



The Rotoscope

of the San Marino, California, Rotary Club



Events

November 2017

- 11/02 - Luncheon Meeting: JACK LONDON
- 11/09 - Luncheon Meeting: VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION
- 11/16 - Luncheon Meeting: ROSE QUEEN & COURT
- 11/17 - Board of Directors Meeting - San Marino Rotary Club
- 11/18 - Bike Assembly

November 2, 2017

Secrets from the Bowels of The Huntington

JACK LONDON IN THE VALLEY OF THE MOON

Club Leaders



Denise Wadsworth
Youth Service
Chair, President



Fang Fang Ho
President-Elect



Gilda Moshir
iPast President



Paul Brassard
Secretary



Dennis B. Kneier
Treasurer



Lucille F. Norberg
Sergeant-at-Arms



Kenneth Veronda
Bulletin Editor



Gregory F. Johansing
Administration Chair, Club
Director



Molly W Woodford
Club Director, Membership
Chair



William H. Bortz
Club Director, Rotary
Foundation Chair



Deborah A. Herbert
Club Director



**J. Leland Mothershead
III**
Club Director



Fary Yassamy
Club Director

‘SARA S.’ THAT’S ALL. JUST ‘SARA S.’, our program committee calls her. All very mysterious this period of the day of the dead. Is ‘Sara S.’ from the underground? Is she dead or alive? Writer Jack London is dead. His legend is very much alive, and we hope that “Sara S.” is alive and healthy also, though that’s not confirmed on the club’s web pages. Apparently ‘Sara S.’ works deep underground the Munger – that’s the extraordinarily expanded library part of THE HUNTINGTON – you know, the deep hole dug a couple of years ago and its covering with the cafeteria, entry pavilion, store – but underneath, labyrinths of aisles and stacks and heavy doors where great printed treasures are stored for researchers. And among those holdings are papers, maybe deep secrets in those pages, about the unusual life of writer Jack London and his home in the Valley of the Moon north of San Francisco. We’re betting “Sara S.”, dead or alive, has some interesting findings to share with us for this week’s Rotary program.

ALL PAID. ALL ACCOUNTED FOR. DOWN A BIT, BUT with your help, it will all balance out. At the end of the first quarter of this club’s financial year, treasurer Dennis Kneier did it again – squeezed dues payments out of everyone, paid all the bills, and we’re pretty much normal. Dennis notes we lost four, gained one, for a total membership right now of 111. About as always. A club of busy, important people loses about a dozen out of every hundred – mostly moving on to other businesses, or retiring out of town; sometimes through death. Thus we always, always need to be replenishing the membership with a dozen or so new members each year, with your help in bringing guests who would make good Rotarians.

TREASURER DENNIS’ COUNT includes three resignations last quarter, regretfully but for good reasons. Bob Eichel has switched to Pasadena Rotary, closer to his office and home. Jon Crowley is on a leave of absence as he flies cross-country much too much these days, with three bright kids on the other coast. And Kathy Marangi had to resign for business reasons, and she’d be very welcomed back whenever that’s possible for her. The fourth loss, of course, came with Robert Redford’s death after a long career at law and long residence in San Marino. So we stand at 111, with anticipated income a bit lower than predicted, but a few good new members will solve that. Are YOU on it?

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE BUBBLING, with seven good people and good friends of us standing for the three open Council manic seats in San Marino. Lots of campaigning, lots of ads in the local papers and fliers in our mail. Following former mayor and enthusiastic Rotarian Paul Crowley’s longtime campaign our town has strongly discouraged yard signs, and once again San Marino people respect that concept of keeping our town beautiful, even if it was called the “City of Salmon” on the YouTube close captioning.

BUT ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT’S REALLY SPECIAL with the City of Salmon – sorry, of SAN MARINO’S city council, commissions, and study groups? They’re volunteers.



Leonard Therrien
Club Director, Community Service Chair



Robert W. Nafie
Club Director



Shody Chow
International Service Chair



Steve Garrett
Public Image Chair



William L. Payne
Public Image Chair



Tony Chou
Vocational Service Chair, Youth Service Chair

Unpaid volunteers. No per diem. No dollars for giving time to study sessions, council meetings, and commission hearings. Volunteers who believe in maintaining our attractive residential community and are willing to get up early for breakfast meetings, skip much of the evening for formal meetings, give days for retreats or study groups, all to help keep San Marino what the Tribune used to call the “finest residential city in the west”.

VOTE ON TUESDAY THE 5TH, vote at the consolidated precinct places, or mail in your absentee ballot signed correctly so it will count, vote for three of the seven offering themselves for this volunteer civic duty, but whichever three good folk you choose, take a moment to thank the other four who stepped out to campaign and help. There are no “losers” this election. The city gets three volunteers to serve, plus four others who shared some good ideas and will continue to help keep the town as good as the Tribune proclaims.

WHENEVER THE PASADENA DAILY BLURB needs to fill a news or advertising hole, one of their photographers goes out to make another photograph of the famous Southwestern Cannon, on lend-lease to Fleming House at Caltech, to defend the Flems from those Dabney folk across the Olive Walk. Since the Southwestern Cannon was ‘borrowed’ in a marvelous sneak movement from our lawn, across Monterey Road and up Oak Knoll hill, in the dead of a Day of the Dead midnight, Flems have paid ‘lend lease’ for their protection, fired it for special guests and at commencement, and occasionally had it stolen by Harvey Mudd or even evil MIT crews, only to be returned under Southwestern’s orders.

ONCE AGAIN LAST WEEK that starry daily news used a few columns to show a cute four year old blonde astride the freshly-polished cannon, giving us one more addition to our collection of George H. W. Bush, Defense Secretary Harold Brown, Prince Phillip, Ronald Reagan, and my favorite of course, Richard Feynman, either astride or startled by the cannon’s blast as they walked past.

HAROLD BROWN WAS MORE THAN STARTLED. He was angered. He’d been Caltech president, and had ordered the cannon removed when the Flems fired it with double the load of gunpowder, and blew out Brown’s windows in the tall library building at the end of the Olive Walk. He ordered it removed once more when the Flems fired a load of Jell-O across the walk to splatter all over enemy Dabney Hall, resulting in a sticky cleanup by the university’s ground crew. So the Flems had the cannon towed, by visiting circus animals no less, back to a side yard at Southwestern, partied heartily, and charged the transport and party to president Brown’s expense account at Caltech. And as soon as Brown moved into Jimmy Carter’s cabinet, the Flems picked up their guardian cannon once again.

AROUND HALLOWEEN CAN BE A SILLY SEASON INDEED. This is the anniversary of the decorations added by one of our current Rotarians and his college friends to the Leaning Tower of Pisa some 57 years ago. The decoration was an eighty-by-twenty strip of white cloth, a string of bedsheets stitched together, painted with seven big letters in bright red. The cloth was carefully wrapped around as a skirt on a pretty classmate, and the crew guided her up the steps of the Leaning Tower to unfurl it when guards weren’t watching. Down it dropped, layer by layer, where classmates waited to stretch out the cloth, while our future “Service Above Self” San Marino Rotarian did the service of photographing it. That photo shoot did draw the guards, indeed. They pounced on the photographer, and on his buddy at the top of the tower (the other accessory students slunk away). UNDER ARREST by the Carabinieri, for ‘desecration of a holy structure’ (we had forgotten that the Leaning Tower is really the bell tower for the Cathedral of Pisa across the lawn). To jail. A jail cell overflowing with drunks, vagabonds, and their assorted human waste.

MEMORIES OF THE SMELLY PISA JAIL remained keen when the little group gathered a few days ago to reminisce, 57 years later. The photographer from San Marino – the California San Marino, which caused confusion when booked by the Pisa Police Department – and the guy at top, now provost at the Junior University in Palo Alto and far more accomplished in life than the plain old photographer, had their stories recorded once again for the University Archives. At the bookstore you can buy T-Shirts, pens, plates, cups, even banners with an imprint of the Leaning Tower with the local photographer’s original shot, copyrighted by him but with revenues donated to the Alumni Fund. This is the anniversary of the great banner on the Leaning Tower spelling out

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November 2nd: Jack London through the medium of 'Sara S.'

November 9th: Veterans' Day Tribute, with special guest veteran
of the Battle of the Bulge