



Your **ROTSOCPE** for July 24th, 2008

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

ROTARY IN SIBERIA

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT CLUBS like Rotary that dictators can't trust. By governments left or right, Communist or Fascist, Rotary and all such groups are rather proud of having been banned by the Nazis, Soviets, Falange, Ayatollahs, probably even the Queen of Hearts down Alice's rabbit-hole. Rotary is subversive; the very idea of local leaders eating together to plan community service is dangerous and must be forbidden. It's fascinating how fast the seeds of service germinated again, even after decades of being outlawed, as soon as Hitler was conquered, Franco died, the USSR fell, though Rotary is still illegal in Iran, Syria, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and twenty more countries. We'll hear the proud story of Rotary's rebirth in Siberia from the president of the Barnaul club, Vera Zamyatina, visiting San Marino and our lunch this Thursday. Just as last week's story on taking the words and spirit of Martin Luther King to Beijing, this week's talk will show how ideas of rights and service can pierce those Iron walls that seem so solid but are really paper-thin.

HOT DOG AND CHIPS GONE

NORM SLAUGHT continues to get better, though he is very frustrated how slow the process. He's at home after ten days at Huntington's cardiac care unit – after his pulse had been stopped several minutes while tennis friends kept him going with CPR, using the new 100-times-a-minute standard rather than sixty beats (and have YOU had a refresher in CPR to learn the better way?) Doctors cleaned up the plaque inside, finding a hot dog, potato chips, and other bad stuff clogging his arteries. Now Norm has a new diet. Still no visitors, but try to call him at **792-6386** and keep cards coming to **1169 Yocum, Pasadena.**

ROTARY IN PICTURES

THE THIRD ANNUAL COLLECTION of remarkable pictures featuring Rotary projects around the world has just been released by Rotary International, and they urge all Rotarians to look through the images with pride in all that's being accomplished in health, literacy, and water by over a million Rotarians working together. The images can be viewed for free on line in a library featuring thousands of professional photos:

www.rotary.org/rotaryimages

You can also buy the newest CD, including slide shows:

shop.rotary.org

OUR 'MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS'

WITH OUR MONTH'S HIATUS and all the International Convention distractions, many of us missed knowing how proud we should feel in San Marino Rotary's building a mountain for Southern California schools, collecting over 1,500 new and slightly used elementary level books to encourage 'reading by nine' in classrooms where boys and girls may have no books available in their families. **Will Bortz** caught the virus of this good project some years ago from **Elliott Katz**, and has infected **Charlie Rasmussen** and **Debbie Priester**, who spearheaded the collecting in time for RI's Los Angeles convention. Boxes were stacked on the balcony of the Crowell Library, then schlepped by our committee to join hundreds of thousands of books that officially broke a Guinness record for the largest collection of books gathered at one time and in one location.

CHARLIE, DEBBIE, AND THEIR TEAM worked with students at Valentine and Carver to collect their 'outgrown' books for donation. Books came in several different languages, and are being distributed to boys and girls whose families cannot afford reading luxuries. For many recipients, it's their very first book of their very own.

IF YOU'VE NEVER JOINED our "Reading by Nine" workers during their distributions in third grade classrooms, you have missed some incredible smiles and twinkling eyes that make the work so worthwhile. Help out this new Rotary year, and take a few minutes to visit nearby classrooms to understand the need for and the satisfaction with books.

JULY / AUGUST 2008

JULY

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| 24 | Noon | Vera Zamyatina, on Rotary in Barnaul, Siberia |
| 31 | Noon | Media to Ministry, Watts to San Marino |

AUGUST

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| 7 | FIND A MAKEUP! – CHURCH CLOSED; ALL ASKED TO VISIT OTHERS | |
| 14 | 10:30 am | Board meets with District Governor at SMCC |
| 14 | Noon | Return to SMCC – District Governor's Visit |

THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

July 24th: Rotary in Siberia



COMING BACK TO EARTH

WHEN BUZZ ALDRIN AND NEIL ARMSTRONG stepped onto the moon 39 years ago this week, our thinking about the universe and our Earth's place in it changed forever. Aldrin's picture of his footprint on the moon is now part of our world heritage, along with his reflection in Armstrong's visor that was later reproduced on a US postage stamp, the only living person ever to have been depicted on a US stamp. (You'll recall that his Hasselblad is still up there, and he's still working on a return-to-the-moon project.)

BUZZ RETURNED FROM THE MOON deeply changed by the experience, as he has often recounted to his Rotarian friends. His eyes welled with tears as he talked with one of our club's members a few years ago, recalling his new understanding while he was looking back at Earth that we all need to serve others in peace.

BUZZ JOINED ROTARY that year, and has been very active in service ever since, particularly with water projects in impoverished villages of Africa and South America. He has traveled widely in Third World countries, encouraging rainwater capturing and waste water recycling. He attended the RI convention in Los Angeles last month, wearing a name-tag saying simply "BUZZ" that brought some people to pass him, stop suddenly, turn around and smile with recognition, then pride. He smiles back, and salutes each fellow Rotarian.

ALDRIN WRITES: *"I'm very pleased with the symbol and the words involved in this organization – rotating things – because there's so much rotation in the universe. The world we're in rotates, and each object seems to be in some kind of a revolving orbit around something else. That's how space exists, and I think the term Rotary is very descriptive."*

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE LOGO?

SEVERAL WOMEN SAW JEWELS in the red-and-white form printed above. Some of our more athletic types saw a bowling ball or a ski cap or miniature golf; some saw surfers riding great waves. One thought of weight-lifting, and another elbow-lifting, another a dumb-bell.

SOME STAYED WITH THEIR PROFESSIONS: dentists thought of mouths with decay and lower dentures, botanists of orchids, scientists saw the solar system or amoebas, English teachers saw punctuation. One of our members thought of his spouse's profession and saw a neonatal nurse caring for a newborn. A D.I.Y. painter thought it his floor after a sloppy paint job.

THERE WERE LOTS OF ALIENS, monsters, gargoyles, "an unyinged yang" and "The Cookie Monster Joining Rotary", and Mr. Magoo. There were animals: "a male walrus with its mouth open," a whale, a lobster claw, and more amoebas. One thought it's "a burp gone bad." Scooby Doo was seen by several, and one saw El Nino.

OUR CLUB RORSCHACH TEST makes us wonder about some of our members – not *you*, but the one who saw a "narg", or the one who saw countries at war. We're sending them and a few others for professional help.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

THE WINNER OF OUR LOGO CONTEST, the wittiest and funniest of the interpretations of Rotary International's "Make Dreams Real" theme logo for the year, the favorite chosen by a team of bright but anonymous judges who had no entries of his/her own, the member with the best sense of humor in our group, the entrant who takes half the pot and who sees our San Marino Rotary Charities get the other half for good causes around our community, the winner is ... to be announced at this week's meeting.

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Bulletin news or gripes? – send to: kveronda@southwesternacademy.edu – or call 626-799-5010, x1202

Grandma Matthews Says: When you're dissatisfied and want to go back to youth, think of algebra.