



# Your **ROTSOCPE** for Thursday, February 12, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

## LOTS OF TEMPTING STUFF FROM MARGIE'S

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.** Even if you're still broke from Christmas and trying to save for graduations and weddings come June, it's February, which means Valentine's gifts, which means Margie appears at Rotary with the latest, modeled by some of our very own high-fashion ladies, ready for our gentlemen to have gift-wrapped with those multi-colored ribbons that prove it's the *very* latest from Margie's. Come see, come enjoy, come get some ideas – and bring your spouse, so he will buy what you like or so she will give you some ideas of what to get before Saturday and Valentine's Day.

**WE NEED YOU TO EMAIL WRAY** if you're bringing a guest or two and you didn't tell Wray last meeting. Wray's the man trying to keep numbers counted so there are enough chairs and garlic bread for everyone. Your spouse, your girl friend, gigolo, they are all welcome. Just let Wray know how many you're bringing: [wraycj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wraycj@sbcglobal.net). (If you wish Wray to seat your spouse separately from your other guests, please let him know that too.)

### EXPLAIN THIS, LADIES

**ANDREA TALKED ABOUT** her noble ancestors last week, and the sun shone bright. French marquis, Scottish baron, Chinese Tai-Pan, American judge, and the sun kept shining. Her old meeting-place at the Royal Hawaiian on Waikiki, the River walk in San Antone, and the sun shone bright. Andi traced the family that sweep through the novel she's writing, and it stayed sunny. Then Andi stopped, still with sunny skies overhead.

**HOLLY LOU GOT UP TO SPEAK.** Immediately, all was dark. It rained. Rained hard. Because of Holly?

### SIGN UP, AND IT MAY BE FREE

**THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE** in Palm Springs will be May 28-31, and that seems a long way from mid-February. But surely you'll be going to help celebrate the Rotary year, and if you'll register this month you're immediately eligible for a drawing that gives four Rotary couples everything *free* (the district does exclude "in-room entertainment," but you and your mate can provide your own). It's easy to register on line (but do it in February, and your odds are good!) at [www.district5300.org](http://www.district5300.org)

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE?

**WE'VE A FEW YOUTHS IN OUR CLUB** who really don't remember the fears, the warnings, the friends struck down. Those fifty and older can remember: mother getting really worried by a simple cough in her kids, warnings not to go swimming and catch cold, maybe a classmate strong and healthy on a Friday, paralyzed or even dead by Sunday when polio struck. As late as the 1950s, 58,000 cases of polio were reported each year in the United States (that's more than the total population of San Marino and South Pas, plus the county territory around us – and with the U.S. population doubled since the 1950s, there would have been 120,000 cases in our country last year if it hadn't been for Salk, Sabin, and the other researchers who found protection). The polio virus has been around for centuries, but before the 1900s most babies were exposed when they still had partial immunity from the womb. Infants catching the polio virus might have sniffled and sneezed a bit, but generally developed their own immunity that protected them the rest of their lives. Then modern sanitation changed things. Rich folk like Franklin Roosevelt, poor folk like most of us, learned to take baths, keep clean, wash our hands, and we didn't get mild cases of polio – but we didn't build our own immunity, so when teens and adults were exposed to the virus (such as FDR), the central nervous system was often affected and epidemics hit. Panicked parents kept kids inside, away from play, but classmates still became infected. Our aging Rotarians remember it all too well: my junior high student body president, healthy Friday, dead Sunday; my college freshman roommate, one arm hanging loose with its muscles shriveled by teen-age polio. Those memories brought Rotary to pledge an end to the disease, and brought others such as the Gates Foundation to help us. Those memories are why we're asked to support PolioPlus this and each year until all polio virus is destroyed.

## FEBRUARY / MARCH 2009

### FEBRUARY

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 12 | Noon    | Margie's Fashions for your Valentine           |
| 12 | 1:35 pm | Lois' Fashionable Board meets                  |
| 19 | Noon    | Stem cell research at City of Hope             |
| 26 | Noon    | First Annual Rotary Chili Cookoff Championship |

### MARCH

- |    |      |   |
|----|------|---|
| 5  | Noon | Super Bowl Ring-Bearer tells how to win         |
| 12 | Noon | More soft-shoe dance from our program committee |

# THE ROTOSCOPE

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

February 12: Valentine's Fashion Party



## MIDTERM NEWS

**PRESIDENT LOIS IS** on the downhill slide of her year, and her spirits seem to be rising as she gets closer to the bottom. She attended the district's big pep talk, the annual "Presidents' Advance" below sea level in the Coachella Valley. (Rotary presidents *never* retreat, so instead they hold an advance.) Maybe this is where her high spirits were imbibed.

**ATTENDANCE IS UP** at recent meetings, too. Maybe it's because of the good programs? Lois' sparkling humor? Or is it because of the scores of City Council candidates who keep coming for lunch with their supporters?

**GARY WOODS DIDN'T LOOK** too happy in his Tribune picture as he sat with the school board to plan an emergency election for a parcel tax. All the school superintendents from this area didn't look too happy in their Star-News picture with the state supe, either. If you looked at the pictures, however, their pained expressions weren't all caused by the state's budgetary fun and games. Look close, and you'll understand. At both meetings, Gary and these rather large men and women were perched on rather small, quite hard elementary-school chairs.

**LUCILLE NORBERG CELEBRATED** her recovery from her January illness with quite a great party to open up February – our first Rotary Night on the Town for '09, and the dinner was "*absolutely wonderful*," as an enthused guest exclaimed. Great food, music, fun – when's the next one, Lucille?

**GENE ORLOWSKY BRAGGED** with good reason, having been named a chiropractor of the year in a national panel. A good part of his recognition comes from the many hours of volunteer service that Gene and his office crew offer in our community.

## EARN A QUICK \$25 FOR OUR CLUB!

**BANK OF AMERICA** is offering a special Rotary International MasterCard deal: get one of their cards, charge \$75 to it, and BofA will send you a check for \$25 made out to your Rotary club. Give the check to president Lois, and you'll help with San Marino Rotary Charities right at home. Pay for what you charged and cancel the credit card right away, if you wish – though the bank promises to make a contribution to The Rotary Foundation every time you make a purchase with the card, at no additional cost to you. The card includes several other goodies: PlatinumPlus benefits, whatever they may be; 24-hour "MyConcierge" service, fraud protection, free cards for family members, no annual fees, a low introductory APR, and a dollar of "WorldPoints" (you can tell how RI is affecting BofA, with Rotary-style lack of spaces in PolioPlus, MasterCard, MyConcierge, WorldPoints, PlatinumPlus, all run together without spaces the way RI likes it).

**TEMPTED? CALL 866-438-5252** to apply for the RI affinity card. Get the \$25 check for the club with your first \$75 purchase, then cancel if you don't need another card. Not a bad stimulus package for Rotary charities.

## MORE CHILI ENTRANTS NEEDED!

**WE'VE A COUPLE OF VOLUNTEERS** ready to cook up a pot of their best chili, but several more entrants are needed to make our club's chili cook-off on February 26<sup>th</sup> a hot success. (You decide how hot – P. K. will bring samples of Huntington Pharmacy's best antacid if your chili is too much for our wimpier members.) Chef Terry Madigan will be on hand to lead the judges in finding San Marino's best chili.

**READY TO WIN?** Please call Greg Custer – 626-441-5110 – or email [gcuster@whittiertrust.com](mailto:gcuster@whittiertrust.com).

## Our OFFICERS for 2009:

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|
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**LOIS SAYS THAT**  
"BENIGN" is what her grandchild will be  
after he's been eight.