



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

October 28, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski

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- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting October 4 in Pepperdine University Malibu Upper Drescher Graduate Campus LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m and regular meeting starting at 12:00 noon. Speaker will new Malibu Rotarian Tiffany Venable whose Craft Talk will Reveal How This RN Became founder of Assisted Home Living Inc.**
- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **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 (2015-2016) K.R. Ravindran
 - Rotary District 5280 Governor (2015-2016): D.J. Sung

**High School Student Christian Pearce Tells How He has Turned
Negatives of His Young Life into Positives,
His Make A Wish Request at Age 6
Into a Successful Acting Career
and
His Experience at Malibu Rotary Club Sponsored RYLA Camp
into Future Leadership That is His Destiny**



Christian Pearce was chosen by the Malibu Rotary Club to attend this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) in April at the Alpine Conference Center in Blue Jay California. At the October 28th meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club the 16 year youth not only talked about his experience this camp has given him in achieving what he believes his destiny towards

becoming a leader, but also showed Malibu Rotarians why he has become a popular speaker for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis Tennessee where he was a patient as a seven year old being successfully treated for a rare brain cancer.

When Christian Pierce started Webster Elementary School in Malibu his life was a normal as any 5 year old. But when he was 6 things started to change. He was diagnosed with brain cancer called medulloblastoma. While attending Angels baseball camp that summer, Christian was rushed to Westwood's UCLA Medical Center where a 4x5 cm tumor was removed from the back of his head.

In article appearing the Malibu Times May 3 2006, Pierce's mother, Beth Lucas, said that initially Christian's symptoms were misdiagnosed. He was diagnosed with gastric reflux.

"Brain tumors are rare in children. Some pediatricians never see one in a lifetime," Lucas said. "What you have is a blockage in the head. Fluid builds up around it and puts pressure on the spinal cord. This becomes hydrocephalus. The body tries to relieve the pressure by dehydrating itself. That causes vomiting. Unfortunately, vomiting is a symptom that's easy to misdiagnose."

After the surgery, Christian's parents consulted with top pediatric oncologists trying to determine the best treatment to destroy the cancer. The consensus for Christian was full head and spine radiation treatments at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

"They had the best treatments with shortest side effects, and shorter-term side effects were a big consideration," Lucas said.

Christian and his mother went to Memphis for 6 months. He had a four year old sister who stayed in Malibu with relatives. It was at that time that Malibu Rotarian Margo Neal, a neighbor in the Las Flores area of Malibu, got to know the family, especially the little girl, while Christian and Beth were in Memphis for Christian's rigorous treatment regimen.

The 2006 Malibu Times article has Beth Lucas' quotes at the time: "Christian received whole head and spine radiation. Children who receive radiation treatment, especially to the brain under the age of seven, will have some level of cognitive impact. This impact can progressively worsen with time, typically within the first five years post treatment," Lucas said. "Areas impacted include reading, math, memory, processing speed, meaning they need more time to take tests, and organizational skills. Christian may be facing years of educational challenges and ongoing therapy."

What those who attended the Malibu Rotary Club meeting October 28th, 2015 were treated to in seeing and hearing Christian was then and inspiration and marvel. Instead of observing a teenager with cognitive impairment one saw before their eyes an exceptionally bright, articulate, young man, who appreciated the life that he now had and the future that waited him. It is no wonder he has become such a powerful spokes person for St. Jude Children's

Research Children's Hospital, and also another wonderful organization that helped launch him on his chosen career path as an actor—the Make A Wish Foundation.

While at St. Jude someone from the Make a Wish Foundation came to Christian and asked him what wish he had. As Christian explains it, “Most kids ask to go to Disney World or to meet their favorite ball player, but I always wanted to be in a movie.” No other kid asked for that. They know they could get him into Disney World, wouldn't he like that too? No. For Christian, he stuck by his wish to be in a movie—not just a family video—but a real Hollywood movie.

Christian returned home to Malibu, having completed his therapy, and cancer-free, although he returns to St Jude annually. It took a year for Make A Wish Foundation to fulfill Christian's wish, but when he was eight years old he got the call he was waiting for. He would appear the Paramount Studios comedy movie starring Owen Wilson, *Drillbit Taylor*. Christian's role was playing a kid with candy in a 7-11 store. There no speaking lines in the film but Christian had plenty in outtakes.

Christian like the feeling he had appearing in the movie, and he wanted to do more. So the opportunity he had gotten because of being critically ill and being a recipient of a Make A Wish Foundation granted wish had started him a career path that he hopes to continue, becoming a professional actor. He has done enough now that he is SAG eligible.

Although Christian began high school at Malibu High School his doctor and mother decided to not have him return there because of his medical background and carcinogenic effects of PCBs in the classrooms found in the Malibu High School buildings. That, Christian said, has been a blessing in disguise, because it gives him the flexible time to audition for movie and commercial roles. He has been able to attend film schools and study under Dianne Ladd.

Christian spoke about his lifetime commitment to St Jude Children's Research Hospital. After his initial 6 month treatment he was required to return to the hospital in Memphis to make sure the cancer did not return. After 5 years these annual trips have become optional because they feel he is cancer free. Now he says he returns there because of the research aspect of the St Jude. Tests that are done on him may help to determine what he has in his body that has caused him to survive, what the specifics of his cancer was, and what dosage of treatment is most effective at killing cancer cells without having the side effects that impairs the patient.

He said that St Jude Children's Research Hospital does not charge patients for their service—it is paid for by donations that have been given to the hospital. Christian said that if his family would have had to pay for his treatment it would have cost at least a million dollars.

The fund raisers Christian does for St Jude and for Make A Wish Foundation brings Christian in contact with leaders in many fields, and he admires how they give back.

When he looks back at his experience at the RYLA camp he said it help teacher him about being a leader. Christian said a leader is not a single person. Leaders are people who want to make a difference. Exercises Christian remembers from RYLA are ones having to do with team building. Christian thanked the Malibu Rotary Club for sending him to the RYLA camp. When came away from the RYLA camp it left him with the feeling he was destined to lead.

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Malibu Rotary Club President Elect **Delvin Glymph** presided over the October 28th meeting of the club while Malibu Rotary Club **David Zielski** was in Africa setting up and checking on Raincatcher installations. Delvin announced that besides his duties at Pepperdine University as a Career Counselor he has working on another career for himself—as a screenwriter!

Margo Neal who is the Rotary District Chair for Music at the Art Pageant that will be held March 5 at LMU, announced that she has been in contact with the vocal teacher at Malibu High School, Amy Locke, and a date has been set for the Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Vocal Music Competition—January 20th. That date the music competition—probably at 6:00 p.m., will be in lieu of our regular meeting. A venue is still being secured. In past years it has at various locations, and we are trying again to have it at Pepperdine University Raitt Recital Hall.

The Malibu Rotary Club is again going to send two high school students to Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly this year which is April 29th through May 1 at Alpine Conference Center in Blue Jay, CA. **David Baird** will be fielding applicants. The application will soon be posted on our Website for interested students. The club will be sending reservations and payment check for the two students (but not their names) to the district office before Dec 20.

Guests

Winter guest Past Rotary District Governor **Tom Bos** was back from Holland, Michigan to bring his wealth of Rotary experience to our meeting.

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya to 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)

Filter records:

Speaker	<u>Date</u>	Topic
Tiffany Venable	Nov 04, 2015	Craft Talk by the Founder of Assisted Home Living Assisted Home Living Inc. was founded by a registered nurse (RN), who prides herself on being a professional. She has been working in the medical profession since 1980 and has worked for home care service providers who is also a
Veterans Day Speakers @ Legacy Park	Nov 11, 2015	Malibu Rotary joins Malibu Chamber Celebration of Veterans Malibu Rotary joins Malibu Chamber Celebration of Veterans helping set up at 10:00 a.m. The event starts at 11:00 a.m.
Rotary Foundation Celebration	Nov 14, 2015	Rotary Foundation Celebration "Seaside Serenade" at Lower
Jeff Runyan	Nov 18,	Kilimanjaro, Fear, and Rotary

Speaker	Date	Topic
	2015	Jeff Runyan, Managing Member of Runyan Capital Advisors, WEDBUSH SE
NO MEETING	Nov 25, 2015	
Teddy Roosevelt	Dec 02, 2015	<p>Teddy Roosevelt</p> <p>Theodore Roosevelt was a soldier and state</p> <p>he personified a vigorous nation on the cusp</p> <p>At meetings, luncheons, and banquets, Joe</p> <p>man theater performance, Joe Wiegand's Te</p>
HOLIDAY PARTY	Dec 09, 2015	Evening Holiday Party--No Regular meeting
Jack Sherrer	Dec 16, 2015	Turning a short term weakness into a long term growth
NO MEETING --HAPPY HOLIDAY	Dec 23, 2015	
NO MEETING	Dec 30, 2015	
David Zielski	Jan 13, 2016	Club Assembly -- 6 month Rotary Year Review David Zielski and Malibu Rotary Club leadership review the
Rotary Peace Conference	Jan 15, 2016	Rotary Peace Conference in Ontario, CA Jan 15-16
Malibu Middle and High School Singers	Jan 20, 2016	Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing
Rotary Hunanitarian District Trip tp	Jan 27, 2016	Rotary District Hunanitarian Trip tp Panama Jann 27-Feb 1

Speaker	<u>Date</u>	Topic
Panama		
Don Rudkin	Jan 27, 2016	Pepperdine's New Masters of Science in Accounting
Rotary District Breakfast #3	Feb 11, 2016	Rotary District Breakfast #3 at Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 Cent
Rotary District Breakfast #4	Apr 05, 2016	Rotary District Breakfast #4 at Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 Cent
David Zielski	Apr 13, 2016	Malibu Rotary Club Assembly--Open Discussion to Bring Clu This wil be a club assembly to provide and oppportunity fo completion.

- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2529/Speakers#sthash.NKP1WdOG.dpuf>