



# Rota-Monica

Thu Mar 15, 2012

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*Editor Suzan Allbritton  
If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor.*

## Upcoming Programs

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Literacy and Rotary Reads to Kids

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[Dark - 90th Birthday Celebration](#)

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[Group Study Exchange Team](#)

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[No meeting - Good Friday](#)

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Apr 27, 2012  
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Home Cooking for the Food Festival

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## Upcoming Events

[Third Thursday Breakfast](#)  
Le Pain Quotidian  
Mar 15, 2012 08:00 AM

[OPCC](#)  
Mar 16, 2012 04:00 PM

[Santa Monica Rotary 90th Birthday Celebration](#)  
Casa del Mar  
Mar 23, 2012 06:00 PM

[Healthy Living: Santa Monica Conservancy Walking](#)  
Mar 24, 2012

[District Conference](#)  
Apr 19, 2012 - Apr 22, 2012

[International Food & Song Festival](#)

## Stories

### [This week at Rotary - Literacy and Rotary Reads to Kids](#)

This is Rotary Literacy week where we will be reading in our local K - 3 classrooms.

Alexis O'Neill - Input Vivid Language Output Great Readers, Writers & Learners

What do singing, acting, reciting, dancing and listening to great stories have to do with publishing books and raising great readers, writers and learners? Children's author Alexis O'Neill shows how a children's book reaches its audience and demonstrates the author/school library/kid connections that boost achievement, while putting the 'fun factor' back into the reading, writing and learning process.

Alexis O'Neill's children's books include THE RECESS QUEEN (Scholastic), THE WORST BEST FRIEND (Scholastic), LOUD EMILY (Simon & Schuster), and ESTELA'S SWAP (Lee & Low). She has also written fiction and nonfiction for children's literary magazines including Cricket, Spider, Cobblestone, Calliope, Faces, and Odyssey. In addition to being a writing instructor for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, Alexis is a Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI). A popular presenter who visits schools all over the country, Alexis's highly interactive assemblies demonstrate the importance and fun of 'reading and writing with your whole body!

### [Rotary Club Meeting March 2, 2012 - Honorable Judge Cynthia Loo](#)

Posted by Nicholas Goehner

#### Meeting Cast

At the head table, Far Stage Right we had Invocator Dr. William A. Wood III; Next to Dr. William we have James E. Dyer. Stage left of the podium and here to introduce our speaker for today, we have Nathaniel Trives. Far stage left of the Podium and here to introduce our visiting Rotarians and guests we have David F. Potter. Our song leader was Tom Larmore with Ken Waltzer on piano, and our Greeters were Jillian Alexander



#### Visitors

We had 2 visiting Rotarians, Steve Sabel from Lexington Fairless Hills PA, and Sean McMillen from Westwood. Our guests of Rotarians were Brian Chase who was a guest of Laurel Rosen. Lisa Jackman who was a guest of Tim Jackman. Cynthia Loo who was our guest speaker and the daughter of Tom Loo. Matt Flanoers. Anne Rime who was a guest of Mule Pritchert. Cone Hansen

Tom & Stephanie Loo's  
Apr 29, 2012 01:00 PM

**Rotary International Convention**  
May 06, 2012 - May 09, 2012

**Rotary Club of Santa Monica**  
**Service Since 1922**  
**Meets Noon Most Fridays**  
**Riviera Country Club**  
**1250 Capri Drive**  
**Pacific Palisades, CA 90272**

who was a guest of Lauren Rush. Matt Williams who was a guest of Lisa Alexander and Wendy Jacobs who was a guest of Anne Greenspun.



#### Announcements

- Best of luck to Tim Jackman and a huge thank you for his club service and everything he has done for our fair city. You are always welcome here!
- We are sad to announce the passing of Christine Cassiano's mother last Wednesday and our condolences go out to Christine and her family.
- Nat Trives had a heart procedure and we were certainly glad to see him back at Rotary.

#### **Tim Jackman received the 4-way award today, Congratulations!**



#### Fines

- Jillian Alexander – International Women's Day Breakfast. Celebrating Women's service in the community. - \$50
- John Pucheco – We have a lost check as John was no longer with the Red Cross when he received a check for the Red Cross. - \$50 (Although he claims there was no check in the envelope he received).
- Tom Loo – For referring to his daughter (our guest speaker) as his sister. - \$100

#### Presentation

**The Honorable Cynthia Loo** daughter of one of our distinguished members, Tom Loo, was our speaker for today. Judge Loo served in the East Los Angeles district which is the toughest juvenile court district in the city of Los Angeles. In a recently published daily journal article her piece was titled, "Sensitive Outsider Believes in Rehabilitation of Hope." Her speech would prove her sensitivity and dedication to our city and its youth.

She began with admitting her reservations about speaking at our club, and referring to herself as a



self-proclaimed bad public speaker. She was also afraid of being heckled by her father.

To break the ice and get herself into the speaking groove she began with a story about her father and what growing up under his watchful eye was like. In an effort to take control of a home rat problem her father used a series of different types of rat traps. He placed these all around the house. More importantly however was how he kept track of the rats that fell to his well-placed traps. He apparently had a chart on the refrigerator that read in big block letters, "RAT KILL COUNT." This certainly had us all laughing picturing a marker drawn chart of hash marks marking rat kill counts. It was also very difficult for her to sleep at the time as there were several loud snaps that would occur during the night with a rat would find its way to another trap and hash mark on the fridge. Her father also kept a grading system for phone messages. Which Our speaker was proud to say, she was able to keep a steady A in. All of this would mold

Cynthia Loo into the Honorable Judge Cynthia Loo that was speaking before us today.

Cynthia's first job after attending SAMO high was at KFC. And her first official speech was at 15 years old at the Santa Monica Civic Center about how to avoid getting a traffic ticket. Looking back at this she laughed because part of her lesson plan was informing her audience to ignore court dates, the ignorance of the law, and even flirting with the officer if possible. Probably not the best way to handle situations with the Santa Monica police, but she was only 15.

Her development into a judge took a bit of time she said. The law made sense to her in its written form, and being raised by her father gave her a strong foundation. But she realized that there is so much more beyond just doing the right thing. We are here for the improvement of society and our community. But what it means to be a member of that community and even a Rotarian is to always do the right thing. It is the purpose behind the law and the 4 way test. But, she said, it comes down to how you implement all of this. She wasn't as strong with implementing these values in the beginning. She was strict and heavy handed. She thought that was what she needed to do to be a strong judge and gain respect. But as she would learn through the following very personal story, there is much more to a Judge than the persona they put forward.

She began a story of a young man named Tyrell, who was being charged with resisting arrest and a possible gang affiliation. As he was running from the officer he reached into his waist band. An officer had to pull their firearm and when asked if the boy was still on probation he wouldn't answer and wouldn't calm down. It took the help of the boy's grandmother and 6 other officers to calm the boy down. When brought before Judge Loo she found him guilty of the charge of resisting arrest. However when it came to sentencing there were many more things our speaker had to take into consideration. She didn't see the boy as a threat to his community and decided to release him on house arrest. He was doing well at the school and his grandmother was even a tutor at the school so she knew the Grandmother would be a good influence and be able to keep an eye on him. Later in the parking lot Judge Loo spoke with the arresting officer and asked what they could do to help the young man. The officer stated that the only answer for the boy was to move out of the area he was living. When this option was presented to the Grandmother she stated that she couldn't afford to move out of Compton, but she wanted to thank the officer for trying to help. 2 weeks later there was a commotion her court room. There was a woman there wanting to give something to the Judge, but was told it wasn't allowed. It was Tyrell's grandmother. Judge Loo came down from the bench to speak with her. She told the judge that on the previous Sunday she was awakened by gunfire. And was told that Tyrell had been shot. Despite being around many professionals in the court room she embraced the grandmother and cried with her.

What a wonderful story of her growth as a judge and individual. We were so touched. Thank you Judge Cynthia Loo for a wonderful speech and to her father as well for raising such a wonderful daughter.

#### **Thought for the Day**

From Albert Camus, who wrote "A person without ethics... is a wild beast loosed upon this world."

#### **ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA MONICA**

Service Since 1922 - Meets Noon Most Fridays  
Riviera Country Club - 1250 Capri Drive - Pacific Palisades

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