



Your **ROTSCOPE** for
Thursday, December 3, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

OVER 30,000 AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN have returned home wounded from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other overseas action so far this decade. Many of these are very serious wounds, losing legs, arms, eyes. Our government is struggling to patch up their physical wounds, but we need to help with their emotions by letting them know we care, that we haven't forgotten them after their sacrifice.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT began in Jacksonville, Florida, where it's still based. Their objective is to provide tangible support for the severely wounded, but also some caring and knowledge they're not at all forgotten. The group is dedicated to doing something for these brave individuals, something more than brass band parades and quick thanks, then ignoring them. The volunteers gather funds, materials, and support through beach days, bike races, concerts, even a murder mystery day cruise out of Miami. WWP has spread from Florida across this great nation, as Americans give to remember those who served in these two wars. A representative of WWV talks with us this week on how you can help.

LIGHTS ALONG THE DRIVE

THE ROWS OF DEODARS along St. Albans Road between Huntington and Monterey draw hundreds of cars over the holidays, with children enraptured by the fairy-like lights strung each year by the residents. You may remember these from your own childhood, when St. Albans neighbor K. L. Carver started the tradition before WWII with trees just a few feet high. It continues to delight San Marinians, their families, and visitors from around the Southland.

THREE MORE SPECIAL TREES have been splendidly decorated by the same group that hangs the St. Albans lights. They were lit one evening last month as the decorators installed them, and the official lighting comes on Friday, December 4th. Thanks to our city and its crews, this is a grand light show on the triangle where San Marino Avenue comes across Huntington. Go see it!

THREE YES, TWO NO

FIVE THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER – but only three meetings for San Marino Rotary.

WE MEET AS USUAL THIS THURSDAY and again on the 10th and 17th – at Community Church, with some interesting programs getting planned.

NO MEETINGS OF COURSE on Christmas Eve and New Year's eve. Go enjoy!

NO HOLIDAY DINNER OR RECEPTION this year, either, given the way the calendar falls on two Fridays.

FIRST MEETING OF 2010 comes on January 10th, when all bets can be settled on both Rose Bowl and BCS games, and when the last stragglers can pay up for each Benny TD at \$5 each goal. (But pay by December 31 to claim on your taxes)

SO JUST WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO HELP?

THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT started with a simple project that continues: preparing back packs with little but essential gifts to present in hospitals and at home for some of the 30,000 returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with body parts left behind or damaged beyond use. WWP knows they have loving caregivers, family members or neighbors who give days and nights to feeding, bathing, dressing, supporting our wounded men and women. WWP reaches out to both the Wounded Warriors and their caregivers with retreats and discussion groups, with emergency food, clothing, and cash, and with some loving fun. Many of the wounded want to get back to life – to enjoy sports, friends, living as normally as possible. WWF has done some remarkable things in helping with adaptive sports so the wounded can bike again, go skiing, swim, run, even compete in triathlons. More, they need to add friends who will visit with, talk to, give support for returned soldiers and sailors of our community. The nonprofit project welcomes tax-deductible donations, which can be done on line at:

www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER

26 **NO MEETING, as it's Thanksgiving Day**

DECEMBER

3 **Noon "Wounded Warriors"**

10 **Noon Still Under Construction – watch this spot for updates**

17 **Noon Audubon bird spotting**

24 **NO MEETING – CHRISTMAS EVE – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

31 **NO MEETING – NEW YEAR'S EVE – HAPPY 2010!**

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

December 3: The Wounded Warrior Project



MORE ON SAFE WATER

REMEMBER THOSE NUMBERS in our last Rotoscope listing the billions of people in this world without safe water to drink or safe sanitation for their waste. Water-borne diseases incapacitate children and adults, adding to the frustrations of feeding families. Untreated human waste is polluting fish, aquatic mammals, and vegetation.

THE WATER CRISIS SOUNDS OVERWHELMING, but there is hope. Rotary joins with a number of other non-governmental organizations, international groups, and wealthier nations in seeking solutions. As polio was decades ago, we've seen that much can be done.

THE DRINKING WATER and sanitation problem has been solved for 83% of the planet, including in the United States where a hundred years ago our own water story was sad. Japan, Western Europe, Australia, many places have universal coverage of water and toilets. We know what the cure is, and we know that village by village we can bring help to end the problem. What's needed is the political and popular will.

THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENIUM development goals include reducing by half by 2015 – just five years from now - the proportion of people without access to drinking water and sanitation. Your Rotary organization is committed to doing our part, step by step. The world is on target to meet the water goal, but not sanitation.

YOU CAN HELP the world catch up, not only by your TRF donations, but also through education in our own families and communities to be sure our healthy country realizes what damage is being done to all of us by the diseases from water affecting our worldwide neighbors.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT STILL ON

FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, our Midderacters from Huntington School will continue to take in your leftover Christmas cards – either a few new ones you didn't send last year and find in your decorations storage, or the colorful covers torn from that box of 2008 holiday greetings. Please tear off the fronts of the used cards, and bring new or used to Diane Wadsworth at this week's meeting.

THE HMS MIDDERACT – not a British warship, but the middle school service group – must stop collecting on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th, so there's time to cut-and-paste the old cards into new greetings to be sent to American army, navy, and air force bases in some 38 countries where our men and women are serving, plus some lonely posts across our own continent. While they protect and serve us this holiday, we want to reach out to say thanks – and best wishes. The Pasadena American Legion is helping Midderact with the distribution, which must be done carefully to meet APO and NPO regulations that prevent damaging mail. Do your share to remember – bring your cards to Rotary now.

EVERY YEAR, REMEMBER

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR 2009-2010 GIFT to The Rotary Foundation? TRF asks "every Rotarian, every year" to make at least a \$100 contribution. Our own Foundation Committee prefers your check go to them for accounting, before they relay it to RI, but another way is to use the RI web site to contribute now, while you're thinking of it. With just a few clicks, it's done to count for your Rotary commitment – and for your 2009 income tax deductions. You can designate your contributions for either PolioPlus or the Annual Programs Fund: www.rotary.org/trfdirect

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OFFICERS:

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EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it.
For example, I am looking in the mirror and thinking how nice that wrinkles don't hurt.