



# Your **ROTOSCOPE** for **Thursday, March 11, 2010**

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

## THE FIRE SERVICE, TODAY AND TOMORROW

**THE FIRE SERVICE YESTERDAY** must have been great fun, sitting around the station playing checkers and looking at drawings of plump women in the Police Gazette, sliding down the pole and harnessing up the horses when the bells clanged, then charging through town spewing hot sparks to start lots of little fires on the way to a big one. There is serious protection from our fire service today. Our city's **CHIEF JOHN PENIDO** talks this week on how it changed and will change even more. John comes from the health care side of today's fire service, serving in Pasadena with not only fire suppression but also emergency management at large events such as the World Cup, Rose and Super Bowls, and Rose Parade. As a Lieutenant Colonel, his military career spanned 25 years in the Medical Service Corps. He has been a licensed paramedic since 1976. Chief Penido earned his BA at Claremont Men's College, and a Master's in Public Administration at Cal State. He is a professor at Mount Sac, where he teaches management of multiple casualty incidents and other EMS topics to paramedic students. John is in charge of our city's firefighting, paramedic ambulance, emergency (including terrorist) preparations, and fire prevention services, protecting over \$3.3 billion in assessed valuation, plus The Huntington's treasures. And as most of us know, he's a strong volunteer in youth services, fine person, and excellent judge of chili.

## AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF ROTARY SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**MATTHEW LIN HASN'T BEEN** attending our meetings recently, and we sort of guessed where he has been. We were right, at least partly. Yes, after Matt stopped seeing patients at the New Year, he's been serving others – including going to Haiti right after their earthquake and spending eleven days with his son doing volunteer surgeries there. He reports how Rotary helped, too, with the tents from the "shelter boxes" sponsored by Rotary becoming makeshift hospital wards. From Haiti, Matt went to the United Nations to report on the situation, getting medications from them for some of the Dominican Republic clinics serving Haitians where Matt also operated. Now he is heading to New Orleans to gather help for Haiti. Then he goes with Joy to Taiwan – no, not a 'vacation', but so Matt can lecture to international medical students there.

**JOY AND MATT** did have time to welcome another granddaughter in mid-February – "Vanessa is absolutely beautiful," Matt declares. Number One, Olivia, born during our Memorial Day exercises, is seven years old already. Back home on Oak Grove, the Lins were able to move in after their house had been 'Showcased' last spring, only to find the display landscaping had new drainage that didn't work right in these rains. A minor problem compared to what he saw in Haiti, says Matt.

### POSSIBLE "AMBASSADORS"

**TWO UNDERGRADUATES DISCOVERED** by our club's Foundation Committee have been accepted as candidates in the district competition for Ambassadorial Scholarships in 2012-13. Now they go on to district interviews.

**KATARINA MAYERS** is a student at Villanova, and wants to go to Chile for graduate studies. She's a product of San Marino High.

**SCOTT GREG** is currently at Harvard. A Poly grad, Scott wants to study at the University of Jordan in Amman.

**WISH THEM BOTH WELL** on their way to a grant!

### CHAMPION CHILI

**WARREN WEBER** – *NOT* that imposter Warren, Mr. Yetter – won for best taste yet again. Weber is our neighbor, and we really appreciate his cooking up a pot of chili each year, as he catches all the rats, gophers, and squirrels for a block around to add flavor that wins prizes. Thanks, Warren!

**TOM LAKE** from South Pas Rotary brought the chili rated #1 HOT, and it really was. After one bite, I couldn't taste any others. Tom brought a second pot (didn't know our rules so he got away with it), and #2 was #2 for taste.

**RIGHT BEHIND** was **DENNIS KNEIER** for taste. Runners up for hot chili were **CHARLIE RASMUSSEN** and **DENISE WADSWORTH**. Thanks to **GREG CUSTER** for all the fun!

## MARCH / APRIL 2010

### MARCH

- |    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 11 | Noon       | Program change: Fire Chief John Penido                 |
| 18 | 11:30 a.m. | Foundation Luncheon at The Huntington Libe, etc.       |
| 25 | Noon       | Program Committee's Surprise Event at Community Church |

### APRIL

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 1  | Noon | Not an April Fool: Caltech's Swami Krishnan on Quakes Here |
| 8  | Noon | LA City Attorney Carmen Trutanich (rescheduled)            |
| 15 | Noon | Larry Mielke on Huntington Hotel History (rescheduled)     |

# THE ROTOSCOPE

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

March 11: Fire Chief John Penido



## OBITUARY

**LEE MOTHERSHEAD SPOTTED** this obituary printed in the London Times. He's sad that it's rather true.

**TODAY WE MOURN** the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.

**COMMON SENSE LIVED** by simple financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to fail when well-intentioned regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

**COMMON SENSE LOST GROUND** when parents attacked teachers for doing the job parents failed to do, and declined further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant. It lost the will to live as churches became businesses, criminals received better health care than their victims, and homeowners could be sued by burglars for assault. It gave up after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, and received a huge settlement. It was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason. He is survived by stepbrothers I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, and I'm A Victim.

## MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

TO FILL THE OPEN CLASSIFICATION OF: FLORIST

**JOANNA M. JIMINEZ**

**Business:** Joanna's Floral Expressions and Gifts  
1427 San Marino Avenue, S. M.  
626-844-9339

**Home:** 555 North Euclid Avenue,  
Pasadena

*Proposed by Deborah Priester*

**JOANNA JIMINEZ** has been our club's guest several times, and filed a membership application early in January. The wheels of our club turn slowly, however; our board approved her application last week, and under Rotary rules her name is now posted for a week to allow any member to protest if it is felt the person would not make a good Rotarian. Meanwhile, thanks to Debbie for inviting Joanna – and thanks to YOU if you too will suggest good people to join our club.

## UNFORTUNATELY, EMILE'S RIGHT

**OUR PRESIDENT LAMENTED** last meeting that Rotarians stall about responding to invitations until the last minute. That hurts! But it's true – how slow we are with RSVP's, and how this makes it hard for our club's event-planners.

**PROVE EMILE WRONG! RESPOND!!** – to the PHF lunch at The Huntington on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. You have a card that needs only your 'yes' or 'no', plus a check for a guest (you've already paid for your lunch through your dues). A reply envelope to Sue at the YMCA is enclosed. Please ... !

## Our OFFICERS for 2010:

### OFFICERS:

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

## EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

I define "frustration" as trying to find my glasses without my glasses.