



# ***The Desertarian***

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

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS *Desertarian* for January 11, 2012**

President **Mike Sellin** opened the meeting on this beautiful "winter" day, and he honored **Dave Allen** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and super-sojourner **Jack Ball** to lead the 4-Way Test. Dr. **Art Snow**, wearing his Cahuilla School lab coat, introduced visiting Rotarians Tony Given (Sebastopol, CA), Ron Sellin (Cathedral City, CA), Adolph Sarter (Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada), Hunter Hough (Palm Springs Sunup) and Bill Conn (Topeka, Kansas).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **John Glenn's** job shadow day will be on January 25. We now have 16 Rotarians and non-Rotarians who will share their businesses/professions with a Palm Springs High School student from 9:00 to 11:30. The students will then be hosted at our weekly meeting, where they'll have the opportunity to share their experience. This is always a wonderful event, so maximum club attendance is encouraged.
- **Jacque Wachs** and **Hal Castle** reminded us of our annual Bowling for Polio day on January 29. This event is co-sponsored by the three Palm Springs clubs and the Cathedral City club.
- The Palm Spring Sunup Club is sponsoring a fun "Beer Pong" event, to be held at the Palm Springs Stadium, February 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The *Palm Springs Power* winter-league baseball team will play a double-header. Beneficiaries of this fundraiser include the "Shoes that Fit" program, Palm Springs schools, Hansen House, and Roy's Resource Center.

### **OUR PROGRAM - Dr. Denise Ellis, Principal, Cahuilla Elementary School**

Our own Denise, who is also our incoming president for the 2012/2013 Rotary year, has been in education for 22 years (and she still looks like a recent high school graduate!). She graduated from Indio High School, received her BA, MA, and teaching credentials from Cal State San Bernardino, and recently received her doctorate in education from the University of La Verne. She has worked in the Palm Springs Unified School District for 14 years, teaching grades one through five. This is her fourth year at our adopted school - Cahuilla Elementary - and she has been a proud Rotarian since 2007.

Denise presented a comprehensive picture of the challenges facing education in today's budgetary climate. Cahuilla has 548 students, and 85% of these are on either a free or reduced

lunch program. Forty per-cent have limited English proficiency. Despite these and other challenges, Cahuilla is in the top tier of District schools, according to the most recent test scores. It became obvious that dedicated professionals such as Denise provide the leadership to overcome the challenges and obstacles that are ever-present in our education system.

### **OTHER TIDBITS**

**Bob Elsner** stood in for scheduled fine-master **Jamey Canfield**. Bob's questions revolved around U. S. president's trivia, and the club's balance sheet was enriched by donations from **Gerry Moss, Bill Lentz, Art Snow, Jacque Wachs, Nancy Palmer, Judy Bronstein, Tony Signoret, Jim Griffes, Denise Ellis, Janie Bolitho, and Mike Brill**. Happy Dollars came from **Judy Bronstein, Dave Allen, Jack Ball, and Bill Lentz**.

**Bob Allan** and **Ed Ellis** have been released from Desert Regional Medical Center, and both are well on the road to recovery.

Finally, the January 12, 2012, edition of the *Los Angeles Times* had a remarkable story about polio in India. I highly recommend that every Rotarian take a moment to read this article, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/72fj5tn>.

Today's Marble Game was won by visiting Rotarian Tony Given, but the black marble is still nestling in the bag.

Have a GREAT WEEK!

Mike Brill  
Desertarian Editor