



Your **ROTSCOPE** for Thursday, January 29, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

AUTISM THROUGH A FATHER'S EYES

KAREN AND BOB CONLEY learned their second child was autistic when Tom was at two years of age. That began an adventure for their family that continues sixteen years later. Bob is neither a scientist nor a doctor, so this week's talk won't involve math or detailed medical explanations about the cause of autism – you'll hear a sensitive dad recount experiences facing Tom and his family, including his three siblings. Bob will share the early years, learning there are no pills to cure autism. Tom cannot engage in conversation, but he possesses amazing abilities in a few areas such as math and memory. As he has grown, Tom blessed the Conley family with many learning experiences, some laughs, and a few moments of sheer terror (we're happy to report that so far they have all worked out just fine). "It's thrills, chills, and spills – all without pills," Bob says.

EVEN WITH TREMENDOUS SUPPORT, it is true that the challenges of parenting an autistic child are substantial. But Karen and Bob, Altadena residents, say that when they take a breath, there is also a sweetness to the journey.

SPEECH CONTEST

IF YOU CAN SPARE AN HOUR this Thursday, 11 to noon, come support our local high school students as four contestants face off in our annual Four Way Test Speech Contest. Rather than take up our whole program, chair Al Goering started a few years ago to have two speech winners from San Marino High School and two from Southwestern Academy meet before Rotary judges an hour earlier than our meeting. The winner chosen by our judges will repeat the prize speech for all of us during the business portion. But come show them all support – that you appreciate their efforts!

SHORT 'CHARITIES' MEMBERS

LOIS WOULD LIKE A MEETING for a few minutes after lunch today with only the shorter members of our San Marino Rotary Charities' executive board. Unfortunately, she does not specify the height limit, or if with or without heels – only "a short Charities Exec Com mtg." Come to think of it, it could mean our Charities are a little short? Hope not. Short or tall members of the SMRC executive committee should check at the door of the Fellowship Room to see if they can pass under the barricade Lois will have installed.

A DAY LATE, A DOLLAR SHORT: BUT WE'RE DEFENDING DATWYLER

CHRIS' BULLETIN IS GETTING POSTED a day later than usual, but you can't blame him. Two members last Thursday called the Roto Scope "Chris' bulletin," indicating few realize it is actually ghost-written for him by a well-paid scribe. (Actually, the pay's not all that good, but we'll negotiate that another time.) Pity the scribe: lots of sneezes landed on his cheeks from students who politely turned their heads away from classmates, only to spray the teachers with fine mists, and thousands of little soldiers marched up his nostrils to ice-skate in his sinuses and hammer at his brain. Some of the more muscular invaders took posts behind his eyeballs, pushing out as hard as possible. Cold or flu? Who knows, who cares – miserable. Then came all the cures from friendly "experts" – take lots of Vitamin C (too late!), take zinc (thanks for telling me now!), feed a cold, starve a cold, feed a fever ... and go to bed, though that's hard to do on a working day. Take bourbon. Take Tabasco sauce. One suggested his family cure-all: half a glass of bourbon, half of Tabasco. Kill or cure, though with that tumbler-full inside not much could be cured. Sleeping in Saturday was no help either, as an alarm in the bladder rang every hour on the half-hour, precisely, demanding immediate emptying. Yeah, right; where to get enough energy to struggle the steps around the bed? With no catheters available, using a garden hose was considered, so all this mysterious waste would empty outside without getting up. Then came those insufferably chipper emails from Lois: did you mention the speech contest at 11 on Thursday? are you mentioning the next "ROT"? would you announce a meeting of the shorter members of the "Charities" executive board, or something like that? (By this time it's all getting fuzzy.) Chris can polish up the grammar on his own this week, run his spell-check, find missing stuff – this is all he's getting for now.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

JANUARY

- 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

- 4 Evening "ROT" – Night on the Town at Beckham's**
- 5 Noon Andi and Holly Lou craft talks**
- 12 Noon Margie's annual Abe Lincoln/Valentine Fashions**
- 12 1:35 pm Lois' Board meets**

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

January 29: A family's life with a special child



INAUGURATION DAY IN RUSSIA

CHRISTIE SHU is our Ambassadorial Scholar in St. Petersburg. Her description of last week's presidential inauguration as seen from Russian TV is already posted at the new "scholar-stories" link:

<http://sanmarinorotary.org/scholar-stories.html>

But more than a third of our members still want their Roto-Scope in print, on paper, and some don't get to use Internet for whatever reason (maybe Secret Service restrictions, for all we know). As a courtesy to them, and as a record for future scholars, here is Christie's story of January 20th, 2009

WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! Inauguration Day in St. Petersburg! I had been so sad that I would miss this, that it would pass while I was in Russia ... the other Colby students were also put out, so we decided to make the mac and cheese they brought from home and ask one of their host mothers whether or not she receives CNN on her TV. No, they don't. We would have had to watch an hour after it happened, and dubbed over in Russian. We decided this would be interesting ... but it is impossible to perfectly translate and dub Obama's speeches and way of speaking. One of the students' mothers found out online that the US Consulate reserved a conference room at the Grand Hotel Europe, the nicest hotel in St. Petersburg, to show it.

I FOUND THE APPROPRIATE ROOM in the hotel and I met a Fulbright dissertation student. She studies here at the State University and in the US at North Carolina ... a sociologist researching sex workers' access to HIV support. The room was beautifully arranged and decorated [directly across the street, according to a San Marino Rotarian who stayed there last summer, is the main shopping area with Prada, Gucci, etc., and to the left the Hermitage museums] There were between 30 and 40 people there, between the ages of four and 55. It was

Christie's Inauguration report - continued

wonderful, like a big family getting together to experience an exciting celebratory event. We were a little island of America in the middle of Russia. The room was beautifully arranged and decorated. There were candlelit tables sprinkled throughout the back half of the room, with various couches, easy chairs, and normal wooden chairs. Throughout the festivities, people were cheering, applauding at certain points during Obama's speech, spell-bound by the musical performances, and sharing the feeling that hopefully in this new presidential era it will be easier to be abroad as an American. At the end of the ceremony the Consulate had the hotel bring in a huge beautiful cake decorated with fire cracker sticks [see the pictures at our club's web site]. The cake was phenomenal.

WHEN I GOT HOME, my host mother asked how it went. When I left the apartment and told her where I was going, she said "Oh! – when does it start?" She decided that she would watch some online (we don't have a TV at home, very strange for a Russian household). I don't know if she was aware that the inauguration was happening today. This surprised me, given all the hype and excitement of having Obama as our next president. Since I have returned to Russia, everyone I have run into, the moment s/he realizes that I am an American, immediately wants to talk about Obama. Russians are so excited that we elected him. There is definitely much more goodwill and respect for Americans than the last time I was here. Fascinating.

NONETHELESS, IT SEEMED THAT not too many people were really excited about watching the inauguration. As my host mother puts it, Russians love to "curse and complain" but they are "apolitical and passive." They may want something changed, but they will never do anything to direct and take control of the situation. We'll see how relations with Russia develop during Obama's presidency.

Our OFFICERS for 2009:

LOIS MATTHEWS , <i>President</i>	517 South Orange Grove, #300, Pas. 91105 h: 396-9283 loistable@aol.com
EMILE BAYLE , <i>President Elect</i>	2785 Carlaris Road, San Marino h: 799-9854 , b: 441-1472 emileB@sbcglobal.net
RICHARD HASEROT , <i>Secretary</i>	2365 Sherwood Road, San Marino h: 309-1349 rhaserot@pacbel.net
DENNIS KNEIER , <i>Treasurer</i>	1425 Hampton Road, San Marino h: 578-1109 dkneier@socal.rr.com
FRED SOHL , <i>Immed. Past Pres</i>	857 Roanoke Road, San Marino h: 281-6770 fsohl@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTORS:

BOB EICHEL	650 Sierra Madre Villa #202, Pas. 91107 b: 351-3800 bobeichelcpa@aol.com
JOHN HARRIS	8310 Youngdale, San Gabriel 91775 h: 287-6332 ishkhh@gmail.com
DOUG LARNER	1645 Oakhaven Drive, Arcadia 91006 h: 355-3644 , b: 584-3415 sgpolesg@aol.com
LEE MOTHERSHEAD	1145 Oak Grove Avenue, San Marino h: 405-9162 lmothers@pacbell.net
BOB NAFIE	8519 Sunnyslope Dr, San Gabriel 91775 h: 292-2404 , b: 286-3108 rnafie@clairbourn.org

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Admin: WRAY CORNWELL h: 281-2658 wrayci@sbcglobal.net	JOHN RIZZI b: 462-2469 john.rizzi@dilbeck.com
Com. Svc: WILLIAM BORTZ b: 403-8470 whbortz@mindspring.com	JOHN DONOVAN b: 396-1771 jdonovan1@hotmail.com
Membership: GENE DRYDEN h: 449-2037 drydene@earthlink.net	DAN FLOYD b: 440-1912 dfloydca@aol.com
Program: CHRIS NORGAARD b: 213-223-2030 scgatedad@aol.com	MATT BALLANTYNE b: 300-0700 mballantyne@CityofSanMarino.org
Internal PR: TERRY PETRILLO h: 449-7588	LUCILLE NORBERG h: 284-5585 lbnlfn@aol.com
External PR: JOHN WALLACE b: 449-5458 jswallac@pacbell.net	JACK MCQUEEN b: 449-5458 jackmcqueen@earthlink.net
Vocat. Svc: WARREN WEBER h: 799-5355 wlw1@sbcglobal.net	PETER CORZO b: 795-7900 pcorzo@sparksystems.com
Youth: DEBORAH PRIESTER b: 440-1959 debbie@titantravel.com	JAMES PINK b: 403-8470 myplanetoo@yahoo.com
Foundation: GREG THOMPSON h: 793-9402 wthom235@aol.com	

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

LOIS SAYS THAT
"PATHOLOGY" may be defined as the study
of trails.