

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Debbie Lowrey's Year
1993-1994

Our R.I President, Robert Barth's theme was, "Believe in what you do, do what you believe in". Our District Governor, Conrad von Bibra's theme was "Light up a life through Rotary". I felt that all had been said in those two themes, and we would keep them in mind throughout the year in all we did.

My year began with a San Marino sized "media blitz", with Rotary having its first woman president. At PETS, held in January prior to my taking office, many were filled with surprise at seeing women in the "large" club section (There were only two of us). Then as July came closer, the San Marino Tribune ran articles on me. There were cheers at the Fourth of July Parade for a "woman" president, and the attention from members and visitors was overwhelming. The San Marino Club members are the most gracious, supportive and dedicated anywhere. I truly love them all.

Our leadership team consisted of Lee Mothershead, as President-Elect, Gene Orłowsky, Past President, Bruce Pretzinger, Secretary, Gerry Wolcott, Treasurer, Bob Warnock, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Ken Veronda, Club Bulletin. Directors were: Carla Mott, Chris Datwyler, Bill Payne, Ben Bassett, Jon Maeda, Gil Slagel, Doug Larner, and Bob Ebert.

The International Convention was held in Melbourne, Australia. My son Aaron and I were in attendance and found what Rotary was all about. The fellowship among Rotarians from around the world, with nothing in common except Rotary, was an inspiration. Then, just three weeks after taking office, I got married! Who said my timing was good anyway? My entire year as president was, and still is, a blur of activity and change for me.

Therese and Lee Mothershead hosted several functions at their home including the "old/new" board meeting and the Governor's visit. This was a break with the tradition of the Old Mill.

A visit to the Gamble House and dinner in the basement was also quite a break from THEIR traditions. The Laguna Beach fire devastated so many homes and lives, but those club members with homes there had them survive unscathed. Our Christmas Party at the University Club, planned by Bruce Pretzinger, was marvelous, and the Citrus Singers were the perfect entertainment at Christmastime.

My demotion was fun for me, and hopefully for all who attended. Gene Orlofsky found pictures of me as a small child, and made an entire program of my life in Rotary! Some pictures were pretty embarrassing!

I must thank my board and the entire club for their love, encouragement, and support, throughout my year as president. I never could have imagined the toll that getting married, moving, blending families, and being president, would have been. All of the Rotarians helped, understood, and encouraged my growth and challenges. It was a year of seeing the depth of caring and compassion evident in our club. Thank you all! I loved being your president.

