



Your **ROTSCOPE** for Thursday, April 30, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE AIRLIFT

CHRISTIAN STOCKS WAS JUST A TODDLER when his divided country and its historic capital were challenged by the Soviet blockade of Berlin. But Stocks grew up knowing how Germany and its western allies confronted Stalin's test, with the Americans forming an airlift to fly in supplies for a city of millions of people. Stocks studied political science, history, art history, and political law at Kiel and Heidelberg, in France, England, and at Harvard and Michigan. He earned his doctorate from the University of Kiel with a thesis dealing with electoral voting behavior.

DR. STOCKS JOINED the German Foreign Service in 1977, with his first foreign posting to Madrid. He spent three years in Bonn as a speech writer for the Federal President, and then served in Mumbai, India; with the German Embassy in London, as counselor for political affairs, and back to Madrid as head of the political department of that Embassy. After other service with the German Foreign Office's Diplomatic School and with the State and City of Berlin, he was posted as Consul General of the Los Angeles consulate in July, 2005. He, his wife, and son have enjoyed southern California, a bit warmer here than in his native Schleswig-Holstein. He is active with several organizations in southern California, and he's a card-carrying Rotarian with the Big Club, L.A. #5. On Thursday, he'll recall the change to his country through the strength and success of that incredible airlift, assuring us that Germans haven't forgotten.

COME PARTY AT THE OLD MILL!

THE MAY FIESTA, including Rotary Charities' big raffle drawing, is Thursday, May 14th, 6-8 p.m. – BUT ...

PLEASE RESPOND by mailing your check for \$15.00 p.p. (made out to Rotary Club of San Marino) to Terry Petrillo in the envelope she sent you. She needs to know the count by May 11th – please don't forget to respond.

COME DANCE WITH ROTARY!

OUR NEXT "ROTARY ON THE TOWN" is May 20th, Wednesday at 6:00 pm, a dinner-dance – BUT ...

PLEASE RESPOND by mailing your check for \$35.00 p.p. (made out to RCSM) – along with your choice of whitefish, tri-tip, or a stuffed chicken breast – to Lucille Norberg in the envelope she sent you – by May 13th.

SPECIAL HONORS THIS WEEK FOR OUR MEMBER AND FRIEND

FRANK KNOLLE HAS SPOKEN to our club and in our community about his flying service into Berlin with the airlift. Fitting into his flight suit after sixty years after he and other heroes shuttled between Templehof and the west with everything to feed, clothe, and power a city of three million residents, shut off by the Soviet, Frank showed us some pictures of the route and the propeller plans that carried out Truman's stubborn defiance of Stalin.

FRANK IS SO MILD, MODEST, FRIENDLY, it's hard for us to realize what he and his colleagues accomplished. Last year, on the 60th anniversary, the world took a moment to recall the Berlin Airlift. At the same time, many Americans wondered out loud if today's reunited and strengthened German Federal Republic and its people retained much memory of, and appreciation for, the incredible success by our fliers.

DR. CHRISTIAN STOCKS, this week's speaker and the Consul General in Los Angeles, does remember. He will trace Germany's regrowth from the days of that blockade, and he will share the appreciation of most of his countrymen. And he will present Col. Knolle with a token of his country's esteem. This will be a memorable program at Rotary, and a fine occasion for you to bring a guest or two – perhaps a high school or college student born long after the Airlift, to help them understand and carry the story on to another generation so Frank's successes, and those of the other pilots, mechanics, and staff, will be remembered.

APRIL / MAY 2009

APRIL

30 Noon German Consul discusses his country's past and future

MAY

7 Noon Nathan Wang on his music for the Beijing Olympics

14 NOTHING AT NOON – FIESTA at the Old Mill, 6-8 p.m. (please RSVP!)

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

21 Noon We meet at the San Marino Public Library – Art Contest

21 1:35 p.m. Board meets for an hour after our library program

28 Noon We meet at City Hall – at the Fire Department

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

April 30: German Consul General



IS HE STUDYING – OR ASLEEP?

GOOD PICTURES ARE ON LINE at the district's web site, with all the incoming officers from our area clear across to Caliente, Nevada, listening intently to Tom Novotny of Las Vegas West, the governor for 2009-2010. The handsome hair and broad shoulders of our incoming president Emile Bayle show up in several of the pictures. But Emile's face is always hidden, as he's looking down at the big fat binder of paperwork our intrepid leaders-to-be were given during the Saturday Assembly.

LOOK FOR YOURSELF, then help me decide if Mr. Bayle is reading and paying attention – or sound asleep. Hard to tell. Tinker says if there is a clip available on YouTube you can find out quickly. Should you hear loud snoring, you'll know it's Emile.

TREASURER DENNIS KNEIER sent out electronic notices a couple of weeks ago of the fourth quarter dues billings, and he is making those charges to your credit cards this week. The rest of the club? – we need those not using automatic billing to write a check to Rotary NOW, if you've not already done so. Send your payment along to help Dennis keep up his great collections record. If you have any question at all about your bill, please call Dennis at 626-578-1109. You'll give him something to do by asking, and keep him out of mischief at the same time.

THE CROWLEYS HAVE MOVED out of their post office box, finding it a bit squeezed for the two of them. They are now "at home" – and comfortably so, overlooking beautiful gardens at The Oaks. Their phone number is unchanged: 796-6023 – and Marie receives email, though Paul does not think computers are here to stay, so continues with #2 pencils for communications. Their new postal address is:
2954 East Del Mar, #222
Pasadena, California 91107

A FULL-TIME HUMANITARIAN

BILL GATES GAVE \$100 MILLION as a challenge grant to help underwrite Rotary's commitment to eradicate polio. Rotary pledged to match each dollar, and as of a month ago more than \$73 million has been raised. With your help, the rest should be matched in another year. The Gates Foundation grant was the largest grant ever received by Rotary – until this year, when Gates gave Rotary an additional \$255 million – if Rotary would commit to raising another \$200 million by June 2012. (Meanwhile, the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom have committed another \$280 million to the global polio eradication initiative, not to count against the Gates challenge but to target the four countries where polio continues: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.)

BY THE TIME THE WORLD is certified polio-free, Rotary will have raised \$1.2 BILLION for eradication. More than a million lives have already been saved, and millions of cases prevented. But why did Gates choose Rotary as a conduit for his grants? The May *Rotarian* magazine summarizes an informal conversation with Bill, as he munched M&Ms and explained how he finds Rotary unique. "Rotary has taken a very strong leadership role," Gates commented, "and we knew, based on Rotary's track record, that they would be the key partner. My father is a member, and lately I've been learning more about Rotary and its commitment to help on polio. I'm more and more impressed, the more I learn.

"**GIVING TO ROTARY IS IDEAL**," Gates said. "They're dedicated to the polio fight and not subject to the same complexities as a United Nations organization ... Melinda and I felt best about having our most recent gift in Rotary's hands ..."

GATES TRAVELED TO INDIA in November, thanking Rotary and observing an NID. He's really dedicated now.

Our OFFICERS for 2009:

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

LOIS FIGURES THAT
HE WHO HESITATES
IS PROBABLY DOING THE RIGHT THING.