



Your **ROTSCOPE** for Thursday, January 22, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

"THE BEST PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR"

BILL STEELE GREW UPSET when attendance would drop at luncheons with Craft Talk programs. When Bill was upset, he did something about it. For the unfortunate newer Rotarians who didn't know Bill, his bubbling optimism paced many of our club and community activities. Having talked his underage self into the Army Air Corps to fly through The War, then having created a start-up venture that succeeded very well, Bill's spirit flowed into all who knew him just as his generous contributions flowed to assist more organizations and individuals down on their luck, usually through anonymous gifts avoiding credit to him. So when Bill was our club president and some members scorned "Craft Talks", newer Rotarians talking about themselves, Bill declared that this was *wrong*, that craft talks were "the best programs of the year!" And it's true – they're delightful half-hour opportunities to get to know two fellow members better, to hear their encapsulated life-stories, to meet their families and know their careers through their fifteen minutes of fame on our podium. Come hear two this week:

ROBERTA GUNDERSEN and RUTH MAYEDA CRAFT TALKS

SPEECH CONTEST NEXT WEEK

AT ELEVEN A.M. NEXT THURSDAY, January 29th, high school contestants in our 2009 Four Way Speech Contest will compete in the Fellowship Room at Community Church. Rotarian judges will evaluate the thoughts and presentations of the students from SMHS and Southwestern, and choose a winner to repeat his/her speech during our regular luncheon at noon. If you're available to come earlier next week, please do! – it helps the students to have a larger audience than a bunch of sourpuss judges, and it helps you appreciate today's generation as they consider our Four-Way Test.

MINI-GRANTS

A REMINDER: WE'RE GIVING mini-grant money to local teachers who created intriguing projects, and you are welcome to join the applause for them – and for our Bill Steele Mini-Grant committee that did all the work this year of gathering, considering, and awarding these recognitions for good teaching. The ceremonies will be at the Career Center of San Marino High School on Tuesday, January 20th, at 3:30. If you're not marching in the Inaugural Parade at that hour, stop by and share your appreciation for the teachers.

FOR YOUR 2009 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS:

...**SEND YOUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION** to The Rotary Foundation, if you've not done so yet – remember, it's "Every Rotarian, Every Year" – a minimum \$100 to TRF, tax-deductible of course, for worldwide projects such as PolioPlus and our educational exchanges. Make sure John Harris gets your check, or at least that he knows you've sent it, so he can credit you towards another 100% participation by all San Marino Rotarians.

...**READ THE STORIES OF OUR SCHOLARS** at a new link that Chris Datwyler has set up to highlight Ambassadorial Scholar adventures: go to www.sanmarinorotary.org/scholar-stories.html.

...**MAIL YOUR THIRD QUARTER DUES CHECK** to our treasurer Dennis Kneier, unless you've done the smarter thing of setting up automatic billing or paid already.

...**RSVP TO THE INVITATION** from our social ladies for the next "ROT" – Wednesday, February 4th, at Beckham's.

...**ATTEND THE MINI-GRANT AWARDS** on Tuesday the 20th, 3:30 p.m. at the Counseling Center, SMHS, if you're free to come applaud our local teachers and encourage their work.

...**HEAR FOUR-WAY SPEECHES** on Thursday the 22nd, 11:00 a.m. at Community Church.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

JANUARY

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 20 | 3:30 pm | Bill Steele Mini Grant Award Ceremony at SMHS |
| 22 | Noon | Roberta Gundersen and Ruth Mayeda Craft Talks |
| 29 | 11:00 am | Four-Way Speech Contestants – all members welcome |
| 29 | Noon | Autism through a father's eyes
and winner of Four Way Speech Contest |

FEBRUARY

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|----------|----------------|---|
| 4 | Evening | "ROT" – Night on the Town at Beckham's |
| 5 | Noon | More Craft Talks |

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

January 22: Craft Talks



"GOOD EVENING, ROTARIANS!"

OUR AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR CHRISTIE SHU reached her new St. Petersburg home early January, greeted by "big, huge, peaceful snow flakes. I live on one of the busiest streets. The snow muffles traffic. It's 5:30 p.m., 6:30 a.m. in San Marino, but it has been dark since sunset around 1:30. I've had a whirlwind of a week ... walking along the floats lined up the Rose Parade ... flying to Austin, Texas for my ASETS [Rotary's new 'ambassadorial scholarship elect training session,' thus RI's latest acronym, ASETS] ... Rotary does such a wonderful job preparing us for our duties as Ambassadors of Goodwill, of promoting cultural exchange, and for creating pockets of peace throughout the world."

CHRISTIE SPENT TWO DAYS in Austin, then two days in Boston – a bit of a change, before returning to St. Petersburg to "conduct lots of interviews for research for my Honors Thesis ... in my past stays in Russia, I noticed that folk medicine is widely used and even preferred to Western medicine. I want to understand why this is the case in a technologically-advanced city. In my Thesis, I investigate the resurgence in the use of folk medicine amongst the educated class in St. Petersburg. I specifically target educated mothers because they are the family members who take care of the health of the family. ... They value western-style education enough to have completed university studies, so should have respect for science, technology, and accepted principles about how the world works. Yet, they still use folk medicine, a form ... often thought of as primitive. Fun! It is so fascinating!"

CHRISTIE WILL BE WITH US for one of our March meetings. Meanwhile, she'd enjoy hearing from you: ceshu@colby.edu.

BIG LOIS!

DRIVE NORTH ON LAKE, just south of Washington in Pasadena, and there it is on your right, a new neon sign with thirty-foot bright red letters identifying our president as "**BIG LOIS!**"

WE CAN'T REALLY TELL as she's been substantially hidden behind the lectern at our recent meetings, but it seems as if her holiday meals and treats with her family, and the lack of regular exercise when she was back in frigid Chicago, must have expanded our chief executive to the extent that someone was impressed enough with Ms. Matthews' size to put up a gigantic declaration about her girth.

WE PARKED AND ENTERED the store to see what it was all about. Lots and lots of stuff was on sale, lots of big cans and lots of big packages, though most of the shoppers didn't seem to be typical of San Marino matrons on South Lake. Drive up there and see if you can figure it out for yourself. Hurry, before they repair the sign and turn on the crossbar across the "I" in "LOIS".

GENE PLATZ RESIGNS

EUGENE PLATZ JOINED San Marino Rotary in 1994, and became very active on several committees, continuing the service he has given our community youth through the schools where he has worked and volunteered.

GENE'S HEALTH has made his attendance erratic in recent years, and now he feels that he should resign. We'll miss him, and hope he will come and visit any meeting when his spirit (and body) so moves. We're sure he would appreciate a note or message from you:

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

Lee Mothershead told Lois what happened to the penny lost from "thoughts" to "saved":
"Each lost cent goes to making up the Federal deficit, thereby making the bailout deficit only 99c, in line with the effect the bailout will have on average citizens."