



# **The Desertarian**

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

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

### ***Desertarian* for February 15, 2012**

Once again the Rotary Club of Palm Springs, AKA the friendliest club in the Coachella Valley, began its weekly meeting with a bang of the gavel by president **Mike Sellin**, followed by **Jacque Wachs** leading the Pledge of Allegiance; **Dr. Dan Keller** doing justice to the 4-Way Test of the Things Rotarians Think, Say, and do; and **Bob Barrett** reciting an inspirational spiritual moment. **Bill Lentz** welcomed visiting Rotarians Elmer Vacchina (Reno, NV); Larry Buhler (Winnipeg St. James, Manitoba); Bern Handel (Poughkeepsie, NY) and Al Muir (Saskatoon Meewasin, Saskatchewan). Visitors include **Jim Dowler's** granddaughter Danielle Dowler, visiting from Auckland, New Zealand; Tracy Piper, principal of Raymond Cree Middle School; and **PDG Cy Breen**, from the Cathedral City club. **Congratulations, Cy, on reaching your 100th Birthday on February 8!** PDG Cy conducts a fund raiser each year, with the proceeds going to breast cancer research. How does he raise these funds? By playing the number of golf holes equaling his birthday. So Happy 100 holes on March 18, as you add to the \$500,000 you have already raised!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our club's participation in this year's *Tour de Palm Springs* was a great success, thanks to the efforts of so many of our Rotarians and Interactors. Many thanks to **Bob Barrett**, and **Frank Peabody** for their organizational efforts.
- **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.
- **PDG Dr. Helene Kalfuss** presented Rotary Foundation Major Donor pins to **Stewart** and **Christine Cross**.
- The Palm Springs Fire Department is conducting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on March 23 and March 24. Please see either **Bob Allan** or **Stewart Cross** for further details.
- **Jim Dowler**, president of our Palm Springs Rotary Foundation, presented checks to Judy Tobin May (Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Desert) and Dave Thornton and Mel Haber (Angel View). Our March 14 program will be dedicated to our local foundation, which is the charitable giving arm of our club.

**OUR PROGRAM: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Incoming club president and program chair **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced our Rotary Club sojourner **Sherre Calouri**. Sherre is currently a consultant with an educational consulting firm providing professional services in strategic planning, conflict resolution, communications, board governance, systems audits, and professional workshops to public and private schools, K - 12. She is also a Disaster Assistance Employee with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in External Affairs. She presented an exceptionally interesting and informative PowerPoint presentation entitled "My Life with FEMA". She covered the history and mission of FEMA, its organization, and her role within FEMA. She was first hired in 2004, and her first assignment was in response to Hurricane Katrina, where she worked in Baton Rouge. The terms of her employment are that she has to be available for at least 60 days per year, and she also has to commit to 30 days, if called. She has worked flooding disasters in New York, Arkansas, West Virginia, North Dakota, Kentucky and Oregon, and hurricane disasters in Louisiana and Mississippi. She finally shared these extremely important tips for survival in a disaster:

- Be prepared to shelter in place for 72 hours
- Evacuate if you are ordered to do so
- Have a plan to contact family. Contact point should be out of state. Text messages are more likely to be delivered than voice calls
- Contact your city for more detailed information

#### **OTHER TIDBITS**

Routine recognition was deferred this week, although **Jim Dowler** was assessed \$5 for having his photo in the paper in conjunction with the new USO at Palm Springs Airport. Happy Dollars were donated by **Roger Mickalko, Frank Peabody, Charlie House, Denise Ellis, Jim Dowler, and Cy Breen**.

**Frank Peabody** won this week's "Marble Game", but he couldn't find that elusive black marble. Next week's winner could take home over \$560!

We all wish **PDG Milt Levinson** a very speedy and full recovery from his recent surgery.

Have a GREAT WEEK!  
Mike Brill  
Desertarian Editor