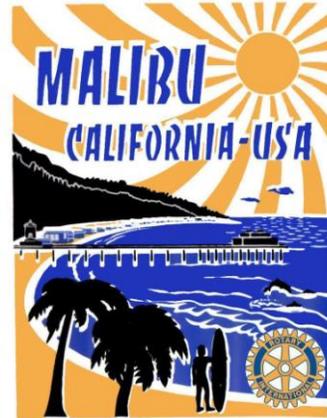




**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**



*The Award Winning*

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

September 6 2017

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President Bianca Torrence  
Pictures by John Elman and Joy Arcenas

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

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- **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**

## **Running World and Rotary Mourn Passing of David Torrence**

GoFundMe Campaign Started



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 Somali 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 Torrence'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.”

To contribute to the GoFundMe campaign for David go to:

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

A memorial service is being planned for David on Saturday October 7 at the Malibu Jewish Center 24855 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265. More details about this will be announced later.

## **Preparing for The Rotary District Governor's Visit**

Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari is be visiting the Malibu Rotary Club on September 20. The governor will be the speaker that day and also meet separately with the Malibu Rotary Club Board of Directors. The meeting will be in LC 155 and the meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. There will be Fellowship at 7:30 a.m. and the Board meeting with the governor separately at 9:00 a.m.

Malibu Rotary Club President-Elect (and current treasurer) Carlye Rudkin sent club members the following e-mail on Thursday September 7:

*Good Morning,*

*In preparation for the Governor's visit, will you prepare a one minute report on your involvement in the activities below. [Let's review at the meeting Sept. 12th and make any additions, changes as needed.](#)*

<i>David Z.</i>	<i>Upcoming Halloween Party Fundraiser</i>
<i>David B.</i>	<i>Foundation, RYLA, Million Dollar Dinner, Fleet Street Donation</i>
<i>Margo/Michelle.</i>	<i>Fire Academy Scholarship Grant and Presentation</i>
<i>Teresa.</i>	<i>Music Competition, Rotaract, Malibu High School Programs</i>
<i>Bill/Joy.</i>	<i>Chili Cook-Off</i>
<i>Allan.</i>	<i>Malibu City Council Forum/Grant Meeting attendance</i>
<i>John.</i>	<i>Secretary Report</i>
<i>Carlye</i>	<i>Treasurer Report</i>

*[At the Sept. 12th meeting I will also have a tentative meeting agenda for Sept. 20th.](#) We are all hopeful Bianca will be with us that day to run the meeting and by having this in place, she will have the meeting ready upon her return. We all feel so deeply for her and this is a chance to make things as easy for her as possible.*

Thank you and I look forward to your thoughts/ideas this Wednesday.  
Carlye

**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 AND LEAH 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**

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, including September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

David Zielski and Margo Neal were able to negotiate with the Calamigos Beach Club (formerly Beurivage) to make it an affordable, although still more expensive venue, than the Malibu West Beach Club, for our event. The ticket prices therefore had to be raised from the \$50.00 per person we were considering at the Malibu West Beach Club to \$75.00 per person or \$125.00 per couple) at the Calamigos Beach Club. At the Calamigos Beach Club, parking, food, and beverages are included, and our needs for volunteers is reduced. In order to make this an affordable event we need to get 140 paid attendees, have great auction items (silent and live) and limit complimentary tickets. David Zielski designed a poster which was ready for Chili-Cookoff

David also made arrangements with EventBrite.com to have attendees register and pay online and worked with John Elman so that a link for the event registration and payment can be done through the club website [www.maliburotary.org](http://www.maliburotary.org). EventBrite will add 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). In addition to the Calamigos Beach Club another sponsor of the event is 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 & Leah Jenner 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 Beurivage).

It directs people to buy tickets on line and has the link to the eventbrite site:

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

## Malibu Rotary Booth Chili Cook Off



Above John Elman, Rudolpho Lopez, Joy Arcenas, and Bill Wishard at the Malibu Rotary Club booth at the 2017 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Malibu Kiwanis Club Chili Cook Off. Besides selling water, watermelon slices, and watermelon juice the Malibu Rotary Club booth this year also sold Artisan Mexican Ice Cream bars, the invention of Rudolpho. Chair of this year's event was Margo Neal picture to left, holding poster for Halloween Fundraiser .

Joy Arcenas and Bill Managed to pick up and deliver materials for booth, including chairs and Ice tubs from Kate Corrodi, 35 watermelens from Vintage market. 15 cases of water, napkins etc. Besides Rotarians, duties at booth were helped by 2 Pepperdine Rotaractors, and also Peri Pierre from Haiti who was part of the UN Rotaract group before he became a graduate student at the Pepperdine film school. Also

helping was Sarah Mirembe from Uganda who is Master student at Pepperdine's School of



Public Policy. Accounting figures from Joy and Treasurer Carlye Rudkin indicate the net profit for the Malibu Rotary Club from the booth at the Chili Cook Off is a little over \$700.00

**Rudolpho's Artisan Mexican Ice Cream bars, which come in 13 flavors, mostly of nono-dairy fruit, was a popular, rare treat at the Malibu Rotary booth. People bought them on Saturday came back on Sunday for more.**

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

Every Malibu Rotary member in the district, in addition to their other contributions to the Rotary Foundation, is expected to give another \$20.00 towards the End Polio Now campaign. If each Rotarian contributes \$20.00 then the district goal of \$250,000 to end polio should be met.

David Baird is doing a minor Bill Gates matching grant thing, by matching all the Malibu Rotary Club members donations, and therefore effectively doubling them for the Polio campaign.

### **Guest**

**Pete Allman** was guest at the September 6 meeting. He has been speaking with Cozette about having Malibu Rotary Club be sponsor for grant he has been talking to Cozette about on the Global Peace messages in the "Winds of Freedom" video. He is hoping to have his partner **Alex Ayzin** inducted into the Malibu Rotary Club on September 20 when the District Governor visits.

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

**September 13th Malibu Rotary Club meeting 7:30 a.m. Pepperdine Graziadio Graduate campus meeting in Room EC 110 will be a Club Assembly – Malibu Rotary Club Events to be Discussed Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari visit on Septmeber 20<sup>th</sup> (Rotary Board members should be ready give reports to her), Report on Malibu Rotary Club Booth at Chili Cookoff Labor Day Weekend, Progress on Malibu Halloween Fund Raiser. No speakers scheduled for those meetings unless they are related to Halloween fund raiser.**

**September 20 2017 Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari “Make a Dream”**

Rotary District Governor Cozette Vergari theme for the 2017-2018 year is "Make a Dream." At this meeting she tells members of the Malibu Rotary Club and their guest about latest news from the Rotary District. Members of the Malibu Rotary Club Board and Committees tell the District Governor and her group what the Malibu Rotary Club plans are for this Rotary year.