



# Your **ROTSCOPE** for Thursday, April 23, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

## 'R. P.' – RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA – HELP AVAILABLE

**IT'S SCARY TO CONSIDER:** a gradual and chronic degeneration of peripheral sight, caused by an hereditary condition with abnormal deposits of pigment bringing "tunnel vision" – retinitis pigmentosa – affecting not only reading but also night vision and the ability to walk safely. It's not reversible, but progressive. Is there help?

**YES, HELP COMES TO "R. P." SUFFERERS** from the Braille Institute of America, with its own remarkable story. A Montana cowboy was blinded a hundred years ago by an accidental gunshot. But blindness didn't stop Robert Atkinson's thirst for knowledge. He came to Los Angeles, learned to read Braille, and started transcribing books into the system of dots. Then he started lobbying the government, until the Library of Congress was charged and funded with providing reading materials for the blind. Atkinson's "Universal Braille Press" grew into the Braille Institute, his garage operation grew into a whole city block of 4000 volunteers helping some 75,000 people with low vision in Southern California. And you'll hear what those volunteers are doing, especially with helping "R. P." sufferers.

### COME FRIDAY – and/or MONDAY!

**FRIDAY MORNING, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.** – at Longfellow Elementary School, 1065 East Washington (just east of Lake on the north side) – and

**MONDAY MORNING, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.** - at Garvanza Elementary, 317 North Avenue 62 (north of York Blvd., west of Figueroa) –

**SUPPORT OUR READING-BY-NINE** book distribution by giving a few minutes of your morning to cheer the kids as we present each with a book of his own!

### KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED

**OUR TWO CLUB-SPONSORED CANDIDATES** for Ambassadorial Scholarships will be interviewing on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>, each of the district's 12 candidates having 25 minutes to present themselves in earning one of the five scholarships. Hold good thoughts for:

**KAI ALLEN**, a junior at Occidental, hoping to study journalism in Madrid, and

**MEGAN HASLAM**, a junior at SMU, who would study economics in Hyderabad, Andhra, India. +

## "HOW MANY DOSES IS THAT?"

**DENISE WADSWORTH REPORTS** that our Huntington Middle School Mideractors wanted this burning question answered during each of the cash-counting lunch sessions during HMS' first COIN WARS FOR POLIO campaign.

**HMS STUDENTS RAISED MORE THAN \$2,300** in just ten days, enough to purchase 3500 doses of polio vaccine. Denise says "they did it without the carrot of a donut or pizza party. They did it without the expectation of a spin on the prize wheel. They did it because it needs to be done."

**DENISE IS UNDERSTANDABLY PROUD** of the HMS Mideractors "for their amazing senses of empathy and teamwork during our first international service project. The HMS Rotary Mideract Club is humbled by our Huntington family's epitomization of Service Above Self."

**DENISE ADDS THAT** "many thanks go to Shirley Pozzuoli with the Pomona Rotary Club for kicking off the campaign with her poignant presentation on her childhood polio experience. Special recognition goes to the HMS students, parents, staff, faculty, and Mideractors."

**AND THE 'BIG CLUB' SENDS** our own many thanks to the "Middle Club" and to Denise for their strong support of international Rotary's campaign to end polio for all time, everywhere.

## APRIL / MAY 2009

### APRIL

23 Noon What's "R. P." – and what's being done for it

30 Noon Consul General reports on modern Germany

### MAY

7 Noon Nathan's music and the Beijing Olympics

14 Noon DARK – NO NOON MEETING

14 6-8 p.m. THE MAY FIESTA at the Old Mill

20 6:00 p.m. Night on the Town at the Doubletree in Monrovia

21 Noon Meeting at the San Marino Public Library – Art Contest

# THE ROTOSCOPE

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

April 23: Braille Institute at work



## HOW BAD IS IT?

**OUR RESIDENT WIT NOTES** the economy is so bad that:

**CEO's** are now playing miniature golf.

**HOTWHEELS** are trading higher than G. M.

**McDONALD'S** is selling the Quarter Ouncer.

**BEVERLY HILLS** parents have fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

**JURY DUTY** is now the highest-paid job in L. A.

**DICK CHENEY** took his stockbroker hunting.

**THE MAFIA** is laying off judges.

**CONGRESS** is looking into the Bernard Madoff scandal to recover taxes (so, the guy that made \$50 billion disappear is being investigated by the people who made \$750 billion disappear).

**OBAMA** met with several small business owners to discuss their stimulus package: G.E., Crysler, Pfizer, and Citigroup.

**EVEN PEOPLE** who have nothing to do with the Obama Administration aren't paying their taxes.

**ETHIOPIAN MOTHERS** are telling their kids, "finish your plate; do you know how many kids are starving in the United States?"

**A VAN FULL OF AMERICANS** got caught sneaking into Mexico.

**MOTEL SIX** won't leave the lights on for you any more.

## ROTARY ON THE TOWN

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>:** **DANCING with the ROTARIANS** at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia (on Huntington Drive just past the 210).

**COME ON – BRING SOME GUESTS**, Lucille urges. "The food is always good, so come early and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and the no-host bar before dinner, music, and dancing!"

**LUCILLE PROMISES THAT** "the Madera Ballroom will be beautifully decorated. Music from the 1940s to the 1980s await you for your dancing pleasure – waltz, rumba, salsa, jitterbug, disco, polka, hula, cha cha cha, line dancing ... **WHATEVER** San Marino Rotarians want to call their Wiggles and Hopping!"

**PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>** with your check for \$35 per person, payable to the Rotary Club of San Marino, sent to Lucille F. Norberg, 1872 West Drive – along with your choice of entrée:

**Crisp Whitefish**  
**Garlic rubbed Beef Tiritip, or**  
**Herb and Cream Stuffed Chicken Breast**

## AND ANOTHER RSVP NEEDED ...

**THE MAY FIESTA** is on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, in place of our noon meeting. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served between six and eight p.m. at The Old Mill's Pomegranate Court, with Rotary Charities' big drawing at 7:00 p.m.

**IF YOU'VE NOT YET RESPONDED**, please mail your check for \$15.00 (made out to our club) to Terry Petrillo – a return envelope was included in your invitation, or give it to her Thursday, or mail to their home – but please, respond soon, no later than May 11<sup>th</sup>.

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