



The Desertarian

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS Desertarian for March 14, 2012

President **Mike Sellin** welcomed fellow Rotarians and guests to our enthusiastic and rather raucous club. He then asked **Bob Allanto** lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Bob Elsner** leading us in the 4-Way Test of the Things That Rotarians Say and Do. Visiting Rotarians included Fi McIntyre (Fairview, Alberta, Canada); Stewart Graham, Al Schreiner, and Gilda Graham (Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada); Don O'Coffey (Victoria, B.C., Canada), and Jack Moore (Arcata, CA). And a HUGE welcome back to our club from one of our favorite ex-club member - **Leah Berghmann!** Leah will be returning to her native Belgium in a few days, but she told me that she faithfully reads every issue of the *Desertarian*. Hurry back Leah - we all miss you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our fund-raiser, pouring beer at the first annual "Beer Conclave", will take place on 3/24/12. Please contact **Jim Dunn** to assist with this event.
- Keep May 26, 2012, open for the 2nd annual wine and cheese tasting event, to be held once again at **Stewart** and **Christine Cross'** lovely home. **Hal Castle** will chair this event. We will also be sending off our Rotary Peace Scholar, Michele Mician, who will be studying in Thailand for six to eight weeks.
- The school year budget for Palm Springs Unified School District has been cut approximately 50% for the remaining school year. Our adopted school, Cahuilla Elementary, welcomes donations of copy paper, #2 pencils, 3-hole punched notebook paper (college ruled or wide ruled), boxes of 24 crayons, expo markers, erasers and glue sticks. Please bring what you can to our club meetings.

OUR PROGRAM: **Dr. Denise Ellis** introduced today's speaker, **Jim Dowler**. Jim was president of our club during the 1997-1998 Rotary year. He has been president of our club's Foundation, the charitable arm of our club, for many years.

Jim began his presentation by introducing long-time club member **Don Aikens**. Don has been instrumental in identifying Palm Springs High School seniors who are in need of financial assistance to attend college. He introduced two of our "star recipients". Katie Pettersen is pursuing her Masters Degree in Educational Psychology at Cal State Long Beach, after graduating with honors from the University of California Santa Barbara (go Gauchos!). She has been the recipient of both the Harry Mazur and the Kevin Brill scholarships, both administered by our club foundation. Andrew Deeds is a sophomore at the University of Southern California, majoring in computer engineering. He is also a trombone player in the world famous Trojan band. Both students profusely thanked our club for our continued support.

Jim then proceeded to introduce our Foundation's board members (**Bob Allan, Bob Elsner, Dick Hostrop, Mike Brill, Dr. Helene Kalfuss, Frank Peabody, Don Aikens, and Ed Ellis**). *Ex-Ofici* members are **Mike Sellin** and **Christine Cross**. He described the foundation's three main core constituents: education, the elderly, and the infirm, and gave examples of how the foundation supports all three. The club

unanimously expressed its extreme gratification with the outstanding job that Jim has done as president throughout his tenure.

OTHER TIDBITS

In even rarer humor than usual, fine master **Jamey Canfield** extracted "donations" from **John Brewster, Mark Davidson, Art Snow, Marv Goldberg, Bob Barrett, Anna Frost, Jacque Wachs**(HAPPY BIRTHDAY), **Dick Hostrop, Dr. Helene Kalfuss, Ed Ellis, Dr. Dan Keller, and Tim Ellis**. Happy dollars were contributed by **Ed Ellis, Dr. Helene Kalfuss, Leah Berghmann, and Mike Brill, and Bob Elsner**.

Ed Ellis had the winning marble game ticket, and he pocketed a cool \$38. But the black marble is still in the bag. Next week's marble game could net the lucky winner over \$700!

I'll be a-cruisin' until April 5, so the next three editions will feature **Frank Peabody, Jamey Canfield, and Bob Elsner's** unique writing styles.

Have a great week!

Mike Brill

Desertarian Editor