



The Award Winning
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

October 24, 2012

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

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- **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 (2012-2013) Sakuji Tanaka Rotary District 5280 Governor (2012-2012): Lewis Bertrand**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Julie Jenkins (2012-13)**

**Malibu Rotary Club Sponsors SMMUSD School Board Candidates Forum
October 24**



Five of the six candidates running for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District School Board participated in a school board candidates forum sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club at Pepperdine University in Malibu on Thursday evening October 24th. Candidates participating in the forum (L to R) were Ben Allen, Karen Farrer, Jose Escarce, Craig Foster and Maria Leon-Vazquez. Allen is current SMMUSD board president and Escarce and Leon-Vazquez are also current members of the board. Farrer and Foster, along with Seth Jacobson, are part of the Reform Slate from Malibu. Jacobson was in Washington DC and unable to attend this forum.



Jessica Davis, a member of the Rotary Club of Indio California before becoming editor of Malibu Patch, was moderator for the event and drew on questions for the SMMUSD board candidates from the Malibu and Santa Monica communities that had been submitted online in the comment section of Malibu Patch and Santa Monica Patch.

All the candidates seemed poised to answer the questions asked by Davis. The incumbents all agreed that Malibu should have some type of direct representation on the SMMUSD board. Even if none of the three Malibu candidates win a seat on the board they agreed that there should be some position created so that there is always a Malibu representative at the school board meetings.

The Malibu candidates said that on their part, if elected, they would be representing all communities in the district, not just Malibu. Foster is a member of the SMMUSD Financial Oversight Committee and Farrer has been a member of SMM PTA Council Executive Board and of Superintendent's Advisory Committee on DWF, and they said they had been working well with the Santa Monica people in the district for years. They said that although many in Malibu are wanting to separate Malibu into a new school district, it would take years for this to happen and they know they would have to work with, and get along with, the current school board. The Malibu candidates contend that the district hasn't used the district's financial resources wisely.

The incumbents all pointed out that despite the dwindling amount of money they have been getting from the state the past four years, they have been able to maintain the music and arts program, have increased student scores, saved the jobs of school nurses and other personnel necessary for direct education and have drastically cut administrative staff. To make up for state cuts in education they have sought and gotten funding from the City of Santa Monica, which raised the sales tax in Santa Monica by .5% starting in 2010, which provided \$6 million per year to the School district, plus other grants, both public and private.

Some of the questions asked of the candidates had to do with why parents' contributions to their local schools can't always be used the way the donors want. The Malibu candidates said that the current board has made decisions quickly without thinking them through, especially with regards to "equity funding." The incumbents explained how courts have ruled that money donated to a school in a public school district have to be shared in the school district, if it is designated for personnel. The equity factor is defined in federal law under Title I Part A of the No Child Left Behind Act. The federal government has developed a standardized measure, called the "equity factor" that can be used to determine how evenly (or unevenly) funding is distributed across school districts in a state. Donations for personnel, such as classroom aides, a reading program, or a choral music, go to a districtwide nonprofit, which distributes the money evenly among schools. Donations for supplies and other extras — assemblies or field trips — remains at each school. If a donation is made for these items they are not subject to the equity factor. In the SMMUSD PTA donations add up to more than \$2,100 per [student](#) at Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School in Malibu but only \$96 at McKinley Elementary in Santa Monica. Because of equity funding, about half of Point Dume's parent donations go into the community

pot to help other schools in the district that don't have as much parental support.

All the candidates were in agreement that passing California Ballad Initiatives 30 and 38, would help the current problem in funding the district and keeping the excellence the district has had.

One question had to do with creativity in the schools. Several candidates share the sentiment of Allen, who said that while many districts "Teach to the test," an educational practice where curriculum is heavily focused on preparing for a standardized test, he has never been an advocate of that. He believes the arts and music programs in the district help students develop a creativity that adds to their overall learning experience and ability.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica sponsored two earlier SMMUSD candidates forums. They sponsored the debate at Malibu City Hall on October 3 and another forum Oct. 17 at the Board of Education Offices in Santa Monica. This was the final debate before the election on November 6.

News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

There was a short Malibu Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday October 24 prior to the SMMUSD Candidates Forum. Malibu Rotary Club President **Bill Wishard** said the deadline for tickets to the Paul Harris Dinner Black Tie Masquerade Ball on October 27th and turning in the auction tickets all had to be done within a day. Besides Bill, David is going to the gala Rotary Foundation Dinner. The Club is sponsoring Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Livia Gioviana to also attend.

Lorena Aviles, a real estate agent at Coldwell Banker on Heathercliff in Malibu, kept her promise to bring bottled water for each of the candidates at the SMMUSD forum, and also was planning to go the Paul Harris Dinner! She has an enthusiasm we wish all our members had!

Jessica Davis' husband **Peter Davis** was recruited by Jessica to video record the Candidates Forum. **Chris Bauman** worked with the Pepperdine Audio Visual department to setup 3 wireless mics and soundboards for the Candidates Forum. Chris was daughter Mazzlyn (who is as cute as her pictures) setting everything up as we arrived at 6:30 p.m. and came back at about 9:00 p.m. to pack it all up to deliver it to the AV department the next day.

I can understand why Chris had to leave, but the Forum was one of the more ambitious events sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club for the year yet only 6 of 15 Malibu Rotary members were present for it: **Bill Wishard, John Elman, Maggie Luckerath** (who did a great job serving as timer for candidate speeches), **Geoff Ortiz, David Baird** and **Bob Syvertsen** who was there with wife Jean. Where were the rest of the members?

The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Holiday Party for 6:00 p.m. December at Christy's Restaurant on the hill at Westward Beach Road. Cost is \$30.00 per person.

Malibu Rotary Club Sponsors Thanksgiving Dinner For Homeless in Conjunction with SOS

The Malibu Rotary Club will again be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless with SOS on Thursday evening November 15 at Webster School. SOS (Standing On Stone) is a 501(c)(3) corporation founded by Malibu Rotary Club Honorary Rotarian Hollie Packman and her husband Daniel. Its mission is to help people make a transition to a better life. They provide emergency services, friendship, mentoring, transition [assistance](#), and work many volunteer service organization in the Malibu community to help them with their goal. They meet every Thursday night at 7 pm at Webster Elementary School on 3602 Winter Canyon Road in Malibu.

Members of the Malibu Rotary have been sponsoring the Thanksgiving Dinner the week before the Thanksgiving Holiday for about 10 years. Members of the Rotary Club prepare and serve a traditional hot Turkey Dinner.

Maggie Luckerath has the signup sheet for food items to be brought to the event. In addition Maggie says the group also needs donations of blankets, hoody jackets, and sleeping bags.

Rotary District News New Generations

The Rotary District 5280 high school Speech, Music, Art and Dance Competition will be held March 9 and prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 will be awarded in each category. Entries are due in by February. Members of Rotaract can win \$1500 at an Ethics Forum to be held at Loyola Maramount University March 29. RYLA camp will be held April 26-28 and the cost is \$190.00 per student. Typically the Rotary Club of Malibu has sponsored 2 students. The deadline for entrants is Dec 20.

Other Rotary District Events:

April 6th will be a Rotary Day of Service. Melody St John, President of the Hollywood Rotary Club, is heading up this event. She and Paul are again hosting a Rotary High School Exchange student. The student is from Germany and was able to converse with Malibu Rotarian Hubert Luckerath who had just returned from a month in Germany in time to attend the Rotary District Breakfast in Los Angeles.

The Rotary Global Peace Forum Conference will be held January 25th through 27th in Honolulu. Young adults are especially encouraged to attend, and Rotarians who can afford it are encouraged to sponsor young adults. Malibu Rotarian Barbara Riley is planning to attend.

Rotary District 5280 is having a Group Study Exchange (GSE) this year with Rotary District 2620 in Japan. The Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their [careers](#). The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

PCH Safety Study

The PCH Safety Study will examine current conditions along the corridor and identify safety concerns based on roadway conditions, adjacent land-uses and other factors that may be unique to Malibu and PCH. The study will conclude with recommendations for prioritized improvements along each of the three defined study areas, recognizing there may be differences within each study area requiring separate analysis. The study area boundaries include: Study Area 1: Topanga Canyon Rd. to Cross Creek Rd.; Study Area 2: Cross Creek Rd. to Busch Dr.; and, Study Area 3: Busch Dr. to Western City Limits. There will be public meetings to discuss existing conditions at the Malibu City Hall, 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, in Malibu at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on 4 successive Thursdays starting with September 13. Each meeting will discuss a different area of PCH. September 13 with study Area 1, September 20th Area 2, September 27th Area 3, and the final meeting on October 4th will discuss all 3 Study Areas. In addition to the live meetings there is an interactive website sponsored by The City of Malibu in collaboration with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) at <http://malibu.metroquest.com/>. At the website you can post your observations, concerns and suggestions about PCH as it runs through Malibu. You can also contact Elizabeth Shavelson, Public Works Analyst at eshavelson@malibucity.org or (310)456-2489 ext 254.

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 which he began in



September. Before he left he explained “ 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. He had e-mailed us after July 4th from the Phillipines.

“Smile Trek has officially surpassed its \$50,000 fundraising goal. That's 200 children who will be able to receive life-changing surgery, so a big thank you to all of you who helped make this possible!

Enjoy [my blog entry on China!](#)”

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 

Calendar

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

Oct 31 2012

to be announced

"Halloween meeting--no costume necessary"

Nov 15, 2012

Malibu Rotary Club Sponsors Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless at Webster School

Nov 28 2012

Joan Benedict Steiger

"The Love's of My Life--(Noon meeting at Tra di Noi Restaurant)"

Veteran actress of stage, screen, and television, writer, and inspiring romances with three devoted men--special reservation only lunch meeting at Tra di Noi restaurant with Joan Benedict Steiger will make this Malibu Rotary Club meeting one not to miss!

Dec 12 2012

Holiday Party

"Holiday Party 6:00 p.m. at Christy's Restaurant on Westward Beach Road"

There will be no morning meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club on December 12th. Instead there will be a Holiday Dinner Party 6:00 p.m. at Christy's Restaurant on Westward Beach Road.

