



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

Desertarian for November 16, 2011

President **Mike Sellin** once again welcomed everyone to the "Best Rotary Club in the Coachella Valley", and opening honors were accomplished by:

- **Bill Lentz** - Pledge of Allegiance
- **Judy Bronstein** - 4-Way Test of the things we Rotarians Think, Say and Do
- **Frank Peabody** - Introduction of visitors and guests:
 - Bob Smith, Whistler, BC, Canada
 - Tom Napoli - Visitor who is "checking out Rotary"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This year's Thanksgiving Social is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- The Rotary International Rose Parade Float Committee is selling \$50 raffle tickets. The winner will be invited to ride on the float! See **Mike Sellin** if you're interested.
- Consider participating in our District 5330's Rotary Friendship Exchange with District 2440 in Western Turkey! Volunteers are needed for the outbound team, visiting Turkey from May 22 to June 5, 2012; and for the Turkish inbound team, visiting from April 23 to May 5, 2012. This is a WONDERFUL opportunity to reciprocate the friendships we made during this year's GSE visit. Please go to <http://www.rotary5330.net/>, select in turn "Avenues of Service", "Vocational Service", and "Rotary Friendship Exchange" for more information.
- Rotary Foundation Chairperson **Christine Cross** presented a "Paul Harris + 3" pin to **Karl Kruger** (that's at least \$4,000 cumulative donations to the Foundation). She also recognized **Mike Brill**, **Bob Elsner**, and **PDG Dr. Helene Kalfuss** for their Foundation donations this year.

OUR PROGRAM

President-elect **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced today's guest speaker, **PDG Dr. Helene Kalfuss**, who along with her Rotarian husband Leonard, are multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, Bequest Society Members, and Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation. Among Helene's multitude of Rotary achievements, she is a Past District Governor of District 5330, District Rotary Foundation Chair, TRF (The Rotary Foundation) Development Specialist for Zone 26, Chair of the District 5330 Multi-year Humanitarian Grants Coordinating Committee, Member of

the Rotary Cadre of Humanitarian Technical Advisors, Rotary International Training Leader at IA 2011, 2012; RI President's Representative to District 3201, India, 2011; PETS Foundation Trainer 2007, 2010; TRF Presenter at Birmingham (England), Montreal and New Orleans RI Conventions, and Keynote Speaker to numerous districts and clubs on the Rotary Foundation.

Helene provided an incredible insight into the many facets of wonderful humanitarian work accomplished through the Rotary Foundation. I asked her to provide a summary of her presentation to share with our fellow Rotarians who couldn't attend this week's meeting. She graciously accepted:

"Our club has a tradition of 100% participation in contributing to The Rotary Foundation. Everyone should contribute as much as they can afford because whatever amount is given will be used to improve the life of every recipient worldwide. Our contributions pay for scholarships for our community's students, members of our Group Study Exchange Teams, Club Opportunity Grants as well as matching grants, many of which are done right here in Palm Springs. One hundred percent of our contributions are used for humanitarian projects so none of us pays for the overhead of the Foundation with our contributions.

The projects that the RC of Palm Springs have done have all benefitted a large groups of people both here in Palm Springs as well as in India, Israel, Romania and Uganda. In past years we have benefitted Kenya, Morocco, India and other countries as well. We have just selected a Peace Scholar from Palm Springs who will be studying in Thailand this summer. This all comes from your contributions. What most Rotarians don't understand is how much of their contributions go towards projects right here in the U.S. Approximately 60% of the money raised is spent in the U.S.!

The contributions our members make can be made on a monthly basis, all in a lump sum or quarterly. The Paul Harris Society is a commitment to donate \$1000.00 annually and that may be made on a monthly basis with TRF-Direct. Amazingly, the Paul Harris Society members constitute 30% of the total that the Annual Programs Fund raises each year! Major contributions can be made in a variety of ways including the Bequest Society which gives you the opportunity to leave a contribution in your Will to The Rotary Foundation. The opportunities for giving are endless and all add to the wonderful projects that over 34,000 Rotary clubs do worldwide to provide for people in their communities and in ours as well.

If you have questions about becoming a major donor, Bequest Society Member, etc., contact Helene Kalfuss, District Rotary Foundation Coordinator for District 5330 at drhkalfuss@dc.rr.com.

Whatever your contribution-whether \$10.00 or \$10,000.00, it is greatly needed to allow us to continue to provide hope to the world. Be sure to contribute today!"

Thanks so much, Helene, for epitomizing the "Service Above Self" mantle that is worn by all dedicated Rotarians.

OTHER TIDBITS

Today's "Finemaster" was **Tim Ellis**, whose questions revolved around Thanksgiving. Donating to "the cause" were **Ed Ellis, Bob Elsner, Helene Kalfuss, Hal Castle, Bob Barrett, Mike Sellin, and Mike Brill**. Happy dollars were joyously given by **Judy Bronstein, Christine Cross, and Frank Peabody**.

Ed Ellis had the winning ticket for the marble bag, and he's now \$27 richer. Alas, the black marble remains nestled among its friends in the bag.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week,

Mike Brill
Desertarian Editor