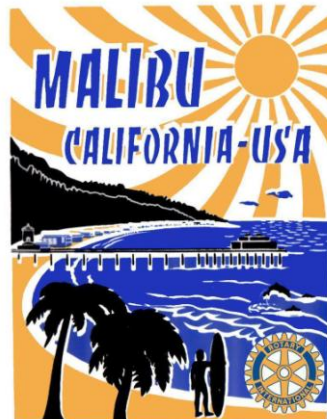




**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**



*The Award Winning*

## ***Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter***

September 27 2017

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence  
Pictures by John Elman and PDG Vicki Davis Radel

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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

- Last week: Bengt Halen, and the "Rotary Perstorp Perspective"
- Alex Ayzin "Winds of Freedom" at Peace Day
- Running World and Rotary Mourn Passing of David Torrence-GoFundMe Campaign Continues After Reaching Goal
- Next Week Oct 4th Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be 8:00 a.m. in room LC 152 on the Pepperdine Drescher Upper Graduate campus. Fellowship will begin at 7:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 8:00 a..m. This will be another Club Assembly Planning Session
- The latest on the planned Halloween Fund Raiser
- 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 (2017-2018) Ian H.S. Riseley
- Rotary District 5280 Governor (2017-2018) Cozette Vergari

### Rotary Perstorp Perspective



**Bengt Halen is the International Service Director of the Rotary Club of Perstorp in Sweden, and has only been a Rotarian for a few months. He is visiting the Malibu area for 3 weeks and at the September 27 Malibu Rotary Club meeting he talked about and showed in a Power Point Presentation his perspective as new Rotarian in Perstorp, what is similar and what is different between our clubs.**

Bengt told us about himself, the in which he lives and his Rotary Club. Bengt was born central Sweden in 1954 and went to college in Sweden, becoming a mechanical engineer.

In 1978 when Bengt was 24 years old he married Ann, and they had 2 sons, Henrik, who is now 37 and Michael who is now 37. Michael married and gave Bengt 2 granddaughters.

The Swedish company Bengt worked for had accounts around the world, and in 1987 Bengt and his family were able to come to America when Bengt's job took him to Atlanta for 2 years. Things were going well with the Halen family until Ann developed breast cancer.

They went back to Sweden where Ann was apparently successfully treated. Bengt designed and built a house with his own hands in Perstorp, in the southern part of Sweden, while Ann was getting treatments for her illness.

At the beginning of this year, however, Ann passed away from liver damage from the cancer treatments. The void in Bengt's life, losing Ann, he hoped would be somewhat filled by joining the Rotary Club in Perstorp. He was familiar with them before but never had time to become a member. He knew they did good things and wanted to be part of that.

Bengt told us a bit about Perstorp and its Rotary Club. Perstorp has a population of about 5,000 people and it is located on the 56 degree latitude parallel, which is further north than much of Canada (Vancouver is on the 49<sup>th</sup> degree parallel). Despite its geographic location being closer to the North Pole it is not as cold as most of Canada. This is due to several factors. The high mountains between Sweden and Norway protect Sweden from climate extremes that would otherwise be created by the North Atlantic west of Norway. In the southern part of Sweden, the climate is warm, humid and temperate. The temperature for the warmest month, July, averages 72F (22C) and at least four months have average temperatures above 50F (10C). In midsummer, southern Sweden experiences as many as 19 hours of daylight. In winter, snow is on the ground from December to April, and it is dark 19 hours. Northern Sweden is much colder and the summer daylight and winter darkness are even more pronounced. One can see why given the choice, Bengt would choose southern Sweden to build his house and live. People have been living there for years. Bengt showed us a picture of a church in Perstorp that was built in 1100 AD.

The Rotary Club of Perstop was founded 60 years ago, and it currently has about 35 members. Bengt showed demographics of the club. Members average is like Bengt, about 64 years old. For most of its history the club had only male members and, although there are a few women in the club now, is still about 75% male. Dues are amazingly modest. Bengt's graphic presentation showed the dues to the club to be the U.S. equivalent to \$26.50. Someone asked "Is that the dues per month?" Bengt answered "No—That's the club dues per year!"

Bengt told us about some of the humanitarian projects the Rotary Club of Perstop was doing. They sponsor a female medical doctor from the club to go to Kenya to provide medical services. Members of the Rotary Club also help tutor students at the local middle school. A special problem in southern Sweden is having immigrants to the country not speak Swedish. One of the other Rotary projects is teaching these people Swedish.

Many of the problems that the Rotary Club of Perstop has are the same ones we talk about in our club and district—membership and the public relations needed to make people in the community aware of Rotary. He said there is an emphasis in the Rotary club of Perstop to attract younger members, and to include more women and ethnic diversity.

Bengt will also be a guest at the next Malibu Rotary Club meeting on October 4. He hopes to get a picture of him with all the members our club for a presentation he plans to have at the Rotary Club of Perstop when he gets back home.

## Running World and Rotary Mourn Passing of David Torrence

GoFundMe Campaign Continues After Reaching Goal



We were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of David Torrence, the 31 year old son of Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence, on Monday August 28th. David was an elite athlete, and as a Peruvian-American middle distance runner competed at the 2016 Olympic Games. He competed in Europe last month, and was training in Scottsdale Arizona before

competing in a race in Long Island New York next week. He was found lifeless at the bottom of a pool at the condominium complex in Scottsdale where he was training.

The cause of death is pending autopsy results. When David was 6 years old his father Scott Allen Torrence died of a ruptured brain aneurysm at age 31. Although the cause of David's passing is still under investigation this could be one explanation. According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation family history of brain aneurysm is one of the risk factors and although they are more likely in older age brain aneurysms and their rupture can occur at any age, even children.

David trained and competed around the world but considered Malibu his home. He ran collegiately at UC Berkeley. David set the Cal freshman record in the 1500 meters in 2004 with a time of 3:43.62 – a record that continues to stand more than 13 years later. He ran a personal-best 3:40.80 in the 1500 as a junior, which ranked No. 2 in school history at the time.

In addition, David established the Cal record in the mile in 2007, with his time of 3:58.62 breaking Don Bowden's 50-year-old mark of 3:58.7 from 1957. He was sponsored by HOKA ONE ONE. Originally he trained for the U.S. Olympic team before switching to Peru, where his mother holds citizenship.

In 2015, David, running for the United States, won a silver medal in the 5000 meters at the Pan American games in Toronto, while in 2014, he set an American record in the indoor 1000 meters (2:16.76).

He made the 1500-meter final at the 2016 Olympics and recently set Peruvian national records in the 1500 Meter and mile. He was ranked among the top 10 milers in the world this year.

When asked why he decided to represent Peru rather than the U.S. prior to the 2016 Olympic trials David said, "A big part of it is inspiring other people and athletes, non-athletes and kids. I kind of realized that whether or not I make the U.S. team, the [American public](#) as a whole is going to have heroes to look up to. The U.S. can send a full team in the 1500, a full team in the 5k, a full team in every sport across the Olympic Games, right? It's expected of Americans to be there.

"Whereas in Peru, they only have a handful of athletes. I think there's 12 track athletes now, maybe under 20 in total across all sports. So me running for Peru and being someone who can make a final in events that [Peruvians](#) typically have not been good at, I really hope to have a much greater impact on that population, on those people, on those kids and I can hopefully change the running culture out there a little bit and also kind of introduce the idea of professional track because it's really not well-known, the sport."

He was also one of track and field's most active advocates of clean sport. In 2014 Torrence briefly trained with Jama Aden, a Somalian who coaches some of the fastest runners in the world, including Genzebe Dibaba, the 26-year-old Ethiopian world-record holder in the 1500 meters. Torrence became uncomfortable with what he experienced at a training camp in Spain. He quietly left the coach and went to authorities with his concerns. Eventually, partly because of Torrence's help, Aden was arrested by police in a doping raid.

"Just this month when he was in doping control at the world championships, an IAAF official he worked with on the Aden case approached David about becoming a clean sport ambassador in South America," Soos said. "He was excited about that opportunity. His legacy in terms of clean sport is clear to see."

Torrence was well-liked among fellow runners and fans of the sport. Many took to Twitter to tell stories and share their grief of his passing.

Fellow HOKA athlete Kyle Merber, and director of the HOKA Long Island Mile announced the 2017 men's elite mile in Long Island, New York, has been renamed the David Torrence Mile to continue his legacy. He was the two-time champion of that event and a good friend of Merber's. He set the event record at 3:53.91 in 2015, and was training to defend his title at the time he passed away. 10 Olympians participated in this year's David Torrence Mile on September 6 and each of the 12 runners in the mile event had the letters "DT" on their runner's bibs as they raced around the track in rain.

These were his friends -- the world-class milers who'd gathered on this humble track in a high school in Suffolk County to celebrate his life -- said Merber, who grew up nearby in Dix Hills and organized the event for the third straight year. This was the way Merber believed David would have wanted it.

"He would have liked this," said Tony Viviano, who'd roomed with Torrence at the University of California at Berkeley and wore Torrance's Peru national team training jersey after travelling from Washington, D.C.

"Everything that people have said about him is true. But the thing that (sticks out) is his energy and enthusiasm. This event really bottles that up."

Chris O'Hare of Scotland won the race in pelting rain. As O'Hare (3:56.22) rocketed toward the finish, he raised his arm upwards and pointed it at the sky. With a picture of that finish he tweeted afterward "This one is for you D.T."

David's mom Bianca and sister Sylvie were at David Torrence Mile dedication, flown there by HOKA. Bianca said, "We're very emotional."

"We're just glad and honored to be here to represent my son. I felt his spirit here tonight."

On September 10 Bianca and Sylvie were flying to Cal Berkeley for another Memorial for David.

Will Leer, a competitor and close friend of Torrence's, remembers how David always made time for fans. "The passion with which he competed and trained was the same passion with which he approached being an ambassador for the sport. I hope that is something we can all learn—this is a bit of a cult sport and it's a little bit of a strange sport. And the people who follow it are a little bit strange. But he returned the love to them. He was so good at it. We could all do better."

Chanelle Price, an 800-meter specialist who was an Altis teammate, called Torrence the glue that held their group together. The two began training at Altis during the fall last year, but it wasn't until January, when Price was hospitalized with a [pulmonary embolism](#), that she grew closer to him as a friend.

"He surprised me at the hospital—I wasn't expecting that because I had only known him for two months," Price said. "He came with magazines and chocolate and his upbeat spirit. He sat with me for hours, keeping me company. That meant a lot to me and our friendship grew from there."

At practice, usually all the athletes are on the track at the same time—sprinters, jumpers, throwers, hurdlers, and runners. But Torrence usually was the outlier, the one who ran farthest and had the most grueling workouts.

"Everybody cheered when David was on the track," Price said. "He was on his own because nobody could stick with him. I remember thinking, 'He's crazy.' He'd even come on my workout days to cheer our group on. He'd hop in on the track and start pacing my intervals if he saw me struggling. He was so giving and just truly loved to run."

Leer said that the only thing Torrence was more competitive at than running was trying to be a good friend.

"Nobody really knows what it is to be the perfect friend, but damn it, David wanted to find out," Leer said. "If that meant somebody inviting him over for a game night and playing board games for five hours straight, he was in. Also, he just really loved board games."

Lea Wallace, who was among those closest to Torrence, concurred.

"If there is one thing I learned from David Torrence, he taught me how to love with all my heart," she said, in a text message.

After that failed attempt at the Spartan Race two years ago, Torrence called up Leer and wife Aisha (Praught) Leer, an Olympic steeplechaser for Jamaica, who were then living in Oregon. With a training break in full swing, he decided to come for a weeklong visit.

The trio piled in the car one day in search of hot springs. Torrence sat in the middle seat in the back so he could talk more easily with the Leers. Suddenly he put a hand on each of their shoulders and leaned forward.

"He said, 'You know what? I really love you guys,'" Leer said, choking up. "It was the sweetest thing. That's just who he was.

"He was just such a lover."



David's spirit lives on with friends and running advocates around the world. One of David's friends and fellow runner at Cal Berkeley was Alysia Montaña (née Johnson). Alysia started a GoFundMe campaign when she heard of David's passing.

“David always gave all he had to his family, friends, and fans. Now it is our chance to give back and honor him.

“David was a man with big ideas and many of us have the desire to honor David's mission and memory with ideas of our own, but for now, you can help with this fund that has been created to eliminate all costs the Torrence family will incur related to David's Passing.”

Within 2 weeks over \$20,000 was raised. To contribute to the GoFundMe campaign for David go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/jjgzb-davids-memorial-fund>

A private memorial service is planned for David on Saturday October 7 at the Malibu Jewish Center in Malibu. David had friends throughout the world, wherever there were running tracks and places to train for them, and the other runners in the track world considered David a friend even though he was a competitor. This service is for them to honor David.

Those attending this service should have responded to the RSVP link previously given.

The latest on the planned Halloween Party Fund Raiser



**CALAMIGOS BEACH CLUB &  
THE MALIBU ROTARY CLUB PRESENT  
FRIDAY OCT 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**HALLOWEEN  
PARTY**

**KBUU-FM MALIBU SURF TEAM** **MALIBU SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

**SURPRISE GIFT FOR BEST COSTUME**

**SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS**  
**BRANDON JENNER | CLAIRE & CAMILLE ANNEET**  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES - TED SILVERBERG**

**\$75 PER PERSON / \$125 FOR TWO | 7 - 11 PM | FOOD & DRINK & VALET**  
**CALAMIGOS BEACH CLUB - (FORMERLY BEAURIVAGE)**  
**26025 PACIFIC COAST HWY ~ MALIBOO**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: JOY 714-875-4127 TICKETS: [WWW.MALIBURROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.MALIBURROTARY.ORG)**



The planning and details of the October 27 Malibu Rotary Club Halloween Party Fund Raiser were discussed at the past several meetings of the Malibu Rotary Club and at least part of the meetings leading up to the event. The October 4<sup>th</sup> Rotary Club meeting will be entirely devoted to plans for the October 27<sup>th</sup> event, the listing of auction items and needs to met

Tickets are available on line at the Malibu Rotary Club Web site [Maliburotary.org](http://Maliburotary.org) for \$75.00 per person or \$125.00 per couple) at the Calamigos Beach Club. In order to make this a profitable non-profit event for the club we need to get at least 125 paid attendees, have great auction items (silent and live) and limit complimentary tickets. Because of the cost of the venue the club could lose money if enough tickets are not sold. It is important that everyone encourages their friends and family to buy tickets.

A link for the event registration and payment can be done though the Malibu Rotary club website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org). EventBrite will adds a processing fee on each order, which is \$5.12 on \$75.00 tickets or \$8.86 on a couple (the \$125.00 per couple tickets). Other event sponsors are Calamigos Beach Club and Malibu's radio station KBUU 97.5 FM which streams live on the internet at <http://www.radiomalibu.net/>.

The Malibu Rotary Club Calamigos Beach Club Halloween Fund Raiser online registration link went live on Friday September 1. It currently shows details and map of the event and will soon start to show auction items.

Current details of the event posted are:

Our 2nd Halloween party to raise funds for local causes such as Malibu Sharks Surf Team, Malibu High and Middle school scholarships, KBUU-FM and other amazing Malibu causes.

- Spooky Halloween Party at the beach
- Special Musical Guests Brandon and Claire & Camille Anneet, winners of the 2017 Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition
- Dancin' to the DJ's grooviest tunes
- Silent & Live auctions
- Huge taco bar
- Beer, wine, nonalcoholic drinks INCLUDED in ticket price
- Free parking
- The world's best MC--Ted Silverberg
- Special prizes for wearing costumes!

Come help support our local people!

Space and tickets are limited to 140 people to this special event held at Calamigos Beach Club (formerly Beaurivage).

The link to the eventbrite site: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-malibu-rotary-club-halloween-event-2017-tickets-37440830532>.

## Halloween Fund Raiser Auction Items

*These are the tentative Silent Auction Items as of September 17, 2017 a more accurate list will be presented October 4*

Items Mostly Promised—when confirmed items will be posted on Maliburotary.org.

1. 98% angel—diaper bag
2. Hiptique—something
3. Vintage Grocers--\$100 gift certificate
4. A and B Hardware—Tool Box
5. Country Kitchen--\$25.00 Cash (can be placed in tool box)
6. Malibu Divers
7. Zuma Jay
8. Lenox Vase
9. Ogden Cleaners gift certificate \$50
10. Dr John W Elman Optometrist Exam \$114.00
  
11. 2 Tickets to Kings match
  
12. Norman Rockwell American Bear Working

1. Laker Tickets
2. Kings Tickets
3. Kristy's Restaurant
4. Malibu Racquet Club Restaurant (Sparrow)
5. Room at Malibu Beach
6. Café Luxxe
7. Everything but Water
8. P C Greens

Ideas for Items. (Please return an email to me with items you want to try. Pls “reply all”) Thx  
Carlye

1. Art Galleries—Flower & Hewes, Wall St. Gallery
2. Beauty---Beauty Collection, L'Occitane, Sephora, etc.
3. Men Clothing—Malibu Lifestyles, RRL & Co, Canvas Men, etc.
4. Women Clothing---Madison, Calypso St. Barth, Canvas Women, etc.
5. Men and Women Clothing—360 Cashmere, J Crew, James Pearce, Vince, etc.
6. Gifts---Malibu Colony Co., Design Public, Burro; etc.
7. Jeans and Such---7 for All Mankind, Levi's, True Religion
8. Jewelry—Alexis Bittar, Chrome Hearts, Vintage Malibu, Malibu Colony Co., etc.
9. Beauty---Nail Care, Nail Spa, Polished, Salon at Malibu Creek, etc.
10. Restaurants—Tra da Noi, Malibu Farm, Geoffrey's, Ollies Duck and Dive, John's Garden, Moonshadows, Marmalade, Mr. Chow, Kaishin, Ollo's, Traven 1, Tramonto, Gravina, Casa Escobar, Lily's Café, Paradise Cove, Neptune's Net

11. Wine Tasting Certificates, Wines; Cielo, Malibu Family Wines, Malibu Solstice, Rosenthal etc.
12. Hotels—Calamigos Ranch, Malibu Beach Inn, Malibu Country Inn, Malibu Motel, etc.
13. Other Sports Tickets

Joy Arcenas is donating a carved Chess Set.

After the meeting Carlye sent an e-mail of the following items she has obtained for the auction:

...Tool box, Country Kitchen \$25, Ogden Cleaners \$50, Norman Rockwell Teddy Bear, Lenox Vase, Vintage Grocers \$100

Working on...P C. Greens \$100, Sparrow Lunch, Tramonto Dinner

## **Other Malibu Rotary News and Guests**

**In celebration of International Peace Day Thursday September 21 there a special showing of Alex Ayzin's Winds of Freedom at the Hermosa Beach Community Theater.**

One day after being inducted into the Malibu Rotary Club as a member Alex Ayzin was at Peace One Day and the Rotary Clubs of South Bay present a screening of Alex Ayzin's Winds of Freedom Symphonic [Multimedia Presentation](#) at the Hermosa Beach Community Theater Peace One Day and Rotary Clubs of South Bay is a collaboration between two heart-centered organizations – one relatively new and one long-established. This collaboration brings to Los Angeles the only Peace Day event. Rotary Past District Governor Vicki Davis Radel posted these pictures on her facebook page



HERMOSA BEACH  
*Playhouse*

P R E S E N T S

**"WINDS OF  
FREEDOM"**

**BY AYZIN & ALLMAN**

**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE  
SPONSORED BY**

**SOUTH BAY ROTARY CLUBS**

**BOX OFFICE & THEATRE ENTRANCE**



## Guests

Guests at the September 27 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club were the day's speaker **Bengt Halen** of the Perstorp Rotary Club in the Netherlands, and **Sarah Mirembe**, a student in the Pepperdine Graduate School of Public Policy.

**CALENDAR (see up to date calendar on [maliburotary.org](http://maliburotary.org))**

**October 4 2017 Margo Neal and Dave Zielski -- Club Assembly—Planning for October 27 Halloween Fund Raiser**

**October 7, 2017 David Torrence Memorial at Malibu Jewish Center (invited guests who have RSVP'd only)**

**October 18 2017- Bob Donovan- Operation Gratitude** Operation Gratitude seeks to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of the U.S. Military and First Responder communities and provide volunteer opportunities for Americans to express their appreciation to all who serve our nation.

**October 25 2017 Halloween Fund Raiser Final Planning meeting**

**October 27 2017 Halloween Fund Raiser at Calimigos Beach 7 to 11 p.m.**

**Buy tickets online**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-malibu-rotary-club-halloween-event-2017-tickets-37440830532>**

**November 1 2017 Alex Ayzin “Selling a Business”** We already know that Malibu Rotary Club's newest member Russian born Alex Ayzin, has a passion for world peace in the creation of his Winds of Freedom video. He is also the Executive Director of Frontier Brokers, a brokerage company that specializes in selling businesses ([www.frontierbrokers.com](http://www.frontierbrokers.com) and [www.gasstationsellers.com](http://www.gasstationsellers.com)). At the Nov 1 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club Alex will tell us about that aspect of his life--factors in buying and selling a business