



The Award Winning  
Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter  
March 18, 2015

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu  
Malibu Rotary Club President Margo Neal

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Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman

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- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be March 25 in Pepperdine University Malibu Upper Drescher Graduate Campus LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m and meeting starting at 12:00 noon. Life Coach Allison Kim will speak about Life-Work Balance When Your Lifestyle Demands More Than What's Humanly Possible**
- **Other News and Guests at Malibu Rotary Club**
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- **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

## Margo Neal Presents Highlights of Her Recent Humanitarian Trip With Rotary District 5280 Rotarians To Guatemala



Malibu Rotary Club President Margo is wearing and holding some of the items she brought back with her when she joined 130 Rotarians from local Rotary District 5280 on a Humanitarian Trip to Guatemala Feb 5 through Feb 9.

The Rotarians were all given the yellow t-shirts before they left, and the items Margo is holding were all handmade thank you gifts from children who were helped by various Rotary projects in Guatemala sponsored by Rotary clubs in the Los Angeles area.

The district has a trip each year to a different country. Margo said several of the people on her trip go every year. She said she had fun but it was exhausting. The flight left Los Angeles at 12:30 a.m.

and landed at 9:30 a.m. in Guatemala. Then there was a 2 hour bus ride up a mountain, and then a 2 hour tour. The 5 star hotel was owned by a Rotarian, and was part hotel and part museum. There were several Rotary projects in the area, and Margo said she enjoyed the ones involving kids. The Malibu Rotary Club donated \$250.00 for back packs and before Margo left, Malibu Rotarians brought items to put into the bags. She and the other Rotarians were allotted extra luggage space for these items, and they were well received when they got to their destination.

In her slide presentation Margo showed a bookcase and books that were donated by Rotary.

Margo said she enjoyed having lunch with the kids. They went to several places for several different Rotary projects. One of the more moving experiences occurred when they distributed wheelchairs, which were donated by faith based group Hope Haven International which is located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In giving thanks for her wheel chair the recipient said, "You freed me from the earth!"

There was a lot of poverty, but not everywhere. Saturday night Rotarians enjoyed a dinner at the private hacienda of the widow of a Rotarian.

The Rotary group took buses to 3 small planes to go to Tikal. Tikal is the ruins of an ancient city found in a rainforest in Guatemala. It is one of the largest archaeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, dating back to 400 BC. Our own David Zielski, whose company Raincatcher brings clean drinking water to people by harvesting (and filtering) rainwater might be interested in Tikal's early public works project. One of the largest of the Classic Maya cities, Tikal had no water other than what was collected from rainwater and stored in ten reservoirs. Archaeologists working in Tikal during the 20th century refurbished one of these ancient reservoirs to store water for their own use. So Dave, if you go there, just bring the filters—they already have the reservoirs!

When it was time to go back to their hotel Rotarians on who visited Tikal were told there was a "Change of plans." They would not be going back to the hotel that evening. A volcano had erupted making it unsafe to return to the hotel, but not to worry. There was a nearby 4 star hotel owned by a Rotarian. It had a lake front view and they would have to pay for the room—it was not included in their all inclusive tour price. So how much for this 4 star hotel? Would you believe \$16.00?

On Monday morning the Rotarians viewed the Joya Verde Sanitation Project, bringing clean water to homes, delivered backpacks and school supplies to schools, and repaired and painted the playground for kids.

Next January the Rotary District humanitarian trip will go to Panama.

## **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**

### **"3-2-1- Go To End Polio" Day at Griffith Park on March 21**

**Margo Neal, Bianca Torrence, Bill Wishard and Tom Bos** represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the special Rotary District "3-2-1- Go To End Polio" Day at Griffith Park on March 21. The district event was part of world wide Rotary event, with activities scheduled around the planet to help raise money and awareness for Rotary's effort to end polio. The local district event was a 5 K / 10 K Run or Walk and Family Festival with the Start and Finish Line at

Griffith Park at Chrystal Springs. There was also a 1 mile fun walk and lunch by IN-N-Out Burger and a raffle. All proceeds went go to END POLIO NOW, a humanitarian program of Rotary International to eradicate polio worldwide. At least 400 people participated in the district 5 K/10 K Run or Walk and thousands worldwide.

### **Bill Wishard appointed Rotary District Special Olympics Chair**

Bill Wishard is coordinating Rotary District efforts for the Special Olympics games being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015. Bill will be asked to speak about this at the Rotary District Breakfast March 31 at the City Club in Los Angeles, and at the District Assembly on June 20<sup>th</sup>. There are several ways for Rotarians to participate as volunteers, and we will be hearing more about this in the near future.

### **Guests at the last Malibu Rotary Club**

Among the guests at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting Feb March 18 **Joanne Gary** who had spoken to the club in October on Common Core in schools, and two frequent visitors winter guest PDG **Tom Bos** Holland Michigan, and **Chris Bashaw** who reports and is photographer for the *Malibu Surfside News*.

### **Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher**

Clean drinking water is a problem affecting millions of people around the world. A Malibu company, RainCatcher, is trying to solve the problem in an efficient manner. Much of their work has been in Africa. 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. 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](http://maliburotary.org))

**March 25 2015 Coach Allison (Kim)** “Life-Work Balance--When Your Lifestyle Demands More Than What’s Humanly Possible”

**March 31 2015 at City Club in Los Angeles**

**Last Rotary District Breakfast of this Rotary year**—featuring the Rotary Youth Organizations (Rotaract and Internact)

**April 1 2015 Marshall Thompson and Brad Davis**

**Emergency Preparedness Network in Malibu**

Marshall Thompson, a writer, producer, director and photographer will be bringing Brad Davis, City of Malibu Emergency Services Coordinator to the Malibu Rotary Club meeting on April 1 to talk about the Emergency Preparedness Network in the City of Malibu.

**May 6, 2015-03-15**

**Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder**

**Wishtoyo Foundation--Preserving Chumash Culture in Malibu**

"Wishtoyo was founded in 1997 by Chumash ceremonial elder, Mati Waiya and our mission is to address modern day environmental issues by preserving and utilizing the ancient wisdom of Chumash culture and inspiring the public and its youth to have environmental awareness and responsibility for sustaining the health of our land, air, and water. At the heart of our programming is the Chumash Discovery Village, an authentic recreation of a working Native American village next to Nicholas Canyon Beach in Malibu. We provide education programming to over 3,000 school children per year and we open our doors to the general public one Sunday per month. Our board members include: Beau Bridges (actor), Terry Tamminen (Schwarzenegger administration), Carole Goldberg (Vice Chancellor UCLA), Debora Sanchez (Supreme Court Judge) and David Kaplan

(Surfdog Records). For more information about us, you can visit our website at [www.wishtoyo.org](http://www.wishtoyo.org) or see us in the Malibu

