

## COMMUNITY

# In-person Performances by students and educators returned to the stage

*Malibu Library Speaker Series provides an opportunity for artists to share their stories off-screen*

By TRISHA ANAS

Special to The Malibu Times

Ambient sounds of the sea and ocean banners decorated by students of Malibu Elementary School greeted audience members during the 2022 Poetry Summit, led by Poet Laureate Ann Buxie.

Held in Malibu City Hall's Civic Theater on Saturday, May 14, this was the first in-person Speakers Series event the city has had since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the poems read revolved around the theme of living things, hence the title of the event, "Calling All Creatures."

Poem topics ranged from saving the planet to changing seasons, and personal stories read by students and educators. The free event featured different poets and performers, including Buxie, Los Angeles Literary Arts Fellow Peter J. Harris, and emerging poets from the local public schools.

The summit was part of the Malibu Library Speaker Series and also featured a tap-dancing performance led by Ann Monahan and the Senior Tappers, as well as improvised music played by musicians Eduardo Del Signore, Federico Ramos and Ron Wagner.

Ramos, who was the guitarist for the Disney film "Coco," played alongside Signore and Wagner and said that it was a privilege.

"I feel like it's an honor to do anything we can do for the arts supportively," Ramos said. "To expose other people to the creative processes of some very



Linda Gibbs holds up a backpack filled with flowers during the 2022 Poetry Summit on May 14 in the Malibu City Hall's Civic Center. Photos by Trisha Anas/TMT



Award-winning poet Peter J. Harris recites one of the poems he wrote during the 2022 Poetry Summit on May 14 in Malibu City Hall's Civic Theater.



Musicians Federico Ramos and Eduardo Del Signore improvise music during the poetry readings May 14 at Malibu City Hall's Civic Theater.

gifted voices, as we have here today, it's a thing that should happen more often."

The program pamphlet included a poem called,

"All Breathing Things," written by Buxie.

Buxie, who was appointed as poet laureate in late August last year, has hosted a program called

"Tales by Sea" since 1995, originally focusing on literary artists to share their stories.

She later expanded the program to also include poetry.

While planning for the event, Buxie wanted to include tap-dancing in the program.

"I wanted to make sure to include music and tap dancing because you don't want to just hear one poem after another," Buxie said. "I got hold of the tap instructor and we rehearsed once a week. It was wonderful."

Buxie said that during the pandemic, she held workshops and events over Zoom.

"I've actually liked it because I became tired of the drive," Buxie said. "It's sometimes hard for people to get here."

The City of Malibu and Buxie also host "Caffeinated Verse" every month which features an open mic and featured reader and are planning to have more in-person events in the future.

Buxie hopes to bring in people who would not normally be in Malibu for one of the workshops that the program is planning for.

While Zoom has been convenient for many to attend virtually, Harris said it feels good to be back in person.

"To me Zoom is just a tool — it allows for us to cross borders and reach people I would never reach in a small setting," he said. "But there is something special about being able to see faces and the silence that comes with people that are really listening."

Harris said while there was a diverse range of age groups in attendance, he wanted to connect with them as well.

"It was interesting as an older guy to see what I could say to connect with them and to galvanize their attention," he said. "For the most part, I felt like it was a positive experience."

The next in-person poetry event, "Caffeinated Verse," is set for Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. at the Malibu Library.



The Pepperdine women's tennis team celebrates after its NCAA Tournament win over Miami. The Waves will face top-ranked North Carolina in the NCAA semifinals. Contributed Photo

## Waves women's tennis advances in NCAA tourney

*After beating Miami, Pepperdine to face top-ranked North Carolina, whom it beat in last year's semifinals*

By MCKENZIE JACKSON

Special to The Malibu Times

The Pepperdine Waves women's tennis team will compete in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament for the third straight full season on Friday.

The Waves, ranked eighth, will take on the top-ranked North Carolina Tar Heels in Champaign, Ill. Pepperdine defeated the Tar Heels 4-3 in the tournament's semifinals last May.

The 23-6 Waves advanced to face North Carolina thanks to their impressive 4-0 victory over ninth-ranked Miami in the Super Regionals on April 13 at Pepperdine's Ralphs-Straus Tennis Center.

Pepperdine grabbed an early lead over Miami in doubles play. Freshman Savannah Broadus and sophomore Janice Tjen grabbed a 6-2 win after the first four games were split between the squads. Then, graduate

student Shiori Fukuda and sophomore Taisiya Pachkaleva won their match 6-3.

Pepperdine won all six of the first sets in singles play. Broadus won her third consecutive tournament match 6-1, 6-0. Fukuda then won her contest 6-1, 6-1. Pachkaleva won her match 7-6 (2), 6-0 to cement the Waves' victory. Tjen, junior Zaar, and graduate student Victoria Flores were in various stages of their matches when Pepperdine garnered the winning point.

Pepperdine downed Denver 4-0 in the opening round of the tournament on May 6. The next day, they beat USC 4-1 in the second round.

Pepperdine's men's tennis squad also qualified for the NCAA Tournament. The group beat Washington 4-0 in the opening round in Columbia, South Carolina, on May 6. However, the Waves lost the next day to South Carolina 4-1. The squad concluded the season with an 18-8 record.

The winner of the Waves/Tar Heels match will advance to the tournament semifinals. Pepperdine's victory over North Carolina in 2021 propelled the Waves to the national championship match, which they lost to Texas.

## Zen Running Club hands out goodies after run canceled due to city's safety concerns



Ted McDonald, Samantha Wallace, Erica Segel, Beck Chambers, Miori Izumi, Kit Wanajohn, and Gabriel Ortega are shown during the Zen Running Club event at The Malibu Farmers Market on Sunday, May 15. Contributed Photos

**Club raffles off pair of plant-based shoes, two Run Malibu race entries**

By SAMANTHA BRAVO

Of The Malibu Times

Run Malibu and Zen Running Club had to cancel the 6K Fun Run planned for Sunday, May 15, due to safety concerns by the City of Malibu. In lieu, the group had a booth at the Malibu Farmers Market on Sunday for participants to visit and an opportunity to enter a raffle to win an exclusive pair of plant-based running shoes and two entries to the Run

Malibu event on Nov. 5 and 6.

"It was canceled because of safety concerns. It was a very spontaneous idea since we had a booth at the farmers market we thought that maybe we could also go for a run, but rightfully so, the city educated us on saying since it was advertised and open to the public, there was potential that this could be a really big thing," Malibu Run Series Race Director Erica Segel said. "They [the city] regulate these types of events and crowd gatherings so we were 100 percent on board — safety first, but the idea was we still wanted to inspire people to be active and to come and visit us, so we encourage everyone to do the run on their own and still come at the booth and interact with us."

Running enthusiasts and farmers market at-

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lessons.

"Running is like a life metaphor," Segel said. "It's about having a goal, working toward that and really surprising yourself about how much you can achieve."

Segel said that she worked hard to advocate for the vision she had for the event, which meant trying to keep the race within city limits and keep it local.

In an interview with Voyage LA, Segel said she had to work hard to bring the event back to Zuma Beach since the previous managers of the Malibu Run Series had parted ways with the city's administration.

"What I really want is for the Malibu community to first feel like this is their event," Segel said. "A community is only a community when we have opportunities to come together. That's

why in general, the community events are important because otherwise, you're just isolated."

"I really wanted this event to be community focused, to put the Malibu community first and then it was about bringing in people from out of town to enjoy Malibu," Segel said. "One of the first things I did is that I wanted to partner up with a charity that was relevant to the community."

Segel spoke passionately about the Boys & Girls Club, an organization that provides voluntary after-school programs to kids.

Through the club, Segel met the club's chief professional officer, Kasey Earnest, and director of community affairs and outreach, Siugen Constanza.

"They're amazing women, and what they do for the community is unparalleled," Segel said. "Like so many, I thought 'Why does Malibu need a Boys & Girls Club, it's an affluent community.' But they were the ones that opened



tendees stopped by the booth and had an opportunity to try on the plant-based sustainable pair of running shoes. The shoes are made from natural ingredients: eucalyptus, sugarcane and cotton.

Participants such as Miori Izumi work with Erica Segel in creating promotional content and Segel said the raffle was filled with good energy.

"We hope we have inspired a few people to go and move their body today and have some fun with us," she said.

The 14th annual Run Malibu's Half-Marathon 5K is scheduled for Nov. 5 and 6 at Zuma Beach. The Zen Running Club also started a collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club Malibu, a beneficiary of the half-marathon. For more information on the Half-Marathon, visit [runmalibu.com](http://runmalibu.com).

up an entirely new reality to me. I discovered that the Boys & Girls Club provided so many essential services."

Segel partnered up with the club and chose it as the charity beneficiary. To date, Segel said Malibu Run has donated over \$100,000 to the organization.

The club provided an opportunity for her to work with Earnest and Constanza.

"I really do need to thank people like Kasey and Siugen because they believed in me, you know," Segel said. "They saw something and gave me a hand in trying to go where I wanted to go."

Segel said her new position as chair will help her connect with the community and help continue its efforts to make Malibu a place for everyone.

"As a chair, it's about listening and trying to understand what the needs are for the people," Segel said. "There's not a more inclusive and positive community to be a part of [than Malibu.]"