

Life in LAMORINDA

The Making of the President 2008

SMC's C.L.A.M. Hosts Author Richard Reeves

By Andrea A. Firth



Richard Reeves Photo Patricia Williams

political correspondent and syndicated columnist. Reeves will bring this straight-forward style to his upcoming presentation—The Making of the President 2008—at Saint Mary's College (SMC) on October 8th.

"I will try to describe what has, is, and will happen in this election, and put it in the context of what it will mean to the next presidency," states Reeves. "This is among

Nixon, and Ronald Regan, Reeves is currently a senior Lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California.

"I think there are a lot of fallacies of what people think about the presidency," explains Reeves. He points out that in recent history very smart presidents, like Herbert Hoover, have tended to fail, and some of the less intelligent men who have held the office have had some success. "It's not about IQ. It's a matter of judgment, and judgment is a gamble. No one knows how people are going to respond to situations that no one anticipates."

While he notes that 85% of Americans will vote along party lines based on factors such as family history, race, and religion, no matter what happens. Reeves

will take the opportunity to apply his perspective as a presidential historian to identify what makes a great president. "The job of president isn't running the country," states Reeves. "It's leading the nation into situations that haven't been anticipated."

Reeves commentary on the 2008 presidential election is part of SMC's Committee for Lectures, Art, and Music (C.L.A.M.) Fall programs. C.L.A.M. will kick off the 2008-2009 season with a performance by the Robert Moses' Kin Dance Company on September 21st. A Musical Celebration for Christmas featuring the San Francisco Choral Artists and including the always popular bell ringers of the Megan Solomon and Sonos Handbell Quartet will be held on December 6th in the SMC Chapel.

C.L.A.M.'s Fall Programs 2008	
September 21 st at 2:00 pm Lefevre Theater	Robert Moses Kin Dance Company
October 8 th at 8:00 pm Soda Activity Center	The Making of the President 2008 With author Richard Reeves
December 6 th at 8:00 pm The SMC Chapel	A Musical Celebration for Christmas
For more information and to purchase tickets, call (925) 631.4381.	

"If ten years ago, you had told someone that the race for the Democratic nomination and subsequent Presidential election would involve a black man and two white women, people would have thought you were nuts," states Richard Reeves, long-time

the most historic of American presidential elections...But presidencies have a history of being quite different than campaigns," he adds. The author of a trilogy of presidential portraits, which chronicle the White House years of John F. Kennedy, Richard

DENTAL CARE

By Mona Miller, DVM

Dogs and cats develop dental disease, much like humans... but think about it – we brush and floss as often as every 12 hours to maintain the health of our mouth. How many of our pets can say the same? Bacterial accumulations called plaque form on the surface of a tooth and if not brushed away, will quickly start to mineralize and harden into tartar (or calculus). This is the yellow-brown deposit on the tooth's surface that is readily visible. Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums, which can be seen as reddening and swelling. Progression of gingivitis leads to periodontitis, which is inflammation of the tissues surrounding the tooth itself. Signs such as bad breath, calculus build-up, inflamed gums and loose teeth all indicate levels of dental disease that should be addressed. The bacterial load in the mouth can be so high and imbalanced with "bad" bacteria that infection can develop internally, in heart valves, kidneys and liver.



Amanda Griggs brushes the teeth of her dog, Amberite

Some animals are more susceptible to developing gingivitis and periodontal disease: small breed dogs are at higher risk (probably because of their small mouths having to make room for the same 42 teeth as a long-nosed dog), diabetic patients, and cats with certain viruses.

Because every animal is different, there is no set recommendation for how often a full dental cleaning should be performed. Your veterinarian will assess your pet's mouth at each annual (or semi-annual) physical examination. A thorough dental cleaning involves full

anesthesia. This allows for two things: to clean below the gum line with an ultrasonic scaler, and to intubate the trachea for prevention of bacterial spread into the respiratory system. Risks of anesthesia are minimized with a pre-anesthetic physical examination and blood tests to assess liver and kidney status. During the dental procedure, vets often use intravenous fluids, antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs and pain medications. The specifics of these can be discussed with your veterinarian, in context of your dog or cat's general health, age and your preferences.

Home dental care is the best preventive for frequent anesthetic dentistry, as well as for maintaining the health of your dog's mouth to prevent periodontal disease and infections. Pet toothbrushes and specially flavored pet toothpastes are widely available (dogs and cats seem to prefer malt or poultry, not mint!). Daily brushing is ideal, but even if you brush your dog's mouth

three times weekly, there is 40% less plaque build-up. Special dental diets, such as Hill's t/d, provide a mechanical scrubbing effect on the tooth surface to reduce plaque. The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VHOC) has awarded a seal of approval on several types of chew treats that are also suitable.

Dr. Mona S. Miller lives in Lafayette with her 3 year old son and her yellow Labrador Retriever. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to Mona5-DVM@aol.com.

Fall in the Wildlife Hospital

The Lindsay Museum's wildlife hospital has received more than 4,400 injured or orphaned wild animals since the beginning of the year. With a little bit of knowledge and a few changes in habits, we can greatly reduce our impact on the region's wildlife.

Keep pet food indoors: Wild animals can become dependent upon humans or our pets' food and may carry diseases that can make humans and pets sick.

Don't feed the ducks: Bread and crackers are not natural duck foods and can make them very sick. Feeding ducks can also lead to overpopulation that spreads disease and causes death.

Tree pruning: To avoid disturbing bird and squirrel nests, the best time to prune your trees is from October through December.

Don't use pesticides or insecticides or rodenticides: These poisons may also kill wildlife and pets and can harm the environment.

Screen your chimneys, attic and basement vents: Many birds and mammals like to nest in dark, quiet places. Screening will prevent accidental injuries and keep animals out of your home.

Don't use sticky traps: Insect and rodent traps made with sticky substances can harm and kill many other animals including birds and reptiles. Use snap traps for rodent control—they are more humane.

Bird netting: Avoid the use of plastic bird netting, especially near the ground. It can trap and entangle many wild animals. Use a stiffer wire mesh instead.

Lawns: Treat your lawn with beneficial nematodes in the spring so that raccoons won't dig looking for grubs in the fall.

Call 925-935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org for more information including museum hours and admission prices.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum connects people with wildlife to inspire responsibility and respect for the world we share. The museum houses a collection of live, native California animals, a hands-on discovery room for children, a pet education section with domestic animals, changing exhibits and a wildlife rehabilitation hospital that treats about 6,000 animals every year.

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