



The Desertarian

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

Rotary Club of Palm Springs Desertarian for August 17, 2011

We had excellent attendance today as president **Mike Sellin** opened the meeting. **Bob Allan** led the flag salute; **Christine Cross** had us recite the 4 Way Test of the Things Rotarians Think, Say, and Do; and the **Rev. Jim Griffes** offered a beautiful and inspirational spiritual moment

Visiting Rotarians and guests were introduced by **Bob Barrett**. Rotarians included Prez Mike's dad, Cathedral City Rotarian Ron Sellin; and Mr. and Mrs. Edwards from the Chester Dever club in England. **Jim Dowler** introduced guests Dwayne Cox, a council member of our local USO, and Jim Sullivan from the 1st Marine Association. **Marv Goldberg's** guest was Phil Love; and **Bob Barrett's** and **Gerry Moss'** guests were their lovely wives Barbara and Joy. **Anna Frost** introduced local attorney Stan Parry as her guest.

Christine Cross, the chairperson of our upcoming District Conference, reminded everyone to please block out November 4th through the 6th, so that we can have 100% attendance at the conference. This year's conference at the Doral Resort Hotel in Cathedral City will combine the annual Foundation Gala, and under Christine's guidance it's certain to be the best conference ever!

Club Membership Chairman **Jamey Canfield** presented the coveted blue badge to **Anna Frost**, whom he described as "a breath of fresh air", "energetic", "enthusiastic", and a few other adjectives that I might have missed. Congratulations Anna!

PDG **Milt Levinson** passed out flyers for our club's **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**, Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. until ?? Gourmet

chefs **Jacque Wachs** (cocktails and hors d'oeuvres), **Sandra Levinson** (salads galore), **Christine Cross** (entrees), and **Carol Brill** (desserts) promise to provide a cornucopia of gourmet delicacies, all for the ridiculously low cost of \$10.00 per person. Don't miss this exciting and fun evening of camaraderie!

Jim Dowler introduced today's guest speaker, Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Theodore L. Wong. Colonel Wong currently serves as the Officer in Charge, Wounded Warrior Battalion-West, 29 Palms Detachment. He is responsible for providing and facilitating assistance to wounded, injured, and ill marines and sailors attached to or in direct support of marine units and their family members, in order to assist them as they return to duty or transition to civilian life. The Wounded Warrior Battalion serves active, reserve and veteran Marines throughout the phases of recovery.

Colonel Wong presented a PowerPoint presentation, describing in detail his unit and how it has assisted so many of our "wounded warriors". He followed his presentation with a question and answer period. **Lisa Reagan** asked the question, "What can we do to assist in your mission?" Colonel Wong responded that we could volunteer as mentors to individual Marines, visit 29 Palms Marine Base and visit with them, volunteer at the USO, or participate in family lunches that are a part of the program.

Bob Elsner, in rare form as usual, "recognized" the following Rotarians for the knowledge or lack thereof of Marine Corps trivia: **Jamey Canfield**, **Art Snow**, **Jacque Wachs**, **Christine Cross**, **Mike Brill**, **Mike Sellin** (paid by **Jim Dowler** for "assisting" Mike with the answer), **Lisa Reagan**, **Milt Levinson**, and **Bob Barrett**. Happy Rotarians donated Happy Dollars - **Bob Elsner** for his lovely daughter Alison's appointment as CEO of the United Way of the Desert, **Lisa Reagan** in honor of John's and her 20th wedding anniversary, and **JJ Bronstein**, who will be relaxing with super-hubby Bill in Mammoth for a week.

Bob Allan, the ever-lucky Scotsman, won the "marble game" for \$31, but alas, the black marble evaded him. Next week's "jackpot" will be in excess of \$700!

We hope to see a huge attendance at next week's meeting, where we'll welcome guest speaker Dr. Christine Anderson, Palm Springs Unified School District's new Superintendent.

Mike Brill
Editor