



# Your **ROTSOSCOPE** for Thursday, June 4, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

## **CLEARING SOME CONFUSION ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM PLANS**

**HOW WE GOT TO THIS POINT** in funding health care, and how we might consider various approaches to reform it – a big topic to cover in thirty minutes, but our Thursday speaker is one who can, a benefits expert who's also a long-time board member of and speaker for the Los Angeles Association of Health Underwriters (LAAHU).

**DEDE KENNEDY-SIMINGTON** is a "broker who thinks like a consultant." We're prejudiced in favor of Dede's abilities and expertise. She's served our school's benefits needs for years, and as she's impressed us all with her knowledge and her charm. A graduate of Polytechnic School and the University of Oregon, she has had a quarter-century career in employee benefits and health care. She began with eight years of administrating self-funded benefit plans for large employers, including many school districts. This involved explaining health care plans to school people, maybe the stupidest folk possible when topics concern money or health care. Believe me, from my years of personal experience, Dede is remarkable in clarifying those topics, without making me feel as stupid as I really am about them.

**DEDE OPENED HER OWN** benefits brokerage, and she is now in practice with Polenzani Benefits in Pasadena while lobbying in Sacramento and Washington for reform. Balancing her career with extensive volunteering and with being a wife and mother of two, she also keeps up with the different suggestions in consideration for changing our present system, including the current thoughts of Senator Kennedy and others. That's what she's talking about Thursday.

## **ROTARY'S BIG NIGHT OF THE YEAR!**

**ALL HANDS ARE NEEDED TO COME CHEER LOIS – AND DEMOTE HER!**

**Wednesday evening, June 17, at San Gabriel Country Club:**

### **San Marino Rotary's Night to Shine**

**YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION** will be in your mail soon. It's a bit late, so your quick response is needed to make dinner arrangements.

**PLEASE PLAN TO COME** on **WEDNESDAY the 17<sup>th</sup>** for our club's Mainstage Event of the Year – cheering Lois Matthews' presidency, then dumping her to welcome incoming president Emile Bayle before he skips town to attend the Rotary International convention in England.

**OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRES FRED** has not yet shared his plans, but we'll go out on a limb to guess it will start around 6:30, that there will be a cocktail reception, a superb dinner, a gentle ribbing of Lois' sparkling personality, and a bunch of thanks for her good work, all while you're surrounded by great Rotary friends. Once Fred gets things put together, we hope he'll let us know what's happening and what VIP's he's invited – Barack and Michelle, Elizabeth and Phillip, Brad and Whomever.

**WE'LL SHARE THE PROGRAM** when it's shared with us, but meanwhile we hope you'll be watching your mail for the invitation, that you're planning to come, and that you'll return your reply same-day to help the dinner committee with the dinner preparations.

## **JUNE 2009**

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<b>4</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>BACK AT COMMUNITY CHURCH: Reviewing the issues of health care reform</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Our annual salute to our Military Academy classes</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>THE DEMOTION DINNER PARTY</b>
<b>18</b>		<b>NO NOON MEETING</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Earning Serendipity</b>

# THE ROTOSCOPE

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

June 4: Understanding health care proposals



## FIRE TRUCK DISAPPOINTMENT

**MANY OF US WANTED** to be firefighters along about kindergarten, to ride those Big Red Trucks all over town while out rescuing cats from trees – or for the junior high guys, carrying fair maidens down ladders from their smoky bedrooms while administering mouth-to-mouth lifesaving. Now that we've seen San Marino's shiny new Pierce engine, we're disillusioned. That platform on the back of the truck – where we dreamed of holding on as the engine screamed down the street – had a big sticker on it forbidding any standing while moving. They're taking away all the fun, sitting inside in air-conditioned comfort.

**SO I DON'T WANT TO BE** a firefighter any more. Of course, after seeing how high that first step is to climb into the cab, I doubt I can make it up there any more anyway. Did you see how the tires come up to your chest? Imagine changing one should it go flat while rushing down Huntington Drive.

**WE ALMOST GOT AWAY** all year with no shrill whistling from president Lois. She restrained herself for eleven months. But she just couldn't resist inside the echoing barn of the "hose house" last Thursday. When Lois whistled for attention, three firefighters thought it was the disaster bell and rushed for their turnout suits. Madam Matthews is indeed powerful.

**THANKS TO THE FIRE TEAM** for inviting us, and to the crew on duty for showing us their pride in service. Thanks to Chief John for his good hospitality and better reminders, and to Wray Cornwell's team for setting it up. And thanks to Greg Custer for his creative thinking outside the box of Community Church – where we return this Thursday, then skip again on the 18<sup>th</sup> to go to the Demotion Dinner on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>, hoping it's really organized by then – and hoping you're RSVP promptly.

## GIVE TEN MINUTES TO BOOST KIDS

**OUR LAST BOOK PRESENTATION** by our "Reading by 9" committee is to be on Friday, June 12, at 9:00 a.m. Come for just a few minutes for two things: show the boys and girls that others care about them, and show yourself how much we help with this simple gesture:

June 12, 9 am, at  
**John Marshall Elementary**  
1817 Jackson, San Gabriel  
(Easy: south on Del Mar, right on Marshall, west to Jackson – school on NORTHWEST corner).

**THE PRINCIPAL FROM LONGFELLOW** in Pasadena, Erica Ingber, will be at our lunch this Thursday to thank us on behalf of her kids, and tell us again how much our gift books mean. On your way to work Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, come see and feel their pleasure.

## TUNNELING UNDER YOUR HOUSE?

**CALTRANS AND METRO** are looking at many alternatives to extend the 710, the Long Beach freeway, north to link up with the 210. Everything practical is on the table, including the use of a tunnel that could be deep below Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pas, or San Marino. The technical study involves research, exploration, and analyzing soil conditions more than 250 feet deep. The report is due by the end of the year.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE** of the tunnel study? Or to ask questions about the plans, including how the exhaust will be vented? There's a community meeting in town this Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at San Marino Center (our good Old Woman's Club of the past). This is your chance to talk with tunnel technical study staff about this intriguing alternative to please all our neighbors by putting 710 traffic deep underground.

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LOIS FIGURES THAT  
THE SOLE PURPOSE OF A CHILD'S MIDDLE NAME  
IS SO THAT HE CAN TELL WHEN HE'S REALLY IN TROUBLE