



# **The Desertarian**

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



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Issue 39

## **ACT I**

Greeter Scott Crissman noted that Mary Bono Mack arrived early today intending to participate in our meeting but ducked out the back door when she notice Mike Brill sitting at the front table. Luckily, just when it looked like all of the excitement of the day's proceedings had dissipated, Denise Ellis was called upon to lead the flag salute, followed by John Jackson's recitation of the Four Way Test and a few inspirational words from Bob Barrett.

Past President Ray Corvan introduced our visiting Rotarian, Past District Governor, Jack Horner, as well as numerous guests including: PSUSD candidate Craig Borba; Chamber of Commerce President Nona Watson; CHP Information Officer Johnny Q.; favorite husband Brian Wachs; chocolateir and former club member Lea Berghmans; and the Palm Springs High School Interact Club President, whose name JJ could not pronounce and is therefore missing from my notes.

Hal Castle announced that he was still looking for at least two more passengers to fill seats at the upcoming Palm Springs Air Museum event. The pilot slot is already filled but I hear there is need for a navigator.

## **ACT II**

President Christine presented a calendar of fun and exciting opportunities to see and be seen, including a RYLA meeting October 9th; the District Foundation Seminar October 17th; a very scary Dia del Muerte celebration October 30th; and the District 5330 Gala, to be held right here in downtown Palm Springs on November 13th.

Judy Bronstein encouraged members to participate in the Club's (almost) annual "Change the Clocks / Change the Batteries" day, the morning of October 6th. Members of the Club and students from Interact will be visiting homes of low income and elderly residents to cancel daylight savings time and simultaneously make sure smoke detectors are in good working order. Now if they could just get the VCR to quit blinking, that would be a good thing.

Denise Ellis, our local schoolmarm, was soliciting volunteers to assist as classroom helpers, readers, and homework and test graders. That reminds me that in the 11th grade I was Mr. Russell's favorite student and was given the task of grading papers for his class. I've never had so many friends as I did for that one brief semester in bookkeeping class.

Gary Luce, membership committee chair, showed off his spiffy new recruitment kits. Batteries not included.

### **INTERMISSION**

The Honorable Steve Pougnet was our guest speaker. That's Pougnet, as in "Mayor of Palm Springs" not "Congressional Candidate". The Mayor was full of facts, figures and generally more information about the City than a reporter from La Quinta cares to know. It seems there is quite a lot of development happening, with hotel renovations, a new college campus, proposed expansion of the Art Museum, a new residential project north of the convention center, and . . . Oh yes! Redevelopment of the downtown fashion plaza is about to start. We also heard that the City's budget deficit issues are being addressed in part by changes in City employees' pension and benefit plans rather than tax increases--much to the dismay of some police officers. Norm, I think I heard that the bulldozers will be on Palm Canyon Drive before your 91st birthday.

### **ACT III**

Bob Elsner presented the comic relief by offering opportunities for the membership to earn cash by answering a few well know facts about Palm Springs' history. Too bad we all moved here from somewhere else or we might have known who built the Racquet Club. Thanks to Frank, Mark, Mike, Norm, Dick, Bob, Jackie, JJ, Jim and Milt, most of whom contributed to today's fund raising event.

Happy dollars came from every corner of the room as a variety of pronouncements so dear to the hearts of the audience were shared regardless of their relationship to matters at hand. For instance . . . Did you know that a local barber is running around in broad daylight with the Mayor? Shocking!

As usual, the winning ticket for today's opportunity drawing was held by Judy Bronstein, who took home the day's prize of \$39.00. President Christine is slowly losing her marbles, so maybe next week some lucky individual will collect that \$900.00 pot.

## **PROLOGUE**

November is Rotary International Foundation Month. Get your checkbooks ready. For the first time ever, if you donate over \$100.00, both the RI Foundation and District 5330 will match your contribution. At the \$200.00 level, you may get to have lunch with Warren Buffett.

Join us next week for Club Assembly day. You'll leave armed with knowledge of all things Rotary.

Screenplay by Tracy Powers