



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

September 17, 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 Veera Mahajan

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

- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday September 24 room LC 152 (check entrance to building for any room change) at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus. It will be a Malibu Rotary Club Assembly at which the many future events of the club will be discussed. Fellowship begins at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at Noon sharp.**

Last week: *Malibu Chronicle* Publisher Veera Mahajan talks about her recently published self help book *Learning to L.I.V.E. -- A Journey....*

- **Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal Out 6 Weeks; David Zielski named Malibu Rotary Club President Elect**

- **Malibu Rotary Club to Host Santa Monica-Malibu School Board Candidates Forum at 6:00 pm October 15 at Pepperdine LC 155—no noon meeting that day**
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- **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 (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang
 - Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham
 - Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Neil Godsey (2014-15)



Malibu Chronicle
Publisher Veera Mahajan talks about her recently published self help book *Learning to L.I.V.E. -- A Journey....*

Veera says “*Learning to L.I.V.E.* is a journey that I went through from a life in domestic violence to love and freedom.”

Veera Mahajan has been a frequent visitor the Malibu Rotary Club since she moved to Malibu 4 years ago. We knew she was the publisher of the

Malibu Chronicle a glossy publication she bought just after her arrival. We also knew her to be beautiful, (representing India in the Miss Asian American Beauty Contest in 2012). Today would learn a lot more about Veera, that her beauty is not just skin deep, that she has a passion for a behind doors problem that affects many lives.

Veera is originally from Jalandhar, Punjab, India. She moved to Michigan with her parents when she was very young. She received a degree in Computer Science, fell in love with a handsome young man who was also from India living in Michigan, and she married him, went into business with them and had two sons.

Veera describes her first 7 years of marriage very happy ones. But there were times when her husband would become “angry.” About 80% of the time things were good, but the other 20% of the time, when he was “angry”, life was not so good.

“On the surface my life and marriage looked like a model life. My family lived in a mansion that was a 27000 sq ft house. We were educated and very successful. We had two beautiful healthy sons. We were the honored guests at most parties and gatherings and threw grand parties ourselves. We all liked to dance so we always looked happy. But, not many knew what was happening when we were alone.

“People thought I lived like a queen but I use to feel and sometimes say, yes I do live like a queen when he lets me. I thought I was free but I did not know what real freedom was till I was here in Malibu. Three months after I was here, I realized one day that I had not cried for 3 months. That is when I knew I was free.

“Since I have been here, I am running a local multimedia magazine called *Malibu Chronicle*. My magazine focuses on All Good News. It gives me a voice and I share that voice with others. It helps anyone who has a good story to tell to use my magazine to have a voice too.”

Veera said a pivotal game changing moment came in her life when she viewed a video after becoming a local Domestic Abuse volunteer. The couple in the video had just returned from a party where they both were having a good time. When they got in the car to drive home the man slapped the woman, giving her a bloody lip.

Veera saw herself as the woman in the video. That day Veera realized she was living in Abuse. It wasn’t physical as in the video. Her abuse was something she realized she experienced even before she met her husband. Women often marry the personality type of their father, and Veera’s father was abusive to her mother and her.

She began to realize how controlling and abusive her husband was. She decided she was going to leave her husband to get away from his abuse. When told him that he threatened “If you leave, you will never see your children again.” So Veera stayed in her marriage another

14 years after realizing she was in an abusive relationship. She would wait until her youngest son was 18.

After 23 years of marriage she left, counting the days until her divorce was final. She left Michigan and found the freedom to do as she pleased in California. She was no longer under his control. She bought the *Malibu Chronicle*, entered a beauty contest and for fun and fitness, she loves to run, hike, work out, do yoga, dance and Bhangra. She also is going to Pepperdine University getting a Master in Dispute Resolution. All the while she knew she had a story to tell. She previewed it in her magazine, with the picture below.

"I have been working on my first book for last 4 years. It is a collage of stories from a lot of successful men and women who have lived and escaped lives of abuse and now enjoying life that they want."

The names in the book are fictitious. The stories are true.

"Leaning to L.I.V.E. is a journey that I went through from a life in domestic violence to love and freedom.

"**L.I.V.E.** stands for

Love your Self

Insist on freedom

Victory over victim syndrome and

Empowered being.'

50 FALL 2013 • MALIBU CHRONICLE

LIVE

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEONARD MONJE

SAY NO TO ABUSE

AND LIVE.

LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF
INSIST ON BEING FREE
VICTORY OVER VICTIM SYNDROME
EMPOWERMENT

We welcome you to send a quote or message for Empowered living and/or send a photo to be considered for this article. Send it to: veera@malibuchronicle.com

She believes that if there is an awareness of abuse, there will be courage to end it. Domestic violence is a disease like cancer that has no boundaries or prejudice; it hits everyone and anyone across all cultures and races. She urges everyone to look at it as a collective problem that we have to fight it with one collective force. If we can empower women, they will in turn teach their children to be empowered and then we will be able to break the cycle of abuse that has been plaguing our homes and lives for generations.

Veera Mahajan's book, *Learning to L.I.V.E. a Journey* is available on Amazon for \$12.86:

<http://www.amazon.com/Learning-L-I-V-E-Journey-Veera-Mahajan/dp/1500184357>

Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal Out 6 Weeks; David Zielski named Malibu Rotary Club President Elect & Will Preside until Margo's Return



Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal fractured her pelvis on September 2 and will be immobilized for about 6 weeks.(until about Oct 14). **David Zielski** who had been President Elect Nominee, has been moved up a year and promoted to President Elect when Griselda Espinoza, who was President Elect, has taken on an additional daytime job in the realty business that precludes her from attending

daytime Malibu Rotary Club meetings. David presided over the September 10th meeting in Margo's absence, and will continue to do so until Margo's return.



Malibu Rotary Club to Host Santa Monica-Malibu School Board Candidates Forum at 6:00 pm October 15 at Pepperdine LC 155—no noon meeting that day

The Malibu Rotary Club hosts forum for the Candidates of the SMMUSD School Board. Malibu Times Publisher Arnold York will be moderator. The Forum will be 6:00 to 7:30 pm October 15 in room LC 155 at Pepperdine Drescher Graduate Campus Center for Learning & Technology

SMMUSD - School Board Candidates 2014

- **Patty Finer**
- **Craig Foster**
- **Laurie Lieberman**
- **Dhun May**
- **Ralph Mechur**
- **Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein**
- **Oscar de la Torre**

Hollywood Halloween October 24th

**Costume Party Fund Raiser by the Malibu Rotary Club
to support autism and Malibu youth sports.**

- Dinner, Drinks, Entertainment.
- Prizes to the Best Costumes.
- Raffles
- Silent Auction

\$70.00 per person includes food, wine/beer.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY REX LEWIS-CLACK (who was featured on three separate 60 Minutes profiles on rare musical savant)



Rotary Club
of Malibu

Fundraiser to support Autism and local Malibu needs



\$70 per person
includes food
and wine/beer
proceeds to benefit
Rex and Friends Foundation
for Autism
and local
Malibu needs

Friday
Oct 24th
7-11pm
2014

- DINNER, DRINKS & ENTERTAINMENT
- PRIZES TO THE BEST COSTUMES
- RAFFLES
- SILENT AUCTION

Sponsored
by



MALIBU SURSID NEWS



Halloween Party



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY REX LEWIS-CLACK
as featured on three separate 60 Minutes profiles!

Malibu West Beach Club

30756 W Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Maggie Luckerath hubsden@aol.com 310-457-6822

The chairperson of event is **Maggie Luckerath**. Those planning on attending should pay Treasurer Hubert Luckerath \$70.00 per person after sending RSVP to Maggie. It is possible to register on line at www.maliburotary.org.

60% of the proceeds of the event will go to Rex and Friends (see <http://www.rexandfriends.org/>)

Beneficiaries of event, in addition to Rex and Friends (Rex will perform at event) are Malibu Youth Football and Malibu Surf Club. While Hubert is out of town Maggie will be accepting checks for Hollywood Halloween Fund Raiser

Happy Dollars

Maggie Luckerath had perhaps the Happiest Dollar. It was not just the dollar that Maggie contributed, but a check that Maggie was given by the **Kiwanis Club of Malibu, a check made out for \$1000.00 to Rex and Friends**. For the rest of us just pay \$70.00 per person to the Malibu Rotary Club and give that to Maggie for the Hollywood Halloween fund raiser event October 24.

Other happy dollars came from speaker **Veera Mahajan** for letting the Malibu Rotary Club be her first public speaking engagement about her new book.

Letters to the Editor-Additions and Corrections to Sept 10 *Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter*

Editor's Note: Received the following e-mail regards last week's Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter from speaker Alison Wishard Guerra:

Hello John,

Thanks for taking the time to write up this summary of my talk. I wanted to point out a couple of clarifications:

1. I was recently promoted to Associate professor at UC San Diego after 8 years as an Assistant Professor. This is a huge accomplishment in the academic world.

2. The research I presented is my current research at UCSD, not from my dissertation which was completed 9 years ago.

Thanks again for inviting me to come and speak! It was great to be back in Malibu!

Warmly,

Alison

Editor's Note #2: There were a lot of guests at the Malibu Rotary Club of September 10th, and although most of them were mentioned in that day's issue of the *Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter* a very prominent one was Khoi Pham, Executive Director of Bella Communications (www.bellacommunities.org) affordable housing are aimed at serving two vulnerable populations , low income families residing in multi-family rental housing; and, adults with special needs co-sharing independent-living housing. Bill Wishard met Khoi in Indianapolis, and discovered he was on the last helicopter leaving Saigon when American pulled out of Viet Nam. At the September 10th Malibu Rotary Club Khoi said he was going to give a Happy Dollar to Malibu Rotary, but didn't have one while at the meeting. Bill sent an e-mail about a postal letter he received from Khoi, who is in California only part of the time, and will at some time speak at the Malibu Rotary Club. Bill wrote:

Khoi Pham sent me a very nice letter after the meeting (I'll bring copies tomorrow) with a first for our club - he gave a Happy Dollar he said he didn't have on him, and sent it with his letter!

Bill brought the letter and the check to the September 17th meeting.

Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Bill Wishard talked about several Rotary District events that are taking place in the near future:

1. A professional training session for new Rotarians that was taking place on Saturday Sept 20 at St Paul's Church Hall on Lincoln in Santa Monica and included a complimentary breakfast (sorry for such late notice to all of our new Rotarians).
2. October 7 Rotary District Breakfast at the City Club 55 South Flower, 51st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071 featuring Rotary Peace Fellow Alumnus Jeff Whitfield, whom the Rotarian magazine called "The Best Speaker in Rotary." With all the great speakers in Rotary this guy most really be somethin'. Rotary the regular price of \$35 will be reduced for Malibu Rotarians. The club will subside \$15.00 and just prepay \$20.00 to the Malibu Rotary Club to attend (members only—guest will still pay \$35.00 and yes, you may bring one if you pay up front).
3. UN Peace Day October 21

Guests

Guests at the September 17th Malibu Rotary club included **Jean-Jacques Retorne, Marie-Therese Retorne, Yvonne Gelbman**(who baked a delicious batch of chocolate chip cookies enjoyed by everyone at the meeting), and *Malibu Surfside News* Associate Editor **Chris Bashaw**.

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-RLo&list=UUUFejq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

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)

Bella Communities Director Khoi Pham (who was on the last helicopter out of Saigon)
Founder of the National Veterans Foundation, Floyd ‘Shad’ Meshad
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 go to www.maliburotary.org)

24

Sep

2014

Charity/Community Allocations

General Assembly

Sep 24, 2014

01

Oct

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.

PDG Rick Mendoza

Oct 01, 2014

October 7 District Breakfast at City Club

08

Oct

2014

How the City of Malibu Works to Increase Community Engagement

New City of Malibu Media Information Officer Matt Myerhoff and his colleague George Gabriel will be at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting October 8 to discuss ways that the city is working to increase community engagement, and use new media tools to foster dialogue with the community, and some related subjects TBD.

Matt Myerhoff and George Gabriel

Oct 08, 2014

15

Oct

2014

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District School Board Candidates Forum (no noon meeting)

The Malibu Rotary Club hosts forum for the Candidates of the SMMUSD School Board.

Malibu Times Publisher Arnold York will be moderator.

The Forum will be 6:00 to 7:30 pm October 15 in room LC 155

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- **Dhun May**
- **Ralph Mechur**
- **Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein**
- **Oscar de la Torre**

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Oct

2014

Common Core Curriculum

Joanne Gary

Oct 22, 2014

24

Oct

2014



Hollywood Holloween

Costume Party Fund Raiser by the Malibu Rotary Club

to support autism and Malibu youth sports.

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- **Prizes to the Best Costumes.**
- **Raffles**
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SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY REX LEWIS-CLACK (who was featured on three separate 60 Minutes profiles on rare musical savant)

To purchase tickets:

contact Maggie at hubsden@aol.com or call 310-457-6822.

Co-Sponsors:

- **Malibu Family Wines**
- **Anheuser-Busch, Inc**
- **Vintage Grocers**
- **Malibu Surfside News**
- **Malibu Times**

Oct 24, 2014

05

Nov

2014

Overview of American involvement in Viet Nam.

Darlene Rivas is a professor of history with a specialty in international relations. She is widely known for her expertise in the diplomatic history of the United States, having published widely in matters relating to South America and Nelson Rockefeller.

Professor Darlene Rivas

Nov 05, 2014

12

Nov

2014

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.