



# ***The Desertarian***

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

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS**

### ***Desertarian for February 8, 2012***

#### **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!**

We had a great crowd today, with hearts a-flutter in anticipation of celebrating our annual Valentine's Day lunch. **Mike Sellin** gaveled our meeting to some semblance of order, and **Bob Allan** led us in the pledge of allegiance. **Karl Kruger** followed by reciting the 4-Way Test of the Things that Rotarians Think, Say, and Do, and **Frank Peabody** introduced visiting Rotarians: Ron and Shirley Schoenberger from Spokane East, WA; Bob Puckett from Big Bear Lake, CA; John Gould from Edmonton, AB; Bill Boon from Bentonville, AR; Tom O'Flaherty from Duncan, Vancouver Island, BC; Dave Marchant from Calgary South, AB; Al Muir from Saskatoon Neewasin, SK; Larry Wilkins from Redmond, OR; Jack and Joseph Braverman from Iowa City, IA; and David McCulskey from Excision Spring, MN. Frank then introduced visiting Valentine Spouses Dottie Griffes and Carol Brill.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **PDG Cy Breen** (Cathedral City Rotary Club) reached his 100th birthday on February 8, and he'll be playing his annual number of holes of golf that match his birthday, as a fund raiser for breast cancer research. CONGRATS GUV!!
- **Judy Bronstein** again reminded everyone to please bring their garage sale items to 169 N. Indian Canyon, every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon but - not on February 11, since the Tour de Palm Springs will be on that day! She did emphasize, however, that those who can't make their delivery on Saturday morning should contact either her, **Stuart Cross**, or **Art Snow** should they need to drop off items other than on a Saturday.
- **Christine Cross** presented Paul Harris recognition pins to **Jim Dowler** (+6) and **Art Snow** (+2). Congratulations!
- Christine is doing an amazing job as this year's club's Rotary International Foundation Chairperson. She reminded everyone that in addition to the Polio Plus program, the Foundation's SIX AREAS OF FOCUS ARE:
  - Peace and Conflict Prevention and Resolution

- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development
- In keeping with the Valentine spirit of love, **PDG Milt Levinson** shared a series of children's definitions of love. Cute stuff, indeed!
- **Jim Dowler** introduced his guest Hidenori Kido, who was a part of the inbound Rotary Group Study Exchange program (and Jim's house guest) 13 years ago. Hidenori is from Fukushima Province in Japan, which was the area that was devastated by last year's tsunami. He has traveled to Palm Springs to participate in the *Tour de Palm Springs*. Welcome back to Palm Springs, Hidenori!

### **OUR PROGRAM: BRANDINI TOFFEE**

Incoming club president and program chair **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced Angela Weimer. Angela's teen-aged son Brandon, and his friend since pre-school Leah Post, needed a fundraiser for a student trip to Italy. They perfected a secret family recipe for toffee and sold it to friends and acquaintances. This meager beginning has turned into a thriving cottage business! Brandini toffee is manufactured in its retail store in Rancho Mirage, and its quality has resulted in it being sold in Costco, Nordstroms, and many other upscale venues. They also do a thriving mail order business. Angela was kind enough to provide a nice sample of Brandini toffee to each place setting at our meeting, and my wife Carol informs me that it was truly delicious (hmm - somehow my sample was "lost"). More information about Brandini toffee may be found at [www.BrandiniTofee.com](http://www.BrandiniTofee.com).

### **OTHER TIDBITS**

**Bob Elsner**, aka "The Sage of Troy", was today's "finemaster", and his questions revolved around - what else - Valentine's Day! Contributing to the cause were **Dr. Dan Keller, Norm Brown, Dave Allen, Mark Davidson, Ed Ellis, Karl Kruger, Jacque Wachs, Christine Cross, Gerry Moss, Mike Sellin, and Judy Bronstein**. Happy Dollars flowed from **Tracy Powers, Christine Cross, and John Martin**.

**Hal Castle** won this week's "Marble Game", but he couldn't find that elusive black marble. Next week's winner could take home over \$500!

Have a GREAT WEEK!

Mike Brill  
Desertarian Editor