



Your **ROTSOPE** for
Thursday, December 17, 2009
 for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

THE AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK

YOU HAVE DRIVEN PAST IT MANY TIMES as you wind along the Arroyo Seco to downtown L.A., with the Monterey Hills paralleling the Pasadena Freeway. Atop the hills, an Audubon Center opened six years ago as an environmental education and conservation center. We heard the plans from the Audubon director at that time, when he spoke to our club about what was being created. Now director Jeff Chapman returns to describe the center, where over 140 species of birds have been recorded among the walnut and oak woodlands, grasslands, and coastal sage, remnants of the native habitats that once hosted our Tongva forebears before White Man carved up the L.A. Basin.

JEFF CHAPMAN GREW UP in San Marino, attending Carver, Huntington, and SMHS (where he was a member of Interact and a RYLA recipient). He has been involved in environmental education the last two decades, beginning on Catalina, then the first Teacher-Naturalist at the Audubon Center, going to the Arroyo Seco Foundation, and now back at Audubon again as its director. Jeff is working toward his Master's at Cal State San Bernardino when he's not introducing visitors to Audubon's outreach program to engage Latino audiences. You'll be surprised at what's offered at this fine program.

THURSDAY EVENING AT LA CASA

THIS THURSDAY EVENING is our fourth annual Christmas party for 78 needy children at La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center School, just a mile south at 203 East Mission Road. Please come! – to support the kids, and to feel the glow of Christmas as dinner, juice, and a bag of clothes and toys go to each child. If you've not yet kicked in your share, bring a check this week to lunch, or mail it to San Marino Rotary Charities, please.

TONY WEBER OF PLUSHLAND kicked in more than his share, donating a generous number of his company's plush dolls for distribution to the kids. Tony's not a Rotarian, but caught the spirit from his across-the-street neighbors Ing-Yih and Elliott. Thanks and cheers to Plushland's president Tony for helping us treat the children at La Casa, a very worthy project for families in need who are right at our doorstep.

ELECTION RESULTS NOT YET CERTIFIED

IT WAS SO CLOSE A VOTE that inspectors were up all Thursday night, examining the hanging chads (remember them?) and smudged ballots. Lights burned late at the Nafie home, with a handful of his faithful supporters waiting with Bob for the results. The television crews outside gave up around 2:00 a.m., figuring there would be no acceptance speech from Bob until later. They were right; he's taking out television time to thank his supporters, but as of our press time the winners have not yet been officially announced and all projections are uncertain. Some absentee ballots haven't been counted, and the official canvass will be needed before we know for sure. Rotoscope cannot project definite winners yet, but leading tonight as we write are:

FOR PRESIDENT, 2010-2011: BOB NAFIE
PRESIDENT-ELECT (2011-2012): STEVE TALT
SECRETARY: KAREN PACIOREK
TREASURER: DENNIS KNEIER

LAPAROSCOPIC EQUIPMENT HEADING TO HELP YAQUIS

WE JOIN WITH ARCADIA, PASADENA, and OBREGON ROTARIANS in a partnership as our international service project this year, with our club and Pasadena Rotary each contributing \$3,500, matched by district designated funds and helped by \$1000 from Arcadia Rotarians, to send down equipment through Liga International to allow volunteer Mexican physicians to hold monthly clinics. With laparoscopic surgery, patients can recover and return to work – mostly on small family farms – much quicker. Obregon is the largest city in the state of Sonora, and its Rotary will be the host sponsor. It's a newly developed area, founded after the Mexican Revolution, where a half-million people have come to live over the last two decades. Villages around Obregon and into the nearby mountains of Copper Canyon are autonomous, populated by very independent and proud Yaqui who were never conquered by the Spanish. You may know the Yaqui from their famous Deer Dance, or from their barefoot runners. While many practice traditional medicine, the shaman have learned to use and respect Yankees helping the Yaqui in a health-care partnership involving the "Flying Doctors" we heard about last month. It is a wonderful project, and we're happy that Emile and the board have agreed to make it our club's project this year.

DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

DECEMBER

- 17** **Noon** **Learn about Audubon Center at Debs Park**
- 24** **NO MEETING – CHRISTMAS EVE – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- 31** **NO MEETING – NEW YEAR'S EVE – HAPPY 2010!**

JANUARY

- 7** **Noon** **Construction in the middle of major medical care**
- 14** **Noon** **USC's retiring hero, Steve Sample**

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

December 17: Birds in our backyard



TIME TO TRADE IT IN

PAUL CROWLEY HASN'T been using his old car recently while he tools around Monte Vista Grove in a spiffy wheel chair during his recovery from some small strokes. Marie and other visitors have been urging him to replace the car anyway, though its trunk is the depository for Rotary, City, Titan football, and other historic memorabilia.

THE OLD GREY OLDS with the "GO TITAN" license plates has given a few indications that it's time for a replacement.

- Paul's bench seats are on the National Register of Historic Places;
- There are no air bags. Instead, Paul has taped whoopie cushions to the dash;
- His Jiffy Lube jobs have been lasting only three days;
- Reportedly thieves have broken into the car just to steal "The Club."
- Each time he gassed up at the Union 76 on Huntington, an attendant came out to ask "Can I re-duct-tape your windshield for you, sir?"
- When he stopped at a light on Huntington, someone always ran up to ask if anyone was hurt;
- Traffic reporters on KNX kept referring to Paul's car by name when discussing morning tie-ups;
- The thing hasn't been the same since Ransom E. Olds borrowed it.

THE 3/50 PROJECT

OUR SAN MARINO CHAMBER FRIENDS ask you to consider their 3/50 project while you're out shopping this season. They're trying to help save the brick and mortar our nation is built on, asking each resident to commit \$50 each month in purchases at locally-owned businesses, total. They ask you to rethink where you're investing your purchases, and opt to pick up a card, a sweater, have lunch, in a locally-owned business rather than going to a big box or chain that's not only out of San Marino, but that's owned in Arkansas or New York or London.

WE'VE SOME INTERESTING small, independent businesses and eating places lining Huntington and Mission. In these tough times, more people avoid the locals and are going to the mass retailers to stretch their dollars. But it's the small businesses that support our town with sales tax receipts, advertisements in the Titan sports programs, donations to PolioPlus, banners along the Drive. You can easily help. Choose THREE local businesses and spend just \$50 a month total, and we can give them a boost.

AMAZING STORIES!

MOST OF OUR MEMBERS remember the fear of polio in our youth, before Sauk and Sabin provided protection (yes, kids like John Donovan and Matt Ballantyne are too young to remember, but they're smart enough to learn). Our middle and high school students have absolutely no idea how bad it was, when a classmate would go home after school Friday and not return Monday as he'd died from polio over the weekend, and when one or two classmates limped or sagged from the lifetime remains of their own siege. RI has an illustrated comic book explaining the horrors. It's on line at the RI site, and something you might share with your family.

Our OFFICERS for 2009 - 2010:

OFFICERS:

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EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.