

## MALIBU LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES

**DR. MICHAEL SHERMER**  
 Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
 Malibu Library Community Room  
 23519 Civic Center Way  
 7:00pm

**The Believing Brain:**  
 From Ghosts, Gods, and Aliens to Conspiracies, Economics, and Politics -  
 How the Brain Constructs Beliefs and Reinforces Them as Truths



Dr. Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, the Executive Director of the Skeptics Society, a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, and Adjunct Professor at Claremont Graduate University and Chapman University.

Dr. Shermer received his B.A. in psychology from Pepperdine University, M.A. in experimental

psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and his Ph.D. in the history of science from Claremont Graduate University. He has appeared on such shows as *The Colbert Report*, *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Charlie Rose*, and *Larry King Live*.

**APRIL 23**

**JESSE BILLAUER**  
 Malibu Library Community Room

**RAFE ESQUITH**  
 Malibu Civic Theater

**MAY 21**

For more information or to make a reservation,  
 please call the Malibu Public Library at  
 (310) 456-6438.



PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF MALIBU  
 AND THE MALIBU PUBLIC LIBRARY



For ADA accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter or materials in an alternate format, call 562-940-8462 (voice) or 562-940-8477 (TTY), M-F, 8-5, at least six days prior to event.

## News briefs

From page A3

- light hours, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Plumbing fixtures should be fixed of any leaks; owners of indoor and outdoor fixtures should not permit water leakage.
- Limit irrigation so that it does not run off into streets, gutters or adjacent properties.
- Hoses used for home car washes must have trigger nozzles.
- Washing down sidewalks, parking areas and driveways is not permitted.
- Pools and spas may not be emptied and refilled with water; only topping off is permitted.
- Drinking water may not be used to refill ponds, fountains or artificial lakes.
- Drinking water may only be served at restaurants, hotels and cafes upon customer request.

According to the city, the goal of these conservation policies is to reduce dependence on imported water throughout the Los Angeles coastal area. More details can be found on the city's website.

### AMPS hires fundraising director

Advocates for Malibu Public Schools (AMPS), a grassroots nonprofit group of Malibu parents and residents seeking to form an independent Malibu school district, announced Friday the hiring of a development director to oversee fundraising for the organization. The new hire becomes the second employee for AMPS.

Karen Dunphy comes to AMPS with eight years of "senior development experience in the Los Angeles area," and a frequent volunteer for support groups, according to an AMPS press release. She was a founding member of the Rape Treatment Support Group in Santa Monica and volunteered for more than 12 years at the Stuart House in Santa Monica.

"We are thrilled to have Karen join our team, as we begin the next phase of our efforts to create a new school district and improve the education of all students in the current district" stated Craig Foster, President of AMPS. "Karen will oversee fundraising for AMPS, and she will also be available to assist our local PTA's and school-booster organizations in identifying fundraising opportunities as part of AMPS commitment to support all

Malibu schools."

Dunphy will "manage marketing efforts, volunteer development, and community outreach," according to an AMPS statement. She joins AMPS staffer Alexia Burton, whose job duties include developing outreach programs and managing the AMPS organization.

AMPS is a nonprofit organization founded in 2011 when frustration with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education peaked following several conflicts involving Malibu, spurring parents to revive old plans for an independent Malibu district.

### LA County reservoirs fill during storms, but more water needed

Though heavy rainstorms two weeks ago dropped six billion gallons of water into reservoirs in the San Gabriel Mountains, experts claim that drought worries in Los Angeles County are far from over.

The *LA Times* has reported that the collected rainfall, enough to supply more than 150,000 people for a year, does not make up for the shortfall after 2013's historic drought.

Although 6 billion gallons may sound impressive, the county usually captures 68 billion gallons in one rainy season.

Officials at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works say that although the rainfall helped to fill dams that were down to minimum levels, the best way to measure water levels is looking at underground wells that water feeds into.

According to the *LA Times*, county officials will examine levels of water in wells to assess whether the allocations of water to local districts such as Malibu will have to be reduced come July.

### Local assemblyman speaks up for whales

Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) introduced a bill on Friday that would end whale shows in California.

The proposed bill, which Malibu-area representative Bloom unveiled at a press conference on the Santa Monica Pier, would end orca breeding and the import and export of orcas into and out of the state. The

proposed bill comes in response to a recent public outcry about the impact that captivity and performance schedules have on the giant mammals.

"These beautiful creatures are much too large and far too intelligent to be confined to concrete pools for their entire lives," Bloom said.

Advocates say that intense schedules, small pools and separation of family members is detrimental to the well-being of the creatures.

The bill was at least partially a result of the critically acclaimed documentary "Blackfish," which scrutinizes the lives of orca whales in captivity focusing on one that played a role in the deaths of two SeaWorld trainers. The film led Point Dume Marine Science School in Malibu to cancel its annual field trip to SeaWorld.

The film's director, Gabriela Coperthwaite, and two SeaWorld trainers were also on-hand at the conference.

The film alone was not enough for him, he said. When he was asked to carry the bill, he reached out to the scientific community.

Dr. Naomi Rose, one of the members of that scientific community, spoke at the conference explaining that the sagging dorsal fin of a captive whale is not, as some believe, a sign that it's sad.

"It is a symptom of captivity and the result of simple, inevitable, gravity," she said. "A force that has little power over wild orcas who spend most of their time below the sea."

Bloom is optimistic about the bill's chances.

SeaWorld released a statement about Bloom's press conference, calling some of those on hand "well-known, extreme animal rights activists."

Bloom, during the press conference, said that the bill is not an attack on SeaWorld.

"It's not trying to harm SeaWorld and its business model," he said. "SeaWorld is a \$3 billion corporate business. It has facilities throughout the United States, and I am confident that SeaWorld can carry on without this one element of the many things that it does."

A version of this story originally appeared in the *Santa Monica Daily Press*.

*Join The Challenge*  
**Get in shape before summer!**  
 FREE personal training with sign up

- Ocean Views
- Personal TV's on Cardio
- Free Classes
- Pilates Studio
- Spinning Studio
- Personal Trainers
- Free Weights & Circuit
- Private Steam Rooms
- Infrared Sauna
- Massage
- Outdoor Spinning
- Body Sculpt
- Yoga
- Fusion
- Pilates Mat
- Body Bar

**MALIBU HEALTH CLUB**  
 Free Day Pass  
 Get Started Today  
 Call For Special Rates • Free Classes

22917 PCH #220, Malibu  
**310.456.7721**

## Smart Gardening Workshop

The City of Malibu and LA County invite you, your family, neighbors, and friends to a FREE workshop. Learn about organic gardening, landscaping with native friendly and drought tolerant plants, and integrated pest management (alternative pest control methods).

- Backyard compost bins and worm compost bins will be for sale at discounted rates after the class (check or cash only).
- Learn more about Smart Gardening at [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com)

WORKSHOP IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Malibu City Hall, Multi-Purpose Room**  
 23825 Stuart Ranch Road  
 Saturday, March 15, 2014  
 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

For more information about programs offered by the City of Malibu Environmental Sustainability Department, visit [www.malibucity.org](http://www.malibucity.org) or call (310) 456-2489