

Guest Column

The time is now

Guest Editorial | Amy Alcini

It is time for us, as a nation, to decide on the collective set of values and obligations America stands upon, and stands up for. No one can do this important, introspective and thoughtful work for us, but ourselves.

There are currently over 52,000 unaccompanied children that have crossed the U.S. border since October 2013. This is a 92% increase from the same time last year. These children have come mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Honduras. The top three cities are all located in Honduras, which is currently the murder capital of the world. In Guatemala, 30% of its people are living on less than \$2 per day.

These are clearly places on

our planet where violence and aggression have become a staple. This is not an immigration crisis, as much as it is part of an on going and massive international refugee crisis that has been expanding across many global borders. As Americans, we find ourselves faced with a humanitarian crisis of responsibility and obligation that some, including our elected officials, seem to not want to look at, or care to understand, the root cause of the global refugee crisis. What we may want to discuss (particularly inside the beltway) is not the “speedy removal” as President Obama stated as part of his \$3.7 billion proposed plan, but the collective values and obligations we have as American citizens, and what we would like reflected as it relates to the influx of refugees fleeing their countries in real humanitarian need.

We, in collaboration with our government, must now craft and focus our thinking on how we as a nation want to stand on the issue of refugees. Let’s put aside the violence, murder and poverty for a moment and look at the climate refugee issue that we as a nation are also a part of. By 2050, it is predicted that 150-200 million people will become climate refugees. This statistic is currently being used by the IPCC, the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, as well as

NGOs—including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace Germany, UNESCO, UNHCR and many others—as a guide to what we will be facing in the upcoming decades.

There is a clear and present danger to our humanity as a whole if we as a nation do not take the time for the thoughtful introspection needed to address our obligation on this issue as a participant on the world stage. Refugee issues from humanitarian causes to climate changes are on track to become one of the most important, pressing and reoccurring issues of our nation today and for children into the coming decades.

Instead, it seems our government is looking to adopt a Band-Aid approach that will most likely extend unnecessary suffering and accomplish little. It is my prayer that we as a nation begin to focus our attention to the state of what is real in preparation for the safety and protection of human life that is now being threatened by the ever-growing number of refugees, already displaced by corrupt and dangerous political systems, as well as the significant changes in our world’s climate.

Amy Alcini is founder and CEO at Politics of Conscience. She is a writer and political activist.



Letters to the Editor

The Malibu Times requests that letters to the editor be sent by U.S. mail or hand-delivered to The Malibu Times, 3864 Las Flores Canyon Rd., Malibu, CA 90265; e-mailed to malibunews@malibutimes.com or by fax to 310.456.8986. Name, address and phone number must be included with all letters for verification purposes. Typed letters must use sentence case (please avoid submitting correspondence typed entirely in capital letters or in cursive). Letters should be brief, 350 words maximum, and may be edited for clarity or length. Deadlines are Tuesdays at noon.

Too late to cover up

The following was sent as a letter to SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon.

It was last October when all of us parents and you gathered in the auditorium of Malibu High School and you assured us, moved to tears, that you personally will take care of the looming environmental danger as soon as humanly possible.

It has been nine months and nothing on your behalf has been done, except writing letters, statements of appeal and heavily lawyering up to the tune of several hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars (your own statement).

Thanks to Malibu Unites, who released test results to the public, letting us all know how high the PCB count really was, we all were informed of how much toxic danger the students and staff have been exposed to for a long period of time.

After the test results were released, we expected the officials to be shocked and immediately willing to do everything possible. Instead we got rejection, opposition and everything but help. Why do we get the feeling that there must be something certain people want to cover up, instead of try to openly disclose to the public?

Now we just found out that test levels at the schools are way beyond legal limits, and instead of being thankful that at least one organization was capable of gathering data and finally valid test results, you are blaming them that the samples were gathered without your knowledge.

Does anybody really care how the samples were gathered as long as our children and teachers are safe?

Furthermore, it raises the question, what kind of benefit you and your organization gain in not testing properly and/or trying to cover up facts constantly?

We seriously doubt that in that stage you can prevent a scandal and firmly believe that it is time to cooperate and finally come forward with the truth.

The property taxes we are paying in Malibu are high enough and the least you would expect is a safe school environment for our children.

We as parents and you as the superintendent have the responsibility to take care of our children and staff.

Peter and Lea Wolf-Millesi

Clearing the air

The following was sent as a letter to the SMMUSD Board.

In light of the recent disclosures of high levels of toxins at both MHS and Juan Cabrillo, it is imperative that the SMMUSD Board clear up a rumor that has been circulated within Malibu by district staff.

District staff has repeatedly told Malibu residents and representatives of the EPA that the district is not able to immediately start the removal of PCBs at the schools due to a Coastal Commission appeal introduced by the Malibu Community Alliance (MCA). This representation is not accurate.

The MCA appeal at the Coastal Commission only concerns the district’s plans for lighting on the MHS campus. It has nothing to do with plans to remodel any of the school buildings. The Coastal Commission understands our lighting concerns and asked the district to deliver an updated lighting plan to the Commission. Despite promising 10 months ago that this new lighting plan was forthcoming, it has still not yet been delivered. So today our appeal is still active.

In 2013 when the MCA learned of the toxin problem at MHS, we immediately communicated with the district and the Coastal Commission informing them that we would cooperate with the district to ensure our appeal did not hinder any efforts necessary to remediate toxins found at the high school. We have never deviated from that position.

The district is solely in control as to when it will begin any neces-

sary remediation efforts at MHS and Juan Cabrillo. We encourage you to direct your staff to be more truthful in future conversations with the public and with government officials.

We also encourage you to comprehensively test all possible contaminated source material immediately and devise a thorough remediation plan with complete transparency as to the use of the bond funds.

We are certain you agree that sending teachers and young children into classrooms that are harmful to their health would be unconscionable.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Cami Winikoff
President, Malibu Community Alliance

Asking for help

The following was sent as a letter to SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon.

Thanks for this politically correct answer, but parents are neither confused nor incompetent; many of us have master’s degrees or PhDs and we are not lobbying for any interest group.

“Standards” are nice to have as a kind of guideline, but we all have a problem here, which will not disappear by pointing to such standards and agencies. Our kids don’t have the time and can’t risk their health to prove existing test standards wrong.

Imagine if your own kids had to return to school in four weeks, and have had various symptoms develop throughout the last two years of attending the schools. And you as parent now have to explain to them that this is perfectly fine, nothing to worry about, because some test protocols, agencies and the Superintendent say so.

We need a solution here—not a legal defense, no finger pointing, no political agendas and no blame

See Letters, page A7

From the Web

Editor’s note: The following are comments responding to articles posted on malibutimes.com.

Who is voting?

Malibu has over 9,000 registered voters, however, only 30-33% regularly exercise the right to vote in elections. Therefore, the 2,300 plus signatures collected on the ballot initiative petitions do represent a very strong majority of Malibu’s residents that participate in the electoral process—a sad reality that two-thirds of registered voters ignore or cannot find time to vote. Even if this ballot initiative only serves to engage the larger population of registered voters or manages to increase the voter rolls, then it is a highly successful endeavor that should be supported regardless of what side of the issue you find yourself sitting on.

Posted by “mamielebu” to “Sparks Fly As Reiner Initiative Makes November Ballot”

of fireworks can cause tragedy for a family with a pet who freaks out and runs away. The city should alert residents when they grant a fireworks permit.

Posted by “DeMoulin123” to “Late-Night Fireworks Show Angers Residents”

PCH problems

I can think of three different spots on PCH that that \$100K could buy a desperately needed cross-walk light. This is a colossal waste of taxpayer funds. How about we make PCH safe and then waste money on stupid stuff like this?

Posted by “wallyworld” to “Tina Fey, Dick Van Dyke, Kobe Bryant Considered for Malibu Speaker Series”

Canyon safety

The arrester bed is needed to stop runaways, invariably heavy vehicles, and greatly increases the safety of the Kanan PCH intersection. Or it would if it got used. Alas, Malibu has put up flashing signs that prohibit heavy vehicles between PCH and the southern Kanan tunnel. This forces them onto Malibu Canyon. A far more dangerous route, made even more dangerous by all that truck traffic. Including me, as I also must use Malibu Canyon in my heavier than allowed motorhome. I would be far safer on Kanan, and I’m sure the other people on the road with me wish I weren’t there either. We would all be a bit safer if Malibu rescinded their ill considered truck ban on Kanan.

Posted by “psh” to “Construction Project will Close Kanan Road on Monday”

Cell phone problems

The point that Laura was trying to make is that Sprint service in Malibu is terrible and getting worse. My Boost Mobile currently only gets service in three places throughout Malibu. I am changing to Verizon. You would think that in time service would improve, not get worse.

Posted by “stevewoodzy” to “Letter: Driver’s Education”

Asking for a warning

We thoroughly enjoyed the surprise fireworks display but were surprised that it wasn’t made known ahead of time. People expect this on July 4th and can protect their pets. But a surprise set



Leslie Gilliams: Malibu’s MasterChef
Local resident participates in the popular Fox show.



Pedestrian Killed on PCH in Pacific Palisades
A 24-year old female from Los Angeles was struck and killed early Saturday morning.



Sparks Fly As Reiner Initiative Makes November Ballot
Malibu City Council voted 4-1 to place the formula retail initiative on the November ballot.



Late-Night Fireworks Show Angers Residents
Residents were up late after a surprise fireworks show took place at 10 p.m. on a barge near Nobu on July 9.



Man Found Dead at Bottom of Malibu’s Newton Canyon
A man was found dead Tuesday evening after presumably driving 900 feet over the side of Kanan Dume Road.

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