

ROTARY CLUB OF SAN MARINO

President Jack Hamilton's Year 2004-05
Rotary International's Centennial Year!

2004-05 R. I. President Glenn Estess, Jr., from Birmingham, Alabama, set a goal for each Rotary Club in the world to conceive, and complete if possible, a Centennial Project for its home community. President-Elect Len Therrien presented his idea of a Centennial Clock gift to the City of San Marino. The Board of Directors enthusiastically accepted the project. The concept was presented to the City Council and to the Boards of Directors of The Chamber of Commerce, The Chinese Club, San Marino Masons, and City Club. All embraced the project. Honorary Fundraising Chair, Bill Steele, suggested we try to raise all funds for the project from within the Club. With the help of stipulated donations from the above organizations, plus assistance from Cal-Am Water, the City of San Marino, and a couple of insistent non-member citizens, all other funds did come from club members. Many club members contributed hands on expertise, among them Steven Schultz, Dennis Kneier, Greg Thompson, Len Therrien, Eugene Orlowsky and Jeff Groseth. The clock gift to the City was completed on schedule and dedicated July 4, 2005. A bronze plaque on site recognizes project donors. A second, smaller plaque marks the spot of San Marino's first official time capsule, to be opened on July 4, 2039, the Centennial Year of the Rotary Club of San Marino! The time capsule is a cylinder, about 1 foot by 3 feet, and it is "stuffed" with contributed items from local organizations, citizens and Club members.

President Jack traveled with his wife, Janice, to the International Convention in Osaka, Japan. This convention was attended by over 45,000 Rotarians from all over the world, and set a new attendance record. Also in attendance from our club were PDG Lee Mothershead and his wife, Therese. While in Osaka, Jack and Janice were excited by the Shelter Box Project, a disaster relief concept of one box (\$900) supplying six months of survival gear for 10 persons. President Jack challenged our two Interact Clubs (San Marino High School and Southwestern Academy) to raise money for one Shelter box each by the end of the year. Melissa Metzelaar, President of the Southwestern Interact, took the challenge very seriously, and, after only six months had raised enough for two boxes! Midway through the year the terrible *tsunami* disaster swept across Southeast Asia, killing thousands and displacing thousands more. District 5300 challenged clubs to raise relief funds for the disaster. Melissa and her Interactors continued their efforts and by the end of the year had raised a total of nearly \$10,000 for the Shelter Box/Tsunami Relief effort. The result was that San Marino sponsored Interact from Southwestern Academy was responsible for 10% of our entire District 5300's relief effort. One of our members elected to make Melissa an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow for her efforts.

Our Club continued its record of being a 100% sustaining foundation support club, thanks to the hard work of John Harris, Rich Haserot and the Foundation Committee.

President Jack made it clear from the beginning of his year that he did not want to "short change" the other avenues of service, with the Clock Project looming. Thus, we continued to be heavy supporters of our schools, of our community youth groups, the Historical Society, the Library Foundation, the Hill-Harbrison House, the YMCA, and the Reading By Nine Program, to name a few. A Centennial photograph was taken of our members.

New programs included a community outreach program. New member, Otis Marston, Jr. and his committee, identified four needy and deserving families. Just before Christmas, teams of Rotarians bearing gifts, which had been chosen to meet the families' needs, visited these families. Participating Rotarians came away with the best of the holiday spirit. Alan Weirick spearheaded a district matching funds program which sponsored two Junior Achievement Clubs in Jerusaem, giving at least some Palestinian and Israeli Youth a chance to understand the free enterprise system. Another new program was the funding of an audio textbook for use by blind and dyslexic students. Jack Brown brought this project to the attention of the Club with his presentation on the group "Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic." This

was accomplished with matching funds from the District. We participated in the George Hensel Essay Contest on Ethics for the first time, and our club winner also won at Group level, then moved ahead, representing our Club at the District level! 2004 marked the first year an I-Pod was used to supply music at some meetings.

Special events included a visit by District Governor Roy York, hosted by Lee and Therese Mothershead, an a *capella* performance of our National Anthem by Metropolitan Opera Star and local product Anna Christy, our Clubs first outdoor "fish-fry," a culinary lesson by George Banks, proprietor of the San Marino Seafood Restaurant, and Otis Marston, founder of Marston's Restaurant in Pasadena. Barbara Maxwell was presented an Honorary Paul Harris Fellowship at our annual Paul Harris Luncheon at the Huntington Library. The Group Study Exchange Group from South Korea graced us with an interesting program. Carol Huang, the Ambassadorial Scholar from Greg Thompson's year, presented a fascinating program on life at the American University in Lebanon, where she is studying Israeli/Palestinian relations. Our year concluded with an inspiring, and educational Salute to the Military Academies, honoring local appointees to our military academies, and a terrifically entertaining Demotion Party at San Gabriel. "Master Extractor" Larry Goodreau, "MC" Greg Thompson and his wife Michelle, brutally extracted one of outgoing president Hamilton's prize molars, after mad scientist Lee Mothershead handcuffed him to a "gavel." This gavel was guaranteed not to be misplaced, and strangely resembled a three foot sledge hammer! Sargeant Byrd, one of San Marino's finest, did interrupt the proceedings long enough to present Hamilton with the TWO missing gavels "lost" during his tenure. This last minute recovery was accomplished by the fine work of ex-DEA agent d and new member Jim Pink.



Clockwise from upper left: Steve Schultz supervises Centennial Clock installation, GSE Team from South Korea, Southwestern Interact Board, Jack and Janice Hamilton