sheriff's Activity in Malibu"**

Nov 17 2011

Malibu Rotary Sponsors SOS Thanksgiving Dinner at Webster School 3602 Winter Canyon Road in Malibu. Malibu Rotarians prepare and cook food for local homeless at Webster School. SOS organization does this weekly with the help of local community volunteers, but the Thanksgiving Dinner, held annually the week before Thanksgiving Dinner, is larger one, attended by about 200 people

Nov 23 2011

**No meeting
"Club will be dark"**

Nov 30 2011

**Donna Bohana
Donna Bohana, founder of the Malibu office of Solstice International Realty and a graduate of Pepperdine University, will deliver her Malibu Rotary Club craft tal**

Dec 7 2011

**Christopher Bauman
"Visting the Pepperdine Campuses of Europe"**

On November 2, David Baird talked about the history of Pepperdine University's multicampus programs, Pepperdine campuses that have been established throughout the world, starting with the first campus in Los Angeles, to the Heidelberg Campus established in 1964. Christopher Bauman, past President of the Malibu Rotary Club and Budget Director of Pepperdine University, visited all the European campuses of Pepperdine during a 2 week tour in October. He will show slides of his trip during this presentation to the Malibu Rotary Club on December 7.

Dec 14 2011

**No morning meeting
"Holiday party in eve at Beaurivage"**

Dec 28 2011

**No meeting
"no meeting"**