



The Award Winning

## Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

September 10, 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

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

- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Wednesday September 10 room LC 152 (check entrance to building for any room change) at Pepperdine University Drescher Graduate campus. Speaker is Veera Mahajan, publisher of *Malibu Chronicle*. She will be talking about the self help book she recently published *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.” Fellowship begins at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at Noon sharp.**
- **Last week: Alison Gallwey Wishard Guerra Ph.D, Returns to Malibu to Talk About Early Childhood Educational Development, a topic about which she is a recognized authority.**

- **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**
- **Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.**
- **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 (2014-2015) Gary CK Huang**
  - **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2014-2015): Elsa Gilham**
  - **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Neil Godsey (2014-15)**

**Alison Gallwey Wishard Guerra Ph.D, Returns to Malibu to Talk about Early Childhood Educational Development, a topic about which she is a recognized authority.**



**Malibu native Alison Galwey Wishard Guerra Ph.D is flanked by her parents Malibu Rotary Club Past President William Wishard and Mary Wishard, who is Communications Manager for the Prem Rawat Foundation. Alison, who is Assistant Professor at UC San Diego in Education Studies, was the featured speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club on September 10. She talked about the importance of early childhood education—the education a child gets even before entering school at age 5.**

## **Development in the Early Years: Beating the Odds by Talking and Playing**

Alison's presentation is based on research she did while in writing her Ph.D dissertation at UCLA. She studied the achievement gap in educational abilities of children in different socio-economic groups, especially the gap in education in poorer Hispanic families and other kids.

In comparing summer reading test scores of middle income students to lower income students at each grade level the lower income students fell behind more each year. There are multiple reasons for this.

- Limited physical and social capital- Basic needs, parent education, and knowledge of school system.
- Poverty induced stress, economic instability, environmental chaos, experiences with discrimination, family/community violence
- Associated with poorer mental & physical health, and academic and social development.
- Early Adversity Alters Brain Architecture. Sustained stressors reduce size & density of prefrontal cortex: Logical reasoning, focus, Attention, Executive Function .
- Limited resources + High Stress → lower quality early environments

One Key to Learning is Vocabulary:

How many words do children know?

By the age of 3, High-income children have **DOUBLE THE VOCABULARY** of low-income children. In a 1955 study by Hart & Risely *Meaningful Differences in Everyday Lives*, they found that at an age of 36 months (3 years) children in welfare families had a vocabulary of 525 words; children in working class families had a vocabulary of 749 words; and children in the families of professionals had a vocabulary of 1116 words.

The preschool experience of the child has to do with care givers, usually the parents. How do the parents talk to the child? What is the vocabulary of the parents? A one year old child can expect to hear a 3 million word vocabulary from a low income parent; a 7 million word vocabulary from a working class parent; and a 12 million word vocabulary from a professional parent. As they get older a larger vocabulary is spoken to children in each economic group, but the difference in vocabulary spoken to children in different economic groups widens as they get older. By the time they are 3 years old there is a 30 million word vocabulary gap between the low income group and the professional group, this gap keeps widening. 4 year old children in the lower income group can expect to hear a 13 million word vocabulary; the 4 year old working class child can expect to hear a 26 million word vocabulary and the 4 year child in a professional family can expect to hear a 45 million word vocabulary.

There are two different categories of HOW parents talk to their infant children.

There is Business Talk (Ordinary instructions & directives: “Eat your dinner”, “Brush your teeth” “Time for bed”, “Clean up your toys”), and there is “Extra” Talk: (Conversations & story telling: “Do you remember when...?”. “What if...?” “Wouldn’t it be better if...?”).

There are no differences in “Business Talk” between the parents of children in the different economic groups. The 30-Million Word Gap is made up entirely of “Extra Talk” Extra talk in the first year of life is highly correlated to IQ scores.

Alison points out that most of the money that is invested in education is at the college level. Less is invested in high schools and even less in elementary schools and even less in preschool education. Yet her research shows that the most important learning takes place during the preschool age group. Of the 38 countries of the world in which data is available the United States ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the enrollment of 4 year olds in early learning. Less than 30% of 4-year olds in the US are enrolled in **high-quality** preschool programs. (NCES, 2010). Only 27% of low-income children attend Head Start; 65% of upper-income children attend preschool (Lee & Burkam, 2002). Latino children have lowest rates of attendance (38%) (Casey Foundation, 2013).

### **Barriers to Education Opportunities for Latino children**

Facts about early age educational opportunities for Latino children:

- 42% of incoming Kindergarteners in CA are Latino
- Lowest preschool enrollments
- Multiple risk factors in early education
- Lowest tests scores in Kindergarten, middle, and high school
- Attend urban schools with inexperienced and non-certified teachers
- Enroll in fewer college prep courses in High School
- Only 10% of Latinos enroll in college or university after high school

Alison is proud of a program she is involved with in the San Diego area: **Mi Clase Mágica** : It is University – Community Partnership which incorporates Research, Teaching, and Community Service for about 200 low-income children. It involves 100 UCSD undergrads, 2 preschools and 4 after-school programs

**UC Links** is a UC Wide initiative aimed at uniting research, teaching, and service to engage in college outreach and support under represented children in their academic pursuit.

Alison says of the program:

***UCSD Professors & Undergrads***

*I teach courses on child development and recruit undergrads who are interested in applying their knowledge to the field, to doing community service, and engaging in college outreach.*

***Research:***

*I conduct research on basic child development among low-income and underserved populations. Investigate innovative learning environments that promote school readiness and contribute to closing the achievement gap.*

***Who is Mi Clase Mágica?***

78 (mostly Spanish speaking) children attending Solana Beach HS

25 Native American children attending San Pasqual Reservation Child Development center

***What is Mi Clase Mágica?***

Language & Literacy Enrichment Program

Culturally relevant curriculum

Language rich environment

Close relationships build between UCSD Undergraduates and children

Story Telling & Book Making

Alison showed examples of the children's story telling, which they write down, illustrate, and make into books. At School: Vocabulary skills associated with emergent literacy and narrative skills. As children develop move vocabulary words, they also build reading and writing skills. At

Home: Parent Story Telling predicts child vocabulary

**Child Development by the Numbers**

**700**— **700** New Neural Connections per second in early childhood

**18**----- **8** months: Age at which disparities in vocabulary begin to appear

**90-100**-- **90-100%** Chance of Developmental Delays when children experience 6-7 Risk Factors

**3:1**-- **3:1** Odds of Adult Heart Disease after 7-8 adverse childhood experiences

**4-9**-- **\$4-9** Return on Investment for every Dollar invested in Early Childhood Programs

**Take Home Messages**

- **Early experiences at home and school MATTER**
- **Access to high quality early education is essential for ALL children**
- **Support legislation supporting early education**

- **Volunteer to support community programs supporting young children**

<http://ucsd.academia.edu/AlisonWishardGuerra>

## **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. **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, moved out of Malibu this month. 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**

- **Patrick Finer**
- **Craig Foster**
- **Laurie Lieberman**
- **Dhun May**



- Ralph Mechur
- Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein
- Oscar de la Torre

## Hollywood Halloween October 24<sup>th</sup>.

The chairmanship of this event has been changed from **Griselda Espinoza** to **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](http://www.maliburotary.org).



Beneficiaries of event, in addition to Rex and Friends (Rex will perform at event) are Malibu Youth Football and Malibu Surf Club.

### Happy Dollars

**Shannon Latson** had a Happy Dollar for going to her husband's 40<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion in Oklahoma

**Maggie Luckerath** had a Happy Dollar

## Other News and Guests at the Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

### Guests

Many guests came to this Malibu Rotary Club meeting to see the speaker Alison Wishard Guerra, who went to school in Malibu (Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, Malibu Park Junior



High) before going away to college (UC Santa Cruz). Some of her childhood friends came to see Alison. In all there were at least 29 people at the meeting, and we may have missed some who came in late.

Guests included **Jean-Jacques Retorne, Marie-Therese Retorne, Annalisa Averill** (a junior at Pepperdine Seaver College who was involved with RYLA and Interact while in high school in Colorado), **Yvonne Gelbman, Bianca Torrence, Leslie Butler, Christopher Rodgers, Chandra LaBerge, Mary Gallwey Wishard**, *Malibu Surfside News* Associate Editor **Chris Bashaw** and Malibu Rotary Club Past Presidents **Rex Levi and Dennis Torres**.

## **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-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

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)

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](http://www.maliburotary.org))

Veera Mahajan Sep 17, 2014

Learning to L.I.V.E. -- A Journey....

Veera writes:

"I am Veera Mahajan. I have been in Malibu for almost 4 years. I moved here from Michigan after my divorce from a long marriage of 23 years. On the surface my life and marriage looked like a model life. My family lived in a mansion that was 27000 sq ft house. We were educated and very successful. 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 multi media magazine called Malibu Chronicle. My magazine focus on All Good News. It gives me a voice and I share that voice with others. I helps anyone who has a good story to tell to use my magazine to have a voice too.

"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.

"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. '

General Assembly Sep 24, 2014

Charity/Community Allocations

PDG Rick Mendoza Oct 01, 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.

SMMUSD Candidates Forum at 6:00 p.m. in LC 155 Oct 15, 2014

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

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Joanne Gary Oct 22, 2014

Common Core Curriculum

Professor Darlene Rivas Nov 05, 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.

- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2529/Speakers#sthash.p7srBaYI.dpuf>