



The Desertarian

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



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Issue 35

THE FRONT PAGE

On a typical glorious Wednesday afternoon in Palm Springs we were greeted at the door by Mike Brill, himself an effervescent ray of sunshine. The Reverend Jim Griffes led us in the flag salute and Jamie Canfield recited the Rotary Four Way Test. New member Bill Lentz provided introductions of visiting Rotarians and guests about half of which traveled all the way from the frozen north (Canada) just to be with us.

LOCAL NEWS

There were numerous announcements to be made and numerous announcers to make them:

Judy Bronstein encouraged all present to dig deep into their drawers to find something valuable to donate for the upcoming **Rotary Annual Garage Sale**. Nothing in your drawers these days? Then get back into your closet. Surely you'll find something--how about that polyester leisure suit that you haven't worn since 1972? We won't tell anyone where it came from.

President Christine Cross gave us an update on scholarships awarded to students in Kenya.

President wannabe Mike Sellin told us all about PETS (no not the furry type) and other district business.

Jim Dowler asked for volunteers for a fundraising opportunity at the upcoming Westfest (aka Palm Springs Rodeo) to be held March 24 - 27. Spurs not required.

Bob Allen is recruiting meeting greeters. This is an important service opportunity because you can substitute smiling and hand shaking for real work.

Bob also announced that Don Aiken has reached a new milestone in giving to the Rotary International Foundation: Paul Harris + 3. Thanks, Don. A portion of your contribution will come back to the club in the form a grant that can be used for projects here locally. Don is one of 43 Club Members that have contributed in excess of \$12,400 this year to the annual Rotary International Foundation fundraising drive, putting us well on our way to our to 100% participation.

Ed Ellis reminded us for the last time that the Club's 70th anniversary gala is this Saturday evening. We'll see you there.

ENTERTAINMENT TODAY

Our guest speaker for the day was Palm Springs Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Laurie McCune. Unfortunately, this may be the last time we will be seeing Dr. McKuen, as she will be retiring after five years at the helm of our local schools.

Dr. McCune provided a thorough overview of recent events affecting efforts to educate Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City youth, including such topics as developing enrollment figures; efforts to balance the district budget in response to State funding cuts; planning for future education needs; new schools opening to help alleviate overcrowding; and the big effort to reduce staff and student obesity.

SPORTS PAGE

Happy dollars were supplied by John Jackson Tony Signoret, Ed Ellis, and John Glenn, among others, including Denise Ellis, who was happy even before she took home the day's marble funds.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HELENE!

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Powers

Reporter