



# **The Desertarian**

Newsletter of the  
Rotary Club of Palm Springs, California

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS Desertarian for November 2, 2011

Another gorgeous day in the paradise known as Palm Springs welcomed a room full of enthusiastic Rotarians and guests. President **Mike Sellin** banged his bell at precisely 12:11 p.m., awakening **Bob Elsner** and **Don Aiken**. **Norm Brown** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Bob Barrett** used his Big Bear education to successfully count to four, touting the 4-Way test of the things we Rotarians think, say, and do. **Frank Peabody** introduced visiting Rotarians Elva and Bill Wright, from Downingtown and Coatesville, Pennsylvania; and Herman Wahl from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. And we all gave a hearty "Welcome Back" to sojourner **Jack Ball**.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PDG **Dr. Helene Kalfuss** introduced Palm Springs Sustainability Manager Michele Mician, who has been honored by being selected as a Rotary Peace Scholar. Michele will study in Thailand next summer.
- Don't forget to attend the Rotary Peace Conference on November 13, 2011, at the Palm Springs Convention Center.
- The Rotary Club of Riverside has a fundraiser, selling holiday poinsettias. Please see **Mike Sellin** for details.
- **Christine Cross** reminded everyone that November is Rotary International Foundation Month. She honored **Don Aiken** and **Hal Castle** for their recent donations, and Rev. Jim Griffes for achieving his Paul Harris + 3 award (attaining a cumulative donation of over \$4,000). The mantra of **EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR (EREY)** is SO important, especially in these times of economic turmoil, so please give generously to our crown jewel of Rotary, the Foundation.
- Effusive praise was given to the four host families who opened their homes and kitchens to our fellow gourmand Rotarians during the recent progressive dinner. These families include the Wachs' (appetizers and cocktails), Levinsons (salads), Cross' (entree), and Brills (desserts).
- **Anna Frost** again reminded everyone to sell a **MINIMUM** of five spaghetti dinner tickets. This annual event provides both a generous fundraiser for our club's projects and a great evening of camaraderie and delicious cuisine. The date is Thursday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. at the Mizell Senior Center. **Jacque Wachs** needs volunteers to help set up for this event - 5:00 p.m

### OUR PROGRAM

**Mike Sellin** introduced today's guest, Rotarian extraordinaire **Karen Bradford**. Karen was the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team leader to Turkey in May of this year. She is

a writer, photographer, public relations and marketing expert, and she teaches classes at the University of California, Riverside. She joined the Riverside Sunrise Rotary Club after returning from Japan as a GSE member, under the leadership of team leader Milt Levinson. She has since transferred to the Jurupa Rotary Club.

Karen presented an exceptional program, highlighting her visit throughout District 2440 (Southwest Turkey). She found the Turkish people whom she met to be thoroughly delightful and friendly. Turkey is the world's only Muslim democracy. It is mainly secular, due in large measure to the influence of its post-Ottoman Empire leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Karen's lucid narrative and her slide presentation of her host families, and the many beautiful venues she visited (Istanbul, Izmir, Ephesus, Kusadasi among others) provided for one of the most interesting programs we've had this Rotary year.

### **OTHER TIDBITS**

Recognition (aka fining) was deferred until next week.

Jack Ball won a whopping \$22 in the marble game, but the black marble remains hidden in the bag.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week,  
Mike Brill  
Desertarian Editor