



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

Desertarian for November 9, 2011

President **Mike Sellin** welcomed everyone to the "Best Rotary Club in the Coachella Valley", and opening duties were ably handled by:

- **Jamey Canfield** - Pledge of Allegiance
- **Bob Barrett** - 4-Way Test of the things we Rotarians Think, Say and Do
- **Rev. Jim Griffes** - Spiritual moment, giving thanks for the privilege of voting on this Palm Springs election day
- **Mike Brill** - Introduction of visitors and guests:
 - Bill Wright, Coatesville, PA
 - Elva Wright, Downingtown, PA
 - Chris Seidel, Saugatuck, MI
 - PDG Red Peryea, Hemet Sunrise
 - Arriving late - PDG Cy Breen, Palm Springs Sunup

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Jacques Wachs** reminded everyone to PLEASE sell at least five spaghetti dinner tickets. This super-fun fund raiser will take place at 6:00 p.m., December 8, at the Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs.
- **PDG Red Peryea** thanked all who participated in the recent Rotary Zone Institute gathering in Palm Springs. Singled out for thanks were **Frank Peabody, Stuart Cross, Karl Kruger, Jim Dunn, Hal Castle, Denise Ellis, Jacque Wachs, Jack Srebnik, Anna Frost, and PDG Milt Levinson**
- **Jamey Canfield**, our Membership Chair, introduced **John Brewster**. John's sponsor into our club is Judy Bronstein. He is a previous Rotarian, and his induction into our club brings our total membership to 50. John is retired and is the Chief Professional Officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Springs. **WELCOME JOHN!**
- Past member of our club and friend to all, **Leah Bergmans**, now residing in Belgium, recently became a grandmother for the first time. Congratulations, Leah!

OUR PROGRAM

President-elect **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced today's guest speaker, Eric Lazar, who heads up an incredible organization known as "Karting to Live". This 501c3 group brings Karting (think go carts on steroids with speeds ranging to 100 miles per hour) to non-ambulatory individuals, helping them to cope with their paraplegic misfortunes.

Eric broke thoracic vertebrae and was left paralyzed from the waist down. The Karting to Live program that he founded schedules Karting events throughout the Southwest in places like the Ontario Speedway and the parking lot at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas. The program has attracted attention from such notables as Carroll Shelby (automotive designer and race car driver). Eric solicited assistance from Rotarians in coming up with fundraising ideas to assist in perpetuating this "Service Above Self" program. He fielded numerous questions and answers upon the conclusion of his presentation.

OTHER TIDBITS

Today's "Finemaster" was the inimitable Jamey Canfield, who extracted "Alexander Hamiltons" from **Françoise Rhodes, Tim Ellis, Thomas Smith, Dr. David Alderman, Ed Ellis, Janie Bolitho, Mike Brill, Dr. Dan Keller, Dr. Denise Ellis, non-Dr. Bob Elsner, Hal Castle, Bill Lentz, Jacque Wachs, and Art Snow.**

Who's old enough to remember the tag-line Is Everybody Happy? That would be Ted Lewis, a well-known musician from the roaring '20's. Anyway, with that nonsensical bit of trivia out of the way, happy dollars were donated by **Mike Brill, Bob Allan, Christine Cross, Tim Ellis, Jim Dunn, Judy Bronstein, Dr. Denise Ellis, Bob Barrett, and Jim Griffes.**

Stuart Cross won a whopping \$27 in the marble game, but the black marble remains hidden in the bag.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week,

Mike Brill

Desertarian Editor