



The Desertarian

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



2010-2011 Year December 8th 2010

Tissue Blue

Your Palm Springs Rotary Desertarian for December 8th 2010.

This week it was extremely pleasant to be greeted by a familiar phrase and lilt to the voice. Tim Ellis, that new member with the exemplary accent and brogue that REALLY makes one feel welcome.... Oh and Bob Allan and Sandra Levinson did their bit as well. Manning the tables were Bob Barrett Nancy Palmer and Hal Castle on the tickets.

This week the meeting was to be run by the Interact band of young enthusiasts. Angie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a sung (yes SUNG) version of the 4 way test. Nay a dry eye was seen in the house after they finished. Parking our posteriors, Chairman Christine started the meeting by thanking Sandra Levinson for taking on the challenging role of Treasurer. One can all agree that she has done a fantastic job and her skills will be sorely missed. However.....Bob Barrett takes on the mighty financial burden from now on and is welcomed (to it!).

Christine went on to mention, the coins for kids and asked George Kossler to introduce the plethora of guests and visiting Rotarians. We had.... Tracy Allan, Ines Allan, Ron Sellin, Charles Kepney and the return of the Milkaco now residents of Sarnia (the Canadian version - NOT the island of Guernsey). Visiting guests included all of the Interact Children, Ricky Wright, Bill Lenz and Catherine Chambers looking after the early act kids! Jack Ball was welcomed back for the winter months as another sojourner.

There was news that (Col) John Jackson is unfortunately at the City of Hope as his cancer has returned with vengeance. No messages or calls at the moment until he comes out of surgery and can answer them.

Special mention of the RAGS project that still is looking for donations but also looking for storage space where they can temporarily store the items. Bob Allan presented Jim Dunn with a second stone for his Paul Harris gong - thank you Jim.

Now the turn of the Interact Kids, there are 30 members and the assembled group gave us a quick oversight as to the programs with which they are involved and the recipients across the world. They finished by thanking all for letting them come today. In reality - it was us that should be thanking them! Their enthusiasm puts us to shame....!

John Glenn mentioned job shadow day on January 19th and hoped as many as possible would offer their time and service. Ed Ellis mentioned that the lunch on December 15th would feature the Palm Springs High School Madrigal choir an event NOT to be missed. Jim done gave final numbers for the Spaghetti Dinner tomorrow with about 150 tickets sold. Hal Castle popped up and reminded us all of the Palm Springs University Sweat shirts for sale. Mike Sellin tried to persuade all to ring bells for the Sallie Army next week.

Speaker for the day was Ines Allan with a powerful slide show about their group's (International Medical Alliance) visit to Nicaragua and the various works that they do throughout the world. A large group of Doctors Nurses and assistants saw over 8400 patients in the 7 days that they were there. Performing over 128 surgeries the brought great benefit and help to so many underprivileged people in the area.

The International Medical Alliance boasts 200 Doctors who are available to help when needed, most from around the USA but also many from overseas. The group runs on generous contributions and donations from groups around the Coachella Valley and beyond. Following a rapturous applause for her work, Christine presented her with a book that would be donated to the Cahuilla school.

Finemaster Bob Elsner took the podium and proceeded to ask all denominations about the Christian practice of Christmas. He managed to fine Helene, Marv G, Tony Signouray, Jerry Moss, Karl Kruger, Denise Ellis, Tim Ellis, Scott Crispen, John Raymond and(of course) the writer.

There was a rash of Happy Dollars about various subjects from the English Language to Ines Allans work and especially the GREAT Interact kids. Finally John Glenn pulled the winning ticket (337338) to claim only \$63.00 leaving the \$1,314.00 to languish in the pot for another week.

Mark Stanley