



The Desertarian

Newsletter of the
Rotary Club of Palm Springs, California

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS *Desertarian* for August 24, 2011

110F 111F 112F 113F 114F 115F 116F 117F 118F
or for the rest of the world*
43C 43.8C 44.4C 45C 45.6C 46C 46.7C 47C 48C

*Little known fact - the United States and Belize are the only countries in the world that still use the Fahrenheit scale.

I know, it's a **DRY HEAT!!!**

What a wonderful way to escape the heat by attending the coolest Rotary Club meeting in the world!

Sweating out of the pledge of allegiance was our Assistant Governor, visiting from the Palm Springs Sunup Club, PDG Bill Chase. **Dr. Denise Ellis** (more about her later) coolly led us in the 4-Way Test of the Things that Rotarians Think, Say, and Do.

Tim Ellis, with his dry, British wit, introduced visiting guests. Our own **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced Karen Cornett and Justin Blake, aka Gary Jeandron, as members of the Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Trustees; and Joan Boiko from the school district. Also introduced were Francoise Rhoads, a special guest of Tracey Powers; and Betty King of B-K Productions. Throughout the meeting, Denise was "dissed" for having wrongly accused Gary Jeandron of being Justin Blake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Frank Peabody** is a proud new grandfather
- District Governor Steve Wallace will visit our club on October 19, 2011.
- Don't forget to sign up for our progressive dinner on October 29

- Our good friend and fellow Rotarian Jerry Moss is undergoing serious health issues, and we all wish him a very speedy recovery!
- Congratulations to **DR. Tony Signoret** for having successfully defended his PhD dissertation. AND, congratulations as well to Tony's son, who received a perfect score on his academic math/science test!

Don Aikens, past president of our school board, had the honor of introducing our guest speaker, Superintendent of the Palm Springs Unified School District Dr. Christine Anderson. Dr. Anderson has been with our district since 2007, and she previously served as a teacher, principal, and administrator in the Fullerton and Santa Anna school districts. She received her bachelor and master degrees from California State University Long Beach, and her doctorate from the University of LaVerne. Don stressed how important it was that with Dr. Anderson's experience and outstanding qualifications, the school board was able to promote her from within.

Dr. Anderson proceeded to give a rather grim but accurate portrayal of the incredible challenges faced by our schools, in light of the extreme budgetary restrictions imposed by the state. In spite of these problems, however, our students continue to excel in test scores, acceptance to prestigious universities, and participation in so many community events. Some of the noticeable impacts of budgetary restraints are no more summer school classes, class sizes of 31 students to one teacher, no high school bus transportation, and no adult education programs. Dr. Anderson went on to describe her focus areas of three main areas: Arts, with her innovative Academy of Performing Arts after school programs; technology, with the importance of getting the technology into the hands of the students; and wellness, emphasizing exercise and proper diet. Dr. Anderson's presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Performing the roll of villain came easy for fine-master **Jamey Canfield**, who "recognized" **Jacque Wachs, Denise Ellis, Karl Krueger, Mike Sellin, Milt Levinson, Tim Ellis, Dan Keller, Dave Allen, Bob Allan, Tony Signoret, and Bill Lentz.**

Happy dollars were collected from **Mike Brill** (for his and Carol's 41st wedding anniversary), **Dan Keller, Bill Lentz, Art Snos, Jim Griffes, Françoise Rhoades, Tony Signoret, Mike Sellin, and Denise Ellis**

The lucky marble game ticket belonged to **Bill Lentz**, but the black marble eluded him. Next week - over \$750!

Mike Brill
Desertarian Editor