



The Desertarian

**Newsletter of the
Rotary Club of Palm Springs, California**



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IT'S HOT HOT HOT - and HUMID TOO!

Sorry - I got a bit carried away with the heading. Mark Stanley said that preparing the Desertarian would be Greek to me, and I took him literally.

Our dynamic prez, Chritine Cross, opened today's meeting precisely at 12:15 with a resounding clang on the bell. Honors were:

- Pledge of Allegiance - Chuck Cheeld
- Four-Way Test - George Kossler
- Spiritual Thought - Rev. Jim Griffes
- Visiting Rotarians and Guest - Max Morgan
 - Jack Horner, PDG
 - Diane Sampson - Palm Springs Sunup
 - Scott Crisman - Special Guest
 - Lisa Reagan - lovely wife of Rotarian John Reagan
 - Dr. John Nerad - guest of Dick Hostrop

Frank Peabody reminded everyone about our club's participation in the Mexican Heritage festivities, where we'll be manning a beer booth. This event takes place at O'Donnell Golf Course on September 18 and 19, and club volunteers are needed. This will be a great opportunity for camaraderie, plus it will serve as a much-needed fund raiser.

Denise Ellis, fresh from her 3-week vacation in Hawaii and beginning another great year as principal of Cahuilla School, asked for additional volunteers to assist at the the school. This incredibly rewarding experience is a prime example of "Service Above Self", and folks are needed in K-5 classrooms, as well as assisting with other important school tasks. We all know that the budget cuts have severely affected our schools, so we Rotarians must step up to the plate to allow our public schools to continue to excel. Please see Milt Levinson for volunteer forms.

Rotary International Foundation Chair Bob Allan proudly presented Paul Harris Fellowship pins to Stewart Cross (+4) and Christine Cross (+3).

District 5330 is soliciting Rotarian volunteers to be a Group Study Exchange team leader to Turkey! Having just returned from this amazing country, I can only say that visiting Turkey as a GSE team leader would be an experience of a lifetime!

President Cross is taking orders for our Rotary Club of Palm Springs Golf Shirts. These are quality shirts, and wearing them will show others the pride that we have in our club.

Our fantastic Membership Chair, Gary Luce, asks us to target attorneys, art dealers, savings and loan folks, or bathroom designers as potential members.

Program Chairman and President-Elect Mike Selin introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Edwin Deas. Dr. Deas is the Vice President of Business Affairs for the College of the Desert. His enlightening talk focused on the new Palm Springs campus, to be erected on a 119 acre site in the vicinity of North Indian Canyon and Tramview Road. The \$346,000,000 funding is a result of a 2004 bond issue. This land currently belongs to the Bureau of Land Management, but it is in the process of being transferred to the City of Palm Springs, who will, in turn, transfer it to the College of the Desert District. The time line for its construction includes one year for the design, one year for state approval, and two years for construction, with a target occupancy date of September, 2014. These are some of the key elements discussed by Dr.; Deas:

- Will be the "greenest" campus in the state, and one of the "greenest" in the country.
- Four pillars of study
 - Hospitality and Tourism - may even build an on-site restaurant and/or hotel as a joint venture with private industry and the college

- Media and the Arts
- Allied Health - looking at attracting an accredited dental school
- Sustainable Technology
- Goal is to co-locate a 4-year university, allowing COD students to complete their two years and "walk across the street" to continue their junior and senior years.
- Will stress a "business incubation" program, allowing start-up businesses to gain knowledge and mentoring
- Construction by a private firm of a 60-80 solar farm, with part of the revenues derived from the generated electricity going to help fund the college. This farm will also power the campus.

Dr. Deas asked the we spread the word, and let everyone know about this fantastic new addition to our wonderful Palm Springs community.

Professor Henry Higgins, aka Mark Stanley, did his usual masterful task as finemaster, picking the pockets of Max Morgan, Nancy Palmer, John Reagan, Bob Elsner, Ed Ellis, Milt Levinson, and Christine Cross.

Frank Peabody won today's "marble game", walking away with a cool \$25, but leaving the accumulated pot of \$737 untouched.