



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS

***Desertarian* for December 7, 2011**

Kudos to the Spa Hotel for the beautiful holiday decorations and terrific buffet lunch!

President-elect **Dr. Denise Ellis** opened this special holiday meeting and promptly turned the meeting over to her Cahuilla Elementary School Early Act officers, who led is in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-Way Test:

- Juliette Signoret (lovely daughter of our member **Dr. Tony Signoret**) - President
- Ana Melendez - Vice President
- Katelyn Avery - Secretary

There were no visiting Rotarians, but **Jacque Wachs** introduced Cahuilla School's Early Act advisor, Ms. Kathleen Chambers. Thanks, Jacque, for all of your hard work with Early Act!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are collecting annual gratuities to be presented to our dedicated servers at the Spa Hotel. If you missed the collection envelope, please seek it out at our December 14th meeting.
- Lifestream is conducting a blood drive on December 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 3111 E. Tahquitz Canyon Dr.
- Please meet at **Milt Levinson's** home at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, to assist with placing Rotary labels in the books we'll presenting to Cahuilla School. Milt and Sandra will provide the doughnuts! We also need volunteers to meet at Cahuilla School that afternoon at 2 p.m. to participate in distributing the books.
- **Denise Ellis** will be having a meeting of her new board after our regular meeting on December 21.
- Rotary Foundation Chairperson **Christine Cross** recognized **Jack Ball, Dick Hostrop, Jerry Moss, and Norm Brown** for their recent "Every Rotarian Every Year" contributions.

OUR PROGRAM

Denise Ellis introduced the wonderfully talented Palm Springs High School Madrigal Singers. This elite vocal group is selected from the 185 voice high school choir. The Madrigals are committed to two hours of rehearsal each day, and they perform extensively in the community and elsewhere. Mr. Darien Martus, the group's director, is enjoying his 21st year as a music teacher in the Palm Springs Unified School District. We were entertained by 12 Madrigals -

eight girls and four boys, who performed nine selections ranging from traditional Christmas carols to a Hanukkah song to a Ukrainian carol. The Madrigals were presented with an honorarium from our club upon completion of their exceptional performance.

OTHER TIDBITS

Today's "Finemaster" was the always entertaining **Tim Ellis**. Donating to "the cause" were **Denise Ellis, Karl Kruger, Milt Levinson, Bob Allan, John Brewster, Bob Elsner, the Brillster, and Hal Castle**. Happy Rotarians **Jacque Wachs, Denise Ellis** (happy because of Cahuilla School's Science Fair judges **Art Snow, Milt Levinson, and Bill Lentz**), **Jamie Canfield, and Judy Bronstein**.

Finally, those of you who didn't attend last Thursday's spaghetti dinner missed a truly outstanding, fun event! I can't think of a better venue to experience true Rotary camaraderie! **Jim Dunn** chaired this year's event. Contributing time and talent to its success were **Anna Frost** (ticket sales), **Judy Bronstein** (High School Interactor participation), **Christine Cross** and Carol Brill (preparing the delicious spaghetti sauce), **Hal Castle** (gift baskets and bartender extraordinaire), **Jacque Wachs, PDG Helene Kalfuss** (cashier and ticket sales), **Margie Taft** (ticket sales), **Bob Allan** (salad chef), and **Mike Brill** and **Nancy Palmer** (raffle auction).

Tim Ellis had the winning ticket for the marble bag, and he is now \$32 richer. Alas, the black marble remains nestled among its friends in the bag.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week and Happy Holiday Season!

Mike Brill
Desertarian Editor