



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

Desertarian for October 12, 2011

What a gorgeous early fall day in Palm Springs! Low 90's, low humidity, beautiful blue skies - a picture perfect day to enjoy a Rotary meeting!

Bob Allan, pockets bulging with the moolah he won last week, led us in the pledge of allegiance, followed by **Judy Bronstein**, who had us join in reciting the 4-way pledge of the things we Rotarians think, say, and do. And just to repeat them here, for the benefit of guests and newer Rotarians who might like to review them:

1. Is it the Truth
2. Is it Fair to All Concerned
3. Will it Build Good Will and Better Friendships
4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned

The Reverend **Jim Griffes** shared a spiritual message. PDG **Dr. Helene Kalfuss** introduced the sole visiting Rotarian, Bob Edwards from Quincy, California

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President **Mike Sellin** shared items recently discussed in our club's board meeting - especially our club's attendance. He stressed how easy it is to make up either at other clubs worldwide, at our own club-sponsored events, and even on line at www.Rotary.org.
- Our Progressive Dinner is on track for Saturday evening, October 29, 2011. Cost is a mere \$10 per person. Please see either **Tracy Powers** or **Milt Levinson** at our October 19 meeting for a last-minute sign up.
- Our annual "Change the Clock, Change the Battery" event will take place the morning of October 29. Please see **Judy Bronstein** to sign up.
- Past president **Christine Cross** is this year's District Conference chair. The conference will be held at the Doral Resort in Cathedral City November 4 - November 6. Signups are

available, and our club members should all sign up for this annual, fun, informative event.

- **Christine** also reminded everyone that November is Rotary Foundation month. There will be a Foundation Workshop on Friday, October 28, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the beautiful new Red Tomato restaurant on East Palm Canyon. Attendance at this valuable event is strongly encouraged.
- Please put November 13, 2011, on your calendar. Rotary International will be conducting a Peace Conference on that date, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at our Palm Springs Convention Center. Speakers will include Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee, and a nephew of Mahatma Gandhi! Over 2,000 Rotarians from throughout Southern California are expected to attend. As an extra special added attraction, a comprehensive multi-cultural event will be held in conjunction with the conference.
- **Bob Allan** encouraged attendance at the Palm Canyon Theater, November 10, where the timeless Broadway show "The Fantastiks" will be performed as a benefit for the Rotary Institute. Cost is \$25 per person.
- District 5330 has a wonderful service project that will take place November 5 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. At that time, Rotarians from throughout the District will be packaging used DVD's and Power Bars. These will be transported to Twenty-nine Palms, where they will be sent to our U. S. Marines who are deployed in Afghanistan.
- **Hal Castle** is soliciting volunteers to be greeters, and to lead the Pledge of Allegiance or 4-way test at our weekly meetings.

Dr. Denise Ellis introduced today's guest speaker, Carol Pipitone. Carol is the immediate past president of the Cathedral City Rotary, and the newly-appointed ambassador for "Shelterbox" in the Coachella Valley.

After a very moving and meaningful 6-minute DVD presentation, Carol gave a detailed explanation of the Shelterbox program. The Shelterboxes cost \$1,000 each, which includes transportation costs to their disaster destination. One green Shelterbox provides a durable tent for an extended family of up to 10 people and life-saving tools, such as water purification supplies, blankets, a cook stove and mosquito nets. The contents can be modified depending on the nature and location of the disaster, and great care is taken on every item to ensure it is robust enough to be of lasting value. Highly trained Shelterbox Response Teams (SRT's) can be deployed from around the world to distribute boxes on the ground. These SRT's work closely with local organizations, international aid agencies, and Rotary clubs worldwide. In many cases these boxes literally make the difference between life and death.

Carol stated that with advance notice, she would arrange to display a Shelterbox at any gathering of sufficient attendees (Village Fest would be an ideal venue). She is asking that every Rotary club in our district budget \$1,000 annually to purchase one Shelterbox. Other ways to help fund this incredible program include sending a text message to #20222, and typing "Shelter" in the message field. This will send \$10 to the Shelterbox fund, and your mobile telephone bill will debit this amount.

Jamey Canfield was today's "fine master". Among those who "donated" were **Françoise Rhodes, Bob Elsner, Hal Castle, Milt Levinson, Mike Brill, David Alderman, Helene Kalfuss, Bob Allan, and Mark Davidson.**

Happy Dollars were donated by **Mike Brill, Jim Griffes, Judy Bronstein, and Frank Peabody.**

Wishing everyone a wonderful week,
Mike Brill, Desertarian Editor